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Covering The News In Connecticut's Northwest Corner And Its Environs Since 1897

Judge throws out zoning challenge tied to Wake Robin Inn expansion

By Alec Linden

LAKEVILLE — A Connecticut Superior Court judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed against Salisbury's Planning and Zoning Commission challenging a zoning amendment tied to the controversial expansion of the Wake Robin Inn.

The case focused on a 2024 zoning regulation adopted by the P&Z that allows hotel development in the Rural Residential 1 zone, where the historic Wake Robin Inn is located. That amendment provided the legal basis for the commission's approval of the project in October 2025; had the lawsuit succeeded, the redevelopment would have

been halted.

The decision, issued Jan. 29 by Judge Matthew Larock, rejected a claim brought by Wells Hill Road residents Angela and William Cruger seeking to nullify the amendment. The Crugers filed the lawsuit in March 2025, arguing the regulation was improperly adopted and amounted to illegal spot zoning intended to benefit the project's developer, Aradev LLC.

The zoning amendment drew scrutiny when it was adopted, with opponents asserting it was crafted specifically to enable the Wake Robin Inn project. Town officials and land use staff, however, repeatedly said the change was years in the making and intended to address zoning nonconformities affecting historic inns throughout Salisbury.

In a memorandum of decision, the court found the plaintiffs failed to meet their burden of proof that proper notification was lacking. The judge wrote that "a close examination of the record" showed the Crugers did not demonstrate that public notice of the zoning change was procedurally deficient, unduly



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Crews work on a broken water main on the town Green in Sharon on Sunday, Feb. 1.

Water main break disrupts downtown Sharon

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON — A geyser erupted on the town Green Friday afternoon, Jan. 30, alerting officials to a water main break in the adjacent roadway. Repair crews remained on site through the weekend to fix the damaged line.

About 15 nearby homes lost water service Friday while crews made repairs. Water was restored by Sunday afternoon.

The water system is overseen by the town's Sewer and Water Commission.

With temperatures dipping to the single digits Sunday afternoon, Williston Case of W.B. Case Plumbing & Heating of Sharon oversaw the repairs.

He explained that two pipes run side by side — one dating back to 1941 and the other significantly older. After searching for the source of the leak, crews determined the newer pipe had cracked, causing water to bubble out of the ground.

Case said crews were on site Friday night, but it wasn't until Saturday that the leak was located. The road had to be excavated to a depth

of about four to five feet. His crew worked throughout Saturday, and on Sunday, Gallagher Construction of Brewster, New York, joined the effort.

Company owner Chuck Gallagher said his firm specializes in water mains and often assists other contractors with difficult breaks.

See WATER MAIN, Page A8



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MURRAY

Speed cameras remain a tough sell in NWCT

By Christian Murray

Town leaders across northwest Connecticut are moving cautiously on speed cameras, despite a state law passed in 2023 that allows municipalities to install them.

See SPEED CAMERAS, Page A7



8 91421 00011 9

Hayes tours new affordable home in recent visit to Salisbury

By Ruth Epstein

SALISBURY — Congresswoman Jahana Hayes (D-5) admired the kitchen cabinets, the sunlight streaming through the large windows and an airy room well suited for flexible living space. She toured the new affordable home at 17 Perry St. on Thursday, Jan. 29. The house, recently completed by the Salisbury Housing Trust, is awaiting a family to call it home.

The modular home is one of four erected in Salisbury through the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity's Affordable Homeownership Program for scattered sites. Houses were also built in Norfolk, Cornwall and Washington.

Jocelyn Ayer, director of the center, joined members of the housing trust and First Selectman Curtis

See HOUSING, Page A8



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

John Harney, president of the Salisbury Housing Trust, presents Jocelyn Ayer, executive director of the Litchfield County Centers for Housing Opportunity, center, and U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes, 5th District, with local maple syrup. Hayes was in Salisbury Thursday to tour one of the trust's latest houses on Perry Street.

Housatonic students hold day of silence to protest ICE

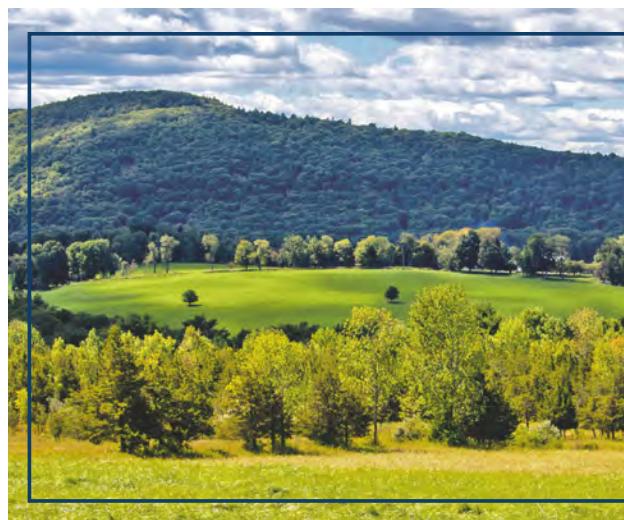
By Mia DiRocco,
Hannah Johnson
and Peter Austin

FALLS VILLAGE — In the wake of two fatal shootings involving Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Minnesota, students across the country have organized demonstrations to protest the federal agency. While some teens have staged school walkouts or public protests, students at Housatonic Valley Regional High School chose a quieter approach.

On Friday, Jan. 30, a group of HVRHS students organized

See PROTEST PAGE A8

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POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

The following information was provided by the Connecticut State Police at Troop B. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Salisbury slide out

On the morning of Jan. 25, Neve Kline, 18, of Salisbury was driving south on Salmon Kill Road in Salisbury when she lost control of the vehicle while rounding a curve on the snowy road. The Subaru Outback she drove struck a utility pole and sustained disabling damage, and Kline sustained minor injuries and was transported to Sharon Hospital by Salisbury EMS. Kline was ultimately issued an infraction for traveling too fast for conditions.

Two truck collision on Route 44

Around noon on Jan. 26, Deforest Benjamin, 62, and Barrett Wiltsie, 65, both of Cornwall Bridge, were plowing a driveway in a company Ford F-250 Super Duty on Route 44 in Norfolk when they backed into the roadway. While doing so, an oncoming Chevrolet Silverado K1500 struck the rear of the truck. The driver of the Silverado, Richard Peppe, 64, of North Canaan, and a passenger, Daniel Peppe, 31, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, were transported to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital for possible injuries. Benjamin was issued a written warning for unsafe backing for the incident.

Single car accident on snow-packed road

Just before 6 a.m. on Jan. 27, Victoria Grosclaude, 24, of Colebrook was driving west on Route 182 in Norfolk when she slid off the snowy road and into the wire rope guardrail. She was uninjured in the incident but her Subaru Crosstrek was disabled and had to be towed from the scene. The investigating officer issued Grosclaude an infraction for traveling too fast for conditions.

Snowy road accident

On the afternoon of Jan.

27, Keith Bodwell, 43, of West Cornwall was driving north on Route 128 near the intersection with Route 125 in Cornwall when he lost control of his vehicle on the slippery roadway. The car slid off the road and into the wire rope guardrail, sustaining disabling damage. Bodwell reported no injuries from the incident. He was issued an infraction for traveling too fast for conditions.

Post office parking lot mishap

Around noon on Jan. 27, Wayne Collier, 73, of Falls Village was parking in the Falls Village Post Office parking lot when his Dodge Ram 1500 struck a neighboring Subaru Crosstrek owned by Karen Toth, 55, also of Falls Village. He left the scene following the incident. The two drivers ultimately exchanged information and Toth requested that no enforcement action be taken.

Sharon rear-end

On the afternoon of Jan. 29, Ross Rosenberg, 84, of Millbrook, New York was attempting to turn left towards Sharon Health Care Center from Route 343 when he was rear-ended by a trailing vehicle, a Jeep Cherokee driven by Illian Lacey, 19, of Rhinebeck, New York. Lacey reportedly did not see Rosenberg's turn signal. Neither driver was injured, but Rosenberg's Toyota Corolla had to be towed from the scene. Lacey was issued a warning for following too closely.

Failure to appear arrest

Just after midnight on Jan. 31, Michael Jardine, 42, of Falls Village was arrested by troopers for failure to appear in the second degree. He was released on a \$500 cash bond and is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on Feb. 11.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Send mail to P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or email editor@lakevillejournal.com

Race for CT's 5th House District gets crowded with candidates

By Riley Klein

As of Feb. 1, six candidates have entered the 2026 election for Connecticut's 5th Congressional District

Incumbent Congresswoman Jahana Hayes will face at least two newcomers in a Democratic primary: Winter Solomita and Jackson Taddeo-Waite.

So far, three Republicans have declared for the race: Chris Shea, Jonathan De Barros and Michele Botelho.

The primary elections for each party will take place Aug. 11, and the general election will be Nov. 3.

Democrats

Hayes, who was a history teacher in Waterbury before taking office in January 2019, is seeking her fifth term. She serves on the House Committee on Agriculture and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN
U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes shakes hands with Will Vincent in a 2025 visit to Cornwall Consolidated School.

Her official website, jahahayes.com, states, "Imagine a future where everyone has healthcare, where no American goes hungry, where every child has access to an excellent public education, and where there is true equity in our society. This is the future that Jahana is fighting to create."

By the end of 2025, Hayes reported \$910,655.30 in campaign contributions, according to Federal Election Commission data.

Solomita, of Waterbury, does not have an official campaign website. A social media search indicates she is 25 years old.

Taddeo-Waite, of Washington Depot, does not have an official campaign website or discoverable social media presence.

Neither Solomita nor Taddeo-Waite have reported any campaign contributions to the FEC.



CHRIS SHEA CAMPAIGN VIDEO
Chris Shea is the newest Republican to enter the race for the 5th District.

Republicans

Botelho, of Danbury, lists her experience as an educator, paralegal and mother. Her campaign website, michelebotelhoforcongress.com, states, "In my campaign for Congress, I'll be offering solutions, guided by my faith, fidelity to freedom and conservative values." By the end of 2025, Botelho reported \$30,945 in campaign contributions.

De Barros, of Plymouth, is running under the slogan "Flip the 5th Red" per his campaign website, debarrosforcongress.org. He cites experience as a community leader and youth mentor and lists securing the border, criminal justice reform and Second Amendment rights among his top issues. His campaign committee is based in Terryville, and he reported raising \$13,791.52 by the end of 2025.

Shea, of Cheshire, was the most recent candidate to enter the race. He is a retired Navy SEAL and current firefighter in North Haven. His website chrissheaforcongress.com emphasizes his goals of lowering costs, growing wages and protecting America. He has not yet reported fundraising data.

Hayes narrowly defeated George Logan (R) in the two most recent elections. Logan has not filed to run in 2026.

Harding launches 2026 campaign

By Riley Klein

NEW MILFORD — State Sen. and Minority Leader Stephen Harding announced Jan. 20 the launch of his re-election campaign for the state's 30th Senate District.

Harding was first elected to the State Senate in November 2022. He previously served in the House beginning in 2015. He is an attorney from New Milford.

In his campaign announcement, he said, "There is still important work to do

to make Connecticut more affordable, government more accountable, and create economic opportunity. I'm running for reelection to continue standing up for our communities, listening to residents, and delivering real results."

As of Feb. 1, no publicly listed challenger has filed to run against him.

The 30th District includes Bethlehem, Brookfield, Cornwall, Falls Village, Goshen, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, New Fairfield, New Milford,



PHOTO PROVIDED
Stephen Harding

North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Sherman, Warren, Washington, Winchester and part of Torrington.

Horn seeks re-election in 2026

By Riley Klein

SALISBURY — State Rep. Maria Horn has begun her campaign for re-election to Connecticut's 64th House District.

Horn has served continuously since being elected in 2018. She chairs the Legislator's Finance Committee. Horn's background includes experience in finance, law and community leadership. She lives in Salisbury.

In a campaign video posted to her website, electmariahorn.com, she thanked her supporters and said, "What I promise you is continued,



PHOTO PROVIDED
Maria Horn

steady, compassionate leadership and the willingness to tackle problems head on.

Your strong support of me and our shared values has helped me amplify the voice of the Northwest Corner in Hartford."

As of Feb. 1, no publicly listed challenger has filed to run against Horn.

The 64th District includes Cornwall, Falls Village, Goshen, Kent, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon and Washington.

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Our Towns

Board of Ed. grapples with insurance costs

By Alec Linden

SHARON — As budget season gets underway, the Sharon Board of Education has begun reviewing compensation packages for non-certified staff, as sharply rising health insurance costs continue to put pressure on school budgets.

During two special meetings held Jan. 15 and Jan. 27, the board discussed how to balance wage increases with higher employee health insurance contributions, with an emphasis on ensuring that non-certified employees still see income growth.

