



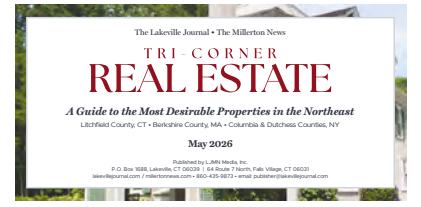
STANFORD
Comics
King A3



MILLERTON
Bulk Trash
Day A7

COMPASS

Artist Alissa DeGregorio; and more B1-4



Special, Inside



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Arunee Pakaraphag, center, reaches for vegetables while prepping a dish on Friday, April 17, in the kitchen at Thai Baan, the restaurant she runs with her husband, Jason Jeffords, located at the Tenmile Distillery in Wassaic. Pakaraphag designs the restaurant's menu, which puts a central focus on homestyle Thai cuisine.

Married duo behind Thai Baan looks forward to second year

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

WASSAIC — Husband-and-wife duo Arunee Pakaraphag and Jason Jeffords described the opening of their restaurant, Thai Baan, as almost coincidental.

Pakaraphag and Jeffords opened the restaurant last year after an

offer from Tenmile Distillery co-owners Joel LeVingia and Eliza Dyson to occupy the distillery's restaurant space for two years. The duo are now celebrating the start of their second summer with a refreshed menu that continues their commitment to homestyle Thai cooking.

While the space marks the cou-

ple's first restaurant venture, both are career veterans of the hospitality industry who bonded over their shared passion for food and drink.

Jeffords managed sales in New York City for the distillery when he met Pakaraphag on Jan. 22, 2023, after connecting on a dating app.

See THAI BAAN, A8

Millerton landlord loses foreclosure case; 7-9 Main St. building to be auctioned

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The future of an apartment building in downtown Millerton is facing more uncertainty after mortgage holders won a foreclosure judgment in Dutchess County Supreme Court last month.

The 100-year-old apartment building at 7-9 Main St., situated between Mad Rose Gallery and the Harney Tea Shop, must now be sold at a foreclosure auction by the end

of June after a court order handed down on March 27.

The court order finds that GVK-GNE Inc., a business operated by Chris Rrapi of Monroe, New York, defaulted on a loan of more than \$400,000 in 2023. Lending firm Toorak Capital Partners, which took control of the mortgage from the original lender FM Home Loans LLC in 2021, filed for foreclosure in December 2023.

March's foreclosure order comes on the heels of a furnace malfunction in January that forced

tenants out of their homes. The building has remained vacant ever since, with the exterior doors still bearing signs warning people to stay out of the building by order of the village's building inspector.

Now the empty building will be sold as-is at auction, though the date has yet to be determined.

Rrapi purchased the building in 2021, after the prior owner, Charles Lilley, died. The building was configured with 12 units, but

See 7-9 MAIN ST., A8

Pine Plains Rescue Squad member refutes county response time data

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — A local EMS official is challenging Dutchess County's emergency response data, arguing it undercounts volunteer responders who arrive on scene without ambulances.

Pine Plains Rescue Squad 2nd Lt. Nelson Zayas raised concerns during public comment at the Town Board's regular meeting on Thursday, April 16, presenting local response time figures he said more accurately reflect the squad's performance.

Zayas said county data on response times and non-response

rates does not account for situations in which volunteer EMTs respond directly to a scene in their personal vehicles and begin providing care before an ambulance arrives — or instead of one.

"We have everything we need in our cars," Zayas said, explaining that volunteers will sometimes go straight to the scene to avoid delays associated with first stopping at the firehouse to pick up an ambulance.

His comments follow recent reports on 2025 EMS response times and non-response rates across Dutchess County. According to county data, the Pine Plains

See EMS, A8



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Left to right: Graham Corrigan, Allen Deeds, Aly Morrissey and Madi Long celebrate new roles at LJMN Media, the publisher of The Millerton News and The Lakeville Journal.

New faces at Lakeville Journal and Millerton News

LAKEVILLE — LJMN Media, publisher of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, announced a series of new hires and an internal staff change, including a newly created audience engagement editor position.

Madi Long, a native of North Canaan, joins LJMN in a newly created role of audience engagement editor, where she will focus on growing and engaging with local communities through social

media and other platforms. A December 2025 graduate of The New School in New York City, Long earned a B.A. in screen studies with a minor in culture and media. She attended North Canaan Elementary School and Housatonic Valley Regional High School, where she developed an interest in the arts, particularly videography and photography. Professionally, Long

See NEW FACES, A8



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Regional.....	A2	Our Towns.....	A6-7
Our Towns.....	A3-4	Compass.....	B1-4
Obits.....	A4	Our Towns.....	B5
Opinion.....	A5	Classifieds.....	B5
Legals.....	A6	Specialist Directory.....	B6

OPINION
Letters,
Cartoon A5



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REGIONAL



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Construction crews from Scape Tech Landscape Technology removed existing stone pavers to prepare for upgrades to Veterans Park on Tuesday, April 21, in Millerton. Planned upgrades to the park include new stone pavers, improved lighting, asphalt work and the replacement of damaged furniture.

Veterans Park upgrades begin

By NATHAN MILLER
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MILLERTON — Veterans Park's long-awaited facelift began this week.

Construction crews from Scape Tech Landscape Technology were at the park on Tuesday morning, April 21, completing demolition work as part of preparations for upgrades that will include new landscaping and repairs.

Construction crew members on scene said the work should be completed within two to three weeks. Village officials indicated they expect the project to be complete by Memorial Day in May.

Trustees finalized the years-long process for Veterans Park improvements in February, voting unanimously to award the contract to Scape Tech Landscape Technology for \$240,548 in March. The board agreed to include repairs to the park's existing stone walls as part of the job, while dropping other add-ons such as a stone veneer planter.

The renovations will include replacing the existing brick pavers, restoration to

asphalt paving, additional lighting at the park and hardwood mulching. The project also includes a sidewalk extension along Route 44 in front of the NorthEast-Millerton Library and NBT Bank.

Trees and vegetation will remain in place, as will the stone wall. The park's asphalt paving, brick pavers and any broken furniture will be removed and replaced.

Board members said repairing the walls — which Trustee David Sherman said were built in the 1950s — would help prevent more costly repairs later. With the project supported by a \$150,000 Dutchess County Community Development Block Grant, the village will cover the remaining roughly \$98,500 from unappropriated fund balance rather than take on additional debt. Mayor Jenn Najdek said the village has more than \$400,000 in the fund balance and would still have close to \$350,000 remaining after the expenditure.

Additional reporting contributed by Aly Morrissey.

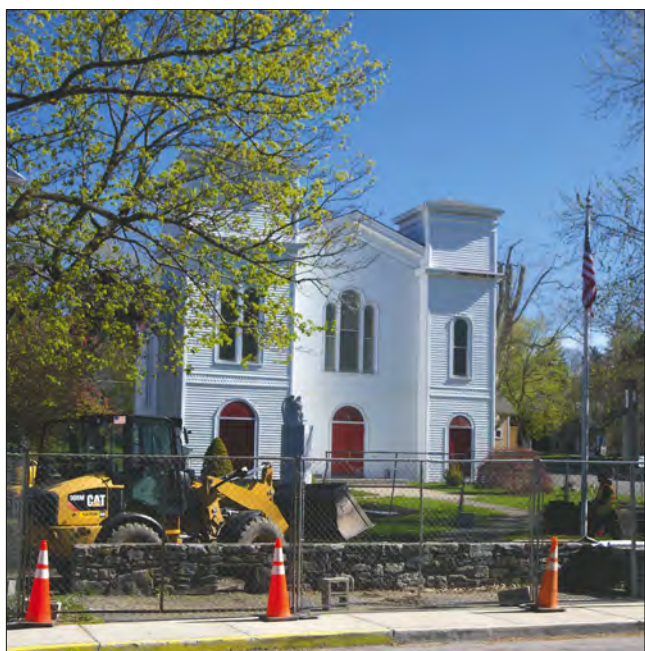


PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Construction crews work at preparing Veterans Park in downtown Millerton on Tuesday, April 21. Scape Tech Landscape Technology won the bid for proposed upgrades to the park, with a projected total cost of \$240,548 to be paid in part with grant funding and unappropriated village funds.

OBITUARIES

Nora Eileen Grey

SALISBURY — Nora "Eileen" Grey, 91, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2026, at Noble Horizons in Salisbury.

Born in Ireland on Aug. 15, 1934, in a farmhouse in Tourmakeady, County Mayo, 16-year-old Eileen and Keane bravely moved to the United States in the early 1950s, according to daughter Bernadette Grey of Sharon. She settled into a Brooklyn brownstone with her aunt, uncle, and 7 boisterous cousins, all of whom treated her like another one of the brood.

Nora married in her 20s, raising her family in Queens and then Suffolk County. She

got her driver's license in her mid-30s and blossomed in a later-in-life career as a teacher's aide for intellectually disabled students at West Suffolk BOCES.



A beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and aunt, Nora is survived by her daughters, Bernadette (Bob Schwartz) of Sharon, and Barbara Grey of Carmel, New York; her granddaughter, Lili Gehorsam (Adnan Husain) of Seattle; and her grandson, Luke Gehorsam (Becca Endicott) of Chatham, New York. She was also the cherished "GiGi" to her great-grandchildren, Susannah and

Raphael, the lights of her life.

Nora was predeceased by her son, Brian, as well as all of her siblings, sisters Bridget, Peggy, Kathleen, Sr. Mary Agatha, Nancy, and brothers, Michael and Patrick. Nora enjoyed many trips "home" to Ireland over the years to visit her siblings, nieces, and nephews. Many of them made the journey to visit her in the States as well.

Nora spent her final four years living at the Payn Home, a not-for-profit independent retirement residence in Chatham, NY. She thrived in the warm, social, family-like atmosphere, especially enjoying the proximity to Luke, Becca, and her great-grandchildren.

A Carrom player, Nora spent countless hours at the

board with her best friend, Joyce. They also enjoyed playing dominoes and bingo with the other residents. While deeply feeling the loss of Joyce this past summer, Nora continued to be surrounded by love. She looked forward to regular phone conversations with her cousin Peggy Flammer of New Jersey until two weeks before her passing.

The family extends their deepest gratitude to the staff at Payn Home—particularly Jessica, Dina, and Mandy—who treated Nora like a cherished family member. We are also profoundly grateful to the nurses, CNAs, and staff at Noble Horizons for the care they provided in her final days.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

William Taylor Mitchell

SALISBURY — William "Billy" Taylor Mitchell died on Feb. 21, 2026, following a four-month fight against complications caused by an automobile accident. Billy will always be a beloved and darling father and husband, and an honest and true friend to hundreds within a wide community he created and held onto in his lifetime. Billy is cherished for his values, devotion, curiosity in others, independent thinking, taste in music, and boomer laugh.



Preceded in death by his parents, Sheila Wells, 1992 and Donald Mitchell, 1996, Billy is survived by his wife of 37 years, Cornelia Jane (née Reeder) and his three children, Haley, Cornelia (Nellie), and William Gilbert (Gib) Mitchell. The middle child between siblings Fritz and Elizabeth Mitchell, Billy has always been a devoted brother through weekly phone calls and visits to their homes in Vermont and Colorado. The entire family will profoundly miss Billy's indelible presence in every part of every day - his joie de vivre, his sense of humor, the twinkling of his eyes, and his genuine, joyous smile.

Billy was born on Dec. 22, 1960 in New York, New York. Every day thereafter was a symphony of phones ringing, skates scraping, ice cubes clinking, music playing, fires blazing, racquets swinging, and oars plunking.

Growing up in Bedford New York, Billy was curious and active. He attended The Harvey School in Katonah, New York from grades seven to nine. He played soccer, hockey, and lacrosse and was granted the Ballard Drama Award in 1976 for his role as Nick Bottom in William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"—a designation he boasted about for decades. He joined the 1979 class of The Choate School in Wallingford, Connecticut,

where he continued to excel in athletics. Billy earned a BS in Economics from Ohio Wesleyan in 1983. At each of these schools Billy was most known for the friends he made and held close for the rest of his life. He amassed a network that stretched far and yet never thinned; a quantity that never compromised quality. His impromptu catch-up phone calls will be missed by many.

