



The Litchfield Journal • The Milford News

TRI-CORNER
REAL ESTATE

A Guide to the Most Desirable Properties in the Northeast
Litchfield County, CT • Berkshire County, MA • Columbia & Dutchess Counties, NY

November 2026

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litchfieldjournal.com • milfordnews.com • 800-836-5273 • email: publisher@litchfieldjournal.com

Amenia Library budget proposition misses election deadline

A black and white portrait of a woman with dark hair pulled back, smiling warmly. She is wearing large, ornate earrings and a dark top. The background is a plain, light color.

NECC announces new Executive Director

Dutchess County early education pilot program takes shape

Sisters Hill Farm in talks with a prospective buyer who would keep it a working farm

See SISTERS HILL, A9



Let's Hear It, Column A5



Local Matters

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OUR TOWNS

Stanford home prices drop slightly after slower September sales

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to the Millerton News

STANFORD — At the end of September, median single family home prices dropped to \$623,000 on lower unit sales volume.

The median price at the end of September represents a 4% drop since the year prior. According to real estate transaction data provided by New York State, Stanford home prices hit a median of \$650,000 for the 12 months ending Sept. 30, 2025.

Home prices are still high. The current median is about 15% higher than the \$540,000 median home price recorded for the 12 months ending September 2024.

A total of 23 residences were sold in the 12 months ending on Sept. 30, 2026, fewer than the 33 sales in the period ending Sept. 30, 2025, and 39 sales for the 12 months ending July 31, 2024.

As of early October, there were 16 single-family homes on the market with six listed above \$1 million, and only three below the median price of \$623,000.

August Transfers 2026
662 Willow Brook Road — 3 bedroom/1 bath ranch on 1.34 acres transferred to Martin Gavio for \$392,500.
5626 Route 82 — 3 bedroom/1 bath ranch on 1.1 acres transferred to Andres Perez for \$115,000,
1220 Hunns Lake Road — 4 bedroom/2 bath home built



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Located on a Stanford dirt road designated as “scenic,” 421 Conklin Hill Road is a single level 1,436 square foot home which sold for \$571,430.

in 1920 on 1.52 acres transferred to Maya Victoria Hood for \$840,000.

September Transfers 2026
421 Conklin Hill Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath home on 5.4 acres transferred to Esther Sarah Colbran for \$571,430.
283 Carpenter Hill Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath cape cod home on 25 acres transferred to Lynn Gubemick for \$1.7 million.

* Town of Stanford property transfers from August 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026 are supplied by Dutchess County Office of Real Property. Details on each property from Dutchess Parcel Access. Current market data from One Key MLS and Infosparsks. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF’S REPORT

Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office Harlem Valley area activity report Oct. 15 to Oct. 21

Oct. 17 — Deputies arrested Kevin Antonio Nahje Brathwaite, age 29, for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle subsequent to a traffic stop in the Town of North East. Subject to appear in court at a later date.

Oct. 20 — Deputies responded to Rudd Pond Road in Millerton to investigate a car that crashed into a telephone pole, resulting in minor injuries. The vehicle’s operator was transported to Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, for medical care.

PLEASE NOTE: All subjects arrested and charged are alleged to have committed the crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty and are to appear in local courts later.If you have any information relative to the aforementioned criminal cases, or any other suspected criminal activity please contact the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office tip line at 845 605 CLUE (2583) or Email dcsotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.

YOUR NEWS

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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Jazzed up

Jazz fans from throughout the area gathered at The Smithfield Church to hear an all-Gershwin concert on Saturday, Oct. 24, performed by the acclaimed Pete Anderson Trio that appears regularly at Birdland in New York. Performing were left to right, Pete Anderson on wind instruments, Matt Munisteri on Gibson guitar, and Joe Boga on trumpet. The concert was part of the Bang Family Concert Series.

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Amenia’s preliminary budget moves forward to public hearing

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The town’s 2027 Preliminary Budget is set to move on to a public hearing on Thursday, Nov. 5, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

At the public hearing, residents will be invited to comment on the proposed town budget that will take effect on the first day of the new fiscal year, Jan. 1, 2027. The date of the public hearing is established by law to be two

days after the Tuesday, Nov. 3, election day.

The 2027 preliminary budget shows total appropriations of \$3,769,844 for the General Fund and \$1,577,643 for the Highway Fund, a total of \$5,347,487, amounting to an increase in tax rate over 2026 of 23.31% for General Fund and a decrease of 0.34% for Highway Fund.

Once expected revenues are applied, the General Fund total is reduced to \$2,349,125 and the Highway Fund to \$891,491, for a total

of \$3,240,616 that will need to be raised by taxes, an increase of \$403,315 over the current year. That’s a 14% increase in required tax revenue across those two funds.

Reviewing budget details during recent workshops, Town Supervisor Rosanna Hamm said that interest on bond financing is responsible for a significant portion of the increase. Bonding has been necessary for two major construction projects: the new Town Garage and Salt Shed and work on the Water

Project, expected to be reimbursed by the release of grant funding.

“2028 should be better than 2027,” Hamm said about the expected amount of increase.

To view or print a copy of the preliminary budget visit www.ameniany.gov. Or, the budget can be emailed by requesting a copy from Town Clerk Dawn Klingner, dm-klingner@ameniany.gov. A printed copy can also be obtained by visiting the Town Clerk’s office at the Town Hall.

Pumpkin Smash returns as joint effort with NECC

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The annual Pumpkin Smash is returning once again, this time as a collaboration between Millerton’s Climate Smart Task Force and North East Community Center.

Featuring a new and improved slingshot, this year’s Pumpkin Smash will take place at the former Millerton Elementary School grounds on Saturday, Nov. 7. The party is set to start at 2 p.m. and run until 4 p.m.

Kathy Chow, a member of Millerton’s Climate Smart Task Force, said the Pumpkin Smash promotes composting and reduces waste by providing a fun — and messy — way to dispose of leftover pumpkins after Halloween.

This year marks the first

time the event is run as a collaboration between the Climate Smart Task Force and NECC. NECC Board Chair Irene Banning chimed in on the collaboration, saying it provided an opportunity for the nonprofit to host a community-wide celebration after years without anything similar.

“We think this is a fabulous partnership because we all live in this village and we all do work in this village,” Banning said.

The event’s focus is smashing pumpkins, turning them into a pulpy sludge that’s then taken to McEnroe’s Organic Farm on Coleman Station Road to rot into compost. Old and decaying pumpkins are loaded into a slingshot and launched into the distance, rupturing as they land in a pile of gourd flesh on the ground.

The slingshot this year is bigger and more powerful, Chow said. The new slingshot has four anchor points rather than just two, making the launch force stronger and allowing for a larger bucket for big pumpkins. Also on hand will be a large mallet for smashing by hand.

