



PINE PLAINS
 New auto shop **A3**



MILLERTON
 Fatal crash **A7**



COMPASS
 Upstate Art Weekend; and more **B1-4**



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Mindy Yang points to wildflowers growing at Silverbrook Manor, the Millbrook home where she and her husband, William Harris, operate a community-supported agriculture operation.

Historic farmhouse enters new chapter as a home for agricultural education

By NATHAN MILLER
 nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The scent of citrus, emanating from a discreet diffuser tucked along the wall, fills the air upon entering the historic farmhouse at Silverbrook Manor, where perfume expert Mindy Yang and her husband, William Harris, have started to build a life centered on regenerative agriculture and

education.

It's a fitting introduction to the couple and their property — a centuries-old farm that raised dairy cattle before the American Revolution and horses for decades afterward. Over glasses of cold water infused with mint from their garden, the couple described the property as a collision of eras and visions, blending Yang's passion for scents, food and natural medicines

with Harris's interior design skills and love of history.

At Silverbrook Manor, a property on Route 82 near the Cornell Cooperative Extension campus, Yang and Harris are building what they describe as a community-centered farm focused on regenerative agriculture and education.

After Washington officials re-

See SILVERBROOK, A8

Dick Hermans to receive the Estabrook Community Leadership Award

FALLS VILLAGE — The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News will present the 2026 Estabrook Community Leadership Award to Dick Hermans at the annual Jubilee celebration on October 11 at the Sharon Playhouse.

The award honors outstanding leadership in community service. Joan Osofsky and Suzanna Hermans are serving as co-chairs of the event. More than 50 community members, reflecting Dick's



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Dick Hermans, right, celebrating Oblong Books' 50th birthday.

See DICK HERMANS, A8

Eight apartments proposed on Route 44 tests North East's new zoning code

By NATHAN MILLER
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MILLERTON — Eight apartments could become the first homes built under North East's new Route 44 zoning regulations, marking the start of a development strategy designed to bring housing to the town's commercial corridor.

Local petroleum distributor GRJH Inc. presented plans to the Planning Board on Wednesday, June 24, to convert a two-story office building it has owned since 1997 into an eight-unit apartment building.

Lauren Simons and her daughter, Lilly, presented the plans that would include five one-bedroom apartments, two two-bedroom units and one studio. One of the units would be designated as "affordable."

The proposal is the first residential project made possible by the town's recent zoning overhaul. Volunteers spent more than four years drafting a new commercial zoning code with a central focus of bringing housing opportunities to a part of town that has long been seen as underdeveloped. Lauren Simons said she expects to finish the project by spring 2027 pending approval from town officials.

With the project now before the Planning Board, Lauren Simons said the building's exterior, parking lot and roadside sign would remain unchanged.

Planning Board members requested additional information after noting the plans did not show the existing site conditions, including the parking lot and other exte-

See APARTMENTS, A8

Millerton native to lead 175th comedy night

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
 grahamc@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — A village native who has long been known as the local funny man is putting his comedic skills to work this summer at Millerton 175's comedy night.

Ronnie Reed, 39, the headliner of Millerton 175's comedy night on July 16, said he's been telling jokes and making people laugh for as long as he can remember.

"I was always known as the funny guy, even if I wasn't always a comedian," Reed said, while reflecting on his childhood in Millerton. "But comedy's everywhere. Comedy can be wherever there's a microphone and people willing to listen to you. Or yell at you."

Reed moved to Millerton as



PHOTO PROVIDED

Ronnie Reed

See RONNIE REED, A8



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OPINION
 Thank you, Let's Hear It, Letters **A5**



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OUR TOWNS

Lakeville Journal, Millerton News welcome new board members

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. — LJMN Media, Inc., publisher of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, has announced the addition of three new members to its board of directors: Elyse Harney Morris, Thomas Trowbridge III and Karsten Moller. The appointments reflect the organization's continued commitment to strong local journalism and community engagement.

Harney Morris, of Salisbury, is the co-owner of a leading regional real estate firm and comes from a family with deep roots in the Northwest Corner. She has served on the boards of numerous local organizations, including Indian Mountain School, the Salisbury Grove Committee, and the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service, and has long been active in conservation and community initiatives throughout the region, including Project SAGE and the Dutchess and Columbia Land Conservancies.

Trowbridge, of Sharon, is an attorney, civic leader, and author who served for many years on the board of the

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, including as its president during the restoration and expansion of the library's historic building. A graduate of Yale University and the University of Michigan Law School, he spent much of his legal career with prominent New York law firms.

Moller, of Salisbury, has held senior leadership positions in international finance, investment banking and asset management, including roles with Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan-affiliated Highbridge Principal Strategies and the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association. He currently advises organizations on investor relations, fundraising and strategic partnerships and has been an active supporter of regional nonprofit organizations.

"Elyse, Tom and Karsten each bring valuable experience, strong community ties and a commitment to the future of local journalism," said CEO and Publisher James H. Clark. "We are grateful for the knowledge and perspective they bring to our mission."



PHOTO BY LUCIA IANDOLO

Karina Powers teaches the Dances of Chihuahua workshop class in the Stissing Center's Banning Hall. She led a group of five children and their supporters, teaching them about the region of Chihuahua and walking them through a cultural dance.

Dance workshop teaches kids Hispanic folkloric dance

By LUCIA IANDOLO
Special to the Millerton News

PINE PLAINS — Children and families from across the Taconic region learned the cultural dances of Chihuahua, Mexico, as part of a series of events geared toward children throughout the summer.

Karina Powers of Red Hook's Dance and Theater Arts Center and the Stissing Center for Arts and Culture held the "Dances of Chihuahua" workshop on Saturday aimed at teaching children in the community about Hispanic dances and culture.

Powers is a professional dancer and singer who received her master's degree from Escuela de la Danza in Baja, California, Mexico. She is an active member of the Millbrook community where she teaches classes that educate people on Mexican culture and performing arts.

The workshop was held at the Stissing Center for Arts and Culture's Banning Hall, where larger performances are held for members of the community. Powers began by showing families photographs of her history as a dancer and singer, as well as the traditional clothing worn by dancers in Chihuahua.

Powers said that as an artist you can learn to feel the energy from other people by seeing the emotions through

their movement.

"I think it's best for the people to get educated about folklorical dance from Mexico. It's very important to me, because I do it with passion, with a lot of respect, and it's what I want to show to them," Powers said.

As the workshop continued, families gathered on the stage as Powers walked through the steps while incorporating how they are historically important to the region of Mexico. The children and their parents were able to learn the dance while being immersed in the culture of Chihuahua.

Powers taught the families about folklorico shoes, the specific footwear that dancers wear for Mexican folk dancing. She explained that the footwear and clothing are important for dancers to safely perform fast-paced movement on wooden floors, and she allowed a child to wear one of the skirts during the workshop.

The "Dances of Chihuahua" event was held as part of the Stissing Center's Summer Children's Series, which is a program that includes diverse programming for kids. They have workshops, presentations, plays and educational events open to all children in the community and made possible by the Center's donors.

Jose Vazquez Nava is an



PHOTO BY LUCIA IANDOLO

Beginner dancers learn some new moves during the Dances of Chihuahua event.

Event Production Intern at the Stissing Center. He said this event is important for community members in the Hudson Valley because it appeals to a culture that is not regularly showcased and involves children in more diverse programming.

"I think having these programs are so important, not only for children, but we could probably encourage kids who want to pursue dancing or a career in media arts," Vazquez Nava said. "Centers like ours bridge that gap between a kid learning math or learning a new culture or art, which is very important."

Powers showed the children and their families a choreographed routine with music while teaching them certain traditions that dancers follow. She explained that dance is not only physical, but emotional. She emphasized dancers making noises

and screaming during their performances to get the audience's attention and treat the performance like a celebration.

The Stissing Center for Arts and Culture's Summer Children's Series runs until Aug. 22, 2026. Each Saturday they hold free or "pay what you can" events sponsored by the Bank of Millbrook and Sugar Hill Farm. The events feature live music, storytelling and interactive workshops.

Powers said it is important to honor and respect this form of dance as it takes years to learn not only the artform, but the history behind it.

"Mexico is art, Mexico is history, Mexico is culture, and the way some people show it is not right," Powers said. "For me, it's very important to be educated because we have to take this with honor and respect."



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKIN

Prehistoric party

Cristian Canmano presented an engaging Dinosaurs Rock program complete with genuine prehistoric artifacts, educational and entertainment for both kids and adults at the Millbrook Library on Saturday, June 27.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Kaits Kleaning LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 05-22-2026. Office Location: Dutchess county. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 24 Attlebury Hill Road, Standfordville NY 12581.

06-04-26
06-11-26
06-18-26
06-25-26
07-02-26
07-09-26

TOWN OF PINE PLAINS
TOWN BOARD
NOTICE OF CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in response to comments by Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development on the proposed Local Law entitled: "A Local Law Amending the Town of Pine Plains Code Chapter 7", the Town Board has accepted a revised proposed Local Law amending Chapter 7 which provides, in relevant part,

that in the event a divided lot consists of 4.5 acres or less, the less restricted portion of the lot may extend into the remainder of the lot, provided the Planning Board makes a finding that such extension will not adversely impact the essential character of the districts or neighborhood. The public hearing on the said revised Local Law will take place on July 16, 2026 at 7:05 p.m. at the Town of Pine Plains Town Hall. Any person desiring to be heard on said Local Law shall be provided with an opportunity to do so at said public hearing. A copy of the said Local Law is available for public review on the Town's official board and the Town's website and copies of the proposed Local Law can be examined at the Pine Plains Town Clerk's office during regular business hours. Dated: June 19, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN OF PINE PLAINS TOWN BOARD.
MADELIN DAFOE,
Town Clerk
07-02-26

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Aimee Filosidis
Millerton Branch Manager



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Giacomo Meccariello and his son Emmett in the newly renovated garage at Talus Automotive in Pine Plains.

Automotive service center gets new life after change of ownership

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — A new auto shop has opened in Pine Plains, picking up right where the old one left off.

The former home of Pine Plains Truck & Auto is now Talus Automotive, a family-run venture with deep roots in Pine Plains.

The new shop offers a variety of services, from oil changes to brake jobs, for hot rods and everyday vehicles alike. Giacomo Meccariello, a Pine Plains native, is running the shop with the help of his wife, Megan, and son, Emmett.

Megan is originally from Alabama, but spent summers at her mother's childhood home in Poland, New York. That's how she met Giacomo, and the couple later worked together at Sugar Hill Farm's Cut Facility.

When word reached the cut facility that Sugar Hill was buying the auto shop and looking for partners, Giacomo and Megan leapt at the chance. Giacomo is multi-talented — "I like doing things," he professed — and had worked on cars since childhood. Megan runs the front office and billing, and Emmett helps out wherever he can.

