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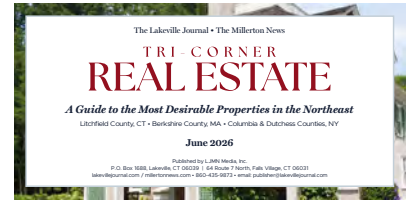


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**Special, Inside**



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

### Remembering the fallen

A ceremonial firing party honored fallen soldiers at Millerton's American Legion on Route 44 on Monday, May 25. Legion representatives originally planned a parade down Millerton's Main Street and a ceremony at the Veterans Park monument in front of the Methodist Church, but rain forced the events inside at American Legion Post 178. Turn to page A2 for photos of Memorial Day commemorations and parades across northeast Dutchess County.

## Millbrook approves Thorne Building renovations

By **LEILA HAWKEN**  
leilah@millertonnews.com

**MILLBROOK** — A long-vacant landmark in the center of the village is one step closer to a major transformation after the Planning Board unanimously approved renovation plans for the historic Thorne Building on Monday, May 18.

The project, proposed by the Millbrook Community Foundation, would convert the former school building — vacant for roughly two decades — into the new Thorne Center, a multi-use arts and community hub designed

to host performances, educational programming, music instruction and public events.

Conditions attached to the approval were limited, according to board engineer Richard Renna. They included minor revisions to the site plan to more clearly define the area that will be disturbed during construction and to clarify parking. The plan calls for 56 parking spaces, along with overflow parking on a grassy area. A final condition bars childcare services from being offered in the building.

See **THORNE BUILDING, A8**

## Wassaic Project opens new gallery space in historic Gridley Chapel

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

**WASSAIC** — The Wassaic Project started its 2026 season in style on Saturday, May 16, with an exhibition that featured 39 artists whose work was showcased at its flagship Maxon Mills location and plans for its new space at Gridley Chapel.

The chapel, which was erected in 1873 and is located across the street from Maxon Mills, is a recent addition to the Wassaic Project.

Wassaic Project acquired the property in 2024, when the organization was approached by the property owners. "It wasn't master planned at all," said Jeff Barnett-Winsby, who co-founded Wassaic Project in 2008. "But our town and our county have been able to support us, and we haven't embarrassed them."

The chapel has quickly been folded into the organization's larger programming plans. Com-



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

**Samuelle Green turned paper, wire, and glue into a honeycombed hive at Wassaic Project's Maxon Mills in Wassaic.**

ing up in 2026, Newburgh-based artist Liz Nielsen and her unique photograms will be the first visual artist to have a long-term installation at the chapel.

Barnett-Winsby, now the organization's co-executive director, said they have big ambitions to

turn the space into a year-round music and performance venue — once it's insulated. "That's essential for us," said Barnett-Winsby. "For years, it felt like every other festival was a monsoon situation."

See **WASSAIC PROJECT, A8**



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

**The Pine Plains School District will soon purchase five new school buses after voters approved a resolution at the ballot box.**

## Pine Plains school budget rejected by voters

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

**PINE PLAINS** — Voters in Pine Plains rejected the school district's proposed budget Tuesday, May 19.

While the measure achieved a majority — the final count was 458-432 in favor — it failed to reach the 60% supermajority necessary after the district's budget surpassed the state tax cap.

The school district is now left with three options: put the same budget up and hope for a different result, revise the budget, or adopt a contingency budget with deeper

cuts. Another round of voting will take place on June 16. State election laws mandate that a public hearing on any new budget needs to happen the week of June 2-9.

The proposed budget represented a year-over-year expense increase of 5.34%, and a tax increase of 4.43%. Budgeted expenses totalled \$40,778,791.

New York State limits school districts to a maximum tax levy increase of 2%. Proposed levies that exceed that rate require a 60% supermajority approval at the bal-

See **BUDGET, A8**



**CONTACT**  
**The Millerton News**  
editor@millertonnews.com  
860-435-9873, ext. 608

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### Local Matters

## \$75,000 MATCHING CHALLENGE

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See ad on page B3

## OUR TOWNS

# Memorial Day paraders brave wet weather



Parade attendees and service members look on during Memorial Day remarks by Pine Plains Town Supervisor Brian Walsh.



PHOTOS BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Above: Onlookers of all ages crowd the sidewalks along Franklin Avenue in Millbrook on Monday, May 25, for the village's annual Memorial Day parade. Festivities included a parade, a military flyover and a period of reflection at Millbrook's Tribute Gardens.



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

This was the first year Pine Plains' Memorial Day parade featured a fife & drum corps.



The Pine Plains color guard stands at attention during Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday, May 25.



At right: Representatives of the Millbrook Fire Department drove a vintage hose truck in this year's Memorial Day parade.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

VFW Post 5444 Commander Nick Woodard opens Amenia's Memorial Day ceremony at Amenia Town Hall on Monday, May 25. The traditional ceremony, featuring remarks from local officials and religious leaders, was held inside the Route 22 building due to the threat of rain.



At left: Amadeus Wassel reads his Voice of Democracy award-winning essay during the indoor observance at Amenia Town Hall on Monday, May 25. His writing won 4th place in the statewide essay competition.

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## Amenia to split rail trail maintenance with county

By LEILA HAWKEN  
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The Town of Amenia has approved a shared maintenance agreement for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail with Dutchess County and the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association.

Town Board members accepted the agreement by unanimous vote at the regular meeting of the Town Board on Thursday, May 21.

Under the five-year renewable agreement, the county and the town will each engage in monthly inspections. The county will trim trailside vegetation at least twice a year or as needed, and the town will assist with light trimming at trailheads, road crossings and parking lots.

The town agrees to maintain the parking areas and may install and service trash cans at trailheads, as well as winter clearing of the parking lots, including the areas surrounding electric vehicle charging stations.

The annual costs in connection with the EV charging station services are to be borne by the town, including electricity costs, software and hardware maintenance and upgrades.

For its part, the county will mow the trailsides at least four times each year

when the trail is open between April and November. The county will also remove any graffiti, but the town would need to report the graffiti to the county. The county will also be fully responsible for portable toilet facilities and their servicing.

During public comment, resident Judy Moran asked the board which entity is to be responsible for trash pickup along the trail, as well as the town's estimated costs associated with the agreement as they are to be included in the town budget.

The Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association is to provide insurances for the trail including Workers' Compensation, general liability, commercial liability and commercial umbrella.

In other action, the Town Board voted unanimously to allow the Parks and Recreation Commission to suspend its park rules against alcohol consumption, but only for the hours during the Summer Music Series concerts.

Board members gave Judy Westfall a consulting position to the offices of the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Westfall will assist and advise in office duties on an as-needed basis. The move comes after Westfall chose to retire from her position as Planning Board secretary.



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Students emerge from their custom-built racecars after taking a lap around a testing track at Lime Rock Park in Lime Rock, Conn., on Tuesday, May 19.

## Student-built race cars take the track at Lime Rock

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN  
grahamc@millertonnews.com

LIME ROCK, Conn. — The Winners Circle, a youth development program centered around auto racing, returned to Lime Rock Park this weekend.

Since 2019, the nonprofit program has given students the opportunity to get hands-on experience by building a race car from the ground up. The materials are sponsored by The Dyson Foundation, the automobile parts company Factory Five Racing, and individual donations. Pine Plains Racing, a team composed of Stissing Mountain High School students, participated for the first time this year.

Over the course of the school year, students build their car from parts supplied by Factory Five. They're given assembly kits for one of a number of different roadster models. Pine Plains Racing built a Shelby Cobra.

On Saturday, cars from seven area schools were put to the test by professional drivers from the Dyson racing team. Pine Plains was joined by student crews from Owego, Arlington, John Jay, Ketcham, Dover and Roosevelt. All in all, nearly 250 students participated in the program. The cars are all street-legal, and are sold at auction. Pine Plains had al-

ready found a buyer before their car hit the track at Lime Rock.

"It takes a team to get a winning car to the track," Mark Dougherty said. He's the Build Director for the Winners Circle and travels to the participating schools to oversee and advise students on the project. "They're trying to build a car, but we're trying to build people."

At the project's outset, the high schoolers join either the build or marketing team. They're responsible for the car's construction and telling its visual story, respectively. That wide array of interests is essential to the program's mission, said Winners Circle Program Director Matteo Lundgren. "There's real collaboration, and that's like the real world. I love empowering young minds to think for themselves," said Lundgren. "So when my buddy Pius had an idea to bring the trades into high schools, in a way that wasn't isolated just for gear heads, that was pretty cool."

Pius Kayirra is the Ex-



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

The car built by Pine Plains students sits and cools down after a hot afternoon of track testing on Tuesday, May 19, at Lime Rock Park in Lime Rock, Conn.

ecutive Director of Winners Circle. "The program has morphed into so much more than we could have imagined," he said. "One thing I've learned is that if you give kids opportunities, they will never let you down. That's really what WCP is about — coming together and realizing we are a team with a unified goal."

Two students from Pine Plains, Jackson St. Bernard and Luke Blackburn, offered proof of Kayirra's belief. "It's

a lot of problem solving and a lot of new skills," said Blackburn. "I've never worked on a car with this kind of power."

"I already had something of a background working with my dad in the garage," added St. Bernard, "but I learned a lot about fabricating things. We made a couple of brackets for the overflow tubes in the car."

For a full breakdown of the program and photos of the cars, visit winners-circle.org.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

## Growing community

Sheila Srere, left, and Catherine Fenn plant flowers in a small island at the Harlem Valley Rail Trail's intersection with Main Street in Millerton on Thursday, May 21. Planting flowers in downtown Millerton is an annual responsibility of Townscape, a local group of volunteers committed to the village's beautification.

