

OUR TOWNS

Workforce housing subdivision impacts declared negligible

By LEILA HAWKEN
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AMENIA — Months of deliberation over the environmental impacts of a proposed workforce housing subdivision concluded Thursday, July 23, when Planning Board members voted to move the project forward to site plan approval.

The environmental impact analysis phase in connection with the Cascade Creek subdivision application was completed following the Planning Board’s unanimous vote for a “negative declaration” as part of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process.

The proposal, submitted by the Hudson River Housing of Poughkeepsie, calls for a 28-home workforce housing development on a 24.13-acre parcel between Cascade Road and Route 22. The developers also aim to preserve open space and environmentally sensitive land.

The negative declaration means the Planning Board found the proposed workforce housing development is not expected to have significant adverse environmental impacts, allowing the application to move forward to the site plan review stage without requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement.

That action allows the developer to proceed to the site plan phase of the application process where actual plans for the subdivision are submitted for consideration by the Planning Board. Public hearings will be included in that site plan process.

A significant issue within the SEQR process had been the board’s concern about the volume of water storage that would support firefighting efforts within the planned subdivision.

Attorney Alec Gladd, of Cuddy & Feder LLP out of Fishkill, New York, representing the developer, stated that the fire department is asking for water storage capacity data that could only be answered within the site plan phase. Currently, the developer is offering on-site fire suppression and home sprinklers in each housing unit.

“We have met the requirement for now,” Gladd said, noting that the SEQR analysis is an environmental review.

The issue of firefighting capacity can be raised again later in the process once the site can be tested for water availability, advised Planning Board attorney Cassandra Britton.

“Sprinklers are for evacuation of people from their homes, but you still need water to fight the fires,” said

Planning Board Engineer John Andrews. Water storage to support home sprinklers is separate from water storage to fight fires.

Peter Deister, chairman of the local Board of Fire Commissioners, attended the meeting and expressed his concern about the issue of adequate water storage capability. The fire department has scheduled a second meeting with architect Richard Renina, who designed the project, on Monday, Aug. 10.



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Horse trials

Ariel Grald rides Adagio’s Nobility around the showjumping ring at the 41st annual Millbrook Horse Trials on Sunday, July 26. The Millbrook Horse Trials is an annual event that combines dressage, showjumping and cross-country.

Amenia resident to gift Westerly Ridge property to town

By LEILA HAWKEN
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AMENIA — A Sharon resident has offered to donate a 27-acre parcel valued at more than \$1 million to the Town of Amenia, proposing that the land be permanently preserved as conservation property to protect the final unprotected section of Westerly Ridge.

Carol Flaton, owner of the property at 108 Westerly Ridge near the Connecticut border, presented the proposal to the Town Board during its regular meeting

Thursday, July 23. She said she purchased the property less than a month ago with the intention of ensuring it would never be developed.

The 27-acre parcel has a value of \$1,014,200.

“I don’t live in New York, I just want you people to have it and to protect the ridge line,” Flaton told the board. She said donating the property would be consistent with the town’s Master Plan, which envisions protecting the ridge line from future development.

“The whole ridge line will then be protected,” she said.

Town Supervisor Rosanna Hamm said the proposal would require review and approval from several parties before the town could accept the donation, including the

Westerly Ridge Homeowners Association and Dutchess County conservation officials.

Flaton said she hopes the donation process can be completed by the end of the year.

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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY JACQUELYN DRAIN

NorthEast-Millerton's new "tower garden" in the center of the library will grow lettuce and other leafy greens.

New 'tower garden' brings year-round greens to NorthEast-Millerton Library

By JACQUELYN DRAIN
Special to the Millerton News

MILLERTON — The NorthEast-Millerton library is cultivating a new program to address food access in the community through its new "Tower Garden," an indoor growing system that allows the library to produce and distribute vegetables, herbs and flowers year-round.

The tower garden, described as an aeroponic vertical growing system, came to the library through a grant issued by The Library of Local. That initiative stems from a partnership between the Mid-Hudson Library System and The Understory, an organization that promotes ecological resilience in the Hudson Valley.

The kit provides the tower, made out of plastic tubing, as well as a starter pack with seeds and instructions. The tubing inside carries water from a tank on the bottom to rain down on the seedlings. There are also four lights attached that mimic sunlight necessary for growth. The librarians have also added googly eyes on the contraption giving it an abstract face. Currently they are growing kale, rainbow chard, basil, dill, lettuces and snapdragons.

Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson is spearheading this project and has strong

hopes for the garden despite its unusual look.

"During the downpour the other day it started to water itself and I think the person in the library thought we had sprung a leak and panicked for a second," Leo-Jameson said. "As they really start growing, people are gonna be noticing it more and more."

The Library hopes that this addition will produce enough yield to distribute to the community. They have previously put on programs to assist with providing food to community members, such as opening a small food pantry during the COVID-19 pandemic and adding garden beds in the backyard. They are hoping to provide more once the Tower produces significant growth.

"We've struggled with food access in our community," Leo-Jameson said. "We thought 'Wouldn't it be nice if we could do something more.'"

Millbrook's summer brush pick-up kicks off in August

By LEILA HAWKEN
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MILLBROOK — The summer brush pick-up program is continuing on the second Mondays in August

Memorial service to honor local art curator

By LEILA HAWKEN
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AMENIA — Friends and community members are invited to celebrate the life of local art curator Paula Pelosi at the Smithfield Church.

A significant loss to the contemporary art world, as well as to her many local and area friends, the life of Pelosi will be celebrated at a memorial service set for the Smithfield Church on Saturday, Aug. 1. The service will begin at 2 p.m.

Pelosi died this year in April after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.

The memorial service will be led by the Rev. Douglas Grandgeorge, Pastor of The Smithfield Church.

Pelosi's career brought her close to luminaries in the art



PHOTO PROVIDED

Paula Pelosi

world including years as an executive assistant and curator for artist Frank Stella, an association that led her to divide her time between her home in Amenia and her

Brooklyn home. She looked after all details of curating and hanging Stella's exhibitions world-wide and assisted in the management of his local horse farm. In addition to art-related travel, Pelosi enjoyed traveling for pleasure to experience remote regions.

Community service was an important aspect of Pelosi's life as she served 10 years as a member of the Amenia Zoning Board of Appeals.

"I knew Paula as a friend and a colleague," said Judy Westfall on Friday, July 24, remembering Pelosi's service on the ZBA, when Westfall served as ZBA Secretary. "She loved Amenia and always looked to the future with great pride and enthusiasm."

"She was a kind and gentle woman with a great heart. She cared greatly about her work

and the many friendships she had in Amenia. Her presence is missed," Westfall said, noting that Pelosi's smile brightened the mood at every ZBA meeting.

"I always referred to her as the 'Queen of the ZBA' because she was the only woman member," Westfall said.

"She was a wonderful woman," said Town Supervisor Rosanna Hamm on Friday, July 24, adding that she regretted not having had an opportunity to work with Pelosi longer to know her better. Hamm began her term in office in January 2026.

Tributes offered by Town Hall staff and ZBA members carried effusive praise and genuine appreciation for Pelosi's service to the town.

"Paula led a very interesting life," Hamm said.

Wassaic wine shop celebrates first birthday

By NATHAN MILLER
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WASSAIC — More than two dozen residents and wine aficionados came together Saturday, July 25, to celebrate a local wine shop's first anniversary.

Ten Mile Table, a wine shop founded by Erika DaSilva that occupies Wassaic's historic candy store, celebrated its first anniversary on Saturday with a bonafide birthday bash complete with chocolate cake, wine tastings, charcuterie and a DJ.

The shop has been a labor of love for DaSilva, who decided to renovate the dilapidated old candy shop located on Wassaic's Main Street between The Lantern and the Post Office. She said the past year has been about introducing customers to wines they might not otherwise try.

"There are people who come in that don't like wine or don't think they do," DaSilva said. "They've been gracious enough to give me the space

to give them something to try or walk them through."

One of DaSilva's current passions is showcasing New York wine producers. She said the state's wine industry has become far more diverse in recent years, and she enjoys introducing customers to in-state producers making distinctive wines.

"Most people have had New York wine and thought that it was only riesling or that it was sweet dessert wine or something you would taste at an orchard," DaSilva said. "No shade to riesling, but I think people have this idea that New York wine is only this one thing and it's definitely not."

DaSilva keeps bottles of her New York favorites uncorked and ready for a taste in the shop for curious buyers. Notable producers include Metal House Cidery in Esopus, New York, Dutchess Hill Wines based in Miller-ton, Dewey's Wines from the finger lakes in western New York, and Hudson, New York-based winery Neverstill.

Looking forward, DaSilva said she plans to renovate the second floor in the aging building to serve as a tasting room, space for more wine tasting classes or other events. DaSilva hosts weekly wine tasting classes on Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

DaSilva is also planning an upcoming wine forum at

the shop. The talk will center New York producers of ciders and wine to make the case for drinks made instate and explain their processes.

Members of the public are invited to join the talk on Saturday, Aug. 8, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Ten Mile Table, located at Main Street near the Wassaic Project campus.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Erika DaSilva cuts a chocolate and mango puree birthday cake at Ten Mile Table in Wassaic on Saturday, July 25, to celebrate the wine shop's first anniversary.

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Now that we are approaching August, it is the perfect time to schedule a cleaning and maintenance check on your heating systems. The advantages include taking care of this before the first cold snap and avoiding long waits once fall arrives. The additional benefits are a clean efficient heating system that will be cost effective to run and less of a chance of a breakdown in the cold winter months. For more info, please see this article in This Old House: www.thisoldhouse.com/heating-cooling/furnace-maintenance

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OBITUARIES

Louise R. Black

MILLERTON — Louise R. Black, 86, born July 16, 1939, in Queens, New York, died on July 15, 2026, with her partner of 26 years, Mary Howard, by her side. She is also survived by her nephews David Black and Jason Black, and his wife, Kerri; and niece Tiffany Black and her husband, Shlomo Toledano.



After graduating from the University of North Carolina Women’s College and earning two master’s degrees, Louise taught physical education for 35 years at Scarsdale (NY) High School, chairing the department and serving as the first woman Athletic Director. An accomplished fencer, tennis player, and swimmer, Louise’s enduring fondness for sports included a love of the Brooklyn Dodgers, though she never quite recovered from their move to the West Coast.

Louise’s artistic talents came through in her knitting, her painting, and her gardens. A master knitter, for many years she and Mary hosted a weekly knitting group at their home. She was recognized for her Japanese watercolors and landscapes; her passion for flowers was expressed in the abundant roses bordering her property.

An avid traveler, she also

found great joy spending summers at her family camp on an island in the Hudson River. Cars and jazz were perennial fascinations, and Doris Day was a favorite.

Louise dedicated much of her life to community service, first as an enthusiastic volunteer at Habitat for Humanity in Westchester County. Following retirement, she moved to Millerton, New York, and was soon immersed in the local library, developing a finders’ guide for the North East Historical Society; and the co-founding of Comida de Vida food pantry at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Amenia, New York.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Food of Life / Comida de Vida Food Pantry St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 40 Leedsville Road, Amenia, NY 12501 (845) 373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com or Habitat for Humanity: <https://www.habitat.org/support>

A celebration of Louise’s life will take place on Thursday, July 30, 2026 from 2pm to 4pm at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneral-home.com

Mary Simmons

MILLERTON — Mary Simmons, 96, a fifty-six-year resident of Millerton, New York, and formerly a lifelong native of College Point, Queens, New York, died peacefully on July 26, 2026, at her daughter’s home in Sharon, Connecticut. Mary devoted her life to her family; to know her was to love her.