They have big shoes to fill. The shop's previous owner, Bruce Near, "is a really good guy who enjoys helping people," Meccariello said. "I want to contribute and follow in his footsteps in terms of helping

the town out. Everybody's in need of a mechanic."

The Meccariellos worked with the property's new owner to make a number of renovations to the building. They raised the roof, added trusses, and installed guillotine doors. They also built a new waiting room and added bathrooms. A fresh coat of paint and new signage completed the makeover.

Meccariello says Talus is sourcing locally in order to lower costs for his customers. "There are a lot of local shops that we use for parts," he said, "and they've been extremely good to work with. They provide us with decent pricing, so we can pass that along to the customer."

An oil change at Talus, while dependent on make and model, will run about \$80. They're also making specials a priority: a recent Father's Day special meant a 15% discount, and Meccariello says there's more to come in the months ahead. The overarching message, he says, is to welcome people in.

"We want people to know that we're here to provide a service for them. A lot of people lost their go-to guy when the previous owner left, so this will provide another option and opportunity for them and us. Plus it's nice to spend time together as a family."

Talus Automotive is located at 2700 NY-199 in Pine Plains. They're open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pine Plains

Zoning measures delayed after county review

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Two proposed laws that seek to amend portions of Pine Plains's zoning code have been delayed after pushback from the Dutchess County Department of Planning & Development.

The first concerns the split property at the former site of Lia's Mountain View restaurant. The lot lies in two separate zones, which the new owners have called on the town to combine into one. Plans for the space include a music venue and restaurant.

The county contends the proposed zoning change amounts to a use variance, which means the property will be used for a purpose other than what's typically

allowed in the zone it sits in. As it stands, the property owners have applied for an area variance. That entails modifying where they're able to build, as opposed to what they're building.

If they choose to follow the county's recommendation, the future owners would be able to rezone the entire parcel — rather than simply build a different kind of structure on the bifurcated area.

The second law concerns the distinction between a "farm stand" and a "farm market." In Pine Plains, a farm stand is seasonal. It's currently defined in the town code as "an accessory structure used for the display and sale of farm products grown on a farm's premises, and uses its proximity to a roadway to attract potential

customers."

A farm market, conversely, requires the available products to simply be grown in the larger Hudson Valley area. It's not required to be seasonal. The application in question, which pertains to the storage property at 2316 Church Street, requests a farm stand. Councilwoman Jeanine Sisco suggested the applicant revise the language to request a farm market instead.

The Pine Plains Town Board decided to send both applications back to the Pine Plains Planning Board for further discussion.

The meeting then turned to other news. The success of last week's Community Day was noted by Sisco. Councilman Trevor Roush proposed a workshop on potential uses for the new Town Hall site.

During public comment, resident George Keeler spoke against the potential creation of the Hudson Valley Power Authority Act, which is co-sponsored by State Senator Michelle Hinchey. The act would replace Central Hudson Gas & Electric with a publicly-owned utility company, which supporters claim would result in lower energy bills for residents. It also calls for the eventual transition to 100% renewable energy. Keeler claimed doing so would be costly and result in job loss for the area.

The board also passed a motion allowing the library to program events in their basement without scheduling through the town every time. The basement has become a popular space for an after school Kids Club from 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Amenia delays environmental review for Keane Stud subdivision

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — A formal environmental impact determination for a proposed luxury housing subdivision is facing further delays as consultants and Planning Board members work to finalize material for a comprehensive impact study.

Planning Board members, consultants and representatives of the applicant have been discussing a formal environmental impact study since September 2025 with the goal of outlining worst-case scenario impacts to water tables, scenic views and community character. The center of discussion at the board's Wednesday, June 24, meeting was a "scope analysis" meant to identify key issues for study in the formal environmental impact statement.

Developers and owners of Keane Stud, a horse farm on Depot Hill Road in Amenia, call for 605 acres to be divided into 23 large agricultural lots near Depot Hill Road. Brothers Juan and Pedro Torres, who are behind the plans to subdivide the farm that sits on a prominent ridge overlooking the hamlet of Amenia, originally submitted their proposal to the Planning Board in August 2023.

Since submitting a draft scope analysis in September 2025, the developers have worked with Amenia's visual consultant, George Janes, to produce materials for the board's review.

The environmental impact study is seen as the first step toward completing the environmental review requirements

under New York's State Environmental Quality Review Act.

Representing the Keane Stud developers at last week's meeting and throughout the process was attorney Diana Kolev, Partner of DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise Wiederkehr, LLP, of White Plains.

Since last year, the developers have sought to understand the steps necessary to define environmental and visual impacts of the proposed subdivision. That process comprises the scope analysis, which is meant to identify environmental concerns that would then be further investigated in a formal environmental impact statement.

Planning Board engineer John Andrews reported that he had reviewed all the submissions, but the planning board would need to determine whether the materials submitted by the developer and Janes provide enough information to proceed.

Key aspects to be focused

upon, Andrews suggested, were the community-based issues and the developers' vision.

Reporting on a recent meeting he had with the developers, Janes said that the intent is to submit a memorandum in the coming week offering recommendations.

"The goal," Andrews told the board, "is to determine completeness, not whether you agree or disagree. It's not critical now to bog down in minutiae."

Current board attorney Victoria Polidoro explained that no immediate board decision was called for, but that the board should review the submitted documents to see if the information is sufficient to begin the public review process.

"Keep 'agree' and 'disagree' out of your mind," Andrews added.

Board attorney Cassandra Britton advised that community character could be an incomplete section.

Board member Ken Topolsky mentioned two concerns,

the proposed subdivision's effects on community character and encroachment on scenic views. He said he would like to see a conceptual view of what the site would look like when developed.

Whether the planning board would ever see a likely scenario, rather than the mandated "worst case scenario" was an environmental perspective question asked by board member Jamie Vitiello.

"The worst-case scenario takes into account all of the existing rules," Janes explained. "These are not actual development proposals," he added.

Anticipating continued discussion at their next meeting on July 8, the board agreed that the attorney would prepare a resolution that would declare that the submitted report is sufficient at the present time. In the meantime, the board will provide comments to the attorney.

A public hearing process will begin once the submissions are deemed complete.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

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Abby Conroy will be moving both onward and upward from her position as Director of Land Use here in Salisbury. Her tenure has been marked with the highest degree of professionalism and concern in protecting the natural resources of Salisbury. As a member of the Wetlands Commission, I wish to thank Abby for her leadership and guidance in dealing with difficult issues and helping us to find a balance between development and preserving our lakes and wetlands. So thank you for everything and best wishes on your future endeavors.



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Helen Sung Quartet
Works from her debut big band album *Oracles* (Sunnyside Records, 2026)
Arranged for Jazz Quartet

SUN., JULY 12 | 3:00 PM
American String Quartet & Nina Bernat, Double Bass
Works by HAYDN, DEBUSSY, and DVORAK
String Quintet in G Major, Op. 77

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Music Mountain Summer Festival

OBITUARIES

Anna Mae Kupferer

MILLERTON — Anna Mae Kupferer was born May 10, 1937, and died May 3, 2026. She grew up in Maplewood, New Jersey where she and her older sister, Dorothea, worked in their father's ice cream parlor on a life-long obsession with ice cream. As a young woman, Anna Mae attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, receiving her Actor's Equity card and appearing in summer stock theater productions with the likes of Eartha Kitt and Charlton Heston. In 1961 Anna Mae married Andrew Bruce Kupferer and settled down in West Orange, New Jersey to raise her family of three boys. In the mid-seventies, the family moved to Millerton, New York, an idyllic small town in the Hudson Valley. Anna Mae made friends quickly in her new community and soon found a job at the Lakeville Journal, working her way up from collating the newspaper to advertising manager. Anna Mae loved meeting the area's business owners and helping them increase their sales. She was a straight shooter with an incredible sense of humor which she put to good use writing her weekly column in the Journal, Keep Your Sunny Side Up, poking fun at herself and her family, and the travails of country living. For nearly fifty years, Anna Mae was a hardworking, vital force in Millerton. In 2023, she moved from her beloved saltbox house with the "tom-



hawk door" on Rudd Pond Road to be closer to family. While she missed her friends and neighbors -- particularly her "adopted family" the Elliots, she was lucky to land at Hartwell Place, an assisted living home in Chicago. She once again made friends quickly becoming an integral part of their caring and compassionate community. Anna Mae was a devoted wife, loving mother, and dotting, generous grandmother. She is survived by her sons Keith (Tara Mallen) and Kurt (Jolanta), and her granddaughter Katherine Mallen Kupferer. She is preceded in death by her husband, Bruce, and her oldest son, Christopher. A celebration of Anna Mae's life will be held (TBD) in Millerton, NY. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Anna Mae's memory to Rivendell Theatre Ensemble (www.RivendellTheatre.org)--a professional theater she loved to attend that her son Keith and daughter-in-law Tara founded in Chicago in 1996. Calling hours will be held on Thursday, July 9, 2026 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. A prayer service will take place at 6:30 p.m. during visitation. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Anna Mae's honor, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

Celebration of Life

Bill Hower

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

MILLERTON — Donald Harry Duncan, 78, of Millerton, New York, passed away peacefully at home on June 16, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on Nov. 30, 1947, in Millerton, Don was the son of the late Kenneth T. Duncan and Georgeanna (Jaynes) Duncan. A lifelong resident of Millerton, he was deeply rooted in the community he loved and in the land that had been part of his family for generations.

Don earned an Associate Degree in Animal Husbandry from Cornell University and spent much of his life doing what he loved most—farming. As a proud farmer at Duncandale Farm, he carried on a family tradition while working tirelessly to preserve the farmland from future development, ensuring that it would remain open and productive for generations to come. He took special pride in sharing that work with his grandchildren, Gabriel, Braeden, and Ariana, who worked alongside him on the farm. He also worked for twelve years as a machine operator at Kimberly-Clark and later spent several years working alongside his son, Alex, as a carpenter.

A devoted member of the Millerton community, Don was active in numerous organizations, including the Millerton Presbyterian Church, the Millerton Grange, and the Millerton Lions Club. He was especially proud to be one of the Rounders of Riga, a tradition shared by his father and many of his lifelong friends. Each fall, he eagerly anticipated deer camp, where he enjoyed hunting, walking the woods, and spending time with friends who became like family.

Don was a loyal friend and mentor to many, generously sharing his time and support as a sponsor to fellow friends of Bill W. His quiet wisdom, steady presence, and willingness to help others left a last-

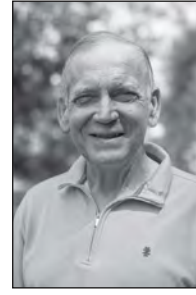
ing impact on countless lives, always offering encouragement, understanding, and hope whenever it was needed.

Nothing brought Don greater joy than his family. In April of 1967, he was set up with Sharon (Drake) on a blind date for his spring formal with Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. Six months later they were married, beginning a partnership that would span 58 years and become the foundation of a life filled with love, laughter, faith, and family. Together they raised three sons, Bruce (Wendy), Alex (Betsy), and Steven (Kim), and were blessed with seven grandchildren: Sydney, Chelsea, Bailey, Braeden, Tony, Gabriel, and Ariana.