## Welcoming new voices

We welcome story ideas, tips and pitches. We're also looking for writers and photographers interested in contributing thoughtful, independent reporting to The Millerton News. Contact editor@millertonnews.com

## Correction

The May 21 edition of Towns and Villages incorrectly listed the U.S. House Representative for Millerton/North East. Pat Ryan is the Representative for the 19th District.

## Correcting Errors

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

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## OBITUARIES

### Sheila C. Bellamy

AMENIA — Sheila C. Bellamy (née Carmel), age 92, of Sarasota, FL, died on May 9, 2026, at her home, after a brief illness.

Sheila was born on May 28, 1933, the oldest daughter of the late Rose (Brown) and Arthur Carmel. Her beloved sister, Ann, soon followed.

Sheila was raised in Brooklyn's Bensonhurst neighborhood and graduated from New Utrecht High School and Brooklyn College, where she earned an English degree while working in the biology and physiology laboratory. Later, while raising four children and working, she earned a master's degree in education from SUNY New Paltz and advanced certificates in teaching and special education.

After a short stint in North Carolina as a military spouse, Sheila lived in Amenia, New York for 37 years, where she was a devoted educator. She first taught as a substitute teacher in the local school system and then as a teacher at a youth residential facility in town, but most of her many teaching years were spent in special education at the Wassaic Developmental Center.

During her Amenia years, Sheila was a member and leader of several organizations, including the Beth David Congregation, the Webutuck PTA, and the Girl Scouts, and her personal kindness, support, and humor left a lasting impact on many within our community as well.

Sheila met the love of her life and future husband, Ronald Bellamy, R.N., at work

more than 45 years ago. They were married in Amenia on July 8, 1990.

Sheila and Ron lived an idyllic retirement in Sarasota beginning in 1995, during which they traveled the world and had adventures both at home and abroad, while continuing to serve as volunteers. Sheila was chosen by the Sarasota-Manatee Chapter of Hadassah as their 2004 Woman of the Year.

In addition to her husband Ronald, Sheila is lovingly survived by daughters Barb Klees (and husband Mark Glickman), Margie Gerrard (and husband Ed), and Carrie Klees; son Ed Klees (and wife Susan); stepdaughters Dawn Brinson and Fraun Bellamy-Baker (and husband Ron Baker); stepsons Tony Bellamy (and wife Alison) and Ronald Bellamy Jr; 19 cherished grandchildren; two beloved nieces; and other relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her sister Ann and her stepdaughter Tammy Bellamy. A funeral service was held on May 19, 2026.

Sheila was a devoted wife, mother, daughter, sister, mother-in-law, grandmother, aunt, friend, educator, and community member. She modeled perseverance and kindness, beauty and intelligence, and love and humor, throughout the twists and turns of life. She generously gave her time, effort, and financial support to many meaningful causes. In her memory, please donate to the charities of your choice, and give love to those who need it.



### Robert Clayton Smith

KENT — Robert "Bobby" Clayton Smith. The family is sad to announce Bobby's passing on Saturday, May 16, 2026, after his courageous battle with cancer came to an end at the home of his cousin, Tonya and Daniel Soule, in Kent, Connecticut. Born on Sept. 2, 1956, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Eleanor Hart Smith and James Smith. Bob's family resided in Sharon, before purchasing and moving to the Bog Hollow Inn in Wassaic, New York where he was a stellar bartender.

He graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School class of 1974 and served in the United States Navy. Bob worked at Tri Wall Container Co. in Wassaic, and later as a self-employed painting contractor.

Bob lived life to the fullest. He inherited his love for hunting and fishing from his dad, Big Jim, who surely taught him everything he knew. With his Dad, he built a camp in Danforth, Maine that while being a time-consuming experience, was enjoyed and cherished by the entire family. He also enjoyed bowling, golf, horseshoes, all card games and was a serious and crafty dart player, affectionately named, "Bull's Eye Bob."

Bob enjoyed days on the softball field and played in various leagues. He had an unmistakable presence that made him a familiar face both on the field and around town. He affectionately bragged that he could kick anyone's "butt," especially to his four nephews.

Even during his illness, Bob continued to enjoy gathering and socializing with friends and family. He watched the Yankees and NY Giants, usually with a Bob "opinion included." He enjoyed watching television shows including

the "Price is Right," "Deal or No Deal," "Jeopardy," and the Grit TV network and was a frequent Keno and 13-21 lottery game winner.

Bob is survived by his brother, Bucky Calabro of Poughkeepsie, New York; uncle, Ralph Hart and his wife, Dixie, of Melbourne, Florida;

da; aunt, Josephine Cullen of Orlando, Florida; brother-in-law, Bruce Osolin of Goshen, Connecticut, and four nephews, Jamie and Jared Smith and Kyle and Andrew Osolin and numerous cousins. He is also survived by his companion of 12 years, Kerry Coelho, who brought adventures, compassion, understanding, friendship, and time together that never wavered. The family wishes to thank Kerry for the selfless love and support she brought to Bob's life.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Rhonda Osolin and two brothers, Donald Smith and James "Gigi" Smith.

The family and friends extend special thanks to Danny and Toni Soule for all the comforts, support and love they gave Bob in the last year. He was quite happy and content in his surroundings and a place he called "home."

Calling hours will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, June 19, 2026, at Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. Funeral services will follow at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will take place at Valley View Cemetery in Dover Plains, NY. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kent Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 355, Kent, CT 06757 or online at <https://www.kentfire.org/>. To send the family an online condolence, please visit [www.hufcutfuneralhome.com](http://www.hufcutfuneralhome.com).



### William C. Hower III

SALISBURY — William (Bill) C. Hower III passed away unexpectedly on May 15, 2026, after a brief affliction at the age of 66. He was the beloved husband of Rosanne Foley Hower and father of Amanda and Charlotte Hower.

Bill was born in 1959 to Bill and Gloria Hower (Tino) in Torrington. He graduated from Oliver Wolcott Technical High School in 1977 and continued onto a career in the automotive industry, primarily with his family business, Jim's Garage in Canaan.

After retiring in 2015, he enjoyed exploring many interests including time spent in Montana, other traveling, co-operating his antique store, enjoying his community and spending lots of time with friends.

Bill was an especially talented skier. The higher the mountain, the happier he was flying down it on fast skis. This past season, he had just broken his own record by skiing 62 days.

At home, Bill was a devoted husband, father and grandfather who shared his love of life and knowledge without limit.

Bill was predeceased by his parents and his sister Frances Scaia. He is survived by his wife Rosanne, daughters Amanda (Long) and Charlotte, grandchildren Josephine and August, sisters Willette Murphy, Ingrid Devita, Monica McGlothlen, and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held on Sunday, July 12 at Catamount Mountain Resort at 1:00 p.m.



Send obituaries to [obituaries@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:obituaries@lakevillejournal.com)

Worship Services Week of May 31, 2026	
<p><b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 <a href="http://www.christchurchsharon.org">www.christchurchsharon.org</a></p>	<p><b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming <a href="http://www.salisburyucc.org">www.salisburyucc.org</a> Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p><b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at <a href="http://www.trinitylimerock.org">www.trinitylimerock.org</a> <a href="mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org">trinity@trinitylimerock.org</a> (860) 435-2627</p>	<p><b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on You-Tube <a href="http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org">www.stjohnssalisbury.org</a></p>
<p><b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am <a href="http://www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational">www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</a> 860-824-7252</p>	<p><b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p><b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b> is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm &amp; Thursday 12-2 pm <a href="http://www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org">www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</a></p>	<p><b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 <a href="http://www.uccincornwall.org">www.uccincornwall.org</a> Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p><b>Congregation Beth David</b> A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at <a href="http://congbethdavid.org">congbethdavid.org</a>) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 <a href="mailto:info@congbethdavid.org">info@congbethdavid.org</a></p>	<p><b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! <a href="http://www.allsaintscornwall.org">www.allsaintscornwall.org</a> Rev. Mary Gates</p>
<p><b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 <a href="http://Lakevillemethodist@snet.net">Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</a></p>	<p><b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b> 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 <a href="http://www.stthomasamenia.com">www.stthomasamenia.com</a> A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p><b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p><b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! <a href="http://www.promisedlandbaptist.org">www.promisedlandbaptist.org</a></p>
<p><b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 <a href="mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net">sharonumc5634@att.net</a></p>	<p><b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd &amp; 4th Sunday "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 <a href="mailto:canaanct-umc.com">canaanct-umc.com</a> <a href="mailto:canaanctumc@gmail.com">canaanctumc@gmail.com</a> We hope you will join us!</p>
<p><b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. <a href="http://www.thsmithfieldchurch.org">www.thsmithfieldchurch.org</a> 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p><b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b> 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340   <a href="http://allsaintsofamerica.us">allsaintsofamerica.us</a></p>
<p><b>Sharon Congregational</b> 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website <a href="http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org">sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a> for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or <a href="mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org">info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a></p>	

## OUR TOWNS

# Voters approve Webutuck school budget that brings first tax increase in five years

By NATHAN MILLER  
[nathanm@millertonnews.com](mailto:nathanm@millertonnews.com)

AMENIA — Webutuck Central School District voters approved a 2026-27 budget on Tuesday, May 19, that triggers the district's first property tax increase in over five years.

The approved spending plan locks in a 1.35% increase to the tax levy. Under the new rate, property taxes will sit at approximately \$8.77 per \$1,000 of assessed home valuation. According to Webutuck Business Administrator Robert Farrier, a homeowner with a property valued at \$200,000 can expect a total school tax bill of about \$2,036 for the upcoming year.

That tax bump will cover

a 4.45% increase in overall expenditures, largely driven by salary increases and health insurance costs.

Farrier said the district has multi-year agreements with labor groups that mandate increases to employee salaries, meaning those costs are predictable year over year. Salaries are set to increase by a total of \$515,344 over last year's budget, including special education positions that were added during the 2025-2026 school year.