In 1984, Billy started as a cold-caller at Smith Barney, which was later acquired by Morgan Stanley. Over his career, he advanced to be a Financial Advisor and Vice President. Throughout his tenure, Billy imbued his personality into his work. His dedication to his clients was steadfast and he counted many of them as close friends.

Billy returned to Bedford in 1992, to the house where he was raised, just beyond the treasured 500-year-old Bedford Oak, with his wife and growing family to call it home forever. He once again played hockey in the rink at The Harvey School, this time as a Bedford Bear. There, and on Aspetong Pond, he taught his children a love of skating.

Billy could not be contained by four walls and a roof; he preferred the open air. He loved to row his Adirondack guide boat up and down the lower lake of Mt. Riga in Salisbury. If there was a breeze, he'd happily rig up the sunfish. He used to tinker with his bright red 1958 MGA convertible for hours just to take it for a spin. He dedicated every vacation and spare weekend to bringing his family skiing, camping, hiking, swimming, biking, and sharing his favorite places and pastimes with his family.

Together he and Cornelia threw countless parties—and pre-parties, and after parties, and impassioned New York Rangers watch parties. The doors of their home were al-

ways open to visitors. Any vehicle that ascended the gravel driveway—USPS drivers, old friends from out of town, or neighbors saying hi—could count on Billy bursting out the door to greet them.

Billy masterfully threw himself into the adventures and duties of Bedford Village Chowder & Marching Club, where he was a 21-year volunteer raising and allocating funds for local youth organizations. No project was beyond his ambition or beneath his humility. In remembrance of his decades of service, Chowder & Marching has established a scholarship in Billy's name which will be granted to a student at Fox Lane High School.

With a signature fondness and reliability, Billy served on the Board of the Pound Ridge Tennis Club, preparing and maintaining the integrity of the 7 har-tru tennis courts. Much of the club's bucolic grounds are thanks to Billy's care and love of the club. Billy and CJ enjoyed countless hours of tennis and platform tennis as partners, opponents,

and with many dear friends.

In the months that followed the devastating car accident, Billy fought ferociously against his injuries. During that period he was surrounded by his beloved wife, children, siblings, and many devoted friends. We are all so grateful to the nurses, doctors, health-care professionals, and hospital staff who aided him in his battle and held us in the hardest moments. Their consistent care and Billy's stubborn tenacity afforded us more precious time with him. All the love and joy that he put into the world came back around and he spent his final months immersed in it.

A celebration of life will be held at The Harvey School on the lower field beside Evarts Rink on Saturday, May 9th, 2026 at 2:00pm. All friends of Billy's are welcome; and anyone who had the pleasure of meeting him knew quickly that they were a friend.

Any donations can be made to the Bedford Village Chowder & Marching Club to support the Billy Mitchell Scholarship Fund.

For more obituaries, see page A4

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PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Open mic

Singer-songwriter and guitarist Jeff Fishwick of Hyde Park performs during an open mic night at the Millbrook Library on Wednesday, April 15. The library hosts open mic events typically on a quarterly basis, Assistant Director Jen McCreery said.

Meet 'The Comics King'

POW! Comic books take over Stanford's Methodist Church

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

STANFORD — Collector Will Damante calls himself "The Comics King."

The nickname dates back to eBay: after a dissatisfied customer review-bombed his original account, Damante started a new one, choosing the royal moniker "out of sheer pettiness."

Standing in his Stanfordville warehouse, though, the title feels fitting. A kingdom of comics reaching 10 feet high, their meticulously labeled contents stretching up towards the cathedral ceiling.

They fill what was once the nave of a Methodist church — Damante bought the building in 2022, when his collection of comics grew beyond the capacity of its previous home. Originally from Staten Island, he moved to Poughkeepsie

with his fiancé in 2015.

"There are about a quarter million books in here," Damante said, gesturing to the cases and crates that fill the space. "And then you have the graphic novels, and vintage toys. I've been purchasing collections from people around the country, and now it's time to put it all in order."

The former Bangall Methodist church, originally built in 1843, closed its doors in 2021. The building's historic origins are still on full display, from the 20-foot cathedral ceilings — complete with a belfry tower — to its vestibule.

The stained glass windows remain, too. But these days, they shine on different idols: Superheroes dominate this space now, waiting in tall stacks to be catalogued. Thin plastic sleeves and backing boards keep things neat. Now the comics are ready to travel with Damante to comic book conventions around the country. He also sells directly from his website, but a retail operation is not part of his plans.

"Occasionally I'll do a garage sale type of thing, or have tables outside and do a barbecue," he said. "I never intended to have a physical store, and the town stated that this could only be a living space."

The rearrangement comes as comics are experiencing a prolonged cultural renaissance. Film and TV franchises, like Marvel's "Avengers" and DC's "Batman" movies, have made old heroes new again — and billions of dollars for movie studios. The challenge is getting younger fanbases to pick up the source material.

"The comic book market brings in about a billion dollars a year in sales," Damante said. "Our goal is to get younger people reading.



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Will Damante shows off a few of his comic books in the former Methodist Church in Stanford that he recently purchased to store his collection.

When you go to conventions, it's usually guys in their 40s or older."

But recently, there's been reason to hope. Two recent comic book series — "Absolute DC" and "Ultimate Marvel" — imagined classic heroes in alternate universes, where they could "start from scratch," Damante said. "They brought in a lot of new readers, especially younger people."

The renewed popularity comes with its own caveats. Collectors, including Damante, have to balance their passion for the books with economic interests.

"I think the speculation market and the movie media has driven a kind of 'flipper' mentality," he said. "Say there's a trailer for a Spider-Man movie that comes out, and certain characters are teased in the movie. The next day, that book that was \$10 is now going for \$100."

The most popular characters, like Superman, Batman, and X-Men, are more resistant to these market forces.

Superhero fatigue, in Da-

damante's eyes, is not a pressing concern. "If it's good and resonates with the broader public, it'll be successful," he said. "Something I've noticed in the market lately is that DC's on the come up, where they've kind of been second tier for quite some time."

With another summer of superhero movies around the corner — "Supergirl" and "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" arrive this summer — Damante is hoping to build out his local community of aficionados.

"The closest comic shop would be in Hyde Park, or Kirwan's in Kingston," he said. "Most of my business comes from TikTok, Instagram, or comic book groups on Facebook."

Still, local connections remain elusive. "If people have stuff that they want to sell, I'm your guy, whether it's comics, toys, video games, collectibles," Damante said. "This is how I live. I have no backup plan, so I want to do it right."

To contact Damante or browse his collection, visit www.thecomicsking.com

Pine Plains Town Council pushes to fix zoning 'mistake'

By NATHAN MILLER
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PINE PLAINS — Town Board members sought to fast-track a zoning district amendment after the former Lia's Restaurant site on Route 82 was discovered to straddle two districts.

Eric Mortenson appeared at the Thursday, April 16, on behalf of Angela Somma, who is considering purchasing the former restaurant property to develop an event space with cottages for short-term lodging.

Somma first described her plans to buy the property at a Planning Board meeting on Wednesday, April 8, which led board members and the applicant to discover the zoning bifurcation.

Town Board members responded positively to the request, and instructed town attorney Warren Replansky to move forward with preparing a local law to start the process.

The request drew a question from Town Supervisor Brian Walsh, who asked why

the property would be split into two zones in the first place, prompting Councilwoman Jeanine Sisco to summarize the conundrum.

"It's a mistake," Sisco said.

The Town of Pine Plains is expected to shoulder the cost of the redistricting. Council members Sisco and Kevin Walsh said they believed the move would be beneficial to the town regardless of who owned the land, echoing comments from Mortenson.

"We wanted to bring it whether it is purchased or not," Mortenson said. "We feel it's good for Pine Plains."

Replansky is expected to begin drafting documents so the Town Board may begin the process as early as its next meeting. The attorney explained the town will need to adopt a local law, conduct a standard environmental review and schedule a public hearing. Walsh expressed hope that the process can be completed quickly.

"We trust that in our best interest you will find a way through this, Warren," Walsh

said. "There's a will."

Water leaks

Pine Plains Water Engineer Ray Jurkowski updated officials on leaks across the town's water system, saying some low-priority leaks are releasing about 15,000 gallons of water per day — roughly equivalent to a small swimming pool.

Jurkowski explained that this winter's bitter cold weather put extra stress on the town's water mains. Extreme temperature changes cause dirt to expand and contract, which can shift and break pipes.

"This has been an old-fashioned winter," Jurkowski said. "We haven't had this problem in about 10 years."

The current water loss of about 15,000 gallons per day is down from previous months after water department employees located and repaired some leaks. Jurkowski said he located two leaks earlier in April, bringing the total so far for the year to five.

"We are moving in the right direction," he said.

Housing Board weighs uses for remaining grant funds

By LEILA HAWKEN
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AMENIA — The Housing Board identified two potential uses for remaining funds from a community health grant at its regular meeting on Monday, April 13.

The town's grant writer, Christy Gast, led the discussion, explaining that the town still has \$12,884 available from a \$13,000 open grant awarded by the Foundation for Community Health.

The funding was originally intended to help purchase property at 74 Lake Amenia Road for what would have been the town's first affordable housing unit, but that plan did not move forward.

The available funding now totals \$12,884, due to the expense of an earlier inspection.

Town Supervisor Rosanna Hamm recently met with foundation representatives to clarify how the funds could be

redirected.

Gast said the grant can now be used for professional development, technical assistance, broader community development efforts or planning related to affordable housing — a continuing need in the town.

A one- to two-page proposal detailing the intended use of the funds must be submitted to the FCH by the end of April, Gast told the board, emphasizing the time constraint. If the deadline is not met, the funding will pass on to the Recreation Commission, Gast noted.

"I know you have a lot of ideas," Gast said, offering to work with the board on the proposal. She said she would

need a clear description of how the funds would be used, along with a timeline and detailed budget.

After much discussion, the board agreed to two proposals that would fit FCH guidelines: to create a manual to define the duties and guidelines for serving as a member of the Housing Board, and to create a handbook clarifying the necessary steps for gaining approval to construct an Accessory Dwelling Unit. The latter is an option that appeals to several local residents, but the regulations seem confusing to them.

The ADU Handbook could be included on the town's webpage for easy access and low cost, Gast suggested.



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OBITUARIES

Pieter A. Van Why

NORFOLK — Pieter A. Van Why of Norfolk, passed away in Greenfield, Massachusetts, on 11 April 2026, at 20:31:47' after a long illness.

Pete was born in April of 1943 to John B. Van Why and Priscilla M. Van Why, in Winthrop, Massachusetts, while his father was stationed on Long Island, in Boston Harbor, during WWII. The family later moved to Winsted, then finally to Norfolk,

Pete grew up during a time of strife in the country, sandwiched between WWII and the Vietnam war. In 1964, as the war raged and young men were being drafted to fight in jungles far from home, Pete had the wisdom to enlist in the Air Force instead of becoming cannon fodder in the army. He would end up working his way up to being Chief Master Sergeant, or an E9, the highest level an enlisted man could attain. Along the way, he garnered such commendations as the Presidential Unit Citation, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and many more. As was typical with Pete, he never once talked about these accomplishments. When I asked him about these, he told me, "I just did what I had to do."

And he would continue to do just that.

After 21-1/2 years in the Air Force, Pete retired in Feb. of 1985 and moved back to Norfolk, where the family had settled in 1959. Pete chose to give himself a demarcation line between the military and civilian life by embarking on a 5-month long through hike of the Appalachian Trail. This initial through hike would be the start of a lifelong love affair with long distance hiking and the AT in particular. It was during this hike when he got his trail name of 'The Cheshire Cat.'

When Pete was forced by illness to give up hiking in 2020, he had logged over 18,000² miles. While many would consider that an incredible number of miles, he still mourned the fact he wasn't able to complete the Pacific Crest trail nor accrue the staggering amounts of miles many of the people he looked up to had done, some topping 45,000 miles.

We used to say we told him to go take a hike one day and he left for five months.

Throughout his life, Pete would remain goal oriented. Upon his retirement from the Air Force and subsequent hike, he enrolled in college for a few years. He would accrue several degrees over those years of schooling, degrees that eventually landed him in his second career, this one with Sieman's Measurement Systems Business (later becoming Pratt & Whitney Measurement Systems) as a Senior Product Specialist. In this role, one he would hold for 25 years, he would travel the world calibrating high tech laser guided machines. Given his penchant for accuracy (we used to tell him, 'Have a precise day!') this role was right in his wheelhouse.

