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Retail shakeup reshaping Millerton's Main Street this spring

By ALY MORRISSEY
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MILLERTON — This spring, a wave of retail changes is set to reshape Millerton's Main Street, as shops turn over, relocate or emerge, just in time for peak outdoor shopping season.

After last year's closure of sustainable gift shop Demitasse, a new kind of "green" business an-

nounced plans to move in. Black Rabbit dispensary is scheduled to open its doors this spring, serving as the village's first-ever marijuana retail business.

Just next door, the retro candy shop, Candy-O's, announced it will move to a new location in Millerton, with a yet-to-be determined business to replace it.

Artisan craft store BES has moved out of its retail shop and

will be replaced with a vintage jewelry store — Rosemary Rose Finery, formerly located in Salisbury, Conn. — offering more than one-of-a-kind accessories. The craft classes at the same location will continue.

And with the relocation of Geary Gallery to Salisbury, Conn., a new fashion and lifestyle boutique is scheduled to move in.

Candy-O's marks five years with move, merger with T-Shirt Farm

By ALY MORRISSEY
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MILLERTON — As Candy-O's celebrates five years on Main Street, owner Gillian Osnato is preparing for a move that blends business with personal history.

The retro candy shop, which opened in 2021, will relocate two doors down, consolidating with The T-Shirt Farm — the longtime family business founded by Osnato's late father, Sal Osnato.

After her father's death in April 2025, Osnato spent a year running both businesses, often racing back and forth between storefronts, sup-

porting staff, greeting customers, and keeping operations running.

"It got to a point where I couldn't really be present in either space the way I wanted to be," Osnato said. "One or the other was always going to suffer."

The decision to consolidate, she said, was driven as much by sustainability as by sentiment. The T-Shirt Farm had long been defined by her father's presence, and maintaining that connection — while also running a second business — proved increasingly difficult.

"He was such a fixture," she said.

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PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Gillian Osnato marks Candy-O's five years, plans move

Rosemary Rose Finery to join Main Street retail lineup

By ALY MORRISSEY
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MILLERTON — A new chapter is coming to the former BES retail space on Main Street, where vintage jewelry dealer and herbalist Jessica Rose Lee will open Rosemary Rose Finery this spring after spending the last several years with a storefront in Salisbury, Connecticut.

Set to open May 1, the new shop will bring together Lee's curated collection of vintage and estate jewelry, apothecary and wellness goods, and a continued lineup of craft workshops led by artist and

screen printer Meg Musgrove, who built a following through classes she led at BES.

The partnership grew out of Rural Co-Lab, a women's business group connecting entrepreneurs across the tri-corner region. Though Lee and Musgrove did not know each other well before, both said the collaboration came together quickly — and felt right.

"I really didn't have much intention of looking for another space," Lee said. "But it just felt cosmically aligned. Millerton felt right to me, the space felt right, and having Meg

See ROSEMARY ROSE, A8



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Meg Musgrove, left, and Jessica Rose Lee set to open May 1.



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

A protester holds a sign at Fountain Square in Amenia on March 28, where more than 200 people gathered as part of the nationwide "No Kings" demonstrations.

From one protester to 200: 'No Kings' rally draws large crowd in Amenia

By ALY MORRISSEY
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AMENIA — More than 200 people gathered at Fountain Square on March 28 as part of the nationwide "No Kings" demonstrations, marking a sharp rise from what began months ago with a single protester.

The rally was part of a coordinated day of protests held across the country and around the world, including many in small towns and rural communities throughout the region. Organizers estimated more than eight million people participated globally.

Kim Travis of Amenia — who organized the rally at Fountain Square — said the demonstration reflected a dramatic shift from her early days protesting alone, when she faced threats while standing by herself.

"This started with just me, alone

in June — day after day, getting threats," Travis said. "To see it grow into more than 200 people today for this 'No Kings' rally in our little-bitty town of Amenia is incredible."

She said the turnout reflected broader support across rural communities. There were several rallies in towns across Dutchess County and in neighboring Connecticut.

Travis described the mood of the Amenia crowd as both emotional and energizing.

"Our hearts are filled with joy — it's just incredible that so many people turned out today," she said.

She added that the message of the protest was rooted in democratic values.

"We want our country back, and we want democracy," Travis said. "We the people serve no kings.

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OUR TOWNS

Paley's Farm Market opens season, signaling start of spring

By ALY MORRISSEY
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SHARON, Conn. — For many local residents, spring doesn't truly begin until Paley's Farm Market opens its doors, and customers turned out in force for its 44th season opening on Saturday, March 28.

Located on Amenia Road in Sharon, Paley's is a seasonal destination for residents of New York and Connecticut and, over the past four decades, has evolved from a locally grown produce center into a full-scale garden center, farm market and fine food market.

Despite a chilly start to the day, the opening drew a steady crowd, with a full parking lot and early signs of the busy season ahead.

"It's been going really well," said owner Sarah Coon, who

purchased the business from her brother in 2019. "It's chilly, but we've had a nice turnout. The sun's out, and that always helps."

Mimi Harson of Sharon and Anette Cantilli of Millbrook shared an outing together to purchase flowers and plants for their deck pots.

"It's exciting, we love Paley's," Cantilli said of the opening day as she filled her car trunk with pansies.

Behind the scenes, opening day is the culmination of months of preparation — much of it beginning long before winter has fully loosened its grip.

"We open our first greenhouse in early February, and that's when the fun begins," Coon said. "We start planting pansies then, and once you open that greenhouse, you're committed. It's like having a bunch of babies out there —

you have to make sure nothing goes wrong.

This year's opening comes after a particularly snowy winter that, just weeks ago, left the property covered in large mounds of snow.

"I looked around and thought, 'I don't know if we're going to be able to open on time,'" Coon said. "There was snow everywhere. It was hard to even imagine. But here we are."

Early spring offerings include rows of colorful pansies grown from seed, along with cold-tolerant vegetable starts, herbs and Easter-ready planters designed for patios and entryways. Bulbs such as daffodils and tulips are also available, along with seeds, soil and gardening supplies.

"It's not too early," she said of the growing season. "You can start seeds indoors now, even just on a windowsill.



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Paley's Farm Market, located near the New York-Connecticut border on Amenia Road in Sharon, Conn.

And if it doesn't work, you can always come back and get plants."

While the market's popular prepared foods and grocery offerings will arrive later in the season, the early weeks fo-

cus on planting and preparation. Dry goods are expected in the coming weeks, followed by a gradual buildout of the full market.

New this year, Paley's has partnered with Homegrown

National Park, a national initiative promoting the use of native plants. The collaboration will help customers more easily identify native species to incorporate into their gardens.

"We think it's going to be good for our staff and our customers," she said. "It makes it easier for people to mix native plants into what they're already doing."

Paley's typically operates through mid-October, employing up to a dozen staff members at the height of the season, along with part-time and retired workers who assist with planting and maintenance.

For many, the opening marks more than just the start of a business cycle — it's a seasonal ritual.

"We all need a little color right now," Coon said. "And a little warmth. It's coming."

Four Brothers Drive-In kicks off season with lower prices, expanded offerings

By ALY MORRISSEY
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AMENIA — The Four Brothers Drive-In quietly opened its 2026 season with a "soft launch," offering a family-friendly double feature on Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28, while signaling a broader push to keep the experience affordable amid economic uncertainty.

Though the towering movie screen was back in action last weekend, casting a glow over downtown Amenia, the full property — including The Shack, mini golf, and the Hotel Caravana airstreams — will officially open April 17.

"We always want to be affordable and accessible," owner John Stefanopoulos said. "With everything going on — the economy, the war and changes to the movie business — we decided to lower our prices this year."

General admission has dropped from \$15 to \$12 for adults and from \$10 to \$8 for children.

"It's a great bargain to watch one or two movies and enjoy an experience that's communal, exciting and fun for adults, kids and even dogs," he added.

Founded by four Greek immigrant brothers who arrived in the U.S. in the early 1970s, Four Brothers grew from a single Connecticut pizzeria into a regional chain over the following decades, building a loyal following around family recipes, including its signature pizza and Greek dressing.

The drive-in was added 14 years ago and has continued to evolve beyond movies, leaning into what has become a hallmark of the Stefanopoulos family's brand — a mix



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

The Four Brothers Drive-In on Route 44 in Amenia.

of nostalgia, hospitality and playful reinvention.

"It wouldn't be us if we didn't try something new," Stefanopoulos said.

That experimentation is especially evident in the menu, which manager Tom Stefanopoulos said will take center stage this season.

"The really cool part of the drive-in is our food component, and this year we're pushing hard on the menu," he said.

New this year, guests will be able to access rotating, limited-time menu items through a QR code featured on menus. The code links to playful multimedia content revealing surprise offerings — a strategy designed to keep visitors engaged and coming back.

Among the debut items will be a pork katsu sandwich — a crispy fried pork cutlet served on fresh bread with a house-made special mayo and a touch of hoisin sauce,

blending Greek and Asian influences in a creative, out-of-the-box offering.

"We're trying to have fun with it," Tom said. "It keeps our guests interacting with us, gives them something new each time they come, and

keeps everyone surprised."

"It's very on brand with who we are," John said. "We're always finding different ways to create an experience."

The drive-in will also bring back its weekly Throwback Thursday programming, often featuring live music and guest appearances, along with returning favorites like lobster rolls — now joined this season by a new spicy truffle variation.

"We joke that we've become the lobster kings," John joked, adding that they find it funny that they set out to offer Greek-style pizza but have become more well-known, at least in the summer months, for their lobster rolls.

A new "Dubai" shake and sundae — featuring pistachio and chocolate flavors inspired

by Mediterranean influences — will also be available for the first time.

Beyond the food and film, updates are underway across the property. The Hotel Caravana Airstreams will undergo slight renovations, offering a glamping experience for people wishing to stay on the property. They will feature new furniture and decor to make the space relevant and fresh.

The outdoor dining area will also feature new patio furniture, with a more lounge-like section where adults can hang out for drinks.

As always, movie schedules will be announced on a monthly basis. The Shack will open on April 17, and by May, the venue will be open seven days a week.

"For us, and for our staff,

it's a really special place to work," John said. "You feel the energy of summer — the movie starting, cars and people pouring in, the music, the whole scene."

Over the years, the atmosphere has drawn its share of celebrities, including Ethan Hawke, Jason Blum, Liam Neeson and Lin Manuel Miranda.