Health insurance costs are projected to rise sharply next year. Farrier said he expects regular annual increases averaging 8% to 10% going forward.

In addition to the budget, voters also approved a bus



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Webutuck High School on Haight Road near Route 22.

purchase and reelected three incumbents to the school board.

Voters approved the purchase of two 72-passenger buses and a Bobcat UW56, a side-by-side all-terrain vehicle.

Judy Moran, Amy Wesley and Jerry Heiser were all reelected to the school board.

The three incumbents ran unopposed for an additional three-year term on the board.

Superintendent Ray Castellani said the vote reflects a supportive school community. He thanked voters for coming out to the polls at Webutuck High School on Tuesday.

# Millbrook voters approve school budget hike

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN  
[grahamc@millertonnews.com](mailto:grahamc@millertonnews.com)

MILLBROOK — Millbrook Central School District had its proposed budget ratified Tuesday, May 19.

Residents voted 391-221 in favor of the \$37,992,751 plan. It's a year-over-year increase of 6.57%, and the tax levy will rise at a rate of 7.02%.

Millbrook's budget does not exceed the allowed state tax rate — meaning the budget needed a simple majority to pass. While some program and staffing cuts are included, the district was able to avoid

a contingency budget and the additional \$1.5 million in cuts it would have necessitated.

The district is faced with rising insurance and transportation costs, and is still waiting on state aid from the to-be-determined New York budget. Governor Kathy Hochul announced a broad agreement on key priorities earlier this month, but state legislators filed for their twelfth budget extension last week.

The next year at Millbrook will include a number of capital projects aimed at repairing the school's aging buildings.



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Millbrook Middle School near Alden Place in Millbrook.

Leaks and roof damage have been a persistent problem at the school's buildings, and a capital project fund transfer is set to address the damage.

Further down the ballot, Howard Shapiro and Chris Rosenbergen were both re-elected to their Board of Education seats.

LET'S HEAR IT...



LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

What is one change you'd make to your town center to make it more welcoming?

"Town centers that want to be welcoming this day in age should provide free wifi and plug points amongst seating and parks since everyone is on their phones nowadays. Especially in Millerton there is no service for anyone using T-Mobile towers."

— Andres Vialpando, Millerton

THIS WEEK

Bear encounters are being reported with increasing frequency across the region — rummaged trash cans, damaged bird feeders, and face-to-face surprises.

Have you had a run-in with a bear? What happened, and how did you handle it? And what do you think towns and neighbors should be doing to keep both people and bears safer?

Send your responses to publisher@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, June 1, at 10a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.



"Whaddya say we get outta here and check each other for ticks?"

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

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

Crypto companies see beyond bitcoin

There is a brave new world out there for crypto miners, brokers, and blockchain entities. The same process that allows cryptocurrencies to trade and settle in the blink of an eye is now being applied to other assets. The hope is that this new technology can help some companies escape another long, crypto winter.

It is called asset tokenization. And whether we are talking about stocks, bonds, real estate, or anything else that trades in the real or digital world, all these areas can be tokenized. The first question many ask is what is a digital token?

It is a programmable digital asset, just like any crypto currency, issued on an existing blockchain such as Ethereum. But unlike cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, which have their own blockchain, tokens can be issued on just about anything, including asset ownership of things (paintings, properties, dollars), access rights, voting power, identity, predictions etc.

A stock, for example, which trades on a digital market (and most of them do), can now be converted into a digital token on a blockchain. This allows for fractional ownership, faster transactions, and broader market access. While tokens can be applied to anything, they have an obvious use in expanding financial infrastructure where settlement of money is extremely important.

One way to think about this technological trend is as a new way to handle the flow of financial assets that trade globally, 24 hours a day. Money changes hands constantly and the expression 'time is money' takes on real meaning when trillions of dollars are involved. Tokens act as a new kind of plumbing that allows money, instead of water, to flow faster, with fewer cracks, leaks or clogs, and therefore greater predictability. In past columns, I have written about stablecoins, which also use blockchain technology to effect fast, secure, and borderless transactions in the currency world. This is simply another use for this technology.

Crypto companies have embraced digital tokenization with open arms. Bullish, a crypto exchange run by the former head of the New York Stock Exchange, acquired a tokenized equity company, Equiniti, for \$4.25 billion in a stock transaction a week ago. Recently, Centrifuge, which specializes in tokenizing

THE RETIRED INVESTOR

Bill Schmick

exchange-traded funds and credit products, announced a deal with Coinbase, a leading cryptocurrency company.

Robinhood, the broker, is also interested in the area but has yet to ink a deal. CEO Vlad Tenev did say that "our strategy is to take crypto infrastructure and apply it to assets that have real-world utility. That's why we care so much about tokenization."

Crypto companies hope tokenization will allow them to expand beyond simple cryptocurrency trading. As readers know, crypto currencies can be notoriously volatile and have been subject to periods of massive underperformance. Over the years, the crypto companies have had to weather periodic 'crypto winters', which can last for years. If tokenization catches on, it could allow the industry to diversify away from volatile crypto trading toward a more stable and predictable business model.

But tokenization is in its infancy. As it stands, there are only about \$27 billion in tokenized real-world assets on the blockchain. That's a drop in the bucket when one considers the \$200 trillion plus in global digital equities alone.

However, the settlement arms of Nasdaq and the Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation (DTCC), which do the lion's share of equity settlements, are now engaged in pilot programs studying both blockchain-based settlement and tokenized securities. Larry Fink, the CEO of BlackRock, the mega-billion-dollar asset management company, believes tokenization could transform finance. He may be right. One thing is for certain: blockchain technology is here to stay, and its uses will continue to multiply.

Bill Schmick is a founding partner of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. Bill's forecasts and opinions are purely his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Onota Partners Inc. None of his commentary is or should be considered investment advice. Direct your inquiries to his website at www.schmicksretiredinvestor.com. Investments in securities are not insured, protected or guaranteed and may result in loss of income and/or principal.

Tent caterpillars, political showdown

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

May 30, 1934

No State Funds To Fight Tent Caterpillar

ALBANY - Appeals by the hundreds are daily being received by Conservation Commissioner Lithgow Osborne for assistance to control the tent caterpillar outbreak that is now so conspicuous, he said today. Aid, if feasible and possible, would gladly be given. However, no State funds have been appropriated for control of this pest. Hence control of the tent caterpillar is not a function which the Conservation Department can legally undertake. Furthermore, the Federal authorities have ruled against the use of C. C. C. workers for this work.

"Periodical outbreaks of the tent caterpillar are events that date back many years" declared the Commissioner. "The outbreaks in the past have increased in severity each year for a period of years until a peak similar to that which now exists was reached. Following this peak, a rather rapid decrease for a period of years was evidenced. If the future can be judged by the past, it is reasonable to look forward in the near future to a marked reduction in the population of the tent caterpillar."

Judge Mack Will Examine Power Firm Central Hudson Gas And Electric Corporation Faces Probe

The Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation which provides light and power for most of Dutchess County and a large part of the Mid-Hudson Valley, will be probed this summer by the legislative public utilities investigating committee of which John E. Mack is chief counsel. In announcing that the Central Hudson would be subjected to an examination, Judge Mack described the power corporation as one of the important operating companies in New York State.

Judge Mack did not disclose what phase of the Central Hudson system is to be examined, but it is assumed that the investigation will be confined to rates as in the case of other examinations conducted by the legislative committee. The inquiry will be part of his investigation of operating companies in the State, Judge Mack said.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Millerton News

May 31, 2001

Showdown Brewing in Town?

Former Mayor Eyes NE Supervisor Bid

NORTH EAST - If incumbent Supervisor David Sherman wants to remain in Town Hall, he could have a battle on his hands.

Asked Monday about his political future, former village Mayor Michael Cawley said he has been asked by the town Republican Committee to consider running for supervisor for the town of North East.

"I have been asked and I am considering it," said Mr. Cawley, who declined to comment further.

Mr. Cawley was never seen as a critic of Mr. Sherman during the two years he served as mayor, but he is known to harbor serious doubts about the Town Board's plan to move from a three-member elected Board of Assessors to a sole appointed assessor.

In January, Mr. Cawley, a Republican, declined to seek his party's nomination for a second two-year term as mayor. He then mounted an unsuccessful write-in campaign against his sometime nemesis, Mariley Najdek, a former deputy mayor who assumed the village's highest office last month.

Mr. Sherman, a Republican who is widely expected to run for re-election, was out of town this week and could not be reached for comment, but he said earlier this month he would make "a formal announcement sometime in the next few weeks."

If Mr. Cawley wants to challenge Mr. Sherman, both men would have to circulate petitions and turn them into the County Board of Elections by XXXXXX.

Merwin Calls It Quits

But one town councilman has officially had enough. Incumbent Republican John Merwin told The Millerton News he will not seek re-election to a second four-year term.

"In a nutshell, I'm tired of being in the middle," said Mr. Merwin, a Republican who had previously served a term on the town Planning Board. "You reach a point where someone else should give it a try."

It is "not worth the aggra-

vation" to stay on the board and deal with some of the more contentious town/village issues, including the fire contract and the recreation program, Mr. Merwin said.

More attention should be paid to a possible town/village consolidation.

Mr. Sherman's, who supports Mr. Sherman's re-election, also said he is not running for another term on the town GOP Committee.

Fenn Still Undecided

Republican Councilwoman Cathy Fenn said she is still undecided as to whether she will seek a third four-year

term.

"I'm thinking about it but I'm not sure," was all Ms. Fenn would say. Unlike Mr. Merwin or Mr. Cawley, she was not approached by the town GOP committee.

Town Republican Chairman John Perotti could not be reached for comment, but committeeman Bernie Silvernail said early this week no Republicans have committed yet to run for town board.