This is the third year Climate Smart has held the pumpkin smash. Previous events took place at Eddie Collins Memorial Park in Millerton, but construction has shuttered the park until next summer, prompting the group to find another venue for the event.

Along with pumpkin smashing, NECC Youth Program Director Brandon Wolfe will lead splatter painting for children. Banning said there will also be live music, hot cider and cookies for attendees.

The celebration also serves as a commemoration of NECC co-founder Sam Buselle. Buselle died in July at the age of 86. He helped found NECC in 1988 with the goal of bridging the gap in social services for Millerton and North East residents who live far away from the county seat in Poughkeepsie.

NECC took possession of the Millerton Elementary School property in 2024 after the property’s owners gifted it to the organization. Nonprofit leadership at the time said the property would eventually serve as the home of the NECC, but those plans have yet to fully materialize.

The Pumpkin Smash will take place rain or shine. Organizers have arranged for a large tent to provide shelter in the case of rain.

RE-ELECT
ERIC ALEXANDER
Dutchess County Legislator
Amenia - Millbrook - Pleasant Valley - Washington - Wassaic

DELIVERING FOR DUTCHESS
& JUST GETTING STARTED

- ✓ Organized forum on Flock surveillance
- ✓ Strengthening EMS coverage
- ✓ Capped sales tax on gas & diesel
- ✓ Created the Animal Welfare Committee
- ✓ Opposed local ICE mass detention facility



VOTE EARLY: OCT 24 - NOV 1
ELECTION DAY: NOV 3



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OBITUARIES

Randolph Allard Hogan

AMESVILLE — Randolph Allard Hogan, 78, passed away on Sept. 30, 2026, after a valiant battle with cancer. Randy was born on Dec. 10, 1947 in Queens, New York. As a child, he developed a passion for cars. As a teen, he loved to read and listen to jazz. Randy loved movies and possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of film. He carried these interests, and many more, throughout his life. He relished a good conversation and a strong cup of coffee.

Randy spent much time during his childhood in Mexico City, where his mother, Elena Rubio Garcia, was born and he felt deeply connected to his heritage. His father, Lucien Marion Hogan, was born in Randolph, Massachusetts which is how Randy got his name.

After graduating from Piedmont University, the highlight of his career was working his way up the

ranks to become a book editor at the New York Times.

His English translation of Gabriel García Márquez’s novel, “The Story of a Shipwrecked Sailor,” was published by Alfred A. Knopf in 1986.

In 1996, Randy married Martha Eliot Sloane. They lived in Nyack,

New York for many years. In 2010, they moved to Amesville, Connecticut and quickly settled into the community, which they loved. His beloved wife, Martha, predeceased him in 2021. During his illness, Randy’s positive attitude and resilience throughout was an inspiration to everyone around him. Local neighbors took care of his much loved dog, Mia, which was a god-send. He has been a wonderful brother-in-law, uncle, and grand uncle to the Sloane/Robbins family, and his curiosity, wit, and kindness will be dearly missed by his wide circle of friends.



Richard Francis Knapp

TORRINGTON — Richard Francis Knapp, 74, of Torrington, died Oct. 21, 2026, at the Valerie Manor in Torrington. He was the son of the late Theodore A. Knapp Sr. and Marion Margaret (Winters) Knapp. Richard was born in Waterbury on June 2, 1952.

In the late 1960’s he was employed at the Kent Milk Bar, as his first job. The Kent Milk Bar was owned and operated by his dad, Ted Knapp. It was an institution in town. He was a member of the 1966 KCS Region 1 Grade School Basketball Championship. Rick was an active Kent Boy Scout participating in all activities and functions and thoroughly enjoyed the scouting experience. His memory of places, people, and events in Kent history could rarely be challenged. He graduated from the class of 1970, Housatonic Valley Regional High School. After high school, Richard pursued his education in Communications, at Graham Jr. College located in Boston, Massachusetts.

Rick’s career extended many decades in the retail and wholesale trades. The Stone Co, Caldors, Industrial Safety Products, Central Lumber, and for the past 35 years Rick was employed by CA Lindell & Sons of Canaan Connecticut. Rick worked in both the hardware and fuel divisions. He was a dedicated employee, wherever employed, and dedicated to all customers with his gifted compassion and understanding of their needs and situation.

Rick enjoyed all his golfing trips with his friends to both Ocean City, Maryland and Saratoga New York. Yearly,

weekend trips to Lake George, that usually included a day at the track, which was a true love. Being of Irish Luck, Rick also won numerous Bingo pots, Keno, snowblower and even an ATV. He bowled in the Dover Recreation League in the late 70’s, collecting radios of any age and style, car maintenance, and growing tomatoes on his back porch were hobbies. He was a true Trojan baseball fan (since 2005) and supported the team as they played throughout the Tristate League. His Trojan hat and jersey were always a part of his attire! Spending holidays and celebrations with friends was never missed by Rick!

Rick is survived by his sister Linda Peet of Harwinton, Connecticut, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased, in addition to his parents, by his siblings; Theodore A. Knapp, Jr., Joan Scully, Robert Knapp, George Knapp, Edith Ackerman, Janice Barbarie, and James Knapp. Rick is also survived by his life long friends; Bruce Osolin and Greg DeLoey both of whom were present and stepped in as available caregivers of his home and his beloved cat Molly.

Graveside services will be held on Thursday Oct. 29, 2026, at 1:30 pm in Calvary Cemetery 2324 E. Main St. Waterbury, CT 06705. A Celebration of Rick’s Life will be held on November 22, 2026 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the VFW Couch - Pipa Post 6851 104 S Canaan Rd. Canaan, CT 06018. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. Canaan, CT 06018.



CORNWALL — Sarah Margaret Paul, July 2, 1936 – October 3, 2026.

As you read this obituary, please do so in the lovely British accent our mother, Sarah Paul retained all her life. But don’t be fooled by this posh exterior: mom preferred simple LL Bean shirts and pants, chain-sawed her own trees, and could change a back bicycle tire. She grew up under the class and gender strictures of mid-twentieth century England, warned away from anything remotely risky or “unladylike” by her mother, which led her to believe all her life that she lacked courage.

But at 21 she came to this country with just one friend. She once chased an intruder from our house, denting her clogs as she kicked him. In her 50s she did a solo skydive, which she claims was the second-best thing she ever did after raising her three children, though we suspect skydiving was first-best. In later life her life alert triggered accidentally and the local fire department arrived to see mom on a ladder pulling down ivy like it was a CrossFit event. They asked her where the frail lady who had fallen might be.

Other courageous things: She went to Trinity college at 40 years old and graduated summa cum laude. She then became a social worker after a long career of housewifery and taking care of us three kids, which no doubt prepared her. She divorced our father (a very good man, but not a love match) at a time when divorce was frowned upon, and fell in love with someone much younger, much to the shock of some in our small, beloved town of Cornwall, Connecticut. She and The Love of Her Life travelled all over the world; when they split after eighteen years, she was heartbroken. But she built a new life on the west coast and found a passion in bicycling at 62 years old. She cycled with the local bike group until almost 80.