There's so much more we could tell you about his accomplishments, such as pilot, flight instructor, world-wide travels, awards from the military and more, but that isn't talking about the man. And he was a man that a lot of people didn't understand at first.

His energy level was high, and his mind was keen and active, usually running several lengths ahead of whomever he may have been talking to. This at times led to him ending his side of the conversation first because his mind was already on to the next thing.

He never slowed down. But, in 2018 he would receive a diagnosis of Atypical Parkinson's, a condition caused by exposure to hazardous materials, something he was around for over 20 years while in the Air Force.

In 2020, as Covid 19 stilled the world, Pete retired from Pratt & Whitney and embarked on his next chapter. I would end up spending more time with him from 2020 to 2026 than I ever did in the previous decades. And as we worked together, I discovered the man that often moved so quickly most people never truly met him.

As I packed boxes, I found writings of his that were introspective and thoughtful. He had a skill with the written word that extended past his usual footnote laden Christmas letters.³ And as I began to travel to Norfolk every weekend, I found he had slowed down to where he could and would enjoy sitting and having coffee and conversations. And during these conversa-

tions I found a man who had a quiet modesty about him, who was loyal to his friends and family, and who seemed genuinely surprised when I expressed thanks to him for all he had done for both the family and in service.

To Pete, his greatest achievement in life wasn't the accolades or the degrees – it was the hiking he had done and the friends he made along the way. Pete valued those friendships, those connections deeply. The first 1985 through hike (he would go on to complete the Appalachian Trail three more times, in section hikes) would leave a lasting impact on him.

He wrote about what was a pensive time for him as he hiked through 'the longest spring of my life.' As the miles passed beneath his feet he thought about what he had done and what he had to do next. This may have been the first time in his life where he had the ability to slow the world down and focus internally. This time spent on the AT would help shape the rest of his life.

In 2020, he left Norfolk, and eventually ended up in Greenfield, Massachusetts near the home of his sister and brother-in-law. The Parkinson's progressed in an inexorable march, eventually claiming him in the end. Much like his trail-namesake, the Cheshire Cat, he slowly faded away until only the grin was left. He retained his humor to the last, still managing to smile even as he drifted away.

I leave you with some quotes from Pete's work – he wrote a 17-page paper about the Appalachian Trail upon his retirement from hiking the AT in 2016, when the Parkinson's made it impossible to continue.

A few summers ago, I'd just completed a 400-mile multiple-trail hike at the Canadian border, northern terminus of Vermont's Long Trail. The next day – dreary and rainy – as I was road-walking through North Troy towards Newport for the bus ride home, I saw an old woman in an adjacent house watching me pass. For the remainder of the day, I couldn't shake that image. I wondered if she had ever

thought about going end-to-end on the Long Trail or thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail earlier in life and, if so, did she?⁴



Why do this? How to adequately convey a feeling with mere words? I'll make a feeble attempt. Perhaps there's too much materialism in our society and we occasionally need some decompression. What motivates apparently sane people to undertake such a journey? Certainly, couch potatoes need not apply. Make no mistake, it's work, hard work, but to many it's one of the most rewarding, even intoxicating, things we've ever done. But why? During the waning weeks of his life Paul Fink, the last living founder of the ATC, wrote from his convalescent hospital "I sit in this room with never a hope of getting out, with thoughts running through my mind of how delightful it would be to be lying by a trailside under a big balsam tree with no sounds unless it be the twittering of the birds and the rustle of the breeze in the tree branches above."

Much like his closing quote, there's too much to convey about Pete with mere words. He was a kind man who loved animals, a highly intelligent and funny man, a loyal son, brother and friend to many. His passing will leave a hole in many lives.

It's a life well lived when people mourn your absence. Pete was predeceased by his parents John and Priscilla Van Why and his brother-in-law Jack Petersen. He is survived and dearly missed by sister Karen Petersen (Jack) of West Hartford, Connecticut, brother John Van Why (Denise) of Ravena, New York, sister Sue Anne Van Why of Winsted, and Sue's son Jesse Van Why of Connecticut. He is also survived by and deeply missed by sister Stephanie Funk and her husband Edward Funk, of Greenfield, who were honored to be able to be with him throughout the final years of his life. Those last few years spent in his company will be cherished memories forever.

We would like to thank the staff at Charlene Manor Extended Care for their kindness and love toward Pete as his last chapter played out.

home filled with family, was his greatest source of pride and joy.

George is survived by his beloved wife, Catherine, of North Canaan; his son Michael Wheeler and his wife Sheila, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and their daughters Julia and Elizabeth; his son Kevin Wheeler and his wife Amy, of Barnard, Vermont, and their son Liam and daughter Hannah; and his sister, Alice Wheeler, and her husband Bob Thompson, of Milford, New Hampshire.

He was predeceased by his parents, Ralph and Alberta Wheeler; his brother David Wheeler, in 1963; and his sister Sarah Wheeler, in 1978.

Calling hours will be held at Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home on Saturday, May 2, at 4-6 p.m. A celebration of George's life will be held at Housatonic Valley Regional High School on Sunday, May 3, at 2 p.m. and is open to the community.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in George's name to the Housatonic Valley Regional High School FFA Chapter, in care of Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, on 118 Main St. Canaan, CT.

We appreciate it, and I know he did as well. We would also like to thank both Compassus Hospice and Pioneer Valley Hospice for the care they showed to him and us throughout these last four years.

There will be no calling hours or a formal funeral. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Pieter's honor be made to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Info can be found at Appalachian-trail.org. There will be a celebration of life to be held on August 22, 2026, at Norbrook Farm Brewery, 204 Stillman Hill Rd, Colebrook, CT from 1:00 p.m. until evening.⁵

Godspeed, Pete. May the trails always be smooth and

the sun shine upon you forever. We love you.

¹If you ever met Pete, you would completely understand why this was written this way.

²The number of miles hiked is 18,715, not including ancillary mileage ~ Pieter A. Van Why /'Thru-hiking The Appalachian Trail'/ v2016, /P1

³We are going to miss those footnote laden Christmas letters.

⁴Pieter A. Van Why /'Thru-Hiking the Appalachian Trail'/ v2016/ P1

⁵Because this wouldn't be a proper missive about Pete without footnotes. There will be light refreshments served, and of course plenty of beers to toast his memory with. They are a Harvest Host member for those who may want to camp.

Celebration of Life

Jill Scott

Please join us in celebrating the life of Jill Scott, Saturday May 2, at 2:00 p.m. in the Dining Room at Noble Horizons, Salisbury.

For more obituaries, see page A2

 Worship Services Week of April 26, 2026	
Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org	The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627	St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. John Johanson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org
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 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	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
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	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
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	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
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	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
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	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
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	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!
All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 515 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us	
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	

George H. Wheeler

NORTH CANAAN — George H. Wheeler, a long-time educator and beloved member of the North Canaan community, passed away on April 18, 2026, age 80, from Parkinson's Disease.

George was born the son of Ralph and Alberta Wheeler, and grew up on the family dairy farm in Temple, New Hampshire, where the Wheeler family had worked the land for generations. That early life — rooted in the rhythms of agriculture, animals, and hard work — would quietly shape everything that followed. He graduated from Wilton High School in 1964, where he played on the state champion soccer team. After high school, he went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from the University of New Hampshire in 1968, where he also participated in ROTC. He later earned two Master's degrees, in Education and in Animal Science, and in 1985 received a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies from Virginia Tech.

George began his teaching career in Weare, New Hampshire, before joining the Vocational Agriculture Department at Housatonic

Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) in Falls Village.

From 1970 until his retirement, George left an indelible mark on the school, its students, and the wider community he served with such steadfast dedication. He modernized and expanded the agricultural curriculum, championed the development of the Life Skills program, and introduced the Young Farmers program. He would serve as Chair of both the Vocational Agriculture Department and later as Practical Arts Chairman. He was President of the Faculty Association, and, later, a member of the Connecticut State Advisory Board of Agriculture Education.

Among his most cherished roles at Housatonic was his decades-long service as faculty advisor to the local FFA chapter — a commitment he approached not merely as a duty but as a calling. He gave freely of his time outside the classroom, making farm visits and supporting FFA activities. For many years he oversaw

the chapter's beloved annual Christmas Tree stand, a tradition that brought students and community together each holiday season. He was also the proud advisor to the state champion Parliamentary Procedure team, and played a pivotal role in the launch of the school's new vocational center.

Beyond the classroom, George was a pillar of North Canaan civic life. He served as President of the Exchange Club and as a member of the North Canaan Wetlands Commission. His personal passions were many: he was a skilled skier and longtime instructor at Butternut Basin in nearby Great Barrington, Massachusetts, an avid golfer, and a deeply loyal fan of the UConn Women's Basketball team.

But by any measure, the great love of George's life was Catherine Quinn Wheeler — his wife of 58 years and his high school sweetheart. Their life together, built on a foundation of shared history, mutual devotion, and a



THE MILLERTON NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE A5

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

The Bitter and the Sweet

We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard...

John F. Kennedy 1962

Artemis II lifted off April 1, 2026, from a spectator-packed Kennedy Space Center with millions more Americans glued to any visual source with real-time coverage of the first moon travel since 1972 – a 50-year hiatus. Those watching felt the same excitement, comradeship as was experienced with the rise of Neil Armstrong fulfilling Kennedy's challenge – walking on the moon within the decade. Hordes of watching children planned their Astronaut costumes for this fall's Halloween. American ingenuity, innovation, success made the nation beam with pride then and now.

The sweetness of being an American was intense – being connected with most all other Americans – moments of massive achievement and true accomplishment. National sweetness – collaborative pride. Here is a diverse set of highly skilled astronauts: two American men – one white, one black – an American white woman, and a Canadian white male. NASA sent a highly DEI crew on its supreme mission with historic success – to the moon and back. The crew was an exuberant team. Their public comments were heartfelt for their crew, for their nation, for their planet – summed up by astronaut Christina Koch "Earth you are a Crew!"

In Lake Placid, NY, 1980, an Olympics Miracle on Ice was brought home by 20 young American college hockey players defeating the highly professional, non-professional Soviets who had hitherto owned the ice. Another prime instance of Americans – in unity – bolted to any communications device available to follow exquisite, fully-absorbing action. Anyone alive at the time can tell you where they were, what they were doing during this hockey match – regardless if they had ever before or since watched hockey. I was on a plane traveling from Houston to NYC, the Olympic commentators broadcasting on the plane's speaker, every passenger riveted as the US team, surprisingly leading 4-3, in the final seconds of the game shut the Soviets out of a tying goal. Then, the famed "Do you believe in miracles? YES".

American Sweetness – common pleasure – joint delight – extreme pride. We have in decades past enjoyed

OPEN SPACE

Kathy Herald-Marlow

national delight – been bound by our sense of unity, our sense of being together joined for security, for extraordinary innovation, for massive wins, for marvelous accomplishment, for sweet celebration. We've not enough American sweetness in the past few years – rather trumped out with sharp, vigorous conflict, one side versus another, one party, one color despising another. Our previous sweet days/years were WOT – With Out Trump.

Currently a "non-war", a major violent military clash with Iran has brought the nation stark, biting bitterness – the bitterness of soldiers killed, of costs in our nation skyrocketing, the President's blatant screaming of war crime rhetoric, the use of religion in reporting national endeavors, the blasphemy of Trump depicted as Christ posted online in our secular state, the US at war with its faithful allies of 70 years, the negative battle with the Pope over theological matters, Orban throw out with other Hungarian trash.

Bitterness, corruption of Trump & sons raking in billions from cryptocurrency, Middle Eastern real estate deals all driving the net worth of their family from \$2.5 Billion in 2024 to \$10 Billion in 2026. Crime, corruption, lucrative deals with countries, billionaires, corporations are the trademark of Trump – a powerful force set to destroy a nation once lauded not for perfection of behavior but for leadership for liberty, for freedom. The United States, America, our nation unassailed as a pinnacle of performance, of altruism accompanied, of course, with righteous anger for loose bands of ugly Americans stuffed with greed and self-indulgence- taking and taking. The era since 2016 is WT – With Trump – he, Trump, an albatross of atrocities, promoter of hatred and division, role model of what-not-to-be, example supreme of who-to-scrub-his-mouth-out-with-soap.