Dems Still Looking

Town Democratic Chairman Neal Rosenthal said no candidates have surfaced so far in his party.



PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Rain droplets

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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OUR TOWNS

# A retired teacher's ties to Millerton's founding days

By NATHAN MILLER  
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — A framed portrait of Levi P. Hatch — the village's first "druggist" and one of Millerton's founding professionals — hangs on Diane Price's wall, connecting her to history she didn't know she had.

The discovery began in 2013, when she read a magazine article on the village's founders and realized she had a connection to Hatch. He was Price's great-grandfather.

"He was considered one of the nine founding professionals," Price said. The discovery came decades after Price first moved to Millerton in 1961, when her father, Bill Doughty, relocated the family there to be closer to his parents, Millerton natives Roy and Mae Doughty.

The discovery, sparked by the article and later expanded through research by local amateur historian Sarah Hermans, cemented Price's connection to a community that she had been in love with since she was a girl.

Hatch arrived in Millerton by train, according to research completed by Price and Hermans, and settled in the village, where he soon met Lottie Mae Scribner, who lived on nearby Silver Mountain. The two married, though the exact date is unknown, and lived in



Diane Price holds photographs of her father, Bill Doughty, in her living room on Maple Avenue in Millerton.

a house on Elm Avenue — also known today as Route 22. The pair had four children.

Price's grandmother, Mae Hatch, was the youngest of Levi and Lottie's four kids. Price describes her as a talented musician who could play piano by ear and never had formal lessons.

"She played for the grange dances," Price said. Mae married a Poughquag resident named Roy Doughty and the pair also settled down in Millerton.

Roy Doughty, Price said, worked at Dutchess Auto in the early days of the automobile industry. But a stroke

forced him to take a less-intensive job as a tax collector. Roy and Mae also had four children — Helen, Erma, Richard and Price's father William "Bill" Doughty.

Bill Doughty graduated from school in Millerton in 1936 and was drafted into World War II in 1941. During the war, Bill served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He moved to Pittsfield, Mass., upon returning to the states and settled down with a resident of that town named Rita Mazur, Price's mother. The pair married in 1946 and had three children — William Jr.,

known as "Mike;" Diane, born in 1949; and Patrick.

But quiet suburban life was not necessarily in the cards at the time, as conflict began to brew in the Korean peninsula. Bill was eventually drafted for the second time to serve during the Korean War, and his family moved from Pittsfield to New Smyrna Beach in Florida for about three years, Price said.

After his service ended, the '60s had arrived and Price's grandparents' health was deteriorating. Prior to the move to Florida, her family regularly made road trips from Pittsfield to Millerton to visit and care for her grandparents. But in 1961, her family moved to Millerton permanently, where her mother and father lived out the rest of their lives.

Price was 13 when her family moved to Millerton permanently. She said she already loved the community, describing it as close-knit, safe and entertaining.

"In 1961, I went to the movies and I met a boy," Price said. "I sat with that boy and my parents knew about it before I got home."

At the time, Price had no idea about her great-grandparents — if she's being honest, Price never knew much about her own grandparents, either.

"I was too stupid to ask back then," Price said. "I feel bad that I never asked and I never ask my father about his experience in the war. He never talked about it."

But Price still felt tied to her family and the community she lived in — a bond that has only strengthened over time. After just a few years of living in Millerton, Price went off to college in 1967 and felt so homesick she couldn't speak to her father on the phone. It took a weekend visit and pep talk from her older brother, Mike, to get her out of the funk.

Upon graduating from col-

lege in 1971, Price returned to Millerton and began teaching at Webutuck Elementary School. She lived and worked in the village, raising two daughters, and still lives on Maple Avenue with her husband, Roger Price, who taught math at Webutuck High School.

She said the community has changed dramatically since she moved here in the 1960s. At the time, everybody knew each other. The highlight of the weekend was the Friday night train bringing visitors from New York City. But opportunities in the community declined over the decades, and now many people who grew up in the area feel they have to leave to make a living.

"What industry is there?" Price said. "What reason do we have for children or teenagers or adults to stay here? Where can they work and make a decent living?" Those questions have been on her mind for decades, she said, as she watched her students and her own children grow up and leave Millerton to find work and build their lives.

Despite the anxiety, Price looks back fondly on her upbringing in the village and the community that still exists here. She said she never wanted for anything growing up, and her parents provided ample emotional support as well. The community was full of caring people that looked out for each other, and although neighbors are mostly strangers these days, that thread of safety and looking out for one another still holds.

"Every day is a gift," Price said. "How can I be anything but grateful for the life that I lived?"



A framed photograph of Levi Hatch, right — Diane Price's great-grandfather — and his family.

## LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL ENROLLED DEMOCRATIC VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF PINE PLAINS THAT A MEETING OF SAID ENROLLED VOTERS WILL BE HELD ON**

Saturday, the 6th day of June, 2026, at 11:00 AM at the Pine Plains Community Room located at 7775 S. Main St., 2nd floor, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, New York for the purpose of selecting and nominating candidates for the following positions to be voted on at the General Election to be held on NOVEMBER 3, 2026:

Town Supervisor - 2 year term

Town Justice - 4 year term and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting. May 26, 2026.

Meeting called by Jim Petrie, Chair Democratic Committee Town of Pine Plains, NY 05-28-26

**TOWN OF AMENIA PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Chapter 105 of the Town of Amenia Code, the Planning Board of the Town of Amenia will hold a public hearing on the application by Patrick O'Leary (the "Applicant") for a lot merger and lot line revision consisting of eliminating lot CM-3 and distributing the acreage among Lots CM-1, CM-2, CM-4, and CM-5 in the Silo Ridge Field Club, located at tax parcel 132000-7266-00- 652906, 650896, 649886, 650877, and 653864 (the "Application") on Club Meadow Drive in the Town of Amenia (the "Project Site").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board will hold the public hearing on the Application on June 10,

2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Amenia Town Hall, 4988 NYS Route 22, Amenia, New York 12501.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the Application is on file in the Amenia Planning Board Office for public viewing and inspection during normal business hours. The Application can also be viewed and downloaded from the Town's official website at [www.ameniany.gov](http://www.ameniany.gov).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board will hear all persons interested in the Application at the public hearing noticed herein. All persons may appear at the hearing in person or by agent and may also submit written comments to the Planning Board at or prior to such hearing by emailing comments to Planning Board Secretary Judith Westfall at [jwestfall@ameniany.gov](mailto:jwestfall@ameniany.gov).

Dated: May 21, 2026  
Robert Boyles, Jr.,  
Chairman Town of Amenia Planning Board  
05-28-26

**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

**Legal Notice**

Notice of Formation of a Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC). J. Kevin Webb, Attorney at Law, PLLC.

Articles of Org. were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: 4/08/2026. The County in which the Office is to be located: Dutchess. The SSNY is designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the PLLC is: 144 Skunks Misery Road, Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: law.

04-30-26  
05-07-26  
05-14-26  
05-21-26  
05-28-26  
06-04-26

**Legal Notice**

Notice of Formation of Theda and Charlessa Wellness Essentials, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on April 20, 2026. Office location: Dutchess County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Legal Zoom USCA, Inc. 45 Main Street, Suite 238 Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

05-07-26  
05-14-26  
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**THORNE BUILDING** *Continued from Page A1*

The Millbrook Community Foundation, led by Millbrook native and building namesake Oakleigh Thorne, submitted a formal application earlier this year. A number of public hearings drew mostly favorable comment.

Plans call for converting the existing auditorium into a full performance space while restoring the building's exterior and modifying the carriage arch on the east side of the structure in keeping with its historic architectural design. The project also includes accessibility improvements and construction of a room to accommodate a loading platform.

Envisioned as an active community arts center, the Thorne Center will host music, lectures and a variety of programs. The basement level will include an education center with a kitchen that could accommodate cooking classes, along with an arts lab, digital instruction space, music practice rooms and a recording studio.

**3265 Franklin Avenue**

The Planning Board also unanimously approved plans for a new two-family residence behind Reardon Briggs Hardware despite objections from neighboring residents who said the project would



PHOTO BY CHARLIE GREENBERG

**Interior renovations to the Thorne Building have been ongoing and are expected to finish in 2027.**

reduce privacy and sunlight near their homes.

The approval marks the second phase of renovations to the property, which fronts Franklin Avenue and Merritt Avenue. The first phase included renovations to the second-floor apartments above the hardware store and updates to the retail sales floor.

Plans presented by engineers from Day Stokosa of Wappingers Falls call for demolition of an existing single-family home on the 0.66-acre

lot and construction of a new two-family residence containing two 2-bedroom units. The new building would occupy a footprint of 1,347 square feet, replacing a smaller 630-square-foot home currently on the site.

Before discussing the application, Planning Board Chairman Frank Redl noted the board had received additional written comments following the April 20 public hearing. Four submissions supported the project, while five opposed it.

Neighboring residents argued the new building would sit too close to adjacent homes and reduce privacy, airflow and direct sunlight. Some suggested moving the building farther back on the lot and placing parking spaces closer to the street.

"We understand that they have a right to build," adjacent property owner Arthur Kascak said, "but we also have a right to privacy. We're asking them to allow us to have air and direct sunlight."

Redl said the proposal complies with village zoning requirements, though parking remained a concern.

"The applicant is proposing something that is perfectly legal, conforming with code," Redl said. "The parking is the only problem, always an issue in the village."

Redl also noted the applicant reduced the building footprint by approximately 500 square feet in response to neighbors' concerns.

"This is a tough one; I feel sorry for the neighbors," Redl said.

As part of the approval, the board required the applicant to seek review from the Dutchess County Planning Board, define the two permitted rear parking spaces and submit architectural plans for the new building.

# Pine Plains addresses zoning 'mistake' with code amendment

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

**PINE PLAINS** — The former site of Lia's Mountain View Restaurant moved a step closer to redevelopment Thursday, May 21, after the Town Board approved a resolution advancing proposed zoning changes for properties split between two zoning districts.

