



**PINE PLAINS**  
Hammertown closing **A3**



**MILLERTON**  
Little league **A7**

**COMPASS**

Rocking for a cause; and more **B1-4**



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

**Hunting for eggs**

The annual Millerton Fire Company Easter egg hunt returned to Eddie Collins Memorial Park on Saturday, April 4. Top, families crowd into hay wagons for a parade down Main Street to the park before the egg hunt. Bottom right, Tyler Dehoff discovers a piece of chocolate in a plastic egg at the zero to two-year-old egg hunt area.

## Millerton opens bidding period of new pool at Eddie Collins park

By NATHAN MILLER  
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Village trustees marked another milestone for a planned pool at Eddie Collins Memorial Park after approving a bid solicitation.

Board members voted unanimously to send plans for the swimming pool and poolhouse out for bidders at a special meeting on Monday, April 6, following a brief report on the pool's planned septic system from senior landscape architect Kevin Hasselwander of LaBella Associates.

Mayor Jenn Najdek explained the project will be split into four separate contracts, all going out for bids at the same time.

The resolution opened the

See **POOL BIDS, A8**



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

The latest renderings of the pool and poolhouse, released by LaBella Associates in March.

## North East mourns Highway Superintendent after sudden death

By NATHAN MILLER  
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — North East Highway Superintendent Bob Stevens died Monday, March 30, after 20 years in the role and nearly four decades with the town's road crew.

The sudden death shocked road crew members and town officials, who said they had been speaking with the 63-year-old Millerton native the day he died and he hadn't shown signs of illness. Town officials said a search for a replacement will start as soon as possible.

Stevens's only son, 39-year-old Robert Stevens Jr., along with employees at the town garage and others in the community, remembered Stevens as a dedicated man with a singular passion for highway maintenance.

"It was an absolutely huge part of his life," Robert said.

Robert Jr. said Stevens was as supportive as a father as he was dedicated to his work for the town. He recalled a week-long BMX biking trip to Camp Woodward in Pennsylvania that his father drove

him to and from, making the round trip twice without a complaint.

"It didn't matter how little or how far we were going," Robert said. "If it was to support me, he was on. Always."

Road crew foreman Shawn Morrison said that supportive nature extended to Stevens's role as Highway Superintendent, where he prioritized the safety of workers and drivers above all else.

"He always said to me, 'If you don't feel safe doing it, then we're not going to do it,'" Morrison said.

Morrison praised Stevens's dedication to his post, saying he often worked long hours and weekends out of a love for the job. Winter was a favorite season, as Morrison said he was obsessive about clearing the town's roads during snowstorms.

"A lot of people had nicknames out there for him — calling him 'Bare-road Bob,'" Morrison said. "He was anal about his roads in the winter."

Stevens rarely missed a day

See **BOB STEVENS, A8**

## Connecticut kratom ban drives cross-border demand in New York

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS  
Special to the Millerton News

MILLERTON — A new Connecticut ban on kratom — a substance with opioid-like effects linked to dependence and withdrawal — is reshaping border behavior, with some residents crossing into New York to obtain it.

Derived from a Southeast Asian tree, kratom has been marketed across the country as a natural remedy for pain, anxiety and opioid withdrawal. But officials warn it can act like an opioid at higher doses, prompting Connecticut to classify it as a Schedule I controlled

substance.

Some officials are also raising concerns about 7-hydroxymitragynine, or 7-OH, a more potent compound derived from kratom that can also act like an opioid.

At gas stations and smoke shops in New York, kratom remains on shelves, drawing customers from Connecticut's Northwest Corner.

Since the ban took effect March 25, retailers in Millerton and nearby Amenia report a noticeable uptick in cross-border traffic from towns where the once-common substance is now illegal.

See **KRATOM, A8**



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REGIONAL

# HVRHS students, 21st Century Fund showcase partnership

By RUTH EPSTEIN  
Special to the Millerton News

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. — Housatonic Valley Regional High School students have traveled the world, built robots and helped steward the environment thanks to support from the 21st Century Fund for HVRHS, whose impact was on display March 31 at a showcase at the Interlaken Inn.

The event, titled “Celebration of the Lives We’ve Touched,” featured student-led displays highlighting those experiences, all supported by grants from the fund.

Founded in 1994, the fund was the brainchild of the late Jack Mahoney, a longtime teacher and principal at the school. While on a sabbatical, he visited other high schools across the country and learned that many had established organizations to fund student and teacher projects outside the annual budgets. He brought the idea back, paired up with Salisbury resident, the late Diane Hewat, and in 1994, the 21st Century Fund for HVRHS was born. It has since raised and distributed close to \$1 million to the HVRHS community.

The fund supports projects that allow students and teachers to expand learning beyond the classroom, encouraging creativity, exploration and real-world experience. The fund also supports the high school journalism program with the Lakeville Journal.

Students lined the room with their displays. Addie Diorio and Ivy Zheng of Canaan, members of the Robotics team, explained how they have to build a robot from scratch and program it to participate in two competitions a year. “You have to make a commitment,” said Diorio. “From January to March, we worked on it six days a week.” The 13 members are mentored by Devin Rout and Ben Lesch.

Both students said the experience has opened their



From left, Logan Padelli, Alastair Schnepf and Owen Schnepf are members of the Envirothon team at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.



Housatonic Valley Regional High School Robotics Club members Addie Diorio, left, and Ivy Zheng explain the club’s purpose during the March 31 event showcasing the 21st Century Fund for HVRHS.

eyes to the field of engineering, which they may pursue. They, like the others, expressed their deep gratitude for the assistance given by the fund. “It costs a lot of money for parts and competition fees,” Diorio said. “The 21st Century Fund has given us a lot of grants.”

Logan Padelli of Canaan and brothers Owen and Alastair Schnepf of Wassaic, New York, were at the Envirothon booth. That club’s members, which has teacher David Moran as its advisor, aim to improve the environment and ecosystem.

“We like to spend time in nature,” said Owen Schnepf.

This year, students will compete in New Haven on May 21, where they will be tested in five areas: wildlife, forestry, soils, aquatics and current issues, the latter of which changes every year.

Chris Crane of Canaan and Michael Gawel of Sheffield, Massachusetts, were at the vo-ag table, where they described the lab land, a two-acre parcel just down the road from HVRHS that the school is leasing from Eversource. Students are learning how to monitor irrigation practices at the nearby Housatonic River and will be installing gardens to provide fruits and vegetables for the school caf-



Connecticut Attorney General William Tong talks with students Jonas Johnson (left) and Ayden Wheeler at the 21st Century for HVRHS event held at the Interlaken Inn on March 31.

eteria.

“Everything is student-driven,” said Crane, “and we get industry leaders to guide us.” They both remarked how much help the project has received from the fund.

International Travel Club teachers Danielle Melino and Letitia Garcia-Tripp said they have sent 300 students around the world on service trips to places such as Japan, Thailand, Italy, Greece, Ireland, Scotland, Iceland and the Galápagos Islands. Students visited schools and interacted with children, planted gardens and worked at an elephant sanctuary.



PHOTOS BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Mollie Ford describes her week-long summer program on international relations and American politics at Georgetown University.

While the teens have to help fundraise for such trips, the 21st Century Fund helped to reduce financial burdens. One student showed a video of a trip she’d taken, using it as her capstone project.

Among those who addressed the audience was state Rep. Maria Horn, D-64, of Salisbury, who said nonprofits are facing uncertainty because of federal funding cuts. She praised Mahoney and Hewat for their foresight in establishing the fund to “widen students’ horizons and let them pursue new ideas.”

Connecticut Attorney

General William Tong, who was in attendance, said he was impressed by the projects he saw. He touched on some of the issues his office is working on and then mentioned the Birthright Clause now before the Supreme Court, something of which he, as the son of immigrants, has great interest.

Tong said he still marvels that someone who once worked in his parents’ Chinese restaurant could grow up to become Connecticut’s 25th attorney general. “My life was only possible here and no other place in the world,” he said.

## Sharon names new Parks and Recreation Director

By RUTH EPSTEIN  
Special to the Millerton News

SHARON, Conn. — The Town of Sharon has named Torrington resident Bryan Failla as its new Parks and Recreation director, following the retirement of longtime director Matthew Andrulis-Mette, who held the position for 27 years.

Failla, 34, said the role is a natural fit, noting that he has “always been a sports guy,” while acknowledging that he has big shoes to fill.

“The community loves Matt,” Failla said. “I’m not coming in to change things — I’ll be building upon what Matt’s done.”

Failla said he plans to start by getting to know the community and its needs, adding that he enjoys working with people of all ages.

Before coming to Sharon, Failla served as an athletic director at Region 20’s Plum Hill

Middle School for two years. He also spent six years in law enforcement as a police officer with the Winchester Police Department.

Failla holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Massachusetts Boston, where he played baseball, and a master’s degree in sports administration from Arkansas State University. He said he enjoys playing golf and volunteering with the Torrington Police Athletic League.

Sharon’s Parks and Recreation Department oversees the Little Rascals summer camp, summer concerts, an annual triathlon, a summer crafts fair and senior bus trips, in addition to a variety of recreational activities.

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tion to a variety of recreational activities.

The department will also see a staffing change beyond the leadership transition. Former director Andrulis-Mette said his previous role has been split into two separate positions: a director — a role Failla has been hired to fill — and a maintenance staff member from the town crew to oversee the athletic fields and beach.

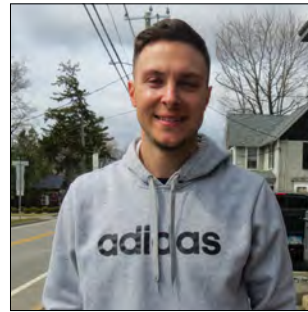


PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Bryan Failla

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# Pine Plains home decor store to close after 40 years

By NATHAN MILLER  
nathanm@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Home decor store Hammertown Barn will be closing its doors permanently, founder Joan Osofsky announced in an email sent to customers on Thursday, April 2.

The home decor and furniture store has operated in Pine Plains for more than 40 years. The business also operates a storefront in Rhinebeck, New York, which is slated to close. It previously had a location in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, which closed in March.

The store is best known for offering a mix of contemporary and rustic-style furniture rooted in the region's rural traditions.

"What began as a small store in Pine Plains grew into something far beyond what I even imagined — not just three stores, but a true community," Osofsky wrote.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Customers flood Hammertown Barn on Route 199 in Pine Plains on Friday, April 3, for the first day of a store-wide 40% discount sale. Founder Joan Osofsky announced the abrupt closure on April 2, saying the decision to shutter the home decor store that ran for 40 years was bittersweet while praising the store's community.

Osofsky described the decision as bittersweet and said she will be at the stores in their final days to celebrate and sell the remaining merchandise. The stores will remain open until inventory is sold.

Osofsky told customers that all items will be sold at a 40% discount. Consignment and already reduced-price items are not included in the closing sale.

"This closing is bittersweet, but the friendships, memories, and connections we shared will endure," Osofsky said.

Customers at the store on Friday, April 3, echoed that sentiment. Jennifer Enloe said she had been visiting the store since the '90s, sometimes just to browse and enjoy the homey feeling inside the shop without any intention of buying anything.

"I would just go there just to walk around and feel at home," Enloe said. "It makes me kind of sad, but I understand it's time for Joan to move on."



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Cars spill from the parking lot onto Route 199 on Friday, April 3, as shoppers flock to Hammertown Barn on the first day of the store's 40%-off sale.

# Amenia board approves herbicide use at Troutbeck, awards painting contract

By LEILA HAWKEN  
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The Town Board approved two resolutions by unanimous vote at its Wednesday, April 1, meeting, including one authorizing herbicide use at Troutbeck's spa and hotel facility.

The second resolution awarded a contract to paint the stage area in the Town Hall auditorium.