Region One Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley said during the Jan. 27 meeting that the goal is "to make sure that longitudinally everyone is becoming positive in this experience."

At the Jan. 27 meeting, board members discussed a potential 3.75% wage increase paired with a 2% increase in the employee insurance cost-share. The figures remain preliminary and may change as the budget process continues. Under the proposal, all non-certified employees who elect health insurance would still see salary growth in the coming year.

Non-certified employees include Sharon Center School staff without teaching credentials, such as the

school nurse, custodians, paraeducators, secretary, and facilities and cafeteria managers.

In 2025-2026, five of the school's non-certified employees elected for the state plan the school offers, known as the Connecticut Partnership Plan, which Brady-Shanley characterized as "the best plan there is... it's the Cadillac of plans."

Rates range from around \$14,500 per year for a single plan to nearly \$38,000 for a family plan.

The school's non-certified employees currently pay a 5% cost-share — set to be raised to 7% with the proposed changes — of the overall rate. SCS's non-certified employee cost-share contributions are low and will remain low for the region at large, Brady-Shanley said, noting that Connecticut employees average between 20% and 30% cost-shares.

"We want our employees to move forward," she said.

Brady-Shanley reported that insurance rates are expected to rise by approximately 13.5% this year, and then closer to 9% in subsequent years.

"That is going to have a drastic increase on our overall insurance programs," Brady-Shanley said.

Closing time arrives at Norfolk Pub

By Jennifer Almquist

NORFOLK — It was a bittersweet, yet celebratory weekend in town as the Norfolk Pub closed for good on Saturday, Jan. 31, after five decades.

The Pub was located in the recently-sold Royal Arcanum building, and the Pub's lease was not renewed. While mourning its demise, the community gathered for three evenings last week to pay homage to their local watering hole.

On Wednesday, the Norfolk Pub hosted its final trivia night, which had been run by Bruce Paddock for 14 years. A packed crowd of regulars gave the staff a standing ovation.

Norfolk musician Mike Cobb and his Americana band, the Sons of Astro, joined in the town's celebration. They rocked the house on Friday night.

Cobb said, "The Pub embodies a spirit vital to this town. That's why I decided to play a last gig with my band. This is our way to give thanks to a beloved Norfolk institution. Long live the Pub!"

Every seat was full in the dining room as patrons at the bar raised their glasses for the last time on Saturday evening.

Lindsey Preusnak, a bartender for 10 years, paused for a moment amid the rush, "This loss is a blow to my colleagues, a heartbreak for the



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Owner and chef Heidi Forler, at right in foreground, with her bartenders and patrons on the last night of the Norfolk Pub. Below, the crew poses in the kitchen.

community."

Some Norfolk residents had even gathered signatures on a petition to try to save the Pub. Pub owner and chef Heidi Forler spoke with tears in her eyes as the room filled with well-wishing customers. "I am feeling lucky and grateful for the great crew we have at the Norfolk Pub. What we accomplished is amazing. Are we sad? Yes, but I wish the new owners the best of luck. I say, good for them."

The Royal Arcanum building was sold to American Folk & Heritage LLC, owned by Norfolk residents Dev Aujla, Aaron Aujla and Emily Adams Bode Aujla, who is also a fashion designer and owner of the American fashion brand, Bode.

Dev Aujla, one of the new



owners of the landmark brick building, built in 1904, commented, "We are excited to be stewards of the Royal Arcanum. We are currently in the middle of doing all the deferred maintenance with the goal of ensuring the building remains a safe and vital part of the community. We have no plans to get rid of the kitchen in the space, but we will be upgrading everything as dictated by the insurance carrier and ensuring the future of the space remains a central gathering place for the town. We love this town and have been met with nothing but positivity, even by those who started the petition."

Sharon real estate sales in December

By Christine Bates

SHARON — Single-family homes in Sharon posted a 12-month median sale price of \$710,000 at the end of 2025, a 24.3% increase over the 2024 median, reflecting steadily rising prices throughout the year.

Home sales dipped slightly, with 35 single-family homes sold in 2025, compared with 40 sales in 2024.

As of the end of January, 11 homes were on the market in Sharon. Only two were listed below the current median price of \$710,000, while eight were priced above \$1 million.

Furnished summer rentals are also beginning to appear, with asking prices ranging from \$8,600 to \$25,000.

Transactions

Bartram Road — 4 bedroom/1 bath cottage on 0.29 acres sold by Keith Korman to Ethan and Carly Couto for \$290,000.

351 Gay Street — 1 bedroom/1 bath home built in 1925 on 5 acres sold by Karl Golden Jr. to Cathleen Blood and Jeffrey Bardos for \$381,000.

11 Williams Road — 4 bedroom/2 full bath/2 half bath home on 12.5 acres sold by Andrew and Susan



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Situated at the front of a cleared 5-acre parcel, 351 Gay Street, a cottage built in 1925 with a first-floor bedroom, sold for \$381,000.

Dalsimer to Thomas Conley Rollins Jr. for \$850,000.

9 Vanishing Brook — 3 bedroom/3 bath Cape built in 1989 on 4.56 acres sold by Garrett Thelander to Jessica and Joseph Kelly for \$1,008,000.

East Street — 25.8 acres of land sold by John Montgomery Lynch Trustee of John Montgomery Lynch Revocable Trust to Mark Giacconi and Zoraida Vazquez for \$325,000.

135 Sharon Mountain Road — 2 bedroom/2.5 bath house plus a studio on 1.72 acres sold by James Turk to Priscilla Newman for \$1,007,500.

Route 7 — 9.7 acres of land sold by Peter Hechen-

bleikner, Bertha Glawischnig, Caroline Cleaver and Paul Hechenbleikner to Joel and Therasa Meisel for \$80,000.

89 South Main Street — 4 bedroom/4.5 bath home on 5.37 acres by Edward and Laurel Powers to Maureen Dore for \$1,400,000.

* Town of Sharon real estate transfers recorded as transferred between Dec. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025, provided by the Sharon Town Clerk. Property details from Sharon tax cards. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS and market data from Infosparks. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty.



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Jon Brunelle

is a sleight-of-hand expert and performance artist who has plied his trade on stages from Hollywood's Magic Castle to New York's Dixon Place and PS122.

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ADVERTISEMENT

Artist's exhibit on display in Douglas Library

NORTH CANAAN — An exhibit featuring paintings and collage work by local artist Lynn Lena Curtis is now on display at the Douglas Library of North Canaan and will remain on view through Feb. 25.

Lena, as she signs her work, has been creating art since childhood and works across a range of styles and mediums.

An informal reception with the artist is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the library.

The Douglas Library is located at 108 Main St. Library hours are Mondays from 1:30 to 8 p.m., Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



PHOTO PROVIDED
Lynn Lena Curtis' artwork draws from the joy of colors, of nature, and of transformation.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Housing conversion advances

On Jan. 23, Salisbury's Board of Selectmen approved the transfer of \$200,000 from the Affordable Housing Fund to the Salisbury Housing Committee for its plans to convert a mostly vacant mid-19th century home into three new affordable rental units. First Selectman Curtis Rand thanked the Salisbury Housing Committee for its efforts.

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2026-0307 by Amber Construction and Design Inc for vertical expansion of a nonconforming structure at 120 Wells Hill Road, Lakeville, Map 36, Lot 09 per Section 503.2 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The Owners of the property are Joseph Edward Costa and Elyse Catherine Nelson. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 5:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at www.salisburyct.us/agendas/. The application materials will be listed at www.salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-meeting-documents/. Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to landuse@salisburyct.us. Paper copies of the agenda, meeting instructions, and application materials may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM at the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury CT.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
Robert Riva, Secretary
02-05-26
02-12-26

Notice of Agent Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Agent of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on January 27, 2026:

Approved - Application IWWC-26-4 by New England Permitting, LLC for to "Replace and reconfigure existing three-level fire escape porch and stairs for multifamily dwelling. Dimensions include: 6' x 13', 6' x 12'; 6' x 13', 8' x 10', 6' x 10'; 6' x 12', 10' x 8', 6' x 12'; and 28' x 6'." The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map and lot 45 05 and is known as 32 MILLERTON ROAD, LAKEVILLE. The owner of the property is SALISBURY HOUSING COMMITTEE INC.

Any person may appeal such decision of such agent to the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury within fifteen days after the publication date of this notice.

02-05-26

NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING TOWN OF SALISBURY FEBRUARY 11, 2026 7:30 P.M.

The Annual Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings in the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut, will be held both virtually and in person at Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, Connecticut, on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. for the following purposes:

Norfolk celebrates midwinter

By Alec Linden

NORFOLK — With a foot or more of snow on the ground and below-zero wind chills outside, spring felt far off in the Northwest Corner on Saturday. Inside Norfolk Library, however, a small group gathered for a discussion and reflection on the ancient Celtic holiday of Imbolc — a celebration marking the gradual return of light and life at winter's midpoint.

Norfolk Library staffers Eileen Fitzgibbons and Bina Thomson introduced the holiday during the program on Saturday, Jan. 31, inviting about 10 attendees to meditate on the quiet calm of winter and the imminent vitality of spring.

Now synonymous with the feast day of Ireland's patroness saint, St. Brigid — a bank holiday in Ireland as of 2022 — Imbolc is one of the four traditional Gaelic festivals originating in pre-Christian Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man. Falling roughly halfway between the winter solstice and spring equinox, the ancient Celts viewed the beginning of February as the beginning of the end of winter.

"[Imbolc] reminds us that growth starts long before it is visible," Fitzgibbons explained to the attentive group as a fire roared in the Library's ample fireplace.

She said the Gaelic origin of the holiday's name, Imbolc, means "in the belly," referencing the beginning of the lambing season in Ireland. Despite the cold, she said, the Celts understood



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN
Library Events Coordinator Eileen Fitzgibbons explained the symbolism of the spread of nuts, seeds, cheeses and more she had prepared for the occasion.

this time of year as a season of "renewal" and "life returning."

As they listened, guests munched on a spread of sheep's cheese, seed crackers, nuts, dried apricots and fig jam prepared by Fitzgibbons, and sipped wine, herbal tea and a hibiscus cider punch made by Thomson. Fitzgibbons said each libation and refreshment reflected symbolic food and drink associated with the tradition, which draws on both the ancient festival and its Christianized version, St. Brigid's Day.

St. Brigid is thought by scholars to correlate with a pagan Irish deity of the same name, associated with metal-work, fire, fertility and midwifery — symbols that remained attached to the saint. Fitzgibbons said the image of

both the goddess and saint reconciles the harshness of winter with the gentle promise of spring. "She's quite a gal," Fitzgibbons said, drawing laughs from the group.

Both Fitzgibbons and Thomson said they have observed the holiday in their own ways for some time, and that the gathering offered an opportunity to share what they had learned.

Thomson said the practice has helped her "learn how to winter properly." At the midpoint between the winter solstice and spring equinox, she said, it is a good moment to pause and reflect: "Ok, we've made it this far."

Norfolk resident Kristin Mudge, who was attending without prior knowledge of the holiday, said she appreciated the perspective. "I love the idea that something is

sort of simmering below the surface, and there sure is a lot of surface out there right now," she said, gesturing at the snowbanks towering outside the window.

After a brief candle-making workshop — candles are another symbol of the holiday — the group regathered to exchange poems. Fitzgibbons and Thomson explained that the holiday is one of introspection and reflection, and that things like exchanging poems, walks in the woods and quality time with friends and family are all suitable "celebrations."

Thomson led the poetry circle with a composition of her own, a "poem/not-poem" called Imbolc Musings:

"We do not need to rush, we do not need to run. We just need to stop and take notice."

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

1. To receive and act upon the report of the Town Officers and to recognize the Town Report dedication.

2. To receive and act upon the audited financial report from the Chairman of the Board of Finance and Treasurer of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, which is available for inspection.

3. To adopt an ordinance pursuant to which the Town will become a member town of the Northwest Regional Recovery Authority.

4. To adopt an ordinance pursuant to section 240 of Connecticut Public Act 25-168 granting a limited real property tax exemption to residents of the Town who have served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force of the United States and have been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability.

5. To do any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Copies of the ordinances described in items 3 and 4 above will be available for review in the Office of the Town Clerk at least seven calendar days in advance of the meeting.

The Board of Selectmen will post a notice on the Town's website (<https://www.salisburyct.us/>) no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Town Meeting providing instructions for the public on how to attend and provide comment or otherwise participate in the meeting.

Join the Webinar
When: Feb 11, 2026 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: Annual Town

Meeting

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84482779679?pwd=nMp47kGreFsMyq1VIH8trG8mHQq7aF1>

Webinar ID: 844 8277

9679

Passcode: 409930

Join via audio:

+1 646 558 8656 US

Dated at Salisbury, Connecticut this 16th day of January, 2026.

