



AMENIA
Van fire **A2**



PINE PLAINS
Baseball **B5**

COMPASS
'Audacious'
radio show;
and more **B1-4**



Special, Inside

North East board approves commercial zoning overhaul after four-year process

By **NATHAN MILLER**
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MILLERTON — North East Town Board members unanimously approved an overhaul of the town's commercial zoning code, bringing a more than four-year process to close.

The Town Board voted to pass Local Law no. 1 of 2026 at its regular meeting on Thursday, April 9, officially adopting a 181-page zoning code rewrite that allows for mixed use development along Route 44, updates definitions across the town's code and creates new permitted land-use tables for improved readability.

Town Supervisor Chris Kennan, board members and attorney War-

ren Replansky praised the work and the volunteers on the town's Zoning Review Committee for their commitment to the years-long process. Kennan called out to two members of the review committee that attended Thursday's meeting — Chair Edie Greenwood and Bill Kish — to thank them and their fellow volunteers for years of work on the zoning rewrite.

"On behalf of the board, we want to say thank you," Kennan said. "We hope that you are pleased to see something come to a stopping point."

Thursday's approval clears the way for further revisions to the zoning code expected to focus on

See **ZONING, A8**



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Season opener

Little leaguers run across Eddie Collins Memorial Park in Millerton for lunch, popcorn and ice cream at the pavilion during the Webutuck Little League season opening party on Sunday, April 12. The league has signed up 80 players for the 2026 season comprising six teams, including one tee-ball team, three baseball teams and two softball teams.

Pain at the Pump

Surging gas prices stretch local budgets

By **ALY MORRISSEY**
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New York drivers are paying sharply more at the pump than they were a year ago, with gas prices up more than \$1 per gallon — a surge that is hitting wallets across the Northwest Corner even as prices steadied briefly last week.

The spike comes as global tensions continue to cause oil prices to rise. Prices briefly stabilized following news of a two-week cease-fire between the United States and Iran, but uncertainty returned after talks ended without an agreement, leaving drivers bracing for continued volatility.

Residents of the Northwest Corner and Eastern Dutchess County continue to pay hefty prices at the pump, according to data collected by AAA. Despite high prices, demand for fuel continues to climb.

Just a month ago, Sharon resident and local blacksmith William Trowbridge said a fill-up typically cost around \$75. Now, for the first time, he paid more than \$100 to fill his truck — a jump that left him concerned when the total climbed into triple digits.



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Gas is priced at \$4.09 per gallon at the 17 Gay Street Shell station in Sharon, Conn., April 12, sitting just below the national average of \$4.12, according to AAA.

"It makes me angry," Trowbridge said at the Shell station located at 17 Gay St. in Sharon. "Now, I'm starting to think about combining errands when I go out."

Trowbridge, like many others, attributes the spike in gas prices to "a war that shouldn't even be happening."

At the Gay Street station, employee Jacob Enquest said customer reactions have shifted in recent weeks.

"Whether it was about politics and the war or the prices themselves, everyone had something to say," Enquest said. "Now people just want to know if prices are going to come down, and I have to tell them their guess is as good as mine."

Local and national prices
According to data compiled by AAA, the average price for a gallon

See **GAS PRICES, A8**

Sharon man brings Death Cafe to Tri-Corner F.E.E.D., sparks conversations about dying

By **NATHAN MILLER**
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MILLERTON — Christophe Armero thinks talking about death is a good thing.

That's why he started a "Death Cafe" at Tri-Corner F.E.E.D., a regular event at the South Center Street store where people are invited to enjoy coffee, cake and casual conversations about death. The next event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, at 6 p.m.

Armero described the cafe event as an opportunity for people to freely and openly discuss death with no agenda.

"The more you know about death, the more comfortable you are with death," Armero said. "The better use you'll be able to make of

your limited life."

The conversations serve as a form of meditation, Armero said, drawing on the work of Swiss sociologist Bernard Crettaz. Englishman Jon Underwood further developed these ideas in 2010, creating the Death Cafe model and hosting the first event at his home in England in 2011.

Since then, more than 23,000 Death Cafe events have been held across the globe, according to deathcafe.com, including Armero's first in Millerton on March 25.

Those interested in attending the upcoming Death Cafe event in April at Tri-Corner F.E.E.D. can sign up by searching for "Millerton Death Cafe" on www.eventbrite.com.

See **DEATH CAFE, A8**



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OPINION

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OUR TOWNS

Embroidery as a living local tradition celebrated in Millbrook Library exhibit

By LEILA HAWKEN
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MILLBROOK — A new exhibit at the Millbrook Library tells the story of the Millbrook Needlework Guild, a storied group that has threaded its way through the past century of life in the village.

The exhibit opening was held on Thursday, April 9, attracting residents and visitors to view exquisite historic pieces of needlework art, all linked to today's Millbrook due to their continuing importance as local works of art.

Assembled by the Millbrook Historical Society in a project that spanned two years, Society Secretary Alison Meyer, co-organizer of the event, welcomed a substantial turnout of residents and visitors. Meyer noted the contributions of her co-coordinator, Society board member Denise Bauer in bringing the event to life.

"It all began with the Millbrook Needlework Guild organized in 1954. The legacy has been preserved in churches, homes and the library," Meyer said, noting that exhibit pieces have been loaned from throughout the village community.

"It's gone from a local endeavor to the national scene and now back to local," Meyer added. Also participating in the exhibit is the area's Skyllkill Chapter of the Em-



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Celebrating the significant history of embroidery and its place within the fabric of the community, an exhibit opening was held on Thursday, April 9, at the Millbrook Library. Millbrook Historical Society secretary Alison Meyer, co-organizer of the event, provided welcoming remarks. The exhibit will continue until Saturday, May 2.

broiderers' Guild of America that was formed in 1974, continuing the tradition to the present day.

A highlight of the opening is the presentation of a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Millbrook Historical Society to resident Anne Collins who had first suggested the idea for the exhibit.

When it was formed in 1954, the Millbrook Needlework Guild, whose members were local women devoted to the art, was gifted with a house donated by Margaret Thorne Parshall. The house still stands at the corner of Franklin and Maple Av-

enues. The imposing home also served as an academy for instruction in embroidery, under the tutelage of then Millbrook resident Erica Wilson who came to be known by many as "the first lady of stitchery." Wilson's shops still operate in Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

In 1958, Parshall helped establish the American branch of the British Embroidery Guild, having traveled to England to meet with needleworkers. That organization became the Embroiderers' Guild of America in 1958.

The exhibit will continue at the Millbrook Library until Saturday, May 2.

Bang Family Series at Smithfield Church to present Sophia Zhou in concert

By LEILA HAWKEN
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AMENIA — The Bang Family Concert Series will feature New York-based pianist Sophia Zhou in performance at The Smithfield Church on Saturday, April 18, beginning at 3 p.m.

Zhou's program "Into the Light" will include a rare treat — Beethoven's grandest and most technically challenging piano sonata, "Waldstein," along with works by Mozart, Chopin, and Debussy.

The concert is open to the public. A suggested donation of \$20, payable at the door, will contribute toward funding more concerts. A reception with refreshments will follow the concert.

The Bang Family Concert Series has a tradition of hosting eclectic performances by gifted musicians from the Tri-Corner area. Known to area residents, Zhou has performed internationally as a soloist and chamber musician in New York, Washington, D.C., Amsterdam and Shanghai. She has played with chamber musicians in New York, Hong Kong and with faculty from The Juilliard

School, Curtis Institute and Manhattan School of Music.

Currently, Zhou serves as Founder and Artistic Director of the Millbrook Music Salon.

The Smithfield Church is located at 656 Smithfield Valley Road in Amenia. The church is accessible for people with disabilities.

For more information, go to thesmithfieldchurch.org/concerts.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sophia Zhou

Public hearing set for local law allowing bingo, games of chance in Village of Millbrook

By LEILA HAWKEN
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MILLBROOK — The village Board of Trustees is considering allowing bingo and games of chance within Millbrook again, more than four years after officials repealed a local law and effectively banned the activities in 2021.

Two local laws that, if passed, would allow bingo and other games of chance to be included in fundraising events were discussed by the Board of Trustees at its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 8.

The trustees voted unanimously to schedule a public

hearing for Local Law No. 2 and No. 3 on Wednesday, April 22, beginning at 6 p.m. at Village Hall.

Bingo and games of chance are seen as significant highlights of the fire department's annual carnival.

"We need a new local law," Mayor Peter Doro said, explaining that it would provide the legal framework to allow the games.

Doro said that the village's legal counsel is drafting resolutions to establish the local laws. Following the public hearing phase, the village would need to hold a special election to approve the new



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Amenia fire crews clean up the site of a burnt van on Sharon Station Road in Amenia on Friday, April 10. A Ford Econoline van caught fire just after 11 a.m. according to nearby residents and quickly spread to nearby brush due to windy conditions.

Van fire spreads to brush along Sharon Station Road near Route 343

By NATHAN MILLER
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AMENIA — A fire that started with a van spread to brush along Sharon Station Road near the intersection with Route 343 in Amenia Friday, April 10.

The fire broke out just after 11 a.m., nearby residents who reported the fire to authorities said.

Fire Chief Chris Howard said crews from Amenia and Wassaic had contained and extinguished the fire by 11:50 a.m. The exact cause of the

van fire was unknown and Howard said it was unlikely that investigators would be able to determine the cause due to heavy damage to the vehicle.

Howard said no one was injured in the fire, but one person was taken to the hospital as a precaution in case they experienced smoke inhalation.

After the van erupted into flame, wind spread the fire to brush along the north side of the road, Howard said.

James Morse, who lives on Sharon Station Road near

where the fire erupted, said he called 911 after he witnessed the van turn the corner from Route 343 onto the road just after 11 a.m. The vehicle was making a loud hissing noise, he said, and then erupted into flame just after the driver exited the vehicle.

"All the flames were up and billowing black smoke was pouring out," Morse said.

Fire crews were wrapping up and packing away their hoses by noon.