Lincoln lead our nation, perhaps the most revered of our Presidents, warning the nation: "If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide". We ought listen to Lincoln. We the People, owners of the Constitution, owners of our government must be authors of democracy and decency – all is in our hands.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Spring blooms

Poultry theft ring, crop loans, retail shuffle

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.

Mrs. Yorke Blanchard is president of the township organization and Mrs. C. M. B. Williams is secretary and treasurer. Working with these officers is an executive committee comprised of Mrs. Lees D. Willson, Mrs. Francis E. Wood, and Mrs. Frances Rundall. Mrs. Clayton Loan is chairman of the sewing and production committee and Mrs. Charles Brown is chairman of social service, Miss Kate Griffen cut the goods for the garments, donating her services.

Unless an emergency arises, the production of clothing will be decreased during the summer months, it is understood. The organization is hopeful of bringing out many workers again in the fall.

The annual roll call will take place in November when local Red Cross leaders hope to increase the enrollment in the township. The present membership is 110.

Authorities Smash Poultry Theft Ring
Sheriff's Attaches and State Police Arrest Two-Leader Sought

[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.

The arrests followed an all-night vigil, the authorities stopping Corey along the road with an automobile load of chickens. Ferris, who

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Millerton News

was known to have started out with Corey, escaped. Corey, although at first refusing to talk, finally admitted that Ferris had got out of the car a little ways down the road to lighten the load because of a flat tire. The search for Ferris was extended to places in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

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.

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.

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.

April 19, 2001 Gift Shop/Gallery Relocates in Millerton
MILLERTON - Rhinebeck resident Alyssa Knapp has of-

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ficially 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." Luminari is open Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 10 to 6 and Sundays 11 to 5. It is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

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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

Daffodils

OUR TOWNS



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

Ciara Grey makes contact with a pitch during the Webutuck softball team's home opener on Tuesday, April 14, at Webutuck High School.



Bella Milano, center, throws a pitch during Webutuck softball's home opener against Catskill on Tuesday, April 14, at Webutuck High School.



Webutuck hosts Catskill for 2026 home opener

Ciara Grey throws a ball to home plate to defend against Catskill runners during Webutuck softball's home opener on Tuesday, April 14, at Webutuck High School. The game against Catskill ended with a 20-5 win for the visiting team, with Webutuck putting up modest runs in the latter half of the game.

Millerton library offers free Spanish lessons

By **GRAHAM CORRIGAN**
grahamc@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — A child's ability to absorb language can feel almost like a superpower — and the Millerton Library is leaning into that idea with a new series of free Spanish lessons for young learners.

The program, designed for children ages 5 to 7, will run over the next four Saturdays beginning April 25, led by instructor Isabel Gutiérrez Rendón.

Rendón taught English to children in her home country, Colombia. She began teaching Spanish to children in the U.S. shortly after moving here and working as an au pair.

"It's something I can share with other kids," Rendón said. "If they're interested in learning a new language, I'm happy to do it."

The lessons are aimed at young children, according to Kim Yarnell, an organizer with the library. "At that point, they're old enough to pay attention," said Yarnell with a laugh. "The gift of a

second language is one of the best things you can give your kid."

The curriculum is designed to tackle the basics, for that age. The first lesson will cover greetings and introductions, followed by sessions on numbers, days of the week, and seasons. But it won't be a typical classroom experience. "The kids aren't going to just be sitting and listening to me," she said. "I want them to be up and moving."

They'll tackle Spanish in a variety of ways: music, physical activities, games, and simple conversational practice are all on the docket.

The offer of free lessons comes as the mid-Hudson valley has welcomed larger numbers of Spanish-speaking residents in recent years. Dutchess County's Hispanic population increased from 11% in 2010 to 17% in 2024. "We're building bridges" with new residents, said Yarnell. "It's also reflective of the importance of our local library." The first class is on Saturday, April 25, at the Millerton Library.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

Students drive clothing donation

Millbrook High School Interact Club members store donated clothes they collected for Millbrook-based nonprofit Angels of Light to the organization's office on Front Street near Marona's Market on Thursday, April 16. The Interact Club runs charity drives and collects donations of clothes for local nonprofits.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
Notice of Formation of Shared Goods, 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 Goods, 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

Legal Notice
Notice of Application for Authority of CHRISTINA GAST, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/20/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. LLC formed in Florida. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: CHRISTINA GAST, LLC, 57 Sheffield Rd, Amenia, NY 12501. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

04-23-26
04-30-26
05-07-26
05-14-26
05-21-26
05-28-26

Legal Notice
Notice of Formation of RHINE COMMONS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/24/2026. Office location: Dutchess County, NY. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may

be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 316 Rhinecliff Road, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

04-23-26
04-30-26
05-07-26
05-14-26
05-21-26
05-28-26

TOWN OF PINE PLAINS DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Pine Plains Zoning Board of Appeals on the 28th day of April 2026 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against the area variance application submitted by HTWO Properties, LLC for the premises located at 2812, 2814-2816, and 2818 West Church Street, Pine Plains, NY, Dutchess County, Tax Map ID -#134200-6872-13-173256-000, 134200-6872-13-181251-0000, and 134200-6872-17-185241.

All interested parties will be given the opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed action requesting a proposed storage unit addition to exceed the allowed square footage allowance of 6,000 sq feet total of a nonresidential building in the Hamlet-Main Street District to 9,600 sq feet total. The application is available for review at the Pine Plains Town Hall during regular business hours.

By order of:
Scott Chase,
Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals
04-23-26



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Zhou at Smithfield

Pianist Sophia Zhou sits at the piano at Smithfield Church in Amenia on Saturday, April 18. Zhou, who founded and serves as artistic director of the Millbrook Music Salon, performed a varied repertoire including works by Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin and Debussy.

Realtor® at Large

With May on the horizon, boating season is approaching and it would be good to know the new regulations for owning and operating a boat in Connecticut. CTDEEP has issued this years CT Boaters Guide, which can be viewed at portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Connecticut-Boaters-Guide. All the information can be found there on how to register your boat and where to take the required classes to get your operator's licence. In addition there is detailed info on the state's boat launches to access the various rivers, lakes and ponds throughout Connecticut. Finally, there is an update on aquatic invasive plants that are threatening our waters and how to purchase the requires AIS Stamp. See you out on the water!



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

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

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

EARTH DAY

Local volunteers lead successful Bulk Trash Day in Millerton

Below: North East highway crew member Josh Schultz operates a backhoe to smash and flatten trash and more efficiently fill the garbage containers.



Local volunteers from the Village of Millerton and Town of North East commemorate 2026's Bulk Trash Day with a group photo.

PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER



Volunteers dig through a pile of cardboard at the former town highway garage on North Center Street.



Andrew Stayman, left, and Chris Mayville, center, unload bulky items from the back of an SUV.



Kathleen Spahn, right, checks in residents and handles the money for Bulk Trash Day.



Climate Smart Task Force member Kathy Chow, right, confers with Josh Schultz, a member of the town's highway crew who assisted the volunteers on Bulk Trash Day with heavy machinery.

Residents ask Amenia to issue proclamation for Tree City USA designation

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — As Arbor Day approaches on Friday, April 24, the Town Board heard a request from local gardeners to issue a proclamation that would move the town toward Tree City USA designation from the national Arbor Day Foundation.

Detailing the requirements for the application process, gardening expert Maryanne Snow-Pitts spoke at the regular Town Board meeting on Thursday, April 16. Spearheading the application process is resident and showcase gardener Paul Arcario, who also spoke.

Both asked the Town Board to agree to issue a proclamation in support of becoming a Tree City. Town attorney Ian Lindars advised that the board would need to pass a resolution to move forward with the proclamation, indicating that he would prepare the resolution for action at the next meeting.

To complete the application, Snow-Pitts said the town needs to observe Arbor Day with an event that includes planting a tree on the fourth Friday in April, the nationally recognized date of Arbor Day. The tradition of Arbor Day

began in Nebraska in 1872, where settlers saw a need on the treeless prairie to introduce trees for protection against wind, and as a source for heat and lumber. A million trees were planted soon after.

Other application requirements include the town establishing a tree management policy and a Tree Board to administer the policy while promoting local tree planting. The town would also need to designate \$2 per resident to fund the program, which in

Amenia, with its population of about 3,500, would total around \$7,000. However, Snow-Pitts noted that the value of volunteer hours can offset some of that total.

The Tree City USA program is a nationwide recognition program. Communities that meet the Arbor Day Foundation's standards can apply every year for a designation. The program aims to promote community tree plantings and encourage communities to plant and care for more trees.

"We started last year with a tree planting on the Rail Trail in Wassaic," Show-Pitts said, noting that this year's tree planting will happen at the same location on Friday, April 24, at 5 p.m., near Maxon Mills. The Amenia Garden Club is providing the tree.

"We feel that the proclamation is doable, since we already have an Arbor Day event," said Arcario, adding that the area towns of Pawling and Millbrook have achieved Tree City designation.

Arbor Day tree planting will further Amenia's Tree City USA goals

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Plans are in place for the town's second annual Arbor Day tree planting scheduled for Friday, April 24, at 5 p.m. The event will be held at the head of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail in Wassaic, near Maxon Mills.

Sponsored by Amenia's Enhancement Committee, the event is taking place under the guidance of committee member Maryanne Snow-Pitts, a local gardening professional,

naturalist and owner of Earthworks Organic Gardener in Wassaic. For the second year, the Amenia Garden Club has donated the tree to be planted.

The tree planting is a required annual event for Tree City USA designation from the Arbor Day Foundation. That designation is part of a nationwide program that began in the 1970s to promote community trees in public spaces.

For more information, contact Snow-Pitts at 845-877-9013.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

Roadside cleanup across northeast Dutchess

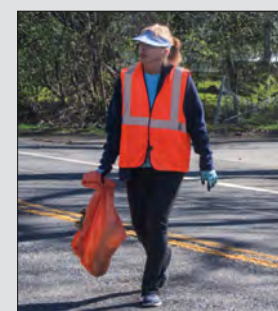
Above: Stanford Conservation Advisory Council Chair Curtis Devito, left, and Mike Frisch, who founded the Hunns Lake Road Association, posed for a photo at Roosters Route 82 in Stanfordville where volunteers could pick up trash bags for roadside cleanup day on Saturday, April 18.



At right: Dennis Wedlick picks up trash along Bangall Amenia Road near the Stanford Transfer Station during the town's roadside cleanup day on Saturday, April 18.



A map shows a record of the roads in Stanford that volunteers were planning to clear trash from for the town's roadside cleanup event on Saturday, April 18.



Kimberley Travis crosses Route 22 in front of the Amenia Town Hall to double back to Fountain Square in downtown Amenia on her mission to pick up trash along the town's roads on Saturday, April 18.



George Bistransin, left, and Polly Pitts-Garvin suit up at Fountain Square in downtown Amenia on Saturday, April 18, for the town's annual roadside cleanup day.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Charged up

Amenia residents and town officials celebrate the official opening of a town-funded electric vehicle charging station at the Harlem Valley Rail Trail parking lot on Mechanic Street on Saturday, April 18.

THAI BAAN *Continued from Page A1*

"The way we met is not necessarily super special," Jeffords said. "It just worked. That's the special part."

As their relationship blossomed, opportunities to cook began to emerge at the distillery when its regular kitchen crew went on vacation or traveled for events.

"It just turned out to be very successful," Jeffords said. "Everybody loved it."

Those events revealed a strong appetite for Thai cuisine in the region, leading to a two-year residency that's currently set to end in February 2027.

The restaurant continues to see success after its first year, Jeffords said, attracting regulars from as far as an hour away. Jeffords attributes that success in part to the pair's commitment to good hospitality and catering to the region's tastes.

Part of that commitment was calibrating the spiciness of their dishes to the community. Jeffords said spiciness can be an obstacle for Thai cuisine in the U.S. Heat in dishes can be central to a meal's flavor profile, Jeffords said, and some dishes don't work as well without spice at all. But the staff will accommodate all diners, regardless of spice tolerance.

"We really dialed in the proper heat that the community can handle so we don't blow too many people out," Jeffords said. "We do get a lot of people who absolutely love super spicy food and they ask us for 'Thai spicy.'"