Curtis G. Rand,

First Selectman

Barrett Prinz,

Selectman

Katherine Kiefer,

Selectman

01-29-26

02-05-26

Notice of Decision

Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on January 26, 2026:

Approved - Application IWWC-25-77 by Andrew Pelletier to "Renovate existing accessory building, add foundation and decks." The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 66 lot 28 and is known as 80 Rocky Lane, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Claudia Remley & Kevin Remley.

Approved - Application IWWC-25-79 by Dana Rohn to "Build a main house of approximately 3165 square feet with 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths." The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 39 lot 16 and is known as 100 Interlaken Road, Lakeville. The owners of the property

are Dana & Frederick Rohn.

Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §22a-43(a) & §8-8.

Town of Salisbury
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission
Sally Spillane, Secretary
02-05-26

presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciaries are:
Charles Teti and Aiden Cassidy
c/o Jeffrey Leonard Ment
The Ment Law Group, PC
225 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103
Megan M. Foley
Clerk
02-05-26

TOWN OF SHARON BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS MARCH APPEALS

All owners of real property in the Town of Sharon are hereby warned that the Board of Assessment Appeals of the Town of Sharon will meet at the Sharon Town Hall, by appointment, in March for the purpose of hearing appeals related to the assessment of real property. All persons claiming to be aggrieved by the doings of the assessor of the Town of Sharon with regard to real property assessment on the Grand List of October 1, 2025 are hereby warned to file their appeal application to the Board of Assessment Appeals on or before Friday, February 20, 2026 at 12:00pm. Applications received after that date will be rejected. For an application, please visit www.sharonct.gov or contact Nikki Blass in the Land Use Office at (860) 364-0909, or the Assessor's Office at (860) 364-0205.

Board of
Assessment Appeals
Chairman - Thomas F. Casey, Sr.
Sharon, Connecticut
02-05-26

Notice to Creditors

ESTATE OF RANDALL OSOLIN

Late of Sharon

AKA Randall G. Osolin

(26-00021)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 22, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:

Karen L. Osolin

c/o Michael Downes

Lynch

Law Office of Michael D. Lynch, 106 Upper Main Street, P.O. Box 1776, Sharon, CT 06069.

Megan M. Foley

Clerk

02-05-26

Notice to Creditors

ESTATE OF SHEA CASSIDY-TETI

Late of Salisbury

(26-00018)

The Hon. Jordan M.

Richards, Judge of the

Court of Probate, District

of Litchfield Hills Probate

Court, by decree dated

January 21, 2026, ordered

that all claims must be

OBITUARIES

Walter Earle DeMelle, Jr.

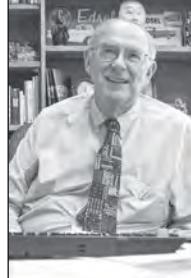
LAKEVILLE — Walter Earle DeMelle Jr., 82, of Lakeville, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Feb. 1, 2026.

He met his loving wife of 57 years, Susan Sullivan DeMelle, in middle school and they were married in Aug. 1968.

Born June 3, 1943, in Worcester, Massachusetts to Walter and Lucille DeMelle, he graduated from Natick High School in 1961 and Hobart & William Smith Colleges in 1965. He taught English at Hawaii Preparatory Academy on the Big Island in the 1960s and earned a Master's Degree in Library Science at Rutgers University.

He served as Director of the Edsel Ford Memorial Library at The Hotchkiss School from 1970 to 2012, where he vastly expanded the collection, welcomed the surrounding community, and led the school in technological advancement and information literacy. He oversaw a six-fold increase in the library's capacity, several major renovations, and the recovery from a devastating middle-of-the-night sprinkler system malfunction which had him running like never before (or since) to save as many books as possible. He purchased one of the first Apple computers in the Northwest corner in the early 1980s, and pioneered the expansion of the library's audiovisual collections, offering music, films and documentaries to the campus and local community.

Walter's kindness, encouragement and reassurance helped countless students



adapt to the rigors of life at Hotchkiss. He co-created the School's Human Relations and Sexuality program in the 1970s, and taught public speaking. He was an honorary member of the Class of 1976, which created the first endowed fund established by a

Hotchkiss class in order to support the development of the resources of the Edsel Ford Library. He was instrumental in developing the School's Archives, and led an Oral History Project in which he interviewed many of the School's prominent alumni from the 20th century.

Throughout his career, he served as a consultant to libraries across the United States and globally to guide their renovations and digital transitions from the Dewey Decimal system.

He loved to travel, both professionally and with family, visiting China, Turkey, Europe and the United Kingdom extensively.

Survived by his wife Susan, sons Jeffrey and Brendan, sister Susan Kerrissey, sisters-in-law Nancy Sullivan and Pamela DeMelle, daughter-in-law Christine Rose DeMelle, grandson Luca, best friend Ron Carlson, and extended family. Predeceased by his brother Arthur DeMelle, father Walter and mother Lucille DeMelle.

A Celebration of Life is planned for Summer 2026.

In honor of his life, please consider a donation to East Mountain House, the non-profit end-of-life care home in Lakeville. <https://eastmountainhouse.org/donate/>

Raymond Emanuel Wheeler

AMENIA — Raymond Emanuel Wheeler, Jr., 72, a lifelong area resident died Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, at Sharon Hospital in Sharon, Connecticut. Ray worked for the Town of Amenia Highway Department for twenty-three years and for the New York State Department of Transportation in Wassaic, for ten years prior to his retirement in 2010. Ray also assisted in running the family business in Wassaic for over thirty years.



wife Alicia of Wassaic and Christopher Ellis; his grandchildren, Branden Wheeler, Zachary Wheeler and his wife Katie, Kaden Wheeler, Michael Wheeler, Jr. and his wife Michele, Alyssa Wheeler, Thomas Wheeler and his girlfriend Kenzie Milton and Kaylee Wheeler and her boyfriend Nick; four great grandchildren, Mason, Layton, Michael III and Cole Wheeler; his siblings, Emily Tarbox and her husband Carl, Rachel Wheeler, Sharon McEathron and her husband Daryl and Helen Murphy and her husband William and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife, Ruth Ann (Ammerman) Wheeler, three sisters, Hattie Butts, Juanita Donaldson and Patricia Wilson and his grandson, Hunter Wheeler.

A Celebration of Life will take place on Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 1 p.m. at the Wassaic Fire House, 27 Firehouse Rd., Wassaic, New York 12592.

Burial will take place privately at Valley View Cemetery in Dover Plains. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Ray's memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

Ray is survived by his companion of twenty years, Karen Ellis of Amenia; four sons, Raymond E. Wheeler of Spring Hill, Florida, Michael R. Wheeler and his wife Justine, also of Spring Hill, Thomas E. Wheeler and his

companion of twenty years, Karen Ellis of Amenia; four sons, Raymond E. Wheeler of Spring Hill, Florida, Michael R. Wheeler and his wife Justine, also of Spring Hill, Thomas E. Wheeler and his

OUR TOWNS

U.S.A. 250

Reenactor portrays Loyalist viewpoint at Scoville Memorial

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Ezra Carruthers, a Loyalist from North Carolina, explained why he chose to fight for the English against the American colonists during the Revolutionary War at the Scoville Memorial Library Sunday, Feb. 1.

Tom Key of Salisbury stood in for Carruthers.

The talk was part of the ongoing Salisbury READS series of events, presented in partnership with the Salisbury Association Historical Society in connection with the community reading of "Revolution Song" by Russell Shorto.

Speaking in 1830 from a coastal English village where he had a career as a schoolteacher, Carruthers said he grew up in North Carolina and still misses it.

His father fought with the British army in the French and Indian War, and subsequently sold his officer's commission, a common practice at the time, and bought land in the North Carolina mountains.

Unlike the "lowlanders," the senior Carruthers had a modest amount of land suitable for raising pigs and corn, not the more lucrative rice and indigo produced at lower altitudes. Carruthers had two, not hundreds, of slaves, and "we worked in the fields with them."

Ezra attended William & Mary and studied classics, and also picked up double-entry bookkeeping.

He found work in Richmond, Virginia when Thomas Jefferson was governor. Ezra met Jefferson and formed an unfavorable opinion of the governor, one that persisted.

When the Revolution started and it was necessary to pick a side, Carruthers assessed the situation.

First, he did not approve of mob action, such as the tarring and feathering (if not worse) of Loyalists in cities like Philadelphia. "Mobs were doing what individuals would never do on their own."

Second, the French influence on the revolutionaries. "I don't think that needs any explanation."

Third: Jefferson. Carruthers did not like or trust the man.

He also decided that the Loyalists valued peace, order and government, while the

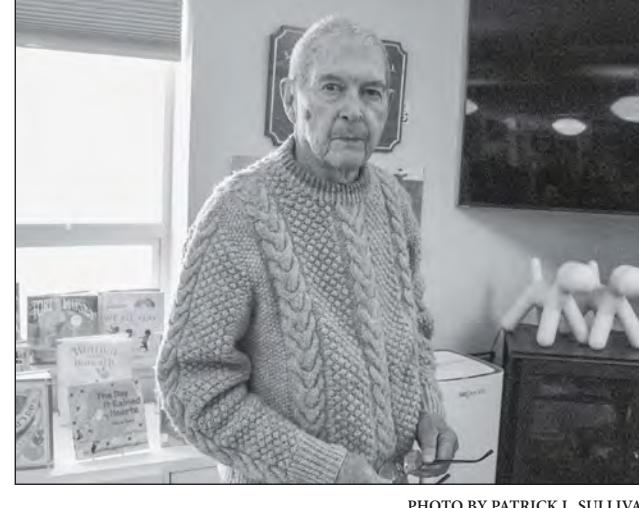


PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Tom Key depicts Ezra Carruthers Sunday, Feb. 1.

"rebels" (as he insisted on calling the colonists) were enamored of the somewhat amorphous "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

An American at the time was a Loyalist by default, Carruthers reasoned. Being a rebel required disavowing the King of England and the Church of England.

As a member of the Church of England, Carruthers knew or suspected that many of the rebels were either Deists, Freemasons or Presbyterians, none of which sat well.

And there was Jefferson, who wrote that all men were created equal, yet owned 400 slaves.

Politically, Carruthers considered the colonists pre-revolution to be the freest people in the world at the time.

He also noted that most of the laws that infuriated the rebels were in effect for short periods of time, and subsequently repealed or heavily amended after public outcry.

So he joined a Loyalist regiment headed by Patrick Ferguson, who had some success in recruiting men to fight for the Crown, but wasn't much of a military tactician. Ferguson and his regiment were soundly defeated at the Battle of King's Mountain, and Ferguson was killed.

Carruthers survived and found his way to Benedict Arnold's force, where he participated in the burning of Richmond.

When the war was over, Loyalists were sent packing to wherever they'd be accepted — Africa, the Caribbean, India, Canada and the British Isles.

Carruthers wound up in England, where he kept up with his native land by subscribing to newspapers and periodicals.

Free tax help for seniors, low-income earners

LAKEVILLE — Seniors and low-income residents can receive free help preparing and filing their tax returns through the AARP Tax-Aide program, which will be offered by Salisbury Senior Services at the Salisbury Senior Center at Town Grove.

IRS-certified volunteers trained by AARP will assist residents age 60 and older, as well as

low-income taxpayers. All tax returns will be e-filed, which can help reduce the wait time for refunds.

The program will once again operate using a drop-off and pick-up model. Appointments will be available on Wednesdays Feb. 11 to April 8.

To schedule an appointment, call Lisa McAuliffe, director of senior services, at 860-435-5186.

Hamilton and Jefferson, with George Washington stuck in the middle.

And he noted with disapproval "Jefferson's love affair with France."

From the vantage point of an exile in 1830, Carruthers said that republics formed after revolutions are rare, and republics that last rarer still.

He attributed that to the influence of Washington, two large oceans on either side of the country, and being "harder than hell" on the Native Americans.

Most importantly, the American Revolution produced the American Constitution, "which has held up very well."

Unlike soldiers from other countries, fighting for their homeland or monarch, "if you're an American, you're fighting for the Constitution."

Worship Services

Week of February 8, 2026

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon

9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Transitioning through prayer
All welcome to join us
860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.