"They did a good job today," Howard said of the volunteer firefighters.

Millbrook yard sale to feature repair café at library on April 25

By LEILA HAWKEN
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MILLBROOK — Among the many activities planned for the Millbrook Community-wide Yard Sale on Saturday, April 25, will be a repair café offered at the Millbrook Library between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. The rain date will be Sunday, April 26.

Residents can bring up to two small items in need of attention to the library and find local experts willing to provide free repairs. The event is intended to keep such items from being discarded into landfills, when all that may be needed is a small fix.

Eligible for repair are broken lamps and small appliances,

jewelry, wooden furniture, mending, and darning among sewing services. Local repair coaches will either fix the item or provide advice on where to take it next. The community is also invited to bring knives in need of sharpening.

Demonstrations of bicycle maintenance will be a feature. Bring plastic bags and batteries

to the library for recycling during the event.

The Community-wide Yard Sale provides an opportunity for Millbrook neighbors to get together and share in finding treasures at yard sales throughout the village, enjoy music, get things repaired at the library, or simply socialize.

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With April, this is the start of both spring and what is not so great: ticks. The key to managing ticks is to understand their life cycles and how you can create an outdoor space around your house that discourages them. To the first point, we are fortunate to have the CT Agricultural Experimental Station in New Haven that focuses on this very issue and they have published an excellent tick management handbook to bring you up to speed. To read this handbook, please go to portal.ct.gov/-/media/caes/documents/publications/bulletins/b1010pdf.pdf. Locally, there are companies like Arbor Services of CT that offer advice and services to keep your property safe. For example, please see arborct.com/tick-management-programs/. Hopefully this will help you to have a safe and wonderful spring!

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Amenia Library welcomes new Adult Programming Assistant

By LEILA HAWKEN
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AMENIA — New adult programming is coming to the Amenia Free Library, led by Adult Programming Assistant and Millbrook native Liz MacQuarrie.

Since beginning her duties in mid-March, MacQuarrie has been learning the ropes of library procedures. She spoke on Thursday, April 9, about her enthusiasm for serving the community and developing adult programs for library users.

“Libraries are more than just books; they’ve become community gathering places where people come together,” MacQuarrie said.

“Curiosity never stops at a library,” MacQuarrie added, indicating that she intends to bring her own creative ideas to serve patrons.

“Black-out Poetry,” as she calls it, is the first such program that is now available in the library’s reading room. Patrons will find everything they need to transform any block of non-fiction text and blacking out all but a few words to create a poem inspired by those few words, MacQuarrie explained.

The text pages are cut from damaged non-fiction books that were about to be discarded. MacQuarrie’s training in the arts led her to realize that poems might be lurking within the text. The words selected can inspire a poem or be incorporated into a drawing.

A sample is on display, and instructions are provided. MacQuarrie notes that it

is a passive program in honor of April being National Poetry Month, and the idea repurposes damaged books as instruments of creativity.

Another program that MacQuarrie is managing will bring periodic visits from the Dutchess County Office of the Aging’s mobile help program. Patrons can sign up for 30-minute appointments to meet with an advisor for help with government programs, including Medicare/Medicaid, and more.

The first scheduled visit will be on Thursday, April 23. For more information about the program, go to the library’s website: www.amenialibrary.org.

“It will save patrons from needing to travel distances to access the help,” MacQuarrie said.

MacQuarrie has earned a B.A. degree in Film Studies from Mt. Holyoke College and has experience in documentaries and commercial applications, as well as past work with WBZ news radio in Boston. Her career has taken her to work with the Milwaukee Film Festival, the Milwaukee Art Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

A native of Millbrook, MacQuarrie now resides there with her Chihuahua-Pomeranian mix, Rocko.

“I’m happy to be back home,” MacQuarrie said.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Liz MacQuarrie began her duties as Adult Programming Assistant at the Amenia Free Library in mid-March, has launched creative new programming.

Millbrook trustees adopt 2026-27 budget with 0.25% increase

By LEILA HAWKEN
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MILLBROOK — Millbrook’s Board of Trustees unanimously passed a resolution to adopt the 2026-27 town budget following a public hearing at its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 8.

The budget for the coming year totals \$2,538,844, up 0.25% from \$2,532,541 in the current year.

Mayor Peter Doro said the increase falls within the 2% property tax cap imposed on local governments by New York State since 2012. Budget lines showing anticipated increases include utilities, paid ambulance service and insurance.

“We’ve all worked hard in

the past months,” Doro said, describing the budget review process that involves each of the village’s departments.

Separate unanimous approvals were adopted for the 2026-27 water and sewer budgets. The Water Department budget totals \$425,500, up from the current year of \$411,950. The Sewer Department budget totals \$470,425, up from \$435,100.

Although no public comment was offered during the hearing, one trustee suggested that the village should remain vigilant about rising costs.

“There are things we could do to mitigate costs,” said Trustee Shannon Mawson.

To view a copy of the budget as adopted, go to www.villageofmillbrookny.com.

Local climate advocates gear up for annual Earth Day events

By NATHAN MILLER
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MILLERTON — The Climate Smart Task Force is gearing up for a busy April.

Millerton and North East’s joint Climate Smart Task Force is a group of community volunteers who work to promote green initiatives in the community that earn the town and village points toward grant funding opportunities. The group is part of a statewide initiative known as Climate Smart Communities that promotes environmentally conscious policies at the municipal level.

Committee member Kathy Chow said April is typically an active month for the group because of Earth Day, but this year brings more activity as Millerton seeks certification under the Arbor Day Foun-

dation’s Tree City USA initiative.

Chow said the weekend of Saturday, April 18, will be busy for the group. Planned events for Arbor Day and Earth Day will be spread across two weekends.

Chow’s personal favorite is Bulk Trash Day on Saturday, April 18.

“We help everybody unload their car and trailer full of household junk,” Chow said. “It’s just such a happy day.”

On Bulk Trash Day, residents can take bulky items to the town’s old highway garage on South Center Street in the Village of Millerton for a fee. Volunteers will accept furniture, carpeting, lawn equipment, tools, scrap metal and appliances such as refrigerators and air conditioners.

Fees will vary depending on vehicle size and item type, with

charges ranging from \$15 to \$60 for vehicles, \$20 for items such as mattresses and couches, and \$10 to \$30 for most appliances. Units containing Freon will cost \$30, and oversized items may be accepted at a fee of \$50 at the discretion of staff. Tires will also be accepted for recycling at \$15 each, with rims permitted.

Payments must be made by cash or check.

That same weekend, the Moviehouse will be hosting a screening of “The Extraordinary Caterpillar.”

“It’s the most spectacular photography you’ve ever seen,” Chow said of the film that explores the lives of insects that are often overlooked in favor of human needs.

Tickets for the event are free. Seats can be reserved at www.themoviehouse.net.

Climate Smart-sponsored

activities continue the following weekend with a Repair Cafe at the NorthEast-Millerton Library on Saturday, April 25. Visitors can bring up to two items to be repaired by volunteers with skills in small electronics and appliance repair, textiles and clothing, bicycles and knife sharpening. All repairs are free and five knives count as a single item.

Chow said the task force’s responsibilities spread far beyond planning events. The group’s work has resulted in both Millerton and North East receiving Bronze status in New York State’s Climate Smart Communities initiative, a certification that recognizes the community’s commitment to environmental conservation.

She said reaching that status was no easy feat, as inherent qualities of the town and

the village work against the communities.

Chow explained that North East, unlike Millerton, is incapable of adopting green infrastructure like LED streetlights because the town doesn’t actually operate any streetlights and doesn’t have any reason to. Millerton, in contrast to North East, lacks large amounts of open space to actively conserve. Both actions can be important ones in the effort to be certified with the state.

Achieving higher certifications takes labor and expertise, Chow said, and she welcomes anyone in the community with a passion for the environment to join. She especially encourages the overly enthusiastic and quirky to join.

“There’s so many actions that are there to be done,” Chow said.



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RAISE HEALTH

OBITUARIES

Michael Joseph Carabine

SHARON — Michael Joseph Carabine, 81, of Sharon, Connecticut, passed away on the morning of Friday, April 3, 2026, at Bryn Mawr Hospital in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. He was the beloved husband of the late Angela Derrico Carabine and loving father to Caitlin Carabine McLean.

Michael was born on April 23, 1944, in Bronx, New York. He was the son of the late Thomas and Kathleen Carabine of New York.

Michael was an alumnus of St. Jerome's Catholic School (Bronx, New York) and later attended St. Joseph's School (Barrytown, New York), where he studied briefly to become a Christian brother (which he ultimately decided was not his path in life). He served in the infantry branch of the Army of the United States during the Vietnam War from Feb. 1968 to Jan. 1970, where he earned a National Defense Service medal, a Vietnam Service medal, a Combat Infantry badge, a Vietnam Campaign medal, a Bronze Star medal and two (2) Overseas bars, as well as the title of M14 Expert.

He married Angela Derrico Carabine on Sept. 9, 1978, and they welcomed their only child, Caitlin, on Oct. 11, 1985.

Michael had a storied career in hospitality, acting as general manager for several of New York City's private clubs. He later translated his love for hospitality into the corporate world, where he worked for Hess Corporation and the Episcopal Church.

In his youth, Michael was an impressive athlete, with a love for handball, softball and swimming. In his later years, he enjoyed reading and listening to music, with his loving (and furry) companion, Henry, and most enjoyed spending time with his beloved grandson, Will.

He is survived by his daughter, Caitlin, son-in-law, Andrew; and grandson, William, all of whom he loved deeply; as well as his sister, Catherine Turpin. He was predeceased by his parents, Thomas and Catherine Carabine, and his brothers, Thomas and William Carabine.

A private service will be held at St. Bernard's Church in Sharon. Memorial contributions may be made to: the Sharon Historical Society & Museum, the Sharon Fire Department Inc. & Sharon Ambulance, and the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of all arrangements.

Robert E. Stapf Sr.