During her long life, Mom

lived in Liverpool, Paris, NYC, and Ashland, Oregon but the hometown she most loved was Cornwall, Connecticut where she spent almost thirty years.

During that time, Mom wanted her kids to have a bigger childhood than she had, believing it would make us well-rounded adults. Thus she endured cold mornings at Mohawk mountain, strapping us into the clunky ski gear of the time even though she didn’t ski; sent us to Sunday School at the Congregational church even though she was never quite sold on religion; told us we had to play an instrument for a year at least, though she knew nothing of music. She cheered whichever of her three kids might be on the playing field at Cornwall Consolidated school and ferried us to swim meets every summer at Cream Hill Lake and beyond, though she famously swam only with her head above water in order not to ruin her hair. And she was right, of course: it forged us into uncomplaining and reasonably capable adults comfortable in many different environments.

Mom was proud to be an American citizen and was adamant about voting: “people died for the vote,” she told us kids, and if we didn’t cast our ballot we weren’t invited to Thanksgiving (her one regret may be that she did not hang on long enough to vote in the upcoming midterms.) She was always agnostic at the casual, constant way Americans said “I love you,” though by the end she began to say it regularly. Mom believed strongly in civic duty and as early as the 1970s she was recycling. She volunteered all her life: you may have been the Cornwall kid slouched on a bad-tempered pony while mom coaxed you from the middle of the ring in Pony Club. For many years she gave her time to the Cornwall



Child Care Center; later she registered voters and fought for affordable health care. She held signs at progressive protests until Parkinson’s and old age would not let her leave the house. She loved to garden, insisting weeding was good therapy.

Mom had the rare ability to be awed by small things like a changing sky or a flower. She roamed her neighborhood at night when she couldn’t sleep hoping to see a bear and once got up at 3 am to watch Haley’s comet. She read constantly; first books in french and other highfalutin novels, later she developed an appreciation for mysteries. She loved LLBean ultrasoft flannel sheets (so much that she is buried in her favorite set.) She wasn’t afraid to change her mind, pivoting from Republican to Democrat. As a mother, she restricted sugary treats and television, much to our dismay. One fateful day she marched into our brother’s bedroom where he sat cata-

tonic in front of the “boob tube” and heaved it out the second-floor window. This enshrined her in the parenting canon and certainly endures as Cornwall lore among a certain generation of then-kids. “I didn’t even mind cleaning up the garden in the morning” she said). Yet later in life she faithfully watched anything Rachel Maddow and David Attenborough while savoring vanilla ice cream. She loved understated British humor, which is why she may not like this obit, and why she and her sister Georgie would routinely laugh so hard they had tears rolling down their cheeks. Despite all this, mom still thought she was a forgettable type. She will be pleased to know that one of her caregivers told us that because of Mom she now votes, watches PBS, and uses a water pic.

Mom died on October 3, 2026 at 90 with her three kids and her beloved brother-in-law around her, dreaming, we hope, of one more bicycling trip along Town Street, gazing at the curve ahead, the Scoville corn, and the bursting color of autumn leaves ahead of her.

Worship Services

Week of November 1, 2026

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. <i>Growing together in God's love</i> Rev. John Allison Priest-In-Charge All are welcome 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org	The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville <i>Offering companionship along the Way</i> Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627	St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge <i>In-Person and on You-Tube</i> www.stjohnssalisbury.org
North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC <i>Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people</i> 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7252 FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org	Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT <i>Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons</i> Sunday, November 8 at 10:30 a.m. FORGIVENESS For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com All are Welcome
Congregation Beth David <i>A reform Jewish Synagogue</i> 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org	ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078
The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 10 a.m. Worship Service <i>"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"</i> The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net	UCC in CORNWALL <i>Cornwall Village Meeting House</i> Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community
Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour <i>A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!</i> 860-824-0194	The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates
The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green <i>Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits</i> 9 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net	St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality
The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org
All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us	Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11:00AM - Worship Service <i>"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"</i> The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!
Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org	
Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138	

OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Cleaning headstones

Michael Pomeisl uses a plastic putty scraper to remove lichen and moss from the surface of a headstone at the Old Amenia Burying Ground on Mygatt Road last Saturday, Oct. 24. Pomeisl joined a group of volunteers from town that work with cleaning chemicals and brushes to scrub the headstones at historic cemeteries in Amenia.

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Correcting Errors

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

LET’S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

Some towns go all out for Halloween, with decorated storefronts, spooky front yards and streets full of trick-or-treaters. Others have traditions that keep people coming back year after year.

What town in Dutchess County does Halloween best and what makes it stand out?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, Nov. 2 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

How could sharing ambulance services affect northeastern Dutchess County communities?

“Improving coverage’ and ‘reducing municipal costs’ are great, but the questions I think matter are what kind of impact will this have on providing emergency services to residents of rural Dutchess County and will this result in more lives saved or more lives lost? The response time is already sub par. Regional coordination may have benefits, but where is the evidence that reducing dedicated coverage will improve emergency response times? What happens when multiple ambulances are transporting patients and another life-threatening emergency occurs?

—Chris Wade

“The northeast region should implement a ambulance tax district. This and a portion of the fire tax because the FD has the responsibility to provide the EMS service should cover the cost of the ambulance. Volunteers are a way of the past for most departments now a days. You have to pay for service with a commercial agency or start your own municipal EMS company and bill the insurance companies. People also need to get out and VOTE, call your senators and congressional representatives. EMS should be an Essential Service in NY and it is not. If it was there would be federal funding available to the towns to assist with the cost of serving the community.

—Sarah Renee

“The towns should incorporate together their own ambulance district and put together their own BLS ambulance. Town of Hurley did it. Several towns in orange county do it. When you pay a commercial service to do it, your money goes out but doesn’t come back in. By doing it themselves the money generated comes back and can be put back into the ambulance district. This is a more sustainable model and will serve the community better.”

—Rob Anthony

“What about the patient? Is this about money or patient care?”

—Robert Boyles

Money talks, shouts drowns out

I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strengthen, and bid defiance to the laws of our country.

— Thomas Jefferson (1816)

In 2010, the Roberts Court, with Anthony Kennedy writing the majority opinion, set into law Citizens United vs FEC, the right of corporations, unions, independent groups to practice free speech by donating indirectly (via super PACs) to candidates first with a \$5000 limit that was quickly expanded to no limits if not given directly to a candidate (2010 Speechnow.org vs FEC). Specifications were for PAX donors to be identified yet 501(c)(non-profits groups are formed not having to identify their donors – foreign or domestic – thus enters dark money. The Roberts Court overturned centuries of US law to create a total upheaval of US elections with a series of cases opening election donations, meddling with democracy. As a result, the amounts of money flowing into elections since 2010 has skyrocketed. Money talks,

OPEN SPACE

Kathy Herald-Marlowe

shouts, drowns out the voice of everyday Americans making small donations (\$200 and under), wishing to have confidence in a centuries-old tradition of one person, one vote.