When he wasn't working, Don enjoyed fishing, hunting, solving Sudoku puzzles, spoiling his cats, and the many ski trips he shared with family and friends over the years. He appreciated life's simple pleasures and found happiness in everyday moments.

In addition to his wife, children, and grandchildren, Don is survived by his sister, Patricia Flood of Millerton, and his brother, James Duncan (Annette) of Ballston Spa, New York, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, his brother-in-law, Thomas Flood, his in-laws, Herbert and Helen Drake, and his brother-in-law, David Drake.

Those who knew Don will remember his kindness, humility, strong work ethic, and unwavering dedication to family, friends, faith, and community. His legacy lives on in the land he cherished, the family he loved, and the many lives he touched. And while we mourn his absence, we take comfort in imagining him reunited with his dear friend Bob—casting a line, swapping stories, and shar-



ing a laugh once again.

The family extends its heartfelt gratitude to the many physicians, nurses, aides, and caregivers who supported Don throughout his journey. They are especially grateful to Dr. Ashita Talsania of Smilow Cancer Hospital in Torrington, whose extraordinary skill, compassion, dedication, and unwavering care over many years meant more to Don and his family than words can express.

All services will be held on Wednesday, July 1st at South Amenia Presbyterian Church, 229 South Amenia Road, Wassaia, NY. Visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by a Celebration of Life at 12:00 noon. A reception will follow in the church social hall.

Don was happiest in casual clothes and always greeted others with a smile. To celebrate the way he lived, the family encourages guests to wear colorful, casual clothing and to bring a smile of

their own.

Memorial contributions may be made in Don's memory to Yale New Haven Hospital, Fund for Smilow Cancer Hospital, Office of Development, P.O. Box 1849, New Haven, CT 06508 to help advance research, treatment, and hope for individuals and families facing blood cancers, or to the Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington Street, Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. The family is deeply grateful for the exceptional care, comfort, and dignity provided by hospice during Don's final days. Please note "Donald Duncan" in the memo line of any check donation. Online gifts may also be made through either organization.

The family also encourages those who can to donate blood. Don's life was extended and enriched by the generosity of blood donors, and their gifts made a meaningful difference.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546, www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

Donald Harry Duncan

OPINION

Tonsil surgery, bicentennial fatigue, anniversary

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

July 4, 1935

About Millerton

Ethel Loan has resumed her duties at Strong's drug store after a week's absence because of a tonsil operation.

July 1, 1976

N. Y. Will Operate Rudd Pond

New York State will be running the show and footing the bills at the Taconic State Parks at Rudd Pond and Copake Falls this summer, a state parks official said this week.

The State legislature has restored \$876,000 to the executive budget for the operation of park facilities, John H. Kennedy, assistant manager of the Taconic State Park Region, said Tuesday.

He added that the legislature allotted an additional \$125,000, half of the original \$250,000 request, for the park operation program. This means that a total of \$1 million of the \$1.8 million first cut from the budget, has been restored.

The Town of North East successfully took over the operation of Rudd Pond during

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Millerton News

the summer of 1975 after the State unexpectedly closed the park.

The park at Rudd Pond "will be a 7-day a week operation," said Kennedy. Swimming facilities will be open there daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. though Labor Day, Sept 6. Camping facilities will be open through Oct. 31

There may be a fee reduction at a certain period of the day Kennedy said, although he could not say when this price cut may be initiated.

Vehicle use fees are presently \$2 a day at Rudd Pond. A tent platform campsite costs \$3.50 a day. An unimproved ground site or a trailer site costs \$3 a day.

Millerton Welcomes Bicentennial But Blasts Its Commercialism

Patriotic spirits are high in Millerton this week as the nation marks its 200th anniversary on Sunday, July 4.

However, a majority of residents polled this week said that the commercial exploitation of the Bicentennial clouded its historical and personal significance.

Twelve out of 14 people

told The News that they were excited about the once-in-a-lifetime event, but 8 out of 14 charged that the Bicentennial was too commercial and not enough emphasis had been placed on the historical principles on which the United States was founded.

"I think more emphasis should be on historical things than fireworks, yelling and screaming, parades and that kind of stuff," said Millerton Mayor John Hermans. "People look forward to it as a day off rather than think what this country stands for. The commercialization is a lot of hogwash... People should think back to who did what to make this country a little better."

July 5, 2001

Anniversary Festival Set

MILLERTON — The village of Millerton is getting ready to celebrate its 150th anniversary in less than a month. A committee of volunteers has been working for nearly a year and one of the organizers, Bill Krasowsky, said the hard work is now paying off.

The celebration is scheduled for the first two weekends in August and will offer activities over a nine-day period.

"It's loosely modeled after the successful Railroad Days

in nearby North Canaan, Conn.," Mr. Krasowsky said. But, he pointed out, the festivities are designed to promote what is uniquely Millerton.


The anniversary celebration will begin with an oldies party at the gazebo in Railroad Plaza on Friday night, Aug. 3.

"Joe Loverro of WOQQ will broadcast his show live," Mr. Krasowsky said. The festivities will conclude on Saturday, Aug. 11, with a firemen's parade, community picnic, music, classic cars and fireworks.

In between, there will be some 50 activities including walking tours of historic places in town, sidewalk sales, a Civil War encampment, World War II exhibit, lots of music and contests for young and old.

Music will include a battle of the bands for teens, the Housatonics barbershop quartet, the Salisbury Band and American standards during a live broadcast of WQQ's "Those Wonderful Years."

Historical events of note, in addition to the walking tours, include an antique cannon firing, a program on Millerton's Hall of Famer Eddie Collins and an appearance by Poughkeepsie Journal editor and former Millerton News editor Meg Downey who will present a history of Dutchess County.

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

EDITORIAL

Thank you for helping meet the match

This spring, the board members of LJM Media offered a \$75,000 matching challenge in support of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News.

Thanks to readers, donors, neighbors and friends across the region, we met that challenge.

Every gift made during the campaign was matched dollar for dollar by members of our Board of Directors, doubling its impact. We are grateful to everyone who gave and to the board members who made the match possible.

The money raised will help support the work already underway across the organization: improving how the news reaches readers; expanding reporting; strengthening arts and lifestyle coverage; supporting student journalism; and continuing to produce the local news our communities rely on.

That work depends on many kinds of support. Subscriptions, advertising and donations all help keep The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News strong as nonprofit newspapers.

At a time when many local papers are shrinking or disappearing, this community continues to show that local journalism matters. We do not take that for granted.

Thank you for helping us meet this year's challenge, and for continuing to support trusted, independent local news in Northwest Connecticut and eastern Dutchess County.

— James H. Clark, CEO/Publisher

LET'S HEAR IT...



THIS WEEK

As the nation prepares to celebrate its 250th Independence Day, the country finds itself divided on many issues. The Fourth of July has long been a day to celebrate the nation, but it can also be a time to reflect on what patriotism means in today's America.

Are you feeling patriotic for this year's 250th Fourth of July? How do you plan to celebrate or observe the holiday?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, July 6 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

What are you looking forward to this summer?

"I just went to the Jacob's Pillow Gala which was lovely and I'm super looking forward to their spate of programming that's happening this year. I love seeing dance, but I also love going to all the theater that's in the Berkshires as well." — Erica Steiner, Sharon

"I'm looking forward to getting really good drinks everywhere, like lemonade. Especially at Harney and Sons." — Annabelle Muzaurieta, Sharon

"Our whole family is going to get together and we're going to go to Cape Cod. There's 17 of us and we'll spend a couple of weeks making good food and swimming." — Patty Pickard

"I'm sure we will be traveling to see family and friends and going kayaking and biking. Just enjoying the good weather. Swimming, of course!" — Jim Raymond



"Wait! This is not the hill I want to die on!"

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

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

Accepting financial support does not mean we endorse donors or their products, services or opinions.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let Us Vote for We the People

Now is the time that tries our souls. As we celebrate our Declaration of Independence in 1776, let us commit ourselves to the ideals declared 250 years ago by voting for We the People and our Common Good and by declaring our independence from the current wannabe-king. Let us campaign and vote

FOR the full promise of our Declaration of Independence;

FOR equality and the rights to Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness of all people of all races, colors, faiths, genders, and ethnic origins;

FOR government of the people, by the people, for the people, NOT government of

the rich, by the privileged, for the select few;

FOR our communities and the Common Good in our cities, suburbs, and rural countryside, including affordable healthcare, quality schools and colleges, food security, libraries, local police, fire protection, disaster relief, postal service, transportation and communications infrastructure;

FOR the rule of law, freedom of the press, and academic freedom;

FOR fair taxation of all, NOT tax breaks for the rich;

FOR affordable food, housing, and drugs;

FOR health regulations based on science;

FOR peace, NOT capricious wars of choice;

FOR performance of solemn treaty obligations, NOT whimsical repudiation;

FOR professional diplomats and scientists to conduct international negotiations, NOT amateur in-laws and business friends;

FOR legislation prohibiting payouts to convicted criminals from an "anti-weaponization" settlement fund;

FOR sensible tariffs, NOT tariff yo-yo;

FOR ethics and truth, NOT corruption and falsehoods;

FOR intelligent modesty, NOT dumb arrogance;

FOR responsible political parties, NOT personal cults;

FOR developing and regulating AI to be positive and safe for society, NOT a threat to civilization;

FOR humane public administration of detention centers and prisons, NOT private profiteering and cost cutting through inhumane treatment;

FOR legislation to remove presidential immunity from criminal prosecution;

FOR legislation to prohibit portraits of living persons on passports, currency, and securities and to prohibit monuments to and statues and posters of living current and former presidents in any location other than a presidential library;

FOR the integration of legal immigrants into American

society, NOT deportation;

FOR prohibitions on members of Congress from trading securities and on government officials from using inside information for personal gain;

FOR legislation to require IRS audit of the tax returns of the president, his immediate family, and their businesses;

FOR a well-trained and fully funded military loyal to the Constitution and the people, not to any individual;

FOR limiting the use of the military to operations outside the country which are authorized by Congress, NOT for using the military for domestic control of the people or interference with elections;

FOR the support of veterans and their families;

FOR funding public radio and television;

FOR public monuments to celebrate our values and ideals, NOT gaudy personal vanity projects;

FOR protecting our natural resources, environment, water, air, and climate;

AND FINALLY, FOR celebrating the ideals in our Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and committing to a new birth of freedom to realize those ideals for all people.

We can do it! G. A. Mudge Sharon, Conn.

Zoning and data centers

The majority of Americans, regardless of political leaning, are resisting the building of more data centers. These centers require massive amounts of electricity to power the servers, sucking up millions of gallons of water daily to cool them. Facilities operate 24-hours a day and generate a persistent low-frequency buzzing from the cooling units and exhaust from the diesel generators when they are in use.