As the drive-in marks its 14th season — and the restaurant approaches 50 years — the family sees the moment as both a milestone and a continuation.

"With America's 250th birthday on the horizon, it's wild to think we've been serving our Greek-American style of pizza for about twenty percent of that time," John said.

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Town moves to sell Depot Hill parcel for workforce housing

By LEILA HAWKEN
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AMENIA — A small, town-owned parcel of land on Depot Hill Road moved a step closer to being sold to Habitat for Humanity following action by the Town Board at its meeting on Thursday, March 19. The vote was unanimous. Councilwoman Vicki Doyle was absent from the meeting.

The existing lot, measuring 0.7 acres, will be subdivided

so that the space occupied by the town's newly installed EV charging stations will be retained by the town.

Once the subdivision is finalized, the remaining 0.57-acre lot is slated to be sold to Habitat for Humanity for \$30,000. Plans call for construction of a three-bedroom, one-bath home to be designated as workforce housing. The below-market sale price is intended to help keep the home affordable for a qualify-

ing buyer.

Affordable housing has been a longstanding need identified in the town's planning documents, with officials citing challenges in retaining local workers and young families. Partnering with Habitat for Humanity allows the town to facilitate construction of a modest, income-qualified home while ensuring long-term affordability.

Town Engineer John Andrews is completing a short

Environmental Assessment Form, certifying that no significant environmental impact is expected.

In other business, the board began planning for upcoming community events.

Looking ahead to the observance of the nation's 250th anniversary on July 4, the Town Board acted unanimously to allocate \$5,000 for the fireworks display coordinated by the local fire department.

Dutchess County ticks found to carry multiple pathogens, study shows

By ALY MORRISSEY
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An increasing number of ticks in the Hudson Valley are carrying more than one disease-causing germ that can make people sick, according to a new study from the Cary Institute of Ecological Studies in Millbrook. Researchers say the trend could complicate diagnosis and treatment in humans after a tick bite.

Details of the study were released by the institute, and additional insights were provided in an interview with lead researcher Shannon LaDeau.

The findings are part of a long-running research effort in Dutchess County, where scientists have been collecting and tracking ticks for decades. The current analysis draws on nearly 10 years of samples, part of a 35-year monitoring project led by Cary Institute disease ecologist Richard S. Ostfeld. Ticks collected from forested plots on the Cary campus were frozen and later tested for a wide range of pathogens using updated laboratory methods.

According to the report, more than 38% of the ticks tested were capable of spreading at least one disease-causing pathogen to people.

"The probability of being exposed to a pathogen by a single bite from a nymphal tick is approaching 40%," said Ostfeld in a statement. "That seems uncomfortably high. These ticks are so small, most people don't even realize when one is feeding on them."

Lead researcher Shannon LaDeau, a disease ecologist at the Cary Institute, has spent her career studying how diseases move through ecosystems. Her early work focused on tracking the spread of West

Nile virus through bird populations using large datasets, before turning her attention to ticks and tick-borne illness in the Northeast.

The latest study analyzed more than 2,000 blacklegged ticks collected over nearly a decade in Dutchess County and found that roughly 1 in 10 ticks in their nymph stage – the small, hard-to-see phase most likely to bite humans – were carrying at least two pathogens.

"That means a single tick bite could expose someone to more than one illness," LaDeau said in an interview.

The ticks themselves are not born carrying disease, she added. Instead, they pick up pathogens during their first blood meal as larvae, when they are extremely small and remain close to the ground in leaf litter. At that stage, they typically feed on small rodents, such as mice and chipmunks. If the host animal is infected, the tick can acquire more pathogens.

Lyme disease, once acquired by a tick, stays with it for life, while other pathogens like Babesia may clear over time.

Overall, researchers found

that more than a third of ticks tested were carrying at least one pathogen, with Lyme disease remaining common. About 20% of ticks carried the bacterium that causes Lyme disease, while lower levels of other known illnesses, such as anaplasmosis, were detected.

One of the more striking findings was the rise of babesiosis, an illness caused by a parasite that requires different treatment than Lyme disease.

"Babesia has been increasing over time," LaDeau said, noting that in some years it was even more common in ticks than the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. "There's a lot of year-to-year variation, but over the longer term, it's increasing."

These results have important public health implications, LaDeau said, because the two pathogens require different tests and treatments. Lyme disease is treated with antibiotics such as doxycycline, while Babesia infections are treated with antiparasitic medications.

"This particular co-infection does represent a new risk in the sense that Babesia and Lyme do not respond to the

same treatment," LaDeau said. Anaplasma, which has been around for a long time and has historically had a co-infection with Lyme disease, does respond to the same treatment.

"In the Northeast, when someone gets sick after a tick bite, medical professionals should be testing for both pathogens to ensure proper diagnosis and treatment," said LaDeau.

How to protect yourself from tick bites

For residents spending time outdoors, LaDeau said prevention starts with awareness. Wearing light-colored clothing can make ticks easier to spot, and checking yourself regularly – both while outside and after coming indoors – is key. Tick activity also varies throughout the year, with certain times, particularly late spring and late summer, posing higher risk.

Just as important is knowing your surroundings. "There are places where you go out and get ticks every time, and other places where you don't," LaDeau said, noting that ticks come from the ground and typically latch on from leaf litter as they climb upward.

Statewide burn ban in effect until May 14

New York's annual statewide burn ban went into effect on Monday, March 16.

Lighting brush fires is prohibited statewide until May 14.

The ban prohibits uncontained fires of any kind, including burning brush, trash or leaves. Bonfires are also prohibited.

Contained fires, such as a fire no larger than 3 feet high and 4 feet wide in a fire pit or a small campfire are permitted. Contained cooking fires

are also permitted.

The Department of Environmental Conservation said in a statement that rising temperatures can cause wildfire conditions despite dampness from snow melt and even a thin blanket of snow

remaining on the ground in some places across the state. The statement said wildfires spread more easily during the spring because of warming temperatures, increased winds and a lack of green vegetation in forests.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Millerton Police Chief Joe Olenik, left, and Millbrook Police Chief Keith Dworkin at the Dutchess County Association of Chiefs of Police in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Millbrook, Millerton police chiefs represent rural voice in county leadership

By ALY MORRISSEY
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MILLBROOK — Millbrook Police Chief Keith Dworkin has been elected president of the Dutchess County Association of Police Chiefs, placing a rural voice in a key county leadership role at a time when smaller departments are grappling with staffing and resource challenges.

Dworkin, who has been a member of the association for five years, said the role offers an opportunity to strengthen collaboration among law enforcement leaders across the county.

"I was really happy to be able to step into this role," Dworkin said. "It's a great opportunity for us to maintain strong working relationships among departments and continue improving how we serve our communities."

Dworkin's appointment was also welcomed by Dutchess County Legislator Eric Alexander, who represents Millbrook, Amenia, Washington and part of Pleasant Valley.

"Chief Dworkin is an outstanding manager who has brought a new level of professionalism to our police force," Alexander said. "His election to this prestigious position is clear recognition of the sophistication, commitment to community and strong leadership he has displayed throughout his career. Millbrook is lucky to have him."

Dworkin assumes the presidency after serving as treasurer, secretary and vice president of the organization, which brings together chiefs and department leaders from agencies of all sizes across Dutchess County.

The group meets approximately five times a year, convening police chiefs, captains, lieutenants and other department heads to discuss shared challenges, legislative updates and emerging trends in law enforcement.

While departments vary in size and resources, Dworkin said many of the issues are universal.

"Whether you're a large agency or a small one, we're all dealing with recruitment, retention and training," he

said. "The issues may look a little different, but they often apply across the board. The goal is to work together and keep those lines of communication open."

A key priority during his one-year term will be expanding training opportunities and ensuring departments have access to evolving tools and technologies, Dworkin said.

"We're looking at how we can better provide relevant training to all levels of officers," Dworkin said. "That includes working with the state and outside resources, and bringing in vendors to talk about things like records management systems and other technology that's constantly changing."

The association also serves as a forum for discussion around legislation and policy, often inviting elected officials to speak with law enforcement leaders.

Among the ongoing concerns is the state's cap on earnings for retired police officers working part-time, which Dworkin said has made it more difficult for smaller departments to maintain adequate staffing.

"It hasn't kept up with the cost of living, and it really impacts our ability to provide coverage," he said. "Recruitment and retention continue to be major challenges, especially for smaller agencies."

That perspective is shared by Millerton Police Chief Joe Olenik, who also participates in countywide discussions – currently serving as treasurer – and represents northeastern Dutchess communities.

"Olenik and I have gotten to know each other over the last few years, and we deal with a lot of similar challenges," Dworkin said. "We're smaller agencies, and we don't always have the same resources, so working together is critical to overcoming those hurdles."

Beyond formal meetings, Dworkin said the value of the association lies in the camaraderie and relationships built between departments.

"It's a great collaborative effort," he said. "It's great to share ideas, help each other out, even in small ways. Everything we do is collaborative, and that's what makes the association so valuable."

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OBITUARY

Riley Alexander Simmons

FALLS VILLAGE — It is with extreme sadness that we announce that our dear son Riley Alexander Simmons, 27, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Pittsfield, Massachusetts on March 18, 2026.



Riley was born in Sharon, on Memorial Day May 25, 1998, and grew up in Falls Village — a place he would always consider home. A curious and precocious child, he was reading and writing at age three and developed a lifelong love of books and learning. Some things he especially enjoyed as a boy were working outdoors with his dad and grandpa, cooking and gardening with his mom and grandma, playing with his younger brother, Legos, Star Wars, Transformers, Pokémon, Magic Cards, and Harry Potter. Riley later developed a passion for video games, where he could immerse himself in fantasy worlds; computers, which he often built himself, and chemistry. He treasured time spent with his grandparents and created many cherished memories at their homes.

Riley endured lifelong struggles: first with Asperger's Syndrome, and later with mental illness and a sleep disorder. His accomplishments and perseverance in the face of these challenges were nothing short of heroic; aided by the loving support of his family, teachers, and our local community. He attended Lee H. Kellogg elementary school and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School, both in Falls Village. He participated in Cub Scouts, Little League, geography bees, science fairs, Lego club, robotics team, debate team, chess club, and German club. He earned many academic awards and honors over the years, including a near-perfect SAT score. Riley pursued his love of science and research, and in May of 2020 he graduated from Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York with Presidential Honors and a bachelor's degree in Biomolecular Science, with a minor in Biology. While at Clarkson, Riley was a proud member of the Iota Kappa chapter of the fraternity Delta Tau Tau. He held summer jobs at the Interlaken Inn and the Triplex Cinema. His first and final job after college was as a Quality Control Method Transfer Chemist at Berkshire Sterile Manufacturing in Lee, Massachusetts.