The herbicide approval follows a recommendation from the Housatonic Valley Association, which advised allowing controlled spot spraying and removal of small patches of invasive plant growth within the property's conservation easement area. The organization assists the town by monitoring activities within Troutbeck's easement acreage.

Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, based in Glenside, Pennsylvania, will perform the spot spraying work.

The painting project, initially suggested by resident

George Bistransin, will apply black paint to the walls and ceiling surrounding the auditorium stage, enhancing the flexibility of the space to accommodate the needs of stage productions or other performances. Invitations to bid resulted in one bidder, Jaybird Painting of Wassaic, providing an estimate of \$1,685 to complete the work.

The project will cover approximately 1,264 square feet and includes surface preparation, patching, application of matte black paint, protective masking and final cleanup.

During public comment, resident Ken Topolsky said his research into fair housing laws suggests the legislation may allow municipalities to prioritize local families for future affordable housing opportunities. He cited several regulations governing priority selection systems and urged the Town Board to review those provisions.

Topolsky said families of local workers could qualify for priority status under certain guidelines.

"All code elements have provisions for a point system as long as the system is not discriminatory," Topolsky said.

People eligible to receive points are local volunteers in fire departments or EMTs, municipal or school employees and families with children in the local public school system.

"Unless it's codified, it cannot happen," Topolsky told the town board, urging them to study the legal citations and continue active discussion.

In other business, the board continued discussing how to allocate revenue generated from leasing its tower space to communication service providers.

"It should be used for a specific purpose," said resident Judy Moran, urging that the revenue not be deposited into general funds.

The board agreed to discuss the issue further at its next meeting, allowing time for more research into how it has been used in the past and any restrictions on its use.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Town Board members discuss a potential head start on interior demolition work at the new Town Hall site located in the former Jehovah's Witnesses hall on Route 22.

# North East Town Board considers law to curb gunfire noise after resident complaints

By NATHAN MILLER  
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — North East Town Board members are considering a potential local law to curb gunfire noise after complaints from residents in both the town and the Village of Millerton.

North East Town Clerk Tilly Strauss read complaints from resident David Decker regarding gunfire at the Millerton Gun Club near his home in the village at recent board meetings. Town Supervisor Chris Kennan referenced those complaints at a special meeting of the board on Wednesday, April 1.

Kennan said the town regularly hears complaints from residents about noise from the gun club, which Strauss reads into the record at board meetings.

He went on to say the town also occasionally receives complaints from residents regarding neighbors firing guns. "We live in a part of the world where that is — you know, there are large properties and where the right of people to do that has been historic."

The discussion centered around fact-finding, with board members consulting town attorney Warren Replansky about the town's powers in limiting gunfire noise and how such rules would be enforced.

Replansky explained the town has wide latitude to regulate noise, and the law could be written to impose criminal penalties that would be handled by law enforcement or as a violation handled by the town's zoning enforcement officer. He clarified that laws that limit excessive volume are more difficult to enforce because those regulations require enforcement officers to measure the sound. Councilwoman Meg Winkler responded by proposing limiting all shooting activity during certain hours of the day or days of the week, eliminating the need for mea-

suring volumes.

"It's not about the noise level," Winkler said. "If the rule is you can't shoot after 6 p.m. on Sundays and someone's shooting, the person's in direct violation."

Board members concluded the discussion by asking Replansky to research how other municipalities regulate gunfire noise, with plans to revisit the issue at a future meeting.

### Grant opportunities

Councilwoman Rachele Grieco Cole outlined two grant opportunities for the town — the Dutchess County-sponsored municipal investment grant and the New York Forward grant. Grieco Cole said applications for the county municipal investment grant are due in May, and NY Forward applications would likely be due in November.

The municipal investment program is a competitive grant that supports safety upgrades to municipal buildings or projects addressing homelessness through services and infrastructure. Dutchess County provides matching funds of between \$20,000 and \$25,000, requiring municipalities to contribute an equal share.

Supervisor Kennan praised the municipal investment

grant program, saying funding from the county helped pay for town projects in the past.

The NY Forward program would constitute a much larger grant — likely more than \$10 million — though projected award amounts aren't expected to be released until September. Awards for six rural communities last year totalled more than \$100 million, Grieco Cole said.

### New Town Hall update

Kennan also drew attention to the town's proposed new Town Hall, planned to occupy the former Jehovah's Witnesses hall on Route 22/Route 44 near Millerton Nursery & Garden Shop. The supervisor sought to ask for a demolition list from architects LAN Associates and get a start on interior demolition work.

Kennan proposed the town could begin removing bathroom fixtures and walls within the structure.

"It is something that can be done locally," Kennan said. "Potentially at a very different cost than putting it into the big project."


Board members said they expect further conversations with the architects to determine which portions of the demolition the town can begin with.

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OBITUARIES

Lucille A. Mikesell

CANAAN — Lucille A. Mikesell passed away peacefully on April 3 with family at her home in Canaan Valley, Connecticut. She was 106.

Born on Sept. 5, 1919 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she was the daughter of William Harvey Cohea, of Mason, Illinois, and Lillian Amanda Williams of Morley, Iowa. She graduated from Roosevelt High School in Cedar Rapids in 1937, and married her husband, Ralph J. Mikesell in 1938.

Lucille lived through over a century of dramatic change including a childhood interrupted by the Great Depression. During World War II she was employed at Collins Radio in Cedar Rapids while her husband served in the Army Corp of Engineers in the South Pacific. Later she worked for and retired from American States Insurance Company as a claims specialist

Lucille was very active in volunteer work after her retirement. She was an original member of the R.S.V.P. Golden Warblers Chorus for 20 years in Cedar Rapids and volunteered at Truman Elementary, also in Cedar Rapids, for 14 years in the reading program.

With her lovely soprano voice she found great joy in singing. She participated in the Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale and spent over 50 years as a devoted member of the Christ Church Presbyterian choir in Cedar Rapids. At the spry age of 95, when she moved to live with her

daughter, Lillie Mikesell in Canaan Valley, she joined the St. John's Episcopal Church choir in Salisbury where her daughter was Music Director.

Her lifelong love affair with all things Iowa included a deep engagement with Iowa sports. Even after her move to Connecticut she avidly followed all the Iowa teams.

Lucille's living family members include her daughter, Lillie and spouse Karen Byers of Canaan Valley, grandsons Blake Mikesell of Lincoln, Nebraska, Jeffrey David Mikesell of Boulder City, Nevada, granddaughters Suzi Wojciechowski of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Nicole Pollock (Marc) of Amana, Iowa, and great granddaughters, Ellah Mikesell of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Hailey Pollock of Amana, Iowa.

She was predeceased by her husband, Ralph J. Mikesell of Council Bluffs, Iowa, her son, Jonathan David Mikesell, also of Cedar Rapids, and her beloved little brother, William Harvey Cohea, Jr., late of Columille in Bangor, Pennsylvania.

The family thanks Sally Strano, CNA and longtime friend Teri Miller for their unflagging friendship and support of Lucille, and Eilene Rydel, R.N. for her gentle home hospice care.

Memorial donations can be made in her name to a favorite place: The Douglas Library, 108 Main Street, North Canaan, CT, 06018.

A private service will be held.

Robert Donald Stevens

MILLERTON — Robert Donald "Bob" Stevens, 63, a lifelong area resident died unexpectedly on Monday



evening, March 30, 2026, at his home in Millerton, New York. Bob had a 40-year career with the Town of North East Highway Department where he currently served as the Town of North East Highway Superintendent for nearly two decades. One of Bob's proudest accomplishments was seeing the completion of the new Town of North East Highway Department Facility on Route 22 in Millerton.

Born Dec. 20, 1962, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Kenneth W. and Roberta K. (Briggs) Stevens. Bob was a 1981 graduate of Webutuck High School in Amenia, he also attended BOCES Technical School in Salt Point, New York, while enrolled at Webutuck. Bob served his community for many years as an active member of the Millerton Fire Company and was a longtime member of the New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways, Inc., where he always enjoyed attending highway training school in Lake Placid. Bob really enjoyed traversing the local roadways in Millerton in his iconic orange pick-up truck, and could often be seen at all hours of the day and night making sure that the main roads and side roads were in the best possible condition for his friends and neighbors. Bob loved the

Town of North East and he will be dearly missed by those he served throughout his decades long career. In his spare

time, he enjoyed texting with his son Robert, time on the Hudson River and rebuilding engines for many friends in his younger years.

Bob is survived by his son, Robert Donald Stevens, Jr., and his partner Elizabeth Gillett of Austin, Texas; his sister, Donna M. Archer of Rockledge, Pennsylvania; his nephew Josh Archer and his wife, Ashley Archer Monteiro of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania; his aunt, Annette Shaffer; his uncle, Frederick G. Briggs and many good friends. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his aunt, June Briggs.

At Bob's request there will be no calling hours. Private entombment in The Community Mausoleum will take place at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, 342 South Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Special stories, reflections of Bob and condolence offerings can be sent to Bob's son at Robert.Stevens.Jr@gmail.com. Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Bob's memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

OUR TOWNS

Millerton's expenses increase 15.8% over last year's budget

By NATHAN MILLER nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Board of Trustees approved the coming year's budget Monday, April 6, following no public comment.

The village's expenses increased 15.8% over last year's adopted budget. Board members attributed those increased costs to unavoidable spikes in health insurance rates and retirement payments.

Mayor Jenn Najdek said property assessments are slated to increase, which would provide the village

with additional revenue. Najdek estimated tax increases of about \$11.48 per \$250,000 of assessed property value.

Tentative budget documents available on the village's website reflect that wage increases and newly filled staffing positions further drove increases to the budget. Expenses for the Clerk and Treasurer's office, along with the building department, each increased by more than 40% over last year. Deputy Mayor Matt Hartzog emphasized the board's desire to provide raises to village staff.

"We have not given our-

selves a raise," Hartzog said. "But we would like to give all of our employees a raise, so that they can keep up with inflation."

Hartzog called attention to rising medical insurance rates. Medical insurance expenses rose 15% to \$38,300, representing roughly 4% of the total budget.

"Health insurance has just gone through the roof," he said. "Nobody's going to be happy about that."

The Village Clerk budget increased by more than \$21,000, driven by the separation of the Clerk and Treasurer line items, with both

receiving increases. The 15.9% rise, bringing the total to \$70,240, represents the largest share of this year's overall budget increase.

A similar additional line item in the Building Department expenses drove the 44% increase in that department's budget. In addition to the "Building sec salary" line receiving a small increase, a "Building sec" line lists \$11,700, contributing much of the total \$11,852 increase to that department's overall budget.

Police salaries increased by a total of \$5,000. Highway crew salaries increased by \$4,210 total.

Overall, the village expects to spend \$975,156 this year, an increase of \$132,836 over last year's budgeted expenses.

Increases to expenses are partially offset by a \$70,000 increase in expected non-tax revenue. That's 22% higher than in 2025, but not quite enough to make up for the increased costs.

Repair cafes set for April 25 in Millerton, Millbrook

MILLERTON — The NorthEast-Millerton Library is set to host a free repair cafe on Saturday, April 25, in the library's annex on Century Boulevard.

Fixers will offer free repairs for small electronics, clothing and textiles, and minor bicycle repairs among other things such as lamps and knife sharpening.

The event will run from 11

a.m. to 3 p.m.

Repairs are limited to two items per person. Five knives count as one item.

The Millbrook Library will also be hosting a repair cafe on April 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. That repair cafe coincides with Millbrook's community-wide yard sale.

North East Town Board adds an extra meeting to monthly schedule

By NATHAN MILLER nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The North East Town Board will add a workshop meeting to its regular monthly schedule after members said an additional meeting could help advance projects more efficiently.

Councilwoman Rachele Grieco Cole first proposed holding two meetings per month at the board's March meeting. The discussion was continued at a workshop

meeting on Wednesday, April 1, with council members agreeing to regularly hold a workshop meeting on the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

The additional meeting will provide time for discussion and planning, while the regular business meeting will continue on the second Thursday of each month. Council members supported the change, citing major projects and grant opportunities that would benefit from additional discussion.