Towns can use their zoning laws to block the use of large sites from becoming data centers. Zoning should be used to protect schools, hospitals, and environmentally sensitive nature centers, with limited drinking water supplies.

The world's largest data centers are owned by Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure for cloud computing and AI, Google Cloud for global network, and Meta and Apple for their social platforms. They say they need the data centers to stay ahead of China with AI innovation. Telecommunications providers like AT&T, Verizon and Telehouse also own massive data centers for networking, hosting and cloud services to businesses.

Connecticut has about 50 data centers but no mega-sized centers, located across the state. Wallingford with 10, and Norwich with 16 have the most data centers.

Connecticut's data centers are heavily regulated by the Connecticut Siting Council, for their location and environmental impacts, but towns can determine whether data centers can be built using their zoning regulations. Some towns like Morris have enacted temporary moratoriums.

Connecticut has a controversial Data Center Tax Incentive Program to attract high-tech investments, giving tax breaks to these companies.

The Tech companies do not need a free ride; they should pay for their electricity costs and pay taxes as all other businesses do. Regulations are needed particularly for the enormous water usage and chemical treatments required for cooling, which can impact local watersheds and well-water.

There is also the problem of constant noise and pollution these cooling systems create.

Lizbeth Piel Sharon, Conn.

To read this week's 'From the Archives,' see page A4

YOUR NEWS

Stay informed millertonnews.com



PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Summer blooms

THE MILLERTON NEWS
(USPS 384600)
An Independent New York Newspaper
Official Newspaper of the Village of Millerton, Town of North East, Town of Washington, Town of Amenia, Town of Pine Plains, North East (Webutuck) Central School District and Millbrook Central School District
Published Weekly by LJM Media, Inc.
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; Dan Dwyer, Chair
P.O. Box 625, Millerton, NY 12546
(860) 435-9873 ext. 608 • millertonnews.com • editor@millertonnews.com

Volume 95, Number 23 Thursday, July 2, 2026

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

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Subscription Rates - One Year:
\$120.00 in Dutchess and Columbia Counties, \$147.00 Outside Counties
Known Office of Publication: Lakeville, CT 06039-1688. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Millerton, NY 12546. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to LJM Media, Inc., PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688.

OUR TOWNS

Historical Society explores legacy of early Millbrook founder Philip Hart

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Early Millbrook founder Philip Hart, whose successful mill on Harts Village Road helped give the community its name, was the focus of a presentation sponsored by the Millbrook Historical Society at the Millbrook Library on Saturday, June 27.

Historian and genealogist Kathy Moyer presented "The Illustrious Family of Philip Hart and Hart House," tracing the Hart family's history in Millbrook and the generations of descendants who went on to build wealth, influence and philanthropic legacies.

Hart built the Federal-style Hart House in 1800 for himself, his wife, Susana Akin, and their 11 children who survived to adulthood. The home remained in the Hart family for eight generations until 1954. Nan and David Greenwood purchased and restored the property in 1984, and David Greenwood later served for many years as town historian.

Born in Rhode Island, Hart later moved west in search of economic opportunity and found it in what would become Millbrook. Although described as a "Worldly Baptist," he married Akin, a local Quaker, and the couple remained together for 55 years. Moyer described Hart as a farmer, merchant, major landowner, mill operator and clothier, producing broadcloth that was smoother and less itchy than traditional homespun fabric.

"He was a fun guy to be around," Moyer said, adding that Hart became known as the "Father of the Inland Industrial Revolution" because of his role in shaping the region's early economy.

One of Hart's lasting contributions came in 1804 when he helped improve the Dutchess Turnpike — today's Route 44 — by having the roadway near his mill surfaced with crushed stone, creating a smoother route for commerce that benefited both travelers and his business.

While some Hart descendants remained local, others became prominent figures in New York. Moyer said family members helped shape the development of Troy during its rise as one of America's wealthiest cities and later founded major banks, helped establish the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and became leaders of New York society during the Gilded Age.

Several built homes in Brooklyn Heights along Remsen Street and Pierpont Place, overlooking the East River.

Closer to home, the family's Quaker heritage led to its long association with the Nine Partners Boarding School, where Hart's children were educated.

Moyer has retired from serving as Associate Director of Development, Historian and Archivist at Oakwood Friends School, which traces its roots to the Nine Partners school.

After the talk, historical society members were invited to tea and a tour of the Hart House, hosted by Nan Greenwood, right, who hosted the tea and tour.



PHOTOS BY LEILA HAWKEN

Farmer, merchant, landowner and mill owner Philip Hart and his wide-reaching legacy were brought to life during a talk at The Millbrook Library on Saturday, June 27. Researcher Kathy Moyer, left, presented the illustrated talk that was followed by tea at the 1800s multi-generational home of the Hart family, now the home of Nan Greenwood, right, who hosted the tea and tour.

Millbrook voters approve Bingo, games of chance for fundraisers

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — By overwhelming margins, voters in a special village election approved measures allowing Bingo and Games of Chance in Millbrook after the Millbrook Engine, Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 sought to once again allow the games and use the events as fundraisers.

The Board of Trustees unanimously certified the election results during a special meeting Wednesday, June 24.

Mayor Peter Doro announced the final tally. The bingo referendum, which would allow nonprofits and businesses to run bingo games with an appropriate license from New York State, passed 87-1, while the games of chance measure was approved

82-6. "The Millbrook Engine, Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 is incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support our community showed in approving Bingo and Games of Chance," said Company President Kelly Tomasulo in response to the vote.

"As a 100% volunteer fire department, these fundraisers are vital to helping us provide

equipment, training, and the resources needed to protect our community," Tomasulo added.

Bingo returns to the firehouse on Friday, Oct. 2

Cell tower lease

Separately, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a new cell tower lease with AT&T that will add telecommunications equipment to the village water tower,

joining existing installations by T-Mobile and Verizon to improve local cellular service.

Under the renewable five-year lease, AT&T will install and maintain equipment on and around the water tower. The company will pay the village a one-time fee of \$30,000 and monthly rent of \$2,500, with the rental payment increasing 2.5% annually over the life of the agreement.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

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.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

The historic, renovated home built in 1788 on 17 acres at 9715 Route 22 sold for \$1,037,500 in May.

Hillsdale home prices climb as inventory surges

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to the Millerton News

HILLSDALE — Hillsdale has emerged as one of Columbia County's strongest housing markets, with home prices surging over the past two years.

The median sale price for the 12-month period ending May 31 reached \$865,000, up 20.9% from a year earlier and 27.8% from the comparable period ending May 2024, according to Multiple Listing Service data.

At the same time, inventory climbed sharply. Thirty-nine homes were on the market at the end of May, up 144% from a year earlier and 44.4% from May 2024.

Hillsdale transfers March to May

La Branche Road & Dawson Road — 202.2 acres of vacant land located in Hillsdale and Austerlitz transferred on March 24, 2026, for \$1.25 million.

lion. 110 Meadow Lane — 3 bedroom/2 bath home on 11.9 acres transferred on April 7, 2026, for \$825,000.

550 Rockledge Road — 2 bedroom mobile home on 38 acres transferred on April 28, 2026, for \$199,000.

487 Hunt Road — 1 bedroom/1 bathroom renovated carriage house on 118 acres transferred on April 30, 2026, for \$875,000.

9715 Route 22 — 5 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 17 acres transferred on May 1, 2026, for \$1,037,500.

46 Collins St. — 4 bedroom/3 bath home on 2.3 acres transferred on May 21, 2026, for \$1,625,000.

*Town of Hillsdale recorded real estate transfers from March 1, 2026, to May 31, 2026 from Columbia County Clerk records of deed transfers between unrelated parties. Market statistics from William Pitt Sotheby's Market Watch for May 2026.

Fourth of July SALE!

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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZMUDA, COURTESY OF SHARON PLAYHOUSE

The all-female cast of Swingtime Canteen prepares to wave goodbye after bringing WWII-era music and stories to the stage. The special July 4 performance is among Sharon's holiday festivities.

Sharon Playhouse

Swingtime Canteen to close with 4th of July spectacular

By ALY MORRISSEY
alym@lakevillejournal.com

SHARON – Swingtime Canteen will go out with a bang after the Fourth of July, with the Sharon Playhouse's patriotic season opener set to close Sunday, July 5. With a handful of shows remaining, the all-female cast reflected on the importance of centering women in a WWII story, their favorite moments in the production, and their go-to local haunts while staying in the Northwest Corner.

Sitting on the vibrant stage bedecked with stars, stripes and life-sized WWII-era posters, the cast took turns talking about the relevance of the show as the country prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary.

"What's so cool about Swingtime Canteen is the way it features women," said Claire Marie Spencer, who plays Topoka Abotelli, the Rosie the Riveter-inspired character. "I think that the show does an incredible job of featuring the enormous shift in history that happened during WWII when, in a lot of ways, women came to the forefront in a beautiful team effort."

The show's fading Hollywood starlet and band leader Marian Ames, played by Margaret Dudasik, brings a group of instrument-playing women to London, providing her with a meaningful second act as a performer for American troops stationed abroad.

"It was a period of time

when probably everyone you knew was serving," Dudasik said. "A husband, a high school sweetheart, a neighbor. It really shows that you never know what someone's going through or dealing with."

Michelle Lemon, who returns to Sharon after years of performing and choreographing at the Playhouse, enjoys significant stage time as she jams on the saxophone, guitar, banjo and piano throughout the show. But for her, it's a moment of collaboration with the audience – one of many – that causes her to choke up during every performance.

"We invite the audience to sing with us, and to see people sing the lyrics back...I kind of have to disassociate because it's so beautiful."

Spencer echoed the sentiment, saying it's a song called "Pack Up Your Troubles" that brings her to tears each night.

"The idea of 18-year-old boys singing such a happy, upbeat song in the midst of such evil and darkness is powerful," she said, alluding to a parallel between the song's history and how it was performed by the women during the show amidst a dark moment.

Still, the show is chock-full of lighter moments and familiar tunes. Lauren Seery, who plays Lt. Jeannie Pielmeier and serves as an integral member of the band, enjoys the first moment when the cast breaks the fourth wall with style – and sweets.

"There's a break in the middle of the song 'Holly-

wood Canteen' where the band gets to jam out over some really fun changes, and Lucy, Michelle and Margaret's characters go into the audience and serve real donuts and coffee to the audience as if they were the troops," Seery said.

The show features 30 different songs from the 1930s and 1940s in a fast-paced, up-beat production that brings audience interaction into the spotlight.

Originally hailing from six different states across the country, the cast currently resides in Manhattan or Brooklyn but has found a handful of local favorite spots during the show's run.