Born July 15, 1930, in College Point, Queens, New York, she was the daughter of the late Anthony and Sarah (Longo) Marano. On Oct. 26, 1952, in College Point, New York, she married Ray Daniel Simmons II. Their marriage lasted nearly sixty-two years; Ray passed away on April 24, 2013. Mary was a longtime parishioner of St. Patrick’s and Immaculate Conception Churches, where she belonged to the Rosary Altar Society. For many years, she enjoyed

spending winters in Florida with family and friends. Mary was famous for her Sunday macaroni dinners, which she lovingly prepared for her family and many dear friends throughout the years. All were welcomed, and it was always a packed house. Her greatest joy was spending time with her siblings, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and her large extended family. She will be deeply missed by all.

Mary is survived by her children; Ray D. Simmons III of Millerton; Maureen Chodan and her husband Jimmy of Florida; Robert A. Simmons and his wife Dara of Amenia Union; Ralph J. Simmons and his husband James Segroe of Spain; Mary Ellen Simmons of Vermont; Roseann Roux and her husband Brian of Sharon, and Louis A.

Margaret Anita Layton

STANFORDVILLE — Margaret Anita Layton passed away on April 30, 2026, after a recurring battle with cancer, surrounded by friends and loved ones. She was predeceased by her parents, Anita and Jack Egan, brother John P. Egan, III, and nephew Michael Egan. She leaves behind a brother, numerous nieces and a nephew, as well as a community of chosen sisters who loved her very much.



Margaret was born in the Bronx, New York, and moved to Clinton Corners as a small child. Margaret spent her adult life in Stanfordville, where she owned Margaret A. Layton, E.A. Tax and Business Consulting. Margaret was a lover of all animals

and an avid horse enthusiast with an active presence in the draft horse community. Midge lived out loud. Her vibrancy left a mark that will never be forgotten and will be sorely missed.

A private burial will take place at Friends Upton Lake Cemetery in Clinton Corners, New York.

Memorial donations may be made to Dutchess County SPCA, 636 Violet Ave., Hyde Park, NY 12538. Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

To send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Midge’s memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

Sally Sterling Ellis Quale

NORFOLK — Sally Sterling Ellis Quale, of Norfolk, Connecticut and St. Petersburg, Florida, formerly of Bronxville, New York, died unexpectedly of heart failure on July 7 at the age of 87.



Sally will be remembered for her deep commitment to her family and communities and for her warmth, kindness, intelligence, creativity ...and, of course, for her beautiful smile and deliciously sweet sense of humor. She was a gentle leader, contributing her talents as a teacher, writer, musician, athlete and organizer.

Born in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, to Addison Sterling Ellis and Marion Mullison Ellis, Sally was the eldest of three sisters. She graduated from Springside Academy and Smith College, where she was a student leader and an All-American in both lacrosse and field hockey. Devoted to Springside throughout her life, she served on its Board of Trustees and received its Distinguished Service Award for leadership, including establishing an American chestnut arboretum---the restoration of the American chestnut being a lifetime interest of Sally.

Sally began her career as a teacher at The Park School in Brookline, Massachusetts, where she quickly became head of the middle school. Her love of books and writing then led her to New York publishing, where she worked at Random House, Alfred A. Knopf,

and Viking Penguin. She continued her active athletic life, playing tennis, co-ed softball and soccer in the publishers’ league in Central Park, and even skiing Tuckerman’s Ravine on Mount Washington.

A gifted pianist, organist and singer, Sally performed with New York’s Blue Hill Troupe, where she met and married the love of her life, Drew Quale. Soon two spirited sons, Andrew III and Addison, arrived and the family moved to Bronxville, New York.

Together they built a life centered on family, community, education, music and sports. She founded the Bronxville Bulletin, became the Bronxville School’s first Public Information Officer, served as Project Director for the publication of the school’s history and produced six Blue Hill Troupe performances to benefit the Bronxville School Foundation, which she and Drew were instrumental in establishing. She directed and accompanied the Bronxville Hilltop band and singers at the Hilltop’s annual Holiday Party. She encouraged many NYC friends to move to Bronxville, who themselves contributed greatly to Bronxville’s educational and musical life.

In 1984, Sally and Drew purchased a 1780 farmhouse in Norfolk, Connecticut as their “casa de campo,” beginning a decades-long love affair with Norfolk, Doolittle Lake and the entire Northwest Corner. In Norfolk, she helped found the town newspaper, Norfolk Now, organized many concerts and cabarets, and produced several Blue Hill Troupe productions for the pre-season opening benefit of the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. In recent years, Sally and Drew also found a welcoming winter home and deeply caring friends at Westminster Shores in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Sally is survived by her husband, Andrew Christopher Quale Jr.; her sons, Andrew Christopher Quale III and Addison Sterling Ellis Quale; her daughter-in-law, Nágila Pereira Quale; her grandchildren, Strynden Pereira Quale, Amattan Pereira Quale, and Hannah Zeilyn Pereira Quale; her sister, Mimi Garrett; Andrew’s partner, Jessica Euphamie Moore; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

Two Memorial Services will be held: Saturday, August 22, 11 AM, at United Church of Christ Congregational, 12 Litchfield Road, Norfolk CT 06058; and Saturday, October 10, 11 AM at Reformed Church of Bronxville, 180 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, NY 10708.

Dorothy McEnroe Casey

KENT — Dorothy McEnroe Casey, 93, a longtime resident of Kent, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at New Milford Hospital in New Milford. Born on July 28, 1932 in Sharon, she was the daughter of the late Leo McEnroe, Sr. and Dorothy Belter McEnroe.



Mrs. Casey was a graduate of Amenia High School and a homemaker. On Dec. 1, 1951, at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, New York, she married John Finn Casey who died on April 17, 2006.

She was a longtime parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Kent.

Mrs. Casey is survived by three daughters, Kathleen (Katie) Casey Moore, and her husband, Jonathan, of Kent, Connecticut; Margaret (Meg) McEnroe Casey, of Milwauke, Wisconsin and Jacqueline (Jackie) Casey McGuinness, and her husband, Michael, of Fairfield, Connecticut and

two brothers, Joseph McEnroe of Amenia, New York and James McEnroe of Burlington Flats, New York. She is also survived by six grandchildren, Andrew Casey Moore, and his wife, Kristen; Christopher Sizer Moore; John Finn McFadyen; Margaret Casey McGuinness; Caroline Grace McGuinness and Patrick Edward McGuinness and a great grandson, Aiden Casey Moore.

Besides her parents and husband, she was predeceased by a brother, Leo McEnroe, Jr. and a sister, Margaret Wilcox.

There will be no calling hours. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026, at St. Kateri Tekakwitha-Sacred Heart Church, 17 Bridge St., Kent, CT. Burial will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Kent, CT. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kent Volunteer Ambulance, 28 Maple St., Kent, CT 06757.

Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com



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Week of August 2, 2026

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35 Year Memory of Michael Lamay

July 23, 1991

Thirty five years,
It makes no sense to wonder now,
How different our lives would be
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The world knows we still do it,
Every now and then
Especially this time of year
When we think of the time we were able to spend
With a strong, amazing, young person,
taken from this life so soon,
Wishing we had so much more time,
or even just one more afternoon.
But stories like yours remind us,
To live each day as our last,
To not be afraid to follow our dreams,
And not to get stuck in the past.
There are some things we cannot control,
So we focus on what we can,
Like keeping your memory alive,
But not losing ourselves in what could have been.

*We love and
miss you Michael,
Your Aunt Ruth
Your cousins
Bobbie-Jo and Ruthanne*

LET’S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

Some of the best places in our community aren’t the ones you’ll find on a map —they’re the quiet trails, family-owned businesses, scenic overlooks, and local favorites that residents know and love. This week, we want to celebrate the hidden gems that make our corner of the world unique.

What’s your favorite hidden gem in our community, and why should others check it out?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, Aug. 3 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We’ll publish a selection in next week’s paper.

LAST WEEK

What is one local issue or topic you wish you knew more about?

“Would love to know the status of the improvement plan for Century Bl. in Millerton - including parking and landscaping. AND, what is the status of getting sewer system along Main Street.”
— Lori Coats, Millerton

“More Millerton News, less CT news.”
— Judith O’Hara Balfe, Millerton

“I wish I knew more about the challenges, obstacles, and realities that leave the Webutuck school district with a subpar reputation.”
— Ed Stillman, Millerton

Do a good deed, and learn something new daily

This year 3 generations of our family spent a week at a scenic, secluded Lake George accommodation owned by a generations old family dating back to the turn of the 20th century. Secluded, peaceful and quiet. No vehicles or noise, just an occasional marine vessel. A majestic view and waters abundant with game fish and migrating waterfowl especially the female hooded messenger and her comical brood which entertained us daily with their antics. The water is pristine and alive with numerous game fish, but cold. We were treated to calm , colorful majestic sunrises and sunsets. Mother Nature showing off her artwork. BEAUTIFUL! Waterfowl scurrying to and from their daily routines. We took a morning trip on the steam boat Mini Ha Ha (translated Laughing Waters). Our grandson Emari and I toured the engine room powering the paddle wheel. Very interesting as was the calliope (steam organ) player and the lively tunes he played.The thoughtful and accommodating caretaker told us largemouth bass would be

VETERAN’S CORNER

Larry Conklin

coming into the shallows to spawn soon. Emari caught a 6 pound early arriving female which was immediately released as N.Y. bass season was not yet open. God willing we will return next year armed with the knowledge we learned this trip. New suitable fishing rods and lures. Lake George- a beautiful, pristine water with stunning views, soothing the soul and healthful, friendly locals, and nearby shopping. Take an educational trip on one of the Lake George steamboat Companies tours-very affordable and interesting. You’ll enjoy it. God bless you patriotic readers and your families. Enjoy the rest of summer and try to do a good deed and learn something new daily. Til next time.
Town of North East resident Larry Conklin is a Vietnam veteran and a member of both the Millerton American Legion Post 178 and the VFW Post 6851. in North Canaan.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sever ties with Flock

Your recent reporting (July 16) regarding private landowner’s embrace of the artificial intelligence mass surveillance company Flock was informative and timely. It is disheartening that property owners are welcoming the government’s spying machinery into our community. Historical and contemporary examples show that totalitarian and undemocratic governments have an insatiable appetite for information about its citizens, especially those with whom it disagrees. Using informants from within a community is a totalitarian specialty. Property owners who host Flock cameras become electronic informants, and volunteer the rest of us to

surrender our privacy rights. Safe, legal, and effective law enforcement does not require warrantless gathering of information. There are numerous examples nationwide where Flock information has been used unconstitutionally, violating citizen’s Fourth Amendment rights. Like all artificial intelligence models, Flock’s is not perfect. There are hundreds of cases where citizens have been falsely identified or accused based on Flock’s failures. Our community should be Flock-free, and I encourage current and potential Flock partners to sever their ties with it.
Greg Swinehart
Millerton



Attempts to militarily overwhelm will fail

Get a globe, use the CIA’s World Factbook. Start to relearn geography. You may ask why, but your fathers and mothers, grandmothers and grandfathers all learned the hard way when they and their kids had to go overseas to fight wars.... wars that came about because “over there” wasn’t initially seen as a threat to them at home. Ignorance is no excuse for your later complaints when leaders and politicians make bad geo-political decisions. Geographical knowledge gives immediate perspective into problems and consequences, allows you the only intelligent evaluation of participation – before it is too late. Your participation? Yes, you participate when you vote, when you chose to support politicians, and when you

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

affirm fealty to an American ideal or leader – however you define your patriotism. Perspective is the basis of any evaluation. Get a globe and check online and check your perspective, your “I am damn sure I know about Iran” opinion. Did you know that Iran is two and a half times larger than Texas with a three times larger population? Iran has a population roughly a quarter of the USA, true, but that’s 93,000,000 people. Iran’s population compared to Germany’s population of 70,000,000 in 1939 should make you – and politicians – pause to think of a population’s capability.