In the Presidential election prior to the Citizens United decision, in 2008, \$574 million totaled outside election spending. In the next Presidential election year, 2012, the amount doubled to \$1.3 billion, by 2020 outside spending reached \$3.3 billion, by 2024 \$4.5 billion. The share of contributions by the top 100 donors has sharply increased from 1.5 % percent of election contributions in 2008, to 16% in 2024. In 2010 the top donor gave \$7.6 million, in 2024, the top 10 donors gave at least \$42.3 million, with Musk yelling at the top at \$280 million.

So, in the US now, for elections, all elections, Presidential to Wisconsin Supreme Court Judge, to the coming 2026 midterms, money talks, shouts, yells and drowns out American voters. The share of candidate moneys coming from local fundraising has since 2010 continuously fallen. Large amounts from top donors diminish local donors, out-of-constituency donations trumping in small



“I prefer free-standing to ‘claw foot.’”

Post Office robbery, railroad reorganization

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

October 31, 1935
Amenia Post Office Robbed, Safe Blasted
Loot Valued At Hundreds Of Dollars Taken Sunday Night
AMENIA - Burglars entered the post office on Main Street here at about midnight Sunday and blasted open the safe, making their get-away with loot valued at several hundred dollars. Taken from the safe were about \$350 worth of stamps. \$150 in cash, a \$25 savings bond, blank U.S. Treasury checks and U. S. postal money order blanks, a number of domestic orders and many official government documents and papers. The checks can be cashed after the amounts are filled in.
Some of the post office supplies and receipts are kept

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Millerton News

in the Amenia bank, it was disclosed by Mrs. Clayton M. Card, wife of the postmaster, and only funds and supplies needed for the day's business were kept in the post office.
Fingerprints taken from the safe and from a rear window, through which the thugs made their entrance and exit, have been studied by postal inspectors who are being assisted in their investigation of the theft by Corporal Edwin Draisey of the Amenia Station, State Police, and fingerprint experts. Believing the robbery to be the work of professional safe crackers, the investigators have examined photographs on file in the rogues' gallery, in New York.
The post office is situated in the Masonic building, four

doors east of the state highway intersection. Half of the lower floor of the three-story structure is occupied by the post office and the other half by Arthur Newman's sporting goods store. The second and third floors are utilized by the Masonic Lodge.
Forcing the rear window and a door to get into the post office, the thieves drilled a hole in the door of the safe which they filled with an explosive believed to have been nitroglycerine. A fuse was inserted and a length of copper wire connected this with a battery behind the door. The first charge apparently blew off the door. The authorities believe at least two men participated in the job, one acting as look-out man while the other opened the safe.
Expect Action Of Railroad To Hit Dutchess
Anticipate Financial Consequences In New Haven's Move
Reorganization sought by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad under Section 77 of the federal bankruptcy act is expected to have far reaching financial consequences in Dutchess County. In similar cases, other railroads have tried to abandon unprofitable lines, and if this is attempted by the New York, New Haven and Hartford, service may be discontinued on three branch roads in the county.
The valuation of the railroad's special franchise and

real property in the county is \$3,236,236.
On this assessment it paid a total of \$106,174.49 to the cities, townships and county in 1934. The railroad's total tax bill in the county for a single year is estimated at \$150,000 since it also pays school taxes to union free schools and common school districts in those districts where it owns property. The railroad paid almost \$45,000 in school taxes in Dutchess County in 1934, it is estimated.
An unsuccessful attempt was made by the New Haven just before it went into bankruptcy to borrow \$5,000,000 from the RFC. A large portion of this money was sought for the payment of taxes.
The railroad has outstanding in bonds,[sic] which are prior liens, against its property in Dutchess County, \$12,513,000. These bonds are not in default.
Because of bus and automobile competition, passenger service has been abandoned on the various New Haven lines in the county as unprofitable. The transportation of bituminous and anthracite coal has been the biggest item of business, this comprising about thirty percent of the entire freight traffic. Most of this tonnage is hauled over the former C. N. E. lines by way of the Poughkeepsie Bridge. The C. N. E. was merged with the New Haven system in 1927. A controlling interest in the New York, Ontario and Western Railroad is also owned by the New Haven.

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

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Mission Statement

LJMN Media, Inc., Publishers of

The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

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

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OUR TOWNS

Stissing Center moves on to next stage of renovations

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The next phase of the Stissing Center’s rehabilitation will begin in the spring after a yearslong stabilization construction was completed.

For the past several years, the scaffolding around the venue and art center has obscured the facade of the Pine Plains historic landmark. But in September, the scaffolding came down. “It was almost like a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis,” said Stissing Center Executive Director Patrick Trettenero. After a \$1 million construction phase, the arts organization completed structural stabilizations and a roof installation that will

ensure the building’s health for decades to come.

Originally built in 1915, the Stissing Center’s slate roof had caused supporting walls to bow out. Construction called for replacement of the third floor walls, which were then replaced section by section with a combination of concrete and composite materials. Steel beams were also inserted and installed throughout the building to evenly distribute the weight of the roof.

The slate roof was replaced with a lookalike composite faux slate, which is also lighter than the original material. “It’s good for the structure in the long run,” said Trettenero.

The rear of the building is up next. A planned addition

will include an ADA elevator which will allow disabled audience members access to the venue’s upper or lower level. The third floor will also be upgraded: new dressing rooms for performers and additional bathrooms will be added, as will general storage space.

The addition will also provide a permanent home for the Stissing Center’s HVAC system, which currently rests on scaffolding on the side of the building.

Trettenero says they plan to break ground on this next phase in May, and credits the Center’s board and the New York State Council for the Arts for making it all possible. The board of directors has donated about \$400,000

to the rehabilitation projects, Trettenero says. “That serves as an inspiration to folks who are not on the board but who are in a position to give, because they know that the board is putting their money where their mouth is.”

All told, the rebirth of the Stissing Center has been an ongoing project for about 10 years. With these latest construction projects completed, Trettenero says the end is in sight. “I have a very clear vision of finishing this building so that we can really focus on our programming and serving the community,” he said. “My vision is to finish the building in a three-year span.”

County to launch 24-hour animal cruelty hotline in November

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

POUGHKEEPSIE — Starting Nov. 1, residents who suspect an animal is being abused or neglected will have one number to call at any hour.

The new hotline, 845-867-5055, is for non-emergency reports, including cruelty tips and suspected violations of animal welfare laws. Anyone who witnesses cruelty, abuse or neglect that poses an im-

mediate threat to a person should still call 911.