Anthony Louis Veronesi

EAST CANAAN — Anthony Louis Veronesi, 84, of 216 Rocky Mountain Way in Arden, NC formerly of East Canaan, died March 26, 2026 at the Solace Center in Asheville, NC. Anthony was born December 14, 1941 in North Canaan, CT son of the late Claudio Serene and Genevieve Adeline (Riva) Veronesi.

Following graduation from Housatonic Valley High School in Falls Village, Anthony worked at the former Pfizer Company in Canaan for a short time before entering the US Air Force. He served for four years in active duty rising to the rank of Sergeant. He was released from active duty on April 9, 1968. After leaving the Air Force, Anthony worked at the Becton Dickinson Company in Canaan. He was transferred to North Carolina and retired from BD. Anthony then began his career for the United States Postal Service, for many

years as a mail handler, before his retirement from the Postal Service.

He is survived by his son Anthony K. "Kris" Veronesi and his long-time companion Brooke Lawing both of Mills River NC. Anthony is also survived by his two brothers Claudio "Cookie" Veronesi and his wife Pamela of East Canaan, CT and Bernard "Bernie" Veronesi also of East Canaan, along with several nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on April 9, 2026 at 11:00 am in St. Martin of Tours St. Joseph church 4 Main St. North Canaan, CT 06018. Following mass burial with full military honors will be held at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Cemetery Road Canaan, CT 06018. There are no calling hours. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. Canaan, CT 06018

Joan Tuncy

SALISBURY — Joan Tuncy, 92, passed away peacefully on March 27, 2026, at Noble Horizons.

Born on Oct. 27, 1933, in Sharon, Connecticut, she was the daughter of the late Robert and Vera Bejean.

Joan made her home on Indian Mountain Road for more than 40 years, where she found great joy in the natural beauty around her. She especially loved spending time outdoors and watching the wildlife that visited her backyard.

She worked for several years with a New York telephone company as a switch board operator and later served as a house manager for a number of local homes. During that time, she adopt-


ed a beloved dog, Nippy, who became a cherished companion.

An avid reader, Joan had a deep love of books and took great pleasure in buying and selling them throughout her life. She also enjoyed photography, antique shopping, and writing.

She is survived by her cousins, Don Hosier and his wife, Melissa; and Gregg Hosier.

All services are private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Little Guild of St. Francis, 285 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike, West Cornwall, CT 06796, or online at https://givebutter.com/littleguild-give.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

 <b>Worship Services</b> Week of April 12, 2026	
<b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 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	<b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 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
<b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 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	<b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 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
<b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> 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	<b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> 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
<b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b> is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org	<b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> 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
<b>Congregation Beth David</b> 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	<b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> 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
<b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net	<b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b> 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamemia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality
<b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 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	<b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 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
<b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 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	<b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 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!
<b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	
<b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b> 515 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	
<b>Sharon Congregational</b> 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	

Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com

# THE MILLERTON NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE A5

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

## Navigating the unfriendly skies

Airlines and passengers alike are buffeted by everything from weather to war. Long lines at the security gates, cancelled or delayed flights, war, weather, and the stock market have hurt both commercial carriers and their human cargoes.

March had not been good for either airline or its passengers. More than 12,500 U.S. flights were delayed by storms in some cases on. Daily basis as storms buffeted the East Coast and other locales. American Airlines, Southwest, and Delta delayed or canceled 45% of flights in a recent week. This is nothing out of the ordinary. Severe weather this winter has become just another liability for both carriers and passengers.

As the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran began, conflict forced the cancellation of more than 52,000 flights to and from the Middle East. Since then, airlines that once relied on flying over Iran and other Gulf states must find alternative routes to their destinations. Geopolitical strife seems to be cropping up wherever you look (or fly over). What was once an efficient and finely tuned worldwide aviation travel network is now at risk of becoming a patchwork of fragmenting connections and workarounds.

As a result, not only are airplanes burning more fuel since they are forced to travel longer distances, but flights are getting longer and longer to get from point A to point B. Not only does this eat into carriers' profitability, but it also adds to the woes of your typical passengers. The price of flights is rising along with oil, making it harder to travel long distances, even if one is lucky enough to catch a flight.

Geopolitical conflicts have become a nightmare for travelers. Thousands have been stranded in the Middle East, and before that by the Venezuela/U.S. raids, and let's not forget the past four years of ongoing conflict between the Russia and Ukraine war.

Adding insult to injury, depending upon the airport, air travelers were encountering long airport security lines, some of which snaked out to the sidewalks surrounding the airport. Many major airports were experiencing nearly 3 hours in TSA lines, causing massive delays and missed flights during peak hours. Delays of at least 1 hour were reported in Atlanta, New Orleans, Charlotte, and Houston.

The culprit was the partial federal shutdown of Homeland Security funding, which had led to staffing difficulties at the Transportation Security Administration. Security personnel, until this week, had not received a paycheck for weeks. The U.S. Senate is still squabbling over funding.

The president sent his ICE agents to help but reports were that they were simply making matters worse. Finally, Trump ordered the head of Homeland Security to find the money and pay the TSA workers. He did. Readers might wonder why Trump had not simply done that in the first place.

Like consumers, airlines are also grappling with higher

## THE RETIRED INVESTOR

Bill Schmick

energy prices. A sharp spike in jet fuel costs has decimated profits. Since the start of the war, the global average price of jet fuel has soared 58%, based on International Air Transport Association data. Since then, it has almost doubled. Fuel accounts for 20-25% of airline operating costs, and average prices have risen from \$2.50 before the crisis to \$4.57 per gallon now. Although some airlines hedge, many do not, and hedging often covers only part of their fuel needs.

Advance purchase fares more than doubled for transcontinental flights in the first week of the war. Fares to the Caribbean jumped 58% and 43% to Florida. Several airlines, mostly in the Asia-Pacific region, have either increased fares or announced fuel surcharges. Air India, for example, tacked on a \$50 ticket charge for all flights to Europe, North America, and Australia. Cathay Pacific doubled fuel surcharges starting March 18th.

U.S. airlines on domestic flights are prohibited from levying a separate fuel surcharge. Instead, they include fuel costs in the overall ticket price. Flyers can expect ticket prices to increase this summer unless oil prices drop back to pre-war levels in the next week or so. In the meantime, expect premium add-ons like seat upgrades, extra legroom seats, checked bags, or priority boarding to be adjusted upward.

Airline stocks have dropped sharply since the Iran war, driven by higher fuel costs and flight disruptions. U.S. airlines have generally underperformed the market this year, reflecting persistent concerns about weaker demand and limited pricing power. The industry also faces elevated labor costs and ongoing pilot shortages.

However, in recent days, some brave-hearted traders have been buying the dip in this area. Airline management says revenues are still increasing in both international and domestic travel, despite the challenges they face. Delta Airlines, American Airlines, and United Airlines all raised their revenue outlooks for the year. Consumer demand is still robust, they say, despite the long lines, added expense, and frustration.

Some airlines are now warning that they will be cutting back flights on less travelled and therefore less profitable routes. Analysts are warning that the higher oil prices climb and the longer they remain elevated, the greater the risk that flyers will pull back, and with them, the airlines' stock prices.

*Bill Schmick is a founding partner of Onoto Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. Bill's forecasts and opinions are purely his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Onoto Partners, Inc. (OPI). None of his commentary is or should be considered investment advice.*



"Three months of this stuff and you'll just be a regular eagle..."

## Mileage, Roosevelt, school newspaper, educator

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

### April 11, 1935 Mileage Bill Passes Assembly Measure Previously Approved by Senate

ALBANY-The Assembly has passed Senator Bontecou's bill amending the judiciary law and the code of criminal procedure to provide for the payment of mileage of not more than four cents per mile to trial and grand jurors in Dutchess County residing outside the city of Poughkeepsie. The Senate had previously passed the measure, leaving only the Governor's signature required to make it law.

### No Tax Rise For Painting, Says Mayor

An impression said to be prevalent among property owners of Millerton that tax assessments would be increased if buildings were painted or the property otherwise improved, was discounted today by Mayor Brewer. Speaking on behalf of the Village Board, Mr. Brewer pointed out that this idea was entirely erroneous, and at the same time encouraged home owners to paint or make other improvements to the beauty of the village.

### Mrs. Roosevelt Is Hostess To Scout Group

The sustaining membership appeal committee for the annual budget campaign of the Dutchess County Council, Boy Scouts of America, was informed of the program for the current drive at a meeting held Monday night at the home of Mrs. James Roosevelt, mother of the President, at Hyde Park. Mrs. Roosevelt is co-chairman of the committee with Dr. James T. Harrington of Poughkeepsie.

Although unable to remain for the meeting because of having to return to New York City for the funeral of her nephew, Warren Delano Robbins, Mrs. Roosevelt greeted committee members who arrived early and led them into the spacious parlor. Dr. Harrington presided at the session, conveying Mrs. Roosevelt's regrets and her sincere wishes for the success of the drive. An outline of the work to be carried on by the committee of thirty-six men and women in the next two weeks, interviewing more than 300 persons on the matter of enrolling as sustaining members of the council, was given by Dr. Harrington.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES *The Millerton News*

### April 8, 1976 READY, SET, GO

[photo caption] Laura Conklin of Millerton takes off with her cart at the Millerton Super last Saturday. Laura's mother, Alice Yankowski, won the Lions Shop-er-ama and Laura did the 3- minutes of shopping at Lions' cost. She did just fine, garnering \$672 worth of food.

### Webutuckers Have Hit With School Newspaper

The News isn't the only paper in town; the March edition of *Webutide '76* is hot off the mimeograph machine and almost 200 copies have been sold around school for a dime apiece and if the *New York Times* isn't looking over its shoulder, the *Webutuck Elementary School newspaper* is doing just fine.

In its 2nd year, *Webutide '76* is published monthly by some 15 4th, 5th and 6th graders at *Webutuck*. Rose Barer, a 4th grade teacher, is the advisor for all the young William Hearsts and she spends a lot of her time helping round up writers, editors and artists. When asked who does end up contributing to the paper, Rose said, "Anyone I can nab or buttonhole."

The editors of *Webutide '76* are mostly 6th graders and they all said the paper is going pretty well. What do the kids around school like best about the March issue? "The cover. They like just drawing on the cover," responded 1 editor with a slight frown.

### Parts Store Burglarized

The Columbia Auto Parts store on Main Street in Millerton was burglarized early in the morning of Thursday, April 1, but the thieves escaped with little that was worthwhile; 2 defective stereo speakers and a few cans of paint in damaged cans.

The N.Y. State Police reported that entry was gained through the side door of the building at approximately 1:45 a.m. Thursday morning. Store manager Michael E. Wells said the culprits didn't take much: "More damage was done to the door than to anything else."

### Klippel Buys Ayrshire Cow

William Floyd Klippel of Millerton, recently made an initial purchase of one registered Ayrshire cow from

Maurice F. Downey of Millerton, according to the Ayrshire Breeders' Association secretary, David Gibson Jr., of Brandon, Vt.

The transaction was recorded in the national office of the association, where complete registry records on all purebred Ayrshire dairy cattle in the United States have been maintained since 1875.

### April 12, 2001 Giant Among Educators Gone: Millerton Loses Gene Brooks

MILLERTON - It is a rare gem of a man who can travel through this world encountering people from all walks of life and still be able to positively affect each and every one.

Mr. Eugene "Gene" Brooks was such a man.

"Ask a teacher, a custodian, a bus driver, a secretary, a cook — everyone had the same reaction to Gene. His smile, his laugh, his way with people could only make them love him," said Justine Winters, a friend and co-worker of Mr. Brooks'.