MILLERTON — Robert E. Stapf Sr. (Bobbo), a devoted husband, loving father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother and friend to many, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2026, at the age of 77, happily at home surrounded by lots and lots of love and with the best care ever.



Bob was born Jan. 16, 1949, to the late Peter and Dorothy (Fountain) Stapf. He began working at an early age, met his forever love, Sandy, in 7th grade and later graduated from Pine Plains Central School.

Following graduation, Bob and Sandy (Snyder) were married on Sept. 18, 1971. Bob soon began as a diesel mechanic, working at H.O. Penn and then Dutchess County Diesel for most of his career. He also loved every minute at Orvis Sandanona and all the other clubs where he worked with his dogs for over 50 years.

While Bob was happy outdoors hunting, snowmobiling and playing golf whenever he could and spending a lot of time customizing his 1949 Chevy Pickup, winning a lot of trophies at car shows all around, he was happiest spending time with family and friends. He could be found almost every morning having coffee with his buddies at Talk of the Town where he was "the mayor."

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 54 years and best nurse, Sandy, of Millerton, his four children; Michelle Cianfarani and her husband Vinnie, Robin Stapf and her husband Rob, Bobby Jr. and his wife Jean and Kristofer Stapf and his wife Lauren, his 7 grandchildren; Zachary, Adriana, Mackenzie, Addison, "Bobcat," Audrey and Maddie and his 2 great grandchildren; Nevaeh and Leiana. Bob is also survived by his 3 sisters; Barbara Holdridge (Everett), Debbie Bryant (Terry) and Wendy Lind (George), his 2 brothers: Peter Stapf (Donna) and John Stapf (Jane) along with many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to send our love and sincere appreciation to all of the won-

derful nurses and doctors at Vassar Brothers Medical Center along with the nurses from Hospice Care who always took such great care of Bob for us.

Family and friends are invited to share memories and offer condolences on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, 7749 South Main Street, Pine Plains, New York.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a small donation to Hospice Care for continued support to those who need it most. For directions, share a favorite memory or to leave a message of condolence for the family please visit www.peckandpeck.net

Local students get a taste of the real world during Career Day

By RUTH EPSTEIN

SHARON, Conn. — Sharon Center School students got a firsthand look at potential career paths on Friday, April 10, during their annual Career Day, where guest speakers from a range of fields spoke with students in fourth through eighth grade.

The annual event is organized by school counselor Liz Foster, who aims to showcase the positions held by local community members. Presenters included a meteorologist, scuba diving instructor, mechanic and attorney.

In one classroom, students listened intently as two Connecticut State Police troopers provided an overview of their duties. Josh Wedge and Miranda Coretto of Troop B in North Canaan discussed the types of incidents they respond to, including car crashes, crimes and emergency calls. The troopers said they are also asked to cover large events, such as fairs and games. They told students police are dispatched through two radios — one in their vehicles and the other a portable radio they carry.

Wedge talked about specialty units within the State

Cannabis dispensary developers seek to build grocery store, ice cream shop at historic weigh station property

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The developers behind the recently-approved cannabis dispensary on South Main Street plan to further develop the property with a grocery store and an ice cream shop.

Architect Kristina Dousharm appeared before the Planning Board on Wednesday, April 8, with plans to demolish three buildings at 7723 South Main St. and construct an 8,989-square-foot grocery store. An existing structure will be renovated for the planned ice cream shop.

Christopher Gumprecht — who owns the property under the name C.G. 79 Realestate LLC — and business partners Bryan Seiler and Benjamin Abrahams received approval for the cannabis dispensary in December 2025. That business will occupy a historic weigh station building on the property, which is separate from the proposed grocery store and ice cream shop.

The architects did not know exactly which company would operate a grocery business in the store, but did say the property owner was actively negotiating with prospective tenants.

Dousharm first introduced the additional concepts during the dispensary approval process, noting at the time that details were still preliminary but sufficient to meet environmental review requirements.

At Wednesday's meeting, Dousharm argued that the prior environmental approval should still apply, saying the current proposal largely aligns with earlier plans.

Planning Board attorney Warren Replansky, however, pushed back, saying the board had clearly anticipated further environmental review once detailed plans were submitted.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Engineer Zak Hall, left, and architect Kristina Dousharm of Kristina Dousharm Architects present plans to build a new grocery store at the Planning Board on Wednesday, April 8.

Replansky cited the board's Dec. 17, 2025, resolution, which stated that plans for the additional uses were not developed enough at the time to allow for "meaningful environmental review."

The resolution also referenced guidance from Dutchess County Planning & Development that review could be deferred until the plans are "fully developed," and acknowledged that the Planning Board has jurisdiction to "conduct an additional" review.

"I don't know how it can be any more clear than that," Replansky said.

The exchange became tense, with back-and-forth between Replansky and Dousharm with occasional interjections from Planning Board Chair Michael Stabile, zoning enforcement officer Ed Casazza and town engineer George Schmidt.

Dousharm asserted that additional review under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act was unnecessary — a claim that Schmidt and Stabile appeared to support — because the described plans largely align with the preliminary details

provided last year.

Replansky responded by pointing out that the preliminary details described renovating an existing building for the grocery store. He said the demolition and subsequent

construction of a brand new building constituted a significant change.

"The Planning Board has a duty to conduct a SEQR review," Replansky said. "The fact that you don't agree that it's necessary is irrelevant."

Stabile recalled the board telling the applicants to return for "technical review" once plans for the grocery store and ice cream shop were developed. Schmidt said the board can use technical review to determine whether differences from early plan details require further environmental review.

Dousharm said she would compile a list of differences between the current proposal and earlier plans to assist the board in making that determination.

The applicants must now seek a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals to exceed lot area coverage limits before returning to the Planning Board for further review.

Worship Services	
Week of April 19, 2026	
<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>	<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 a.m., in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>	<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd & 4th Sunday "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>
<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>	<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 5:00 P.M. 518-789-3138</p>

THE MILLERTON NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE A5

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

Are electric cars actually better for the environment?

The short answer is yes for urban areas. The longer answer – for the planet – no, not currently. Here's why:

1. Oil fired powerplants generate electricity by burning fossil fuels in the form of oil. These are called thermal utility-scale oil-fired plants. They extract energy from the oil. The percentage of energy they extract run only 30% - 40% of the energy the fuel is capable of, so-called "contains."

2. Gas fired powerplants generate electricity by burning gaseous forms of fossil fuels – mostly "natural gas" piped up from the ground reserves. These are called Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) systems. They extract energy from the gas using gas turbines. The percentage of energy they extract run only 33% - 60% of the energy the fuel is capable of -- depending on whether the newer plants have Heat Recovery Steam Generators added where they approach 60% efficiency.

3. Coal fired powerplants generate electricity by burning fossil fuels in the form of hard coal. The percentage of energy they extract runs only 30% - 45% - the 45% plants are ultra modern plants of which there are very few.

4. The USA overall average electricity production by powerplants using fossil fuels is an approximate fuel efficiency rating of 42%.

5. Atomic power plants, solar farms, and wind generation are hugely expensive to install and legislate but operate at between 85% and 92% efficiency based on input running costs. That does not include environmental post use or recycling costs for spend radioactive fuel rods which have a half-life of tens of thousands of years.

Putting aside the discussion of transportation (oil, coal, gas moving from mine or well to a powerplant), infrastructure (drilling, mining, pipelines), and never least the financing of refineries and powerplants by Wall Street, the comparison of efficiency for automobiles using either electric or gas/diesel modes, all rely on the overall efficiency of the energy consumption needed per mile. And energy consumption must take into account the efficiency of the engines using the fuel.

Now, it has to be said that electric cars cause less pollution, while running, than diesel or gasoline cars. That is why they are better for urban environments, just as catalytic

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

converters were essential to stop smog related illness in tight urban environments. However, not causing as much pollution in situ does not take into account their consumption of fossil fuels in the production of that electricity and that resultant pollution globally. At best, therefore, electric cars are operating at 42% fuel efficiency and must face fair comparison to the most modern car engines in order to secure the label of "friendly to the environment."

Mercedes Benz has a test program, as do several other manufacturers and engineering firms. It is called Formula 1 racing. MB produced a car engine that is so efficient it has an output of 50% of the fuel's potential energy. Coupled with regenerative braking (hit the brakes and you are engaging a generator instead of disc brake coupled with inboard batteries to produce a hybrid system for more efficiency), overall most Formula 1 racing cars average between 60% - 72% efficiency overall depending on track conditions.

When you compare that new fossil fuel engine efficiency of 60%+ to electric cars using current electricity generation averaging 42% efficiency for the same amount of fossil fuels, electric cars have not, yet, reached parity or added benefit for the environment.

Of course, generation of electricity is an investment nightmare but with huge rewards for the whole planet. Electricity is easier to transport to where it is needed than fossil fuels. If you can build a more efficient powerplant, like the nuclear fusion reactors under development that produce no waste, then indeed electric power for cars and all means of transportation is the wiser choice longer term.

But, for the moment, when you see your neighbor's car burning gasoline or diesel, and you drive an electric car, understand the choices you are making for your local pollution are worthwhile, but overall you may actually be polluting more. The hope is that soon electricity may be generated more efficiently to make your electric car actually environmentally friendly.

Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenia Union, New York, now lives in Gila, New Mexico.



"I don't know why I do this to myself."

Clothing distribution, poultry theft, fire destroys 80 acres

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

April 18, 1935 \$346.40 Worth Of Clothing Distributed By Red Cross

Clothing distributed to needy families during the past winter by the Town of North East branch of the American Red Cross amounted to \$346.40 in value, it was disclosed at a recent meeting when reports were heard on the work accomplished up to the first of April. Eighty-eight garments were made by members of the local branch, representing 174 hours of work.