The Dutchess County Legislature’s Animal Welfare and Community Stewardship Committee announced the line on Friday, Oct. 23. It developed the protocols with the county’s Department of Emergency Response, the Sheriff’s Office and the District Attorney’s Office. Operators will answer calls 24 hours a day.

“This will introduce a whole new level of account-

ability and will make clear the deficiencies in our current systems,” said County Legislator and AWCS co-chair Eric Alexander. “We will have a very robust Humane Law Enforcement and shelter capability in the very near future.”

“My wife Marcia and I have rescue dogs, cats, rabbits, and goats,” he added. “This is very meaningful to both of us.”

The Legislature established the committee at its June 8 meeting. Town websites in

the area, such as Dover’s, direct residents with cruelty complaints other than dogs to the Dutchess County SPCA at 845-452-7722. District Attorney Anthony Parisi made a similar point. “Animal abuse can be a warning sign of other forms of violence, including domestic violence and child abuse,” he said. A centralized process, he added, will help ensure suspected cruelty is promptly reported, properly investigated and prosecuted where warranted.

REGIONAL

Sharon Housing Trust breaks ground on affordable home

By RUTH EPSTEIN
Special to the Millerton News

SHARON – Members of the Sharon Housing Trust gathered Saturday, Oct. 24, for an official groundbreaking ceremony for their latest project—a two-story house at 160 Silver Lake Shores Road.

The ground was actually broken a few days earlier, with a large hole denoting the start of construction.

Several residents representing various boards were in attendance, many commenting on the beautiful views afforded by the location just across the road from Mudge Pond.

Richard Baumann, president of the trust, said an anonymous donor gave the land, which consists of 0.37 acres. An old bungalow was taken down and many large trees were removed in preparation for construction. The house, which will consist of three bedrooms, was designed by architect Christine Gray and is being built by Boulder

Ridge Construction of Bethlehem.

The prospective owners will be chosen through a lottery system. They must secure a mortgage and will own both the house and land. The house will have a restriction in the deed to ensure it remains affordable. It is unclear how much the house will be purchased for.

As he stood looking over the site, Baumann said, “I’d love to build 100 more of these, but we just can’t afford it.”

The trust received a \$150,000 grant from Capital for Change, a Connecticut community development financial institution, for the project. A local foundation offered a \$25,000 matching grant, which was successfully met. There were also many private dona-

tions, said Baumann.

He noted that since the original cost estimate for the project was made, prices have risen. The cost may reach \$500,000.

“Providing opportunities for families to own affordable housing is an important goal of the housing trust,” he said. “Our Silver Lake Shores project complements our continuing development of our four-building affordable rental housing campus on Sharon’s North Main Street. We are thankful for the continued support we receive from the Sharon community.”

The trust currently provides six units of affordable rental housing at 91, 93 and 95 North Main St.

An unexpected find during demolition was an old canoe beneath the bungalow’s

foundation. Trust members are seeking ideas for what to do with it.

Those seeking information about the trust and its projects, can go to info@sharonhousingtrust.com or call 917-882-2727.

Visits with the living dead

Costumed reenactors regaled visitors to the Evergreen Cemetery in Pine Plains on Friday and Saturday night, Oct. 23 and 24, with recollections of life in the region in the 19th century. Evergreen Cemetery was originally established in Pine Plains in 1820 and houses the remains of many notable figures in the town’s history.



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

The founder of Harris Scythes was one of the ghostly apparitions greeting visitors to Evergreen Cemetery last week. Scythes made from the area’s iron ore deposits were one of the area’s booming industries in the 1800’s.



Another ghost ran one of the area’s busy boarding houses, overseeing the seasonal spikeworkers would visit Pine Plains.

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STEFANIE HUBERT

Dutchess County Legislature
District 25

Early Voting: Oct. 24- Nov. 1
Election Day: Nov. 3

Paid for by Stefanie Hubert for Dutchess County.



County legislature candidates weigh in on issues ahead of Election Day

Eric Alexander, a Democrat incumbent running for reelection to his seat in the County Legislature representing Amenia, Washington and a part of Pleasant Valley, is facing a challenge in the general election from Republican Stefanie Hubert on Nov. 3. The Millerton News asked each candidate where they stood on issues that impact northeast Dutchess County residents.

Republican Stefanie Hubert

With regards to housing, how do you balance affordability against preserving the rural character of District 25?

My priority would be a county-supported housing rehabilitation initiative that uses existing state and federal grants to help property owners renovate vacant buildings, create apartments above storefronts, and develop accessory dwelling units where local zoning permits. I would prioritize housing opportunities for working families, seniors, and first responders, with clear affordability requirements tied to public funding.

What is the county's role in supporting farms, including solar siting, farmland preservation and the pressure from development?

Agriculture is essential to Dutchess County's economy, heritage, and rural character. The county must help keep farming economically viable through farmland preservation, conservation easements, and programs that connect farmers with new markets and opportunities.

I support renewable energy, but large-scale solar projects should not come at the expense of our most productive farmland. Rooftops, parking areas, and previously developed properties should be prioritized, with careful consideration of environmental

impacts and local concerns. Farmers and property owners deserve a meaningful voice in land-use decisions. We cannot claim to support agriculture while allowing the farmland that sustains it to disappear. The county should be a partner in keeping farms profitable and preserving agriculture for future generations.



EMS coverage gaps are a major concern in northern Dutchess. What role should the county play versus towns and volunteer agencies?

Northern Dutchess faces challenges with long travel distances, staffing shortages, and declining volunteer participation. I would push for an EMS coverage assessment using response times, call volumes, and staffing data to identify gaps, particularly overnight and during weekdays. I would prioritize strategically stationed supplemental ambulances and paramedic fly cars, shared staffing between municipalities, and expanded EMT recruitment and training.

Small rural towns cannot continue absorbing rising EMS costs independently and passing them along through higher property taxes. The county should coordinate regional coverage, pursue shared services and available grants, and reduce duplication while strengthening local volunteer and municipal agencies.

Hudson Valley residents have protested ICE operations in neighboring Orange County. Should Dutchess County agencies cooperate with federal immigration enforcement?

I support enforcing immigration laws while protecting constitutional rights and due process. Immigration enforcement is primarily a federal responsibility, but Dutchess County law enforcement should cooperate with federal authorities when legally appropriate, particularly in cases involving serious criminal activity or threats to public safety.

Any cooperation must comply with state and federal law, and county taxpayers should not be burdened with responsibilities that belong to the federal government. As a county legislator, I would provide oversight of county policies, funding, and agreements while respecting the Sheriff's law enforcement authority.

Last year's race in this district was decided by just 41 votes. What would you say to the voters who supported your opponent, and name one issue where you'd break with your own party.

As a business owner and executive director, I have worked across party lines to solve problems and deliver results. I would bring that approach to the Legislature. I would break with my party on any development proposal that threatens farmland, water resources, or our rural character without adequate protections. I would also oppose wasteful spending regardless of which party proposes it.