Those fortunate enough to have met Mr. Brooks now mourn his absence; Mr. Brooks died April 7, causing a veil of sadness to envelop the community.

After coming to Millerton, Mr. Brooks continued in his educational endeavors, working for both *Webutuck* and Housatonic Valley Regional High School during the past 36 years.

Mr. Brooks impressed

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friends, students and co-workers with his overwhelming capacity for understanding and his ability to relate with children.

"As principal of a school, you get called upon to do a lot of unpleasant things," said Mr. Rindsberg. "But Gene, through it all, maintained his love for children."

"Gene has a way with children," said Brad Rebillard, the Millerton Lions Club President. Mr. Rebillard related a story concerning Mr. Brooks' dealings with a group of mischievous boys.

"Gene could make a difference," concluded Mr. Rebillard. "You can bet each child remembers that."

### P.O. Expands Recycling Effort

MILLERTON - Residents with post office boxes may have noticed they now have a place to put unwanted recyclable paper. Postmaster Martin Cavally has established a provisional recycling station within the Millerton post office as a personal effort to help the community.

"Anything that helps the environment is good for all of us," said Mr. Cavally.

"We're in the beginning phases now, and we'll have to see how it pans out before we make any changes," said Mr. Cavally, commenting on the current set-up.

Mr. Cavally has an additional reason to be concerned and willing to make a difference: "I've got a granddaughter, and she's going to have to live in this world."

## THE MILLERTON NEWS

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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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YOUR NEWS

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# Spring Cleanup

Spring has arrived and that means it's time to tackle some of the many projects we've added to our lists throughout the winter. Whether you need landscaping, gardening, remodeling, building, general spring cleanup or ongoing maintenance, you can count on each of the businesses on this page to assist from start to finish. And when you call, let them know you saw their ad in *your* community weekly newspapers, The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News.

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OUR TOWNS

# Webutuck Little League sets Opening Day party April 12

By JOHN COSTON  
Special to the Millerton News

MILLERTON — Little League players will celebrate the start of the 2026 season on Sunday, April 12, at Eddie Collins Memorial Park, leading off with a parade down Main Street.

The event will kick off at the Millerton Firehouse on Century Boulevard at 11:15 a.m., when players and coaches will make a procession to the park, walking down Main Street to the ball field pavilion.

Tori Gilleo will sing the national anthem. Planned activities include a blow-up bounce house and food and ice cream trucks. Festivities are planned to run until 2:30 p.m.

“We have a total of six teams. One tee-ball, three baseball and two softball,” said

Scott Russo, president of the league’s board, which has been organizing this year’s season over the winter months.

This year, the League has signed up 80 players. As in past years, games will be played at Eddie Collins Memorial Park and in Amenia at Beekman Park. Lights newly installed at Eddie Collins field will enable a game “under the lights” this year.

The field is named after Eddie Collins, a Millerton native and professional baseball player and later major league executive who was a second baseman in the early 20th century for the Philadelphia Athletics and the Chicago White Sox.

Little League game schedules for this spring are not yet arranged.

In recent years, a group of parents led an ambitious and



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

At last year’s opening day celebration, T-ball coach DJ Reilly throws out the first pitch to Kaitlynn Dean, 12, of Wassaic at Beekman Park in Amenia.

successful effort to affiliate the Webutuck Little League with Little League Baseball and Softball in South Wil-

liamsport, Pennsylvania, which organizes local leagues throughout the U.S. and across the world.

## Annual roadside clean-up day set for April 18

By LEILA HAWKEN  
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The town’s annual roadside Clean-Up Day will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to noon. Residents can participate by going to one of two starting locations to pick up trash bags and reflective vests, and to inform organizers of the stretch

of road they intend to clean.

All state and local roadways are eligible for clean-up. The Harlem Valley Rail Trail is also a possibility.

Fountain Square in Amenia is one of the two starting locations. The other is Borden Park in Wassaic, across from Maxon Mills, where the Wassaic Project currently operates.

At the April 1 Town Board meeting, councilmember Vicki Doyle, also a member of the Conservation Advisory Council, reported that two colors of bags will be distributed at the starting points. Orange bags are to be used if clean-up is happening anywhere along State Routes 44, 343, or 22. State trucks will pick up those filled bags from

the roadside. Black bags are to be used along any town road.

Full black bags and items too large for the bags can be left roadside near the bags where they will be picked up by contacting organizer Vicki Doyle at 845-489-7826.

The annual event is organized by the Amenia Conservation Advisory Council and the Enhancement Committee.

## Who to call for potholes? Road repair responsibility varies across northeast Dutchess

By NATHAN MILLER  
nathanm@millertonnews.com

The end of winter brings melting snow and moisture that damages roads, prompting reminders from transportation officials that responsibility for repairs — and where to report problems — depends on who controls the road.

In northeast Dutchess County, that authority is split among multiple agencies, meaning drivers may need to contact the state, county, town or village depending on the road’s classification. The situation can be especially confusing in the Town of North East, where town crews maintain roughly half of the county routes.

U.S. Routes and state routes — such as Route 44, Route 22 and Route 82 — fall under the authority of the

New York State Department of Transportation. Damaged pavement and potholes on those roads may be reported by dialing 1-800-POTHOLE.

County routes — marked by blue signs with gold figures — comprise about 213 miles of road across North East, Pine Plains, Stanford, Washington and Amenia. Those roads are the other numbered routes in the county, consisting mainly of two-lane highways, although they often have formal names such as Smithfield Road, McGhee Hill Road, Hunns Lake Road and Shunpike.

Damaged county roads should be reported to the Dutchess County Department of Public Works by calling 845-486-2900.

Local municipalities are responsible for a majority of the roads across northeast

Dutchess County, totalling 474 miles of road mileage. Reporting procedures vary across the area, but most highway superintendents said potholes could be reported directly to them at their public email addresses or phone numbers.

One exception is the Village of Millerton, where Public Works Superintendent Joe Olenik said residents should

report potholes to Village Clerk Lisa Cope, who logs complaints and forwards them to the road crew.

Olenik said the village crew had already patched more than 100 potholes since the start of this year. He said more repairs were expected as moisture from melting snow and changing temperatures put stress on the pavement.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### 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 Goodoods, 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 Goodoods, 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

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY GLOBAL SELF STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned self storage unit(s) will be sold at a public sale by competitive bidding, in their entirety to the highest bidder, on or after April 28th, 2026, to satisfy the lien of Global Self Storage for rental and other charges due from the undersigned. The said property has been stored and generally described below is located at the respective address. Although, the auction will be held via www.StorageTreasures.com, the sale is made in person at the facility: 3814 Route 44, Millbrook, NY 12545.

Tuesday, April 28th, 2026 #224 Eva Mort

The terms of the sale will be cash only & must be paid for at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is. Global Self Storage reserves the right to withdraw any or all units from the sale at any time. All contents must be removed within 72 hours or sooner.

04-09-26  
04-16-26

### Who to call for potholes

**On state roads and federal highways —**  
New York State Department of Transportation  
1-800-POTHOLE

**On Dutchess County routes —**  
Dutchess County Department of Public Works  
Highway Division  
845-486-2900

**On town roads in North East —**  
Town Clerk Tilly Strauss  
518-789-3300 ext. 603

**On village roads in Millerton —**  
Village Clerk Lisa Cope  
518-789-4489 ext. 103

**On town roads in Amenia —**  
Highway Superintendent Megan Chamberlin  
845-373-9922

**On town roads in Washington —**  
Highway Superintendent Joseph Spagnola  
845-677-3419 ext. 110

**On village roads in Millbrook —**  
Highway Supervisor Ethan Kelly  
845-677-3022

**On town roads in Pine Plains —**  
Highway Superintendent Carl Baden  
518-398-6662  
After Hour Emergencies: 518-965-1876

**On town roads in Stanford —**  
Highways Superintendent Jim Myers  
845-868-7804

## Spring Cleanup

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**POOL BIDS** *Continued from Page A1*

bidding period on Tuesday, April 7, with a set deadline of May 13 at 2 p.m. Najdek said that timeline paved the way for construction to begin on Aug. 3, with a projected opening date for the pool of July 30, 2027, but cautioned that construction delays can be unpredictable.

“Weather’s a big factor in that,” Najdek said. “If we get a winter like we got last year, it may take some time.” Najdek and Hasselwander said favorable conditions through the winter season could allow builders to continue working through the colder months if foundation work can be completed in time.

Hasselwander reported Dutchess County’s Department of Health has chosen to support a proposed septic system for the pool project that operates on a smaller



An earlier rendering of the proposed poolhouse at Eddie Collins Memorial Park.

footprint. He said the proposed septic system uses technology developed by Eljen Corporation, based in Windsor, Connecticut.

The system uses fabric mats filled with plastics to provide surfaces for bacteria to grow that treat the wastewater. Treated wastewater then flows through sand

for further filtration before leaching back into the soil. The result is a smaller septic leach field that lasts longer.

“They used to not allow Eljen systems in Dutchess County,” Hasselwander said. “The footprint of the septic system is actually about three-quarters what it was before.”

Trustees approved the final design for the pool and poolhouse in March. Those concepts include a water slide, a diving board and water features in the shallow end for children. The poolhouse also shifted to a more modern design, featuring a small kitchen and space for year-round programs.

ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

**BOB STEVENS** *Continued from Page A1*



Bob Stevens, right, and his son, Robert Stevens Jr., pose for a photograph together. Robert remembered his father as a caring and supportive man following his death on Monday, March 30.

PHOTO PROVIDED

**KRATOM** *Continued from Page A1*

The shift has created a stark divide: Connecticut classifies kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance, banning its sale and possession, while New York continues to allow regulated adult sales.

“It’s illegal,” said Connecticut Attorney General William Tong in announcing the ruling and warning of strict enforcement. “You can’t buy it, you can’t sell it or possess it because it’s dangerous, unregulated and unsafe.”

Along Route 44 in Dutchess County, the change is subtle but visible.

Employees at Smokes 4 Less in Amenia and Cumberland Farms in Millerton said they have seen increased traffic from Connecticut customers, though none could estimate by how much.

For some residents of Connecticut’s Northwest Corner, the nearest New York retailer is just minutes away — a convenience now shaping behavior.

A similar dynamic is emerging to the north in Sheffield, Mass., where kratom also remains legal and available.

**Empty shelves in Connecticut**

In Connecticut’s Northwest Corner, the ban’s impact was immediate.

At Smoker’s Choice and The Smoking Ape, two smoke shops located about a mile apart in the center of North Canaan, kratom has disappeared entirely from shelves. A once-stocked wall now sits bare.

“You can see the empty shelves,” a worker at Smoker’s Choice said, declining further comment.

At The Smoking Ape, owner Omar Nasser said the financial hit was significant at his two locations, including Torrington.

“I sold what I could,” Nasser said. The remainder of stock, he noted, was returned to his distributor at a loss.

In the days leading up to the ban, he said, demand surged as customers stocked up.

**Withdrawal concerns emerge**

Clinicians say the early days following the ban represent a critical window.

New data from Mountainside Treatment Center in North Canaan shows kratom-related admissions have nearly tripled over the past year.



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

**Packets of Blue Razz botanical extracts in pill form are among herbal remedies offered as an alternative to kratom at The Smoking Ape in North Canaan and Torrington.**

“With the ban taking effect, we are deeply concerned about what happens next,” said Jana Wu, director of clinical integration.

“Withdrawal symptoms can include anxiety, insomnia, nausea and intense cravings,” she said. “When access disappears overnight, people may find themselves in crisis.”

Now, medical providers warn, some users may seek riskier alternatives.

Since the ban, Nasser said customers continue to seek replacements.

“They’re looking for something,” to ease the withdrawal, he said. His stores now offer botanical extracts in pill form, but he said the results are limited.

“I don’t think it does the same job as kratom. Not even close,” he said, describing withdrawal as “very serious.”