Authorities Smash Poultry Theft Ring

[Sic] poultry-theft ring which has been operating in the central part of Dutchess County and even as far east as Amenia and Dover Plains was broken last week by Sheriff Hiram C. Carroll's force and State Troopers. Two men were arrested as they were about to deliver a load of thirty-nine chickens and a teletype alarm was sent out for the alleged leader of the gang. Taken in custody were George Corey, 19, of Washington Hollow and Patterson, charged with third degree burglary, and Malcolm Florence Jr., of Washington Hollow, held as a material witness. Three other youths, including two brothers of the Florence boy, were released after making statements to the sheriff's attaches.

John Ferris, 54, is sought as the leader of the ring. The teletype description of him was: five feet, nine inches tall; weight about 200 pounds; bald head; when last seen wore high-top brown boots, riding pants, gray coat and soft gray hat.

Finds Balloon, Gets Free Pair of Glasses

Because he picked up the remains of a toy balloon he found in a pasture lot on his farm, Samuel T. Goodman of Avon, Conn., will find it a little easier to read the small type in his newspaper evenings [sic]. Attached to the remnants of the balloon was the business card of Dr. Harry S. Tripp, optometrist of Millerton and Beacon, stating that the finder would receive a free pair of glasses. The balloon was released by Dr. Tripp at the opening of the Brinckeroff Road, in the southern part of Dutchess County, last spring.

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Millerton News

Although Dr. Tripp had given up hope of ever learning of the balloon's fate, he received a letter with the tag enclosed from Mr. Goodman the other day. The farmer will be fitted with a new pair of glasses at Dr. Tripp's office here.

Farmers May Secure Loans For 1935 Crops

Emergency loans for producing 1935 crops and for the purchase or production of feed for livestock are now available to farmers who can qualify under the regulations, according to recent [sic] announcement. In accordance with the Act of Congress authorizing the loans and regulations issued by Governor W. I. Myers of the Farm Credit Administration, loans will be made only to farmers who are unable to obtain elsewhere seed, fertilizers, supplies, feed or the necessary credit to purchase such items. Loans will not be made to applicants who can obtain credit in the amount needed from any other source, including the production credit association.

Any farmer who has the necessary security should apply to the production credit association first. If the association is unable to make him a loan in the amount needed the farmer will receive a statement to that effect and will be considered eligible to apply for a loan from the emergency fund.

The regulations provide that the largest loan to one farmer this year is \$500 and the minimum \$10, but no loan may be made in an amount greater than is actually needed to cover the cash cost of purchasing seed, fertilizers, supplies, feed, etc. Loans will be made for the purpose of growing and harvesting crops, for summer fallowing, for purchasing feed for livestock; but not for the purpose of purchasing livestock or machinery, or for the payment of debts or taxes.

April 15, 1976 Reading Committee Sponsors Lottery

The Reading Committee of Webutuck Central School is sponsoring a lottery in connection with a special collection of mystery stories and books.

The committee is collecting as many mysteries as they can through loan and donations and will make them available to the students in the Junior-Senior High to borrow.

For each book borrowed and returned, the students will place an index card with their name and a short report into a drum. At the end of the month, there will be a drawing and prizes awarded. The more books read will afford a greater chance of winning a prize.

The Reading Committee requests anyone who has mystery books to donate either leave them at the high school or call the school to arrange to have them picked up (leave a message for Mrs. Longstreth or Mrs. Clark). There will also be a place to leave books in the front hall on the night of the Bicentennial Celebration.

Books will be available for student use April 12 - May 11.

Fire Destroys 80 Acres

A grass fire caused by an overturned garbage incinerator devoured 80 acres of grass and woodland in Gallatin on Saturday, April 10.

The fire started on Saturday morning at the home of Gene Case. According to firemen at the scene the incinerator was in poor condition and it apparently disintegrated.

Milan and Ancram Fire Companies attended the fire which raged for most of the day.

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

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

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

April 19, 2001 Gift Shop/Gallery Relocates in Millerton

MILLERTON - Rhinebeck resident Alyssa Knapp has officially opened the doors of her recently relocated gift shop and art gallery, Luminari.

Ms. Knapp has moved her store from Rhinebeck to Millerton, and is now located on Main Street, adjacent to the Mane Street Salon and next to the Millerton Moviehouse.

Offering a wide variety of gift items, from the classical to the whimsical, Luminari also features local artists' creations, such as sculptures, paintings and photographs.

Ms. Knapp described Luminari's offerings as "an eclectic mix." According to Ms. Knapp, the store harbors "hand-made, one-of-a-kind articles, as well as mass-produced gifts." Ms. Knapp believes this variety of merchandise allows for a more flexible price range.

"I try to mix it up, so there is always something for everyone," she said.

Ms. Knapp looks forward to becoming a part of the Millerton community.

"I'm very excited about meeting new people and artists," added Ms. Knapp. She encourages people to make themselves known to her: "I'm not going to know you're there if you don't talk to me, so just come on by."

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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Mission Statement

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

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PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Young Stonecrop

OUR TOWNS

Sharon Hospital performing in key areas since merger, independent report finds

By RUTH EPSTEIN
Special to the Millerton News

SHARON, Conn. – Sharon Hospital is meeting most of the requirements tied to the 2025 merger between Nuvance Health and Northwell Health, but still faces challenges in patient access and workforce stability, according to an independent review.

The findings were presented April 8 during a community forum at the hospital, and were also streamed online.

The review, conducted by consulting firm PYA and re-

quired by the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy, examined whether the hospital is complying with conditions set when Nuvance Health merged with Northwell in May 2025. Funded by the transitional entities, the assessment is required to be conducted semi-annually. Sharon Hospital was one of three Connecticut sites required to host community forums following the merger, along with Danbury/New Milford and Norwalk, both formerly part of the Nuvance network.

David McMillan, presi-

dent of PYA, said data was collected and occasional on-site visits were made to each of the Northwell-Nuvance hospitals.

McMillan reported that, of five sets of evaluation criteria, Sharon Hospital was found to be in full compliance with three: oversight, governance and public accountability; community engagement and local representation; and financial sustainability, investment and quality.

The hospital received partial compliance marks in patient access services, such

as mammograms and colonoscopies, and in workforce stability, or its ability to retain qualified employees.

Additionally, the hospital was found to have inconsistent wait periods for some Medicaid patients across different departments.

For example, McMillan noted, “a difference was seen in neurology between how quickly Medicaid patients received access as compared to others.” He added, “Northwell will work on remedying that.”

While each of these two areas will require a follow-up,

McMillan said they “do not represent substantial non-compliance.”

Michelle Robertson, market president of Nuvance, spoke about the hospital’s strategic plan, highlighting five key pillars: patient experience, people, quality, financial performance and efficiency.

McMillan said the state concluded that some points of the strategic plan were missing from Sharon Hospital.

During his presentation, David Seligman, executive vice president, chief integration officer and market pres-

ident of Northwell, said the aim is to keep the Northwell hospitals local.

“Our intent is to strengthen services,” Seligman said. “We always start by focusing on quality.”

During a question and answer period, Sharon Hospital President and Chief Nursing Executive Christina McCulloch said there are 12 members serving on the local community board, hailing from Connecticut and New York state towns with a wide range of experience in various professions.

LEGAL NOTICES

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

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company Name: Bluestem Fieldworks LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on March 6, 2026 Office Location: Dutchess County, NY. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

04-16-26
04-23-26
04-30-26
05-07-26
05-14-26
05-21-26

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of HAWKSVIEW ADVISORY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 03/02/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, PO Box 431, Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

04-16-26
04-23-26
04-30-26
05-07-26
05-14-26
05-21-26

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Castillo & Sons Landscaping & Masonry LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 3/29/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail any process to THE LLC, 160 Holsapple Rd Lot 49, Dover Plains, NY 12522. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

04-16-26
04-23-26
04-30-26
05-07-26
05-14-26
05-21-26

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation

of Grand View Property Maintenance LLC. Arts.

of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/14/2026. Office location Dutchess County.

SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served.

SSNY shall mail process to the Balance Sheet Inc 1100 Route 295 East

Chatham NY, 12060. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

04-16-26
04-23-26
04-30-26
05-07-26
05-14-26
05-21-26

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

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

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the budget for the 2026-2027 school year, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any resident of the District during business hours, between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., prevailing time, at the Webutuck Elementary School, Eugene Brooks Intermediate School, Webutuck High School and at the District Administrative Office between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, effective April 28, 2026, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays. Copies of the Budget will also be available at the Northeast-Millerton Library and the Amenia Free Library. A report of tax exemptions, showing how much of the total assessed value of the final assessment roll or rolls used in that budgetary process is exempt from taxation, shall be annexed to the budget document.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election of Members of the Board of Education and Vote on the Budget of the qualified voters of the Northeast Central School District, will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at the Webutuck High School gym, 194 Haight Road,

Amenia, New York, between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

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

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

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

C. Proposition II: 2026-2027 Transportation Vehicle Purchase

Shall Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District be authorized to: (1) acquire two (2)

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

D. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting pursuant to the Education Law of the State of New York.

The election and budget vote shall be by machine, early voting or absentee ballot. The hours during which the poll shall be kept open shall be from 12:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 P.M. to cast their ballots.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that petitions for the nomination of candidates for the office

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

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

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that early mail ballots and absentee ballots will be available for this Election and Vote. Applications for early mail and absentee ballots for the School District Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk at the Webutuck High School building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York on school days during school hours, or on the district’s website at www.webutuckschools.org beginning March 1, 2026 but may not be returned to the District clerk any earlier than April 20, 2026,

and must be returned to the District Clerk by May 12, 2026 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, May 18, 2026, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Early mail and absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the Election and Vote, May 19, 2026.

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

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

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

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a

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

Therese M. Trotter
Clerk of the Board
Northeast (Webutuck)
Central School District
194 Haight Road,
P.O. Box 405
Amenia, NY 12501
04-16-26

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY GLOBAL SELF STORAGE

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Pine Plains board tackles propane truck violation, business expansion plans

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Representatives of a vehicle storage facility appeared before the Planning Board seeking clarification after the town issued a violation order for parking propane trucks at a site not approved for that use.