Riley formed close friendships that were very important to him in each phase of his life, which he maintained through the years. He was known for his sense of humor, sharp wit, genuineness, kind-

ness, and compulsion to help others and to right the injustices of the world. In his Pittsfield neighborhood he often helped elderly pedestrians and gave food and money to those in need, despite having very little to give. His uniqueness and authenticity are remembered fondly by those close to him.

As an adult Riley consumed online educational materials in his pursuit of knowledge. He possessed a truly brilliant mind and enjoyed sharing the facts he had learned. Many people affectionately referred to him as "The Walking Encyclopedia". Riley loved to cook and experiment in the kitchen. He played the guitar and loved listening to and discovering new music, in which his taste was very eclectic. Riley had a large online presence in gaming, Discord, and Reddit; and he was beloved in these communities.

In the words of his brother Sam: "He was the smartest person I knew, and he was always trying to make you laugh. He was a very honest and simple person with a strong set of beliefs. He didn't change himself for anyone. Didn't matter if he was going on a date or spending time with family — he was the same Riley. There's no one else like him in my life. The one-and-only, quirky Riley".

Riley is survived by his mother Marilyn Zovickian Magill and stepfather David of Selkirk, New York, his father George Edward Simmons, Jr. and stepmother Marisa of Salisbury, Connecticut; his grandparents Margo and Charles Lewis of Falls Village, Connecticut, Dr. William H. Zovickian of Dacula, Georgia, and Beverly and James Snyder of Ashley Falls, Massachusetts; his brother Samuel Simmons, step-brother Cole Rosseter, and step-sister Madelyn Magill; his aunts and uncles Sara Zovickian (Roger), Nathanael Lewis (Chelsea), William A. Zovickian (Angela), Valerie Sugerak (Shane), Bonnie Peters (Jay), Cynthia Ullrich (David), Susan Bush, Kevin Bush (Jennifer); several great-aunts and uncles, and dozens of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Calling hours will be held at Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, 118 Main Street, Canaan, CT on April 4, 2026 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., with a service immediately following at that location. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to a mental health or autism spectrum disorder support organization of your choice.

OUR TOWNS
Millbrook School showcases student talent at Warner Gallery

By ALY MORRISSEY
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MILLBROOK — The Warner Gallery at the Millbrook School has opened its spring exhibition, the Honors Art Show, transforming a space that often features professional artists into a showcase of student work from around the world.

The annual exhibition highlights work by seniors enrolled in Millbrook School's honors visual arts programs, offering a culmination of years of study across photography, ceramics, painting and drawing.

Senior Estee O'Brien, a boarding student from Bedford, NY, has studied photography at Millbrook for several years. She reflected on her artistic evolution in her final year.

"I don't usually shoot black and white — I love color — but for this project I wanted to focus more on details, fabrics, and faces," O'Brien said, adding that the loss of color initially made her feel disconnected from her work. To bring a bit of "shine" back to her portraits, she bedazzled certain parts of each black and white image with silver gems.

O'Brien — who earned several regional Scholastic Art Awards — said the exhibition feels like a culmination of everything she and her peers have been working toward.

"There are a lot of shared themes featured in this exhibition, especially around graduating — there's excitement, but also fear and nostalgia," said Sarah MacWright, who teaches honors photography and has students featured in the show.

Among them is Eason Wang, a senior boarding student from Beijing, China, whose work leans symbolic and experimental, often reflecting anticipation for life beyond Millbrook. One image depicts a diploma surrounded by snow.

"I am still here, in my final year, moving through a winter that feels longer than the other three seasons," Wang wrote in his artist statement. "My mind has already moved forward even though my body is still stuck in my high school dorm room."

In another medium, senior Islay MacGown of Sag Harbor, New York, presents a series of large-format oil and acrylic paintings created in her honors drawing and painting class.

"I think this year was my year," MacGown said. "I feel



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Student artwork on display at the Honors Art Show in the Warner Gallery at Millbrook School.

like I really grew."

Her work ranges from warm-toned portraits featuring female figures to cooler, more contemplative scenes, including one of two girls standing on rocks overlooking the ocean.

"Usually my paintings take a couple months, but this one took about a week — I didn't expect that," she added.

Senior Nga Ho, a boarding student from Vietnam, drew on memory and distance in her work.

"I was feeling a little homesick," Ho said. "I kept going back to this idea of home in Vietnam, and building the piece from that."

She described the painting as dreamlike — "when you think about a place and time, but you can't fully see it."

Kiernan Pazdar, who directs the gallery and teaches honors drawing and painting, said the program is designed to help students develop an independent studio practice.

"They learn how to sustain their work, find their voice and grow technically," Pazdar said. Each student has their own studio space, which allows them to work independently and commit to their process.

Pazdar and MacWright said the exhibition often surprises visitors with the depth and sophistication of student work.

"Having students from all over the world brings a range of perspectives that really shapes the work and conversations," Pazdar said.

The Warner Gallery is located at the Millbrook School at 131 Millbrook School Road and is open Monday through Friday during regular school hours. Appointments can be arranged through Millbrook School's admission office.

YOUR NEWS Stay informed milleronnews.com

Worship Services
Week of April 5, 2026

<p>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</p>	<p>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 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>	<p>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 In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, April 12 at 10:30 a.m. Science and Religion: Is there a connection? For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>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 Lakevilleunited@sn.net</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates!</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>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 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>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!</p>
<p>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 Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>	
<p>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</p>	
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138</p>	

Dutchess County offers free 'forever chemical' testing for private wells

Homeowners with private drinking water wells can get free tests for forever chemicals in their drinking water supply through a new state-funded Dutchess County initiative.

PFAS, commonly known as forever chemicals because of their durability on a chemical level, are a family of synthetic and potentially harmful chemicals used in a wide variety of household products and industrial processes including as coating on nonstick pans

and in firefighting foams. PFAS is an abbreviation for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

Testing is offered through the new Private Well PFAS Testing and Mitigation Rebate Pilot Program offered by New York State Department of Health. Residents whose tests show mitigation is necessary will have an opportunity to apply for rebates to help fund installation of a PFAS treatment system or to connect to public water sup-

ply, if available.

All Dutchess County residents who utilize a private well for drinking water and don't already possess a PFAS treatment system may submit for free testing.

Dutchess County private well users can apply online through the New York State Department of Health's website. The application period will remain open while funding is available. Completed applications will be reviewed in the order they are received.

People who receive water from a public water system are not eligible for this program.

Private well owners should regularly test wells for bacteria at least once a year, and other contaminants every three to five years, to ensure water is suitable for household use.

To learn more about New York's Private Well PFAS Testing and Mitigation Pilot Program, visit health.ny.gov/PrivateWellPFAS.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE A5 THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

Washington D.C. under siege again

August 24, 1814, Red Coats invaded Washington D.C., ravaging and burning the Capitol in retaliation for Americans looting and burning York (today's Toronto) – The War of 1812. At the White House, dinner for 40 had been prepared for a social gathering – the Redcoats sat, ate the meal, drank the wine, burned down the White House. Dolley Madison had famously departed just prior to the Red Coats' arrival taking with her documents, some furnishings and the 8-foot, unfurled Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington, a replica, to assure its not being fouled or brandished by the British. At the conclusion of the war, Congress debated moving the Capitol to Cincinnati but Washington DC and its buildings were renovated, the White House reopened in 1817, with Washington's Portrait proudly displayed. Washington DC – the people's city once again flourished.

211 years later, after the Red Coats, came Trump. In October 2025 the East Wing of the White House was demolished without advance public notice or approval of the National Capital Planning Commission or Congress. With private funding and speed the East Wing was torn down in weeks to make room for an elaborate, unreviewed, unapproved, out-of-portion 90,000 square foot State Ballroom. The speed of the demolition, privately funded by billionaires seeking favor, precluded court intervention - moot to sue the gaping hole where once stood the East Wing. 57% of the public disapproved of the demolition at their White House.

Two weeks after President Kennedy's assassination, Congress passed into law legislation renaming the in-development National Cultural Center – spearheaded by Eisenhower in his administration - to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as a "living memorial" to Kennedy tragically assassinated in Dallas. Then in February 2025, shortly after his inauguration, Trump replaced the Kennedy Center's Board with Trump allies naming himself Board chairman. In December, 2025, the Center's newly elected Board voted to rename the "living memorial" to Kennedy, as legislated by Congress, to the Trump-Kennedy Center. Chaos ensued. February 1, 2026, after months of failures to retain performers, retain audiences, retain donors, the Board, with an unprofitable mess, voted to close the Center for two years while stripping it down to its core metal structure. The "living memorial" to Kennedy, an architectural icon, was now

OPEN SPACE

Kathy Herald-Marlowe

voted by Trump's Board to be demolished. Several Court cases are pending

Housing the Vice President's Office among Treasury and Department of Defense offices, what is next on the Trump raze and redo list is the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB). November 2025, on Laura Ingraham's Fox TV show, Trump announced his intent to power wash, point and paint the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) opened in 1888 – a huge building of cut and polished Maine granite. Immediate court cases have been filed claiming any change to the EEOB's exterior is subject to analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act and must comply with the National Historical Preservation Act. Trump wants EEOB painted white...painting and power washing is assessed as detrimental to the granite building.

Additionally, Trump has proposed a 250-fifty-tall triumphal arch – Independence Arch- to be constructed directly across the Potomac River from the Lincoln Memorial. Officially the arch is said to mark the nation's 250th celebration, though when asked who the monument would honor Trump replied "Me". Of course, lawsuits have been filed as no congressional or agency approvals have been obtained. Concerns about the Arch and its location include that it sits along flight paths to Reagan Airport hindering low flying planes – an airport hazard - and that, so situated it, would dwarf the Lincoln Memorial as well as block the historic site line from Arlington Cemetery to the Memorial. Lawsuits are pending.

Although Trump touted a landslide electoral victory in 2024, he did not receive a majority but a plurality of the vote - he tallied the smallest win since 1900. Amid a war, a massive Epstein scandal of which he may be a party, the questions of what his son-in-law, Jared, is doing officially negotiating peace in Ukraine, Gaza and now Iran while he is openly seeking massive investments from the Middle East for his own financial company.