Oh, and Afghanistan? About the size of Texas, but with 45,000,000 people, 15,000,000 more than Texas. Vietnam’s size was half the size of Texas and that didn’t end well, especially because the population of Vietnam was, like Iran today, over 90,000,000. At play, in this moment are the following countries that we, as Americans, may soon be sending family and friends into conflict – “over there.” Iran, that’s obvious. Iran links to Afghanistan to the east, Pakistan (a nuclear power) to the southeast. To the west-north-west of Iran fall Iraq, Syria, Jordan and, of course, Israel. Kuwait, UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Oman lie to the west-south-west. In terms of size (area) we’re talking twice the size of the US. And a much larger population.

And geography – looking at a map, a globe – will point out obvious choke points like the Straits of Hormuz, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea, and the Arabian Sea. Heck, just look at a maritime chart of the region. In the case of geo-politicians, most of whom have had insufficient geography study, whatever they want to plan, they will come to learn – sooner or later – that there will be no surgical strike, no quick military overwhelming advantage in that region. Recent history in Vietnam and Afghanistan should teach us that. Basic geography of the regions is irrefutable proof that wishing we could militarily overwhelm – no matter the reasons – does not make it likely we will.
Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenia Union, New York, now lives in Gila, New Mexico.

1976: Meg Alexander departs The News

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

July 29, 1976
Alexander Leaves News, Garfield Takes Over
Meg Alexander, editor of The News for the past 3 years, has accepted a new job as a reporter on The Charlotte News, an afternoon daily newspaper in the largest city in North Carolina.

This is the last issue of The News in Millerton under her direction. In Charlotte she will be writing on local aspects of national affairs. Her successor as editor of The News will be Kenneth Garfield, assistant editor for the past year. Mr. Garfield also expects to leave for a new post on a daily newspaper in the near future.
Editorial
Meg Confesses
I love Millerton and its people. This confession comes

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Millerton News

at the end of my 3 years as editor of The News. My work has been both a challenge and a joy. I wholeheartedly say that it’s been the happiest time of my life. I admire the fierce pride of the citizens here; their devotion to the community, their love of the land. When they rally around a cause, whether it is saving a state park or celebrating a Centennial, their spirit shines, their strength inspires. I’ve learned many things since I’ve been here — about truth, integrity, justice and about keeping a sense of humor. I remember the first paper I put out myself back in July, 1973. I worked frantically trying to put it together, to get everything right. I was a mad whirlwind of paper, scissors, and glue.



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Emerging...

OPINION

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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 LJMN 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 27

Thursday, July 30, 2026

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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 LJMN Media, Inc., PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688.

OUR TOWNS

Town Board kicks off Washington town park renovation talks

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The first in a series of workshop discussions on renovations to Washington’s Town Park led Town Board members to seek additional input from professional engineers.

Members of the town board convened Thursday, July 23, to discuss a feasibility study prepared by former board member Mike Murphy, who had toured the park facilities and surveyed town residents about the project last year. The park, which includes the town pool, playground, athletic fields, and several pavilions, has been the subject of renovation talks for several years.

“Aging infrastructure, rising maintenance costs, and safety concerns all underscore the need for a clear, unified vision,” said Murphy in his report.

Board members decided to seek an engineer’s professional opinion on the park’s structure before moving forward with any further decisions. They cited a desire to understand the whole scope of the project, including suggestions from residents for new park features recorded in Murphy’s report and much needed improvements to aging facilities.

Murphy’s feasibility study identified several possible projects for renovation: an in-ground pool, hiking trails, dog park, and pickleball courts were among the responses given by residents. But at Thursday’s meeting, several board members stressed the importance of adopting a master plan instead of a piecemeal approach.

That led the board to pursue an engineer’s perspective. While there are some smaller renovations that seem inevitable — like reshingling the frayed roof of the large pavilion and adding a second entrance to the park — board members want a more comprehensive view of the project before taking action on any particular improvements.

Murphy estimated the total renovation cost at between \$2.5 million and \$3.7 million.

The park has remained a popular destination for Washington and Millbrook residents. But upcoming pool projects in neighboring communities — such as Millerton’s pool, which is planned to open in summer 2027 — have made updating Washington’s facilities a priority.

“It used to be packed,” said attendee and former board member Robert Audia. Audia grew up in Millbrook, and remembers long summer days spent at the park as a teenager. “The Village used to bus kids up from town,” he said, “and we’d spend all day there.”

One of Murphy’s primary short-term recommendations is to establish a community-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to support the park. That would allow Washington to raise money through philanthropic donations and grants in support of recreation facilities. He also suggests opening the park from sunrise to sunset, and to adjust park fees to allow for residents who want to use the park rather than the pool. Currently, there is a flat fee for entry.

New and improved Thorne arts center expected to open by 2029

By ELOISE PICKERING
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — Construction on the long-planned Thorne Center could begin this fall, with the new arts and community center expected to open in early 2029.

The empty Thorne Building will undergo extensive renovation over the next two years and become the Thorne Center, where residents can gather for events, classes and arts programming. The renovated building will feature a gallery, culinary center, digital arts center and other community spaces.

The building was originally constructed as a school for Millbrook in 1895 by Samuel Thorne, where it served as a high school until 1962. It later served a variety of community purposes but has remained largely vacant in recent decades. The Millbrook Community Partnership, a nonprofit organization formed to redevelop the building and oversee improvements at Bennett Park, bought the property from the Village of Millbrook in 2017.

Since purchasing the building, the partnership has spent years planning its redevelopment and hopes to complete the project’s plans by the end of July. Organization leaders expect to begin construction later this fall, with the project scheduled for completion by late 2028 or early 2029.

“It’s been a long haul but always forward motion,” said Ann Gifford, the secretary of the Millbrook Community Partnership.

Throughout the planning process, the partnership incorporated feedback from the community. Community-wide meetings provided opportunities for brainstorming and included suggestion boxes where Millbrook residents could participate in the process.

“They had a bunch of public sessions and then gathered all of the feedback. The resounding message was that it should be something for



PHOTO BY ELOISE PICKERING

The performance hall of the Thorne Building in Millbrook. The Thorne Building will be undergoing restorations to become a community center for Millbrook.

the community,” said Krista Fragos, special assistant to Oakleigh Thorne, president of the Millbrook Community Partnership and a descendant of Samuel Thorne. Fragos assists Thorne with the partnership’s projects.

The Thorne family has played a prominent role in the development of Millbrook since the early 1700s.

The building’s three floors and basement will all be renovated to accommodate a culinary center, digital arts center, small gallery space, community workspace, dance studio and visual arts studio. There will also be an elevator.

The footprint of the building will remain largely unchanged, with the only addition being an extension to the performance hall. This will allow for a catwalk and a loading dock behind the stage.

The renovation will preserve as much of the historic building as possible, including the exposed brick found throughout many of its rooms.

“We are very collaborative. We’re working with the library, working with the arts group,” Gifford said. “We’re working with anyone who’s around who wants to collaborate with us. We want to be very inclusive.”

The partnership has raised \$28 million toward its \$34 million fundraising goal through private donations and an initial grant from the Millbrook Tribute Garden.

The Tribute Garden was established in 1920 on land donated by the Thorne family to commemorate World War I veterans from Millbrook.

In November, there will be a public kickoff to launch the community fundraising campaign and provide an update on construction.

“The community is very enthusiastic, and whenever we’ve opened it up for an open house or a performance or a tour, we’ve gotten a lot of interest,” Gifford said.

The building has seen sporadic use over the past two decades, and the performance hall has hosted occasional events. On Sept. 6, the Knights Ensemble will perform in the Thorne Building for what organizers expect to be the final performance before construction begins. The Knights is an internationally acclaimed orchestra that has performed worldwide.

“They’ve put a really cool program together that I think will fit in the funkiness of the space and they’re really excited to come,” Fragos said.

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TheMILLERTON NEWS

MATCHING CHALLENGE A SUCCESS! WITH YOUR HELP, WE DOUBLED DOWN ON LOCAL NEWS

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CHILD DEATH *Continued from Page A1*

said the group began assisting in the search, driving up and down Silver Mountain Road and scouring through neighboring fields adjacent to the churchyard and across the road.

After several minutes of searching, assistant pastor John Wolfe reportedly decided to check the septic tank cover near the church after one of the guests informed him of a strange noise coming from the area.

“I mow around it, I walk across it — we never gave the septic tank a second thought,” Wolfe told the Millerton News. “I didn’t even know the lid could move. And then I lifted it up and thought, ‘that was entirely too easy.’”

Wolfe then discovered Olly inside the tank and lifted the child out by his leg. After Olly was pulled from the tank, medical personnel arrived at the scene and began life-saving measures, Johnathan and Darryl said.

“There was a doctor, there were medical students and retired nurses,” Darryl said. “Nobody could do anything.”

Dutchess County Sheriff’s Capt. John Watterson said in an email Monday, July 27, that Olly was reportedly in the septic tank for about 10 minutes before he was discovered. Medical personnel attempted to save his life both at the scene and at Sharon Hospital in neighboring Connecticut, but the attempts were unsuccessful and the boy was pronounced dead after arriving at the hospital.

The official cause of death has yet to be determined. No charges have been filed, and the investigation is ongoing, Watterson said.

Johnathan and Darryl said they have been attending services and social functions at Faith Bible Chapel for nearly four years. They described the congregation as their second family, a tightknit community that looked out for one another and socialized together often.

Olly had been a regular fixture at Faith Bible Chapel

since he was three days old, his parents said. Olly’s bubbly and happy personality was a hit with the congregants.

“This wasn’t a new place for him,” said Wolfe’s daughter Bethany Wolfe. “He grew up here.”

They said about 50 people, including other children, were in attendance at the time of Olly’s disappearance, and there was no indication of any potential danger in the yard. The septic tank was located about 10 feet away from where most of the party had been taking place, Johnathan said.

“Not since day one did we ever fear anything there,” Darryl said.

The Reas described their son’s death as avoidable and

questioned why the lid to the septic tank was unsecured. Wolfe said the tank was most recently pumped in March, and the church did not receive any notice from the septic company regarding the lid’s security.

Witnesses on scene secured the septic tank cover with screws after Olly was retrieved at the direction of first responders, his parents said.