The amendment addresses so-called "bifurcated" properties — parcels that fall within more than one zoning district. Under current zoning code, the regulations of the less restrictive zoning district could extend up to 30 feet into the more restrictive portion of a property. Under the proposed amendment, property owners would also be able to apply for a revision covering the full extent of the parcel.

The parcel in question lies on Route 82, and is split between the Hamlet Main Street and Hamlet Residential districts. Councilwoman Jeanine Sisco had previously called the split a "mistake" in zoning, one which had complicated the parcel's new business potential.

In April, Angela Somma

appeared before the board to request the change — she's considering converting the former restaurant property into a multi-use event space. Her concept includes a bar, food service, and potential cottages for short-term lodging.

If approved, the property owners would need only apply for an area variance from the Zoning Board, "which is very easy to get," said Pine Plains Town Attorney Warren Replansky.

A public hearing on the proposed local law change is scheduled for June 18 at 7 P.M.

That same hearing will include a resolution regarding farm stands in the area. On Thursday, the council approved a motion to change charter language regarding the kinds of products local farm stands can sell.

Previously, the law's language stated only products grown in Pine Plains or the surrounding counties could be sold at local farm stands. The amended language removes the regional restrictions, and allows farmers to sell any agricultural product grown on a farm, regardless of location.

**WASSAIC PROJECT** *Continued from Page A1*



PHOTOS BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

**Listeners enjoy the acoustics inside Gridley Chapel, Wassaic Project's latest addition to its campus.**

Preserving the chapel's historic architecture is also a priority. "We're trying to respectfully utilize these buildings, and also preserve them," Barnett-Winsby continued.

Meanwhile, the summer exhibit, called "Because, now is the time of monsters," was thronged with crowds that packed into the nooks and crannies of the Maxon Mills space and spilled out onto the lawn. The exhibit took place across the area.

Curated by Jeff Barnett-Winsby, Bowie Zunino, Eve Biddle and Will Hutnick, the

show is aptly described by the organization as "something between a vision and a fever dream." Climbing through the mill's seven levels, the viewer is transported to worlds wrought from paint, plaster, paper, ceramic, metal, and more. It is both dreamlike and nightmarish, comforting and uncanny.

These projects are made possible in part by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, which recently approved a grant application sought by the Wassaic Project.

Also returning is Wassaic Project's Art Nest, an all-ages classroom led by Special Projects Manager Emi Night. On opening weekend, a group of young art lovers were engrossed in projects based on two of the exhibition's artists: felt tapestries in the style of

Saul Chernick, and collaborative sculptures inspired by Samuelle Green. The art nest is open every Saturday from 12-5.

The larger Wassaic Project is open Thursday-Sunday from 12-5. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$10.

**BUDGET** *Continued from Page A1*

lot box.

Budget cuts of \$491,000 were already included in the proposed budget. Chief among the eliminations are two 5 p.m. bus routes, equipment purchases, and elementary school enrichment programs.

If the board of education makes additional reductions to fall within the tax cap, a simple majority of 50% is needed to pass the budget.

For that to happen, the board needs to eliminate \$290,569 in expenses, District Superintendent Dr. Brian Timm said.

A contingency budget is the harshest scenario. If the proposed budget fails again on June 16, the district will be forced to reduce the budget by another \$945,789, for a total difference of over \$1.2 million from the budget that

failed to pass Tuesday.

"Certainly some things will be unpopular," Timm said at a special session after the vote. "Where we are allowed to make our recommendations is in getting it to the tax cap, but the contingency budget is up to the board."

Timm suggested having a revised budget ready for board discussion by May 26, and a public hearing June 9. Both meetings will be open to the public.

In other ballot news, incumbent James Griffin and Amie Buehler were elected to the two open school board seats. Voters also approved a measure to buy five new school buses, using funds from a previously-approved bus reserve.

*For more on local school budget votes, see page A4.*



**The seventh floor of Wassaic Project was transformed by Clarissa Pezone and her surreal ceramics.**

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PHOTO BY LISA VOLMER

Filmmaker Yonah Sadeh at work.

## Local filmmaker Yonah Sadeh takes his lens to China

By Robin Roraback

Filmmaker Yonah Sadeh of Falls Village left May 8 for China, where he will shoot a short documentary.

"I got into a documentary film intensive program where we have two weeks to shoot, edit and screen a 10-minute documentary about a topic of our choosing," he said. "I'll be in Changsha, Hunan, making a film about a fifth-generation shadow puppet master."

It is an exciting opportunity for Sadeh, who has built his own business, Sadeh Studios, by working with small area businesses and nonprofits, "helping to tell their stories through film," he said. Some of his projects have included

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

## BOOKS

### Author Courtney Maum to discuss new novel at Norfolk Library

By Jennifer Almquist

Norfolk Library celebrates the release of Courtney Maum's latest novel, "Alan Opts Out," with a book launch party Tuesday, June 2, at 5:30 p.m. The author will speak about her book in conversation with WAMC radio producer Sarah LaDuke.

A graduate of Brown University with a degree in comparative literature, Maum is an acclaimed author of five books, including the romantic comedy "Touch," a New York Times Editors' Choice and NPR Best Book of the Year; "Costalegre;" and "I'm Having So Much Fun Without You." Her memoir, "The Year of the Horses," was chosen by the TODAY show as top pick for Mental Health Awareness Month. Vanity Fair listed her author's guidebook "Before and After the Book Deal," as a best resource for writers, and she has an eponymous Substack newsletter.

"This is a story of an advertising executive whose rogue rejection of capitalism inspires waves of reprioritiza-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

## COMMUNITY

# A blessing for pets — and a lifeline for their health

By Natalia Zukerman

For many pet owners, animals are family. On Saturday, May 30, that bond will be celebrated in a uniquely practical and heartfelt way when the Blessing of the Animals returns to Third Lutheran Evangelical Church in Rhinebeck alongside a free rabies vaccination clinic hosted by Hudson Valley Animal Rescue & Sanctuary.

The event, scheduled from noon to 4 p.m., is free for Dutchess County residents and open to dogs, cats and domestic ferrets three months and older. While the clinic itself provides an important public health service, organizers say the day has become about much more than vaccinations.

"It's a very simple afternoon of kindness," said event curator Rosemary Joyce. "I think of it like a gardener — you go someplace, you learn how to plant seeds and then you take those seeds home and grow them in your own community. Except these are the seeds of kindness."

The annual blessing is now entering its fourth year, with each event honoring a different theme. This year's celebration pays tribute to renowned primatologist and animal behaviorist Jane Goodall.

"Most people know her from her work with primates," Joyce said, "but she also taught us to understand that animals are sentient creatures — they feel like we feel."

Joyce pointed to recent scientific studies that scanned dogs' brains using MRI technology.

"When dogs are presented



PHOTO PROVIDED

Lazarus, a Eurasian eagle owl, poses with Dr. Laura, his longtime handler. The rescue raptor — known as the event's "wow factor" for his striking presence and six-foot wingspan — will appear as the Raptor Ambassador at Rhinebeck's Blessing of the Animals.

welfare groups, each bringing "ambassador animals" for visitors to meet.

Among the most anticipated returning guests is Lazarus, a 9-year-old Eurasian eagle owl with a six-foot wingspan.

"He's the wow factor," Joyce said. "I watched a father hustling his two boys to leave last year because they had another appointment. I told him, 'If you haven't seen what's over there, you haven't seen this event.' He walked over, looked at Lazarus, and his mouth just dropped open. The little boy came out in him."

Other participants include rescue horses from the Southlands Foundation, adoptable dogs from Animal Farm Foundation, reptiles from Two by Two Animal Haven, small animals from 4-H and rescued farm animals from Hope Farm Animal Sanctuary, including Rosie, a 200-pound potbellied pig.

Joyce said one of her favorite aspects of the event is watching

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

with the scent of the people they love, the part of their brain that lights up is the exact same part of our brain that responds to love," she said. "So not only do they love us — dogs love the way we love."

Unlike larger ceremonial blessings often held around the feast of St. Francis, Rhinebeck's blessing is much more personalized.

"This is not where everyone

gathers and gets blessed all at once," Joyce said. "This is individual and hands-on. You walk up to Pastor Jim Miller, and he talks to you and your animal."

Past participants have brought everything from dogs and cats to chickens, parrots, reptiles and even an iguana "draped around someone like a scarf," Joyce recalled.

The event also features more than a dozen rescue and animal

## MUSIC

### Silvano Monasterios wows packed Cornwall Town Hall audience

By Natalia Zukerman

Grammy-nominated pianist, composer and producer Silvano Monasterios performed works from his upcoming "Solo in Paris," his seventh album, on Sunday, May 23 at Cornwall Town Hall to a packed audience. Presented by Music Mountain in partnership with the Cornwall Town Hall and Cornwall Library, the concert showcased Monasterios' signature fusion of sophisticated jazz harmonies and vibrant Latin rhythms. Throughout the performance, he moved seamlessly between intricate compositions and spontaneous improvisation. The concert built excitement for Music Mountain's upcoming summer jazz series, which will bring an array of acclaimed performers to the historic venue. For more information, visit musicmountain.org



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Silvano Monasterios thrilled a sold out audience in Cornwall.



We here at Robin Hood Radio are on-air and on-line keeping you informed and updated 24 hours a day on the following stations of the Robin Hood Radio Network.

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## INSIDE

### REAL ESTATE

Amenia median home price tops \$400,000

### CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events



# ... Yonah Sadeh

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

ed projects for local affordable housing organizations and area nonprofits such as Berkshire Busk, Berkshares, Naturalis Healing, local after-school programs and the Falls Village Fire Department. Current projects are for Berkshire Mountain Bakery and a documentary about Great Barrington's revitalization in the 1990s.