Trump is pulling apart the people's places, DC once again is under siege. History, historic significance, character are not in Trump's preview – nor seemingly is the law.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.



"I liked it better when the strangest thing to see at the airport was us."

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of The Millerton News and the News 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.

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Letters to the editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for that week's publication. No more than 500 words. Send to editor@millertonnews.com. Include town and phone number for confirmation.

Fishing, teachers, fed funding, awards

The following excerpts from The Millerton News were compiled by Kathleen Spahn and Rhiannon Leo-Jameson of the North East-Millerton Library.

April 4, 1935

"Art" Terni announces prize fishing contest

A prize contest for the largest fish caught within twenty-five miles of Millerton has been announced by "Art" Terni. Rules of the contest provide that all fish must be caught with a rod and line and catches must be taken to Terni's Store to be measured and weighed. The contest will close October 31.

The prizes offered: Speckled brook trout, Bill Vogt special fly rod No. 10; brown trout, English Stag Brand double tape fly line; rainbow trout, black bakelite trout reel; black bass, small mouth, Bill Vogt special bait casting rod No. 5; black bass, large mouth, Heddon bait casting reel; pickerel, 100 yards, blue ribbon bait casting line: lake trout, Bill Vogt trolling rod No. 5.

Millerton teachers returning next year

All faculty members of Millerton High School and the grades from the principal down have been re-engaged for another year, it was announced the first of the week by Elmer W. Simmons, president of the Board of Education. Mr. Simmons said that Principal Francis E. Wood and the entire staff of teachers have already signed their contracts.

Supervisors approve TERA road program

The Dutchess County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a \$240,000 TERA road program for the county at last Friday's meeting. Democratic members of the Board who had previously opposed the program united with the Republican majority to pass the resolutions without a dissenting vote, appropriating \$65,000 as the county's share of the 1935 Temporary Emergency Relief program. The Democratic supervisors, acting without Minority Leader James A. Townsend who was away, held an informal conference before the voting took place.

Terni appointed Village Clerk

Stephen Terni was appointed Village Clerk at the organization meeting of the Village Board held Monday night. Mr. Terni succeeds John Shaughnasey who has held the office for the past eight

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Millerton News

teen years. No other changes were made in the personnel of the Board, Mayor Brewer and other incumbent officials whose terms expired this year having been reelected March 19.

April 1, 1976 Millerton still hot after Fed's funds

The Village of Millerton continues to actively seek funds to help finance its water project, according to Mayor John Hermans.

The Village hopes to build a 30,000 gallon steel water tower to prevent pollution of its water system.

In mid-February, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) turned down the Village in its request for a \$125,000 grant. The Village Board decided to reapply to HUD but "we were too late getting our reapplication in" said Hermans.

Hermans is soon to meet with David Edgerton of the Dutchess County Committee for Economic Opportunity and water project engineer Peter Andros to put together another application for HUD funds

DART-LOOP bus service discontinues Millerton route

Saturday, April 3, will be the last day that the regularly scheduled DART-LOOP bus service will be available to Millerton area residents. The route, which offered stops in Millerton and south along Routes 22 and 44 into Millbrook, will be discontinued due to insufficient patronage.

Although the regularly scheduled DART service will end, the DART dial-a-ride system will still provide transportation to and from the Millerton area for those people requiring such necessary services as medical visits, clinics, social services, unemployment services, educational facilities and work. This dial-a-ride bus service is available Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., but reservations are required and must be made 24 hours in advance. To make a reservation or obtain more information, call the DART office in Amenia at xxx-xxxx. DART (Dutchess Assisted Rural Transportation) began operation in 1973 as a service on-demand, door-to-door

bus service operated by the Dutchess County Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc. for the people of the Harlem Valley.

April 5, 2001 Millerton News snags two NYPA Awards

ALBANY - The Millerton News walked away with two awards in the prestigious Better Newspaper Contest at the New York Press Association's annual convention held March 30 and 31 in Albany.

Compass, the News's guide to arts and entertainment, won first place in its circulation category for coverage of the arts.

"Writers must grow out of the soil around this newspaper," the judges wrote of Compass, published at The Lakeville Journal Company, which owns The Millerton News "Other newspapers have more articles and columns. Others have longer pieces and more calendar entries. But no newspaper in this group matches the writing of Compass.

"Its essays and articles beautifully complement the arts under discussion. This is thoughtful writing for a rich mix of community arts."

The News also won second place honors for editorial writing in Division 1.

Of the three editorials submitted, the judges had high praise for one about the proposed sale of Sharon Hospital to Essent Healthcare, a for-profit company based in

Tennessee.

"You bring up valid questions about the sale of Sharon Hospital and do a good job of holding off from jumping to conclusions," the judges wrote of the editorial entitled, "Progress, Yes, But What Kind?"

Local organizations sponsor egg hunt

MILLERTON — The Millerton Fire Department, American Legion Post#178, and the Millerton Gun Club will sponsor the eighth annual Easter egg hunt Saturday, April 14, at 11 a.m. at the Millerton Gun Club.

Denise Flint handles anything, everything

MILLERTON — A former principal at Millerton Elementary School (MES) once introduced Denise Flint as "the school's Band-Aid." When asked why, he replied, "A Band-Aid — because she covers all."

An employee at MES for nearly 14 years, Ms. Flint said, "Basically, I do cover all." Ms. Flint spends the first half of every day assisting teachers, often working one-on-one with students. In the afternoon, she does a variety of things, such as monitor recess, complete clerical tasks, of fill in for absent teachers.

"Parents often dismiss elementary school as 'playtime'; they don't know that the kids are busy as beavers the second they step through that door," said Ms. Flint.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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LJMN Media, Inc., Publishers of

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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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PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Blooming

OUR TOWNS

Millerton sets April 18 bulk trash day for residents

By ALY MORRISSEY
aly@millernews.com

MILLERTON — Residents of the Town of North East and Village of Millerton will have the opportunity to dispose of bulk household items during a scheduled bulk trash day on Saturday, April 18.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon at the town's old highway garage on South Center Street, at the corner of Fish Street.

Hosted by The Town of North East and the Millerton Climate Smart Task Force, the event allows residents to discard a range of bulky items, including furniture, carpeting, lawn equipment, tools, scrap metal and appliances such as refrigerators and air conditioners.

Fees will vary depending on vehicle size and item type, with charges ranging from \$15 to \$60 for vehicles, \$20 for items such as mattresses and couches, and \$10 to \$30 for most appliances. Units containing Freon will cost \$30,



PHOTO PROVIDED

Bulk items set for disposal at the town's old highway garage on South Center Street.

and oversized items may be accepted at a fee of \$50 at the discretion of staff. Tires will also be accepted for recycling at \$15 each, with rims permitted.

Payments must be made by cash or check.

Electronics, paint cans, propane tanks, batteries and heavy construction debris will not be accepted. Box trucks are also prohibited.

Residents are encouraged to arrive early and review accepted materials in advance.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of CGM Freight, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/13/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 27 Whinfield Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

02-26-26
03-05-26
03-12-26
03-19-26
03-26-26
04-02-26

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Dreamcatcher Holdco, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/18/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 79 Kent Street, Beacon, New York 12508. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

02-26-26
03-05-26
03-12-26
03-19-26
03-26-26
04-02-26

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Rosie Rosenthal, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NYS Dept. of State (SSNY) on 2/21/2026. Office location: 108 Salisbury Turnpike, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: 108 Salisbury Turnpike, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

03-05-26
03-12-26
03-19-26
04-02-26
04-09-26

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Shared Gooods, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/13/26. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall

mail process to Shared Gooods, 56 S Center Street, Millerton, New York 12546 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

03-26-26
04-02-26
04-09-26
04-16-26
04-23-26
04-30-26

LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL

The bond resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on March 20, 2026, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

A complete copy of the resolution summarized herewith is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Town Clerk for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Dated: Millerton, New York, March 20, 2026.

Elizabeth Strauss
Town Clerk
BOND RESOLUTION
DATED MARCH 20, 2026.

A RESOLUTION to AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF AN ADDITIONAL \$50,000 SERIAL BONDS OF THE TOWN OF NORTHEAST, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HIGHWAY GARAGE FACILITY WITH FUEL DEPOT ON A TOWN OWNED PARCEL OF LAND ON ROUTE 22

IN MILLERTON, NEW YORK, IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF NORTH EAST, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A REVISED MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$4,325,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$50,000 ADDITIONAL BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO PAY THE COST THEREOF.

Specific object or purpose:

Construction of highway garage facility and fuel depot on Route 22 in Millerton, New York (Phase 3), additional costs (constituting Phase 4)

Period of probable usefulness: Thirty (30) years, limited to five (5) years
New maximum estimated cost: \$4,325,000

Previously authorized: \$2,929,000 bonds; \$1,051,000 bonds

Amount of obligations to be issued: Additional \$50,000 bonds

SEQRA status: Unlisted Action. Negative Declaration. SEQRA compliance materials on file in the office of the Town Clerk where they may be inspected during regular office hours upon appointment.

04-02-26

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL MEETING, SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION AND VOTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the North East Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on the Budget in the High School Library at the Webutuck High School Building, 194 Haight Road, Amenia, New York, on Monday, May 5, 2026 at 6:30 P.M., for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2026-2027 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the budget for the 2026-2027 school year, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any resident of the District during business

hours, between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., prevailing time, at the Webutuck Elementary School, Eugene Brooks Intermediate School, Webutuck High School and at the District Administrative Office between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, effective April 28, 2026, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays. Copies of the Budget will also be available at the Northeast-Millerton Library and the Amenia Free Library. A report of tax exemptions, showing how much of the total assessed value of the final assessment roll or rolls used in that budgetary process is exempt from taxation, shall be annexed to the budget document.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election of Members of the Board of Education and Vote on the Budget of the qualified voters of the Northeast Central School District, will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at the Webutuck High School gym, 194 Haight Road, Amenia, New York, between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

A. To elect three (3) members to the Board of Education: All three seats are for three-year terms commencing July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2029 to fill the vacant seats of incumbent Board Member Judy Moran, and incumbent Board Member Jerry Heiser and incumbent Board member Aimee Wesley, whose terms expire June 30, 2026.