Planning Board members said on Wednesday, April 8, the lot at 2775 Church St., used by Crown Energy employees, was originally approved only for seasonal storage of boats and campers — not commercial propane trucks. Planning Board attorney Warren Replansky explained that the discrepancy is problematic because the board never got the chance to review whether the site was appropriate or safe for propane trucks.

"I don't know what the rules and regulations for these trucks are, but that would have been explored in a site plan and special permit review process," Replansky said.

Planning Board Chair Michael Stabile said board members were led to believe the property would only be used for boats and campers, referencing the November

and December 2022 regular meetings of the board when the site plan was reviewed and conditionally approved.

Replansky also noted that a required driveway maintenance agreement remains outstanding— a condition tied to the 2022 approval because access to the property is via a driveway that crosses a neighboring parcel. He said the board needs to see that New York's Department of Transportation has signed off on the driveway that accesses Church Street.

Stabile told an attorney representing property owners CEEN Properties LLC that they can return to the board with an amended site plan that outlines the intended use for the property. Replansky warned that the board could not issue any more permits while the property remains in violation.

"We want to see the driveway maintenance agreement," Replansky said. "And DOT approval."

Stissing Storage discussion

Steve Hobson outlined plans to expand his Stissing Storage business on Church Street, including the addition

of a small retail space near the road.

Hobson plans to convert 2814 and 2812 Church St. into an extension of the existing storage facility, which currently operates on an adjacent parcel. He is also seeking approval for a small retail store that he intends to rent to local farmers selling fresh produce and other agricultural goods.

Hobson first presented the proposal in January. At that time, he described the retail space as a "farm stand," prompting questions from officials about how that term is defined in the town's zoning code and whether it applies to the project. Since then, the board and Hobson have agreed to classify the structure as a "retail store," a designation that allows broader use, including leasing the space to farmers or other businesses.

Board members identified several missing elements in the application, prompting them to delay setting a public hearing until those items are addressed. Among board members' concerns were the lack of an exterior lighting plan, details on an electric vehicle charging station and

a required stormwater plan.

Re-zoning questions

The board's final discussion Wednesday concerned a proposed wedding and event space at 7685 Route 82.

Angela Somma, who organizes concerts at a barn in Clermont, New York, said she is considering buying the property for use as a general event space with lodging for event guests.

The discussions prompted an exploration of Pine Plains's zoning districts, leading board members and Somma to discover the property crosses over both the Main Street district and the restrictive Hamlet Residential district. That bifurcation complicated Somma's plans for lodging, board members said, citing uncertainty on whether the town's code addressed properties that are divided by multiple districts.

Town code states that regulations for the less restrictive district may extend up to 30 feet into the more restrictive portion of a divided property.

Board members suggested Somma may want to seek re-districting the parcel from the Town Board.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

Webutuck's talents

Webutuck students perform a traditional dance during the Webutuck PTA-sponsored talent show at Webutuck High School on Friday, April 10.



Lois Musgrove performs a rendition of "Love Song" by Sara Bereilles.



Giana Kall, left, performs carol of the bells on piano while Gabriella Artega sings.

Pollinator gardens: a vibrant community of purposeful plants

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Millbrook Garden Club members led a talk on gardens with a purpose beyond beauty in the April installment of the monthly Garden Matters series at the Millbrook Library on Saturday, April 11.

Expert garden designer Andy Durbridge of Wassaic gathered a rapt audience eager to get tips on selecting and nurturing plants attractive to birds and insects who serve as pollinators for area gardens and beyond.

About 25 attended the talk titled "Plant Communities in a Community Garden."

"Gardening with a purpose" was a recurring theme, as Durbridge described how and why a garden is a community of plants, sometimes providing support for one another if well planned.

"Thousands of creatures work as pollinators," Durbridge said, although most only think of birds and insects, the flying pollinators. Bats are major pollinators, as can be crawling insects.

Aim to have a garden that is not a monoculture was Durbridge's advice. Native plants last longer, comfortable in the existing climate.

Done right, such a pollinator-friendly garden can look good, too, and no matter its size, whether grand or manageably tiny, it can contribute well to the Pollinator Pathway program being implemented throughout the region. Such gardens, dotted over the landscape, are beneficial to the passing pollinator, and remembered as a good place to visit.

"Change your gardening habits incrementally,"



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Durbridge said, noting that starting small is fine. "I don't know if I could have a garden without ornamental grasses," he added as a hint.

A proponent of no-till gardening, Durbridge urged gardeners to resist cultivating, and prepare the surface only.

"When you do big disturbances, you are making more work for yourself," Durbridge advised.

He said the right selection of plants will lead to natural

ground cover, reducing a need for mulch.

Next in the monthly series will be "Root to Flower: Honoring the Whole Plant," on Saturday, May 9, beginning at 11 a.m. Presenting the program will be Kristen Essig of Stonewood Farm. The Garden Matters program is sponsored by the Millbrook Garden Club in partnership with Stonewood Farm and the Friends of the Millbrook Library.

A springtime visit to the dormant pollinator garden he designed at the Millbrook Library provided landscape expert Andy Durbridge with the perfect setting to discuss the garden as a community of plants, as part of the Garden Matters monthly talk series..



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ZONING *Continued from Page A1*

residential land use. Kennan said that process may begin soon with the formation of a new Zoning Review Committee, but could not yet provide a clear timeline.

The approved zoning overhaul modernizes regulations that have remained largely unchanged since adoption in the '70s, aligning them with the town's 2019 Comprehensive Plan and current economic and housing needs. The revisions place a strong emphasis on encouraging reinvestment in commercial districts, expanding housing options — including multi-family, mixed-use and affordable housing — and updating standards to reflect modern land uses and technologies.

Town officials have said the goal is to support local businesses, streamline approvals, and provide clearer, more predictable rules while preserving neighborhood character and quality of life.

The code also includes language for a Zoning Enforcement Officer, intended to provide more power for the town in enforcing and regulating land use in the town.

A full version of the adopted zoning code will be available online at townofnortheastny.gov.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

The Town of North East's Boulevard District — a stretch of Route 44 between Millerton and the New York State border — is the town's largest commercial zone. The adopted zoning rewrite will allow mixed-use buildings with residential apartments above ground-floor retail.

The new code put an emphasis on housing options in the town's commercial center, encouraging developers to construct apartments above commercial spaces by allowing larger building footprints and lot coverage.

Since January, board members have revised the draft to allow additional retail uses in the Boulevard West district, which includes parcels from the eastern border of the village along Route 44 to Kelsey Brook, a tributary of Webatuck Creek. The additional retail uses will allow sales of pre-fabricated sheds and playground equipment

after a request from property owner Rob Cooper.

Among the more substantive revisions was the decision to impose an overall size cap on accessory dwelling units. The board voted to limit ADUs to a maximum of 1,200 square feet and specified that they must be accessible from an existing driveway on the property. Board members also discussed adding language to clarify how ownership through an LLC or trust would comply with the requirement that the property owner reside in the principal dwelling.

Other adopted changes to

the code include breaking up long sentences in some definitions to improve clarity. Board members also opted to require new parking lots to construct at least 10% of spaces with electric vehicle-ready equipment for later installation of EV chargers, and to require marked pedestrian infrastructure and lighting in all parking lots.

One proposal — which would have allowed retail businesses and restaurants in the so-called Irondale District, a small commercial area encompassing seven parcels along Route 22 near Winchell Mountain Road and Irondale Road — was withdrawn at the board's March 20 meeting after sharp criticism from the town's Zoning Review Committee, residents and the Village of Millerton's Board of Trustees.

That decision continued to draw debate into the final public hearing Thursday night, with North East resident Rob Cooper submitting a written comment to the board expressing his support of expanded commercial uses in Irondale. Cooper's comment was the sole comment provided at the final public hearing — which the board rejected.

The draft zoning code drew controversy late last year after North East resident Tyler Graham launched a website, savemillerton.org, where he published accusations that the Town Board was attempting to push the zoning changes through without proper oversight or community involvement. Graham represented the harshest rebuke of the proposed changes, contrasting other public comment which was largely sup-

portive of the effort despite criticism of specific items.

Zoning Review Committee Chair Edie Greenwood expressed pride in her committee members in a brief comment following the Thursday night meeting. Bill Kish said he was glad the process had come to an end.

"I'm looking forward to doing the next one, if I get on the committee," Kish said.

Additional reporting from Aly Morrissey.

DEATH CAFE *Continued from Page A1*

Armero said his recent Death Cafe was the first held in Millerton in more than a decade. A series of gatherings took place in 2013 and 2014 at Irving Farm Coffee House on Main Street, with a handful of additional events in nearby Falls Village and Great Barrington in 2019 and 2020. While interest in Death Cafes has grown, offerings remain scarce within 100 miles of Millerton.

Death Cafes aim to get people talking openly about death and dying, Armero said, but are not intended to serve as grief counseling sessions. Participants are encouraged to steer the conversation in whatever direction they feel comfortable — a central tenet of the Death Cafe philosophy, according to the organization's website.

"There's no therapist here telling you what to do," Armero said. "Everyone here is talking from their own experiences and sharing their stories."

Death Cafe allows individuals to host their own events under its name and list them on the organization's website, provided they adhere to its guiding principles. Chief among those are that gatherings have no set agenda, remain confidential and include cake.

Armero said he hopes the conversations will draw a diverse group of participants, and by that measure, the first event in March was a success. He said many attendees are facing an anticipated loss and come seeking to better prepare.

"We had young people, middle-aged people and old people at this meeting," Armero said. "It was pretty cool how we had a little bit of everything."

While Death Cafes are not therapy, Armero said the conversations can benefit people anticipating a loss, those who have recently experienced one and even those who have not. He added that while the concept may seem morbid, the conversations themselves are not.

"It's just regular people who want to know about death," Armero said.

One common topic at Death Cafes is the process of dying, Armero said. What happens to a person under end-of-life care or in hospice is not commonly discussed, he said, leading to increased strife for family members or loved ones watching someone die.

Armero's Death Cafe is sponsored by Tri-Corner F.E.E.D. and East Mountain House, a Salisbury, Connecticut, based end-of-life care provider that offers an alternative to hospice care.