30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Whoever you are,
wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!
Worship, Sundays at 10 a.m.,
in-person and streaming
www.salisburyucc.org
Sharing God's shalom:
Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!
(860) 435-2442

St. John's Episcopal Church

12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson,
Priest-in-Charge
www.stjohnssalisbury.org

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC

172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT
Joyfully opening our hearts
and doors to all God's people
172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT
Worship services Sundays at 10 a.m.
www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational
860-824-7232

Fishes & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH

is at Pilgrim House,
30 Granite Ave., Canaan
Tuesday 4-6 p.m. & Thursday 12-2 p.m.
www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org

Congregation Beth David

A reform Jewish Synagogue
3344 East Main St., Amenia
SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM
Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg
(Calendar at congbehthavid.org)
ALL ARE WELCOME
Rabbi Jon Haddon
845-373-8264
info@congbehthavid.org

The Lakeville United Methodist Church

319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
9:15 a.m. Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

Falls Village Congregational Church

16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village
10:00 a.m. Family Worship
Coffee Hour
A Friendly Church with
a warm welcome to all!
860-824-0194

The Sharon United Methodist Church

112 Upper Main Street,
North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care
No Sunday School in Summer
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-364-5654
sharonumc5634@att.net

The Smithfield Presbyterian Church

656 Smithfield Valley Rd.
Route 83, Amenia, NY
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.
www.thesmithfieldchurch.org
21st Century Theology
in an Historic Building

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church

313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT
Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M.
Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
Special Services Online
Rev. John Kretz
860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

Sharon Congregational

25 Main Street, Sharon, CT
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Visit our website
sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services

Contact us at 860-364-5002 or
info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

Canaan United Methodist Church

2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT
8:00AM - Worship Service
2nd & 4th Sunday
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-824-5534
canaanct-umc.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com
We hope you will join us!

Send obituaries
obituaries@lakevillejournal.com

 The Lakeville Journal
www.facebook.com/thelakevillejournal

We the people ...

"We the People" signifies that the government exists to serve its citizens, affirming that ultimate power rests with the people." — U.S. Senate

OPEN SPACE

KATHY HERALD-MARLOWE

Minnesota is a land of 10,000 lakes, nestled atop the western arm of Lake Superior assuring its severe winter cold and deep white snows. Minnesota is the land of the Guthrie Theatre, the largest population of Norwegians and Swedes outside of Scandinavia, the Vikings, the Twins, and of course "polite-to-a-fault" Minnesota Nice. Sourced at Lake Itasca, the Mississippi River runs 2,350 miles from Minnesota to Louisiana. Minnesota is 5.7 million strong and has the powerful heritage of Paul Bunyan and The Blue Ox.

The Twin Cities, Minneapolis and St Paul, are currently occupied by ICE, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, with an intense emphasis on enforcement: a force, of 3,000 agents in a geographical sector housing but 500 local police. Masked agents in unmarked cars with military-grade weapons and tear gas use brutal behaviors to stop cars, bust windows, drag out their occupants. Numbers, always huge numbers of agents, invade schools, churches, restaurants, Home Depot — to accost and arrest forcefully. Always strongly armed, these agents drag out persons not identified with careful, stealthy research from key data sources but just those who happen to be in the path of unbridled force. Included are US citizens, legitimate persons with visas, persons applying for asylum, persons working, paying taxes and providing labor for health care, hotels, farms, restaurants

Trump continues to uphold the brutality of his ICE agency toward Alex Pretti who unbeknownst to them weeks earlier kicked an ICE unmarked vehicle. For this Trump believes Pretti deserved 9 shots in the back, lying face-down, hands out, surrounded by a half dozen ICE agents.

Trump be on alert. Minnesota is 5.7 million strong. Minnesotans are garnering the support of a nation — 69% and rising. We The People protests are out in severe sub-zero weather, in small towns, in massive population centers peacefully protesting, peacefully proclaiming their rights.

"We the people" are the first three words of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution. We the people don't cotton to the tyranny of despots, don't tolerate the banal silence of persons in elected office, don't vote for those who condone murder of citizens for exhibiting their rights of free speech. We the people do not tolerate the abuse of children — taken, caged, terrorized.

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." — The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago —

February 1901

The town of Salisbury is one of the few towns in the state that has not introduced a bill into the general assembly to provide for the building of a trolley road or two.

Miss Elizabeth Wilson has accepted a position in the office of the Holley Manufacturing Co.

100 years ago —

February 1926

Mrs. Jacob Fitting expects within a few days to go to Hartford and bring home her infant daughter from the Hartford hospital where it has been since birth.

FOR SALE — A few puppies, 4 months old, sable and white in color. Will

make good cow dogs and are cheaper than collies. Louis Brighten.

LAKEVILLE — A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. George Fowlkes recently.

50 years ago —

February 1976

Norwegian jumpers swept top honors at this past weekend's 50th Anniversary Salisbury Jump weekend. Young Roger Holden, 20, of Norway, flew to victory in Sunday's U.S. Eastern Ski Jumping Championships on Satre Hill. Despite light rain and wet slippery conditions, Holden, a freshman student at the University of Vermont, soared 205 and 203 feet to capture the Senior A Championship with a combined point score of 225.1.

25 years ago —

February 2001

A powerful, pulsing radio signal is blamed for interfering with emergency dispatch across Litchfield County. The problem is not happening very often, but can strike without warning. And when it does, it threatens to shut down the entire dispatch system. It has prompted Litchfield County Dispatch officials to step up efforts to move all of the county's fire and ambulance services out of the affected low-band frequency.

These items were taken from The Lakeville Journal archives at Salisbury's Scoville Memorial Library, keeping the original wording intact as possible.

What CSC issues telecom providers is a "certificate of environmental compatibility" after an evidentiary proceeding (not unlike a court case) with intervenors, parties, expert witnesses, and the service provider's technical pros sworn in and subject to cross examination. Service providers get to do the same with any opposition from intervenor/party participants — like towns and citizens — and their experts. It's an impressive process whose ultimate goal is the fine balancing between allowing adequate/reliable public services and protecting state ecology with minimal damage to scenic, historic, and recreational values. They unfortunately often fall short of their mandate — like approving cell towers with diesel generators over town aquifers — evidenced by CSC only rejecting about five cell towers in the past 15-20 years.

The CSC was founded in

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of The Lakeville Journal and the Journal does not support or oppose candidates for public office.

We accept gifts, grants and sponsorships from individuals and organizations for the general support of our activities, but our news judgments are made independently and not on the basis of donor support.

Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com Include name, town and phone number. Keep letters to 500 words or less.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. each Monday. You may email letters to publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

Telecom reg's best kept on the books

When Connecticut land-use commissions update their regulations, it seems like a no-brainer to jettison old telecommunications regulations adopted decades ago during a short-lived period when municipalities had authority to regulate second generation (2G) transmissions prior to the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) being ordered by a state court in 2000 to regulate all cell tower infrastructure as "functionally equivalent" services.

It is far better to update those regs instead, especially for macro-towers given new technologies like small cells. Even though only "advisory" to the CSC, the preferences of towns by law must be taken into consideration in CSC decision making. Detailed telecom regs — not just a general wish list — are evidence that a town has put considerable thought into where they prefer such infrastructure be sited without prohibiting service that many — though not all — citizens want and that first responders rely on for public safety.

Such regs come in handy when egregious tower sites are proposed in sensitive areas, typically on private land. The regs are a town's first line of defense, especially when cross referenced to plans of conservation and development, P&Z regulations, and wetlands setbacks. They identify how/where the town plans to intersect with the CSC process. They are also a roadmap for service providers

GUEST COMMENTARY

B. BLAKE LEVITT

ers regarding preferred sites and sometimes less neighborhood contention. In fact, to have no telecom regs can weaken a town's rights to protect environmental, scenic, and historic assets, and serve up whole neighborhoods to unnecessary overlapping coverage and corporate overreach. Such regs are unique to every town and should not follow anyone else's boiler plate, especially industry's.

Connecticut is the only state that has a centralized siting entity for cell towers. The good news is that applicants must prove need for new tower sites in an evidentiary proceeding and any decisions have the weight of the state behind them. The bad news is that the CSC used to be far less industry-friendly and rote in their reviews, which now resemble a check list. There is an operative assumption at CSC that if an applicant wants a tower, they must need it, otherwise why spend significant money to run the approval gauntlet? This reflects a subtle shift over the years at CSC from sincere willingness to protect the environment toward minimal tweaking of bad applications with minor changes. The bottom line is that towns really cannot rely on the CSC to do all the work for them.

What CSC issues telecom providers is a "certificate of environmental compatibility" after an evidentiary proceeding (not unlike a court case) with intervenors, parties, expert witnesses, and the service provider's technical pros sworn in and subject to cross examination. Service providers get to do the same with any opposition from intervenor/party participants — like towns and citizens — and their experts. It's an impressive process whose ultimate goal is the fine balancing between allowing adequate/reliable public services and protecting state ecology with minimal damage to scenic, historic, and recreational values.

They unfortunately often fall short of their mandate — like approving cell towers with diesel generators over town aquifers — evidenced by CSC only rejecting about five cell towers in the past 15-20 years.

The CSC was founded in

1972 and clarified its mission in the 1980's to prevent the state from being carved up willy-nilly by gas pipelines, high tension corridors, and broadcast towers. With the sudden proliferation of cell towers beginning in late 1990's, it became the most sued agency in Connecticut by both an arrogant upstart industry if applications were denied and by towns/citizens when bad sites were forced on them. CSC gradually formed a defensive posture that drives their decisions toward industry with deeper pockets and attorneys on retainer.

For citizens, nothing can wreck one's day like the CSC. It behooves towns to protect what little toolkit they have, and understand the legal parameters of the CSC's playing field. The CSC is not a "normal" government agency where municipal/citizen redress is based on logic and local support. Their process is largely immune to everything but specific kinds of evidence — like town regs with setbacks/fall zones, radio frequency transmission signal strengths, sensitive areas identified, and detailed wildlife inventory, among others.

There is a current cell tower fight involving two intervening towns — Washington and Warren; both with good cell tower regs — over a tower site within 1200' of a Montessori School, near Steep Rock's nature preserves with comprehensive geology/wildlife

databases that include endangered, threatened and special concern flora and fauna, on established federal/state migratory bird flyways, within throwing distance to a historic site capable of being listed on the Underground Railroad, and with an access road on a blind curve entering a state highway that will permanently damage wetlands, vernal pools, and core forests.

There are well credentialed environmental experts, including Dr. Michael Klemens, former chair of Salisbury's P&Z, as well as the former director of migratory bird management at the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and an RF engineer testifying to alternative approaches, plus three attorneys representing intervenors. It is the most professional challenge I have seen at CSC since Falls Village successfully mounted one that protected Robbins Swamps several years ago.

The hearing is ongoing, with uncertain results. To see what it takes today to stop an inappropriate tower siting, see Docket #543 under "Pending Matters" at portal.ct.gov/csc before removing local cell tower regs — the lowest hanging fruit that any town can possess in case it's needed.

B. Blake Levitt is the Communications Director at The Berkshire-Litchfield Environmental Council. She writes about how technology affects biology.

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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Thursday, February 5, 2026

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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1936-2011

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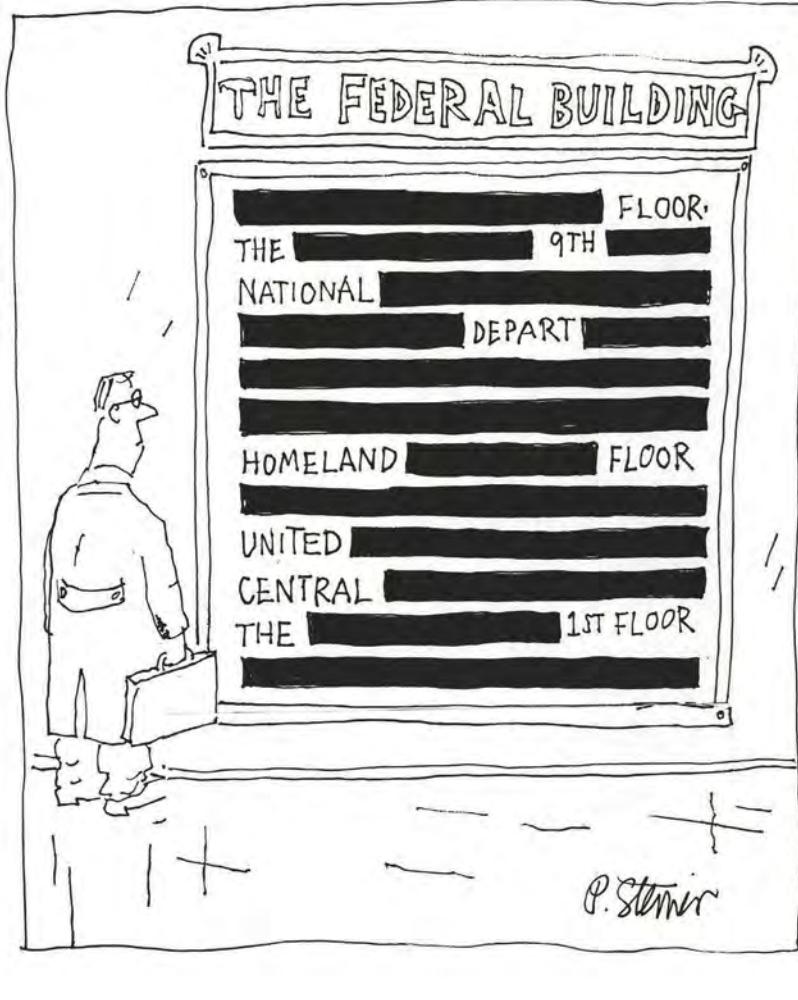
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SPEED CAMERAS

Continued from Page A1

In town after town, officials say speeding remains a concern on local roads — especially on through roads and in residential areas — but questions about cost, staffing and public support have slowed efforts to move forward.