B. Proposition I: 2026-2027 North East (Webutuck) CSD Budget

To adopt the annual budget of the North East (Webutuck) Central School District for the fiscal year 2026-2027 and to authorize the requisite portion therefore to be raised by taxation on the taxable property on the District.

C. Proposition II: 2026-2027 Transportation Vehicle Purchase

Shall Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District be authorized to:

(1) acquire two (2) school buses and one (1) Bobcat Multipurpose Vehicle, at a cost not to exceed \$429,327, which is estimated to be the maximum cost thereof; (2) expend such sum for such purpose; (3) levy the necessary tax therefor, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District and/or enter into installment purchase agreements at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$429,327, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

D. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting pursuant to the Education Law of the State of New York. The election and budget vote shall be by machine, early voting or absentee ballot. The hours during which the poll shall be kept open shall be from 12:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place

at 9:00 P.M. to cast their ballots.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that petitions for the nomination of candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with Clerk of the District no later than Monday, April 20, 2026, by 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, in the form and manner prescribed by Section 18 of the Education Law. Vacancies on the Board of Education are not considered separate, specific offices; candidates run at-large for the vacant seats. Such petitions must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the School District, shall state the residence address of each signer and the name and residence address of the candidate. The petition shall also describe the length of the term of the office and contain the name of the last incumbent. Petition forms may be picked up on any school day at the Office of the District Clerk, at the Webutuck High School building, 194 Haight Road, Amenia, New York between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. or on the district's website at www.webutuckschools.org beginning March 1, 2026.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that early mail ballots and absentee ballots will be available for this Election and Vote. Applications for early mail and absentee ballots for the School District Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk at the Webutuck High School building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York on school days during school hours, or on the district's website at www.webutuckschools.org beginning March 1, 2026 but may not be returned to the District clerk any earlier than April 20, 2026, and must be returned to the District Clerk by May 12, 2026 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, May 18, 2026, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Early mail and absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the Election and Vote, May 19, 2026.

The Education Law makes special provisions for absentee voting by "permanently disabled" voters of the District and any questions regarding these should be directed to the District Clerk.

A list of all persons to

whom early mail ballots and absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District at the said District Administrative Offices during regular office hours, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, each of the five (5) days prior to the day of the election, including the day of the Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his/her challenge and reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls. A challenge to an early mail voter may not be made on the basis that the voter should have applied for an absentee ballot.

The Education Law also makes special provisions for absentee voting for "military" voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for "military ballots" in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive his/her absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return his/her original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The Clerk of the Board shall transmit the military voter's military ballot in accord with the military voter's preferred method of transmission, or if no preferred method is identified by mail, not later than twenty-five (25) days before the vote, April 24, 2026. The Clerk of the Board must then receive the military voter's military ballot by mail or in person not later than 5:00 P.M. on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Education Law §§ 2035, 2008, any referendum or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with and directed to the District Clerk at the District Office, on or before April 20, 2026; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District; and must state the name and residence of the candidate, and the name and residence of each signer. However, the Board of Education will not entertain or place before the voters any petition or any proposition if its purpose is beyond the power of the voters or is illegal, or any proposition requiring the expenditure of monies which fails to include specific appropriations for all such expenditures required by the proposition.

Therese M. Trotter
Clerk of the Board
Northeast (Webutuck) Central School District
194 Haight Road,
P.O. Box 405
Amenia, NY 12501
04-02-26

The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.

Notices can be emailed to legals@lakevillejournal.com or mailed to The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Go to millernews.com/legalnotices to view current and past legal notices.

Amenia Free Library hires youth programming assistant

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Settling into her duties at the Amenia Free Library, Michelle Boynton—who was hired last month—is already planning imaginative children’s programs in her role as Youth Programming Assistant.

“I am passionate about puppetry for everyone,”

Boynton said during an interview last week. She is so passionate, in fact, that Boynton plans to add a tabletop puppet show to enliven the library’s popular story hour for kids.

“I make all of the puppets and adapt the stories to incorporate them,” Boynton explained, showing a collection of her bunny puppets that soon would be making

their debut.

Appropriate for all ages, Boynton has planned a community puppet show to be held the first Saturday of each month. The first installment will be Saturday, April 4, at 10:30 a.m., with a second performance at 12:30 p.m.

“It is expected to grow from there,” Boynton said, envisioning a crafting group where she could offer in-

struction in needle-felting to create a variety of puppets.

“I believe that a library is a service-oriented community center, the heart of a community,” Boynton said. “I’m excited about that.”

Looking to the future, Boynton said she is gathering ideas to attract tweens into the library to experience and participate in the community space.

Boynton resides in Goshen, Conn., having moved there from New Paltz, New York. She has 18 years of experience as a Waldorf School handcrafts specialist within an arts-oriented curriculum. She has earned a Master of Education degree from San Diego State University in Education and Curriculum with an emphasis in instruction.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Michelle Boynton, who began last month as Youth Programming Assistant at the Amenia Free Library, plans to incorporate her puppetry talents into Story Hour and other upcoming children’s programs.

Amenia’s housing board supports first affordable unit, elects officers

BY LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Citing recent Town Board action to subdivide a town-owned parcel for a Habitat for Humanity home, the Housing Board on Monday, March 23, applauded what members called a significant step toward creating the town’s first unit of affordable workforce housing.

The board also unanimously elected new officers. Juan

Torres was named chairman, succeeding Charlie Miller, who remains on the board. Torres said he will recuse himself from any matters involving Silo Ridge or the Keane Stud development to comply with conflict-of-interest rules. Joshua Frankel was elected vice chairman, and Kenny Merritt was elected secretary.

The board agreed to shift its regular meeting schedule to the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. The next

meeting is set for April 13.

Members highlighted recent progress by the Town Board in subdividing a parcel on Depot Hill Road, a move intended to allow Habitat for Humanity to purchase the site and construct a single-family home.

If completed, the project would mark Amenia’s first affordable housing unit, an effort several board members noted has been in development for roughly four years.

Miller said Habitat for Humanity has specific criteria for selecting a participating family, including having school-aged children enrolled in the Webutuck School District and a commitment to volunteer service.

Since February 2025, Amenia has been designated a pro-housing community, making it eligible to apply for state funding to support the development of affordable workforce housing.

Looking ahead, board members discussed the potential creation of a Housing Trust Fund and how it could be used to support initiatives such as accessory dwelling units, multi-generational housing, housing for volunteer firefighters, and rental assistance programs for tenants or landlords.

The board plans to further outline ideas for administering a housing trust fund at its April 13 meeting.

Easter

Worship & Celebrating

Falls Village Congregational Church

Maundy Thursday Service: 7:00pm
Easter Sunrise Service: 6:00am
At the Church on Beebe Hill Rd.
Followed by Breakfast
Easter Service: 10:00am
All are welcome.

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Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29 at 10:30am
Procession and Liturgy of the Word
Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 5:00pm
Holy Eucharist with Footwashing, *Rev. John Allison*
Good Friday, April 3 at 5:00pm
Solemn Liturgy, *Rev. Kathleen Killian*
Easter Sunday, April 5 at 10:30am
Holy Eucharist, *Rev. Kathleen Killian*

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April 5
Easter Celebration | 11:00 am
Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Officiating
Special Music by Organist Tom Holcombe

Also live on YouTube: St. John’s Church, Salisbury, CT
sjepiscopal@gmail.com

Holy Week

The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Maundy Thursday, 2 April
Communion & Tenebrae
7:00pm Worship

Good Friday, 3 April
Ecumenical Worship
6:00pm at Trinity Episcopal Church, Lime Rock

Sunday, 5 April
Resurrection Day!
6:30am Sunrise Service
at Town Grove, Lakeville
9:45am Hand Bell Choir Prelude
10:00am Easter Worship

SalisburyUCC.org
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TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Good Friday
April 3
6:00 PM Words of the Life of Jesus
Short reflections by 4 ecumenical preachers & meditative music

Easter Day!
April 5
8:00 AM Eucharist with hymns
10:30 AM Celebration Eucharist
Festive Music with Trinity Choir & Crescendo guests
Easter egg hunt follows the service

484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville, CT
Trinitylimerock.org 860-435-2627

Holy Week and Paschal Schedule

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church

April 4, 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy, Lazarus Saturday
5:00 p.m., Great Vespers with blessing of Palms, followed by General Confession

April 5, 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy, Palm Sunday
4:00 p.m., Bridegroom Matins @ All Saints, Hartford, CT

April 6, 6:00 p.m., Bridegroom Matins
April 7, 6:00 p.m., Bridegroom Matins
April 8, 6:00 p.m., Holy Unction
April 9, 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy
6:00 p.m., Matins with the 12 Passion Gospels
April 10, 3:00 p.m., Burial Vespers
6:00 p.m., Matins with Lamentations
April 11, 9:30 a.m., Vespers Liturgy of the descent into Hades with 15 OT readings
11:30 p.m. Nocturns of Pascha
April 12, 12:00 a.m., Matins with Divine Liturgy of Pascha (midnight Saturday evening)
12:00 p.m., Vespers of Pascha (Noon)
April 13, 9:30 a.m., Paschal Divine Liturgy

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PROTESTS *Continued from Page A1*

That's what the Constitution is all about."

Ellie Myers, a senior boarding student at Millbrook School who lives in Brooklyn, attended the Fountain Square protests and said she has been protesting since Donald Trump was first elected in 2016.

"Showing up is really important to me, and I'm grateful to be in a community where I can support others," Myers said. "Right now, ICE is the biggest issue. I have friends and family who have been affected — hardworking immigrants who came here for freedom and haven't found it. That's heartbreaking. It goes against what 'we the people' is supposed to mean, and it's painful to see, both in the news and in real life."

Myers added that she witnessed ICE at the airports during recent travel back to school and it was "heartbreaking."

Dutchess County Legislator Eric Alexander, who represents Amenia and surrounding communities, also attended the rally, noting it followed a unanimous county resolution opposing a proposed ICE facility in the Hudson Valley.

"That wasn't just Democrats," Alexander said. "That was the entire legislature unanimously saying no to ICE, and a lot of that came from the voice of the people — the people we represent."

Alexander said the size of the rally stood out, noting its growth from a single protester to a dozen regular participants and ultimately more than 200 attendees.

"I see a great sense of community, and I see a great sense of optimism," he said. "But I also see high frustration. People are very concerned, and I think that concern is only growing as we see more and more of what's going on in our country."