Sadeh discovered early in life that he wanted to make films and began to develop his process and distinct style.

"It started with puppet shows and musical performances, and then, when I was around 12, a family friend showed me how to use my family's computer to record and edit short homemade videos using iMovie. From that point on, it was pretty much all movies. I would set up my mom's computer on a stack of books and record with the webcam."

An early influence was Wes Anderson's "Fantastic Mr. Fox," which, "inspired my Claymation videos when I was 10 and remains one of my favorite films."

He said getting his first camera made a big difference in his filmmaking.

"I was no longer stuck filming wherever I could set up the laptop. I could move with the camera and be more intentional about how things looked."

Finding some of the technical aspects challenging, he watched YouTube to learn.

"I would imagine these big scenes, like fight sequences with lighting and effects, and then have to figure out how to actually make them. That process pushed me to learn. I spent a lot of time



PHOTO BY MATT KASHAN

Filmmaker Yonah Sadeh on a shoot last year in New York City.

"When I was around 12, a family friend showed me how to use my family's computer...from that point on, it was pretty much all movies."

YONAH SADEH

watching people like Casey Neistat, Film Riot and Corridor Digital, and just trying things out."

Knowing the path he wanted to take, he pursued his high school education at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, MA. The school has since relocated to Barrytown, New York.

"Simon's Rock was not a film school in a traditional sense, but it had incredible faculty that I was able to work with one-on-

one throughout my years there," he said. "It gave me the flexibility and time to make films both in and outside of class, and to start my production business while still in school."

He was able to take college-level film courses while still in high school.

"It seemed like the perfect opportunity. I loved it so much that I stayed at Simon's Rock after graduating from the academy for my bachelor's degree."

After graduating, he focused full time on his freelance business.

"Most of my professional work is in documentary, where I am a one-man crew overseeing every aspect of the process, from meeting with clients to develop the idea to planning, filming and editing it all together. I love working in this way, with my hands in every part of the project."

In addition to documentaries, he also works on narrative films.

"The script I am working on now is set over the summer solstice and follows two kids over a short but formative period of time. I feel like this idea of land and place, and the passing of time, is a pretty consistent theme in all of my work, both narrative and documentary."

Narrative films involve working with a crew, and he said writing and directing have presented different challenges.

"By the time I get to production, I've usually been sitting with the story for a while and have a pretty clear picture of how I want each scene to feel. So a lot of directing is about communicating that vision to the actors and crew. It can definitely be stressful, especially with the pressure of being on set. But I've been lucky to work with people I really trust and enjoy collaborating with, which makes a big difference."

The finished film, Sadeh said, "becomes something built by everyone involved."

Eager to share his love of filmmaking, Sadeh recently took on the role of curator of the VideoWall at the Hunt Library in Falls Village.

"I would love the VideoWall to become a place that showcases the work of local filmmakers, and I hope that other creatives in the area will submit their work to be shown."

Reflecting on his chosen path, Sadeh said, "I feel really excited and creatively fulfilled to be doing the work I love in the place I grew up."

Learn more at [sadehstudios.com](http://sadehstudios.com)



PHOTO PROVIDED

Author Courtney Maum will discuss her new novel with WAMC's Sarah LaDuke at the Norfolk Library on June 2.

# ...Courtney Maum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

tion throughout his neighborhood," said Maum of her new novel.

When asked about her inspiration for "Alan Opts Out," Maum mused, "There is a reminder in the lyrics of the Justin Moore song 'Time's Ticking' to 'make a memory, not just money,' that sums up the emotional experience I aimed for with this novel. The suspicion that I was living to work instead of working to live was — like for so many of us — one that became especially pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic."

She continued, "I found myself enjoying the enforced change of pace where priorities shifted to health, time with loved ones and deep, honest gratitude for what I already had, because I sure as heck didn't know what tomorrow would deliver. The pandemic offering me a chance to opt out of the rat race?" Maum began to wonder what would happen if she did. "I took these sentiments, cranked up the volume on them to explore the existential 'aha moment' of somebody who did, in fact, opt out."

In his advance praise for the book, author Carl Hiaasen writes, "Like all good satire, 'Alan Opts Out' is vivid, lacerating, and funny, but also presents uncommon empathy for those it skewers."

Literary Hub describes the book as "the eat-the-rich farce we need, from one of our funniest writers."

Maum lives in Norfolk and is married to filmmaker Diego Ongaro. She states simply "I write, and I help writers write," and describes herself as a "human fighting for my wildness."

Founder of The Cabins, a collaborative arts retreat, Maum also runs a writer's workshop in New Mexico combining her 20 years in advertising with her love of craft. Maum is a brand strategist, publishing expert, writing coach and creative consultant. She says she wants to "help people hold on to the joy of art making."

To register for the event, go to [norfolklibrary.org](http://norfolklibrary.org). Those who pre-order from Oblong Books ([oblongbooks.com](http://oblongbooks.com)) will also receive a lobster sticker.

## FILM

# Survival and conflict on screen at Berkshire International Film Festival

By Brian Gersten

A new documentary exploring survival, trauma and resilience will make its world premiere later this month at the Berkshire International Film Festival. "The Choice," directed by John David Coles, is scheduled to screen at 12:30 p.m. May 30 at The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington.

Inspired by the bestselling memoir of Holocaust survivor and psychologist Edith Eger, the film brings together the stories of several women confronting profound personal loss and trauma. The documentary follows Eger alongside Iris Haim, an Israeli mother whose son was killed by the IDF while escaping Hamas captivity. The film examines how individuals navigate grief while attempting to rebuild their lives.

Coles, whose previous directing work includes television series such as House of Cards, Homeland



PHOTO COURTESY THE CHOICE FILMS

and The Sinner, will attend the screening.

The festival will also screen "Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk," on Sunday, May 30, at 4:30 p.m. at The Triplex in Great Barrington. Directed by Sepideh Farsi, the documentary is built from video conversations with Palestinian photojournalist Fatma Hassona documenting daily life in Gaza during the ongoing war. The film gained

international attention after Hassona was killed in an Israeli airstrike shortly before the documentary's premiere at the Cannes Film Festival.

Together, the films underscore BIFF's focus on urgent, emotionally resonant storytelling from around the world.

Now in its 20th year, the Berkshire International Film Festival runs May

28-31 and features more than 75 films, along with appearances by Karen Allen, Amy Goodman and other filmmakers and performers, as well as screenings, filmmaker conversations and special events across Great Barrington and Lenox.

For more information and tickets to the Berkshire International Film Festival, visit [biffma.org](http://biffma.org)

Psychologist, Holocaust survivor and specialist in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, Edith Eger's book, "The Choice" has now been adapted into a documentary premiering at the Berkshire International Film Festival.

# At The Movies

**Moviehouse** SHOWTIMES & TICKETS

FRI 05/29 > THU 06/04 themoviehouse.net

<p>Sun. May 30 @ 1 PM: Met Live <b>EL ÚLTIMO SUENO DE FRIDA Y DIEGO</b></p> <p>Sun. May 30 @ 7 PM: Meet the Filmmakers <b>HARRY ROSEMAN: CHINA 1987</b></p> <p>Sun. May 31 @ 1 PM: NT Live <b>PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD</b></p>	<p><b>MOVIES</b></p> <p>PRESSURE BLUE HERON MANDALORIAN AND GROGU and more...</p> <p><small>Check Website for Full Listings</small></p>
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Crescendo Vocal Ensemble, Guineve Fridley, Bass  
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Sat. May 30 at 4:00 PM  
Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA  
BWV 230 Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden  
BWV 227 Jesu, meine Freude  
BWV 228 Fürchte dich nicht, ich bin bei dir

Sun. May 31 at 4:00 PM  
Trinity Lime Rock, Lakeville, CT  
BWV 229 Komm, Jesu, komm  
BWV 226 Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf  
BWV 225 Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied

[crescendomusic.org](http://crescendomusic.org)

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THEATER

# Sharon Playhouse opens season with Spotlight Gala Celebration

By Natalia Zukerman

The Sharon Playhouse will kick off its 2026 summer season with its annual Spotlight Gala, “Hey There, Good Times!,” on Saturday, May 30, honoring longtime board member Skip Barber and arts educator Sarah Combs during the theater’s signature fundraising celebration of music, performances and community.

“Few individuals embody innovation, excellence, and community spirit quite like Skip Barber,” said artistic director Carl Andress. “While many know him as a legendary force in American motorsports and the longtime steward of Lime Rock Park, we are equally grateful for the energy, generosity, and community leadership he has brought to this region and to the Sharon Playhouse. He is a true original, and we are thrilled to honor him,” he continued.

Education and community director Michael Baldwin said honoring Combs with the first Spotlight Spirit Award is “both joyful and deeply fitting.”

“Sarah Combs has devoted her life to the transformative power of the arts — not only as a gifted performer, but as a teacher, mentor, and tireless advocate for young artists and



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Skip Barber and Sarah Combs to be honored during Sharon Playhouse gala.**

community creativity,” Baldwin said.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. with cocktails, dinner by Rita Welch Catering and a fundraising celebration in The Bok. A second “Patio Celebration” option beginning at 6:30 p.m. will feature live music by Ram Miles and Joe Finn, outdoor dining and pre-show festivities.

The gala performance and award presentation, directed and choreographed by Krystyna Resavy with music direction by Eric Thomas Johnson, will feature a Broadway-style musical revue performed by Sharon Playhouse favorites, guest artists and members of the YouthStage Company. Performers include Will Nash Broyles, Michael Siktberg, Ricky Oliver, Lucy Rhoades, Sasha Spitz and Michelle Lemon, along with

special guests from upcoming season productions including “Swingtime Canteen,” “Come From Away,” “42nd Street” and “Zombie Prom.”