Jeffords said he had actually been considering leaving behind the restaurant business to focus on liquor sales, but the opportunity was too good to pass up. So the pair packed up their belongings and moved to Millbrook to start the restaurant.

"It was a nice change," Jeffords said. "We're getting used to seeing the stars and laying out in the hammock."



Above: Patrons enjoy an early evening drink at the bar in the Tenmile Distillery on Friday, April 17. Right: Jason Jeffords, left, and his wife, Arunee Pakaraphag, run Thai Baan together out of the Tenmile Distillery.

The move to Millbrook was a return to rural roots for both of them. Jeffords grew up in rural New York between Rochester and Buffalo. Pakaraphag grew up on a rice farm in northeast Thailand. Both said the Hudson Valley's rural charm was a welcome change of pace after decades in bustling urban restaurants.

Jeffords has 28 years in the hospitality and bartending industry under his belt, starting as a bartender at a restaurant in New York City when he was 22. Pakaraphag similarly started working as a bartender, but she transitioned to the kitchen as her passion for cooking grew.

"Cooking is actually more fun than anything else for me," Pakaraphag said.

Pakaraphag's career took her across the globe, beginning at a hotel in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, to cruise ships, London and eventually New York City.

But Thai Baan was Pakaraphag's first opportunity to run her own kitchen and design a menu. She said she lacks formal chef training, and refuses to accept the label "chef" as a result.

"I never took a class, I never had a certificate," Pakaraphag said. "I only learned through my experience."

Despite the humility, Jeffords said his wife takes full ownership of the kitchen. "These are recipes that Arunee knows far better than me," Jeffords said. "And they always taste great."

Jeffords said the restaurant space inside the distillery presented some challenges that the pair had to adapt to. The previous regular crew didn't utilize the kitchen inside, opting instead to cook out of an Airstream trailer and serve food outside exclusively. That choice was driven by necessity, Jeffords said, as the indoor space wasn't climate controlled at the time.

But even with heating and air conditioning, temperatures in the large converted barn that the distillery and restaurant occupy can be challenging to control at times. On the hottest days, outside service is cancelled to keep inside temperatures comfortable for diners and waitstaff.

Another challenge is the distance from the kitchen to the dining room. A room full of stills and other liquor producing equipment separates the kitchen from the dining room and bar.

The space's beauty outweighs the challenges, the couple said, praising distillery co-owner Eliza Dyson's interior decorating.

"It's absolutely beautiful," Jeffords said.

The interior space is complemented by a scenic view of the Oblong Valley south of Wassaic. Jeffords expects patio dining to open within a few weeks.

And along with patio dining will come a refreshed summer menu, Pakaraphag said, featuring dishes from across Thailand's distinct regional cuisines.

On Friday nights, Jeffords roasts a whole chicken — soaked in coconut milk and Thai herbs — on a spit over



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

a wood fire in the dining room's hearth. Jeffords said the chicken is served with a papaya salad, rice and fresh vegetables.

"The best thing about it is when we're cooking it, it makes the room smell so good," Jeffords said.

Pakaraphag said authentically recreating the flavors of her home country has always driven her passion for cooking. That desire for authenticity began when she started cooking for herself after leaving home for Dubai, and it continues to factor into her dishes at Thai Baan.

Pakaraphag emphasizes traditional, homestyle recipes for her menus. She puts a focus on homemade touches, hand-rolling spring rolls and dumplings and bringing in her own homegrown vegetables and Thai herbs often.

The couple is so dedicated to authenticity that they make regular trips to New York City for specific ingredients that can't be sourced from local vendors. The restaurant sources most ingredients from the area or even vegetables from Pakaraphag's garden at her home in Millbrook.

"It's a little bit different than how they would probably do it in Thailand," Jeffords said. "But we're able to get what we need to make sure the flavors would make any Thai person happy."

Going into the restaurant's second summer, Jeffords and Pakaraphag are looking toward the future. Jeffords said the duo is still unsure whether they will pursue an extended residency at the distillery or move Thai Baan to its own space.

"If it was an ideal situation we would try to go off on our own somewhere in the area," Jeffords said. "But it's really still left up in the air, to be determined."

EMS *Continued from Page A1*

Rescue Squad fails to respond to 25% of calls, and the average response time for the highest priority calls is 12 minutes, 52 seconds.

Zayas said Dutchess County data counts the ambulance that carries the patient as the responding agency. He repeatedly emphasized that fact, saying Pine Plains EMTs aren't always missing calls but are instead providing assistance that isn't reflected in the data.

As an example, Zayas described a call that occurred in January where a patient had fallen out of bed and needed help getting off the floor. Zayas said the Pine Plains ambulance was cancelled on route to the scene because a Pine Plains Hose Company member could provide the necessary assistance on the scene and an ambulance was not necessary.

That call counts as a non-response for the volunteer EMTs, Zayas said, despite the fact that the ambulance was on route to the scene.

The volunteer EMT also called attention to priority one response times. Priority one calls are the most life-threatening calls, which are associated with a standard response time of no more than nine minutes, Zayas said.

Zayas urged Town Board members to compare his statistics to county data. According to his data, the Pine Plains volunteer EMS squad had an average priority one response time of nine minutes and 23 seconds, nearly three minutes shorter than the average priority one response time reported in 2025's fourth quarter data from Dutchess County.

He said the volunteer squad's response times can

sometimes be longer than ideal because of long trips or calls that come in at inopportune times. Zayas described a call that came in while the ambulance was dropping off a patient at Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, New York. He said that call registered a 17 minute and eight second response time that was unavoidable due to the long trip.

Pine Plains, Amenia, Dover, Stanford and Milan all rank among the lowest in the county for average high priority response times, according to the data. Average response times in North East, Amenia and the Village of Millerton at the end of 2025 were longer than in 2024. Millerton saw an overall increase in average response time of two minutes and 12 seconds.

At the end of 2024, Millerton's average high priority response time was six minutes 57 seconds. That average had risen to nine minutes eight seconds by the end of 2025. Amenia's average response time rose from 10 minutes seven seconds to 11 minutes six seconds over the same period. Pine Plains actually saw a decrease in average response time from 15 minutes 31 seconds to 12 minutes 52 seconds.

Officials in northeast Dutchess County communities have raised alarms about dramatic increases in EMS costs in recent years. North East's contract with Empress — which recently bought Northern Dutchess Paramedics — rose 36% to \$696,345 this year, forcing the town to exceed New York State's tax levy increase limit to accommodate the greater expense.

7-9 MAIN ST. *Continued from Page A1*

Rrapi later learned that was twice the number permitted under prior approvals.

Rrapi, who said earlier this year that his intention had always been to upgrade the property, encountered his first obstacle when attempting to get approval for renovations to the aging building in 2024. Village officials told him the property was permitted to contain only six residential units.

It's unclear from public documents when the building was configured with 12 units.

The property owner then went back and forth with the village's Zoning Board of

Appeals until 2025. Zoning board members rejected a bid for a nine-unit configuration coupled with a request that parking requirements be waived.

Those proceedings coincided with the foreclosure suit.

Zoning board members asserted that parking constraints in downtown Millerton informed their decision to reject Rrapi's requests. The property has no onsite parking and street parking is limited on Main Street. Village zoning rules require space for 1.5 parking spaces per residential unit.

NEW FACES *Continued from Page A1*

has worked on numerous film and television sets and has received recognition for her short films, including her latest project, "A Long Way Up," a personal documentary exploring her family's passion for hot air ballooning.

Aly Morrissey of Millbrook, N.Y., has been named managing editor of The Lakeville Journal. Morrissey joined LJMN in May 2025 as a staff reporter and photographer for the Millerton News, where she covered local government, community life, and the arts across northeastern Dutchess County and northwest Connecticut. Morrissey earned a bachelor's degree in print journalism from Quinnipiac University in 2009 and began her career in the Boston media market as a radio sound board operator and an editorial assistant for the Boston Herald. Her career has also spanned more than a decade in school communications, including roles at Indian Mountain School and Millbrook School. She also served as the production photographer at the Sharon Playhouse for the past three seasons.

Graham Corrigan, a journalist and musician from Philadelphia, joins the organization as a staff reporter for The Millerton News. With local roots, he grew up visiting his grandparents at their home in Lakeville, where he was a zealous member of the Salisbury Swim Team. After graduating from Cornell University and CUNY's Newmark Graduate School of Journalism, he worked as a writer and editor at mu-

sic websites like Pigeons & Planes, Film Comment and Genius. Corrigan spent the last six years in Los Angeles working as a video director for GQ before moving to Lakeville last year. Graham is also an audio engineer, pianist, and member of the band Mickey Cake. The band's second album, happy now, was released in 2025.

Allen Deeds joins the organization as a finance associate, bringing analytical, organizational and critical thinking skills to the role. Deeds earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Western Governors University and previously managed the meat department at Davis IGA, where he developed an interest in working with data to improve processes. Originally from Falls Village, he moved away after high school but returned in 2022. Outside of work, he enjoys playing guitar, playing strategy games and exploring towns in New England.

James H. Clark, chief executive officer and publisher of LJMN Media, said the group will strengthen the organization across editorial, audience, and operational work. He added, "These changes strengthen our ability to produce strong local journalism, connect with readers across platforms, and serve our communities well in the Northwest Corner and Eastern Dutchess County."

Executive Editor Christian Murray, who was appointed in October 2025, said the team will bring "new energy and perspectives to the newsroom and throughout our communities."

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PHOTO BY AGNES FOHN

Alissa DeGregorio, a New Milford-based artist and designer, has pieces on display at Mine Hill Distillery.

Artist Alissa DeGregorio brings her work to Roxbury and New Milford

By Robin Roraback

A visit to Alissa DeGregorio Art, the website of the artist and designer, reveals the multiple talents she possesses.

Tabs for design, commissions, print club, and classes still reveal only part of her work. On the design page are examples of graphic and book design, including book covers illustrated by DeGregorio, along with samples of licensed products such as coloring pages and lunch boxes, and examples of prop design she has done for film.

The commissions tab includes sam-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

ART

Falls Village exhibit honors life and work of Priscilla Belcher

By Robin Roraback

Priscilla Belcher, a Canaan resident who was known for her community involvement and willingness to speak out, will be featured in a posthumous exhibition at the ArtWall at the Hunt Library from April 25 through May 15.

An opening reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on April 25. The show will commemorate her life and work and will include watercolors and etchings. Belcher died in November 2025 at the age of 95.

Christian Allyn, a close friend, said Belcher largely kept her creative work private. "Priscilla was a very private person. She kept her painting and writings to herself and only a few close family members," he said, noting that she was self-taught.

After Belcher suffered a fall in 2024, Allyn and her neighbor, Gail Sinclair, prepared her home for her return. "During this process is when Gail and

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

INSIDE

REAL ESTATE

Stanford home prices level on lower volume

CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events



FOOD

Remembering George and Anne Phillips' Edgewood restaurant in Amenia

By Joe Brennan

With the recent death of George Phillips at 100, locals are remembering the Edgewood Restaurant, the Amenia supper club he and his wife, Anne Phillips, owned and operated together for more than two decades.

At the Edgewood, there were Delmonico steaks George carved in the basement, lobster tails from an infrared cooker, local trout from the stream outside the door, and a folded paper cup of butter, with heaping bowls of family-style potatoes and vegetables, plus a shot glass of crème de menthe to calm the stomach when the modest check arrived after dessert.

It began as a former gas station and tavern called The Narrows, on the road to Sharon, around a switchback east of Troutbeck. It became a roadhouse restaurant for weddings, bar mitzvahs, proms, graduations, birthdays and holidays with relatives. At Easter, New Year's and Christmas, George and Anne served the food free — customers only paid for drinks as a thank-you for another good year.

It was a different time. Amenia was an isolated dairy farming community, and two large state psychiatric hospitals employed 4,000 potential diners. People needed a friendly neighborhood restaurant run by a local couple who knew everybody. They offered special-occasion favorites: fried chicken, meatloaf, sliced turkey with gravy, pork chops from nearby farms, and fresh white bread baked at 4 a.m. by George.

There was no maître d'.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Edgewood Restaurant, a beloved Amenia roadside restaurant run by George and Anne Phillips, pictured during its peak years in the 1950s and '60s.