The cast said they've gone as a group to Grassland Desert Cafe in Lakeville for ice cream more than once. Lucy Rhoades – who shines this year as Katie Gammersflugel after her breakout Sharon Playhouse debut as Dyanne in Million Dollar Quartet last summer – said her first job in New York City was working at an Irving Farm so she stops in for coffee in Millerton often. Others have enjoyed antiquing in the area, stopping at On the Run for a breakfast sandwich, and hiking in Kent State Park and enjoying views of the 250-foot waterfall.

Tickets for Swingtime Canteen are still available at sharonplayhouse.org, including a special holiday afternoon performance at 4 p.m. on the Fourth of July.



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Millerton fire crews block traffic going south of the Route 22/Route 44 intersection in the Village of Millerton after one person died in a motorcycle crash on Monday, June 29.

One dead, two injured after motorcycle crash on Route 22

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON – One person is dead and two are injured after a crash involving two motorcycles and a car on Route 22 near Silamar Farm just after 11:30 a.m. on Monday, according to the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office.

Authorities said one mo-

torcycle operator died and the other was transported to Vassar Hospital in critical condition. The operator of the car was also transported to Vassar Hospital for medical evaluation, according to a statement from the Sheriff's Office.

The identities and ages of the involved individuals have not yet been released. Author-

ities say the crash is still under investigation.

Route 22 was closed between Route 199 and Main Street in Millerton. The road was reopened to traffic by 5 p.m.

First responders from Amenia, North East, and Millbrook responded to the scene.

Additional reporting by Nathan Miller.

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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.

Together, we're building the future of local news.

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Local Matters

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL | THE MILLERTON NEWS

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APARTMENTS *Continued from Page A1*

rior features.

"If we approve the site plan and it's there then we can't bother you later," said Dale Culver, chair of the Planning Board. "I would rather see a little more detail now rather than any problems for you later."

Discussion later turned to sewage capacity and sidewalk requirements.

Planning Board member Bill Kish questioned whether the property's septic system could accommodate eight apartments, noting that the proposed municipal wastewater system would likely not serve the building and that sewage demands for eight residential units would be substantial.

Simons responded that the building was originally constructed as a high-volume restaurant in the 1980s, with parking and a septic system designed to handle significantly greater demand. She said septic consultants have evaluated the system and determined it can support the proposed eight apartments.

The proposal also prompted a broader discussion about

ambiguities in the town's new zoning code.

Board members questioned a provision requiring developers along Route 44 to build sidewalks, noting there are no sidewalks adjoining the property and raising concerns about how future sections would connect.

Board member Leslie Farhangi said applicants have previously addressed similar situations by granting sidewalk easements and constructing sidewalks later as neighboring properties develop.

Board member Charles Sternberg called attention to two seemingly unrelated and conflicting code sections outlining regulations for multi-family dwellings.

The board ended the discussion with requests for additional details on the site's existing conditions including septic system, exterior lighting, landscaping, interior floorplan details and information on options for a sidewalk. The application is expected to come before the board for a second round of discussion in July.

SILVERBROOK *Continued from Page A1*

cently determined the operation could proceed without a special-use permit, the couple resumed plans they had been developing since purchasing the property in 2021. They have restored former horse paddocks into native wildflower habitat and begun working with experts in regenerative and Indigenous agriculture, with plans to eventually offer educational tours and operate a private community-supported agriculture program.

The history of the space looms large for Yang and Harris. They pieced together the home's history through research and documents and photographs discovered beneath floorboards and in the attic.

Harris said the house's documented history dates back to before the Revolution.

"When Paul Revere was running down the street yelling 'the British are coming,' someone was here milking cows," Harris said.

During the late-1800s and early 1900s, the home was



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

An historic photograph shows how former owners of Silverbrook Manor decorated their dining room.

owned by an actress named Katherine La Salle and her husband, Wentworth Bacon, a World War I veteran and dairy farmer who corresponded with President Franklin D. Roosevelt to voice his concerns about the dairy industry at the time.

The house reflects its storied past. Harris has taken care to establish design motifs that are at once modern and referential to the house's history.

Modern art — some painted by Harris himself — and chic furniture mix and mingle with original crown molding, ornate fireplaces and vintage flooring that signal the house's age.

For Yang and Harris, stewardship of the land and stewardship of the house go hand in hand — impulses that drew them both to regenerative farming.

Yang's CSA concept was born out of dissatisfaction with the traditional model. She described typical CSAs as being transactional. That transaction gets food to people who want it, but they leave with vegetables and still have to rely on growers and suppliers to get more. Teach someone to fish, however, and the world might actually start to change, Yang said.

Yang's CSA would center education and sharing knowledge. She has a vision that includes an intimate and pri-

private group of members taking advantage of the green space, walking through the fields and gardens, and learning and teaching others about how to forage for wild food and how to grow vegetables, herbs and medicinal plants.

"Nobody's learning anything, nobody's getting their hands dirty," Yang said. "We can make the most beautiful painting and collect the most beautiful things but we don't get to share with anyone."

The CSA operates on a tiered subscription model. Currently, the so-called Farm Club offers a community share level — designed with individuals and families in mind — for \$85 per month, a merchant share tier for \$120 per month and a creative share tier — geared toward chefs, educators, herbalists and the like — for \$285 per month.

Yang said there are currently only three members in the CSA. The couple had waited to fully advertise the CSA until regulatory hurdles with the Town of Washington had been cleared.

In April 2026, Yang and Harris received a letter from Washington's zoning code enforcement officer advising them to seek a special use permit from the Planning Board under the town's regulations on private clubs and educational institutions. The pair

appeared before the Planning Board in June, but were told their operation didn't qualify as a private club — which typically refers to country clubs or other recreational organizations that operate a clubhouse for social gatherings — or an educational institution, which refers to things like boarding schools and colleges.

In fact, Planning Board members took the position that the couple's proposed operation is covered by right under New York State law and the town's zoning code, and told Yang and Harris to carry on with the CSA operation.

Now, the couple are pressing forward with their goals, albeit slowly and methodically.

Outside the old farmhouse, Yang's garden and greenhouse look like barely-controlled wildness — which is exactly the point.

Yang centers regenerative farming techniques that work to improve soil health and local ecology. Her commitment to naturalist practices runs deep — she even refuses to use a tractor on the property for fear of compacting soil too much and a desire to emit as little harmful chemicals as possible.

Yang and Harris emphasized the influence that indigenous farmers have had on their philosophy and techniques. Yang mentioned the "three sisters" — corn, beans and squash — and how planting them all together creates a synergy that helps each of the plants thrive despite being in such close quarters to each other.

She takes that approach throughout the garden, ditching herbicides and pesticides for pest-detering plants like marigolds and other aromatic flowers.

Yang invites those who are interested in joining the CSA to visit silverbrookmanor.com to learn more about the operation and pricing. The couple emphasized a private, intimate approach to membership, saying they plan to vet all applicants before accepting any applications.

RONNIE REED *Continued from Page A1*

an infant, when his mother Roberta left New York City to raise her family. Reed's grandma came too: his earliest memories are sprinting down Main Street, grandma in hot pursuit.

As he got older, however, Reed wasn't thinking about stand-up. He played safety on the football team, taking after his uncle Donnie Shell, a former Pittsburgh Steeler. He excelled in history and forensics class. But when it came time for him to graduate from Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Reed began to think seriously about acting.

"I wanted to be an actor, and I only started doing comedy to get stage time," he said. "I can't remember lines like that. So I thought I could find a loophole by adding stand-up on my resume, instead of theater."

His first attempt at comedy was the Housy Gong Show, the high school's talent showcase. Reed was watching a lot of Chappelle's Show at the time, and much of his first set paid homage to him. "The teachers were really worried, but I got a ton of laughs," he said. "But I still wanted to be an actor."

That started to change in 2014, after a friend was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident. Reed attended a benefit at the Interlaken Inn in support, and met a mutual friend who worked as a comedy promoter. He encouraged Reed to join him at an open mic in New Haven. After intense pressure from

his friends, Reed eventually relented.

It's a 90 minute drive from Millerton to Joker's Wild Comedy Club in New Haven, but when Reed arrived for his first open mic, about 50 of his friends came too. "I'm the luckiest human being in the world," he said. "The support I have is astronomical."

About two months after that night at Joker's, he got his first paid gig at Bogey's, the pub formerly located in the Yankee Pedlar in Torrington. That's where he met Daniel McRitchie, his first comedy mentor and one of the comedians performing at Millerton's 175th. McRitchie had been a comedian in the area for decades, and liked what he heard about Reed through Chris Miller, another Millerton-based comedian.

McRitchie had just opened the Laugh It Up Comedy Club in Poughkeepsie. The city has a long history in the industry — Jimmy Fallon was discovered there, and big names like John Mulaney and Tig Notaro have performed in recent years.

When McRitchie and Reed first crossed paths, the iconic venue Bananas had just closed, and Laugh It Up was looking for new talent to fill the void. "The jokes weren't incredible at the time," said McRitchie, "but he already had the stage presence."

As his jokes became more personal, Reed realized the wealth of material provided by his daily life. His younger brother, Vemilo Evergreen, is

a performance artist and musician. Reed calls him "one of the most confident human beings on this planet. He's taken an amazing path." Their mother, Roberta, is a legend in her own right. "If my mother ever met the leader of the Ku Klux Klan," Reed said, "he'd be Crip-walking in no time."

Bigger gigs soon followed — soon Reed was performing regularly in New York City, and placing in Last Comic Standing competitions. His style evolved.

"He can tell a story now," said his mentor McRitchie, "with a punchline at the end of it. Ronnie's getting good at that."

Recently, Reed started producing his own shows. His "Friends From Work" showcase has become a monthly staple at the Colonial Theatre in North Canaan. All four shows have sold out, and it's given Reed an opportunity to bring some of his comedy friends to the area.

That goes for the 175th, too. Besides McRitchie, Reed will be joined onstage by Corey Chapman, a Webutuck High School graduate, and Darion Edwards. It's the latest step in his comedy journey, and a homecoming for the toddler who used to get chased down Main Street.

"Millerton has changed completely since my childhood," Reed says. "I have so many stories about so many families in Millerton. I'm still very close with a lot of the people I grew up with. I love my roots."

DICK HERMANS *Continued from Page A1*

wide influence and his support of writers, editors and publishers, have joined the Host Committee to support both Dick's recognition and the annual fundraising effort for The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News.

A co-founder and long-time steward of Oblong Books, Dick has spent decades championing writers, readers, and independent bookselling. Equally important, he has generously—and often quietly—devoted his time, energy, and leadership to strengthening Millerton and the surrounding communities. His contributions have included leadership roles and active involvement with the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, the Millerton Business Alliance, the Irondale Schoolhouse, and his long-running New Harmony radio program on

WHDD/Robin Hood Radio.

"I am honored by this award from The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News," said Hermans. "I feel lucky to live in a region with so many remarkable nonprofit organizations and civic leaders working every day to strengthen our communities. Any contributions I have made have been possible because I have had the privilege of working alongside generous, committed people who care deeply about where we live."