East Mountain House operates under Buddhist-influenced philosophies that emphasize meditation and encourage regularly reflecting on death, Armero said. He added that his own experience with Buddhism and meditation led him to Death Cafes and has helped him process grief in his own life.

Armero's first experience with a significant loss came in 2012 when his son died of suicide at age 19. Armero described that loss as a terrible shock that set him down the path of exploring grief and death and eventually becoming a certified bereavement counsellor and running a suicide bereavement support group online with his wife, Jennie Baird.

Armero and Baird, who live in Sharon, Connecticut, now spend their retirement making chocolate under the name Mudgetown Chocolate in Tri-Corner F.E.E.D.'s kitchen on South Center Street and volunteering with community organizations across New York and Connecticut.

Armero is also registered as a death doula, a term that refers to people who guide terminal patients and older people through the final stages of life just before death. Armero considers death to be one of his passions, after more than a decade of studying grief and counselling people through bereavement.

Armero hopes the Death Cafe can promote an appreciation for death, or at least more comfort with it.

"The more aware you are of death, the less it scares you and the better you can deal with it," Armero said. "Your own and the death of your loved ones."

GAS PRICES *Continued from Page A1*

of regular gas in Connecticut held steady last week at \$4.08, unchanged from the prior week but significantly higher than earlier this year.

In neighboring New York, prices are slightly higher, averaging \$4.12 per gallon as of April 13, according to AAA.

Prices in both states have climbed sharply in recent weeks. In Connecticut, gas is up 56 cents from a month ago and more than \$1 higher than this time last year. Nationally, the average price rose to \$4.12 per gallon, up 49 cents from a month ago.

Connecticut currently ranks 16th in the nation for highest gas prices, while New York prices are largely in line with the national average. The lowest prices are found in Oklahoma and Kansas, where drivers are paying around \$3.44 to \$3.49 per gallon, while California and Hawaii are paying nearly \$6 per gallon.

Legislation

Rising gas prices are impacting more than just individual drivers, with local businesses, schools and municipalities also feeling the strain as they adjust budgets and daily operations to absorb higher costs.

Local legislators in Connecticut and New York have called for relief for individuals at the pump, receiving mixed results. While Gov. Ned Lamont recently dropped hopes of a gas tax holiday in Connecticut, Dutchess County, New York, legislators advanced a resolution to cap the county's sales tax on gasoline and diesel at \$3 per gallon beginning June 1.

"It will be a modest saving, but any amount helps," said Dutchess County Legislator Chris Drago D-19, who supported the resolution initiated by the Democratic Caucus.

Drago described the price increase as "one of many unfortunate results from this needless war in the Middle East," adding that Dutchess County should not get a "windfall of taxes" from the war.

"As we know, it's more and more expensive to live where we live, and it's hitting families hard," Drago said. "Anything we can do to alleviate any financial strain at this time is important."

In Connecticut, lawmakers

have explored similar relief measures, though no gas tax holiday has been approved.

Though there is precedent for a gas holiday in Connecticut, like when the Ukraine war first broke out, it has yet to happen since the Iran conflict began.

State Sen. Stephen Harding, R-30, who is an advocate for the tax holiday, said that the concept could be revisited if prices remain high. "I'm still hopeful," Harding said. "If prices remain high, I think there's a chance it could still happen. People in this state need this type of relief right now."

The state levies a 25-cent-per-gallon tax on regular gasoline.

For some families, pump prices reflect tipping point

For some local residents, rising gas prices are compounding an already difficult cost of living — forcing tough decisions about where to live and how to get to work.

Guy Gnerre and his wife, Kim, are now facing exactly that reality. The couple, both longtime educators, have lived in the Salisbury area for about 25 years. Gnerre has worked as a special education teacher at Salisbury Central School for the past seven years, while his wife has spent 25 years at Hotchkiss. Now, they are preparing to make a significant change to adapt to the rising cost of living in the region.

Gnerre said home ownership in the area has been a dream for his family, but it has remained just out of reach. The couple has rented locally for more than two decades and is now being forced to move nearly 30 miles away to Torrington after receiving notice that their landlord plans to return and renovate the property.

With a daughter in college and the cost of living at an all-time high, the couple worry about what's ahead, including fears of dipping into retirement savings to purchase a home that Gnerre said needs lots of work and is in an unfamiliar city.

"Yes, we are going to get obliterated in terms of gas," Gnerre said, noting that he and his wife plan to carpool after their move. But it's not just fuel prices that are affecting his family. "Gas is part of the checklist," he said, adding, "I wish it was just the fuel."

Schools that rely on diesel say 'Business as usual — for now'

Dutchess County, New York, legislators advanced a resolution to cap the county's sales tax on gasoline and diesel at \$3 per gallon beginning June 1.

With diesel prices outpacing regular fuel prices, schools throughout the region are keeping a close eye on costs for buses, but say they're not ready to make significant changes.

In districts that outsource bus contracts to independent companies, schools typically agree on a diesel rate per gallon at the start of the year. Salisbury Central School, for example, has a contract with All-Star Transportation and prepays for gallons of diesel based on a negotiated price.

"We're set for the year," said Sue Bucceri, administrative assistant to the principal. "We're locked into the price we agreed upon last summer," before diesel prices surged.

The average price for a gallon of diesel currently costs

\$5.92 a gallon in Connecticut, up from \$3.79 a year ago, according to AAA.

Bucceri works on the budgeting process in partnership with Region One's business office, and said SCS is not making significant changes for the 2026-2027 budget based on gas prices.

"We didn't do anything out of the ordinary," Bucceri said. "We made a nominal increase on price-per-gallon," she added. At this time, she said the school is fortunate that it's not being significantly impacted from a budget perspective.

Just across the border in New York, the Webatuck Central School District owns its own fleet of buses and isn't benefiting from a locked-in price model.

"Gas prices do impact us," said Robert Farrier, business administrator for the Webatuck Central School District. However, Farrier said he and his colleagues are not worried about the budget at this time, though they plan to keep an eye on prices.

Farrier said the business office padded the transportation section of their budget during the COVID-19 pandemic, and, to date, they are prepared for unexpected events such as rising fuel costs.

"We're not canceling field trips or anything like that," he said.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MARGE PARKHURST / COTTAGE & COUNTRY PAINTING COMPANY

Marge Parkhurst with a collection of historic nails recovered from wall cavities during restoration work.

Marge Parkhurst, the preservation detective

By Sarah Belzer

After nearly 50 years of painting some of Litchfield County's oldest homes and landmark properties, Marge Parkhurst has developed an eye for the past—reading the clues left behind in stenciled vines, forgotten bottles and newspapers tucked into walls, each revealing a small but vivid piece of Connecticut history.

Parkhurst was stripping wallpaper in a farmhouse in Colebrook — the kind of historic home she has spent decades restoring — when she noticed something odd. Three layers of paper had already come off — each one a different era's idea of decoration — and beneath

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

MUSIC

Wings of Spring performance at the Mahaiwe Theater

By Mike Cobb

On Sunday, April 19, at 4 p.m., Close Encounters With Music (CEWM) presents On the Wings of Song at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington.

The program focuses on Robert Schumann's spellbinding song cycle Dichterliebe ("A Poet's Love"), a setting of sixteen poems by Heinrich Heine that explores love, longing, and the redemptive power of beauty. Featured artists include John Moore, baritone; Adam Golka, pianist; Miranda Cuckson, viola; and Yehuda Hanani, cello.

In a recent interview, Artistic Director Yehuda Hanani said, "Audience members will bask in the glow of Romanticism at its apex with Robert Schumann, Clara Schumann, Felix Mendelssohn and the poet whose verse underlies their music—Heinrich Heine. 'In beautiful May, when the buds sprang, love sprang up in my heart: in beautiful May, when the birds all sang, I told you my desire and longing.'"

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

RADIO

Chion Wolf brings 'Audacious' radio show to Winsted with show-and-tell event

By Jennifer Almquist

The parking lot of The Little Red Barn Brewers in Winsted was full on Wednesday, April 8, as more than 100 people from 43 Connecticut towns — including New Haven and Vernon — arrived carrying personal treasures for a live taping of "Audacious LIVE Show & Tell."

Chion Wolf, host and producer of Connecticut Public's "Audacious," and her crew, led by production manager Maegn Boone, brought the program to the packed brewery for an evening of story-driven conversation and shared keepsakes.

Reflecting on the evening's spirit, Wolf, a four-time Gracie Award winner from the Alliance for Women in Media Foundation, said: "To me, Audacious — and Connecticut Public — are about making space for people to be fully themselves: curious, vulnerable, weird, honest, all of it. 'Show & Tell' feels like that spirit brought to life."

Attendees clutched mementos — sentimental, unusual and sometimes humorous — hoping for a chance to step onto the small stage and share their stories.

Caroline Christensen of Winsted carried a large conch shell and told the audience about nearly losing her fiancé to a storm tide while he struggled to retrieve the shell she wanted.

Gerry Griswold, a wildlife rehabilitator and educator from White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield, brought a Victorian taxidermied pet dog in a glass case.

When Tim Dwyer of Coventry showed a vintage T-shirt featuring "Bill the Cat," Wolf



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Nils Johnson, co-founder and president of The Little Red Barn Brewers in Winsted, hosted Chion Wolf and her Connecticut Public show "Audacious LIVE: Show and Tell," which was broadcast on April 8, drawing a sold-out crowd.

rolled up her pants leg to reveal a matching cartoon tattoo.

Author Christine Ieronimo drove from Plymouth with a photograph of her late grandmother, Florence De Mario, holding her beauty contest trophy as a young woman, along with the original silver cup engraved with "Interstate Rhode Island and Connecticut Beauty Contest, September 28, 1929."

The evening blended humor, nostalgia and vulnerability, with food and drinks provided by Nils Johnson, co-founder of the brewery, which has become a lively gathering place in

Winsted.