Supporters of speed cameras argue the technology can slow traffic and improve safety, particularly in communities with limited police coverage. Critics worry cameras could turn small towns into "speed traps," raise concerns about surveillance, and argue that they disproportionately burden low-income households.

Washington is the only town in Litchfield County to adopt speed cameras so far, and town officials there say the program is showing results.

"Speeds are coming down," said Washington First Selectman Jim Brinton, since cameras were installed in May 2025. "We had tried everything to change driver behavior, from speed bumps to offering more education. It's the only option that is showing positive results."

Elsewhere in the region, the response has been more skeptical.

In Kent, voters overwhelmingly rejected a proposed speed camera ordinance by a 391-100 margin in January 2025.

"I'm concerned about the atmosphere cameras create," Kent resident Lianna Gantt said during a public hearing before the vote. "Are we turning our town into a speed trap?"

Interviews with the first selectmen in North Canaan, Falls Village, Sharon and Kent — along with responses from officials in Salisbury and Cornwall — show a shared concern about speeding, but little momentum toward adopting cameras. Officials cited cost, the need for staff to review violations, enforcement limits and uncertainty about whether residents would support the programs.

That hesitation mirrors the picture statewide. Since the law took effect, only 11 municipalities across Connecticut have implemented speed cameras.

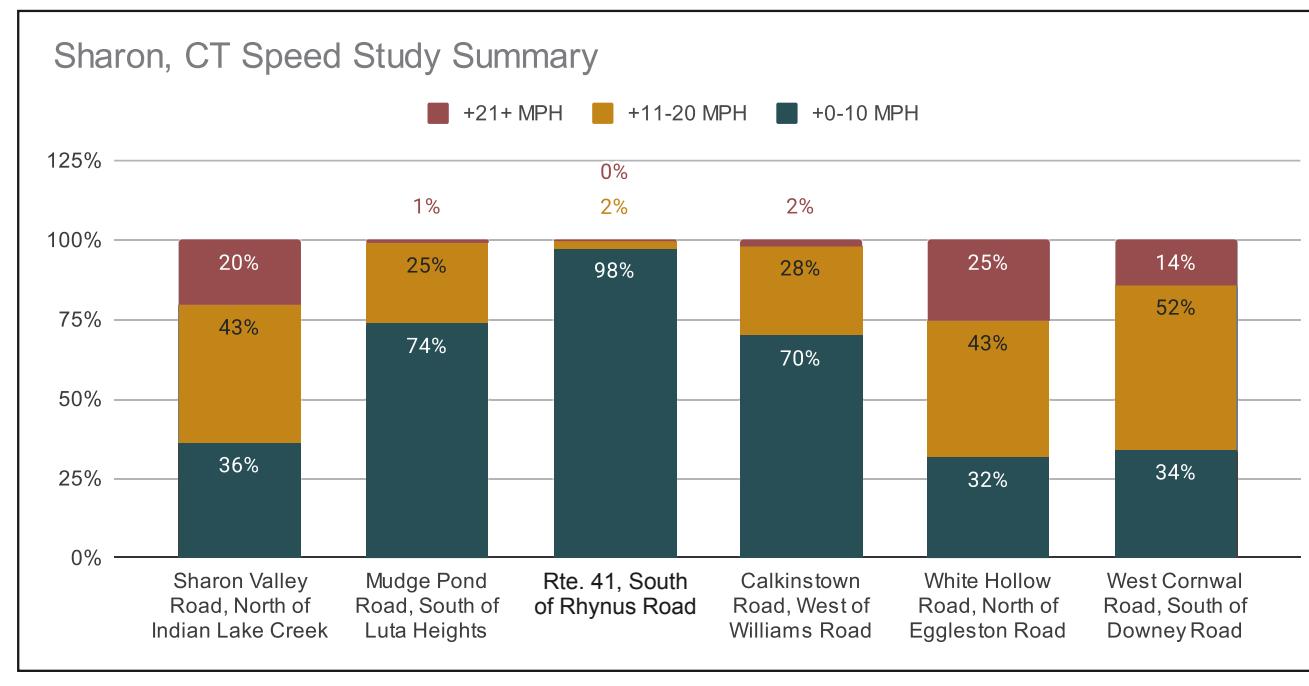
A new law, but a complicated path

The process for towns to implement speed cameras is extensive and, for many small towns, daunting. Before cameras can be installed, a municipality must adopt a local ordinance authorizing their use and present a traffic enforcement plan at a public hearing. The ordinance is then put before residents at a town meeting or referendum for a vote.

Any approved plan must then be submitted to the Connecticut Department of Transportation for review. Towns must also install camera equipment — a potentially costly step — and complete a mandatory public awareness period of at least 30 days before issuing citations.

After the warning phase, drivers may be fined \$50 for a first violation and \$75 for subsequent offenses if they are traveling more than 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit — meaning a camera in a 25-mph zone would not be triggered until a vehicle reaches at least 35 mph. Camera systems are operated by third-party vendors, which provide images of alleged violations to the town for review.

Under state law, each alleged violation must be reviewed and approved by a qualified municipal employ-



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Results of a Dacra Tech speed study in Sharon, analyzing six locations and identifying approximately 33,000 speeding violations.

ee, contracted agent or law enforcement officer before a fine is mailed. Many small towns say this requirement places a heavy administrative burden on limited staff, particularly those without resident state troopers.

Motorists who fail to pay a fine are referred to collections, though they may request a hearing to contest the citation.

Sharon studies cameras after traffic analysis

With Kent having voted

down the program, at a town meeting remains uncertain. Flanagan did not dismiss the possibility, saying it was not out of the question.

North Canaan favors speed feedback signs over tickets

In North Canaan, officials say speeding remains a concern — particularly in residential areas — but cameras are not currently under consideration.

"No one has been asking for it," First Selectman Jesse Bunce said.

"When they averaged it out, it came to almost 33,000 citable events a month on just six roads,"

Sharon First Selectman Casey Flanagan

Instead, the town is focused on expanding its use of digital speed feedback signs, which display drivers' speeds in real time but do not issue tickets. Bunce said the signs have proven effective at slowing traffic.

"For now, this is the direction we're going," he said.

North Canaan has expanded its use of the signs through the state-supported Connecticut Speed Management Program and is in the process of installing them along Route 44, near the Green, and on Sand Road, between Falls Village and North Canaan.

The program provides the town with detailed data on vehicle speeds collected at those locations.

"Once we have that data, we can evaluate what to do next," Bunce said, adding that any move toward speed cameras would require further study and would not happen anytime soon. He also said it is unclear whether residents would support such a proposal.

Falls Village tests, then pulls back

Falls Village explored the use of speed cameras shortly after the 2023 law was passed but ultimately stepped back following a short-term data collection effort.

About 18 months ago, the town installed a temporary speed camera provided by a third-party vendor on Beebe Hill Road for 30 days. The device did not issue tickets and was used solely to study traffic patterns.

First Selectman David Barger said the results challenged assumptions about the extent of speeding in the area.

"We found out the speed was not as great as we thought it was," Barger said. "It was more perception than reality."

The town continues to rely on other tools to address speeding, including

speed feedback signs, which Barger said remain effective for most drivers.

"For many drivers, they legitimately forget how fast they are going — they may have something on their mind — and speed feedback signs are good," he said. "But there are some people who will just ignore them and need to be fined."

Barger said the town explored cameras strictly for safety reasons.

"The only reason we would want speed cameras is for safety," Barger said. "It would not be a revenue generator."

Barger said the program would be costly and require additional staff time. Estimates for a two-way camera ranged from \$26,000 to \$28,000, he said.

Falls Village does not have a resident state trooper to review images, meaning that responsibility would fall to

town staff, with Barger saying it might be left to him.

He said the town may revisit the program in the future and would likely study Johnson Road and Sand Road as potential locations.

Salisbury and Cornwall: no immediate plans

Salisbury has no plans at this time to pursue speed cameras, First Selectman Curtis Rand said in an email.

Still, Rand remains open to the concept. Speaking at a January meeting of the Board of Selectmen, he said, "I don't think anyone is against the concept of a mechanical way of lowering speed."

Cornwall likewise has no plans in the near term to introduce speed cameras.

Kent: no plans to revisit the program

In Kent, town officials say the issue of automated speed enforcement is settled.

First Selectman Eric Epstein, who took office in

November, said there are no plans to revisit speed cameras following last year's town vote.

"Not going to bring it up," Epstein said. "The town was very clear. They didn't want it."

Washington offers a nearby example

While most towns in northwest Connecticut remain hesitant, Washington offers a nearby example of how automated enforcement has worked in practice.

The town unanimously approved a speed camera ordinance at a meeting in December 2024 and began issuing citations in May, following years of resident complaints and unsuccessful attempts at traditional traffic enforcement.

Since implementation, Washington has issued 13,748 citations totaling about \$696,000 in fines, with roughly \$525,000 collected as of late January, according to Brinton.

The town reviews images in-house. A constable examines the photos provided by a third-party vendor, a process that now takes about 10 hours per week. Brinton said the workload was far heavier at the outset.

"It was pretty overwhelming at first," Brinton said. "The sheer volume of citations initially issued caused a lot of struggles."

While Brinton stopped short of recommending cameras for every community, he said Washington's experience shows the technology can be effective when tailored to local conditions.

"Every town and every municipality is different," he said. "But it has worked for us."



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HOUSING

Continued from Page A1

Rand in welcoming Hayes and explaining how the project came together.

Rand said the property was the site of a dry-cleaning establishment located in the center of a residential area. "It was owned by two people who walked away from it. It took 15 years before we took the initiative to do something. We didn't want to foreclose until we were sure we had someone to share in the cleanup."

That partner was the state Department of Economic and Community Development, which provided a grant. Once the contamination was abated, a process that took five years, the town gave the property to the trust.

Hayes commended the town, saying, "I'm surprised you took the risk."

Ayer said the critical pieces in making the project happen were the town donating the land and the Planning and Zoning Commission approving two homes on the Perry Street lot. She also thanked Hayes for her support in securing some federal funding toward the project.

"Other towns are jealous of the support we have here,"



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Jennifer Kronholm Clark, vice president of the Salisbury Housing Trust, shows Congresswoman Jahana Hayes the kitchen in the trust's newly built affordable house on Perry Street during Hayes's visit Thursday.

Ayer told Hayes, which includes help from the town, state and federal government.

Each of the houses costs \$250,000. The trust retains the land on which they sit. The cost to build each house was \$500,000, said Ayer. So far, two of the four Salisbury homes are occupied. Those eligible must be first-time homeowners.

Heat is provided by mini-split units in each room. The houses run on electricity and Ayer said the trust is exploring solar options. "We have \$40,000 for each house, but we're having a hard time get-

ting bids near that."

Jennifer Kronholm Clark, vice president of the trust, described the families who are already occupying the two houses. Just next door at 19 Perry St. is a young family with two children, one born recently. The mother grew up in Salisbury and "this is a wonderful opportunity for her to raise her children where she was raised. It's a beautiful story."

The family in one of the Undermountain Road houses has three boys who are thrilled to have a playground practically in their front yard,

said John Harney, president of the trust. When the town conveyed that parcel, it stipulated that the existing playground remain.

Even with the \$250,000 price tag, which is considered affordable in today's housing market, Ayer said there has been a lot of interest expressed, but many just cannot afford to buy because they are unable to secure a mortgage. Hayes noted the guidelines have to be adjusted, adding that while affordable housing has always been an issue, "it's getting to the top of the priority list."

She lauded Ayer for all the work she does to promote affordable housing, telling her "You have a great vision. I'll keep going to bat for you. I'll keep trying to get federal money."

As she was about to leave, Hayes was presented by Harney with what he called "liquid gold" — maple syrup made by Dolores and Champ Perotti of East Canaan. He also had a bottle for Ayer.

Those who may be interested in applying for the homeownership program should contact Ayer at 203-579-3180.