He fears some customers will turn elsewhere, to more powerful remedies.

“I think people will be going definitely to hardcore drugs.”

**A national moment**

At Mountainside, Wu said calls are rising — from Connecticut and beyond.

“People are getting nervous,” she said.

Connecticut is now the eighth state to enact a full kratom ban.

“We are being watched. All eyes are on Connecticut,” Wu said. “It’s a bold move — and a divisive move.”

Patients are asking what comes next.

Clinicians are responding with counseling and medications such as naltrexone and Vivitrol — even as cross-border purchasing becomes part of the conversation.

“People are definitely going into New York to buy kratom,” Wu said.

Before the ban, kratom was widely available across the Northwest Corner.

Now, access depends on geography.

In Connecticut, kratom is fully banned. In New York, it is legal for adults over the age of 21, and in Massachusetts, while there is no statewide ban, legislation is under consideration.

The result is a regional patchwork — one that places border towns like Millerton at the center of shifting consumer patterns.

Some users have asked whether online purchases offer a workaround.

Under Connecticut law, the ban applies to possession — meaning even out-of-state shipments could carry legal risk.

“It doesn’t matter where it comes from,” Nasser said. “It’s illegal here now.”

**What changed on March 25**

On March 25, Connecticut classified kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance, making it illegal to possess, sell or distribute.

The ban applies to all forms, including powders, capsules, extracts and products containing 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH).

Across the region:  
New York: Legal (21+)  
Massachusetts: No statewide ban

The differing laws create a patchwork that is already influencing behavior in border communities.

**Where to get help**

In an emergency: call 911

Mountainside Treatment Center, North Canaan: 860-824-1397

High Watch Recovery Center, Kent: 860-775-4769

Dutchess County Stabilization center, Poughkeepsie: 845-486-2849

of work, for sickness or for pleasure, road crew employees and Town Supervisor Chris Kennan said. Joshua Schultz, a road crew member and Stevens’s godson, said he could remember one notable absence. “He took his son to Nashville,” Schultz said.

Robert Jr. said he and his father traveled twice to Nashville, Tennessee — among the few trips they took together — but a third visit was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other travel opportunities often depended on Stevens’s work at the town garage. “If it was wintertime, he’s here,” Robert said. “He’s taking care of the town.”

Sickness didn’t keep Stevens at home either. Morrison said he would work from his well-known orange pickup truck to keep from spreading colds to people.

The orange pick-up truck was a fixture around town,

Supervisor Chris Kennan said. Stevens was often spotted inspecting roads across town in the recognizable truck, when it wasn’t parked at the town garage while he worked in his office.

Kennan said the town will begin a search for a new Highway Superintendent, with a committee expected to form at the Thursday, April 9, Town board meeting. He also expects the board to install a plaque at the town garage on Route 22 honoring Stevens’s service.

Kennan proposed the plaque at a special meeting of the Town Board on April 1, saying a modest display would respect Stevens’s private nature.

“I’m excited that we’re going to put a plaque on that building,” Kennan said. “It’s appropriate that there be some reflection of what he put into it.”



Bob Stevens, right, enjoys the swinging sounds of country and western music during a trip to Nashville, Tennessee, with his son, Robert Stevens Jr.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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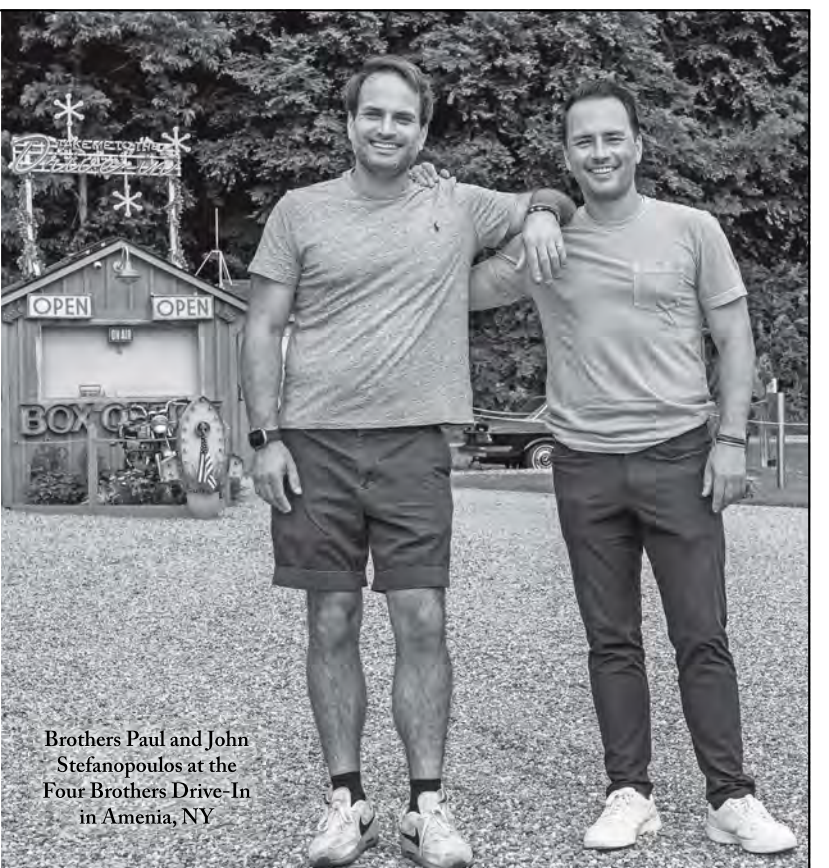
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Brothers Paul and John Stefanopoulos at the Four Brothers Drive-In in Amenia, NY

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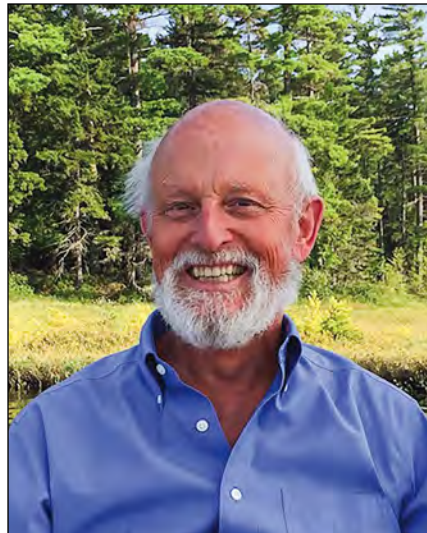


PHOTO BY DEBORAH CARTER

John Carter

## In a time of fear, John Carter revives a network of “neighboring”

By Sally Haver

John Carter, who served as rector of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Salisbury from 1999 until his retirement in 2014, launched the first iteration of the nonprofit Vecinos Seguros 1 (Safe Neighbors) in 2017 by introducing a misa, a Spanish-language worship service, at Trinity Lime Rock Episcopal Church.

In December 2024, amid concerns over a renewed federal crackdown on immigrants, a group of volunteers revived the program as Vecinos Seguros 2 (VS2). According to its 2025 annual report, the initiative “created a network of trusted allies to help those who may be

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

## HISTORY

### Threads of history come to Sharon

By Natalia Zukerman

In an age of fast fashion and disposable wares, Sharon resident Titi Halle, a leader in the fields of textiles and costume, has spent decades immersed in a world where clothing endures, sometimes for centuries.

“I had very little idea that 300-year-old clothes survived,” Halle said. “Or that you could make a living out of it.”

That was before she met Cora Ginsburg in 1980, one of the country’s leading dealers in historical textiles and costume. Halle took over as owner of Cora Ginsburg LLC in 1997 and has built a career around preserving and interpreting garments that tell stories far beyond their seams. The work she does spans everything from museum consulting to sourcing rare pieces through auctions, private sales and travel.

She will bring that expertise to Sharon this spring as part of a two-part series on early American textiles and clothing.

The first, “The Fabric of Early American Life: Textiles at Home in the 18th Century,” will take place Sunday, April

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

## MUSIC

### Rocking for a cause at Infinity Hall

By Natalia Zukerman

When the Rock n’ Roll Circus rolls into Infinity Music Hall in Norfolk on Saturday, April 11, it will bring together an all-star lineup of musicians and a mission that reaches far beyond the stage.

Presented by Rockin’ 4 Vets, this concert will benefit the United Way of Northwest Connecticut’s “Stock the Shelves” program, which supports food pantries across the region. The United Way, part of a national network founded in the late 19th century, has long worked to mobilize communities in support of local health, education and financial stability initiatives, efforts that continue today through programs like Stock the Shelves, which helps ensure families have access to essential food resources.

It’s a dual mission that founder of Rockin’ 4 Vets Jim Tirabassi described simply: “We put on the show for a dual purpose — to make people happy and to support local causes.”

What began in 2015 as V is for Veterans has evolved into Rockin’ 4 Vets, a production company built around benefit concerts supporting veterans and community needs. Tirabassi, a former rock tour manager, said the work is less about music than mission. “I love building things and I love the idea of building these shows for a purpose.”

This year’s purpose has shifted a bit. “We are seeing that veterans and non-veterans have the same issues in terms of food access,” Tirabassi said. “So, we figured we’d make it a broad-based thing and do it for the food pantries throughout New England.”

The show itself promises



PHOTO PROVIDED

Blues musician James Montgomery

to deliver on its “house party” promise with high-energy, high-octane rock and blues featuring Grammy-nominated guitarist Jon Butcher; former Epic Records artist Steve Gaspár and New England blues legend James Montgomery, along with a horn section and a rotating cast of accomplished players.

“It’s a bunch of people who actually like each other which is always a good starting point,” Montgomery said. “In the case of me and Jon Butcher, we’ve been playing together for something like 50 years.”

That chemistry extends beyond the stage. “We get together a few times a year and brush up,” Montgomery said. “We’ve been doing this long enough to understand how to put something together in sound check that’s actually gonna really gel.”

For Montgomery, who has performed with everyone from B.B. King to The Rolling Stones,

Bonnie Raitt and James Brown, the spirit of the event is as important as the music. “We have a superstar lineup and then the added feature is we raise money to put food on the shelves.”

The collaboration has a long history. Montgomery was an early supporter of Tirabassi’s effort to assist veterans; an effort rooted in Tirabassi’s own service. “I was in the Army in the early ‘70s,” Tirabassi said, adding that his organization now focuses on issues like PTSD, addiction and homelessness.

“I am a very fortunate person,” Tirabassi said. “My wife and I live fairly well and don’t have to worry about where our next meal’s coming from, but we were on a trip through New England last fall and we saw so many food banks with police directing traffic. People just trying to get some food. It was so bad and it broke both our hearts,” he continued. That moment of

clarity became a driving force for this year’s show.

“What we’re trying to do is help society in general,” he said. “And when people come to the show, they’re part of that.”

Montgomery, a lifelong road warrior and harmonica player known for his work with artists from Muddy Waters to Gregg Allman, still lights up when talking about the energy of live performance and the connection it creates.

“It’s a really, really great place to play,” he said of Infinity Hall. “It feels really intimate when you play there.”

And in that intimate setting, the Rock n’ Roll Circus aims to do what it does best: bring people together through music while helping make sure more families have food on their tables.

Doors open at 7 p.m., with the show beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at infinityhall.com.

## ART

### Firefly project to honor Jane Goodall

By Ruth Epstein

Renowned primatologist Jane Goodall, who died Oct. 1, 2025, will be honored April 10 at Marvelwood School during the Firefly Environmental Arts Project, a student-driven event blending art, science and environmental action.

A talk on Goodall by author Priscilla Woolworth will anchor the program, part of a larger gathering focused on sustainability. The Firefly Environmental Arts Project is described as “a collaborative sustainability initiative engaging students and professionals in the tri-state corner to build community through shared experiences in nature and the arts.” Student environmental ambassadors from several schools are central to the effort.