Johnathan and Darryl said the church community has come together to support each other since the tragedy. The following Sunday morning, the Reas and other congregants gathered at the church for a prayer service for Olly and to celebrate the family’s oldest son’s seventh birthday in an attempt to find hope and

peace despite the loss.

“We wanted things to be kind of normal for him as much as possible because you don’t want a tragedy to overshadow your son’s birthday,” Darryl said. “It was a lot of emotions but they tried their best to give him a good birthday along with us.”

Olly’s parents said they hope their son’s death can lead to a positive outcome. They called for greater attention and regulation of septic tanks, expressing frustration that such a hazard could exist in a public place that often hosts families and children.

“It’s just absolutely devastating and it’s horrific,” Darryl said. “You don’t want this to happen to anybody, let alone yourself.”

MOURNING *Continued from Page A1*

eboration turned tragic when 2-year-old Olly wandered out of sight and fell into a septic tank. He later died after being transported to Sharon Hospital.

Now, the family and the congregation are mourning the loss of a bright, smiling boy whose parents said brought light and joy to the community.

“Olly was a light wherever he went,” Johnathan said. “If he smiled at you, you just had to smile. He was the most beautiful, loving little boy there was. He never cried, never. He loved everybody to death.”

Johnathan and Darryl moved to Millerton in 2020 shortly after the birth of their first son, Corey, to be closer to Darryl’s mother. The couple had been married for two years at that point, and the death of Darryl’s father in 2018 prompted them to move to the area to help care for her mother.

Darryl is a lifelong resident of Dutchess County, raised in Rhinebeck, New York. Johnathan was raised by his grandfather, a military service-member, and moved around the United States through his childhood.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Screws secure the cover of the septic tank at Faith Bible Chapel after the death of 2-year-old Olly Rea.

After moving to Millerton, Darryl stayed home to care for Cory, her mother, and a longtime family friend who now lives at The Fountains at Millbrook, an assisted living facility. Johnathan worked as a driver for Watson Livery until recently, when he returned to his passion for electrical work.

Over the past six years, Johnathan and Darryl welcomed two more boys to their family. Olly, in July 2024, and Levi last year in September. The family found the community at Faith Bible Chapel about four years ago, Darryl said, and they quickly became regular members of the community there.

“There’s a giant church family there,” Darryl said. “You walk through the doors and you just feel so welcomed and loved.”

Olly’s death on Saturday, just a day before his brother Corey’s seventh birthday, rocked the congregation. Bethany Wolfe, daughter of Faith Bible Chapel’s assistant pastor John Wolfe and a member of the church’s staff, said the toddler delighted congregants of all ages.

“I’ll never forget when they brought him here the first time,” she said. “He had his first birthday party here. He grew up here, and we would go out to the playground in the backyard every week.”

Wolfe said the church will host a celebration of life for Olly on Monday, Aug. 3, at 10:30 a.m. at Faith Bible Chapel. The church is located at 222 Silver Mountain Road outside of Millerton.

Additional reporting provided by Graham Corrigan.

SPYCATCHER *Continued from Page A1*

Amenia Burying Ground on Mygatt Road. Bistransin wrote, directed and produced the play, hoping to transport audiences back to the late 18th century through historically accurate language, characters and settings.

“It was my hope that when people enter that theater that they are back in the 18th Century,” Bistransin said. “No anachronisms, only old-fashioned language.”

The inspiration struck after Bistransin, 70, read an article from a 1900 edition of the *Amenia Times* recounting the arrest of a Revolutionary War spy.

History has shaped much of Bistransin’s life. Before writing *Amenia’s Spycatcher*, he translated plays by Roman playwright Plautus for schools.

Bistransin said the play has occupied months of his life and is the latest expression of his lifelong fascination with history.

He said he wants *Amenia* to understand Paine and the conflicts in his life. “I think it is an examination of relationships,” Bistransin said. “Romantic love versus familial love, duty, the sacrifice you have to make for other people.”

Paine fled Connecticut to avoid paying taxes to a state church and went to sea as a whaler to avoid debtor’s prison. Bistransin based much of his tale on the account offered by Paine’s descendant, Martha Bockee Flint, who wrote the article recounting the story of her great-great-great-mother, who risked her life for colonial freedom.

The playwright also drew on the journal of the wife of a German general who fought for the British at Saratoga and passed through *Amenia* as a prisoner of war.

Bistransin described the play as his gift to the town. He spearheaded the production with the help of a \$15,000 Dutchess County grant secured by Betsy Strauss and the *Amenia Historical Society*. Bistransin took on writing, directing, producing and cast-

ing the play largely by himself.

Bistransin acknowledged a few key helpers along the way. Anna Bonelli illustrated the posters that now advertise the show across town. Town Hall custodian John Nowak found the scenery and lighting from local resident David Palmieri. Town librarian Victoria Herow helped research the obscure historical figure.

Long before this play, Bistransin started his professional career as a park ranger in Boston overseeing burial grounds. After a stint teaching Latin, he founded Theater Ludicrum, where he learned from Roman drama how playwrighting works.

Eventually he grew tired of city life and sought broader pastures, bringing him to *Amenia* in 2016. While working as a security guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, he remembers saying to himself, “I don’t want to die in a railroad apartment in Queens.”

He rode the train to the end of the line and found a place to raise goats like his sister did in Ohio. Since then, Bistransin has volunteered with the *Amenia Historical Society*. He also helps maintain the Old *Amenia Burying Ground*, where Paine and other Revolution-era *Amenia* residents are buried.

Bistransin jokes that he has been as stubborn as his billy goat, Ferdinand, in seeing the production through. He also knows that taking on nearly every aspect of the play leaves little room to blame anyone else if it falls short.

“An actor does a good job in a well-made play,” he said. “I made all the decisions. Not only am I comfortable with that, but I don’t want any interference. If it’s bad, it’s my fault.”

Despite the pressure, Bistransin said he feels fortunate to have had the opportunity to tell an overlooked chapter of *Amenia’s* history and hopes residents will come out to experience it. “I feel so lucky to have this opportunity,” he said.

RESORT *Continued from Page A1*

The proposal calls for renovating the existing buildings on the property, with additions to the former school to accommodate hotel rooms, dining areas, and many of the resort’s amenities, including the spa, gym, bars, and retail space.

New construction will stretch around the outside

edge of the property that sits along the west side of Route 22 between Copake and Hillsdale. Drawings show a planned road running around the perimeter of the property providing access to 15 lodges with between three and five bedrooms. Walking paths will lead to 16 additional smaller lodges, with

one to two bedrooms each, planned to line a new retention pond that is to be located in the southern portion of the property.

All together, the lodge buildings will total more than 64,000 square feet of new building footprint on the property. That’s in addition to the 97-room, 82,000-square-foot hotel that is planned to occupy the abandoned school and an addition to the building.

The proposal is still in its early stages, having first been introduced to Copake’s Zoning Board of Appeals at that

board’s May 28 meeting. The proposal is currently undergoing a public hearing at the Zoning Board of Appeals, which began on Thursday, July 23, at Copake Town Hall.

Gina White, who operates Mandala Yoga & Arts in a building just south of the abandoned school, said she’s waiting to watch the development move through regulatory processes before forming an opinion on the project.

Generally, though, White thinks the plans are likely to be positive for the area. “It’s a resort town,” she said.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

The former Roe-Jan Center School on Route 22 in north Copake was abandoned in 1999. Developers are proposing turning the building into a resort and spa.

OLIVET ACADEMY *Continued from Page A1*

The campus has operated as a school since it was built in 1940, first as the Barlow School and later as the Kildonan School from 1980 until the institution closed in 2019. Nelson said the current application is intended to formally document and legalize longstanding uses of the property rather than expand or substantially alter the campus.

Wednesday night’s meeting marked the first public hearing on the application, marking a step toward approval that will bring the historic school into formal legal compliance for the first time since its construction over 80 years ago.

Betsy Strauss, a longtime neighbor of the property, and her husband, Julian, spoke in support of the school and its efforts to obtain formal approval. She said Olivet has been a good neighbor and she’s delighted to live in a neighborhood surrounded by schools on both sides.

Strauss’s property is bordered on the west by Olivet Academy and on the east by the Webutuck Central School District campus.

“It’s very nice to know that

we’ve got people who are serious about their work and are good neighbors,” Strauss said.

Milo Tsukroff — a Pleasant Valley, New York, resident and math instructor at the school — said he has taught at the school for five years and loves the community.

He said Olivet students excel in and out of school, and that the presence of the boarding school and Webutuck’s campus in such close proximity qualifies that section of town around Morse Hill Road and Haight Road as a de facto education district.

“Graduates return to this school and tell us they’re college math classes are too easy because they learned math at Olivet,” Tsukroff said.

Planning Board members opted to keep the public hearing open pending approvals from outside agencies for outstanding issues such as approval of an existing septic system and building department certification. The next public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 12, at 7:35 p.m. at the North East Town Hall on Maple Avenue.

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PHOTO PROVIDED

Deanna Hearn opened Lucky Orphans in 2003.

Lucky Orphans offers sanctuary for horses and healing for people

By Elena Spellman

From feeding retired racehorses before sunrise to guiding veterans, grieving parents and troubled teenagers through equine-assisted therapy sessions, Deanna Hearn rarely has a quiet day. As founder of Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue in Dover Plains, she oversees the care of more than 40 sanctuary horses while leading a nonprofit whose mission extends far beyond animal rescue.

What began as a childhood love of horses has evolved into a place where healing runs in both directions — for horses and for people. By the time you leave Lucky Orphans, it becomes clear that this place isn't really about horses. The horses are simply how it begins.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

COMMUNITY

Weekend in Norfolk returns for four days of art, music and community

By Jennifer Almquist

Norfolk bursts with activity in midsummer with Weekend in Norfolk (WIN). An all-volunteer committee transforms the town with free public events for all ages. WIN 2026 begins Thursday, July 30, and runs through Sunday, Aug. 2.

Norfolk sculptor Jon Riedeman, the new head of Norfolk Artists and Friends (NAF), organized the group's 19th annual art exhibition, featuring paintings, sculpture, photography and jewelry by area artists in the Art Barn on the grounds of the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. Riedeman expanded the show this year by inviting artists from New Marlborough, Massachusetts, to participate. The exhibit opens with a reception Thursday, July 30, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Music fills the air throughout the weekend. On Thursday night, take in the Emerging Artists Series concert

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

MUSIC

Baseball, wine and jazz at Millbrook Winery

By D.H. Callahan

Throughout the history of Major League Baseball, precious few greats have been considered five-tool players. New York Yankee Bernie Williams was one of them.

To be considered a five tool player, one must show exceptional proficiency in five categories: hitting for average, hitting for power, running bases, fielding and arm strength. But there's another tool Williams possesses that didn't make it to the back of his baseball card: his mastery of jazz guitar.

On Aug. 1 at Millbrook Winery, that elusive sixth tool will take center stage as Williams and his Band of Friends return to the Vineyard for a night of jazz, wine and possibly a baseball reference or two.

Williams is best known for his legendary career with the Yankees. During his 15 years with the Bronx Bombers, he won four World Series championships, four Gold Glove awards and one Silver Slugger award in 1998, the same year he won the American League batting title, making him the first player in history to win a Gold Glove, a batting title and a World Series in the same year. Oh yeah, he was also an MLB All-Star every year between 1997 through 2001.