WATER MAIN

Continued from Page A1

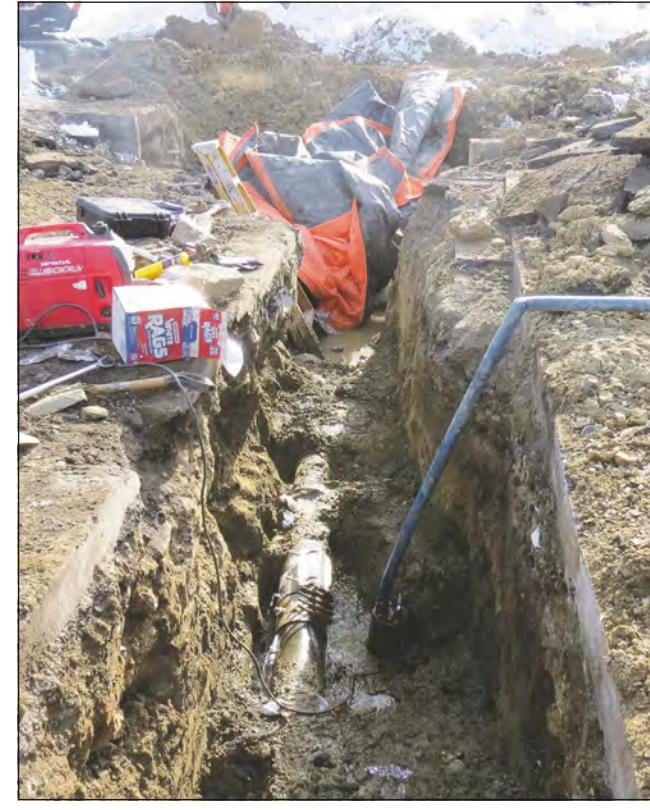


PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

The broken pipe in Sharon.

"This pipe is an odd size," Gallagher said, adding that the repair was complicated further by a large rock above the pipe that had to be blasted.

The initial plan was to wrap a sleeve around the damaged pipe, but the unusual pipe size made that approach unworkable.

First Selectman Casey Flanagan said that of the 15 affected dwellings, one was an apartment building with multiple units. On Upper Main Street, the outage extended from the road by the Green to Sharon Methodist Church. On Main Street, it stretched from near West Main Street to the cemetery.

Flanagan said water was delivered to affected households by members of the Sharon Volunteer Fire Department. Residents were also able to refill containers at the firehouse and were offered access to showers at the

firehouse, Sharon Hospital and a building owned by the Sharon Playhouse.

Steve Szalewicz, chairman of the Sewer and Water Commission and an affected homeowner, said about 30 of the commission's 380 customers were impacted. Water testing confirmed there was no contamination.

"The town came together," Szalewicz said, noting gestures of assistance from various organizations. "It's a 150-year-old system, so some things break. But we haven't had a major break in 15 years."

When water service was restored Sunday afternoon, Flanagan thanked the plumbing companies, the fire department, the Sewer and Water Commission,

and Mark Sweeny of V.R.I. Environmental Services for working through harsh conditions, as well as residents "for their patience."

PROTEST

Continued from Page A1

a voluntary "day of silence," encouraging participants to wear black as a form of peaceful protest without disrupting classes.

The idea was spearheaded by junior Sophia Fitz, who said she wanted a way for students to express their concerns while remaining in school.

"What really inspired me was that I was feeling very helpless with these issues," Fitz said. "Staying educated with what's going on in not only our country but globally can be very stressful as a teenager. Kids right now are feeling very hopeless and want to do something, but don't know how."

Teachers Peter Verymilyea and Damon Osora were on board with the idea early on, describing it as a peaceful and respectful way for students to express their beliefs.

Assistant Principal Steven Schibi also backed the effort, emphasizing the importance of student participation. "I think it's important for us to listen to students," he said. "And they have to learn how to have a voice in such a way that it's not disruptive."

After discussions with Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley and Principal Ian Strever, school administrators agreed that participation would be optional and that students could choose whether to wear black or not.

Schibi, along with several staff members, participated in the movement by wearing black themselves. Math department chair Kara Jones was among the participating teachers. "Everybody deserves their voice, so I'd rather do the day of silence than everybody stay home," she said.

Among HVRHS students who supported the protest, at least one cited concern for friends affected by immigration enforcement.

Sophomore Peyton Bushnell said he felt anxious, fearing for the safety of friends and acquaintances. "I think it's all really messed up," Bushnell said. "I have a lot of Hispanic friends, and I worry if there's ICE in Great Barrington, if they came here [and] deported my friends. I can't even imagine."

Bushnell said Fitz's initiative encouraged him to speak more openly about the issue.



PHOTO BY MIA DIROCCO

Students wore black at Housatonic Valley Regional High School Friday, Jan. 30, while recognizing a day of silence to protest Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Senior Molly Ford echoed that sentiment. "I think it's a peaceful way to protest and I think it's the best way to do so," Ford said.

Many students wore black to show support, and senior Victoria Brooks shared her thoughts on what it meant to her. "It means following along in a form of advocacy alongside other students," Brooks said.

Some students declined to comment when asked about the protest. Others said they were unaware the protest was taking place. Three seniors interviewed during lunch said they would have participated had they known, calling it a "neat idea."

Not all students were convinced of the protest's impact. A group of juniors questioned whether it would make a difference.

"I think that it is good that we're trying to do something," one student said. "But I'm not sure how much the silence aspect of it will help, but I think that it's good that we're trying."

Some students questioned the efficacy of the protests, including a group of seniors who offered their opinions. They expressed the belief that the protests were "pointless," and that President Donald Trump probably didn't even know that HVRHS existed.

"I just don't think it's the best way to go about it. Like, what is us being silent and wearing black gonna do," one of the seniors said.

Senior Cohen Cecchinato voiced his opposition to the protests in another interview.

He said, "The staying silent, I

think, is for the lives that were lost, which I agree with," Cecchinato said. "But I think that wearing black, like the movement that it's behind, the people that are putting it into place in our school are doing it because it's like the 'F ICE' movement or the abolish ICE movement, which I think is just wrong."

Other students said they believed political protests don't belong in school.

"I just don't think we should bring politics into school," one senior said.

Another added, "I think it's causing ... a really big divide and people are using it to be advantageous to themselves and their own beliefs."

However, one senior ex-

pressed a sharply critical view of the protest. Senior Ashton Osborne dismissed students who chose to wear black or participate in the demonstration and criticized organizer Sophia Fitz. He also said he strongly supported the federal immigration agency and added that if he were old enough, he would want to work for ICE.

The comments reflected a minority viewpoint among students.

Mia DiRocco, Hannah

Johnson and Peter Austin are

seniors at Housatonic Valley

Regional High School and

participants in The Lakeville

Journal's student journalism

program, which produces

HVRHS Today.

WAKE ROBIN

Continued from Page A1

vague or untimely filed.

The dismissed case is the first of two legal challenges filed by the Crugers related to the Wake Robin Inn redevelopment. A second lawsuit — an appeal of the P&Z's approval of Aradev's application to redevelop and expand the inn — remains pending before the court.

Former Planning and Zoning Commission Chair Michael Klemens said that Thursday's ruling brought vindication.

In a Jan. 30 email to the P&Z and commission attorney Charles Andres, Klemens said the lawsuit was largely based on claims that he and Land Use Director Conroy had misled the public and the commission during the regulatory process.

"So not only are the regulations recognized by the Superior Court as legally adopted," Klemens wrote, "but the aspersions cast upon the integrity of staff and your immediate past chair are hopefully finally put to rest."

Andres informed the Land Use Office and current P&Z Chair Cathy Shyer that the Crugers have 20 days to challenge the court's ruling.

Under the approved plan, Aradev would redevelop the Wake Robin Inn to include a new detached 2,000-square-foot cabin, event space, a sit-down restaurant and fast-casual counter, as well as a spa, library, lounge, gym and seasonal pool. If built, the project would increase the number of guest rooms from 38 to 54.

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Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

ART: JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Putting a stamp on Norfolk

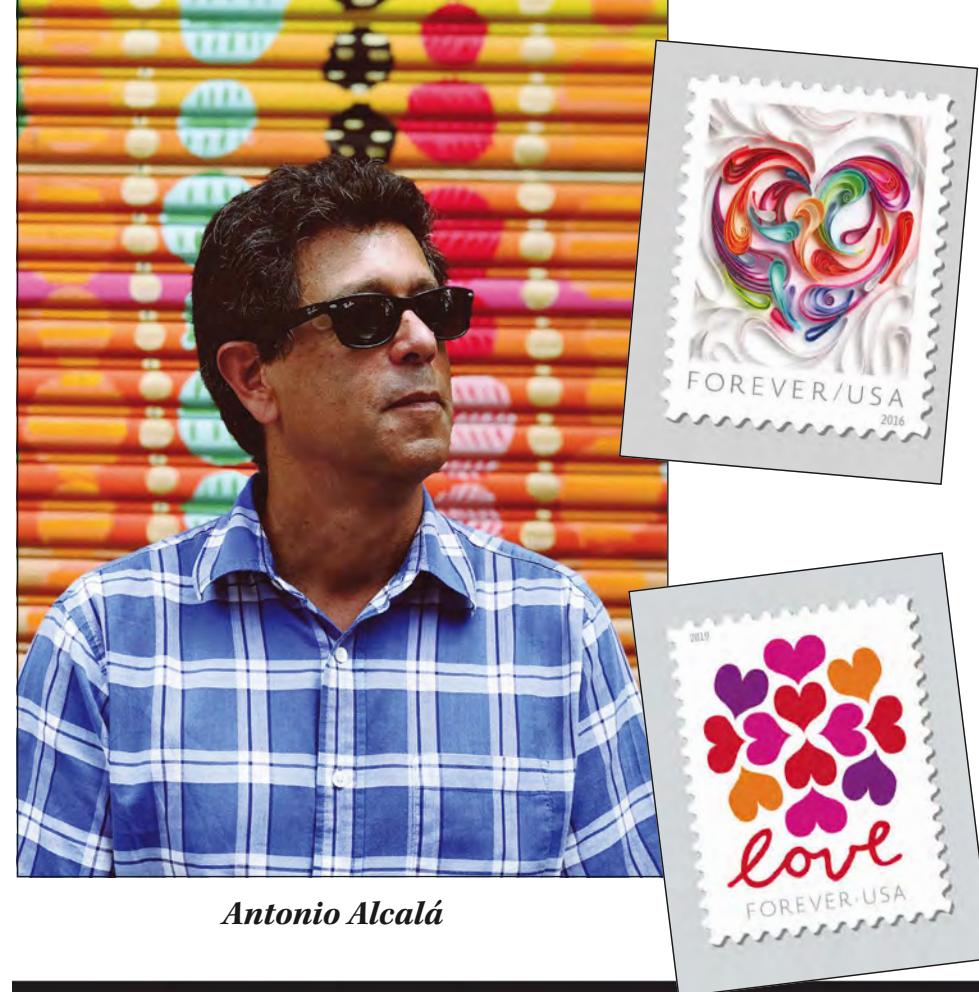
As part of the Norfolk Economic Development Commission's campaign to celebrate the Norfolk Post Office and the three women who run it — Postmaster Michelle Veronesi and mother-and-daughter postal clerks Kathy Bascetta and Jenna Brown — the EDC has invited USPS art director and stamp designer Antonio Alcalá for a visit.

On Sunday, Feb. 8, at 3 p.m., the Virginia-based designer will give a talk at the Norfolk Library titled "The Art of the Postage Stamp." The free talk is open to the public, with a reception following. Reservations are required: norfolklibrary.org.

On Saturday, Feb. 7, at 10:30 a.m., there will be a Children's Valentine Stamp Workshop with Alcalá and children's librarian Eileen Fitzgibbons. The workshop is open to children ages 6–14 (limit 14; registration required at norfolklibrary.org). The invitation: "Come create a stamp you love!"

Ann Havemeyer, executive director of the Norfolk Library, said, "It's always fun to see the new stamps issued by the USPS and learn more about the process of bringing a stamp to life. Antonio Alcalá will speak about the history of stampmaking, the design elements involved, and his own journey that brought him to this work."

Alcalá is the founder and co-owner of Studio A, a design practice working with museums and arts institutions. He lectures at schools including the Corcoran College of Art + Design, the School of Visual Arts, Pratt Institute and the Maryland Institute College of Art. His work and contributions to the field of graphic design were recognized with his selection as an American Institute of Graphic Arts Fellow. He serves on Poster House museum's CMYK Council and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum's advisory



Antonio Alcalá



Postage stamps designed by Antonio Alcalá.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

ry council. His designs are represented in the AIGA Design Archives, the National Postal Museum and the Library of Congress Permanent Collection of Graphic Design. Alcalá earned a bachelor's degree in history from Yale University and an MFA in graphic

design from the Yale School of Art. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia, with his wife and Studio A partner, Helen McNeill.