He said the country is in a war that hasn't sufficiently been explained to the American people, dysfunction is rampant at airports, and prices of everything from gas to groceries are soaring.

"And we don't see an end in sight — we don't see a plan," he said. "These are people standing out here today saying we, as citizens, deserve

to have our voices heard and to try to get some things to change."

Several other local protests took place in Dutchess County, including in Rhinebeck, Poughkeepsie and Beacon.

Meanwhile, similar demonstrations took place across the border in Connecticut.

In Salisbury, several hundred people gathered along Route 44, where organizers set up signs and encouraged participants to share messages. In Cornwall, organizers estimated more than 300 attendees at the intersection of Route 7 and Route 4. Meanwhile, in Kent, both sides of Main Street were lined with protesters, with turnout estimated at more than 250.

As the rallies wound down, organizers such as Travis said the protests would not stop.

"A lot of the surrounding small towns showed up, too, because we want to show the rest of the country that small towns can be strong, loud and resist just as much as anyone," she said. "And we intend to, and we're not stopping."



A man holds a protest sign during a "No Kings" demonstration in Salisbury on March 28.

PHOTOS BY ALY MORRISSEY...



Protesters display an upside down American flag in Amenia on March 28, where more than 200 people gathered as part of the nationwide "No Kings" demonstrations.



A crowd gathers during a nationwide "No Kings" rally in Fountain Square on March 28. More than 200 people attended.



Protesters at Fountain Square in Amenia on March 28.

CANDY-O'S *Continued from Page A1*

"I'm not him, but I do take after him. Not being there consistently, I think people felt that."

The move will allow Osnato to bring the two businesses together under one roof, creating a space that reflects both her father's legacy and her own evolving vision.

While Candy-O's signature offerings — including novelty sweets and packaged treats — will remain, Osnato acknowledged that some customers may miss the freshly-scooped ice cream. She said the new space may still offer pre-packaged pints, but will no longer serve scooped ice cream.

Looking into the future, Osnato said her long-term goal is to combine the T-Shirt Farm and Candy-O's into a general store-style model, featuring custom apparel, gifts

and locally sourced products. "My dream is to create something that feels like a general store," she said. "T-shirts, candy, grab-and-go snacks, but also things that feel a little more modern, a little more vibrant — but still affordable."

The transition will happen in stages, with the new space expected to open in early April and continue evolving through the summer season. A full rebrand, potentially incorporating a name that nods to her father, is likely to follow next year.

In the meantime, Osnato said she is focused on simplifying operations and reconnecting with customers.

"It'll be more manageable, and I'll be able to actually be present," she said. "I'm really excited. I think it's going to be something special."

ROSEMARY ROSE *Continued from Page A1*

here to continue the classes felt right."

For Musgrove, the chance to preserve the workshop side of the former BES space was important. The classes had begun building a loyal following, she said, and she hated the idea of losing that creative community.

"It just felt like an unfinished dream," Musgrove said. "We were really starting to have people come back and I would have hated to lose that."

Together, the two women said they hope to create more than a retail shop. They envision a welcoming, eclectic space centered on beauty, creativity and connection.

"It's not a time to be a lone wolf," Lee said. "It's a time to be in community and be with one another."

Musgrove's workshops will remain a key part of that vision. In addition to coordinating classes, she plans to offer a small selection of art materials, kits, textiles and locally made goods that were previously available at BES.

One of the unexpected joys of the workshops, Musgrove said, has been the way they bring together women and girls across generations.

"Sometimes there are teenagers and people in their 70s in the same class," she said. "That kind of intergenerational chatter is just magical."

An herbalist by training, Lee said she often incorporates plant-based products, candles and cleaning practices into the atmosphere of her store, where she wants customers to feel both inspired and at ease.

"Everything holds energy," she said. "With jewelry, if it

holds a certain person's energy, it's really important to clean it. I want it to feel high-vibrational."

Lee said she is drawn to old things not only for their craftsmanship, but for the stories and spirit they carry. Her inventory includes estate and vintage pieces, fine jewelry, and select items sourced through travel and long-standing relationships, including regular trips to New Mexico and the United Kingdom.

Lee, who also operates out of an old VW bus-turned studio on her property when not in her store, said her heart is in vintage pieces.

"I just really enjoy being around them and want to bring them new life and give them a new home."

The larger Millerton space will also allow Lee to expand into custom design, repair services, and herbal education workshops — something she had limited room for in Salisbury, where she said classes were squeezed into the middle of the jewelry store.

Now, she said, Rosemary Rose Finery will have room to grow into a bigger version of itself.

A grand opening celebration is planned for opening weekend, with food, drinks and an open invitation to the community.

For Lee and Musgrove, the new shop is not only a business venture, but an experiment in shared space and mutual support — an idea they believe feels especially timely.

"The possibilities feel endless," Lee said. "It feels like we can create whatever we want here."

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Bears are waking up and it would be good to remember how to peacefully coexist with them. First off, both in the spring and fall, they will be especially hungry, so it is good to take in the bird feeders and not let food garbage accumulate around the house. UCONN has several articles that will be educational. The first is: today.uconn.edu/2025/05/living-with-bears-in-connecticut-what-you-need-to-know/. And also a great article on the density of bears in Connecticut, which can be found at: clear3.uconn.edu/viewers/bears/. By following these recommendations, one has a much better chance in having a better relationship with our bear population!

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our
community



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Gail Rothschild with her painting "Dead Sea Linen III (73 x 58 inches, 2024, acrylic on canvas).

Gail Rothschild's threads of time

By Natalia Zukerman

There is a moment, looking at a painting by Gail Rothschild, when you realize you are not looking at a painting so much as a map of time. Threads become brushstrokes; fragments become fields of color; something once held in the hand becomes something you stand in front of, both still and in a constant process of changing.

"Textiles connect people," Rothschild said. "Textiles are something that we're all intimately involved with, but we take it for granted."

Her work begins, often, with something small: a scrap of linen from the Judean desert, dating "to a time be-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

THEATER

Sherman Players celebrate a century of community theater

By Richard Feiner and Annette Stover

For a century, the Sherman Players have turned a former 19th-century church into a stage where neighbors become castmates, volunteers power productions and community is the main attraction. The company marks its 100th season with a lineup that blends classic works, new writing and homegrown talent.

New England has a long history of community theater and its role in strengthening civic life. The Sherman Players remain a vital example, mounting intimate, noncommercial productions that draw on local participation and speak to the current cultural moment.

Sherman Players President Missy

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

PERFORMANCE

A new life for Barrington Hall

By Elena Spellman

Barrington Hall in Great Barrington has hosted generations of weddings, proms and community gatherings. When Dan Baker and Daniel Latzman took over the venue last summer, they stepped into that history with a plan not just to preserve it, but to reshape how the space serves the community today.

Barrington Hall is designed for gathering, for shared experience, for the simple act of being together. At a time when connection is often filtered through screens and distraction, their vision is grounded in something simple and increasingly rare: real human connection.

The partnership behind Barrington Hall began long before the building itself. Both Baker and Latzman grew up on Long Island, spent more than a decade in New York City, and eventually found their way to the Berkshires, drawn by the desire for something different. What they didn't realize at first was just how closely their lives had already mirrored one another.

They were born in the same hospital, a year apart. Their families had distant connections. They even played on the same soccer team — never meeting, but moving through the same spaces. It wasn't until they became neighbors in Egremont about five years ago that those parallels came into focus.

"In hindsight, it feels inevitable," Latzman said. "But it was actually extremely random that we ended up here."

From the beginning, Barrington Hall was meant to be a place people return to, not for any one event, but for the

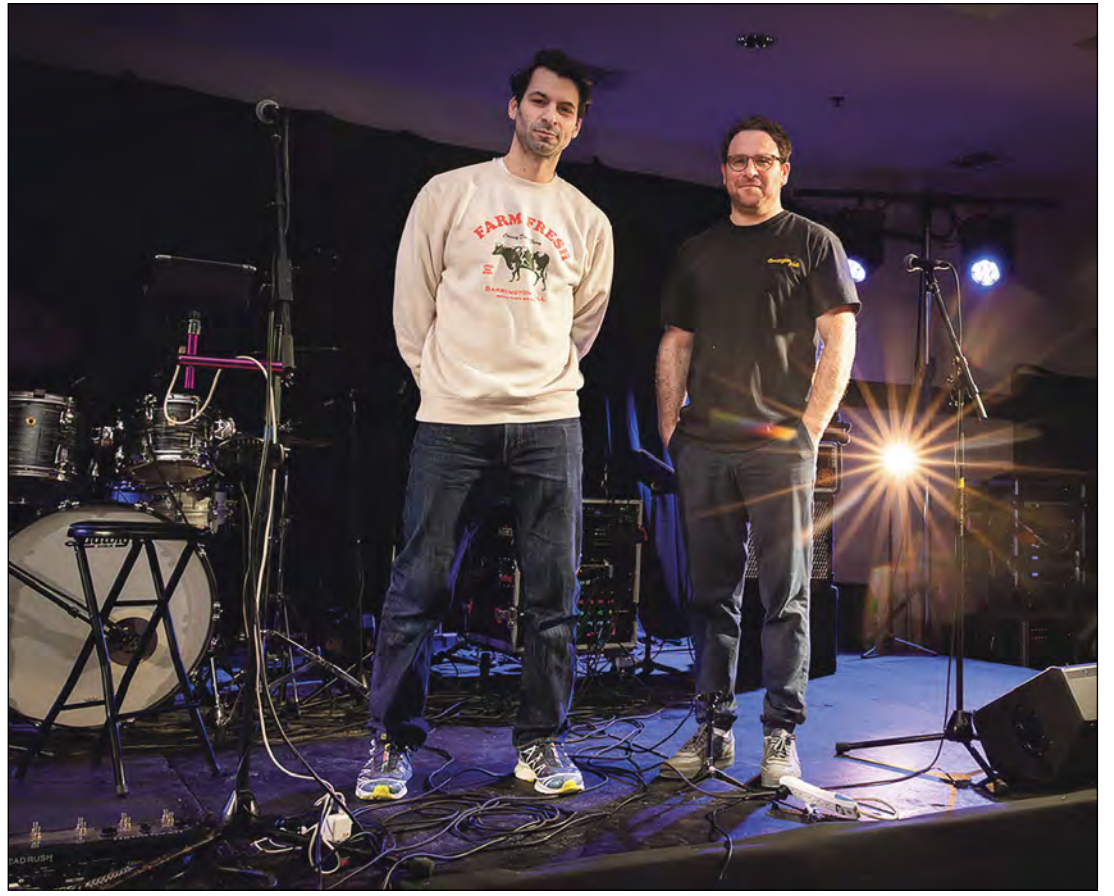


PHOTO PROVIDED

Dan Baker, left, and Daniel Latzman at Barrington Hall in Great Barrington.

experience of being there. On any given week, the space might host a jazz performance, a dance party, a songwriter circle or a children's event. Some nights bring in touring acts. Others highlight local creatives. The variety is intentional and so is the atmosphere.