But while his work on the field is well known to New Yorkers and the broader baseball world, he almost took the musical route through life.

Williams first picked up a guitar when he was just 8 years old and was immediately taken by the magic of music. He was so passionate about it that he attended a performing arts high school in his hometown of San



PHOTO PROVIDED

Bernie Williams and his Band of Friends at Millbrook Winery in 2025.

Juan, Puerto Rico. By the time he made it to the big leagues, he was known as the guy with the guitar in the locker room.

That reputation soon reached the Yankees' fan base, with commentators telling stories of Williams and his outfield teammate Paul O'Neill's jam sessions. O'Neill set up a drum kit in a paint room at the old Yankee Stadium, and the two would play together through rain delays, sometimes getting visits from New York City's musical greats while they waited to play ball. MSG Network, which aired Yankees games at the time, even ran a promotional ad featuring the two World Series champions jamming together

on a blues riff in their batting practice uniforms.

But unlike O'Neill, whose drumming is a hobby at best, Williams is a serious musician. During an appearance with Paul Simon at a charity event, Simon surprised Williams and his band by playing "Mrs. Robinson," a song they didn't know and hadn't practiced. But just a few lines in, Williams was taking solos and riffing on Simon's choruses with expert musicianship.

While Williams' music is the main draw for the event on Saturday, the relationship between the All-Star and the winery goes beyond the performance. The collaboration started in

2021, when Williams visited the vineyards and instantly connected with then-general manager Ian Bearup, bonding over baseball, music and wine. They quickly decided to team up and create a custom variety they call Bernie's Blend. This year's bottle, featuring art from Williams' daughter, Beatriz, is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc and will be released at the performance on Saturday night.

While the VIP ticket levels are all sold out, as of press time, bring-your-own-lawn chair spots are still available. The wine will be available at the vineyard and online throughout the year at millbrookwine.com.

MUSIC

Laurie Anderson brings four days of music, art and conversation to Tanglewood

By Richard Feiner
And Annette Stover

Musician, composer, performing artist and multimedia pioneer Laurie Anderson is one of the most influential and controversial figures in American contemporary and avant-garde arts. Her ambitious multimedia projects, encompassing music, film, visual projections, dance, and the spoken and written word, have enjoyed great public visibility, and Anderson has been recognized with many honors, including a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as the Gold Medal for Music from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and this year's Kyoto Prize for Arts and Philosophy in the field of music.

Anderson will make her Tanglewood debut in a series of special events and performances Aug. 13-16, along with longtime collaborators and special guests, giving audiences an opportunity to experience her groundbreaking and challenging work, which has been received with both acclaim and

confusion for its wit, innovation and interdisciplinary scope.

A concert on Thursday, Aug. 13 at 8 p.m., part of Tanglewood's recital series that spotlights chamber music and solo performances curated spe-

cifically for the acoustics and atmosphere of Ozawa Hall, features Anderson, guests and members of the BSO in a selection of Anderson's compositions for string orchestra led by conductor Dennis Russell

Davies, principal conductor of the MDR Leipzig Radio Symphony Orchestra and artistic director and chief conductor of the Filharmonie Brno.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3



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INSIDE

REAL ESTATE

Silo Ridge property transfers top \$15M in late spring

OUR TOWNS

Annual senior citizen picnic at Stissing Mountain High School



BOOKS

Campus mental health expert to speak at Sharon Book Signing

By Ruth Epstein

As August looms, college students begin to think about the upcoming academic year. Concerns over roommate compatibility or maintaining good grades are common. But for some, mental health challenges can arise in the campus setting. Author and psychiatrist Mathilde Ross deals with the subject in her book “How to Thrive at College: A Guide to the Ups and Downs of Mental Health on Campus.” Ross, the daughter of Cicily and Joseph Hajek of Sharon, will be among the writers featured at the Hotchkiss Library’s 28th annual Sharon Summer Book Signing on July 31 from 4:45 to 7:30 p.m. In an informative yet humorous style, Ross, a senior staff psychiatrist in the counseling center at Boston University, dispenses advice to both parents and students. The book provides strategies for communicating about difficult topics and

determining when there is a serious problem and when symptoms may be normal behavior. Ross takes readers through a college calendar year and shares a series of cases she has encountered during her tenure. She’s counseled students with debilitating fears of dogs or flying, eating disorders and sleep deprivation — challenges that prevent them from functioning. Others are gripped by the certainty that they will fail out of school. She also discusses those who suffer from depression, live with obsessive-compulsive disorder and contemplate suicide. Many problems can be traced back to childhood, she notes. Ross says there are some things “we know are very, very bad,” labeling them “the Big Three: child abuse, domestic violence or a parent with an addiction. Each creates an unsafe and unstable early childhood environment, which is very bad for



PHOTO BY MARISSA FIORUCCI

Author and psychiatrist Mathilde Ross offers help for students navigating campus mental health.

human development.” She also speaks about the enormous pressure some parents put on their children — whether to succeed academically, excel in sports or pursue a particular talent — and the effects such expectations can have. She writes about “young people who are burned out, and don’t know who they are. They know who their

parents want them to be — they’ve gotten that message. But they’ve been driven to achieve, at the expense of knowing who they are, how to take care of themselves, or even if it’s worth it. A parenting style that emphasizes achievement at all costs ... has a cost.” Ross introduces readers to terms such as cognitive behavioral therapy, exposure and response prevention, generalized anxiety disorder, stimulus restrictions and parenting pandemic. While the subject can be heavy, Ross’s style adds a lightness to her message. Often self-effacing, especially when speaking about parenting her three children, she nevertheless provides tips that are easy to understand. Ross said the impetus for writing the book came in 2017, when headlines blared about a mental health crisis among young people and she began seeing increased demand at her clinic. Friends, knowing her profession, peppered her with questions and concerns. Her short answer is, “The kids are all right. Not every single one, but the vast majority are very extremely totally all right.” Her book, she said, is her answer to the public confusion. For tickets to the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon’s Summer Book Signing, visit hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org

WRITER'S NOTEBOOK

The art of bringing travel home

By Kerri-Lee Mayland

Perhaps that’s why summer travel is so irresistible. It isn’t just the promise of sunshine or a change of scenery. It’s the chance to step outside our routines, notice how other people live, taste something we’ve never tasted before, discover a beautiful object made by local hands and come home just a little different than when we left. The best trips don’t end at the airport or in the driveway. They continue in the way we cook, decorate, entertain and even dress. That’s why I always try to bring a little piece of wherever I’ve been home with me. You don’t have to travel far to do it. A weekend in Vermont might introduce you to maple syrup from a family sugarhouse. A drive through the Berkshires could lead you to a local potter whose serving bowl becomes the centerpiece of family dinners. A stop at a Connecticut farm stand might send you home with lavender, local honey or a recipe you’ll make every summer. The best souvenirs aren’t necessarily what you think they might be. As I unpacked after a recent family trip to Italy and France, I found myself searching first for the two little mementos I’d brought

back. They weren’t expensive or particularly remarkable, but I knew they’d be the things that would keep our vacation alive long after the suitcases were put away. One was a small container of chunky flaked salt from a market in the South of France. My friend who hosted us insisted on buying it for me after I admired hers while cooking together. The other was a colorful silk scarf I found fluttering outside a tiny shop in Sanremo, Italy’s historic district, while my family waited for dinner at the restaurant next door. I know when I wear it, I will think of that evening again and again. The salt cost \$8; the scarf, \$12. Since returning home, I’ve sprinkled the salt over tomatoes from my garden and used it to season pasta sauce. Every pinch brings me back to that bustling market and reminds me of the friend who gave it to me. Some of my favorite souvenirs this summer, however, didn’t arrive home with me in my suitcase. One afternoon, a friend served slices of fresh cantaloupe from a farm just down the road where we were staying. As I reached for a piece, she asked,

... Laurie Anderson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

A program highlight is “Amelia,” a piece inspired by the pioneering pilot Amelia Earhart, who disappeared over the Pacific Ocean in 1937 while attempting to fly around the world. The piece draws upon text from Earhart’s pilot’s log from her final international trip. In its blending of historical fact with atmospheric electronic music, minimal instrumentation and evocative soundscapes, the piece can be seen as emblematic of Anderson’s focus on transforming a historical event into a meditation on universal human experiences.



PHOTO BY EBURU YILDIZ

Multimedia pioneer Laurie Anderson makes Tanglewood debut with a weekend of performances.

present the Lou Reed Drone, a drone-based sonic installation curated by Anderson using guitars from her late husband Lou Reed’s collection. The event features performances by Reed’s former guitar tech Stewart Hurwood and a roster of guest artists rotating throughout the afternoon. Finally, on Sunday, Aug. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in Ozawa Hall, Anderson will present “The Republic of Love,” an evening of music and storytelling reflecting on America’s past and present, featuring the genre-defying jazz ensemble Sexmob in its Tanglewood debut, along with special guests Mazz Swift and vocalist Christina Courtin. As the title suggests, the piece plays on the classical

idea of a republic — a political community governed by shared principles — to imagine what such a community would look like if its organizing principle were love rather than power. According to Anderson, the work isn’t sentimental. Instead, it examines love as a political and ethical force that shapes how people relate to one another and to institutions. Collectively, these events will celebrate Anderson’s continued explorations of the power of words and language, visual imagery, and cutting-edge technology to challenge perceptions and to help audiences make sense of some of the most compelling questions of our day. For information and tickets, go to tanglewood.org or call (888) 266-1200.

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ART

Kim Schmidt’s Summer Salon brings 45 artists together in Lakeville

By Lucia Iandolo

For the summer, the Churchill Building Company at 332 Main Street in Lakeville has been transformed into a group exhibition space featuring artwork by emerging and established artists. Curated by private art dealer Kim Schmidt, who is based in Manhattan and Millerton, the 2026 Summer Salon Session opened on July 18, bringing together work by 45 artists in an exhibition designed to make art more approachable for collectors and casual viewers alike.

Committed to making art more accessible by bringing it into everyday spaces rather than museums and galleries, Schmidt hopes the “pop-up” will create a more inclusive environment where art lovers can discover a wide range



PHOTO BY LUCIA IANDOLO

Art dealer Kim Schmidt at the 2026 Summer Salon in Lakeville.

of work while emerging artists have the opportunity to exhibit alongside more established figures.

“I really wanted it to be that mix of discovery, where you can walk in and buy something for \$1,400, but it might be standing right next to something that’s \$100,000,” Schmidt said.

Many of the featured artists are local, reflecting

Schmidt’s strong ties to the region’s arts community. Those connections began when she and her husband organized fundraising auctions for Ukraine at The Re Institute in Millerton and Troutbeck in Amenia, introducing her to many of the artists who now participate in her exhibitions. The Summer Salon is open Saturdays and by appoint-

ment, with all works on view available for purchase.

Having purchased her first piece of art at 16 and spent four decades in the art world, Schmidt places as much value on the stories behind the artwork as the work itself. She said understanding an artist’s practice and motivations is central to the way she presents each piece.

“I am fascinated, and I really want to be able to discuss anything on the wall in a way that the artist is speaking through me.”