Waitresses, many still teenagers, greeted guests and helped them find a table. Cloth napkins and sturdy white plates sat in a knotty pine dining room that felt more like a family home than a formal restaurant. Large tables down the center accommodated families. George and Anne fed the staff before opening, and everyone ate the same meals served to customers. Everything was homemade classics of the 1950s and '60s: cold shrimp and cocktail sauce, stuffed mushrooms, veal parmesan, King crab, clams and oysters on the half shell, chopped hamburger steak, French onion soup, fried chicken and pumpkin pie.

George was a tough but fair boss with a quirky sense of hu-

mor. Former employee Kevin Rooney, who worked there as a teenager, recalled being served a hot fudge sundae on a sweltering day — only to discover the "ice cream" was Crisco. Revenge came later in the form of a Coke spiked with Tabasco sauce.

George also kept a series of German shepherds — Rinny, Schultz and Dooley — named after a Jonathan Winters routine featuring talking beer steins. The dogs were locked inside at night for security. Tony Robert, another former employee, remembered coming in one day to find Schultz with the seat of someone's pants in her jaws. When kids tried to sneak into a dance through the bathroom window after the fire marshal

had closed the overcrowded place, George put Rinny in the restroom. Problem solved.

Anne also ran a no-nonsense operation. She marked liquor bottles at night so no one would sneak a drink, though the cleanup crew found ways around it, sipping the blackberry liqueur instead. Along with cooking and baking everything from scratch, she raised their children in a life closely tied to the restaurant. The bus dropped their daughters off there after school, and one recalled doing homework while the family spent more time in the restaurant than in their nearby home.

After 23 years of long hours — often more than 100 a week

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

ART

Agnes Martin at Dia:Beacon

By D.H. Callahan

At Dia:Beacon, simplicity commands attention.

On Saturday, April 4, the venerated modern art museum — located at 3 Beekman St. in Beacon, NY — opened an exhibition of works by the middle-to late-20th-century minimalist artist Agnes Martin.

Martin, the Canadian-born New York and New Mexico resident who died in 2004, made the kind of ambiguous abstract art that inspires countless imitators and interpreters.

At first glance, most of the pieces in the new show, "Painting Is Not the Act of Painting," (on display until June 22) are variations on simple lines and grids painstakingly applied by the artist's own hand using paint and pencil.

Despite their relative simplicity, it took Martin years of rejecting her own artwork to reach this level of pure abstraction. She would often take knives to paintings she didn't like, literally slashing work that didn't live up to her expectations. It wasn't until she was in her 50s that she began making

the work she would become known for.

That evolution is reflected in the exhibition's 24 works.

Dia:Beacon seems like a perfect place for them. The museum is a monument to simplicity. Even the most complicated pieces are abstractions in their own ways. A straight, unpainted plywood wall with diagonal backing by Donald Judd suggests a room under construction. Michael Heizer's singular ovoid boulder embedded into a

gallery wall strikes unease into visitors.

Martin's pieces feel at home here. In the context of such visual, if not conceptual, simplicity, her art seems louder than it might in almost any other setting. Faint blue and peach stripes gain vibrancy when compared with the all-white canvases of Robert Ryman or the large gray mirrors of Gerhard Richter, both a few rooms away. By comparison, the visibly human-drawn lines of pencil or

etched-out paint seem almost complicated, and technically masterful.

It's enough to make you ponder the name of the exhibition, "Painting Is Not the Act of Painting," pulled from a quote by Martin: "Painting is not making paintings; it is a development of awareness. And with this awareness, your work changes, but very slowly."

In a world where studio as-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4



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Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA

...Alissa DeGregorio

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

ples of her pet and house portraits, as well as a new endeavor: wedding bouquet portraits.

"I love painting flowers and it's a great way to forever preserve such an iconic part of a bride's special day," she said.

A shopping tab offers paintings, prints, and calendars for purchase.

Other tabs highlight the classes she teaches at the New Milford Public Library and another new venture:

"I'm starting a print club called 'Root & Wing'. Each month, I'll release an animal- or plant-themed - painting as a mailable 5-by-7 print with an accompanying information sheet, meditation and herbal recipe. People can purchase just one month or subscribe for the year," DeGregorio explained.

DeGregorio considered a career in music. "My dad was a musician, always playing trumpet, piano, guitar or saxophone. As a teenager, I took quickly to the guitar and began writing my own songs, performing on my own and with a band. I thought music would be my path until my mid-twenties, when my focus switched to art."

She recalls a childhood surrounded by art. "My mom was also an artist, creating detailed pen-and-ink drawings. Artist was the first thing I knew I

wanted to be when I grew up and it was never discouraged. As a little kid, I would draw beside her, sculpt with homemade play doh, craft, crochet or paint."

After graduating from high school in New Fairfield, Conn., and attending Naropa University in Colorado to pursue fine arts and Buddhism for a time, she returned to Connecticut to finish her degree at Western Connecticut State University.

"When I was close to completing an illustration BA, a professor encouraged me to stay the extra year and double major in graphic design." She said the extra time gave her "a strong foundation in design and storytelling. Experience in so many different creative fields has guided my practice and allowed me to pursue many avenues of art-making."

Her mother, besides being an artist herself, runs Storybook Arts, an agency representing children's book illustrators. DeGregorio has sometimes helped out. "I've always loved children's illustration; there's nothing better than a beautifully illustrated story. I had an insider's eye to

the nuts and bolts of the illustration business early on, and that taught me about pricing, contracts, the illustration process and also how to be business savvy but kind."

DeGregorio likes working with authors who self-publish. She has done this both as a designer and an agent. "When I'm designing a book, I'm also the bridge between artist and author, the final step that pulls everything together. A good agent not only keeps track of timelines and contracts but is a supportive and encouraging ally to the artists they represent."

An interesting aspect of her many talents is creating props. "I've done some prop work for TV and movies, such as handwritten lyric sheets for the upcoming Michael movie, or document and book props for Stranger Things. Those are fun for the wow factor!" she explained.

Of the classes she teaches, she said, "Teaching is enjoyable in that I'm helping to inspire people to have confidence in their own creativity. Watching students leave my classes

feeling more joyful is its own reward."

"I've been teaching adult painting classes at the New Milford Public Library for about four years now. I recently taught a series focusing on painting emotions. We talked about what the emotion meant to us, and how to represent that visually. For kids, I try to focus on process art and skill building through an activity, like designing a mythical map or board game, or Herve Tullet-style workshops." DeGregorio has several classes ongoing through the summer.

DeGregorio's paintings are on display at Mine Hill Distillery in Roxbury, with an artist reception on May 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. Her husband's band, Gumbo, will play at the reception.

From May 15 to 17, DeGregorio will be at Goat Days in New Milford, where she will have art for sale.

To find out more about Alissa DeGregorio Art and all that she offers, go to alissadegregorio.com. A link to sign up for classes is also available on the site.

DeGregorio feels fortunate to have followed a path to being an artist. "I love it all and can't believe some of the things I've gotten to do. I look forward to what the future may hold."

"When I'm designing a book, I'm also the bridge between artist and author, the final step that pulls everything together."

ALISSA DEGREGORIO

... Priscilla Belcher

CONTINUED FROM B1

I began to uncover the volumes of art that Priscilla did throughout her life," he said.

Belcher was born in 1930 in the Huntsville section of Canaan, the youngest of 10 children. Her family struggled during the Great Depression. "She could remember the entire family splitting one cabbage for dinner," Allyn said. Her father died when she was nine.

She graduated from Lee H. Kellogg School, when it was still located at the Hunt Library building, and went on to graduate from Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS). She married John Belcher, foster son of local landowner Dorothy Haven, and moved in 1952 to a house in South Canaan that Haven gave them, near the South Canaan Meeting house, the "Little Red House."

Years later, Belcher sold the home to help cover legal expenses for her neighbor, Peter Reilly, who was wrongly accused of killing his mother while a student at HVRHS in the 1970s.

Allyn described Belcher as part of a generation shaped by hardship. "Priscilla was one of the last living examples of the greatest generation," he said. "Through that struggle, her tenacity and character were formed, which helped shape



PHOTO BY LYDIA DOWNS

Hunt Library in Falls Village will present a commemorative show of paintings and etchings by the late Priscilla Belcher of Falls Village.

Canaan and the wider region into what it is today."

He added that her advocacy ranged from pushing for pollution controls at the Falls Village landfill to calling for reforms in Region One schools. "Her willingness to put her house up to pay for Peter Reilly's legal expenses, consistent advocacy of pollution controls ... and reform

to Region One in 2010 led this area into a far better place," he said.

Belcher worked as a bookkeeper for the Lakeville Journal and Geer Nursing. After 1978, she devoted her time to gardening, documenting local history, refinishing furniture, attending town meetings, supporting people in recovery, and developing her painting and writing.

"She had a very hard life and often upset other people while she was intending to do good,"

Allyn said. He recalled a conversation near the end of her life: "She said to me in her last days, 'You know, I think I went a little too far with what I did in Falls Village,'" referring to her outspokenness. He added that after reflecting, "her entire outlook changed."

The opening reception will be a celebration of Priscilla Belcher's life, art, and legacy. All are welcome.

For more information visit www.huntlibrary.org/art-wall

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April 25, 7pm
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Noble HORIZONS

17 Cobble Rd.
Salisbury, CT 06068
860-435-9851
noblehorizons.org

COMMUNITY

Salisbury Rotary brings Derby race-day flair to Noble Horizons for community fundraiser

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SALISBURY — As millions tune in to the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs on May 2, a spirited local tradition unfolds in Salisbury, where the pageantry, fashion and excitement of race day are recreated — with a community purpose.

For the past six years in the Community Room at Noble Horizons, all eyes turn to the big screen as the crowd settles in, drinks in hand and anticipation building. Women in elaborate Derby hats — bursting with oversized silk flowers, feathers and playful cutouts — mingle with men dressed for the occasion in crisp jackets and bow ties, fedoras and the occasional red rose on a lapel.

As post time nears, the room quiets, then hums with nervous energy. When the horn finally sounds, the crowd erupts. The next two minutes determine which thoroughbred will be ceremoniously draped in a blanket of roses.

“They definitely take it to heart,” said Salisbury Rotary Club President Bill Pond of the local revelers. “It’s just tile and bricks here, but when they’re waiting for that horn to go off, it feels like the real thing in Kentucky.”

The club’s annual Kentucky Derby Social has become the Rotary Club’s signature fundraiser, blending high-spirited fun with a deeper purpose: supporting



Salisbury Rotary Club President Bill Pond and his wife, Beth, dressed for the occasion during last year’s Kentucky Derby Social.

PHOTO PROVIDED

neighbors across the North-west Corner.

Proceeds from the event support local food banks, student scholarships, backpacks and clothing for back-to-school programs, as well as nonprofit groups serving residents in need.

Between sponsorships, a silent and live auction, ticket sales and monetary donations, the organization is hoping to raise about \$6,000 this year.

“Rotary members volunteer their time, and all the money raised goes back to the community,” said Pond, who is also the administrator at Noble Horizons Senior Community, which provides the event space, food and refreshments.

Over the past several years, said Rotary treasurer

Susan Dickinson, the organization has donated more than \$50,000 locally — helping stock food pantry shelves, support families preparing for the school year and provide scholarships to area students.

“All the money raised comes from local people, so it goes back into the community. We try to help those that are most in need,” said Pond. “Everybody’s hurting.”

Planning for the event starts many months in advance.

“A lot of time and effort goes into it,” Dickinson said of the volunteers who take care of the many details, from soliciting donations and sponsorships, to planning the menu, selling tickets, creating the gift baskets and transforming the com-

munity room into a festive, Derby-worthy space.

On a recent weekday in April, while planning was in full swing, Dickinson noted that Fran Chapell, the club’s secretary, was busy assembling donated items into themed gift baskets for the silent auction, a highlight of the evening’s fundraising efforts.

There is one element to the Salisbury social, however, that consistently steals the show.

“It’s all about the hats,” said Pond. “Women show up in hats with gigantic pink or red flowers and all kinds of decorations on them.”

Gentlemen, too, often dress to the nines. “There’s a gentleman who wears an authentic suit that somebody at the track would wear. It’s a lot of fun.”