"It's about people," Baker said. "It's about being present."

Baker and Latzman are keenly aware of the world outside with its constant barrage of information, political conflicts, a culture that pulls people deeper into their screens. Barrington Hall offers a way out of that noise.

"A little bit of a bubble," Latzman said. "A place to step

away from everything else."

During a recent event, they noticed something telling: a full room of people dancing, talking, engaged — and almost no one on their phone.

"That's when you know something is working," Baker said.

Taking over a beloved local space comes with responsibility, one Baker and Latzman have met by honoring the building's traditions while also expanding them.

"We didn't feel obligated," Latzman said. "We felt honored."

Part of what makes the space distinct is its versatility. Large enough to host more

than 250 people, yet intimate enough to feel personal, it fills a gap in the local landscape, serving a wide range of people and bringing different groups together in the same space.

"We want people to feel like, if something's happening here, it's worth checking out," Latzman said.

They are carefully balancing community access with the realities of running a business, with an eye toward the long term.

"We want this to be here in 20 years," Latzman said.

That vision extends beyond the building itself — future

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

MUSIC

Reimagining opera for a new generation

By Graham Corrigan

For those curious about opera but unsure where to begin, the Mahaiwe Theater in Great Barrington will offer an accessible entry point with "Once Upon an Opera," a free, family-friendly program on Sunday, April 12, at 2 p.m. The event is designed for opera newcomers and aficionados alike and will include selections from some of opera's most beloved works.

Luca Antonucci, artistic coordinator, assistant conductor and chorus master for the Berkshire Opera Festival, said the idea first materialized three years ago.

"This production is one of the highlights of the off-season," he said.

"Opera is all about telling stories through music, which makes the concert a hit with people of all ages," he added. "Every story has something to tell us about the human experience." He pointed to the range of material covered in the program. "From the beautiful ornamentation of Baroque operas to the majesty

of Mozart, to the gripping emotions of Verdi and Puccini ... up to the modern-day stories of today's operas by composers like Huang Ruo, Missy Mazzoli and so many others."

The event features three singers from the Berkshire Opera Festival: soprano Juliet Schlefer, mezzo-soprano Abbegeael Greene and tenor Maximillian Jansen.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2



PHOTO PROVIDED

Stage director Geoffrey Larson signs autographs for some of the kids after a family performance.



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INSIDE

REAL ESTATE

Amenia median home price approaches \$400K



OUR TOWNS

Millbrook trustees adopt proposed 2026-27 budget, set April 8 hearing

... Gail Rothchild

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

fore the notion of 'Israel' or 'Palestine;' a fragment so diminished it barely registers as an object; or a rare indigo-dyed child's head cloth from Tutankhamen's tomb.

"I call them portraits of ancient linen," she said.

Rothschild grew up in Greenwich and studied drawing and painting at Yale University. "That was kind of my first love," she said. But she quickly veered toward something more collective, working with Peter Schumann at the Bread and Puppet Theater, building papier-mâché puppets and participating in a kind of performance-based activism that blurred art and politics.

"After Yale, I got out of school and thought 'Wait a second. I don't want to paint anymore. I need to work with people in communities and make things.'"

She moved to Brooklyn and began working in public schools, developing projects rooted in collaboration and local history. The projects were ambitious, research-driven, and often confrontational. At the University of Massachusetts, she recalled asking students: "Did you know that Amherst was named for Jeffrey Amherst, who was responsible for giving blankets infected with smallpox to Native Americans? Why don't we look into that?"

There were sculptures, letters to watchdog groups, installations. She worked on four such projects a year, she said, until the pace became unsustainable. "At some point I just said, 'I'm exhausted. I'm going back to the studio.'"

What brought her back was a book, "Prehistoric Textiles" by Elizabeth Wayland Barber. Inside, she encountered an image of a 7,000-year-old textile, unraveling.

"It said to me, 'this could be a great big abstract painting,'" she said. "What does it mean that this



Gail Rothchild's "Esquina Decorada" (52 x 52 inches, 2022, acrylic on canvas)

PHOTO BY GAIL ROTHCHILD

"As hard as we work to conserve the objects of our past, in the greater cosmic scheme of time, it's only temporary."

GAIL ROTHCHILD

textile, this thing that used to be a Cartesian grid and over time has gone back to nature?"

That question became a kind of axis for her work. "There is this cusp between nature and culture," she said. Early on, she avoided tex-

tiles with imagery, drawn instead to the raw language of fiber itself. But eventually, even that boundary softened. A project with the Godwin-Ternbach Museum introduced her to Egyptian textiles — Christian, pagan, Greek, Roman influences colliding in woven form.

What followed was a deepening relationship with museums and, crucially, with conservators. Institutions like The Metropolitan Museum of Art and collections in Berlin and Paris began sending her images of textile fragments, sometimes pieces she has still never seen in person.

"It's almost easier for me to transform it when I haven't seen it," she said.

Her process is both precise and intuitive. She grids the canvas and the source image, drawing freehand to "honor what the object is." For a time, she works closely from the photograph. Then something shifts. "At some point I'll say, 'It's a painting. It's got to talk to itself,' and then I stop looking at the photograph."

What emerges is layered, luminous and muscular. "Sometimes people say, 'Do you miss making sculpture?' and I say, 'I never stopped.'"

You feel that in the surfaces: the tension of threads pulling apart, the sense that something is both forming and dissolving at once. Even the backgrounds — often ambiguous, atmospheric — are not neutral. "It's really more about feeling the space around the object," she said, especially as she considers how ancient

fragments are mounted on modern fabrics. "I get to invent an entirely other language."

Some of her most arresting work is on the monumental textiles of The Met Cloisters, where medieval tapestries, some towering more than a dozen feet, are slowly, painstakingly conserved. It's in the conservation labs that Rothchild has observed the physical reality of these works: their own weight pulling them apart, threads breaking under centuries of strain. Conservators insert new threads to stabilize them and Rothchild documents this process. "There's a kind of poignancy to their work," Rothchild said, "because as hard as we work to conserve the objects of our past, in the greater cosmic scheme of time, it's only temporary. There's something beautiful about that."

Time operates on multiple levels in Rothchild's work. There is the time of the object — thousands of years, in some cases — and the time of the painting, which unfolds over months. "Once I start working on something, I can't stop," she said. "But then it'll rest for a while and I may change it, add layers."

And then there is the time of attention itself, the way looking can tip into obsession, into pattern-seeking that doesn't quite turn off. Rothchild is aware of that edge.

"I have to make myself stop or I just see patterns everywhere and I can't stop, really," she laughed. "That's why I've built in other things I need to do in my life like take the dogs for a hike or, you know, volunteer at the Sharon Land Trust... otherwise I go a little nuts. And it wouldn't be good painting either."

A painting session, for her, has its own its own arc. "There's kind of a trajectory for every work session. I might be repeating something and suddenly it looks linear. The language I started painting with may change by the end and I think, 'Oh God, I'm gonna have to go back and repaint that.'"

But then, she said, there is a pause.

"I kind of step back and say, 'No, this painting can hold both. That's part of its history. There's the history of the object but then there's the history of the painting.'"

PERFORMANCE

BSO charts future amid leadership transition and financial strain

By Natalia Zukerman

The Boston Symphony Orchestra is outlining its path forward following the announcement that music director Andris Nelsons will step down after the 2027 Tanglewood season, closing a 13-year tenure.

In a letter to supporters, the BSO's Board of Trustees acknowledged that the news has been difficult for many in its community, while emphasizing gratitude for Nelsons' leadership and plans to celebrate his final season.

The orchestra also pointed to broader challenges facing the institution and the field at large. Attendance has declined over the past two decades, while operating costs have risen. The BSO has relied on more than \$100 million in reserve funds beyond standard endowment draws to cover ongoing deficits, and key facilities — including venues at Tanglewood — require significant upgrades.

In response, the organization is advancing a long-term strategy centered on three priorities: programming, partnerships and place. Plans include rethinking how concerts reach contemporary audiences, strengthening ties across Boston and the Berkshires, and investing in major performance spaces such as Symphony Hall and Tanglewood.

The board emphasized that while the BSO



PHOTO PROVIDED

Aerial view of The Shed at Tanglewood in Lenox, Massachusetts.

remains committed to artistic excellence and its core repertoire, adapting to changing audience habits will be critical to its sustainability. Leaders say ongoing conversations with musicians, staff and community partners have helped shape the new direction.

Despite financial pressures and leadership changes, trustees expressed confidence in the orchestra's future, underscoring the role of audiences, donors and artists in sustaining one of the country's oldest cultural institutions.

... opera

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

All three are still early in their careers, a class of rising vocal talent carrying the torch for the next generation. They will be accompanied by pianist Charles Tsui.

"I think that opera is especially exciting for families and young children precisely because it is all about storytelling," Antonucci said. "Adding costumes, sets, props and the incredible power of operatic voices to the mix makes it one of the few types of experiences where

all the arts come together."

This year, the production reimagines some of those legendary stories in present-day Massachusetts. As always, "Once Upon an Opera" promises to be an interactive affair, encouraging audience participation throughout its hour-long runtime. While the event is free, reservations are encouraged due to limited seating.

Tickets are available at berkshireoperafestival.org/onceuponanopera.

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FOOD

A tradition of lamb for Easter and Passover

By Leila Hawken

Preparing lamb for the observance of Easter is a long-standing tradition in many cultures, symbolizing new life and purity. For Christians, Easter marks the end of Lenten fasting, allowing for a celebratory feast. A popular choice is roast lamb, often prepared with rosemary, garlic or lemon. It is traditional to serve mint sauce or mint jelly at the table.