The Summer Salon is located at 332 Main St. in Lakeville and is open Saturdays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Labor Day. To book an appointment, call (917)742-6456 or email kimschmidtart@gmail.com. To view the works on exhibit, visit kimschmidtfineart.com.

...travel CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

“Don’t you want a little salt and lemon?” I never would have thought to pair those flavors, but together they transformed an ordinary melon into something unforgettable. Another day, I watched homemade hummus come together in minutes. I honestly didn’t expect it to taste much different from the store-bought kind. I was wrong. It was creamy, fresh and so flavorful that I doubt I’ll ever buy prepared hummus again.

Those recipes are now souvenirs, too.

That’s what is so satisfying about travel — it can change your everyday life long after you return through the keepsakes that come home with you. They’re recipes, ingredients, traditions and simple objects that carry a memory every time you use them.

The destination isn’t what matters most. It’s the



PHOTO BY KERRI-LEE MAYLAND

Bringing the taste of France home with a container of salt.

feeling a place leaves with you and finding simple ways to carry that feeling into everyday life.

The next time you travel, whether it’s to Europe, Cape Cod, the Berkshires or just down the road, maybe you’ll be inspired to get creative when considering what to bring back.

Because the best souvenirs don’t just remind us of where we’ve been; they invite us to go back, if only for a moment — until we can meander again.

... ‘Babette’s Feast’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

a story by Isak Dinesen and is set in a Norwegian fishing village in the mid-19th century. Martine (portrayed by Cathy Annulli) and Philippa (Gregor) are sisters who lead a small Christian community. One night, a mysterious woman, fleeing political turmoil in France, knocks on their door and asks for asylum. Her letter of introduction states, “Babette can cook.” Babette will be portrayed by Olivia Wadsworth.

The play was conceived and developed by Abigail Killen and written by Rose Courtney. It was first produced in Portland, Maine, in 2018. The highlight is a lavish

feast Babette serves to the community to celebrate the memory of the sect’s original minister: but this production differs in structure from the 1987 Danish film in that no actual food is seen during the feast, Gleason said. Like the theater’s missing walls, the feast itself is invisible.

“There’s no cups. There’s no plates,” Gleason said. “We really don’t have props.”

The minimalist set aligns with the intentions of the play’s creators, who wanted to show the austerity of the religious sect to which Martine and Philippa belong.

Besides the three principals, “there are six players

that are playing up to three different roles. So they’re having to shift their characters too, along with telling the story,” Gleason said.

Murray began working at the abbey in the 1970s and then moved to Idaho and taught theater for several years. Since returning in 2008, he has worked on sets for summer musicals at The Gary-The Olivia Theater. In 2025, he wrote and co-produced an original play, “The Princess and the Goblin,” based on a novel by George MacDonald. It was performed in front of a private audience, with Gleason in the lead. It was the first

play to be shown at the abbey in six years.

“The point of having a theater at the abbey is to show a slice of life as it is, with an eye toward showing how it relates to the reality beyond the immediate place and time and characters within God’s creation,” Murray said.

“It’s to have a part of creation that refers to the broader creation,” he said.

Gleason spent several years in New York City with La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, The American Theatre Wing and ASCAP. She also worked in Los Angeles, evaluating and devel-

oping scripts for a film production company, according to a press release.

Gregor said she applied for an internship at the abbey after reading Mother Dolores Hart’s 2013 memoir, “The Ear of the Heart: An Actress’ Journey from Hollywood to Holy Vows.” She said she always loved acting and was attracted as well to the “balanced lifestyle” the cloistered community offers. One of her duties at the abbey is making cheese, a hands-on process that requires patience and a gentle touch.

“I never knew you could learn so much from cheese,”

she said.

“Babette’s Feast” will be shown Friday evenings, July 31 and Aug. 7; Saturday evenings, Aug. 1 and 8; and Sunday afternoons, Aug. 2 and 9. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., and matinees begin at 2 p.m. There is no admission charge, but donations are welcome, and reservations are required. The Gary-The Olivia Theater at the Abbey of Regina Laudis is at 249 Flanders Rd., Bethlehem. To reserve seats, call 959-988-6068 or email garyoliviatheater@gmail.com. It is an open-air theater, so dress for the weather.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
Coldworks Mechanical LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/28/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: P.O. Box 353, LaGrangeville, New York 12540-0353. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

07-23-26
07-30-26
08-06-23
08-13-26
08-20-26
08-27-26

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that an Application for Authority of Jones & Daughters Hudson Valley LLC, a foreign limited liability company, was filed with the Secretary of State of New York pursuant to Section 802 of the Limited Liability Company Law. The name of the limited liability company is Jones & Daughters Hudson Valley LLC. The jurisdiction of its formation is Connecticut. The date of its formation is January 28, 2026. The county within New York State in which the office of the limited liability company is to be located is Dutchess County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served, and the post office address to which the Secretary of State shall

mail a copy of any process served upon the Secretary of State is Jones & Daughters, 34 Main Street, Millerton, NY 12546. The principal office address of the limited liability company is 34 Main Street, Millerton, NY 12546.07-23-26
07-30-26
08-06-26
08-13-26
08-20-26
08-27-26

Legal Notice
Notice of Formation of Chapters & Charm LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on May 22nd 2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 16 Barton Street, Millerton NY 12546. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

07-16-26
07-23-26
07-30-26
08-06-26
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LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). Name: Garnet IT Consulting LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on [07/01/2026]. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 22

South Randolph Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

07-23-26
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Legal Notice
Please take notice that the Town of Pine Plains Town Board will be accepting sealed bids for the purchase of the following materials for the year 2027:
1) Bituminous asphalt (various sizes) including cold mix asphalt using the most current posted price index.
2) Crushed stone (all sizes).
3) Ice control sand- all crushed stone shall meet Section 703 of the NYS-DOT 'Standard Specifications' and Natural and Processed Sands and Gravels, Crushed Stone, Aggregate, Run of Bank Gravel specifications of County of Dutchess. All stone and asphalt materials shall come from NYS-DOT approved plant. Bid prices on all of the above materials per ton, with the exception of asphalt should be for both F.O.B. and delivered.
4) Liquid calcium chloride for summer and winter.
5) Blended diesel fuel.
6) #2 Heating oil for garage, winter mix December through February for heating oil only.
7) Mid-Grade and Regular no lead gasoline.
8) Liquid Propane for

garage and library. All bids should use the Albany OPIS for the Friday immediately preceding the bid opening date. Bids will be accepted until 12:00 noon Friday August 14, 2026 at the Town Clerks Office, PO Box 955, 3284 Route 199 Pine Plains, NY 12567 at which time they will be opened and read aloud. In order for your bid to be considered complete, the following must be submitted as required by Section 103D of the Municipal Law: Non-Collusive Bidding Certificate Certificate of Insurance Naming Town of Pine Plains as Certificate Holder All bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes with the following information on the outside:
1. Materials Bids 2027
2. August 14, 2026, 12:00PM
The Town Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. The F.O.B. plant price will be analyzed with full consideration given to the distance of the plant to the project location. Any questions should be directed to the Highway Department at (518) 398-6662.

By order of
The Town Board
07-30-26
08-06-26

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF AMENIA MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT BIDS
BIDS FOR THE PERIOD 9/17/26- 9/16/27
NOTICE is hereby given that sealed bids for the purchase of material and equipment used by the Town of Amenia during the year will be received until 2 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, 2026 at the Town Clerk’s Office, Town of Amenia, Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, NY 12501 and opened and read at the Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, on Monday, August 24, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. Bids are requested for the following road materials: Bank-run, sand, Item #4, crushed quarry stone and washed gravel, light, medium, and heavy stone fill, sub base NYS DOT Type #2, calcium chloride, bituminous mix hot and cold, road oils, concrete, catch basins and equipment rentals, Tree Work, Sweeping. Detailed specifications may be obtained at the Highway office at 845-373-9922. All bids must include a notarized non-collusive statement and corporate bidders must file a corporate resolution with a corporate seal. All envelopes must be clearly marked "Bid 9/17/2026 to 9/16/2027". **The Town Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids will be awarded at the next scheduled Town Board Meeting Septem-**

ber 17, 2026.
Megan Chamberlin
Superintendent of
Highways
Town of Amenia
07-30-26
08-06-26

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NORTH EAST
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE
that the North East Town Board has scheduled a public hearing on the adoption of Local Law No. B of the Year 2026 entitled: "A Local Law Changing the Residency Requirements for the Office of Town Highway Superintendent" on August 13, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. at the North East Town Hall, located at 19 North Maple Avenue, Millerton, New York. The purpose of the Local Law is to provide that the person performing functions of Town Highway Superintendent need not be an elector of the Town of North East. Any person desiring to be heard on said Local Law shall be provided with an opportunity to do so at the public hearing. Copies of the proposed Local Law are available on the Town’s website, official board and the Office of the Town Clerk during regular hours. By Order of the Town Board dated July 9, 2026.
ELIZABETH STRAUSS,
Town Clerk for the
Town of North East
07-30-26

The instructive charm of a newly planted native garden

All gardens are works in progress; never static despite the best efforts of gardeners to freeze a perfect aesthetic moment year after year. Seeing a garden when it's first planted is particularly intriguing and instructional. The recently opened Little Guild animal shelter is a visual master class in landscape design and native planting. You really should take a look.

That it was designed by two of the most venerated gardeners in our area is no surprise, given the notable people involved with bringing the new facility to fruition. Page Dickey, author of many books on gardening, and Jeff Lynch, who recently left his role as head gardener at Weathersfield to consult for clients, selected plants that will be able to thrive, once established, without watering. The planting and maintenance is being done by Jameson Secco of Roots and Branches Organic Land-care.

The "architecture" of the planting layout relies on an alley of multi-stemmed serviceberries anchoring the path that borders the building's façade, as well as several swamp oak trees that will grow to provide dappled shade for the parked cars and underplanting. Beneath them is a seemingly simple mix: three species of sedges; two that mound, *Carex laxiculmis* and *Carex rosea*; and one, Pennsylvania sedge, which will eventually spread its tufts throughout. Blue phlox will do the same, as well as provide spring color. As you approach the entrance, different flowering plants and shrubs appear: foamflower, bowman's root, skullcap 'Appalachian blues' and *Clethra alnifolia*, sweet pepperbush.

Along the side that faces Route 128, a mix of shrubs covers much of a steep slope, which ends in a swale that collects water runoff and, if we get some meaningful rain, might become a small pond. Here you will see winterberry, witch hazel, buttonbush, yellowroot and a plant I have not come across before, groundsel bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*), which Lynch says can get as tall as 16 feet and has fluffy white flowers in August. Brilliant red bee



PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON

The native plantings at The Little Guild.



balm 'Jacob Cline' punctuates the planting with color between the shrubs, much as the phlox does on the entry side.

The back of the building has not yet been planted. Still, seeing such an early-stage planting informs us how to place different trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs (flowering herbaceous plants) to work in challenging areas. For The Little Guild, an organization that cares so deeply about animals, planting native species, which nurture wildlife and preserve habitat, is very much in line with its values.

Normally we are invited to view gardens only when they are considered "done," but equally interesting are gardens that are in the process of becoming. In these, the negative space and the plants that fail or prove more aggressive than previously thought are all on view. Private garden tours may not reveal this early stage, but around public buildings it is in plain sight for us to enjoy and learn from.