Firefly was created last year by Kent residents Deborah Schlee, a nature photographer, and Carl Raab, a science educator and author. “Our goal is to try to get people engaged and involved in the environment,” Schlee said. “We knew that various schools were having

their students do things about the environment, but they were not always doing it together. We wanted to build community through shared experiences.”

Friday’s event will feature an exhibit of nature-inspired artwork by students and professional artists, including sculpture, painting, photography, recycled art and poetry. Students from Housatonic Valley Regional High School and Marvelwood, Millbrook and South Kent schools will speak

about their environmental efforts aligned with Goodall’s work. A video created by third grade students at Kent Center School will also be shown.

Goodall, a pioneer in primate ethology, is widely regarded as the world’s leading expert on chimpanzees, known for her decadeslong research on their social and family life in Tanzania. Woolworth, who was a friend of Goodall’s, will discuss how that relationship inspired and deepened her

commitment to environmental stewardship. She has been named a Green Pioneer by Time magazine and runs an online eco-friendly store.

Woolworth is the author of “Lola Lots of Love Always,” a book for young women about living sustainably and making healthy choices for themselves and the planet.

Schlee said her environmental book club read one of

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

## INSIDE

### REAL ESTATE

Pine Plains home prices more than 50% higher than last year

### CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events



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#### WLHV FM 88.1

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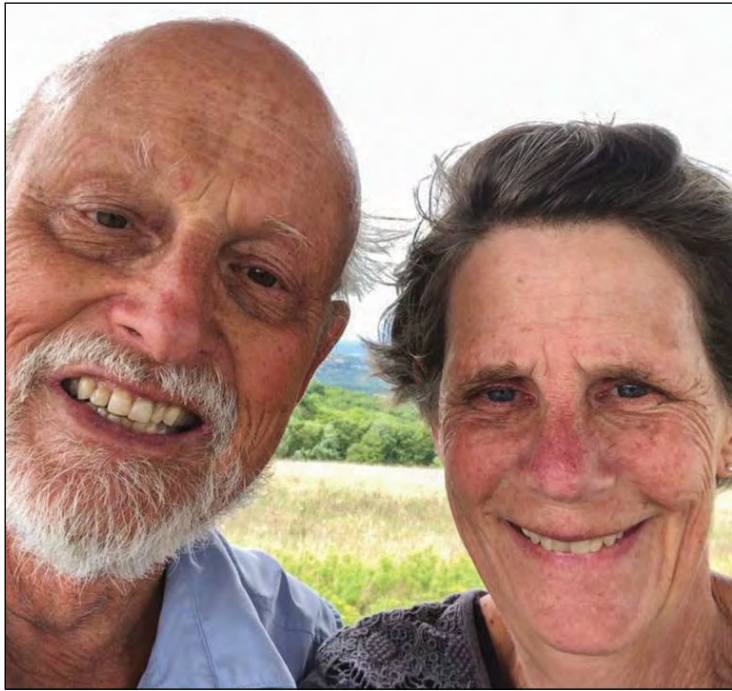
# ...John Carter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

targeted by immigration enforcement agents,” taking a low-key approach that prioritizes in-person connections.

Carter arrived at his calling by a circuitous route. After graduating from Yale, he joined the Peace Corps, then returned to his hometown of Milton, Mass., where he founded and ran the Carter Tree Co. for seven years. After closing the business, he attended Virginia Theological Seminary, earning a Master of Divinity. During that time, he and his wife, Deborah, were involved in the hunger movement. Carter said every venture he undertook was made possible by Deborah, whom he described as his constant companion and indispensable partner in his pursuit of compassion and justice. Still, he questioned himself: “Who am I, and what should I be doing that I’m passionate about?”

In the face of new challenges, volunteers joined the effort to revive the original program, VS1. The Rev. Heidi Truax, recently retired rector of Trinity Lime Rock, has been a strong supporter of Vecinos Seguros from its inception. Glenn Formica, an immigration attorney from New Haven, gave a presentation informing the community about the second Trump administration’s amended policies. Formica also generated written materials in English and Spanish, advising private citizens and employers how to prepare in the event of a visit from ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement). William Tong, Connecticut’s attorney general, a proponent of many social justice issues, including the opioid crisis and fair pricing for



John Carter and his wife Deborah

PHOTO BY DEBORAH CARTER

“The human cost of current ICE practices is appallingly high.”

JOHN CARTER

generic drugs, has also provided support since the establishment of Vecinos Seguros.

The VS2 steering committee, which includes Carter, is led by Jill Drew, a local civic leader. Drew has worked with Judiciary Committee co-chairmen Gary Winfield and Steven Stafstrom in support of SB 91, a proposal by Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont to limit ICE actions in “protected areas,” including schools, hospitals and religious buildings. She has also supported HB 5499, which would place limits on the use of automated license plate readers, addressing concerns

that the Trust Act is being circumvented through technology deployed for other purposes. Other committee members include Amy Lake and Lee and Sophia DeBoer.

VS2 has launched a range of initiatives, including distributing “know your rights” flyers; creating an online resource with local legal and social services for immigrants; hosting in-person events to educate neighbors and train volunteers; organizing a rapid response team to verify reported immigration enforcement activity and support those affected; providing financial assistance for legal expenses, rent and utilities; and advising employers — from farms and restaurants to stores and private homes — on how to protect workers if immigration agents arrive.

As the annual report states:

“We are committed to building on the powerful work of Rev. Carter, who, in the first seven years of Vecinos Seguros, assisted a significant number of individuals and families. It is our mission to continue this important work.”

Few descriptions capture the moment more clearly than Carter’s own words:

“The human cost of current ICE practices is appallingly high. Evidence of the brutality and cruelty of these practices is everywhere. Minneapolis is a recent and egregious example. ICE enforcement is doing much more than deporting individuals. It is also the systematic destruction of families. According to some reports, 90% of deportees are male. They are husbands, partners and fathers, often the primary contributors to family finances. There is heartbreak, trauma and stress experienced by the families left behind. The humanitarian response to the violence and chaos in Minneapolis is inspirational and instructive. Both citizens and immigrants came to the aid of residents living in fear and peril. It should be noted that people of color, whether their status was legal or undocumented, were also deeply shaken by what they witnessed in their communities.”

Carter also described how communities responded. That out of devastation, he said, came something else:

“A new word was born out of the compassionate response in Minneapolis: ‘neighboring.’ In caring for each other, they were ‘neighboring.’ The mission of Vecinos Seguros 2 is to ‘neighbor’ members of the immigrant community whose lives have been turned upside down by current immigration policies.”



PHOTO BY KERRI-LEE MAYLAND

Objects that show age over time can be beautiful treasures.

## LIFESTYLE

# Patina: the case for letting your home live a little

By Kerri-Lee Mayland

Your home does not need to be perfect to be beautiful. In fact, the marks, softened edges, and quiet signs of daily life are not flaws to be erased, but stories to be embraced.

That idea has a name: patina. It is the natural aging of materials over time — the result of wood touched again and again, metal worn by air and use, fabrics settling into the rhythm of a lived-in space. Some may see it as damage, but it is better understood as evolution: the gentle, authentic record of a home being used as it was meant to be.

For years, design of all kinds leaned toward the pristine — homes that felt almost too perfect to settle into. But perfection, while beautiful at first glance, can create what feels like a museum or showroom. Such a space asks you to maintain it, to protect it, to exist very carefully inside it.

Patina offers the opposite.

It lets you exhale.

A dining table with a few marks from family dinners does not need to be replaced. A brass faucet that darkens over time becomes richer, not worn out. A

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

# ... threads of history

CONTINUED FROM B1

12 at the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon. A second program, “Dressing Up in 18th-Century New England,” follows on May 3 at the Sharon Historical Society & Museum, featuring a display of period garments including shoes, stays, petticoats, and cloaks.

“America produced very little in the 18th century,” Halle explained. “So, if you’re looking at silk and cotton, those were commodities that traveled. They were luxury goods.”

That global exchange is central to what audiences will see. Printed cottons from India, silks from Europe, and locally made wool and linen reflect a world far more interconnected than we often imagine. At the same time, they reveal the labor — mostly women’s work — behind domestic life.

“I don’t just collect complete objects,” said Halle. “I collect small pieces and documents. It’s the best way to learn — and I’m always happy to share that experience.”

That spirit of sharing will be central to the upcoming exhibits. Halle plans to bring not only rare textiles but also



PHOTO PROVIDED

Indigo-dyed and printed linen, probably American, Mid- to late 18th century.

fragments that visitors can handle — an unusually tactile opportunity in a field where preservation often keeps objects behind glass.

The clothing itself, she noted, offers its own revelations.

“These aren’t the kinds of clothes you worked in,” she said. “You can’t lift your arms much higher than your shoulders. They’re not terribly comfortable.”

What has survived, then, are often the “best” garments — the ones reserved for public life or special occasion. Through them, a picture emerges not just of how people dressed, but how they moved, traded, and understood the world around them.

For Halle, who has lived part-time in the region since the 1980s, bringing this work to Sharon feels both professional and personal.

“These are things people can look at,” she said. “And things they can touch. They won’t crumble.”

In other words, history not as something distant,

but as something tangible — woven, worn, and still very much alive.

Both events are free, but registration is required for April 12 at the Hotchkiss Library at hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com. And for May 3 at the Sharon Historical Society, rsvp at rsvp@sharonhist.org.

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Moviehouse SHOWTIMES & TICKETS

CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS APRIL 13-16. SHOWTIMES: themoviehouse.net

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PERFORMANCE

# Selected Shorts returns to Stissing Center

By D.H. Callahan

On Sunday, April 12, the long-running public radio program “Selected Shorts” returns to the Stissing Center in Pine Plains.

Whether torn from the pages of history or pulled from the ether of the imagination, short stories have the power to build entire worlds in just a few digestible pages or paragraphs. But as powerful as they can be, they are rarely given the recognition or appreciation they deserve.

In 1985, Symphony Space on Manhattan’s Upper West Side created Selected Shorts, aiming to give short-form literature a greater audience. Selected Shorts puts the words of established and emerging authors into the mouths of some of the greatest actors of the stage and screen.

Since its founding, Selected Shorts has been a regular stage show at Symphony Space, a radio program, a podcast and, in this case and others, a traveling



This year’s line-up is (clockwise from top left) Jane Curtin, Joanna Gleason, Deborah S. Craig, Michael Emerson.

PHOTO PROVIDED

performance.

With a rotating line of hosts and actors bringing the literature to life, attendees at the Stissing Center

will be treated to performances by Joanna Gleason, Deborah S. Craig, Michael Emerson and the legendary first-season “Saturday Night

Live” cast member — and original Conehead — Jane Curtin.

Tickets at [thestissingcenter.org](http://thestissingcenter.org)

# Chicken and sausage gumbo

Each month, Dugazon owners Bobby Graham and Matthew Marden share a recipe inspired by the traditions, stories and sense of welcome at the heart of their shop in Sharon, Connecticut. Visit Dugazon at 19 W. Main St. Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and online at [dugazonshop.com](http://dugazonshop.com).



Ingredients

- 1 (3- to 5-pound) hen, cut into serving pieces (bone-in preferred; boneless breasts and thighs can be used)
  - Salt, to taste
  - Dash of black pepper
  - 1 teaspoon Tony Chachere’s Creole seasoning
  - 1 cup vegetable oil
  - 1 cup all-purpose flour
  - 2 cups chopped yellow onion
  - 1 cup chopped green bell pepper
  - ½ cup chopped celery
  - About 2½ quarts chicken broth (store-bought is fine)
  - 2 bay leaves
  - ½ teaspoon thyme (fresh or dried)
  - 1 pound andouille sausage, sliced ¼ inch thick
  - ¼ cup chopped green onions
  - 2 to 3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
  - Hot cooked rice, for serving
- Preparation
1. Season the chicken with salt, pepper and Creole seasoning; set aside.