The Hebrew Bible suggests that the last plague God inflicted on the Egyptians, to secure the Israelites' release from slavery, was to kill the firstborn son in every Egyptian home. To differentiate the Israelites from the Egyptians, God instructed them to mark their doorposts with the blood of a lamb. Today, Jews, Christians and Muslims generally believe that God would have known who was Israelite and who was Egyptian without such a sign, but views of God's omnipotence in the Abrahamic faiths have evolved over the millennia.

This tradition, celebrated at Passover, has made lamb a first choice for Jewish families commemorating freedom from Egyptian slavery. Christians have continued the tradition, naming Jesus the Lamb of God, whose death serves as atonement for the sins of the world. For them, the dietary restrictions of Lent have ended, allowing a return to eggs, sweets and meat.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Roasted lamb

Basic recipe: Roast leg of lamb (5-pound leg of lamb, or portion thereof)

2 or more cloves garlic, thinly sliced
 Good-quality olive oil
 Rosemary
 Salt and pepper to taste
 Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Trim fat from lamb as desired. Using a sharp knife, cut small gashes in the meat and insert a slice of garlic into each cut. Rub the roast with olive oil, then season with rosemary (some cooks also add thyme), salt and pepper.

Place the meat on a rack in a shallow roasting pan and put it in the preheated

oven. After 15 minutes, reduce heat to 350 degrees. Roast for 25 minutes per pound for rare or 30 minutes per pound for well-done. Well-done lamb will be less juicy and less tender. If garlic is not desired, substitute lemon or additional rosemary.

When the roast is done, carve by slicing parallel to the bone, rotating as needed.

Variations: Some recipes substitute lemon juice for olive oil. You may also use salad oil instead of olive oil and add a bit of powdered ginger, a bay leaf, sage and marjoram. Soy sauce is also used.

To make gravy:

After removing the roast to rest, place the roasting pan on the stovetop over heat. Add flour and stir for one minute, until a paste forms. Add beef stock or water to reach the desired consistency. Mash any garlic pieces, if used, to enhance flavor. Strain and serve.

... Barrington Hall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Inside Barrington Hall.

collaborations, expanded programming, a growing role in shaping the cultural life of the Berkshires. But at its core, the mission remains simple: to create a place where people can gather, a place that feels alive.

And perhaps most importantly, to create a place where, if only for a few hours, people can step away from the noise of the

world and enjoy being together.

When asked who they're most excited to host next, their answer was immediate: The Mammals on April 10 and Lee Ross, a one-man party band from Massachusetts, scheduled to perform on May 1.

For more information and tickets, visit barringtonhallgb.com

... Sherman Players

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO PROVIDED

Cast of "Laughter on the 23rd Floor" from left to right. Tara Vega, Steve Zerilli, Bob Cady (Standing) Seated at the table: Andrew Blanchard, Jon Barker, Colin McLoone, Chris Bird, Rebecca Annalise, Adam Battlestein

Alexander is an enthusiastic champion of the group's history and collaborative spirit, which engages amateurs and professionals alike "to see what fun we can have" in bringing theater to all audiences. Everyone pitches in — from sets and costumes to administrative work — to bring each production to life. She calls it the "extra special sparkle" that has defined the company since its first performances in their historic church home in 1926.

The season opens in April with Neil Simon's "Laughter on the 23rd Floor," a comedy set in the 1950s television writers' room during the McCarthy era. In June, the company will present a production (with live music) of the classic Broadway musical "Bye, Bye Birdie!" one of the first shows that highlighted the

Baby Boomer generation and our "Kids are King" culture.

In July, The Sherman Players will debut "Restored to Reason," a new work by local writer Elizabeth Young about Mary Todd Lincoln. Developed through the theater's Cold Lemonade reading series, the work marks the first time the company has taken a piece from staged reading to full production, a memorable milestone in the group's historic mission.

September brings a timely revival of the historic American courtroom drama, "Inherit the Wind." The Sherman Players last presented this riveting account of the infamous Scopes "monkey trial" in 1966. The season concludes with a special holiday presentation of "An American Christmas Carol," an original adapta-

tion of the Dickens classic, written by Artistic Director Robin Frome, directed by Jane Farnol.

Alexander is quick to acknowledge that The Sherman Players is committed to supporting the broader regional arts community. "We're closer than you think, and we all draw on the same talents and resources," she said. "We all see and support each other's work."

This dedication is helping to enrich the theater-going experience for everyone, from long-established generational Sherman Players patrons to new, younger audiences looking for community connection.

The Sherman Playhouse is located at 5 Route 39 N, Sherman, Connecticut. For tickets, subscriptions and more information, visit shermanplayers.org.

Tangled tackle fondling 2026

The snow is mostly gone, the mud is flowing, the stocking trucks are rolling and that means only one thing: it's tackle fondling time!

Yes, it's that happy time of year when we dig out all the gear we carefully cleaned and stowed away back in November.

What's that? You left it all in the car until you had to help Aunt Edna move? And now it's piled up in the garage?

Never mind that. What's important is getting ahead of it, starting now.

Reels: Take the spools off and blast them with a can of compressed air. Then deploy a Q-tip to get the stubborn stuff. Then deploy something long and pointy to get the little bits of cotton that came off the Q-tip.

Lines: Clip off the old leader. It's no good. Pull the fly line of the reel and clean it with something. There are many commercial products available. The Rio line cleaner seems to work pretty well, but it goes fast. I use a weak solution of Dawn dish soap and warmish water and a clean sponge or two, so I can see



Tangled Lines
 Patrick L. Sullivan

just how much yick comes off the line. Then I give it a shot of some stuff called Albolene, which is used for removing heavy theatrical makeup. It also functions as a line dressing and costs much less than actual line dressings.

Rods: I check guides and ferrules, and give everything a wipe with a chamois cloth or something similar. Then I start emailing people I barely know looking for someone who repairs rods.

I have something like 60 fly rods, and they are a pain in the neck to store. But I had a brain wave over the winter and bought four kitchen garbage cans. Ignoring the lids, I arranged them in a corner of my living room and to my delight found I can corral most of the rods in such a way that I can actually find the one I want.

It works very well. If the cans had an Orvis or Simms

logo on them I could sell them for \$85 apiece as a "modular rod storage system."

Flies: What you absolutely don't want to do is buy more fly boxes because the giant cardboard box filled with fly boxes is still in the back of the car and you can't remember what's in any of them so it's better to just buy new flies and boxes and use those, reserving the joy of sorting through the old boxes for the summer when you're at the summer camp that has a nice big table. Whatever you do, don't do this. Oh, excuse me, that must be the Amazon guy at the door with my new boxes and flies.

Waders and boots: I have a dedicated wader rack where I hang them up. This is an improvement over my old method, which was to leave them in the car in a crumpled heap all winter. Check for leaks by taking a small flashlight and running it over the seams from the inside of the waders. If you see pinholes then it's time to deploy Aquaseal. There are wader repair

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

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Amenia median home price approaches \$400K

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA—The 12-month trailing median price for a single-family home in Amenia came in at \$396,420 for the period ending Feb. 28, 2026 — its highest point since May of 2024 as home values across Dutchess County continued to edge higher.

The figure marks a significant increase from the \$349,900 median recorded for the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2025, but less than \$405,00 for the comparable period ending Feb 29, 2024.

Single-family home sales in Amenia, measured on a 12-month rolling basis, remained within their typical range of two to three transactions per month. A total of 32 homes sold in the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2026, up from 23 sales during the same period a year earlier and largely in line with the 31 sales recorded for the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2024. (Sales figures exclude condominium transactions at Silo Ridge.)

As of March 25, 2026, eight single-family homes were listed on OneKey MLS, including three priced below the current median and three listed above \$5 million.

An additional seven parcels of land were on the market, with asking prices ranging from \$79,000 to \$2.379 mil-



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

A ranch-style home with a separate two-family unit on 1.29 acres sold for \$700,000. The property backs up to the Silo Ridge garden.

lion — unchanged from the previous month. The rental market included four apartments and four single-family homes.

February transactions

18 Prospect Avenue – The former 62.1 acre Ramalia Farm with a bungalow, greenhouse, large outdoor kitchen, barn and shed was sold to DLV SC SR Opportunity LLC for \$1,625,000

40 Glen Avenue – 3 bedroom/1 bath home built in 1930 with .46 acres was sold to Marc Passantino for \$315,000

5251 Route 44 – 3 bedroom/2 bath house built in 1976 on 3.37 acres sold to Jacob Hay for \$645,000

263 Bog Hollow Road – 4 bedroom/3 bath home on 2.9 acre sold to Gabriela Mateo-Saja for \$380,000

4377-4379 Route 22 – Three 1 bedroom/1 bath units built in 1960 on 1.29 acres located across from the Wassaic Metro North station sold to DLV SC SR Opportunity for \$700,000

Redtail Pass (#678740) - .42 acres of rural vacant land

within te Silo Ridge Club sold to KOFA 1 LLC for \$2,350,000

** Town of Amenia real estate transfers recorded between Feb. 1, 2026, and Feb. 28, 2026, provided by Dutchess County Office of Real Property. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS. Note that recorded transfers frequently lag sales by a number of days. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.*

Millbrook trustees adopt proposed 2026-27 budget, set April 8 hearing

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Following weeks of departmental budget review, the Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a final draft of the proposed 2026-27 town expenditure budget at their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 25.

A public hearing on the budget has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, beginning at 6 p.m. at Village Hall. After the hearing, the Board of Trustees will vote on final budget adoption.

Increases in the total budget as proposed are within the 2% property tax increase cap imposed by the state for the past five consecutive years, Mayor Peter Doro said.

Budget totals indicate that \$1,217,486 would need to be raised by property taxes after expected rev-

enues are received. Proposed expenditures are expected to total \$3,860,202 for 2026-27.

Doro noted that savings have been achieved in the Highway Department by having the crew perform equipment repairs in-house.

The trustees also presented the annual budgets for water and sewer district users. The water budget totals \$851,000, up from the current year's \$822,900. Capital expenses account for the increase.

The sewer budget totals \$940,850, up from the current year's \$870,200. The increase is due to a multi-year program to upgrade the wastewater plant.

"Everyone has worked hard on the budget," Doro said of the budget process, thanking all village departments.

The 2026-27 proposed budget is posted on the village website at www.villageofmillbrookny.com.



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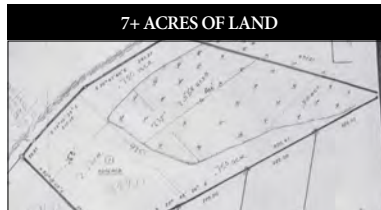
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