Democrat Eric Alexander

With regards to housing, how do you balance affordability against preserving the rural character of District 25?

In the Town of Washington, where I serve on the planning board, we are clear in our priorities of focusing development on our village while preserving the rural nature of the surrounding town. To that end, we recently approved the subdivision of a 100 plus acre farm into five building lots but prohibited forever any further subdivision of the land.

We have also encouraged the reuse and refurbishment of existing structures in the Village of Millbrook, particularly in areas designated for hospitality. By preserving the facades of our older buildings while expanding, modernizing and making more efficient their interiors, we hope to retain the charm of our village while allowing it to grow.

What is the county's role in supporting farms, including solar siting, farmland preservation and the pressure from development?

The County supports farms through the Dutchess County Cornell Cooperative Extension, which provides education, technical assistance, and agricultural expertise to farmers throughout Dutchess County, and the Dutchess County Agricultural Navigator. Although the county does

not control local zoning or solar site permitting, it provides technical assistance to municipalities and advocates for farmland preservation. Through agricultural districts, farmland protection planning, and conservation easements, the County can help preserve agricultural land and reduce development pressures.

We have an incredibly rich history of farming here in Dutchess County and we need to do everything we can to ensure that farmers are supported, and farmland is protected for generations to come.

EMS coverage gaps are a major concern in northern Dutchess. What role should the county play versus towns and volunteer agencies?

I have been working with a group of four town supervisors to develop a new, collaborative EMS program that will improve coverage while reducing the cost of private ambulance service to each town.

Under the new plan, there will be no stationary ambulances within the four towns. Each call for service will trigger other ambulances to reposition and activate backups from both the county and the private provider. By repositioning ambulances and bringing dedicated backup units closer, the plan improves coverage for all towns.

This collaborative effort is

projected to reduce the overall cost of service by more than \$700,000.

Hudson Valley residents have protested ICE operations in neighboring Orange County. Should Dutchess County agencies cooperate with federal immigration enforcement?

No Dutchess County agency should cooperate with ICE until its mission is made clear, its tactics are brought into line with our state and federal constitutions and its agents are trained and held fully accountable for their actions.

Dutchess County should follow New York state law, which prohibits local law enforcement and counties from assisting in federal civil immigration enforcement.

Our local government and law enforcement should be focused on keeping residents safe and ensuring that everyone is treated fairly under the law.

Last year's race in this district was decided by just 41 votes. What would you say to the voters who supported your opponent, and name one issue where you'd break with your own party.

Voters who supported my opponent last year should be pleased that my focus has been on issues related to public safety, such as strengthening EMS, protecting their privacy from surveillance cameras, ending animal abuse, and reducing taxes and wasteful government spending. I am steadfast in my commitment to serve all constituents in my district and will do so even if it means breaking with my own party.



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Barn of frights

Families and children crowd into the Wassaic Project's Haunted Barn, a frightful attraction designed and staffed by Wassaic Project artists, staff and volunteers, on Saturday, Oct. 24.



THE SALISBURY FORUM

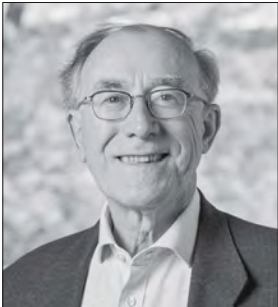
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Mary Evelyn Tucker



John Grim



Sam King

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
Notice of Formation of Arc Brand Partners, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/29/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC at 55 Townsend Farm Road, LaGrangeville, NY 12540. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

10-22-26
10-29-26
11-05-26
11-12-26
11-19-26
11-26-26

Legal Notice
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DISCO PICNIC LLC Articles of Organization filed with the New York Secretary of State on 06/22/2026. Office located in Dutchess County. Principal business location: 59 Yellow City Road, Amenia, NY, 12501. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of process to: 59 Yellow City Road, Amenia, NY, 12501. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

09-24-26
10-01-26
10-08-26
10-15-26
10-22-26
10-29-26

Legal Notice
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LAUREN WOLFENDEN LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/06/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. Principal business location: 331 Market Lane, Clinton Corners, NY 12514. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to Lauren Wolfenden at the principal business location. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

10-01-26
10-08-26
10-15-26
10-22-26
10-29-26
11-05-26

Legal Notice
Notice of formation of Limited Liability Company Wyvern's Roost LLC ("LLC"). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on September 30, 2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC to Kristal Heinz, Esq., 551 Warren Street, Suite 3F, Hudson, New York 12534. Purpose: To engage in any lawful activity.

10-29-26
11-05-26
11-12-26
11-19-26
11-26-26
12-03-26

LEGAL NOTICE
The South Amenia Cemetery Association Annual Meeting will be held Friday, October 30, 2026, at 7:00 PM at 266 Rudd Pond Road, Millerton, NY 12546, for the election of officers and trustees and the transaction of other such business as may legally come before it.
Amiee C. Duncan,
Secretary
10-22-26
10-29-26

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Preliminary Budget of the Town of North East for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2027, has been completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 19 N. Maple Ave., Millerton, NY, where it is available for inspection by any interested person Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM and Friday from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM.
FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board will meet and review said budget and hold a Public Hearing thereon at the North East Town Hall at 19 No. Maple Ave., Millerton, NY, at 7:20 PM, on the 12th day of November 2026, and at that hearing any person may be heard in favor of or against the preliminary budget, or for or against any item or items therein contained.
The proposed salaries of the following town officers are hereby specified:
Supervisor: \$29,060
Councilmen(4): \$6,510
Justices(2): \$20,080
Town Clerk: \$39,675
Assessor: \$40,425
Dated: October 9, 2026.

By Order of the
Town Board,
Elizabeth Strauss,
Town Clerk
10-29-26

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
TOWN OF NORTH EAST
RENOVATIONS TO EXISTING BUILDING /
NEW TOWN HALL
5603 Route 22
Millerton, NY 12546