PHOTO BY JEFF HOLT

2. In a large Dutch oven, combine the oil and flour over medium heat. Cook, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon, until the roux turns a deep brown, 30 to 35 minutes.

3. Add the onion, bell pepper and celery and cook, stirring, until very soft, 8 to 10 minutes.

4. Add the chicken broth and stir until smooth. Add the chicken, bay leaves and thyme. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to a simmer. Partially cover and cook until the chicken is fork-tender, 2 to 3 hours, adding more broth as needed to keep the gumbo loose and soupy.

5. Add the sausage and simmer for 30 minutes more. (For deeper flavor, brown the sausage in a frying pan before adding.)

6. Adjust seasoning to taste, then stir in the green onions and parsley. Remove the bay leaves.

7. Serve over hot rice, with crusty French bread, butter, a crunchy green salad with French vinaigrette and hot sauce.



PHOTO BY BOBBY GRAHAM

# ... patina

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

leather chair that creases and softens becomes more inviting; these are the pieces I search for when clients want an instantly lived-in look. These changes are not signs that something is going wrong. They are signs that something is being used exactly as it should be.

This is where patina becomes more than a design choice. It becomes a mindset, a lifestyle.

It allows you to let your home live a little, too.

In practical terms, to incorporate patina, you must choose the right materials, ones that will age well. Natural wood is perhaps the most forgiving and rewarding. Look for finishes that are matte or lightly sealed rather than overly glossy. Woods with visible grain and variation will develop character over time, rather than showing wear in a way that feels damaged.

Metals are another opportunity. Unlacquered brass, bronze and copper are designed to change. Instead of resisting fingerprints or water spots, they respond to them, deepening in tone, creating variation, becoming uniquely yours. In kitchens and baths especially, these materials bring warmth that polished chrome simply cannot replicate.

Leather, too, is a favorite of designers for this reason. It softens, creases, and gains depth with use. A well-made leather chair will look better in five years than it does today. Linen and other natural textiles follow a sim-

ilar path, becoming more relaxed and comfortable over time.

Vintage pieces naturally carry patina with them, which is part of their appeal. A worn wooden chest, an antique mirror with slight foxing, a set of timeworn stools—these elements anchor a space. They immediately give a room a sense of history, even if the rest of the home is newly designed.

The key, however, is balance.

A home filled entirely with aged pieces can feel heavy and old. But when patina is layered alongside clean lines and newer elements, a sense of calm emerges. The space feels both fresh and grounded. A modern sofa paired with a weathered coffee table. Crisp walls against an antique cabinet. It is this contrast that makes a home feel thoughtfully designed rather than overly styled.

And then there is the emotional shift.

When you embrace patina, you release yourself from the pressure of constant perfection. You stop noticing every small scratch or imperfection because they are no longer mistakes — they are part of the story. Your home becomes a place to live freely, not carefully, and that shift changes your mood and outlook.

It reflects a deeper understanding: that beauty is not found in preserving something exactly as it was, but in allowing it to evolve into what it becomes.

# SOPHIA ZHOU

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THE SMITHFIELD  
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PHOTO BY J. HENRY FAIR

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The Millerton News  
[millertonnews.com](http://millertonnews.com)



PHOTO PROVIDED

Singer-songwriter Leslie Mendelson performs at The Grace Note at The Stissing Center in Pine Plains on Friday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. A Grammy Award-nominated artist, she blends folk, pop and Americana with a warm, expressive style. Tickets at [thestissingcenter.org](http://thestissingcenter.org)

## ... Jane Goodall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

The Firefly Environmental Arts Project Presents  
**Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Jane Goodall**  
APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2026  
Marvelwood School Performing Arts Center  
476 Skiff Mountain Road  
Kent, CT  
5:00 pm Art Exhibit & Refreshments | 6:00 pm Speaker & Presentations

Sharing environmental awareness by bringing together our local schools, students, artists, educators, environmentalists and members of our greater community.

**Keynote Speaker Priscilla Woolworth**  
Dear Friend of Jane Goodall  
Named as new Green Pioneer by TIME magazine  
Author of LOLA LOTS OF LOVE ALWAYS

**Student Presentations**  
showcasing environmental stewardship, sustainability & collaboration

**Art Exhibition**  
by students & local artists

Free and Open to the Public & Local Schools

MARVELWOOD | firefly

For additional info contact Deb Schlee at [fireflyprojectinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fireflyprojectinfo@gmail.com)

PHOTO PROVIDED

Goodall's books, further deepening her admiration. The free event will be held at Marvelwood School Performing Arts Center, 476 Skiff Mountain Road in Kent. The art exhibit and refreshments begin at 5 p.m., followed by the keynote speaker and presentations at 6 p.m.

## Advertise in Compass

Advertising in Compass reaches readers on both sides of the state line — effectively. Call 860-435-9873 or email [advertising@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:advertising@lakevillejournal.com) today!

## Welcoming new voices

We welcome story ideas, tips and pitches, and we're interested in working with writers and photographers who want to contribute thoughtful, independent arts and lifestyle coverage. Send inquiries to [nataliaz@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:nataliaz@lakevillejournal.com).

## Tri-Corner Calendar

Items appear as space permits. Submit calendar items to [editor@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:editor@lakevillejournal.com).

### APRIL 8

**Headspace, an Original Musical**  
Kent Center School, 40 North Main St., Kent, Conn. April 8 and 9

The Kent Center School Theatre Company presents "Headspace," an original musical featuring more than 30 students in grades five through eight. With hits from the '80s and '90s and original music by director and playwright Kimberly Compton, the show takes the audience inside the mind of Josh, a boy on a journey to find his path. Free and open to the public. Performances at 7 p.m. both nights.

### APRIL 9

**Embroidery: A Living Tradition Exhibition Opening**  
Millbrook Historical Society, 35 Merritt Avenue, Millbrook, N.Y. 6 to 8 p.m.

Opening reception and talk for an exhibit celebrating local embroidery traditions and artisans, with works from the Thorne family, Grace Church, St. Peter's Church and the Skyllkill Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America. Exhibition on view April 4 to May 2.

### APRIL 10

**Tango Workshop with Crescendo**

April 10 at The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. April 11 at Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass. Introductory Argentine tango workshop led by Muna Swairjo at The Center on Main. Part of Crescendo's "Stepping into Song" programming. Preregistration required at [crescendomusic.org](http://crescendomusic.org)

**Sourdough Festival**

Dewey Hall, 91 Main St., Sheffield, Mass. April 10 to 11  
Sourdough bread contest April 10, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Soup & Sourdough Saturday April 11, noon to 2 p.m.

More info: [deweyhall.org](http://deweyhall.org)

**Leslie Mendelson**

The Grace Note @ Stissing Center 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. 7:30 p.m.

Singer-songwriter Leslie Mendelson performs an intimate set of folk, pop and Americana, blending soulful vocals with personal, story-driven songs. [thestissingcenter.org](http://thestissingcenter.org)

**The Firefly Environmental Arts Project Celebrates the Legacy of Dr. Jane Goodall**

The Marvelwood School Performing Arts Center 476 Skiff Mountain Road, Kent, Conn.

Firefly Environmental Arts Project welcomes keynote speaker Priscilla Woolworth, a TIME Magazine Green Pioneer, discussing how her friendship with Jane Goodall shaped her environmental work. Includes student speakers, a nature-inspired exhibit by local artists, and insights from her book LOLA: Lots of Love Always. An evening celebrating creativity, action, and hope. 5 p.m.

### APRIL 11

**A Sweet Deal for Birds: How a Sugarbush Can Benefit Wildlife**

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Explore how maple sugaring forests can support bird habitat at Sharon Audubon Center, including a visit to the site's sugarbush. \$20/adult; ages 16+. Preregistration required. Info: 860-364-0520 (ext. 115).

**Better Habitat for Birds: Volunteer Workday**

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn. April 11, 18, 25

1 to 3 p.m.

Help remove invasive plants and restore habitat at Sharon Audubon Center. Volunteers will assist with early spring removal of species such as bittersweet and multiflora rose. Ages 10+. No experience necessary; tools provided. Register online. Info: 860-364-0520 (ext. 115).

**Hike Trinity Forest Preserve**

Dibble Hill Road, Cornwall, Conn. 10 a.m.

Join Cornwall Conservation Trust steward Martin Chalk for a guided, moderate 1.25-mile hike through forest to a beaver pond and community. One steep slope. Meet at the trail entrance between 134 and 152 Dibble Hill Road.

**Noble Horizons Auxiliary "Come As You Are" Party**

Noble Horizons, Salisbury, Conn. 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Festive fundraiser featuring original "barn" artwork by local artists (all priced \$200 or less), gift basket raffles, games, open bar, and hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds benefit Noble Horizons residents. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Info: [noblehorizons.org](http://noblehorizons.org) or 860-435-9851.

**Rock n' Roll Circus Benefit Concert**

Infinity Music Hall, 20 Greenwoods Rd W., Norfolk, Conn. Doors 7 p.m. | Show 8 p.m.

Blues-rock showcase featuring Jon Butcher, James Montgomery and Steve Gaspár to benefit United Way of Northwestern Connecticut food pantry programs. Tickets \$39-\$49; VIP meet-and-greet add-on \$30.

**Two Exhibitions**

The Re Institute, 1395 Boston Corners Rd., Millerton, N.Y. April 11 to May 23

Opening reception April 11, 4 to 6 p.m.

"Things Seen," featuring Mark LaRiviere, Kingsley Parker and Scott Culbreth, and "Estranged From The Sun," a group exhibition curated by Natalya Kornblum Laudi.

**Family Day: Poetry in Motion**

Whiting Mural Project, 90 Whiting Street, Winsted, Conn. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Free family program featuring live music story time with Michelle Begley, scavenger hunts, kid-friendly tours and

hands-on art activities. Teen Art Studio runs concurrently.

**"The Director's Cut" - Hudson Valley Improv National Touring Company**  
Ghent Playhouse, 6 Main St., Ghent, N.Y. 7 p.m.

A fully improvised cinematic experience where the audience shapes a live "film" performed on the spot. General admission \$25; tickets at [ghentplayhouse.org](http://ghentplayhouse.org) or at the door if available.

**Author Talk: Thomas E. Johnson Jr.**

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)

Author Thomas E. Johnson Jr. will present "The Public Library in America: A Key Post-Independence Institution Promoting the Common Good" on Saturday, April 11, at 1 p.m. Johnson, author of "Common Place: The Public Library, Civil Society and Early American Values," will discuss the history and evolving role of public libraries, including their roots in early American civic life and their continued relevance today. A Q&A will follow, and books will be available for purchase and signing.

**Current Fiction Book Group with Claudia Cayne**

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

Claudia Cayne leads a discussion of "Twist" by acclaimed author Colum McCann on Saturday from 4 to 5 p.m. Registration not required. Copies available for loan at the library.

### APRIL 12

**The Fabric of Early American Life: Textiles at Home in the 18th Century**

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org](http://hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org) 4 p.m.

Titi Halle and Michele Majer of Cora Ginsburg LLC showcase 18th-century home textiles, from imported silks to homespun linens, highlighting women's artistry and patriotism. Free; registration required at [hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/16351593](http://hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/16351593).

**Selected Shorts**

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. 3 p.m.

Acclaimed actors including Jane Curtin, Joanna Gleason and Michael Emerson perform short fiction exploring community, connection and everyday surprises in this afternoon of moving and funny stories. [thestissingcenter.org](http://thestissingcenter.org)

**Opening Reception: "Meandering: Mystery and Illumination"**

Parish House, UCC Cornwall, 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall, Conn.

An opening reception for "Meandering: Mystery and Illumination," a photography exhibition by Verne Henshall, will be held Saturday, April 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The show features images from Mexico, India, Morocco, Burma, Italy, Paris and West Cornwall. The exhibition runs through May 13 and may be viewed Monday

through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon, Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon, and by appointment.