"Dick's community leadership is a model for us all," said James Clark, Publisher and CEO of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News. "For decades, he has devoted his time, energy, and resources to causes that improve the quality of life in our region. He has done so with humility,

generosity, and a deep belief in the value of community. We are delighted to honor Dick with the Estabrook Community Leadership Award and to celebrate his remarkable contributions."

The award was inspired by Mary Lou and Robert Estabrook, who owned the newspapers from 1970 to 1986 and later served as dedicated board members. Committed to public service, they believed that publishing independent, high-quality local journalism was only one way to strengthen a community. In addition to their own nonprofit work, they also celebrated the contributions of fellow citizens who did the same. During their stewardship, the newspapers flourished, and Robert Estabrook's editorials were twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

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On July 20, names will be drawn at random and gift certificates to Battle Hill Forge will be awarded.

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PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Benjamin Reynaert

Benjamin Reynaert and the art of layered living

By Jennifer Almquist

Benjamin Reynaert is focused on creative direction and interior styling. He is market director at Elle Décor, a design consultant, and author of “The Layered Home: Inspiration for Crafting Cozy, Collected Rooms,” published this year by Clarkson Potter. He co-founded Ticking Tent, a market featuring antiques, luxury items and vintage treasures. The biannual event is held in New Preston, Connecticut, and Bedford, New York.

Adopted from South Korea at 3 months old, Reynaert grew up in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He always knew he wanted to be an artist. “I just loved drawing. I loved making things with clay,” he said. “Remembering what it felt like to be creative as kids and applying that to our creativity as adults is essential.” A graduate of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

PERFORMANCE

Local performer Vemilo transforms the Moviehouse

By D.H. Callahan

On Friday, June 26, patrons at the Moviehouse in Millerton were treated to a performance by local artist and musician Vemilo, who returned to the theater’s biggest room for a second full-length show.

Regular patrons will know Theatre Three as the setting for post-screening interviews, Q&As, discussions and the theater’s monthly movie trivia night. Vemilo’s performance entirely reimagined the space. With just a few props and pieces of furniture, the stage was transformed into Vemilo’s sanctuary.

Vemilo, who grew up in the area and lives in Millerton, defines himself as “a pop performance artist whose purpose in life is to break boundaries, stigmas and bring people together through his music, fashion and visuals.” To breathe life into that vision, Vemilo changes genres, outfits and even gender expressions throughout his performances.

The show, entitled “Metaonia,” took the enthusiastic audience through

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

ART

The nature of Upstate Art Weekend

By D.H. Callahan

On Thursday, June 25, a collection of eager art enthusiasts gathered at Olana State Historic Estate in Hudson to kick off the seventh annual Upstate Art Weekend (UAW).

Helen Toomer, founder, was joined by sculptors Ellen Harvey, Jean Shin and Gabriela Salazar to discuss their work and the legacy of painter Frederic Church. Church, whose 200th birthday is being celebrated this year, is widely credited as one of the founding members of the Hudson River School of painting. The discussion took place at Olana, Church’s grand estate, where the three artists’ installations are on view.

Church’s status as an early environmentalist was mentioned repeatedly during the conversation. Shin’s sculpture “Fallen,” which graced the lawn next to the estate’s main house during last year’s event, featured a fallen hemlock tree trunk planted by Church over 150 years earlier which had been wrapped in tanned leather. She described the work as a direct reference to Church’s experience witnessing the eradication of the area’s hemlocks as the leather tanning industry wreaked havoc on the natural environment of the Hudson Valley in the mid-19th century.

The relationship between art and the environment wasn’t isolated at Church’s former home. Instead, it seemed to be found all over UAW.

Now in its seventh year, UAW works to take the art world out of the city. At its best, the weekend gives artists and curators the opportunity to interact with unfamiliar environments. Just as often, however,



PHOTOS BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Opening of Upstate Art Weekend at Olana with Helen Toomer, Ellen Harvey, Jean Shin and Gabriela Salazar

it serves as a literal escape, allowing New York City galleries to bring works to pop-up spaces assembled for the express purpose of displaying fine art. The “Loading...” group show in Hudson did just this.

Transplanting six New York City galleries into an intimate event space, “Loading...” featured a wide variety of artists from around the globe. Sheronanawe Hakihiwe, an Indigenous artist from Venezuela, takes ancient practices and translates his observations of the Amazon into minimalist works. Michael Assif’s “Plant a Weed” highlights the human impact on a natural landscape while feeling like a marshmallow dream. And Margaret Curtis’ “S” uses the backdrop of a Hudson

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Interior and exterior of Ellen Harvey’s “Winter in the Summer House” at Olana.



ART

Beneath the surface: Delano Dunn and Mickalene Thomas explore history, memory and art

By Natalia Zukerman

Before “Echoes in the Margin,” Delano Dunn’s new solo exhibition at Troutbeck in Amenia opened, the artist sat down with curator and artist Mickalene Thomas for a conversation at the Wassaic Project on Wednesday, June 24. Their wide-ranging discussion offered an intimate look into Dunn’s practice while situating the work within broader questions of history, memory and representation.

Presented by the Wassaic Project, the exhibition brings Dunn’s richly layered paintings into conversation with Troutbeck itself, the historic estate long associated with artists, writers and civil rights leaders, including W.E.B. Du Bois, Langston Hughes and many more.

Thomas, an artist whose multidisciplinary practice spans painting, collage and installation, first met Dunn when she was his graduate adviser at the School of Visual Arts. “I think your work needs to be out there more,” she said, noting the ur-

gency of this collection in the current socio-political moment.

Dunn’s layered collages often begin with an image unearthed from flea markets, used bookstores and forgotten archives.

“I go to secondhand shops,

any place that looks like it has history in it,” he said.

Sometimes, he explained, an image becomes the centerpiece of a work. Other times it simply sparks an idea.

“There’ll be an idea that pops into my head. I’ll read something or hear music or a lyric, and then I’ll think, ‘I’ve got to find an image that matches that.’”

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... Benjamin Reynaert

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), where he earned a BFA and a degree in architecture, Reynaert also studied book-binding in Rome. His attention to detail and aesthetic sense reflect years of training and a finely tuned eye for objects. "Attending RISD nurtured my creativity and taught me how to problem-solve," he said.

His career began at Martha Stewart Living. A contributor to Architectural Digest, Elle Decor, House Beautiful and Veranda, Reynaert has also served as style director at Domino. He has worked with Farrow & Ball, Chairish, Neiman Marcus, Sunbrella, Anthropologie, Gap, Bunny Williams Home and Stella Artois. He shares his work on Instagram via @spoonfulofbenjamin.

"I've been fortunate to travel the country and abroad for Elle Decor, covering design fairs and trade shows like Deco Off in Paris, London Design Week in England, Cersaie Tile Show in Bologna, Italy, High Point in North Carolina and the Kitchen and Bath Industry Show in Las Vegas," he said. He is drawn to unique objects and textiles. "As a market editor, the pieces that stick with me are not the newest. They are the ones I stumble upon and imagine living with."

Reynaert is also co-founder of Ticking Tent with Christina Juarez, president of Christina Juarez & Company. The biannual event has become a destination for collectors and designers seeking curated antiques and design objects.

"I met Ben about 15 years ago when he was a young editor and design communications strategist," Juarez said. "We immediately clicked. I was impressed by his multi-disciplinary creative talents



PHOTO BY MANUEL RODRIGUEZ

Butter Wakefield's kitchen from "The Layered Home" by Benjamin Reynaert.

“Creating a home is, at its core, an act of love.”

BENJAMIN REYNAERT

— styling, writing, vision and impeccable eye — and his passion for the thrill of the hunt. I could not ask for a better partner and friend — my brother from another mother — and a yin to my yang. Two creatively minded people with a love of old and new beautiful things, and the ability to curate what the

luxury shopper doesn't know they need and most definitely wants.”

Reynaert described the most recent Ticking Tent as the largest yet. "We hosted over 2,000 guests and transacted our most sales to date with 75 vendors," he said. "The most exciting part is seeing friends and watching new connections being made. I'm excited for the next event, Nov. 13-14, in Bedford, N.Y."

For Reynaert, objects are defined as much by narrative as by design. "An object is about

the story — whether it's passed down in your family, something you worked hard for, bought on a trip, or a friend gave you," he said. "With that added narrative, it doesn't need to be the most aesthetically pleasing thing. The memory attached makes it beautiful. I like the idea of simple, seemingly insignificant items having a ton of meaning. Treat a thrift store painting as you would a Picasso."

Greg Domres and Peter Nichols' residence in Litchfield, which they share with their miniature schnauzer, Bunny, is one of 15 homes featured in Reynaert's book, "The Layered Home." The couple hosted a book signing at George Home in Washington Depot. "I first met Ben at press events during my time at John Derian," Domres said. "We became friends and stayed connected professionally over the years."

The book spans interiors from Eric Goujou's shop The Wolf Tile in Paris' 5th arrondissement to textile designer Schuyler Samperton's Litchfield farmhouse. "Sharing the stories of talented, stylish people I've met during my tenure in magazines has been a privilege," Reynaert said. "The most inspiring interiors are layered — with personality, patina and the poetry of a life lived. This book is my love letter to that idea."

Reynaert said he would like to travel to Japan and Australia and hopes to develop his own product line in the future. "Balancing work and life is a challenge," he said. He spends downtime with his husband, Luis Illades, in Delaware, where they are renovating a Victorian home.

"I feel incredibly fortunate to blend my work and my life in the home I share," he said. "Creating a home is, at its core, an act of love."

..Vemilo

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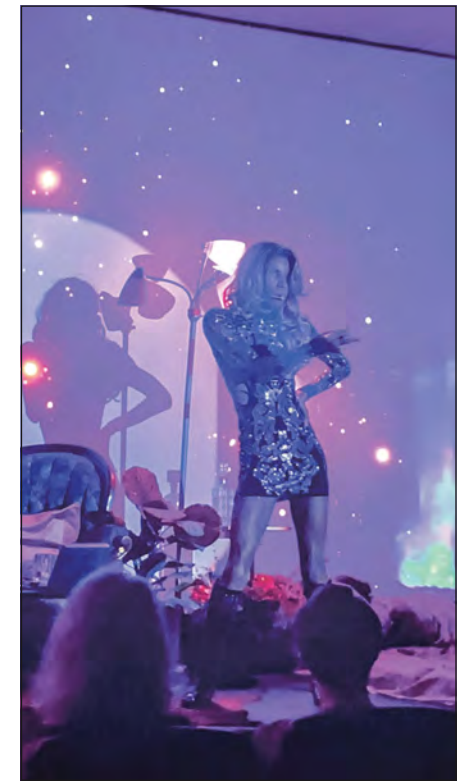


PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Vemilo performs at the Moviehouse in Millerton.

multiple, often emotional stages of what Vemilo refers to as his rebirth. Short vignettes set up original songs about identity and relationships, with the audience clapping along to the beat.