Jessica Severin de Martinez, Robyn Doyon-Aitken, Meg Fitzgerald and Vanessa de la Torre were also part of the Connecticut Public team that helped produce the event. Connecticut Public is home to Connecticut Public Radio and Connecticut Public Television.

Lucy Nalpathanchil, vice president for community engagement, said the organization hosts "Audacious LIVE Show & Tell" events around the state to connect with residents and reach new audiences.

"We've hosted them so far in

Winsted, Willimantic, Hartford and Stamford," Nalpathanchil said.

"If your readers have thoughts about where the next one should be held, they can email ideas to events@ctpublic.org," she said.

Wolf summed up the night simply: "We held the space, sure, but those who attended made the magic. People walked in as strangers carrying meaningful objects from their lives, and by the end of the night, the room felt warm, open and deeply connected. That's public radio at its best."

FITNESS

New climbing gym planned for Great Barrington

By Alec Linden

Berkshire Boulders, a rock climbing gym, is set to open in the Berkshires later this year, aiming to do more than fill a gap in indoor recreation — it could help bring climbing further into the region's mainstream.

Its co-founders already have their sights set beyond the roughly 2,000 square feet of climbable wall planned for a site off Route 7, just north of downtown Great Barrington.

"There's an opportunity that I felt was on the table to bring outdoor recreation and these other sports into the public domain," said Nick Friedman, a Sheffield resident behind the project, alongside Dan Yagmin.

Friedman said that while underground communities in the region around more adventurous outdoor sports, such as rock climbing and mountain biking, have long existed, they have often been overlooked compared with more traditional pastimes like hiking.

With the gym, "I feel like we could make a start in formalizing these forms of outdoor recreation," Friedman said. He

described it as a way to create a more tangible connection between the broader community and a climbing scene that has developed quietly for decades.

Berkshire Boulders is the brainchild of Friedman, who began climbing 20 years ago on the gneiss boulders and bluffs that dot the hills around Great Barrington, and Yagmin, a climber with three decades of experience originally from central Connecticut who now lives between Winsted and Colebrook.

Both bring entrepreneurial experience to the project. Friedman co-founded Theory Wellness, a cannabis dispensary in Great Barrington where he now serves as chief strategic officer. Yagmin combined his passion for climbing, training in fine arts and years as a climbing gym route setter to start Decoy Holds, producing nature-inspired climbing grips.

Yagmin is shaping the climbing experience at the new gym at 325 Stockbridge Rd., which

will focus on bouldering, a form of ropeless climbing on walls typically under 15 feet tall, with padded floors for protection. His holds take cues from real rock types, including the granitic gneiss found across the Berkshires and prized by climbers.

Even though the gym is indoors, the connection to the rock outside is central to its mission. Friedman serves on the board of the Western Massachusetts

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INSIDE

SPORTS
Webutuck baseball

REAL ESTATE
North East home prices edge higher on lower volume



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...Marge Parkhurst

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

them, just barely visible under dull, off-white plaster, a pattern emerged.

“At first it just looked like old paint,” said Parkhurst, who has been painting and restoring historic homes in Litchfield County for decades. “Until I realized it was a stencil, a beautiful pattern that repeated.”

She kept going carefully — a wet sponge, hot water, a little fabric softener — peeling back until she could see it clearly. A climbing vine emerged, applied in vertical runs to give the wall the look of wallpaper. Someone had signed it. The signature was faint, tucked above the baseboard in the corner, not fully legible. But the date was clear: 1870.

Parkhurst, owner of Cottage & Country Painting Co., has worked in enough old houses to develop a practiced eye for what they conceal — understanding that layers of paint, paper and plaster in a 19th-century New England home form a kind of compressed archive of the people who lived there.

The stencil bore a strong resemblance to what historians call Moses Eaton-type stenciling — a tradition of itinerant craftsmen who traveled New England in the early 1800s with portable kits of cut-pattern stencils. Their trade flourished because imported wallpaper was expensive. Stenciling offered the same visual effect at a fraction of the cost.

“These stencilers typically worked for a combination of cash, food and lodging,” Parkhurst said. “Their compensation was modest by any standard.” She paused, “He was a tradesman. But the work he left behind — that’s art.”

The vine pattern was dull with age but still legible. One section had survived intact beneath the layers of paper. The homeowners chose not to paint



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARGE PARKHURST / COTTAGE & COUNTRY PAINTING COMPANY

A collection of historic nails recovered during restoration work.

“Walls still surprise me. If you look hard enough, you can find buried treasure.”

MARGE PARKHURST

over it — instead building a wooden frame around it, a small window into 1870.

“Preservation means protecting something to prevent further deterioration,” she said. “Restoration means returning something to a previous state. In that room, we preserved what was there.”

A Station’s Secrets

Not every discovery is decorative. Some are written into the bones of a building.

Parkhurst’s own home in Colebrook is a former railroad outbuilding moved from Canaan in 1920. Scraping the trim revealed it had once been sage green — and beneath that, a warm orange-brown soaked into the wood grain. “Old paint was made more like a stain back in the 1800s,” she said. “It penetrated the wood rather than sitting on top of it — so there’s

never a shine.”

Up in the attic, eye bolts still anchored in the framing mark where cables stabilized the building during its move a century ago.

The most memorable find came by accident. Cutting open a wall under the stairs, she found a clear glass bottle sealed with a glass stopper held by a rusted wire. The label read: Hartmann Brewing Co., Bridgeport, Conn. It took days of careful oiling to free the stopper. Inside: a handwritten list of sandwiches and drinks, a postage stamp still attached. Not treasure. But a treasure just the same.

“I worked for days to get that thing open — and it was just somebody’s lunch order.”

Newspapers stuffed into wall cavities, hand-wrought nails, paint layers thin as stain — over 50 years, Parkhurst has cataloged the details that tell a trained eye when a house was built and by whom. Litchfield County’s architecture is unusually varied: Georgian and Federal-style houses on Litchfield’s Main Street, industrial buildings

along the rivers in Torrington and Winsted. “Each town has its own fingerprint,” she said.

The most consequential mistake she sees is changing a home’s character. “When you paint over stained woodwork, you hide the details. You can’t get them back.” She has talked more than a few owners out of it. Some have listened.

Not long ago, Parkhurst and her grandchildren gathered a few small objects, wrote a letter and tucked it into a wall of her Colebrook home. Someone will find it — a record of people who were once here.

“Walls still surprise me,” she said. “If you look hard enough, you can find buried treasure.”

In a county full of houses whose walls hold untold stories — stenciled by traveling tradesmen, nailed together by farmers, papered over by housewives following the fashions — Marge Parkhurst has spent a lifetime reminding us that history doesn’t only live in museums. Sometimes it’s hiding just behind the wallpaper.

Sarah Belzer is a writer, editor and creative director whose career has crossed journalism, advertising, film and cultural commentary. Managing Editor of The American Rant and founder of Jump Advertising, she has spent three decades shaping narratives for media and national and global brands. Marge Parkhurst is the owner of Cottage & Country Painting Co. She can be reached at marge@cottageandcountryct.com or 860-379-4748.

TRAILS

Wind, tarps and trail wisdom: a day learning how to camp smarter

By Alec Linden

A happy day on the trail all starts with a good night’s sleep the night before. That’s local trekking guide Mat Jobin’s mantra, and he affirms that a good night’s sleep is possible even if it has to be on the trail itself — with the right preparation, that is.

Jobin, of Simsbury, Connecticut, is a 16-year professional guide and the founder and owner of Reach Your Summit, an outdoor experiences company that promotes self-confidence and leadership skills through a variety of excursions and educational workshops in the forests of New England. On Saturday, April 11, Jobin hosted the inaugural Campsite Selection & Skills workshop just off the Falls Village section of the Appalachian Trail.

While preparing for the course, Jobin said that the underlying principle of his workshops is to help make the outdoors more accessible and enjoyable for people by teaching them the skills they need to be prepared. He explained that the point is to make mistakes, “but doing it in a safe environment rather than making all the mistakes I made growing up without having anyone to provide me with guidance and feedback.”

Saturday’s course was all about “how you can get a better night’s sleep” when you overnight on the trail, Jobin told Mike, Karen and Andy, the three attendees whose experience varied from beginner to experienced shelter-setters.

Even though the weather was fair, fast clouds hid the sun overhead and blustery winds tore through the spacious grove surrounding the Limestone Spring shelter site, a hiker’s resource managed by the Appalachian Mountain Club. Jackets were zipped and arms crossed as the group braced against the chill.

Jobin explained that while not the most comfortable conditions to spend a day standing around in the forest, the weather made for a good learning opportunity. If a camper set up a tarp shelter the wrong direction that evening, he said, it would mean a ruined night’s sleep, and subsequently a wrecked next day.

Jobin began with fundamentals, running through the essential figure 8 and clove hitch knots as well as the “bearmuda triangle,” a cheeky term for a campsite tenet that combines Leave No Trace

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

... Wings of Spring

CONTINUED FROM B1

Dichterliebe strips away the distance between singer and listener, capturing the age-old themes of love and betrayal with exquisite sensitivity. Romanticism here is at its most personal and refined.

Heine’s poetry also captivated Felix Mendelssohn, who set several of the poet’s verses to music, including the iconic “On the Wings of Song,” which lends the concert its title. Mendelssohn’s majestic Piano Trio in D minor—one of the towering chamber works of the nineteenth century—completes the program. Radiant, urgent, and expansive, the trio reflects the composer’s unwavering belief in the possibility of a harmonious, enlightened world and the triumph of beauty through music.

“How can you not fall in love with a song cycle about a sorrowful knight that begins with these beguiling sentiments? This is the start of Dichter-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Adam Golka

liebe, or Poet’s Love, Robert Schumann’s musical rendering of Heine’s Lyrical Intermezzo. Alas, like many love stories, it does not end well. Cupids weep and mourn, and the poet packs his love and his suffering into a coffin that will be thrown into the sea—so heavy that twelve giants must carry it. All the various states of Poet’s

Love—a hothouse of responses to flowers, dreams and fairy tales—end in anger, bitterness, resignation and bewilderment. Yet, despite love betrayed, ardent faith in the power of art leads the way to a harmonious and better world. A timely message,” Hanani added.