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board invites sealed bids for the furnishing of all materials and labor necessary for the renovation of the New Town Hall for the Town of North East, New York, located at 5603 Route 22, Millerton, NY. This Contract has been designated, as set forth in these contract documents, including drawings and specifications, prepared by LAN Associates, Engineering, Planning, Architecture, Surveying, LLP (located at 1 Coates Drive, Goshen, NY 10924).
All such sealed bids must be received by the Town Clerk of the Town of North East, 19 North Maple Ave., Millerton, NY 12546 not later than 2:00 pm on Wednesday, December 2, 2026 at which time such bids will be publicly opened and read out loud. Staff will be available to accept hand-delivered bids between the hours of 9:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. — 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2, 2026.
All envelopes containing bids shall bear on the face of the sealed envelope the words "12/2/2026, Bid for Renovations to Existing Building / New Town Hall". No Bids shall be accepted after 2:00 p.m. prevailing time on Wednesday, December 2, 2026. Please be reminded that USPS, UPS and FedEx delivery schedules may be limited. Please allow enough time for your proposal to arrive on or before the due date and time.
Official bid documents are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification svstem at www.bidnetdire

ct.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess. Any and all addenda pertaining to the bid will be posted at the same website as noted above. It is incumbent upon all bidders to view posted addenda prior to the bid close date. If a bidder is not registered, they may register at the website noted above. The bidder can call BidNet at 1-800-835-4603 with questions regarding registration
A pre-bid conference, including site visit, will be held on Wednesday November 4, 2026 at 5603 Route 22, Millerton NY 12546 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders are strongly encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference. Knowledge of the site is crucial to obtain a proper understanding of the work. All bidders must be fully familiar with the site.
Any questions regarding the bid should be directed to LAN (Attention Mr. Peter Manouvelos) in writing by email to peter.manouvelos@lanassociates.com.
All bids shall be made and received upon the following conditions, which are more fully set forth in the bid documents:
Each Bidder shall prepare their bid proposal, along with a bid security, in accordance with the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Bid Specifications. Attention of bidders is particularly called to the minimum wage rates to be paid under the contracts. Wages to workers, laborers and mechanics employed to work on this project shall be paid in accordance with Section 220 of the Labor Law and in accordance with the Prevailing Rate Schedules found in the Project Manual. Submission of certified payroll is required as a condition of this contract. Additional information can be obtained at http://www.labor.state.ny.us/workerprotection/publicwork/PWContents.shtm.
The Contractor must comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations governing the Project, including the "Equal Opportunity for Employment" requirements as promulgated by the Federal and State governments.
Each bid must be accompanied by bid security in the form of a certified check made payable to the **Town of North East** or by a Bid Bond in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid. Bidders may not withdraw their respective bids for a period of forty-five (45) days after the bid opening date, unless otherwise authorized by law. To the fullest extent allowed by law, the **Town** further reserves the right to reject bids that contain conditions, omissions, exceptions or modifications, or in its sole discretion to waive any irregularities in the bids, or to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid which in the opinion of the **Town** is in its best interest. The Town of North East reserves the right, in its discretion, to waive technical noncompliance or irregularities that are not material or substantial, and to reject all bids and to rebid the project.
By order of the Town Board of Town of North East, NY

Dated: October 23, 2026
Elizabeth Strauss
Town Clerk
Town of North East, NY
10-29-26

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF QUESTION TO VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON AT NEXT GENERAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to N.Y.S. Education Law #259 (1) (B) and in accordance with the provisions of the N.Y.S. Election Law, the following question will be submitted to the qualified voters of the Town of Washington at the General Election to be held on the 3rd day of November, 2026.
SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE MILLBROOK LIBRARY BE INCREASED FROM THREE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE THOUSAND (\$349,000) DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO THREE HUNDRED NINETY-NINE THOUSAND (\$399,000) DOLLARS ANNUALLY?
Further notice is hereby given that said Election shall be held at the Millbrook Fire House in the Village of Millbrook on the 3rd day of November 2026 and that the polls will be open on that day between the hours of 6:00AM and 9:00PM.

10-22-26
10-29-26

TOWN OF AMENIA PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Chapter 105 of the Town of Amenia Code, the Planning Board of the Town of Amenia will hold a public hearing on the application by Hudson River Housing (the "Applicant") which proposes a major conservation subdivision to create twenty-six (26) residential lots for workforce housing and two (2) conservation parcels on a 24.13± acre parcel located on Cascade Road (the "Project") in the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York and identified as tax parcel number 132000-7167-00-245925 (the "Project Site"). The Project Site is located in a Suburban Residential ("SR") zoning district and the Aquifer Overlay District. Portions of the Project Site are also located in in the Stream Corridor Overlay District ("SCO District").
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board will hold the public hearing on the Application on October 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Amenia Town Hall, 4988 NYS Route 22, Amenia, New York 12501.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the Application is on file in the Amenia Town Clerk's Office for public viewing and inspection during normal business hours. The Application can also be viewed and downloaded from the Town's official website at www.ameniany.gov.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board will hear all persons interested in the Application at the public hearing noticed herein. All persons may

appear at the hearing in person or by agent and may also submit written comments to the Planning Board at or prior to such hearing by emailing comments to Planning Board Secretary Ericka Howard at ehoward@ameniany.gov.

Dated: October 6, 2026
Robert Boyles, Jr.,
Chairman
Town of Amenia
Planning Board
10-29-26

TOWN OF AMENIA
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of Amenia on Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, shall have a Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget of said Town for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2027, and any interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard at said Public Hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the proposed Preliminary Budget is available for review Monday through Thursday between the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm at the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Amenia located at 4988 Route 22, Amenia New York. It can also be downloaded from the Town's website at www.ameniany.gov or available by email upon request to the Town Clerk, Dawn Marie Klingner, dmklingner@ameniany.gov.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the proposed salaries of each member of the Town Board, Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, Town Superintendent of Highways and Town Justices are as follows:
Supervisor-\$27,947.00
Councilmember(4) Each-\$6,637.00
Town Justice(2) Each-\$20,950.00
Town Clerk-\$47,275.00
Superintendent of Highways-\$77,707.62
Dated:October 22, 2026
Amenia, New York
BY ORDER OF THE
TOWN BOARD
DAWN MARIE
KLINGNER,
TOWN CLERK
10-29-26

TOWN OF AMENIA SNOW REMOVAL BIDS PERIOD 11/5/2026 — 4/30/2027
NOTICE is hereby given that sealed bids for Town of Amenia **Side Walk Snow Removal** will be received until Noon on Thursday, November 5, 2026 at the Town Clerk's

Office, Town of Amenia, Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, NY 12501.
Detailed specifications may be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours, by calling (845) 373-8860 Ext. 125 or by emailing townclerk@ameniany.gov. All bids must have proof of insurance for liability and property damage in addition to proof of Worker's Compensation coverage. All bids must also be accompanied by a notarized non collusive statement and corporate bidders must file a corporate resolution with a corporate seal. All envelopes must be clearly marked "Snow Removal Bid 11/5/2026 to 4/30/2027".
The Amenia Town Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids will be awarded at the scheduled Town Board meeting on November 6, 2025.

Dawn Marie Klingner
Amenia Town Clerk
10-29-26

TOWN OF PINE PLAINS
Pine Plains, New York
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Pine Plains for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2027, has been completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, where it is available for inspection by any interested person.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board will meet and review said budget and hold a Public Hearing thereon at the Pine Plains Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York at 6:00 p.m. on the 10th day of November 2026, and at that hearing any person may be heard in favor of or against the preliminary budget, or for or against any item or items therein contained.
The proposed salaries of the following Town officers are hereby specified:
Supervisor-\$22,000
Budget Director-\$3,500
Councilpersons (4)-\$6,800
Justices (2)-\$18,000
Town Clerk-\$25,000
Highway Superintendent-\$64,790
BY ORDER OF THE
PINE PLAINS
TOWN BOARD.
MADELIN DAFOE,
Town Clerk
10-29-26



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LIBRARY Continued from Page A1

2024 and 2025 as well.