Moviehouse manager Jeremy Boviard is excited about alternative uses for the theatre. It could potentially act as a midsize venue for musical, literary and other artistic performances. The nearby Colonial Theatre in North Canaan has dipped its toes into live performances, but with that property up for sale, that momentum seems to be slowing.

With such a vibrant artistic community in the Northwest Corner and Dutchess County, another quality performance space would be a welcome addition. After all, if Vemilo's performance taught us anything, it's about the power of transformation and versatility.

... Dunn and Thomas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

His color palette also carries its own history.

"I grew up in L.A. during the L.A. riots," Dunn said. "I would sit on my porch as a kid. I was watching the neighborhood burn, but the sky was beautiful."

He still paints with those saturated blues, reds and oranges.

"Color can transport you. Color can make you feel safe, or happy or scared," he said. "Those colors made me feel safe."

For Dunn, Troutbeck's own layered history became an active part of the work. Learning that the estate had hosted W.E.B. Du Bois, Langston Hughes, Ida B. Wells and generations of civil rights leaders informed his direction.

Dunn was given access to Troutbeck's archives and found handwritten notes by Langston Hughes, and writings by Du Bois and Wells that found their way into the exhibition.

"There was a letter between Amy Spingarn and Martin Luther King Jr.," Dunn recalled. "To be in its presence and hold it... you don't see communication like that every day."

Much of Dunn's work invites viewers to dig deeper



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Delano Dunn's "Echoes in the Margin" at Troutbeck.

into history rather than accept simplified narratives.

"I want them to look at it and go, 'Wow, this is really amazing and interesting and colorful and beautiful,'" he said. "And then I want them to be terrified shortly after that." He accomplishes this through bold, colorful, and often playful compositions that draw the viewer in before revealing their more complex historical underpinnings. As Thomas wrote, "Dunn's compositions invite viewers to sit within that tension and take it in."

That impulse toward deeper investigation extends to Dunn's own children, who are often his first audience.

"They'll ask, 'What is this? Why does this person look the way they look? Why are you using that color? Why are you using glitter?'"

Those conversations, he said, become lessons in looking beyond appearances.

Thomas framed collage itself as a kind of storytelling

practice — "the gathering of information... piecing things together"—and praised Dunn's ability to translate research, memory and visual pleasure into a unified language. She also underscored the importance of creative joy in the process. "If you're going to your studio and you're not having fun," she said, "you shouldn't be doing it."

Dunn said one of the



PHOTO BY LUCIA LANDOLO

Mickalene Thomas and Delano Dunn at Wassaic Project.

biggest misconceptions he hopes to challenge is the idea that there is a monolithic Black experience.

"There are so many different perspectives out there. This is just one of them," he said. In the same breath, Dunn said he adopts the label "Black artist" because "it would make my Grandpa proud."

The nearly two-hour conversation shifted seamlessly

between humor and history, studio practice and social commentary, ultimately returning to what both artists believe art can accomplish: encouraging curiosity, complicating familiar stories and inviting viewers to question what they see.

As Dunn put it, "History is so much more nuanced than what we're taught. There's so much more going on below the surface."

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... Upstate Art Weekend

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

River School-style sunset to highlight the chaos of today's state of the American dream.

The flip side of this art-world field trip is the variety of makeshift galleries in the garages and barns of the Hudson Valley. Places like Ugly Mud Studios and Ten Barn Farm, both in Ghent, along with Foxtrot Farm and Flowers in Stanfordville, housed unexpectedly refined exhibitions. These venues all integrate sustainable practices into their business: Foxtrot is a regenerative flower farm, Ugly Mud uses locally sourced clay, and Ten Barn Farm operates a farm-to-table restaurant called The Kitchen.

But at the end of the day, UAW is about getting the art world into the wild. So it was no surprise to see a panoply of eye-catching outfits, and out-of-this-world works at Art Omi, the sculpture and architecture park in Ghent, on Saturday evening. Complete with avant-garde ambient operatic metal, the Summer Kickoff event served as a testament to the continued growth of UAW. It seems the seeds that Toomer and her collaborators planted seven years ago are flourishing, with no signs of slowing down.



Danielle Klebes' "Wassaic Motorcycle and Paint Club" at Wassaic Project.

PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN



Eddie Rodolfo Aparicio's "Invernadero herido (para Huerta)" at Art Omi in Ghent.

PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN



Artist Christy Gast with her sculptures at Friday Arts in Amenia.

PHOTO BY ANDREW INGALL



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Lauren Carly Shaw's "Chimeric Lepidoptera" at "BUGS!" at Foxtrot Farm & Flowers in Stanfordville

PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN



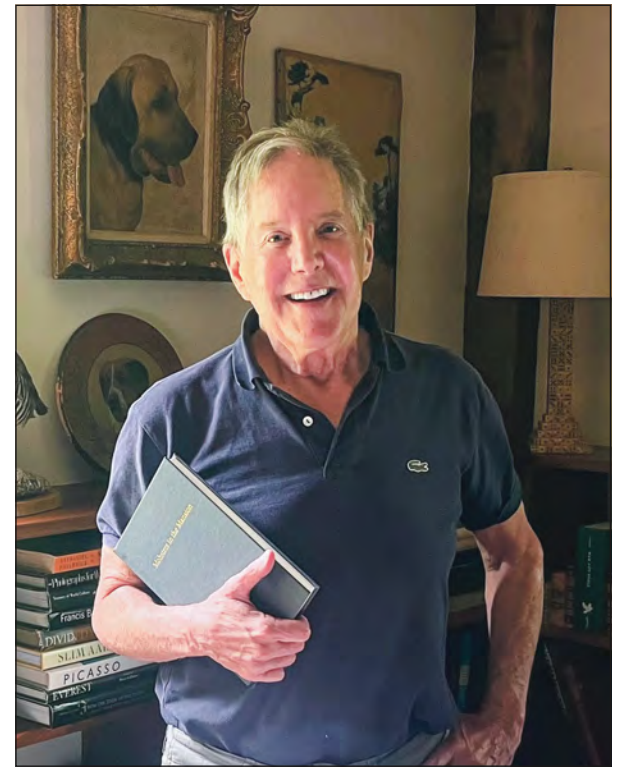
Nic Rad's "Get Online" at Ten Barn Farm in Ghent.

PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN



Selected works by Sheroanawe Hakihiiwe at "Loading..." in Hudson.

PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN



Scott Siegler at his home in Sharon.

PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

BOOKS

After a Hollywood career, Scott Siegler turns failure into fiction

By D.H. Callahan

Scott Siegler is bored of success stories. But Scott Siegler has had the kind of successful Hollywood career that people write books about.

Before he was 30, he'd earned three degrees. Before he moved to Hollywood, he'd already won an Emmy for one of the nine documentaries he directed and produced. Before he helped launch Netscape, bringing the Internet to the public, he'd already started his own Hollywood studio.

Siegler's had a lot of success in his life, but he's not going to talk about it unless you ask him directly. He'll reluctantly tell you about defending "Married... With Children," the longest-running live-action sitcom ever aired on Fox, when groups of concerned parents tried to get it banned from Television. But bring up a real struggle, like the time he led the board of Pandora through 25 unprofitable quarters, and he lights up. The challenges thrill him more than the successes ever could.

Now, after spending a lifetime rising to business challenges of every stripe, he's settling into a more creative role. According to his longtime friend David Chase, creator of "The Sopranos," it's about time. Chase, who wrote the foreword to Siegler's debut book, "Mobsters in the Mansion," reminisces about meeting Siegler over 40 years ago. While Siegler had all the business sense of a top executive, Chase

could tell that there was something wilder and more mischievous than the average Hollywood suit.

That mischief springs to life on the pages of "Mobsters in the Mansion." The loosely autobiographical collection dives into the humor of hubris and failure. The stories unfold chronologically, from adolescence to midlife, but the characters don't adhere to any timeline. Instead, Siegler uses new people and perspectives to personify the stories he tells, allowing readers to immerse themselves in the emotional truth of the experiences rather than the particulars of one life.

Writing fictionalized stories based in reality freed Siegler from writing the truth. He believes the heart of the story is what matters more than the literal details. "It's true," he claimed during a conversation about his book, "but that doesn't mean it actually happened."

On Tuesday, July 7 at the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury, Siegler will appear in conversation with renowned journalist Brian Ross. Ross has won six Peabodys, six duPont-Columbia Awards and is the author of the New York Times bestseller, "The Madoff Chronicles." His career in journalism — a profession that leaves little room for creative liberties — should provide an intriguing foil to Siegler's relationship with the truth.

To register for the event, visit scovillelibrary.org

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Crescendo, the Lakeville-based nonprofit specializing in early and rarely performed classical music, is taking a deep dive into the works of Johann Sebastian Bach this summer as artistic director, Christine Gevert, explores the genius of one of history's greatest composers through a series of public masterclass workshops at Saint James Place in Great Barrington. More information at crescendomusic.org.

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Tri-Corner Calendar

JULY 2

"Mail Myself to You" Screening & Mail Art Project

Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Filmmaker Imogen Pranger will screen her short documentary "Mail Myself to You" (2024), which explores the legacy and future of the correspondence art movement through stop-motion animation and 16mm direct cinema. A hands-on mail art workshop will follow, where participants can create a collaged postcard to send to a friend or loved one. Presented in collaboration with the David M. Hunt Library's Video Wall.

JULY 3

Let's Eat Cake! Annual Cake Auction and Cocktail Party

Sharon Historical Society & Museum, 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn. The Sharon Historical Society & Museum's largest annual fundraiser returns at 5:30 p.m. with an evening of cakes, cocktails, wine, hors d'oeuvres and spirited bidding led by local auctioneers. Proceeds support the museum's mission to collect, preserve and share Sharon's history. Tickets are \$50.

Visitors can also view *Independence Revisited: Sharon in 1776, 1876, & 1976*, an exhibition exploring the town's experience of major moments in American history.

Dusty Wright Four Concert

Big Tent, 5100 South St., Chatham, N.Y. Spencertown Academy Arts Center will present a free concert by the Dusty Wright Four as part of the Town of Austerlitz's 250th anniversary of the USA celebration. The band will perform Americana, folk, country rock and patriotic favorites, with special guests expected to join the performance. 7 p.m. Free. For more information, visit SpencertownAcademy.org.

JULY 4

A Celebration of American Democracy & Liberty Tree Project

Town Grove, Salisbury, Conn. 11 a.m. to noon. Join a nonpartisan pop-up celebration of American democracy at the intersections of Route 41 and Ethan Allen Street and Route 44 and Holley Street before the Salisbury Association's Fourth of July festivities. Participants are encouraged to wear red, white and blue and carry signs celebrating American values. RSVP to amymlake@gmail.com.

Beginning at noon at the Town Grove, visitors can add a ribbon expressing what freedom and democracy mean to them to a community Liberty Tree. Email salisburyhandsoff@gmail.com for information.