In Falls Village, horticulturalist and landscape designer Deb Munson, again

with Page Dickey, installed native plant beds around the Hunt Library last year. The project was funded by proceeds and contributions to the winter speaker series "Bad Grass," founded by Jeb Breece.

As with the Little Guild, there is still evidence of a recently planted garden; the Allegheny spurge — the native *Pachysandra procumbens* — has not yet covered the ground around the rhododendron. (A note about this native pachysandra: in addition to providing erosion control and nutrition for native insects, this elegant plant thankfully lacks the invasive quality of its commercially popular Asian counterpart, whose moist environment is favored by ticks. *Lindera* nursery carries it.)

The entrance side of the library has filled in well: a serviceberry tree; the flowering shrubs clethra, aronia and fothergilla; and flowers including bowman's root, coneflower and the amsonia cultivar "Blue ice."

The addition of native planting around some of our important community institutions encourages us to plant native infrastructure at home — a beautiful way to protect habitat, keep water healthy, hold erosion at bay and sustain the natural world around us.

Dee Salomon ungardens in Litchfield County.

LIFESTYLE

Belden House & Mews receives Preservation Connecticut Award of Merit

By Natalia Zukerman

Belden House & Mews, Litchfield's first luxury hotel in more than a century, received a 2026 Award of Merit from Preservation Connecticut during an intimate ceremony at the property Monday, July 27.

Presented annually, the award recognizes exceptional efforts to preserve and revitalize Connecticut's historic buildings, landscapes and communities. At Belden House & Mews, that vision is reflected in the careful restoration of an 1888 Queen Anne mansion and the thoughtful integration of a 1959 modernist Mews building, preserving the architectural character of both while creating a con-



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Celebration at Belden House included Rep. Karen Reddington-Hughes and Sen. Stephen Harding gathered to celebrate Belden House & Mews' Award of Merit from Preservation Connecticut.

temporary destination.

Designed by Champalimaud Design, the studio behind Belden's sister property Troutbeck in Amenia,

the interiors blend global sophistication with a distinctly local sensibility. The

CONTINUED ON PAGE B6

JOIN US FOR

The Lakeville Journal STREET FAIR

Saturday
August 8, 2026

11am to 3pm
Academy Street, Salisbury

Saluting Area Nonprofits

Food • Fun • Music

Join *The Lakeville Journal* for a community celebration, featuring local nonprofits and businesses, festive family fun, great food, and engaging activities.

• Nonprofits will showcase their missions along Academy Street

• Grab a bite from food trucks or nearby restaurants

• Kid's activities

• Scavenger hunt

• Live music

• Face painting

• Balloon animals



Questions?

Please email
streetfair@lakevillejournal.com

Local Matters

The Lakeville Journal is a 501(c)(3) news organization covering the communities of Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Lakeville, Litchfield, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon.

The Lakeville Journal • 64 Route 7 North, Falls Village, CT
James H. Clark, CEO/Publisher, publisher@lakevillejournal.com



PHOTO PROVIDED

Ancram Center for the Arts will host its second annual Summer Bash on Saturday, Aug. 1, from 6 to 10 p.m. at The Farm at Pond Lily in Elizaville. The fundraiser features a cocktail reception, buffet dinner, a performance by acclaimed musical duo The Bengsons, dessert and an after-party. Emmy Award-winning actor Rena Sofer and Broadway performer Danielle Skraastad will emcee the evening. Proceeds support Ancram Center’s performances, artist residencies and free educational programs. Tickets are limited and available at ancramcenter.org.

Tri-Corner Calendar

JULY 30
White Hart Speaker Series:
Priya Parmar
The White Hart Inn 15 Undermountain Road, Salisbury, Conn. Presented by Oblong Books in partnership with The White Hart Inn and Scoville Memorial Library, Priya Parmar will be in conversation with Cynthia Hochswender at 6:30 p.m. about her emotionally charged new novel, “The Original.” Tickets include complimentary glass of house wine, beer or non-alcoholic beverage plus a \$5 voucher toward the purchase of the book. Tickets at bit.ly/4bbtTrJ

JULY 31
Sharon Summer Book Signing Weekend
Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon Book signings throughout the weekend with 25 authors, author dinners, demonstrations with cookbook authors and chefs, author brunch, and new Kids’ Summer Reading Carnival! Featuring Melissa Clark, Jenny Jackson, Simon Winchester, Alex Wright, Jonathan Mahler, Jim Windolf and more! Tickets at hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org

Heather Headley
Mahaive Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. Tony and Grammy Award-winning singer and actress Heather Headley performs at 8 p.m. Known for her acclaimed roles in *The Lion King*, *Aida*, *The Bodyguard*, *The Color Purple* and *Into the Woods*, as well as Netflix’s *Sweet Magnolias*, Headley brings Broadway, pop, R&B and gospel hits to the Mahaive stage. Tickets at mahaive.org

Kazemde George Jazz Trio
Grace Note at Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains Brooklyn-based saxophonist, composer and educator Kazemde George blends jazz, hip-hop and global traditions rooted in the African diaspora. A Harvard/New England Conservatory graduate, he has performed with Solange Knowles, Jason Moran, Norah Jones and others. His debut album, “I Insist,” was released in 2021. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

Large-Scale Painting with Joel Haynes
Mad Rose Gallery, 3 Main St., Millerton, New York 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Create bold, large-scale paintings using house paint, exploring the exciting possibilities of working on a mural-like scale. Embrace the “happy accidents” and open to the unexpected! Register at madrosegallery.com

11th Annual Weekend in Norfolk
A three-day festival in Norfolk, Connecticut July 31 through Aug. 2

More info and the entire schedule at weekendinnorfolk.org

AUGUST 1
Tag Sale
Sharon Methodist Church, 112 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. Aug. 1 & 2

Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our basement is over-flowing. Too much to list. Something for everyone.

Also on Saturday is the annual arts and crafts show on the Green. Customers can enjoy shopping at both events.

12 Moons Coffeehouse at the Center on Main
Center on Main 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. Twelve Moons Coffee House hosts live music, poetry, storytelling and an open mic on the first Saturday of each month. On Aug. 1, singer-songwriter and musical storyteller Christopher Brown performs as the featured artist. Doors open at 6 p.m.; the open mic begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by Brown at 8 p.m.

Book Sale
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org The Friends of the David M. Hunt Library will host their monthly book sale from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Both downstairs and upstairs will be open for shopping, featuring a wide variety of used and new books, dvds, cds, gifts and more. Downstairs all of the used kids books are free! The proceeds from the book sales directly benefit the library, helping to fund book purchases, programs, and other items vital to the library’s operation.

Opening: “The Naturalist”
Kenise Barnes Fine Art, 5 & 8 Fulling Lane, Kent, Conn. Opening reception 4 to 6 p.m. for a group exhibition bringing together five artists whose practices engage deeply with the natural world — its forms, systems, histories and enduring mysteries. On view through Sept. 13. Featuring KK Kozik, Tricia Wright, Rick Shaefer, Sally Maca and Richard Klein.

Ancram Center Summer Bash
The Farm at Pond Lily, 365 West Pond Lily Road, Elizaville, N.Y. Ancram Center for the Arts’ annual fundraiser features a cocktail reception, buffet dinner, a performance by indie-folk duo The Bengsons, dessert and an after-party. Emmy Award-winning actor Rena Sofer and Broadway performer Danielle Skraastad will emcee. Proceeds support the center’s performances, artist residencies and free educational programs. 6–10 p.m. Tickets: ancramcenter.org

BioBlitz with Sharon Audubon
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org Bethany Sheffer from Sharon Audubon leads a BioBlitz at 10:30 a.m. Search the library grounds for living organisms and use iNaturalist to map and log your finds. All ages welcome. Please register and see website for essential information about the program. scovillelibrary.org

Adam Van Doren Discusses “In the Founders’ Footsteps”
Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org As part of its celebration of 250 years of American independence, the Cornwall Library presents artist, author and Yale professor Adam Van Doren discussing his acclaimed book “In the Founders’ Footsteps: Landmarks of the American Revolution.” The event begins at 4 p.m. and is in-person only, with registration required at

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

860-672-6874 or CornwallLibrary.org. Attendees may also purchase tickets to the Cornwall Historical Society’s summer party and auction, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at 7 Pine St.

Jorge Glem & Sam Reider
Stissing Center 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Latin GRAMMY nominees Jorge Glem and Sam Reider — Venezuelan cuatrista and American accordionist — together for the magic of two musical traditions coming together. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

Garden Wellness: Forest Bathing with Fru Molnar
Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrell Road, Millbrook, N.Y. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Advance registration strongly suggested at innisfreegarden.org

AUGUST 2
Clarinet Quintet Project
Music Mountain, 225 Music Mountain Road, Falls Village, Conn. Music Mountain launches its three-part Clarinet Quintet Project with Artistic Director Oskar Espina Ruiz and the award-winning Erinyes Quartet at 3 p.m. The concert features the world premiere of Puerto Rican composer Alfonso Fuentes’ “Romanceiro (Folk Ballads),” alongside works by Mozart and Weber. A free preconcert talk with Fuentes and the performers begins at 2 p.m. Tickets musicmountain.org

From Roots to Promise: Singing America at 250
Battell Music Shed, Norfolk, Conn. 5 p.m.

The Litchfield County Choral Union presents its summer concert celebrating the nation’s 250th anniversary. The program traces America’s musical journey from William Billings’ “Chester” and the LCCU anthem “Sweet Is the Work” through Carol Barnett’s “Bluegrass Mass,” Cecilia McDowall’s “Everyday Wonders: The Girl From Aleppo” and Paul Halley’s “Freedom Trilogy.” Under the direction of Gabriel Löfvall, the concert explores themes of identity, displacement, hope and freedom through a diverse and ambitious choral repertoire. Tickets at litchfieldcountychoralunion.com

AUGUST 3
Naugatuck Valley Cabaret Singers
Hollenbeck Room at Geer Village Lodge, 99 South Canaan Road, Canaan, Conn. The Naugatuck Valley Cabaret Singers, under the direction of Dr. Gil Harel, return to Geer Village Lodge for a free performance at 2 p.m. The program celebrates America 250 with songs from Broadway musicals exploring American history and national identity, featuring selections spanning the Golden Age to contemporary productions. Free and open to the public.

Make a Book with Lilly Rand
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org Aug. 3 and 4

Join artist Lilly Rand to make a book of your own design and fill the pages with whatever inspires you. Materials will be provided. You’re also welcome to bring your own

materials. Two sessions: 1 to 4 p.m. Registration required at scovillelibrary.org

AUGUST 4
Grow With Us: Flower Pressing
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org Participants will pick flowers from the garden, press them, and explore creative ways to use dried flowers in art and craft projects. All ages welcome. 4:30 p.m.