**Author Talk: Elise Howard - "Plant This, Not That"**

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.

Author and native plant enthusiast Elise Howard discusses her new book and shares practical guidance on replacing invasive plants with native species that support wildlife and pollinators. Local native plant vendor Bernadette Gray joins the program. Books available for purchase. 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Advance registration required. More info at [audubon.org/sharon](http://audubon.org/sharon).

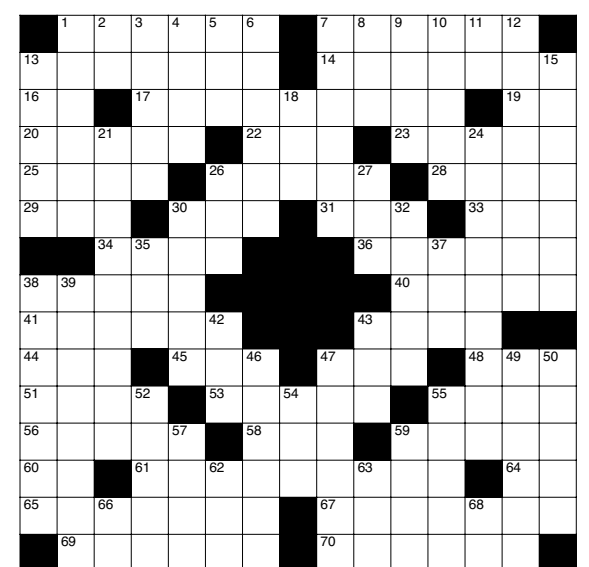
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

- Dark blacks
- Construct a wall to confine
- Most inappropriate
- A type of board
- Sacred Hindu syllable
- Flatterer
- The Granite State
- Tears down
- China's Chairman
- Former Houston footballer
- Periods of time
- Expressed pleasure
- World alliance
- A Brit's mother
- Television network
- Brother or sister
- Type of spirit
- \_\_\_ Ladd, actor
- A medium oversees it
- One time province of British India
- Wrong
- The highest parts of something
- Insect
- Baseball stat
- A way to use up
- Where wrestlers compete
- It helps elect politicians
- As fast as can be done
- Genus of legumes
- Samoa's capital
- Monument in Jakarta
- Former French coin
- Exploiters
- College sports official
- Uninterrupted in time
- Stephen King story
- Marked by no sound
- Weathers
- Denouncements
- More beloved

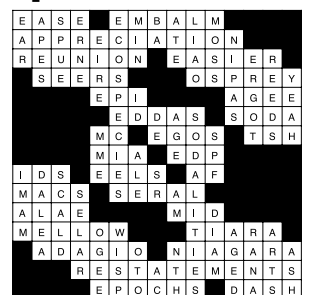
### CLUES DOWN

- Winged nut
- It cools a home
- Kisses (French)
- Oxford political economist
- Keyboard key
- Leaf pores
- Agrees with publicly
- Not around
- Czech city
- Muscle cell protein
- Greek letter
- Movements
- Ned \_\_, composer
- Popular series Game of \_\_

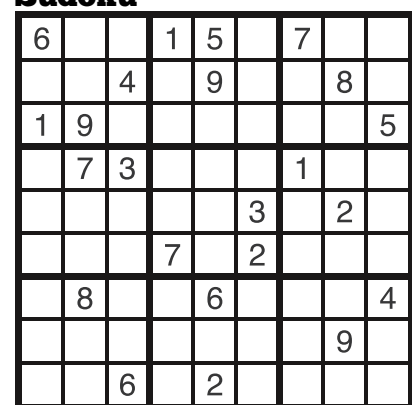


- Exclamation that denotes disgust
- Helper
- Gift
- Up in the air (abbr.)
- Treat without respect
- Trims
- Slang for lovely
- City of Angels hoopster (abbr.)
- Guitarists' tool
- Island nation
- Delivered in installments
- A baglike structure
- Cooking vessel
- Gets in front of
- Wounded by scratching
- More breathable
- Medical dressings
- Indiana hoopster
- Married Marilyn
- An ancient Assyrian city
- Congressmen (abbr.)
- Approves food
- Ventura's first name
- Between northeast and east
- Atomic #71
- Email designation

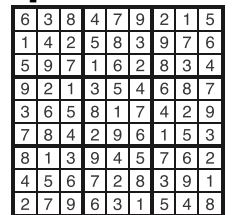
### April 2 Solution



### Sudoku



### April 2 Solution



Level: Intermediate



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OUR TOWNS

# Pine Plains home prices jump more than 50% from last year

By CHRISTINE BATES  
Special to the Millerton News

PINE PLAINS — The 12-month trailing median price for a single-family home in the Town of Pine Plains remained at \$548,250 for the period ending Feb. 28 — the same as the month of January.

The figure marks a 51% increase from the \$363,500 median recorded for the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2025, and 59% over the comparable period ending February, 2024.

Home prices started to rise sharply last summer when they rose above \$400,000 for the first time. The highest median price attained for 12 months was \$624,250 in November of 2025.

The number of annual sales on a 12-month rolling basis in Pine Plains remains within its three-year range of 12 to 18 a year.

A total of 18 single-family homes were sold in the 12 months ending Feb. 28, compared with 11 sales in the period ending Feb. 28, 2025, and 19 sales for the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2024.

The busiest year was for the 12 months ending in June 2021, when 40 homes were sold between June 2020 and



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

**Sold as a turnkey house on a quiet country road, this four-bedroom, 2,080 square foot home on Ryan Road sold for \$575,000.**

June 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inventory of all homes remains limited. As of early April, there were 10 single-family homes on the market in two distinct price segments. Five were listed above \$3 million while four residential properties were listed below the current \$548,250 median price. Five parcels of land are listed for sale on OneKey multiple listing service and three commercial properties are for sale including an event venue, a former car dealership and a converted church.

February 2026 Recorded Transfers

390 Carpenter Hill Road — 28.4 acres of productive, vacant agricultural land sold for \$29,930 an acre to JAEF Family Holdings LLC for \$850,000.

143 Ryan Road — 4 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 1.16 acres sold to Robert Moore III for \$575,000.

58 Britton St. — Manufactured home on 0.47 acres sold to Hunter Hawks for \$130,000.

\* Town of Pine Plains real estate transfers recorded be-

tween February 1, 2026 and February 28, 2026, provided by Dutchess County Office of Real Property. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from First Key MLS and market statistics from Infosparcs. Note that recorded transfers frequently lag sales by a number of days and include properties sold privately. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.

## DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Harlem Valley area activity report March 26 to April 4

March 26 — Deputies responded to 7 Smith St. in the Village of Pawling to investigate a reported landlord-tenant dispute. Situation mediated by patrol.

March 27 — Deputies responded to Route 292 in Pawling to investigate what was later determined to be a fraud complaint where the complainant reports falling victim to an online scam in which they sent a subject \$400 in bitcoin.

March 28 — Deputies responded to Route 292 in the Town of Pawling to investigate a domestic dispute involving family members. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Dennis J. Keefe, age 33, for attempted assault. Keefe to appear in the Town of Pawling court at a later date.

March 29 — Deputies responded to the area of 5058 Route 22 for an auto accident resulting in property damage resulting in the arrest of Christine Santini-Haviland,

age 71, for driving while intoxicated. Subject to appear in the Town of Amenia court at a later date.

March 30 — Deputies report the arrest of Thomas Weaver, age 37, for criminal contempt in the second degree subsequent to a violation of a court order of protection. Weaver to appear in court at a later date.

April 3 — Deputies responded to Fairway Dr in the Village of Pawling for a past occurred brother vs. brother domestic dispute. Matter mediated by patrol.

PLEASE NOTE: All subjects arrested and charged are alleged to have committed the crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty and are to appear in local courts later.

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned criminal cases, or any other suspected criminal activity please contact the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office tip line at 845-605-CLUE (2583) or email dcsotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

To Place an Ad Call 860-435-9873 or visit lakevillejournal.com/classified-ad

# Classifieds

# Real Estate

### HELP WANTED

**EXTRAS AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMMER CHILD-CARE PROGRAM:** is looking for summer counselors! Please visit our website for more details and other open positions. www.extrasprogram.com/employment.

**GARDENERS NEEDED FOR NATIVE PLANT DESIGN BUSINESS:** March 15- December 1st. Must be physically fit and dependable. Call for interview 347-496-5168. Resume and references needed.

**TOWN OF AMENIA IS SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR PART-TIME RECREATION LEADER:** Candidates must possess high school diploma or GED certificate and one (1) year of experience which involves conducting, organizing, and leading recreation activities. Salary \$21.63, up to 20 hours a week. Letter of Interest may be submitted via email to dmkingner@amenainy.gov or by mail to Town Clerk, 4988 Route 22, Amenia NY 12501. Application deadline: April 13, 2026 at noon.

### Correcting Errors

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

To view all the news and Classifieds from The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News each week, go to our websites at lakevillejournal.com and millertonnews.com

### SERVICES OFFERED

**GARDENING:** Spring and Fall Cleanup and Stone W alls. 845-444-4492.

**HECTOR PACAY LANDSCAPING AND CONSTRUCTION LLC:** Fully insured. Renovation, decking, painting; interior exterior, mowing lawn, garden, stone wall, patio, tree work, clean gutters, mowing fields. 845-636-3212.

### REAL ESTATE

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:** Equal Housing Opportunity. All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1966 revised March 12, 1989 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color religion,

### REAL ESTATE

sex, handicap or familial status or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. All residential property advertised in the State of Connecticut General Statutes 46a-64c which prohibit the making, printing or publishing or causing to be made, printed or published any notice, statement or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, physical or mental disability or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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### POSITION OVERVIEW

We are seeking a hands-on Controller to buildout and lead the financial function of a well-established, financially healthy, and growing family-owned business. Position offers a unique opportunity to establish scalable accounting processes, enhance financial visibility, and work closely with ownership

This role will own the full accounting cycle end-to-end, performing all core accounting functions directly, while overseeing AP clerk and working with AR manager. In addition, the Controller will manage key human resources responsibilities, including payroll, benefits administration, and employee relations.

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Accounting & Financial Management:

- Oversee all day-to-day accounting operations, including general ledger, accounts payable/receivable, and bank reconciliations
  - Perform the month-end and year-end close processes, ensuring accuracy and timeliness
  - Prepare and analyze monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statements in accordance with GAAP
  - Partner with external CPA firm on tax preparation, filings, and annual reviews/audits
  - Develop and maintain internal controls to safeguard company assets and ensure financial integrity
  - Manage cash flow, including forecasting and working capital optimization
  - Provide financial analysis and insights to leadership to support decision-making
  - Build and maintain financial models to evaluate business performance and opportunities
  - Deliver regular reporting and dashboards to leadership with actionable insights
  - Analyze variances between actual results and budget/forecast, identifying trends and recommendations
  - Identify opportunities to improve processes, systems, and efficiencies across accounting and HR functions
- #### Human Resources & Payroll:
- Oversee payroll processing, ensuring accuracy and compliance with applicable laws and regulations
  - Manage employee benefits programs, including insurance renewals, open enrollment, and vendor relationships
  - Serve as a point of contact for employee relations matters, supporting a positive and compliant workplace
  - Maintain employee records and ensure compliance with HR policies and employment regulations
  - Assist with onboarding, offboarding, and HR process improvements

### QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field required
- CPA or CMA preferred but not required
- 7+ years of progressive accounting/finance experience, including experience in a Controller or similar leadership role
- Strong knowledge of GAAP, financial reporting, and internal controls
- Experience working with external CPA firms and managing audits/tax processes
- Hands-on experience with payroll, benefits administration, and HR functions
- Proficiency in accounting systems (e.g., QuickBooks Online or similar ERP) and advanced Excel skills
- Strong analytical, organizational, and communication skills
- Ability to operate both strategically and tactically in a small, fast-paced environment

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