Organizers are optimistic this year’s Derby social will draw a minimum of 100 attendees. “Last year’s turnout was closer to 75,” Dickinson said, citing competition from other local events on that same day.

But if the energy inside Noble Horizons is any indication, the crowd will once again rise to its feet when the starting horn sounds — proving that even miles from Churchill Downs, the spirit of the Derby, and the generosity behind it, runs just as strong.

For details and tickets, email salisburycrotary@gmail.com or call 860-671-1676 or 860-671-1415

... Edgewood

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



George Phillips bakes fresh bread in the early morning hours at the Edgewood Restaurant.

PHOTO PROVIDED

— George began stepping back, at times closing the restaurant to recover. He later moved into real estate and Anne opened a successful craft store.

George sold the place in 1972. At one point, it became a lively beer joint and concert venue, featuring local bands, such as Random Concept, Little Village and Good Friend Coyote. When New York lowered its drinking age to 18 — while it remained 21 just across the state line — it drew crowds from Connecticut. Locals called them “Connecticut Rags,” kids with fancy cars who came to dance, drink and sometimes fight, rocking the floors so hard they bounced like a trampoline and shook dust from the rafters.

At closing time, they had to dodge police waiting across the state line. Sometimes Jack Rooney, Kevin’s father and the bartender, drove them home. One morning, Betty Rooney got a call from a worried mother asking if her son was there. “If he’s wearing red tennis shoes,” she said, “he’s asleep on my front lawn.”

The Edgewood also drew actors from the Sharon Playhouse and notable visitors, including Paul Newman, Cole Porter and even Supreme Court justices. George showed silent movies on a sheet in the dining room, and

guests could dance to the Les Schulman Orchestra or to George and his brothers, who had their own band.

It served as a gathering place for groups such as the Eastern Artificial Insemination Cooperative and for events like the Knights of Columbus Communion breakfast. Families marked milestones there — including one that celebrated five birthdays at a Palm Sunday brunch in 1970.

Christmas dinner cost \$3 and included stuffed olives, roast pig, prime rib, Virginia ham, deep-sea scallops, Long Island duck, creamed onions and, of course, crème de menthe parfait. On New Year’s Eve 1959, dinner was \$15 a couple — \$7.50 each for all the champagne you could drink.

The venue came to an end when the building burned to the ground in 1985.

The building is gone, but not the memories — the laughter, the music, the meals, and George carving steaks by hand. He lived a century, but the Edgewood, for those who knew it, was timeless.

Next time you’re driving to Sharon and pass the empty, weedy lot with a rusty electric meter, imagine calling George’s old number to make a reservation for a place that lives on in memory.

LIFESTYLE

Treats, tricks and training that sticks

6 smart tips for training a new puppy or dog

By Gary Richter, MS, DVM

Bringing home a new puppy or newly adopted dog is exciting, but it can also feel overwhelming once the training begins.

The good news is that training does not have to be complicated. Here are six of the best techniques to keep in mind when training a new puppy or dog:

1. Be consistent from day one.

Dogs learn best when the rules stay the same. If one person allows jumping on the couch and another corrects it, your dog will get mixed messages. The same goes for feeding routines, potty breaks and commands. Keep your language simple and consistent.

2. Reward the behavior you want right away.

Timing is everything in dog training. If your puppy sits when asked, comes when called or goes to the bathroom outside, reward that behavior immediately so they can connect the action with the outcome.

3. Keep training sessions short and manageable.

With puppies, attention spans are limited. Training for too long can lead to frustration for both the dog and the owner. Instead of one long session, aim for a few short sessions throughout the day.

4. Focus on routines before perfection.

One of the biggest mistakes new dog owners make is expecting too much too soon. Before worrying about perfect obedience, focus on building a strong routine.



Dr. Gary Richter, America’s Favorite Vet, blends conventional and holistic care.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Regular mealtimes, walks, potty breaks, playtime and rest all help create structure. That structure lays the groundwork for better behavior because dogs feel more secure when they know what to expect.

5. Correct gently and re-

direct quickly.

Training is not about punishing mistakes; it is about helping your dog make better choices. If your puppy starts chewing on a shoe, redirect them to an appropriate chew toy. If they start jumping, ask for a different behavior, like sitting. Calm redirection teaches much more effectively than harsh reactions.

Training a new puppy or dog takes patience, but it is also one of the best investments you can make in your pet’s long-term well-being. With consistency, positive reinforcement and realistic expectations, families can make training feel less stressful and more rewarding.

6. When in doubt, seek expert help.

All dogs are trainable given the right technique. If you are unclear how to proceed or are not getting the results

you want, consult a qualified trainer or behaviorist.

When looking for the right trainer or veterinary behaviorist, ask whether they follow LIMA (least invasive, minimally aversive) principles. Resources for positive reinforcement trainers include the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IABC), the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT), the Academy for Dog Trainers and the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB).

Dr. Gary Richter, named America’s Favorite Vet by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, is a veterinary acupuncturist, chiropractor and founder of Ultimate Pet Nutrition. He is the owner and medical director of Montclair Veterinary Hospital.

At The Movies

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FRI 04/24 > THU 04/30		themoviehouse.net	
PROJECT HAIL MARY	Sun. 4/26 @ 1:00 PM Thu. 4/30 @ 7:00 PM		
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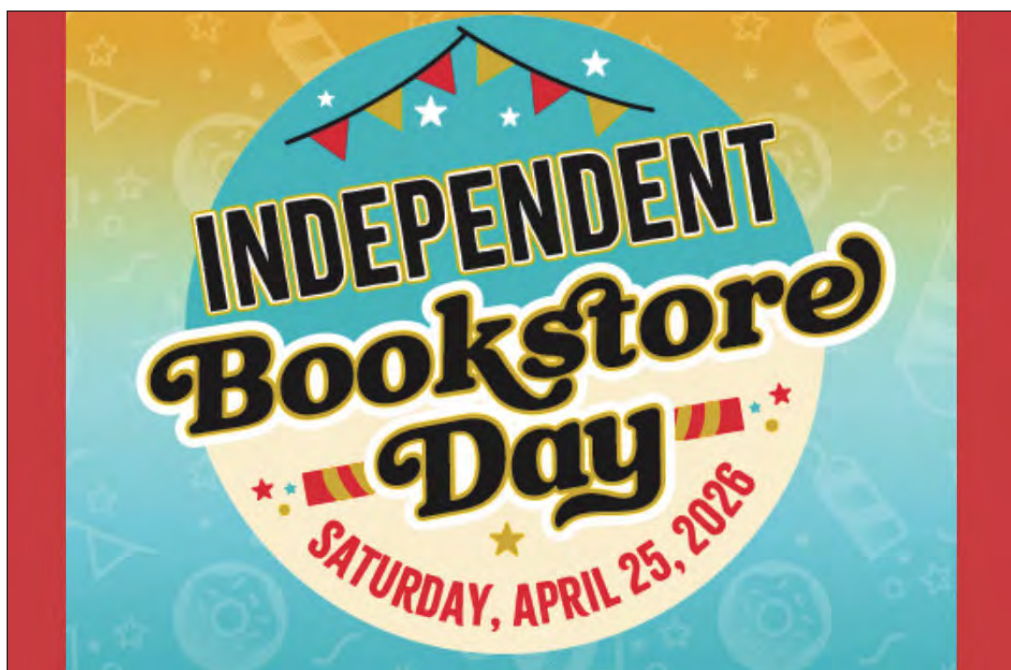
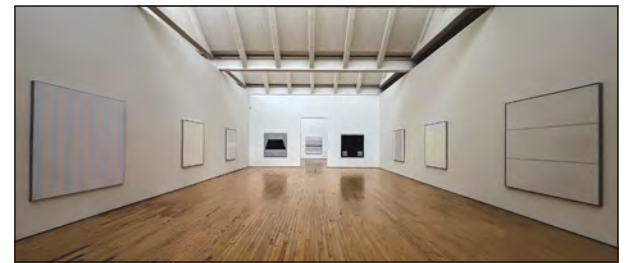


PHOTO PROVIDED

Oblong Books in Millerton will mark Independent Bookstore Day on Saturday, April 25, joining more than 1,600 stores nationwide. The all-day event features signed books, exclusive merchandise and a drop-in, browse-at-your-leisure atmosphere. Free; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

... Agnes Martin

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTOS BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Minimalist works by Agnes Martin on display at Dia:Beacon.

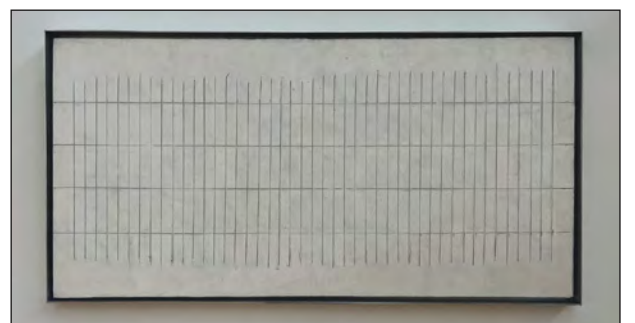
assistants and fabricators contribute to the output of many artists, Martin relished the act of painting. She painted nearly every day of her adult life. For her, the process was an integral part of the work, and it's hard to look at these pieces without appreciating her hand.

This repetitive study is also demonstrated across the hall in a gallery dedicated to a single work by Andy Warhol. The piece, "Shadows," is a study of variations on a single subject. Warhol took photos of shadows in his office and, using a silkscreen process, painted them 102

times on identically sized canvases.

Walking into the room, it may seem like the same image repeated. On closer inspection, the canvases vary widely in color and composition. The work suggests that repetition can produce unexpected forms.

Agnes Martin has become enshrined as one of the leaders of the minimalist movement of the 1960s and '70s. Her work and artistic philosophies have inspired countless admirers. This exhibition displays a selection of important pieces from nearly 50 years of practice.



Subtle grids and softly layered lines by Agnes Martin draw the eye at Dia:Beacon

Tri-Corner Calendar

APRIL 23

Policy Potluck: Benefiting Birds and People
Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.
6 to 7:30 p.m.

Overview of federal legislation supporting bird habitat and public health, with discussion led by Audubon staff at Sharon Audubon Center. Free; ages 16+. Preregistration required. Info: 860-364-0520 (ext. 115).

APRIL 24

Salisbury Forum: America at 250, with Special Emphasis on the Proposition That All Men Are Created Equal
The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn.
Talk by Akhil Reed Amar, Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University, at 7:30 p.m. Complimentary copies of his book "Born Equal: Remaking America's Constitution, 1840-1920" will be available. Free admission.

Spring Arts and Fine Crafts Show
Merwinsville Hotel, 1 Browns Forge Road, Gaylordsville, Conn.

The ninth annual Spring Arts and Fine Crafts Show will be held over two weekends, April 17-19 and April 24-26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at the historic Merwinsville Hotel. More than 90 local artists and artisans will offer work for sale, including glass, photography, jewelry, sculpture, fiber arts, woodwork, pottery and paintings. Live artist demonstrations will be held Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A suggested \$3 donation is requested; children under 10 and members are admitted free.

Celebration of Poetry

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
3:30 p.m.

An afternoon of poetry reading and sharing in honor of National Poetry Month. Community members of all ages are invited to read their own work or favorite poems, or to listen. Features poems by Kellogg student poets from a workshop led by Mark Gozonsky. Refreshments served; no registration required.

Cybersecurity with Pam Doran

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org
12:30 p.m.

Learn how to stay safe online, avoid scams and protect personal data with tech educator Pam Doran. Lunch served; registration required at hotchkisslibrary.org.

The Grace Note Open Mic Night

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

Stissing Center hosts its first Open Mic Night for music, spoken word, comedy and more. All ages and experience levels welcome. Hosted by local duo Roger & Lenny. thestissingcenter.org

Happy Hour Piano Series with Isabella Mendes

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting Street, Winsted, Conn.
5 to 7 p.m.

Live piano performance blending Brazilian and jazz styles in AMP's gallery space. \$8 advance.

APRIL 25

Exhibition Opening Reception: Independence Revisited

Sharon Historical Society & Museum, 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn.

Cocktail reception 5 to 7 p.m. and opening of a new exhibition exploring Sharon in 1776, 1876 and 1976, launching a six-month program for the nation's 250th. Free and open to the public.