AUGUST 5
Harmful Algal Blooms in the Hudson River
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, 2801 Route 44, Millbrook, N.Y. Experts from the Cary Institute, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Department

...Belden House

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B5

property’s creative story is enriched by the work of regional makers and artisans, including custom furnishings by Ian Ingersoll, lighting by Dumais Made, tilework by Bantam Tile Works, millwork by White Dog Woodworking and drapery by Lakeville Interiors. The landscape, designed by Reed Hilderbrand, extends that same philosophy outdoors, creating gardens that are connected to the pastoral beauty of Litchfield

County. With architectural guidance from PBDW Architects and preservation expertise from John Kinneary, Belden House & Mews stands as a model for thoughtful restoration — a place where history, craftsmanship and contemporary hospitality meet. *Belden House & Mews, 31 North St., Litchfield. Find out more or make a reservation for the hotel, spa or restaurant at beldenhouse.com.*

of Health and Riverkeeper discuss harmful algal blooms in the Hudson River, current research and how the public can help monitor waterways. Hybrid event offered in person and via livestream. 7 p.m. Free. Registration at caryinstitute.org.

AUGUST 6
Boondocks Presents: Over Your Dead Body with In-person Q&A with Director Jorma Taccone
Four Brothers Drive-In 4957 NY-22, Amenia, N.Y. Film-inspired food, themed cocktails and more. 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets at playeatdrink.com

Summer Book Group
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org 4 to 5 p.m., join Julia Hobart to discuss “The Collected

Regrets of Clover” by Mikki Brammer. No registration required. A limited number of copies are available for loan at the Scoville Library.

AUGUST 7
Inundated: Connecticut’s Great Flood of 1955
American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. 5 to 7 p.m. Learn about the devastating 1955 flood and its profound impact on workers, industries, and communities in the northwest corner of Connecticut. The program features a documentary film screening and talk by historian Hamish Lutris. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to view the related exhibition. Part of AMP’s year-long celebration of America250.

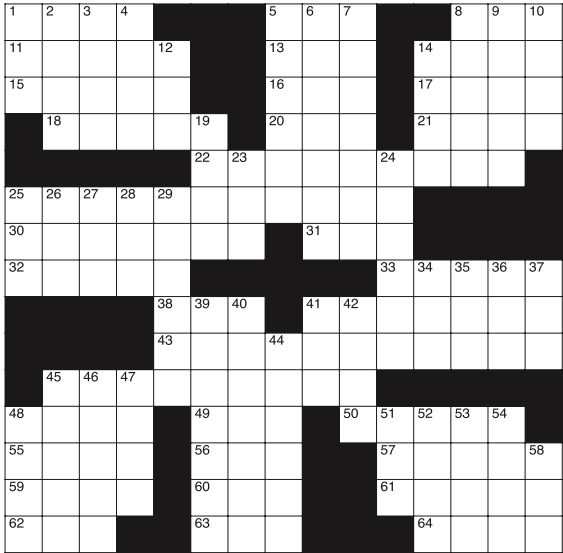
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Egyptian bull god
- 5. Romanian monetary unit
- 8. Santa’s helper
- 11. Fictional Pink Floyd corporal
- 13. Sea eagle genus
- 14. Broad volcanic crater
- 15. Minneapolis suburb
- 16. Actual commercial worth (abbr.)
- 17. Exchange rate
- 18. Ethnic peoples in Guinea
- 20. Men’s fashion accessory
- 21. Craft material
- 22. Offerings
- 25. Early
- 30. Large room
- 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 32. One who hauls
- 33. Shorthand for accepting
- 38. Promotional materials
- 41. Loss of memory
- 43. One who beheads
- 45. Photographers
- 48. Small, rich sponge cake
- 49. White clerical vestment
- 50. Partner to “oohed”
- 55. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 56. Zero
- 57. Owl monkey genus
- 59. Lace bug genus
- 60. Mild expression of surprise
- 61. Storage devices
- 62. Keyboard key
- 63. Make a mistake
- 64. One-time Korean president

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Bridge building degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Large, stocky, lizard
- 4. Rumanian river
- 5. Missive
- 6. Stout-bodied moths
- 7. Brings out
- 8. Bird of prey
- 9. King of Thebes

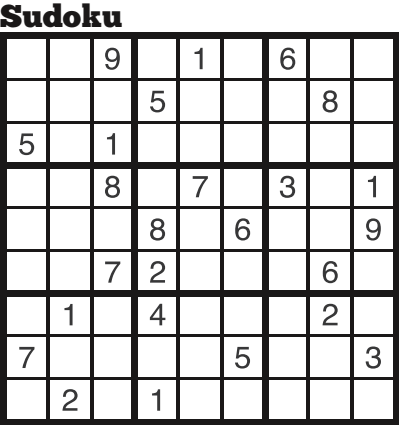


- 10. Cleaving tool
- 12. African antelope
- 14. Three are particularly famous
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. C. European river
- 24. Dictator
- 25. Portion of (abbr.)
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Consume food
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Scrape or wear away by friction
- 34. Popular vegetable
- 35. Pacific Standard Time
- 36. Brazilian state capital
- 37. Paddle
- 39. Cause to become insane
- 40. Drier and flakier
- 41. Mimic
- 42. ESPN host Kimes
- 44. One who mooseys
- 45. Secret political clique

- 46. Behind the stern of a ship
- 47. Supernatural force
- 48. Sanctuary in Orthodox churches
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish white
- 53. Engrave
- 54. UNC’s chief rival
- 58. Midway between south and southeast

July 23 Solution

H	E	A	R	P	O	S	E	S	B	A	S
E	L	B	A	I	R	A	N	I	A	R	T
R	E	I	N	C	A	R	A	T	S	A	U
R	A	B	I	D	T	O	M	R	A	B	B
A	C	E	D	A	R	E	D	E	V	I	L
A	C	E	R	A	D	L	I	B	R	E	M
R	A	B	B	E	T	P	E	A	S	E	M
B	I	B	S	R	E	D	S	E	A	M	S
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C	L	U	B	P	A	L	E	A	B	A	R
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P	E	R	U	P	A	Y	N	E			



Level: Intermediate

July 23 Solution

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



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OUR TOWNS

Silo Ridge property transfers top \$15M in late spring

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — Newly released Dutchess County property transfer records provide the first official look at private sales in Amenia’s Silo Ridge Field Club between March and June, adding more than \$15.6 million in transactions that were not reflected in previously reported monthly sales.

For most towns, official transfer releases add a few additional private sales similar to publicly traded results, but the homes and land which traded hands in the Silo Ridge Field Club in the Town of Amenia affect total sales volume significantly.

In the last four months, six homes were sold in Silo Ridge totaling \$15,613,000. The high-value homes and condominiums at Silo Ridge increase Amenia’s taxable assessed value, helping spread the school tax levy across a larger tax base. They do not affect the town’s median home sale price, which remained among the lowest in Dutchess County at \$389,000 at the end of June

The increase in the total assessed value of all Amenia real estate has reduced the Webutuck Central School District tax rate by 30% from 2010 to 2026 in large part due to home valuations in Silo Ridge. In contrast, the Millbrook Central School District tax rate in



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

The ranch at 5 Morton Place, built in 1962 and renovated in 2010 on .34 acres, was sold on March 1, 2026 for \$375,000.

the Town of Washington has risen 67% in the same time period.

The additional property transfers listed below were not included in previously reported public monthly sales.

March transfers

507 Pheasant Run — Silo Ridge 4 bedroom/4.5 bath 3,423 square foot town house sold for \$4,885,000 to John Stuaender.

40 Roundabout Way — Silo Ridge 2 bedroom/2.5 bath 1,929 square foot town house sold for \$2.75 million to Susan

Hartong Trustee.

67 Kent Road — 4 bedroom/2 bath antique house on 13.54 acres sold for \$240,000 to Winter Work Project LLC.

April transfer

352 Old Route 22 — 4 bedroom/2.5 bath home on .83 acres sold for \$430,000 to Sheldon Skaggs.

May transfers

Smithfield Way (#192471) — 64.67 acres of vacant farm land sold for \$1 million to FoxRace2 LLC.

5 Morton Place — 3 bedroom/1 bath home on .34 acres

sold for \$375,000 to Arnold Furman.

703 Butts Hollow Road — 2 family home on .85 acres sold for \$325,000 to Michael Hucey.

316 Wood Duck Road — Silo Ridge .33 acres of vacant land sold for \$2,008,000 to Silo Ridge Partners LL24LLC.

Wood Duck Road (#801674) — Silo Ridge .4 acres of vacant land sold for \$2 million to Silo Ridge Partners LL18LLC.

Wood Duck Road (#802647) — Silo Ridge .56 acres of vacant land sold for \$2 million to Silo Ridge Partners LL21LLC.

Wood Duck Road (#803660) — Silo Ridge .48 acres of vacant land sold for \$2 million to Silo Ridge Partners LL19LLC.

**Previously unreported real estate sales between March 31, 2026, and June 30, 2026 from Dutchess County Office of Real Property include all recorded private transfers. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.*

Annual picnic draws 150 senior citizens to Stissing Mountain High School

By JACQUELYN DRAIN
Special to the Millerton News

PINE PLAINS — Dutchess County’s Office for the Aging helped get seniors out of the house for the 34th year in a row through the organization’s annual picnic, providing seniors a chance to socialize and discuss programs available to help them prosper.

The OFA hosted a picnic on Friday, July 24, at Stissing Mountain High School in Pine Plains for seniors residing in Pine Plains, North East, Stanford and Washington. About 150 local seniors attended the picnic. The event was previously scheduled for July 15 but was postponed due to excessive heat.

At the picnic, seniors were provided lunch from Trio Community Meals while local musician Bob Martinson played songs ranging from “Sweet Caroline” by Neil Diamond to Frank Sinatra’s “New York, New York.” Tables lined the tent with resources and information geared toward seniors, such as their government representatives, the Dutchess County District Attorney’s office and the Mid Hudson Regional Hospital Stroke Center. The Medical Reserve Corps also provided free blood pressure screenings and medication disposal.

Approximately 20% of the population in Dutchess County is over the age of 65. The Office for the Aging, run by director Todd Tancredi, seeks to support this large group by creating programs and raising

awareness for issues that face this population, such as loneliness, mobility and cognitive decline.

“The whole intent is just socializing more than anything. The idea is for them to see old friends and make new ones,” Tancredi said. “That’s the name of the game, keep them from being isolated and alone and depressed, and then it just spirals down from there.”

County Executive Sue Serino is also very involved with the OFA and previously served as chair of the Aging Committee in the New York State Senate. “My son always teases me because Serino and Senior have the same letters,” Serino said. “He says it was my destiny.”

Serino also presented the town of Stanford a microgrant for \$6,000, allowing them to become a Purple Heart Town to honor the town’s veterans with signage, flags and plaques. There will be a dedication ceremony on Nov. 11.

The OFA provides many programs similar to the picnics with the goal of supporting the elderly. The organization recently launched a partnership with SilverShield which allows seniors to call, text or email the program to assess the possibility of a scam. They also partner with Go-Go Grandparent in order to provide rides for seniors who cannot drive so they can live independently at no additional cost.

“I want to make sure they know that we’re here,” Tancredi said. “We’re gonna help them as they get older, through their senior years.”

Local Matters

Your nonprofit community news source needs your ongoing support to flourish.

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Thank you!

The Lakeville Journal ■ The Millerton News

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Classifieds Real Estate

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED

Garden Help. Looking for an experienced person to weed my acre garden and cut back some plants. In Salisbury. For July and August. Could continue into Fall. naylor99@gmail.com

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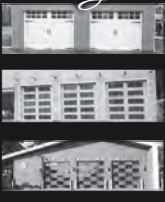
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