“This is truly one of the most joyful nights of our year,” Andress said. “The Spotlight Gala is a celebration of everything the Playhouse represents: professional theater, arts education, community, and the incredible artists of all ages who bring our campus to life.”

Proceeds from the gala support the Sharon Playhouse Fund, which helps sustain professional theater productions, arts education programs and the theater’s Northwest Connecticut campus.

More information and tickets are available at [sharonplayhouse.org](http://sharonplayhouse.org).

COMMUNITY

# Greenwoods Puppet Festival returns to Norfolk Library with whimsy and wonder

By Mike Cobb

The third annual Greenwoods Puppet Festival returns to Norfolk Library May 29 and 30 with two days of puppetry, storytelling and hands-on workshops featuring nationally recognized artists and family-friendly performances.

Children’s librarian and events coordinator Eileen Fitzgibbins said, “The first Greenwoods Puppet Festival was sparked by a question I had: Where does magic occur?”

The festival begins Friday, May 29, at 5:30 p.m. with an adult sock puppet workshop in the Great Hall at Norfolk Library. Eric Weiss of Homeslice Puppetry will offer a behind-the-scenes look at puppet-making while guiding participants in creating their own puppets. A simple dinner will be served.

On Saturday, May 30, at 10 a.m., award-winning puppeteer Liz Joyce will present

“The Doubtful Sprout,” an ecological wonderland featuring multiple puppetry styles, projections and songs.

From 12:30 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Heather Henson, daughter of Jim Henson, creator of The Muppets, will present a program for all ages called “Remember The Way: Where water flows and creatures return, balance is remembered.”

“We invited Heather Henson to come this year to give a performance. She has been very supportive of our town having puppet festivals,” Fitzgibbins said.

Using puppets, masks and dance props, participants will explore planetary movements, seasonal rhythms and interconnected waterways through immersive animal role-playing. Guided by whales, cranes, sturgeon and bison, audiences will journey through shifting landscapes while taking part in rhythmic

dance games, song circles, crafting and interactive storytelling designed to illuminate the connection between local water systems and the ocean beyond.

At 3 p.m., puppeteer Sarah Nolen will present “Party Animals,” which follows four furry friends as they navigate throwing their first party. At 4:15 p.m., a children’s dress-up parade will take place outside around the library. Costumes are encouraged. There will also be opportunities to meet the puppeteers until 5 p.m.

Fitzgibbins concluded, “Puppetry is an ancient form of artistic expression. It is an avenue that can spread seeds of change, tackle issues of social justice and spark creativity. Puppets are tools of storytelling and are amazing works of art. It is an experience not to be missed.”

For tickets and information, visit [norfolklibrary.org/events](http://norfolklibrary.org/events)

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- **Expanded enterprise and lifestyle reporting**  
With a new Executive Editor, we are strengthening our newsroom, producing enterprise reporting on major issues and expanding our coverage of the arts and community events in the re-designed *Compass* section.
- **Investing in future talent**  
We revived the school newspaper and journalism programs at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, and plan to do the same at high schools in our New York coverage area. And for the fourth year, we will continue our paid summer internship program for college students.
- **Publishing more prize-winning reporting**  
*The Lakeville Journal* earned multiple awards from the New England Newspaper & Press Association, including First Place for Natalia Zukerman’s “Bearing Witness at Auschwitz,” a powerful story about memory and responsibility.

Yes, the future of local news for our community is promising—but **not guaranteed. Please join us. Every dollar you give—up to \$75,000—will be matched.**

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The Hillsdale Workshop Alliance (HWA) is a collective of independent producers offering creative workshops in and around Hillsdale. Once a year, HWA comes together to present the Workshop Experience Weekend, a carefully curated festival of hands-on learning, creativity and community with over 26 workshops and events. This year's Workshop Weekend takes place May 30-31. For tickets, visit [theworkshopexperience.org](http://theworkshopexperience.org).

## Tri-Corner Calendar

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

### MAY 28

**Learn to Play Ukulele with Julie Stepanek Murray**  
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)  
Learn the basics of ukulele with instructor Julie Stepanek Murray, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Open to ages 8 through adult, with no prior experience required. Ukuleles will be provided. Registration requested at [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org).

**Millbrook Film Club: "A Man Named Pearl"**  
Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y.  
6 to 8 p.m. Documentary on topiary artist Pearl Fryar and his transformative garden. Free screening.

### MAY 29

**Opening Day at Wethersfield Estate & Garden**  
Wethersfield Estate & Garden, 257 Pugsley Hill Road, Amenia, N.Y.  
Explore Wethersfield Estate & Garden, home to one of the country's finest classical Italian gardens, with sweeping hilltop views and a surrounding woodland garden featuring stately statuary. Picnics are welcome; carry-in/carry-out policy applies. Reservations are recommended. Membership includes free admission and guest benefits. [wethersfield.org](http://wethersfield.org)

### MAY 30

**Artist Talk: Near and Far, a Solo Exhibition by Richard Marr**  
Tyte Gallery, 3280 Franklin Ave. (2nd floor), Millbrook, N.Y.  
An evening with artist Richard Marr from 6 to 8 p.m. in conjunction with his solo exhibition, Near and Far which is on view through June 7. Marr's evocative landscape paintings explore water, movement and the interconnected rhythms of the natural world.

**Homeowner Series: Backyards that Support Birds**  
Sharon Audubon Center, Sharon (private residence location provided upon registration)  
Part of a three-program series focused on habitat management, this session explores how homeowners can support bird populations through backyard habitat design. Topics include native plantings, reducing lawn space, and improving biodiversity through land stewardship. The program is led by Bethany Sheffer and Beverly Sullivan. Pre-registration is required [audubon.org/sharon](http://audubon.org/sharon)

**Free Pet Vaccination & Microchipping Clinic**  
Third Lutheran Church, 31 Livingston St., Rhinebeck, N.Y.  
Hudson Valley Animal Rescue & Sanctuary (HVARS) hosts a free rabies vaccination clinic for dogs, cats and domestic ferrets 3 months and older, 12 to 4 p.m. Microchipping will also be available for \$45 per pet. Rabies vaccinations are free for Dutchess County residents; pre-registration is required at [hvvars.org](http://hvvars.org). Walk-ins accepted as space allows. All dogs must be leashed and cats/ferrets in carriers. Rain or shine.

### Crescendo Performs Bach Motets

Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass.  
Crescendo presents the first of two performances of Johann Sebastian Bach's celebrated motets, featuring the Crescendo Vocal Ensemble and professional soloists under the direction of Christine Gevert. The program includes three motets and organ chorale preludes, with commentary illuminating the music's spiritual and musical themes. Audience members will also be invited to join in singing select chorales. 4 p.m. [crescendomusic.org](http://crescendomusic.org)

**Members' Art Show**  
Spencertown Academy Arts Center, 790 State Route 203, Spencertown, N.Y.  
Annual exhibition featuring work by 100-plus regional artists in a range of media; reception May 31, 3-5 p.m.; gallery hours Fri.-Sun., 1-5 p.m. Free; most works for sale.

**Nature is the Art Gallery**  
Gallery of Dreams, 156 Gay St., Sharon  
Noon to 5 p.m.

Art opening at the Gallery of Dreams (on view through July 26). Potluck dinner at 5 p.m. Paintings, pastels, photography, sculpture, furniture, fabric art and jewelry by local artists. Gallery hours: Fri-Sun 12 to 5 p.m.

### Workshop Experience Weekend

Various locations  
Workshop Experience Weekend, a two-day festival of hands-on learning, creativity and community, will take place May 30-31. The event features more than 26 workshops and activities. Details and tickets are on sale at [theworkshopexperience.org](http://theworkshopexperience.org)

### "The Blessing of the Animals" - The Year of the Humane Child

Third Lutheran Evangelical Church, 31 Livingstone St., Rhinebeck, N.Y.  
Celebrate "Be Kind to Animals Week" with this free, outdoor community event in honor of Dr. Jane Goodall. Pastor Jim Miller will offer hands-on blessings for pets, while Ambassador Animals from local charities, including Animal Farm Foundation, Hope Farm Animal Rescue, P.A.N.T., Two by Two Animal Haven, and the State Police Canine Unit, greet visitors. Enjoy live music from a harpist, meet rappers and farm animals, and honor pets on the Pet Remembrance Tree. All furred, finned, feathered, and scaled friends are welcome. Noon to 4 p.m.; rain date May 31, 1 to 5 p.m. More information at [lutheranparishnorthern.dutchess.org/blessing-of-the-animals.html](http://lutheranparishnorthern.dutchess.org/blessing-of-the-animals.html)

### MAY 31

**Telling Stories About The Things You Love**  
Ancram Center of the Arts, 1330 County Route 7, Ancram, N.Y.  
The Spring workshops continue with a conversation and storytelling session with Mary Randolph Carter and Joan Osofsky. Participants will explore how meaningful objects—from heirlooms to flea market finds—can become the basis for personal stories, and will be invited to share an object that holds special meaning

in their own lives. Register at [ancramcenter.org/workshops](http://ancramcenter.org/workshops)

**Whistle Pig Sidewalk Sale**  
62 Main St., North Canaan, Conn.  
Stop by Whistle Pig Books between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. for its Spring Sidewalk Sale, featuring a wide selection of used books for \$1 each. Browse fiction, non-fiction, children's books, and more! For more information visit [whistlepigbooks.com](http://whistlepigbooks.com).

### Crescendo Performs Bach Motets

Trinity Church, 484 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville, Conn.  
The second concert in Crescendo's Bach motet series features the award-winning vocal ensemble performing works by Johann Sebastian Bach, including selections from BWV 225-230, with organ chorale preludes and audience participation. Conducted from the keyboard by Christine Gevert, the performance concludes a yearlong study of Bach's masterworks by the ensemble's amateur and professional singers. 4 p.m. [crescendomusic.org](http://crescendomusic.org)

### JUNE 2

**The Righteous Brothers: Lovin' Feelin' Farewell Tour**  
Warner Theatre, 68 Main St., Torrington, Conn.  
Bill Medley, joined by Bucky Heard, performs classic hits including "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'" and "Unchained Melody," 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$56.