The Brookings Institution recently stated that "two and a half centuries after its founding, the Postal Service's universal service mission continues to support local economic life, particularly in rural areas where stable, place-based infrastructure remains central to

small-business activity." Members of the Norfolk Economic Development Commission agree: "The Norfolk Post Office plays a unique and essential role in town life. Beyond its core function, it serves as a daily point of connection for residents and businesses and is a critical piece of local infrastructure that supports commerce, communication and community."

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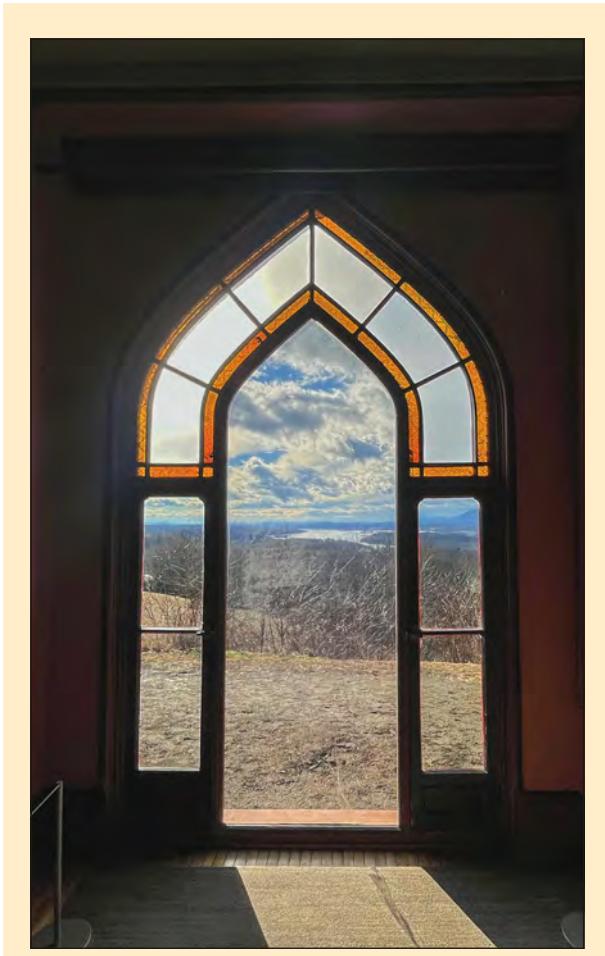


PHOTO BY BRIAN GERSTEN

A window at Olana.

WRITER'S NOTEBOOK: BRIAN GERSTEN

A winter visit to Olana

On a recent mid-January afternoon, with the clouds parted and the snow momentarily cleared, I pointed my car northwest toward Hudson with a simple goal: to get out of the house and see something beautiful. My destination was the Olana State Historic Site, the hilltop home of 19th-century landscape painter Frederic Edwin Church.

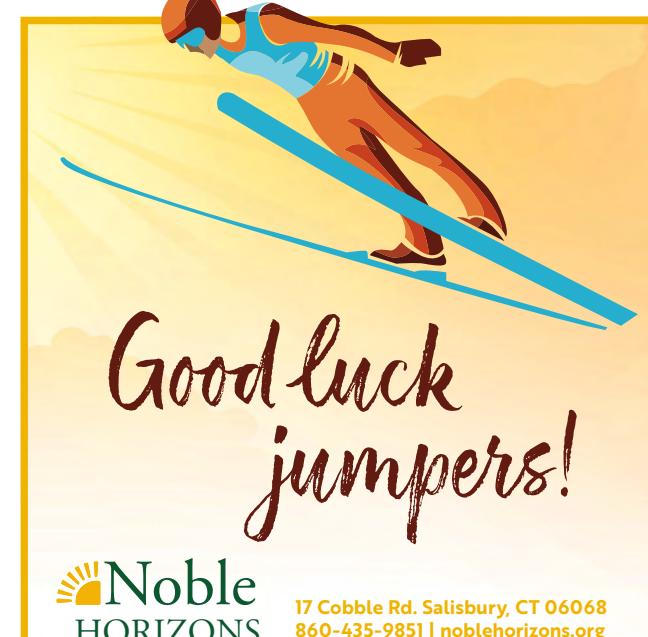
What I found there was not just a welcome winter outing, but a reminder that beauty — expansive, restorative beauty — does not hibernate.

2026 marks the 200th anniversary of Church's birth, making this a particularly timely moment to take in what he created during his lifetime. Church — one of the most notable artists of the Hudson River School movement — was an accomplished landscape painter

who gained a reputation as an artist-traveler. From South America and Western Europe to the Middle East and the Caribbean, Church sought out dramatic, epic scenes that he could capture on canvas and bring back to the U.S. to sell. The profits from those works, in turn, allowed him to create a breathtaking masterpiece of his own: Olana.

Olana rises above the Hudson River like a mirage, its Persian-inspired facade an unexpected sight amid the barren winter landscape. With miles of trails, visitors can take in the natural splendor of rolling hills and the river from every angle. From the house itself, the view stretches across the Catskills, a layered panorama of soft blues and silvers that appears all the more dazzling in

Continued on next page



MUSIC: ROBIN RORABACK

The color of music: Sarah Davis Hughes' 'The Colorways and the Circle of Fifths'

Artist Sarah Davis Hughes had always loved music, but after winning an accordion from the New England Accordion Connection and Museum in Canaan, that love became a musical journey, ultimately leading to her book "The Colorways and the Circle of Fifths."

Hughes explained that the idea for the book came after studying with Paul Ramunni of the Accordion Connection for a year. "He introduced a piece of music that I knew well by ear but had never seen written down." Upon seeing the music, Hughes described a sense of blindness. "The chords looked like thorny blueberry bushes on the page," she said.

Determined to figure it out, Hughes said, "I knew color systems, design and theory, so it was simply a matter of organization. If



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

Sarah Davis Hughes demonstrates Colorways, a visualization tool she developed that maps musical notes to colors by aligning the circle of fifths with the color wheel.

I could assign a color to each note and color that black-and-white score, I would instantly recognize

the notes."

She set out to create a system. "The colors that I assign to each

note should make sense together like the notes make sense together," she said.

She recalled the color wheel, which illustrates the harmonic structure of color, and the Circle of Fifths, which shows the harmonic structure of music. Both serve as foundational systems — one for color, the other for music. "What if I simply superimposed a classic color wheel onto the Circle of Fifths?"

She began by placing the primary colors — red, yellow and blue — then set the note C at the top. The next primary color, yellow, aligned with E, followed by blue at A-flat/G-sharp.

"I was very surprised to see that all of the hot colors — blood red, vermillion, orange, gold, hot yellow, chartreuse — fell on the white notes C, G, D, A and B," Hughes

said. "The cool colors — green, teal, blue, lavender and purple — are black notes."

Once the colors were mapped onto a miniature keyboard, Hughes saw clear correlations. "For instance, there are two oranges: G, vermillion, and D, orange," she said. "The notes are diatonic partners" and harmonize with one another. She found similar relation-

ships between the two yellows — hot yellow and gold, corresponding to E and A — as well as chartreuse and green, B and F-sharp.

She also observed that the triangular relationships among primary, secondary and tertiary colors mirrored musical thirds, or counterbass notes. Mixing all three

Continued on next page

...Olana

Continued from previous page

winter.

Inside the home, the sense of awe deepens. Olana's interior is rich with color, pattern and texture — warm reds, stenciled walls, intricate woodwork — a striking counterpoint to the monochrome world outside. Light pours through tall windows, framing the Hudson Valley like living paintings. Every corner of the house pays tribute to the far-flung places Church visited throughout his career. From architectural details to the objects he collected and displayed, visitors are transported to another world. Walking from room to room feels less like touring a house museum and more like stepping into the mind of an artist transfixed by the staggering beauty of the world around him.

As I made my way back down the hill, the winter light fading fast, I felt refreshed in a way that only comes from seeing something anew. Olana is not just a monument to one artist, but

a testament to a way of viewing the world — one that values observation, patience and reverence for the natural environment. For those looking to venture out during the colder months and to be reminded why this region has inspired generations of artists and dreamers, there may be no better place to start than Olana.

Olana State Historic Site is located at 5720 State Route 9G, Hudson, New York. For more information and to purchase tours, visit: olana.org



PHOTOS BY BRIAN GERSTEN

Olana State Historic Site, the hilltop home created by 19th-century Hudson River School painter Frederic Edwin Church, rises above the Hudson River on a clear winter afternoon.



The dining room at Olana.

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COMPASS

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com

FEBRUARY 5

Project SAGE Online Safety Workshop

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org

At 6:30 p.m., this interactive, 90-minute workshop designed for parents and caregivers of teens and tweens provides a foundation for talking with youth about online safety, including online "stranger danger," cyberbullying, artificial intelligence and more.

No-Cost Home Energy Solutions Assessment

Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main St., Sharon, Conn.

Free public information session from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. to learn how to save money and energy on your home energy bills.

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This intensive six-part virtual series through Innisfree is designed for gardeners and landscape stewards who want to go beyond surface-level advice and build durable skills for creating healthier, more resilient landscapes. Led by horticulturist Brad Roeller, each session combines structured teaching with generous time for Q&A—so participants can bring real site challenges, plant problems, and design questions into the conversation.

Pick and choose the sessions you'd like to attend—or sign up for the complete series at a discounted price. Register: www.innisfreegardens.org/essential-skills-for-sustainable-landscapes

FEBRUARY 6

Illusory Magic: A Personal History of the Craft in Pictures, Words, and Trickery

The Salisbury School, 251 Canaan Road, Salisbury, Conn. 7:30 p.m. at The Salisbury School

Join us for an evening with Jon Brunelle as we delve into magic history, witness sleight of hand demonstrations, and examine the relationship between the psychological ploys of magic and today's attention economy. Jon Brunelle is a sleight-of-hand expert and performance artist who has plied his trade on stages from Hollywood's Magic Castle to New York's Dixon Place and PS122. Register for this free event at: bit.ly/49RbDLS

First Friday Music

Congregational Church of Salisbury, 30 Main St., Salisbury, Conn.

The Congregational Church of Salisbury will present its monthly First Friday Music program on Friday, Feb. 6, at 12 p.m. The Meeting House will open at 11:30 a.m. This month's performance will be Mozart's "Requiem." There will be a 15-voice chorus of professional soloists accompanied on piano by music director, David Baranowski.

FEBRUARY 7

Celestial Ball: A Dewey Hall Fundraiser

Dewey Hall, 91 Main St., Sheffield, Mass.

DJ, astrological readings, cosmic cocktails, wine, beer and more. From 7 to 10 p.m. More info: deweyhall.org

Art Show Closing Reception

The Souterrain Gallery, 413 Sharon Goshen Trpk., West Cornwall, Conn.

The Souterrain Gallery of The Wish House will be hosting a Closing Party for Moon Unit Zappa and Friends next Saturday Feb. 7 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Sports Equipment Exchange

Cornwall Town Hall, 24 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn.

Sports equipment exchange at Town Hall from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Check out various sizes of cleats or ice skates or drop off good used items to swap.

Take Your Child to the Library Day

Douglas Library, 108 Main St., North Canaan, Conn. douglaslibrarycanaan.org

On Feb. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., families are invited to stop by Douglas Library for a variety of fun activities, including giveaways, a raffle, our monthly scavenger hunt and a hands-on craft table. Join Miss Anna at 10:30 a.m. for a story hour. At 11 a.m., we'll also be offering a special dot-painting activity for children and their accompanying adult. Registration is required for this session, as space is limited.

Stand-Up Comedy

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.

Headliner Ophira Eisenberg (NPR, The Moth, Comedy Central) brings her sharp, fast, relatable wit, joined by Jenny Rubin, Shawn Hollenbach, and Will Purpura. Expect big laughs, punchlines that sneak up on you when you least expect them, and the kind of comedy night that reminds you why laughing together matters. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at: thestissingcenter.org

FEBRUARY 8

Valentine's Cake Decorating

Grasslands Dessert Cafe, Lakeville, Conn.

All day decorating. Bring friends and family and join in for a day full of fun. Sign up sheets will be in the store.

All About Postage Stamps with Antonio Alcalá

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. norfolklibrary.org

Find out more about the process of bringing a stamp to life with Antonio Alcalá, art director for the USPS. He will speak about the history of stamp making, the design elements involved, and his own journey that brought him to this work. Register at norfolklibrary.org/events

FEBRUARY 11

Bouquets & Bordeaux Workshop

Le Jardin Flower Farm, 3300 Route 343, Amenia, N.Y.