Family Day Celebration at AMP

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. Join us at 11 a.m. for a special Live Music Story Time featuring patriotic songs with AMP's music, movement, and literacy favorite, Michelle Begley. Afterward, explore our five-story mural celebrating the workers who make America great. Sew felt stars with members of the Winsted Senior Center—take one home and leave one

behind as part of a sparkling collaborative artwork that will be displayed at AMP throughout July. Other activities include scavenger hunts, games of cornhole, ring toss, and an opportunity to prove that you are a super-duper hula hooper! FREE admission for families.

North Star's 3rd Annual 4th of July BBQ Party

North Star at the Alander, 7519 State Route 22, Copake, N.Y. 1 to 7 p.m., chef Rob is busting out the grill and new smoker for a festive BBQ. There will be live music and yard games. Dogs welcome on the patio. Tickets at bit.ly/4vjvm5fC

The Salisbury Association 4th of July 2026

Town Grove and Satre Hill, Salisbury, Conn. Celebrate 250 and Salisbury Association's 50th year sponsoring July Fourth at the Town Grove. There will be the reading of the Declaration of Independence, a special Boat Parade, a concert by the Salisbury Band, hot dogs and drinks sold by EXTRAS> That evening there will be dancing with DJ Slickrick at Satre Hill and a laser Light Show starting at 9 p.m.

JULY 5

Of the People, By the People, For the People: A Movement Choir

Five Points Art Center Campus Grounds, 888 University Drive, Torrington, Conn. 2 to 4 p.m. Choreographer Paula Josa-Jones leads this community-created movement choir as part of a celebration of America's 250th anniversary. The free outdoor event also includes dancing, food trucks and an art station. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets; indoor space will be available in case of inclement weather. Free. RSVP at ByThePeople250th.eventbrite.com.

JULY 6

Celebrate Recovery Concert with Heather Layne

Second Congregational Church, 800 Main St., Winsted, Conn. California-based singer-songwriter Heather Layne will perform a free concert at 7 p.m., sharing original songs and her personal story of healing from domestic abuse and trauma. Presented in partnership with Celebrate Recovery, the evening will feature music, testimony, faith and encouragement. The event is free and open to the public.

JULY 7

Book Launch: Author Scott Siegler's "Mobsters in the Mansion" in Conversation with Journalist Brian Ross

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org Author and media executive Scott Siegler joins veteran journalist Brian Ross for a discussion of Siegler's new book, "Mobsters in the Mansion," a collection of stories tracing a prodigal son's journey from Midwestern affluence to the inner circles of California's entertainment industry. David Chase, creator of "The Sopranos," has called the book "fearless and funny ... so knowledgeable, so true." The event takes place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., followed by a reception and

book signing. Registration is required. More information and registration at scovillelibrary.org.

Items appear as space permits. Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com.

JULY 8

Crescendo Summer 2026 Choral Workshops & Talks: The B Minor Mass – Johann Sebastian Bach as The Architect of Gratitude

Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass. July 8 to Aug. 5

Crescendo Founding Artistic Director Christine Gevert leads a five-part series exploring the political intrigue, mathematical codes and artistic innovations behind Johann Sebastian Bach's Mass in B Minor. Talks are held Wednesdays from 2 to 3 p.m., followed by choral workshops from 3:15 to 5 p.m. Choral singers are invited to participate in master classes featuring excerpts from the work, including the Kyrie, Gloria, Credo and Sanctus. Register at crescendo@crescendomusic.org or visit crescendomusic.org.

JULY 9

Maryland Boy's Choir

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Known as Maryland's "Official Goodwill Ambassadors," the Maryland State Boychoir has inspired audiences around the world with its exceptional musicianship and rich choral tradition. Founded in 1987, the organization now includes 130 singers ages 7-20 who come together through a shared commitment to musical excellence, discipline, and personal growth. 7:30 p.m. Free.

JULY 10

Company

The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, N.Y. July 10 through July 26

Rhinebeck Theatre Society presents Stephen Sondheim's Tony Award-winning musical "Company." The production follows bachelor Robert as he navigates friendship, love and marriage with the help of those around him. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

PLACE | MEANT Opening Reception

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. 6 to 8 p.m. Millbrook Arts Project will celebrate the opening of "PLACE | MEANT," a group exhibition curated by Sharon Bates featuring collage-based work by Laura Cannamela, Monica Church, Elisa Lendvay, Susan Newmark and Barbara Todd. Presented in conjunction with "Making Meaning: A Collage Symposium" at the Vassar Institute for the Liberal Arts, the exhibition explores themes of place, memory and materiality through layered works that transform fragments of the physical world into reflections on landscape, perception and lived experience. The exhibition runs through Aug. 22. A free artist conversation with Cannamela, Church, Lendvay and Newmark will take place at 4 p.m., and a hands-on collage workshop, "Collage Your Place," is scheduled for July 25 at 2 p.m. Visit millbrooklibrary.org for information.

"Rebel Town The Musical"

Kathleen E. McDermott Auditorium, Monument Mountain Regional High School, Great Barrington, Mass.

"Rebel Town The Musical," a new original American musical developed in the Berkshires, returns for America 250 with performances July 10-19. Set in colonial Boston in 1773, the production follows ordinary citizens swept into the events surrounding the Boston Tea Party through the eyes of apprentice Peter Slater and historical figures including Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Paul Revere and Mercy Otis Warren. Created by Berkshire native John Alan Segalla, the musical features 27 original songs and a Berkshire cast and creative team. For tickets and information visit RebelTown-TheMusical.com.

JULY 11

Opening Reception: The Space Between Words

Mad Rose Gallery, 3 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. Paintings by Israeli-born artist Talya Baharai who has discovered her raw, artistic voice using abstract narratives to express what language does not capture. On view through Aug. 30.

Community Puzzle Swap Day with Whistle Pig Books

Whistle Pig Books, 62 Main St., North Canaan, Conn. Bring a gently used puzzle and exchange it for another, or simply take one! Children's puzzles and all sizes and difficulty levels are welcome. Free admission, open to the public, and no registration required. Please label if missing pieces. The event runs from 10 a.m.

to 3 p.m. Learn more at whistlepigbooks.com.

Giant Tag Sale

Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. July 11 and 12

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Friends of the David M. Hunt Library will its annual Giant Tag Sale, featuring a wide variety of donated items. Proceeds benefit the library. Donations of quality items, excluding clothing, books and electronics, will be accepted at the Center on Main from noon to 5 p.m. July 10 and 11.

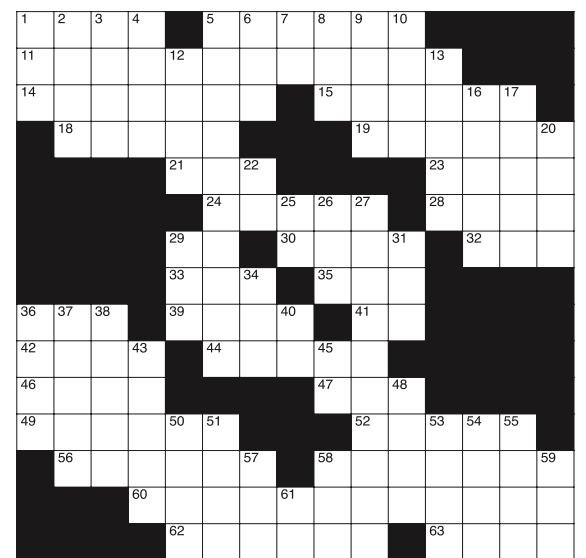
Garden Wellness: Acupressure for More Energy and Less Stress with Cris Caivano

Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Advance registration strongly suggested at innisfreegarden.org

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

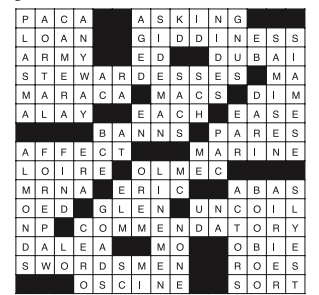
- __ chat
- Statue near the Pyramids
- A process to change the look
- Herb
- Think about excessively
- Bass vocal part
- Supreme Allied Cmdr. of NATO
- A major division of geological time
- New Zealand parrot
- Cognitive contents
- Lump of yarn
- Atomic #109
- Let go of
- Indian title of respect
- Whereabouts unknown
- Electronic data processing
- Drivers' licenses count
- Snakelike fishes
- They precede C
- Popular personal computers
- Intermediate community stage in ecological succession
- Wings
- Indicates position
- Pleasantly smooth or soft
- Jeweled headdress
- In slow tempo
- __ Falls
- Reassertions
- Eras
- Hyphen



- Closes tightly
- World Heritage site in Nigeria
- Islamic calendar month
- Commercial
- "Westworld" actor Harris
- They __
- Religious guilds
- Woman (French)
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Brew
- Spiritual leader
- Indigo bush
- Burn with a hot liquid
- Older citizen
- Scad fish genus
- Morning
- Line passing through the center (abbr.)

- Double S-shaped curve
- Small, thin person
- Older
- Mars crater
- Humanities
- Word element meaning ear
- To the __ degree
- Residue

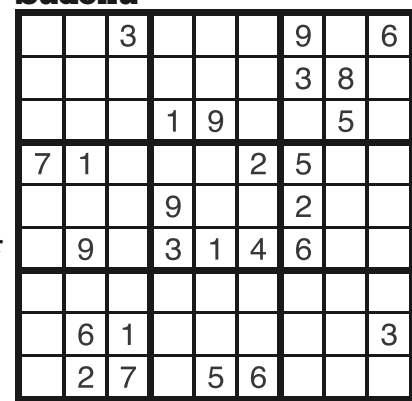
June 25 Solution



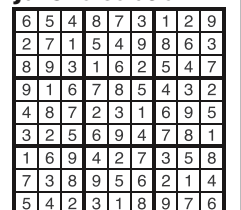
CLUES DOWN

- Corporate executive
- A plant used for flavoring food
- Opinion or belief
- Sheep in their second year
- Intensities of sound
- Indicates support for
- Expression of laughter
- OJ trial judge
- Pointed ends of pens
- True bugs genus
- Lawyers argue theirs
- Body parts

Sudoku



June 25 Solution



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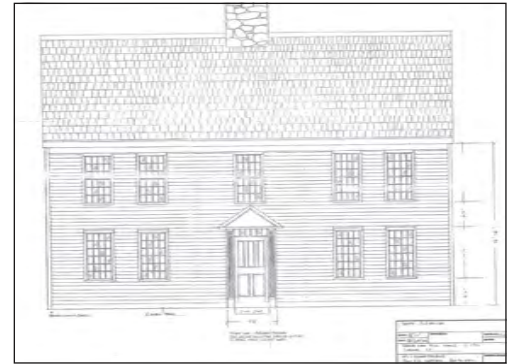
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