On the Wings of Song weaves together poetry and music, intimacy and grandeur, offering audiences a rare opportunity to experience Romantic masterpieces in the uniquely close, immersive spirit that defines Close Encounters With Music.

After each performance, audiences are invited to an “Afterglow” reception to meet the artists and mingle with fellow music lovers. Select concerts will also be available online, extending CEWM’s reach to listeners far beyond the Berkshires.

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BOOKS

Grandmother Moon: Wunneanatsu Lamb-Cason book talk in Torrington

By Jennifer Almquist

The story comes full circle when educator, traditional storyteller and author Wunneanatsu Lamb-Cason (Schaghticoke/Ho-Chunk) comes to Litchfield County to read from her new book, *Grandmother Moon*, inspired by her grandmother, Indigenous educator Trudie Lamb Richmond, who lived on Schaghticoke land along the Housatonic River in Kent.

On Saturday, April 18, from 2-4 p.m., the Torrington Historical Society at 192 Main St. will host the book talk and sharing of traditional stories.

Lamb-Cason was named 2024 National History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the first Indigenous person to receive the honor, and is now the Assistant Director of Native American and Indigenous Studies at Brown University. She will speak about the importance of oral tradition for Indigenous communities and of her efforts to write down the stories.

Lamb-Cason shared her story with the publication:

“The Northwest Corner is not just where my grandmother lived; it is our ancestral homelands. Our reservation was established near Kent in 1736. My grandmother grew up in Newtown and spent her childhood returning to Schaghticoke, visiting family and learning from her grandparents. In the early 1980s, she built



PHOTO PROVIDED

Wunneanatsu Lamb-Cason (Schaghticoke/Ho-Chunk), an educator, traditional storyteller and author, will read from her new book *Grandmother Moon*, inspired by her grandmother, Indigenous educator Trudie Lamb Richmond, who lived on Schaghticoke land along the Housatonic River in Kent.

her home on the reservation with my grandfather, and that is where I spent so much of my own childhood—learning with and from the land and waters that have sustained our people since time immemorial.

“As a historian, storyteller and educator, every moment with her was a teachable moment ... and as her eldest grandchild, she felt a

strong responsibility to impart as much as she could to me ...

“A brief trek in the snow became ‘Wunneanatsu, what animal print do you think that is? Yes, you’re right, that’s Rabbit. That reminds me of a story about how rabbit got such long ears.’ ...

“Wunneanatsu, do you hear the birds singing? That one sounds like blue jay. Let

me tell you a story about how the birds got their songs.’

“My grandmother and those teachings guide everything I do; as an author, a storyteller, a relative and teacher; they inform my pedagogy and instructional style but also how I view and navigate the world. Grandmother Moon became an opportunity to honor her and her legacy of centering Indigenous ways of knowing in western academia and educational landscape. It was a way to carry her teachings forward for my children and future generations. It is, at its heart, a love letter to the woman who gave me so much. Essentially, my grandmother is and always will be everything I want to be when I grow up.”

Copies of “Grandmother Moon” will be available and the author will sign books. Native baskets from the collection of the Torrington Historical Society will be on display during the event.

Please register to reserve a spot: torringtonhistoricalsociety.org

... camping

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Mat Jobin teaches the group how to use a permanent platform to rig a tent. The privy and lean-to of the Appalachian Mountain Club’s Limestone Spring Shelter are visible in the background.

sensibilities with wildlife safety.

The sleeping area should be positioned 200 feet from the cooking and food area, which should then be 200 feet from the bathroom site, forming a rough triangle. The whole system should be set back at least 200 feet from the nearest water source for minimal disturbance to the ecosystem, Jobin said.

He then instructed the group to account for weather and topography when choosing a site. On a cool, windy day like Saturday, use the landscape for shelter, he said, while during hot and buggy weather, campers may want to find a spot with more exposure. “Use nature to the best of your ability to provide comfort and safety,” he said.

Jobin then demonstrated several ways to use a simple tarp for a quick shelter on the trail, his preferred method given its versatility and that it offers a “deeper connection to the surroundings.”

While he hitched the tarp with some cordage to a system made of trekking poles and trees, the wind whipped through the site. “I’m going under this tarp when you’re done!” Karen announced over the sound of flapping plastic.

Once it was completed, she kept her word and huddled inside. “It works!” she

announced.

For the remainder of the four-hour session, Jobin gave tips on how to set up a tent on a wooden platform, the reason he had chosen the Limestone Spring site for the course. He also taught the group how to rig a hammock system using trees and safe food storage using bear bags and bear boxes.

He urged the group to practice their shelter setups in a variety of weather conditions and locations as often as possible before debuting a system miles from the trailhead. Backyards and local parks, where allowed, are great options, he said.

“My whole thing is helping people feel more prepared and comfortable when they’re heading out, and not having to learn from really bad situations or mistakes when they’re out there for the first time,” Jobin said.

Saturday’s class was the first of its kind for Jobin, though he said he expects to run other similar campsites selection and safety workshops in the future. It’s just one of many experiences Reach Your Summit offers, which range from hiking essentials courses to 5-day backpacking adventures. A complete list of the company’s offerings can be found on its website, www.reachyoursummit.net.

ART

Photographer David Ricci’s New Book at Five Points Art Center

By D.H. Callahan

David Ricci will bring his exploration of American materialism to the Five Points Arts Center in Torrington on Saturday, April 18, at 2 p.m., where he will discuss his new book, *Hunter Gatherer*.

Ricci is fascinated by America’s obsession with objects. In *Hunter Gatherer*, he examines a distinct strain of materialism—one rooted not in the new, but in the items that endure.

When people talk about materialism, the focus often falls on the latest smartphones, gaming systems, designer bags or plush furniture. Ricci, however, turns his attention to objects that cycle in and out of people’s homes through flea markets, antique stores and curio shops.

The book features a selection of photographs from the thousands Ricci has taken while visiting more than 200 such venues across the United States. His work adopts an anthropological lens, exploring the meanings culture



PHOTO BY DAVID RICCI - HUNTER/GATHERER

“Everything Everywhere All At Once,” a photo from David Ricci’s book *Hunter Gatherer*.

and society assign to these objects as they are bought, sold and recirculated over time.

Why are these items

considered worthy of another life? What do they reveal about Americans’ relationships with racism, misogyny and social norms?

Ricci argues that the chaotic marketplace of second-hand consumerism reflects a distinctly American mindset: “I own, therefore I am.”

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North East home prices edge higher on lower volume

By **CHRISTINE BATES**
Special to the Millerton News

MILLERTON — The 12-month trailing median price for a residential property in the Town of North East was \$415,000 for the period ending Feb. 28, 2026, representing a 7% jump from last year.

That figure includes all types of residences — from single-family homes and mobile homes to large estates — in both the Village of Millerton and the Town of North East, but excludes land and commercial sales. The median price for a home in the village alone was \$388,000.

The townwide median was 7% higher than the \$387,000 recorded for the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2025, but both figures were below the 2023-24 median of \$565,000. In contrast, village home prices steadily increased over the last three years from \$320,000 in 2024 to \$385,000 in 2025 to \$388,000 as renovated homes came on the market.

The number of residential sales in North East, measured on a 12-month rolling basis, remains within its three-year range of 25 to 35 annually, including the village. A total of



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Located in the historic hamlet of Irondale built around the Millerton Iron Company, 21 Irondale Road dates from 1870 and was remodeled in 2020. The three-bedroom home sold for \$255,000.

26 residences were sold in the 12 months ending on Feb. 28, 2026, down from the 32 sales in the period ending Feb. 28, 2025, and 31 sales for the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2024. As village prices rose, the number of sales declined from nine in 2024 and 11 in 2025 to seven in the last 12 months, roughly one in three sales in the town.

Inventory of all homes remains limited. As of early April, there were nine single-family homes on the market townwide. Three were listed above \$1 million, with only one listed below the current median price of \$415,000. In contrast, 10 parcels of land are listed for

sale on the MLS, with listing prices ranging from \$129,000 for a building lot to \$3,000,000.

February transfers

21 Irondale Road — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home on .44 acres sold to Victor Manual Molano for \$255,000.

278 Sawchuck Road — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home built in 1975 sold to Flor Maria Valle for \$365,000.

5 Homestead Lane — 93.65 acres of vacant land sold to 5 Homestead Farm Lane LLC for \$1.25 million

124 Cooper Road — 14.7 acres of vacant lane sold to Sheri Graham Trustee for \$240,000.

** Town of North East and Village of Millerton property transfers for February 2026 are sourced from Dutchess County Real Property Office monthly reports. Property details are from Dutchess Parcel Access. Annual sales data is extracted from New York State Sales Web. Current market data is from OneKey MLS. Twelve-month median values and sales activity are from New York State Sales Web and include all residential property types, including single-family homes, multi-family properties, estates and mobile homes. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor 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 April 5 to April 11.

April 6 — Deputies responded to Hillside Village Road in the Town of Pine Plains to investigate a report of a verbal domestic dispute between a mother and daughter. Matter resolved without further police intervention.

April 10 — Deputies responded to 6 Sharon Station Road in Amenia to investigate a vehicle fire. Fire extinguished by members of the Amenia Fire Department.

April 11 — Deputies responded to South Quaker Hill Road in the Town of Pawling to investigate a fraud complaint of unauthorized charges to an AT&T account.

Investigation on-going.

April 11 — Deputies responded to World Gym in the Town of Pawling for the report of a stolen cell phone. Investigation on-going.

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.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Batter up

Webutuck catcher Jayden Avery, center, snags a pitch during an early season game at Stissing Mountain High School in Pine Plains on Thursday, April 9, that ended in a 4-1 win for the Pine Plains Bombers. Webutuck took an early lead in the game but stolen bases and defensive errors led to Pine Plains runners racking up four runs in the last half of the game.

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