3rd Annual Community Read Aloud

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org
Celebrate National Library Week by joining a community read-aloud of "Johnny Tremain" by Esther Forbes. Sign up for 10-minute reading slot or drop in to listen from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. register at hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com

Repair Cafe

NorthEast Millerton Library Annex, 28 Century Blvd., Millerton, N.Y.
Free repair cafe from 11am to 3pm. Repairs limited to two items per person. Five knives count as one item.

Better Habitat for Birds: Volunteer Workday

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.
April 25
1 to 3 p.m.

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

Vulnerable Earth: Climate Change in the High Arctic

Tremaine Gallery, The Hotchkiss School, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn.

Opening reception for an exhibition exploring the Arctic and climate change through works by Arctic Circle residency artists. On view April 21 to June 14. Reception 4 to 6 p.m.

Stepping into Song: Choral Sounds of Latin America

April 25 at Trinity Church in Lakeville, Conn. and April 26 at Saint James Place in Great Barrington, Mass.
April 25 at Trinity Church in Lakeville at 7 p.m. April 26 at Saint James Place in Great Barrington at 4 p.m.

Crescendo presents Martín Palmeri's "Misatango" and the U.S. premiere of "Jüdische Kantate," blending tango rhythms with choral tradition. Featuring Crescendo Chorus, soprano Nadia Aguilar and guest instrumentalists at Trinity Church. Tickets at crescendo.org

Items appear as space permits.

Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com.

Birding for Beginners

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.
10 a.m. to noon

Introductory birding workshop with classroom and outdoor instruction at Sharon Audubon Center. \$20/participant; ages 16+. Preregistration required. Info: 860-364-0520 (ext. 115).

Spring Migration Bird Walk

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.
7 to 8:30 a.m.

Guided walk through Miles Wildlife Sanctuary to observe migrating birds and learn identification basics. \$15/adult, \$5/youth (8+). Preregistration required. Info: 860-364-0520 (ext. 115).

Adam Gopnik's New York

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass.
7 p.m.

One-man show by writer and humorist Adam Gopnik, offering stories and reflections on New York life, produced by Steve Martin and James L. Nederlander. Tickets \$40; discounts available for members and patrons age 30 and under. tickets at mahaiwe.org

National Independent Bookstore Day

Oblong Books, Millerton, N.Y.
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Celebrate Independent Bookstore Day with exclusive signed books, merchandise and more.

Free; oblongbooks.com

Millbrook Arts Group Winter Concert Series: Musicians of Ma'alwyck

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y.
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

A chamber music performance by the ensemble Musicians of Ma'alwyck, known for historically informed programs. Pre-show reception at 4:30 p.m.; concert from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Millbrook Repair Café

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y.
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bring broken household items for repair or advice from volunteer coaches, plus knife sharpening, bike maintenance demonstrations and recycling.

Hudson Valley Puppet Slam

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

The 2nd Annual Puppet Slam features bold, inventive short acts blending humor, surprise, and imagination. Adults only. thestissingcenter.org

Watercolor Floral Workshop

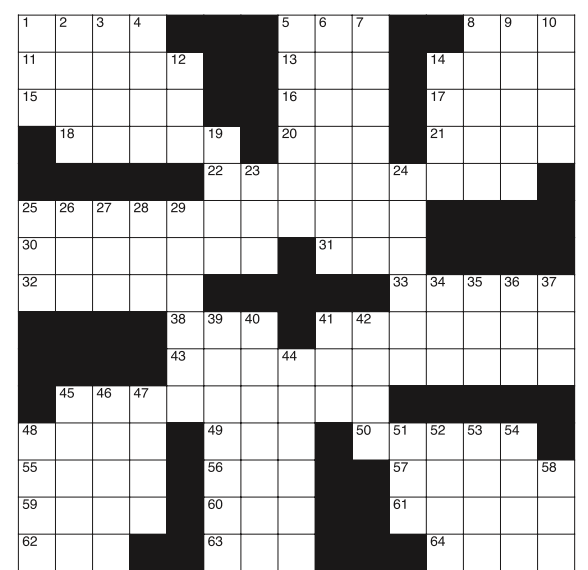
Le Jardin, 3300 Route 343, Amenia, N.Y.
11 a.m.

Hands-on workshop led by Dorit and Romane combining floral arranging and watercolor painting. All materials provided; participants leave with a finished piece. No experience necessary; space limited. lejardinflowerfarm.com

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Egyptian bull-god
- Romanian monetary unit
- Will Ferrell holiday film
- "It Ain't Half Hot Mum" actor
- Error-related negativity
- Volcanic crater
- Boston Herald columnist Margery
- True market value
- Italian term for exchange rate
- Informal loan clubs
- Men's fashion accessory
- Children's craft supply
- Extra benefits
- In an early way
- A judge has one
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Tractor unit
- Defunct supercomputer developer
- Promotional materials
- A forgetful state
- One who beheads
- Photographers
- Small, rich sponge cake
- Clergy's vestment
- Expressed pleasure
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Zero
- Ancient Greek word for "earless"
- Nigerian governmental area
- Mild expression of surprise
- Places to hang things
- Keyboard key
- Make a mistake
- One-time president of Republic of Korea



- Three are particularly notable
- Meet one's needs
- C. European river
- Dictator
- Indicates how much out of 100 (abbr.)
- The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- Consume food
- Woman (French)
- Scrape a surface
- Green vegetable
- Pacific Standard Time
- Capital of Brazilian city
- Paddle
- Cause to become insane
- Drier and flakier
- Mimic
- ESPN personality Kimes
- One who moves slowly
- Secret political clique
- Behind the stern of a ship

April 16 Solution

H	E	R	A	W	O	M	O	T	E	B	A	N
E	B	O	N	C	R	A	P	E	D	O	M	E
B	L	E	D	F	A	C	E	D	D	R	I	S
E	A	S	E	D	T	O	R	E	A	G	A	N
A	S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S			
B	H	P	M	A	D	T	A	G	B	B	E	E
E	A	R	N	E	D	M	I	D	M	I	N	G
A	N	O	A	S	V	A	C	S	V	E	E	D
M	O	A	B	E	E	C	E	A	G	L	E	S
S	I	S	M	E	G	D	A	T	D	O	D	T
E	A	R	E	D	T	E	L	S	A	B	B	E
A	G	H	A	S	A	G	E	S	B	O	R	A
C	R	O	C	S	T	A	T	E	B	L	A	B
H	A	S	H	R	E	N	E	E	I	A	S	I

Sudoku

		1	5					6
							2	
		2			5	3		9
	5							
		9		2			7	
		4		1		8		
8			3		4	6		
	4				9	1		
	6			5				

April 16 Solution

1	3	7	4	5	8	2	9	6
8	2	5	3	6	9	4	7	1
4	6	9	1	2	7	8	3	5
5	4	6	8	9	3	1	2	7
9	1	2	5	7	6	3	4	8
7	8	3	2	1	4	5	6	9
3	9	1	6	4	5	7	8	2
2	7	8	9	3	1	6	5	4
6	5	4	7	8	2	9	1	3

Level: Intermediate

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Stanford home prices climb on lower sales volume

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

STANFORD — Median home prices in Stanford are rising again, with the 12-month trailing median sale price up 14% from a year ago.

The median price for a single-family home in the Town of Stanford was \$675,000 for the period from March 1, 2025, through Feb. 28, 2026.

That figure was up from the \$590,500 median recorded for the 12-month-period ending Feb. 28, 2025, and up 57% from the \$430,000 median recorded in 2023–24. The highest 12-month trailing median price in Stanford over the past decade was \$712,500, reached in November 2025.

The number of single-family home sales in Stanford, measured on a 12-month trailing basis, remains on the lower end of its three-year range of 30 to 45 sales annually — well below the pace seen in early 2021, when 80 homes sold in the first six months of the year.

A total of 32 homes were sold in the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2026, down from 44 sales in the prior 12-month period but up from 29 sales in the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2024. Inventory remains limited.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

The home at 1606 Bulls Head Road, set on 44.8 acres, sold for \$1.05 million, slightly below its assessed value of \$1,116,200.

As of mid-April, seven single-family homes were on the market. Six were listed above \$1 million, with just one priced below that level at \$459,000. By comparison, only two parcels of land were listed for sale on the MLS, priced at \$275,000 and \$300,000.

February transfers

29 Drake Road — 3 bedroom/3.5 bath contemporary home with pool on 2 acres sold to Tyler Headley, Trustee for \$2.35 million.

5760 Route 82 — 3 bed-

room/2 bath raised ranch on 5.16 acres sold to Tessa Pilon for \$435,000.

1606 Bulls Head Road — 4 bedroom/1 bath home built in 1890 on 44.8 acres sold to Barry Jordan for \$1.05 million.

Town of Stanford property transfers for February 2026 are sourced from Dutchess County Real Property Office monthly reports. Transfer reporting typically lags the actual sale date. Details on each property from Dutchess Parcel Access. Current market data from One Key MLS and Infosparks. Compiled by

Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.

Correction

Due to a photo error, the home pictured with the Thursday, April 16, report on Millerton and North East real estate transfers was incorrect. The house shown is 29 Irondale Road, which last sold in 2004 for \$135,000.

DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Harlem Valley area activity report April 12 to April 18

April 14 — Deputies responded to Woodside Street in the Town of Pine Plains to investigate a verbal domestic dispute. Matter mediated by patrol.

April 15 — Deputies responded to the Trinity Pawling School in Pawling for a report of bulk food that was stolen from the school and being sold for retail at a local restaurant. 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.

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THE TOWN OF CORNWALL IS HIRING LIFEGUARDS: and Water Safety Instructors for the 2026 season at Hammond Beach. For more information or to apply, contact Jane Hall, Beach Director, at hbeach@cornwallct.gov.

TOWN OF CORNWALL HIRING: The Town of Cornwall has a fulltime job opening for Highway Department Maintainer. For more details and to apply, contact first Selectmen's office 860-672-4959.

WYANTENUCK COUNTRY CLUB IS SEEKING STAFF FOR THE 2026 SEASON: Want to work in a beautiful setting with a great team? Full and Part-Time employment available. Positions Available: Bartenders, Dishwashers, Line Cooks, Waitstaff. Please email: brandon@wyantenuck.org or call 413-528-0350.

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TOWN OF SHARON HELP WANTED: Land Use Administrator - Full-time, salary range of \$57,020-\$71,275, depending on experience, plus benefits (some starting after one year). Responsible for coordinating, managing, and processing all proposals for land development in the town. Qualifications: High school diploma or GED (Associates Degree Preferred) with 4 years increasingly responsible work experience preferably in administrative work, public contact, field of land use and municipal government, or any equivalent combination and experience. For full job description, see the Town of Sharon Website (sharonct.gov) or contact the Selectmen's Office at 860-364-5789. Applications and resumes are to be received in the Selectmen's Office, P. O. Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069 by 4:00PM May 8, 2026. The Town of Sharon is an equal opportunity employer.

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TOWN OF SHARON HELP WANTED: Building Official - Full-time, salary range of \$72,000-\$90,000, depending on experience, plus benefits (starting after one year). Responsible for administering and enforcing the State of CT Building Code in the town. Qualifications: Associates Degree or Advanced Technical Courses related to building construction and/or design and over five years increasingly responsible experience in supervising the construction or design of buildings or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience to meet the State Certification requirements. Required to have or obtain State Certified Building Official License. For full job description, see the Town of Sharon Website (sharonct.gov) or contact the Selectmen's Office at 860-364-5789. Applications and resumes are to be received in the Selectmen's Office, P. O. Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069 by 4:00PM May 8, 2026. The Town of Sharon is an equal opportunity employer.

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TOWN OF SHARON HELP WANTED: Fire Marshal - Full-time, salary range of \$20,000-\$25,000, depending on experience. Responsible for the fire code enforcement, fire investigation, inspections, permitting and public safety education in the town. Qualifications: Associates Degree or Advanced Technical Courses, and over five years increasingly responsible experience in a fire department or related inspection experience. Required to have or obtain State Fire Marshal Certification. For full job description, see the Town of Sharon Website (sharonct.gov) or contact the Selectmen's Office at 860-364-5789. Applications and resumes are to be received in the Selectmen's Office, P. O. Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069 by 4:00 PM May 8, 2026. The Town of Sharon is an equal opportunity employer.

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REAL ESTATE

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