### JUNE 3

**New Patterns & Edging: Knitting with Bruce Weinstein**  
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)  
Best-selling author and knitting expert Bruce Weinstein leads a workshop on new stitches for shawls, blankets and decorative edging, 2 to 4 p.m. Recommended for knitters with some experience. Additional session on July 2. Registration required at [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org).

**Library Jam & Community Sing-Along**  
Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y.  
6:30 to 8 p.m. Monthly gathering led by Eric Marshall. Bring an instrument or just your voice. All ages and abilities welcome. Meets first Wednesday of each month, indoors or on the porch depending on weather.

### JUNE 4

**How to Talk to Your Doctor with Bruce Weinstein**  
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)  
Board-certified patient advocate Bruce Weinstein presents practical strategies and take-home tools to help participants navigate health care with greater knowledge and confidence from 10 to 11:30 a.m. A question-and-answer session will follow. Registration requested at [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org).

**SOAR Trivia Night**  
Salisbury Central School, Salisbury, Conn.  
SOAR invites teams of up to four for an evening of trivia, pizza and friendly competition 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Salisbury Central School.

Pizza dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., with trivia starting at 6 p.m. Teams may include parents, grandparents, friends, students and neighbors. Cost is \$10 per person and includes pizza. Advance registration is required by May 29; walk-ins will not be accepted. Final room location will depend on the number of teams registered. Register at <https://bit.ly/4wi9QAS>

### JUNE 5

**Ned Ames Lecture: "Cultivating Resilient Food Systems in a Changing Climate"**  
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Lovejoy Auditorium, 2801 Sharon Turnpike (Route 44), Millbrook, N.Y.

## ... Blessing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

it create unexpected connections.

"I'm always amazed that people who would never talk to each other on the street are suddenly sitting on the lawn talking like old friends," she said. "Animals are great catalysts for human connection."

This year's rabies clinic, provided by HVARS, adds a critical public service component.

Rabies vaccinations are required by New York state law for all dogs, cats and domestic ferrets by four months of age. Owners who fail to comply can face fines of up to \$200.

"A lot of people don't realize that," Joyce said. "And they also don't realize how affordable this clinic makes it."

Vaccinations are free for Dutchess County residents with proof of residency and \$15 per pet for non-residents. Vaccines are valid for three years with proof of prior vaccination, or one year without it.

Microchipping will also be available for \$45, and one-year distemper vaccines for \$25.

"It's the size of a grain of rice," Joyce said of the microchips. "It's tiny, safe, affordable and permanent. If your pet is lost or stolen, all someone has to do is scan it."

She noted that the service can be especially important as pet thefts have risen in recent years.

The clinic was made possible through a donation from the Estate of Charles Svatek, whom Joyce described as someone "known for true acts of kindness and a loving desire to make the world better for all living creatures."

For Joyce, the event reflects a larger message about compassion — for animals and for each other.

"If this event does anything," she said, "I hope it reminds people that kindness ripples outward."

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged at [hvvars.org](http://hvvars.org), though walk-ins will be accepted as space permits. Dogs must be leashed; cats and ferrets must be in carriers. The event will be held rain or shine.

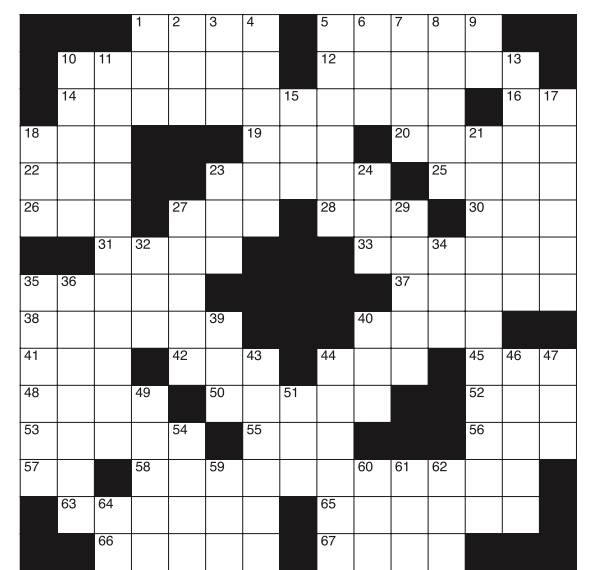
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## Brain Teasers

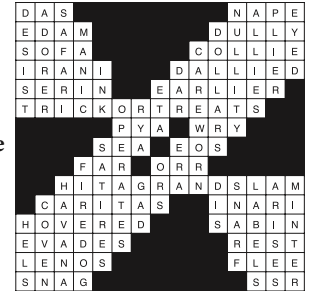
### CLUES ACROSS

- Streetcar
- Take \_\_\_ of it!
- SW Asia peninsula
- Beating wings to escape from a perch
- One who revitalizes
- Indicates position
- Dishonorable man
- Singer King Cole
- Short-tailed marten
- One point east (clockwise) of due north
- The god of the underworld in ancient mythology
- Dirt
- Superconducting super collider
- Not good
- A way to sink
- Unwell
- Follow orders
- Deep ravine
- Perfumery practice
- Indian film director Sultan
- Member of U.S. Navy
- Wing-like
- Very fast airplane
- Slang for cigarette
- Most cars still need it
- Political war chest
- Cools down
- Diminish toward one end
- Indigenous person of Thailand
- Combined
- Container
- Expression of satisfaction
- Thou
- Return a favor
- Go over once more
- Removed
- "Silence of the \_\_\_"
- Comedian Rogen

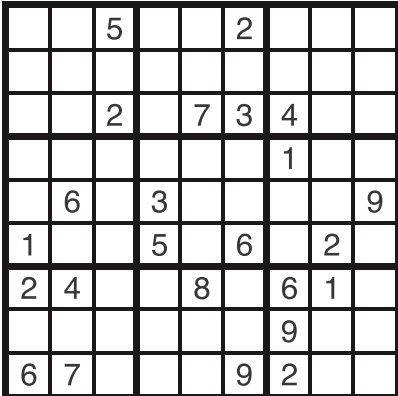


- Designs anew
- City associated with Jesus
- Cool!
- Bank employee
- Central nervous system
- Standardized piece of text
- A type of fever
- Baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Threaten persistently
- Aspirations
- Baby's eating accessory
- Actress Thurman
- Turn into bone
- One who saves you
- Consume
- Swiss river
- A part of a river where the current is very fast
- Categories
- Expressed amazement
- It's important in respiration (abbr.)
- Greek war dance
- Bland, semi-liquid food
- Regard in a specified way
- Taxi
- Naturally occurring solid material
- Feline
- Post-burning residue
- Elevated railroad

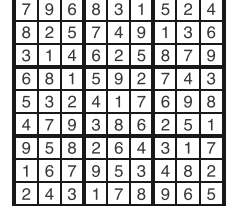
### May 21 Solution



### Sudoku



### May 21 Solution



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OUR TOWNS

# Amenia's median home price remains above \$400K

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

AMENIA — Amenia's housing market continued to show resilience this spring, with home prices rising over the past year even as sales activity remained relatively steady.

The 12-month trailing median sale price for a single-family home in Amenia reached \$403,840 for the period ending April 30, 2026. That figure represents a 26% increase from the \$320,000 median recorded during the comparable 12-month period ending April 30, 2025, although it is 4% below the trailing median recorded at the end of April 2024.

Sales activity remained within Amenia's typical historical range, averaging roughly two to three home sales per month. Excluding transactions at Silo Ridge Club, a total of 29 single-family homes sold during the 12-month period ending April 30, 2026, compared with 30 sales during the previous year and 38 sales during the year ending April 30, 2024.

Inventory showed modest improvement entering the spring market. As of May 15, 11 single-family homes were publicly listed for sale on OneKey MLS, along with four multi-family properties. Even with the increase in



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

**Tucked away on a private road, this four-bedroom home on 28 Oak Hill Road sold for its assessed value of \$975,000 at the end of March.**

listings, lower-priced inventory remained limited. Only four of the 15 residential properties on the market were listed below the town's current median sale price.

**March and April property sales**

22 Troutbeck Crescent – 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home sold in foreclosure on April 30, 2026, for \$425,000

141 Poplar Hill Road – 4

bedroom/3 bath home in Wassaic sold on April 3, 2026, for \$389,000

10 Flood Drive – 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home sold on April 2, 2026, for \$371,000

28 Oak Hill Road – 4 bedroom/3.5 bath home on 11.6 acres sold for its assessed market value on March 9, 2026, for \$975,000.

\* Town of Amenia real estate sales between March 1, 2026, and

April 30, 2026, provided by First Key MLS. Current market listings from First Key MLS. Market data on single family home sales from Info Sparks. Private transfers, including not publicly listed units at Silo Ridge, are not included and will be added when available. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.

## DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Harlem Valley area activity report May 14 to May 20

May 14 — Deputies responded to Coulter Avenue in the Village of Pawling to investigate a domestic dispute. The matter was resolved without further police intervention.

May 17 — Deputies responded to Church Street in the Town of Pine Plains for a domestic dispute between a mother and son. The matter was resolved without further police intervention.

May 17 — Deputies responded to Poplar Hill Road in the Town of Amenia for a disturbance between landlord and ex-tenant. Situation mediated by deputies on scene.

May 19 — Deputies responded to the area of Lower Powder House Road in the Town of Amenia for a 2 car Personal Injury Auto Crash. The matter was investigated without further incident.

*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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