Hands-on floral design workshop with Romane Recalde plus a curated wine tasting led by Erika of Ten Mile Table. 5:30-7 p.m. Limited spots; must be 21+. Purchase: lejardinflowerfarm.

ADVERTISE IN COMPASS

To advertise your event under the Arts & Entertainment banner, call 860-435-9873 or email advertising@lakevillejournal.com

...Colorways

Continued from previous page



An illustration from "Colorways and the Circle of Fifths" by Sarah Davis Hughes.

primary colors produces "mud," she said, just as playing all the notes in the triangle creates dissonance. But pairing two colors, such as yellow and blue, produces green, while their corresponding notes — E and A-flat — form part of a major chord. "Add B, chartreuse, as the fifth — E, A-flat, B — and you get a beautiful chord," she said.

In songs that move upward by thirds — from C to E to A-flat, as in "The Impossible Dream" — she said the effect is a vertiginous sense of ascent. Compositions built on the three primary colors, she added, are similarly bold and striking, citing Mondrian's circus paintings as examples.

"Everything was about setting it up so that I could look at a color and immediately know what to play," Hughes said. "I

practiced chords and scales on the keyboard, fixing my eye on each color as I played it. It worked."

"At that point, Paul and I started to plan how we could share it with people and wondered if it might help others enter music," Hughes said.

The result is "The Colorways and the Circle of Fifths," a guide for students, teachers and musicians of all levels to help them understand, play and compose music. The book includes worksheets to support learning.

"The Colorways and the Circle of Fifths" is available at Oblong Books and Music in Millerton. Hughes is artist in residence at the Accordion Connection and Museum, where her pastels, prints and original artwork from the book are on view upstairs.

The Lakeville Journal

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PETER HALLE,
FALLS VILLAGE

"I look forward to Thursdays and the new edition of The Lakeville Journal every week! I enjoy reading about our towns, what's happening at our local schools, real estate transactions and especially the opinion pages. The police blotter is also informative. I look forward to solving the word of the week puzzle and try my hand at the crossword."

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In support of our local Paper, enclosed please find my check/money order in the amount of \$ _____, made payable to LJMN Media.

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Stissing Center opens its 2026 season

Rosanne Cash and John Leventhal performed to a sold-out crowd Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Stissing Center in Pine Plains for the Spark! gala, marking the opening of the center's 2026 season. For upcoming shows in the main room and the center's new venue, The Grace Note, visit stissingcenter.org.

Winter chill hits hiring as job market cools for Northwest Corner businesses

By Debra A. Aleksinas

WEST CORNWALL — Winter brings a predictable slowdown for many Northwest Corner businesses, particularly those tied to tourism and seasonal traffic — a pattern local employers say aligns with broader employment trends across Connecticut.

At Covered Bridge Electric Bike in West Cornwall, a family-owned shop that sells, repairs and rents e-bikes, colder months mean fewer customers and reduced staffing.

"It's very seasonal," said co-owner Meg Ensign, who has run the business with her husband, Bob, since 2019. "We definitely staff up in the warmer months with high school and college kids — and our own children. Hiring varies from year to year, and right now it feels very unpredictable."

That local experience reflects statewide labor data released for December 2025, which show employment declines in sectors that typically feel winter slowdowns first, including leisure and hospitality.

According to the Connecticut Department of Labor's latest monthly report, the state lost a net 500



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

nonfarm jobs in December, and the unemployment rate rose to 4.2%. While the rate remains below the national average of 4.4%, it is up a full percentage point from a year earlier.

"The unemployment rate remains low, but Connecticut had an up-and-down year," said Patrick Flaherty, director of the Office of Research at the Department of Labor. "Job growth was particularly weak in the second half of the year."

Employment data are reported primarily by large metropolitan labor market areas, none of which directly capture conditions in the Northwest Corner's rural towns. Still, statewide trends often echo local experience, particularly in weather- and tourism-sensitive industries.

Ensign said uncertainty around tariffs, evolving e-bike regulations and broader economic conditions has made planning more difficult.

Rentals, a major part of the business during spring and summer, are largely dormant through the winter months.

Leisure and hospitality employment declined again in December, along with manufacturing and construction — sectors sensitive to weather, tourism cycles and discretionary spending.

A similar seasonal pattern plays out locally.

At the White Hart Inn in Salisbury, General Manager Dan Winkley said winter

staffing levels are typically lower, with hiring increasing in the spring and summer.

The inn and restaurant currently employ more than 50 full- and part-time workers, a number that generally rises to about 65 during busier seasons.

"The nature of our business is that we do most of our hiring for the spring and summer," Winkley said.

"We're fortunate to have a lot of long-tenured staff, so it's usually just a position here and there that needs filling."

Even as hiring fluctuates, some employers are meeting demand through efficiency rather than workforce expansion.

Chris DiPentima, president and CEO of the Connecticut Business & Industry Association, said strong economic output alongside a shrinking labor force suggests businesses are relying more heavily on productivity gains.

"The third-quarter GDP growth of 5.6%, fourth best in the nation, in light of Connecticut's labor force declining nearly 20,000 people in 2025, clearly spotlights that businesses are meeting higher demand through innovation," DiPentima said. "That means investing in technology, digitalization, AI and productivity gains as hours remain flat and wages and other cost inputs increase."

Statewide, average hourly earnings rose about 3% from a year earlier, slightly outpacing inflation, while average weekly hours remained unchanged. Initial unemployment claims also rose in December, signaling increased caution among employers.

For local businesses, those statewide indicators reinforce a familiar winter reality: fewer customers, reduced hours and cautious hiring decisions until warmer months return.

Selectmen prep for upcoming grant projects in Falls Village

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — At a special meeting Wednesday morning, Jan. 28, the Board of Selectmen approved the implementation of three items relating to upcoming capital projects using state Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grants.

Among the approvals was a state-required sign to be posted at project sites identifying the STEAP-funded work.

The board approved

\$3,200 in supplies for repairs and painting at the pool house at the town recreation site. The work will be completed in-house with the help of volunteers.

For an upcoming food-waste diversion project at the transfer station, the town will purchase a 10-foot shipping container for \$4,845 to store material. First Selectman Dave Barger said the container is not only large but "about as close to bear-proof as it gets."

In other business, the selectmen approved payment

of a \$425 invoice to Hadden Electric for electrical work that allowed Christmas lights to be installed on the town Green, which remain lit.

The board also discussed ways to streamline the format of its regular meetings, which have been criticized for redundancy.

After some back and forth, Barger said he will draft a revised meeting format and circulate it to Selectmen Judy Jacobs and Chris Kinsella ahead of the next regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 9.

Academic scholarships available to Northwest Corner students

TORRINGTON — The 2026-27 academic scholarship application process at Northwest CT Community Foundation is now open.

More than \$530,000 is available to eligible students in the region. Students can view a full list of available scholarships, eligibility guidelines, and application materials at yournccf.org/ scholarships.

The application deadline is April 1, 2026.

NCCF manages more than 65 scholarship funds supporting a wide range of educational pathways, including higher education, vocational training and specialized fields of study.

The majority of scholarships are awarded to students residing within the Foundation's 20-town service area, including Barkhamsted, Bethlehem, Colebrook, Cornwall, Falls Village, Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton,

Last week's WotW

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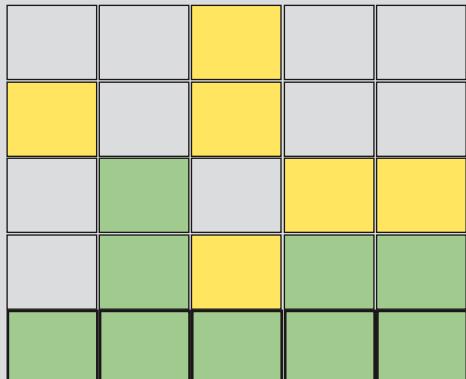
Word of the Week

Hints relate to adjacent five-letter words. Solve to reveal correct letters.

Green tiles indicate correctly placed letters in the Word of the Week.

Yellow tiles indicate a correct letter in the wrong place.

Uncolored tiles indicate letters that do not appear in the WotW.



WORD OF THE WEEK ©THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

1. Sound a duck makes
2. Opposite of before
3. Where a belt might tighten
4. Yummy, delicious
5. Brine covers roads, sidewalks

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Native American group of N. California
5. Geological times (Brit. sp.)
10. Tool to remove
12. Rods
14. One who renews
16. They precede C
18. Chatter incessantly
19. __ King Cole, musician
20. Insect parts
22. One from Utah
23. The world of the dead
25. Singer Redding
26. NBA legend Nelson
27. Indicates wrongly
28. Unhappy
30. Anger
31. Dark brown
33. Some are in kitchens
35. Made a mistake
37. Damp
38. Type of fuel
40. Actor Damon
41. What thespians do
42. One's mother
44. Disallow
45. Swiss river
48. A banana has one
50. Philippines lake and volcano are two
52. Wet dirt
53. Indicates wrongly
54. More (Spanish)
55. Disfigured
56. Liquefied natural gas
57. A place to sleep
58. Pass or go by
59. Indicates a purchase
60. A digital tape recording of sound
61. High schoolers' test
62. Designed to be useful
63. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
64. Member of indigenous people of Thailand
65. Distance to top
66. Church building
67. Georgia rockers
68. Type of surgery
69. Much __ about nothing
70. Make by braiding
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Sports

Housatonic's varsity ski team wins at Mohawk

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Mohawk Mountain hosted a meet of the Berkshire Hills Ski League Wednesday, Jan. 28.

Housatonic Valley Regional High School earned its first team victory of the season. Individually for the Mountaineers, Meadow Merschell placed 2nd, Winter Cheney placed 3rd, Elden Grace placed 6th and Ian Thomen placed 12th.

The league includes a mix of private and public schools.

HVRHS competed against Washington Montessori School, Indian Mountain School, Rumsey Hall and Marvelwood School.

Conditions were ideal for slalom skiing at Mohawk, albeit cold for spectators with the temperature in the teens. Approximately 20-inches of snow fell earlier in the week.

Mohawk will continue to host weekly meets of the BHSL each Wednesday through the end of the season. The league championship will take place Feb. 25.

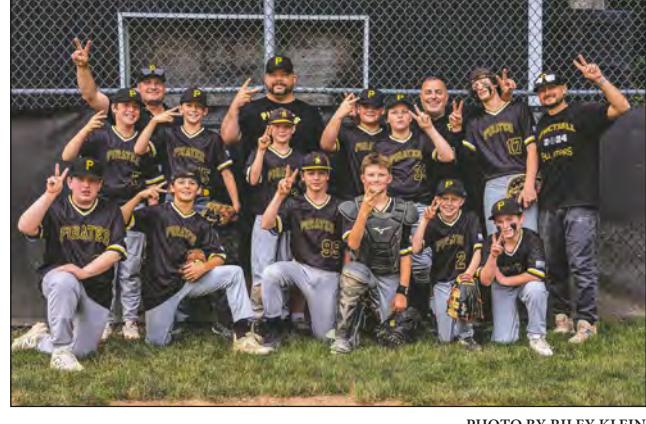


PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

The Canaan Pirates pose as back-to-back champions after defending the Northwest Connecticut District 6 Majors Little League title in 2025.

Steve Blass Little League registration open til March 1

NORTH CANAAN — Registration for the Northwest Connecticut Steve Blass Little League spring season is open through March 1.

Boys and girls age 4 to 15 from Cornwall, Falls Village,

Kent, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon are eligible to register.

Contact Adam Karcheski at nwctll.pres@gmail.com or visit leagues.bluesombrero.com/nwctll

Berkshire Hills Ski League includes Washington Montessori School, Indian Mountain School, Rumsey Hall and Marvelwood School. Meets are held weekly at Mohawk Mountain in Cornwall.

Housy Hall of Fame seeks 2026 nominees

FALLS VILLAGE — The Housatonic Valley Regional High School Athletic Department and the Athletic Hall of Fame committee is now accepting nominations for the Housatonic Athletic Hall of Fame.

The Athletic Hall of Fame, which was created in 1996, recognizes former athletes, coaches, and community members who have made outstanding personal and athletic contributions to Housatonic Valley Regional High

School. There are a total of 120 current members of the Housatonic Athletic Hall of Fame.

The Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2026 will be announced in June. The induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame will culminate with an awards ceremony and luncheon in October, where the nominees will be recognized.

All nominations will be due by May 1. Nomination forms will be available

online at hvrhs.org under the Athletics tab.

Forms may be submitted via email at amacneil@region1schools.org or regular mail. Please send regular mail forms to:

Housatonic Valley Regional High School
c/o Athletic Department
Attn: Athletic Hall of Fame
246 Warren Turnpike
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REAL ESTATE

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We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

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