Dutchess County Republican Elections Commissioner Erik Haight pushed back on Klingner’s criticism, pointing to the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act passed in 2009 and state law that codify the three month deadline for ballot propositions.

“She’s obviously aware that she filed it late,” Haight said in an email. “She filed it late and as a function of law we lack the authority to put the prop on the ballot.”

She said she became aware of the error a week later on Aug. 24, and began working with town attorney Ian Lindars to get in touch with county election commissioners and attempt to rectify the issue. After four days of negotiation, the Board of Elections declined to make an exception and upheld the deadline.

With the ballot proposition out of the question, Herow and library board members had resigned themselves to making do without the \$10,000.

“We have to be very careful about everything,” Herow said. “That’s just part of it. It means next year we’ll have to ask for a smidge more to help meet whatever costs.”

The Amenia Free Library collected a total of \$283,700 in revenue from varying sources in 2026, according to an operating budget summary on the

library’s website. A bulk of that revenue — \$265,000 in 2026 — comes from taxes paid in the Town of Amenia.

Town Board members have opted to grant the additional funds as part of Amenia’s municipal budgeting process. Lindars explained that libraries such as the Amenia Free library have two options for budget increases — a voter referendum or through Town Board approval.

Library expenses totaled \$295,800 in 2026, resulting in a \$12,100 deficit this year that Herow expected to grow. The \$10,000 in additional funds was meant to modestly offset that deficit.

“Our costs go up just like everybody else’s,” Herow said. “Electricity, insurance, materials, the cost of running the building.”

Herow echoed Klingner’s concerns about poor communication. She said library board president Alan Gamble hand-delivered the necessary petitions to Klingner at Amenia Town Hall on June 29. There was no communication with the library until Aug. 22, when Herow heard from Dutchess County Democratic Committee Chair Michael Dupree that election commissioners had received the paperwork late.

Similarly, Klingner said she was not informed that the submission was late until she heard from a third party.

EARLY EDUCATION Continued from Page A1

education infrastructure. The hope is that the pilot program leads to broader reforms and collaboration with businesses to remove barriers to entry, both in terms of costs to parents and the childcare facility licensing process.

The pilot comes at a critical moment for early education in the region. Dutchess County has lost 33% of its child care centers since 2007 — with 15 early education programs closed in 2025 alone. Children with access to early education from 0 to 3 years old have a 6% higher high school graduation rate, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research. And in the near term, public child care investment creates jobs at one of the highest rates of any sector, according to the Dutchess County Early Learning & Child Care Coalition.

The event was held at the Dutchess BOCES Conference Center in Poughkeepsie. Alexandra Smith of the Poughkeepsie Children’s Cabinet opened the discussion with a presentation titled “Childcare as Civic Infrastructure,” on the ripple effects of the child care gap.

The gap concerns the county’s capacity for early education and its finances. According to the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, there are 9,262 children with working parents in Dutchess County — but the county only has 7,610 licensed seats available through early education

centers.

Costs for center-based infant care run at about \$1,540 a month, while the estimated true cost is \$1,872. Staff account for about 60% of a center’s costs. Median pay for early education staff is \$20,928 for assistant teachers and \$23,760 for lead teachers. For a two-person household, child care takes about 13 percent of take-home pay, nearly double the 7 percent federal benchmark.

Those numbers demonstrate what people in the northern part of the county told officials in August. Parents, day care operators, and employers gathered at the Pine Plains Free Library on Aug. 19 for a focus group led by the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam. County Legislator Chris Drago opened that session by saying, “Without childcare, folks can’t work.”

Participants described a thinning local network. The North East Community Center closed its free day care program last November, citing falling enrollment and rising costs. Employers, including Harney & Sons Fine Teas in Millerton and dairy farm Chaseholm Farm in Pine Plains, said they have struggled to build schedules around workers’ families.

To build a new framework for early education, McLoughlin and her peers are examining other successful examples. Washington D.C., New Mexi-

NECC Continued from Page A1

programs. That’s all amid a backdrop of rising costs that are squeezing consumers and businesses nationwide.

“The state of the nonprofit in New York is a precarious one,” Fliakos said, referring to the challenge of running a nonprofit organization in one of the most expensive states in the U.S.

Fliakos’s hiring ends a six month vacancy that began with the departure of former Executive Director Christine Sergent in March. Board Chair Irene Banning and Vice Chair Julie Fajgenbaum served as co-Executive Directors in the interim.

Sergent’s departure came just a few months after NECC shuttered its daycare program, the Early Learning Center in December, citing financial difficulties. Organizational leadership said at the time of the daycare’s closure that rising costs made the program unaffordable and put other programs at risk.

Fliakos called attention to NECC’s established programs, notably the food pantry, for their stability and reach through an economically fraught period. Last fall, the Trump administration followed through on cuts to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, that shifted the burden of funding onto states and localities.

In the wake of those cuts, Dutchess County and New York State released millions in aid to local food pantries who were already experiencing strain from continuously increasing numbers of patrons.

NECC’s food pantry serves an average of 200 to 250 households per week. Patrons of the pantry may utilize its services up to two times per month.

Fliakos said the food pantry and NECC’s other food programs stood out as a model for one of her goals — collaboration and coalition building.

“A lot of what’s been talked about in the last five to 10 years — which I think takes a tremendous amount of commitment by a number of people — is really breaking siloed areas of service,” Fliakos said.

As part of its food assistance programming, NECC leads the Tri Corner Nutrition Security Coalition. The coalition is a group of farmers, food pantries and community health organizations

that collaborate to promote access to nutritious food in New York and Connecticut.

Fliakos said she aims to build on this model, seeking collaborations with other area nonprofits and community groups to build and promote programming that

benefits the community.

Another goal of hers is to build the organization’s visibility while maintaining its identity, saying the Executive Director role requires a balance of leadership, stewardship and imagination. Accomplishing that will draw on her experience in managerial roles including as CEO of YWCA Ulster County in Kingston, New York.

Fliakos, a Denver, Colorado, native, began her professional career as a teacher at Hotchkiss School near Lakeville, Connecticut, in 2001. The school was her alma mater — she graduated in 1995 — and tied her to the

region for most of her adult life so far.

“I think about my relationship with the Northwest Corner as having sort of roots and wings,” Fliakos said. “I have moved around a little bit in the last 30 years, but I have never gone too far.”

NECC Board Chair Irene Banning announced Fliakos’s hiring with an email to community members on Thursday, Oct. 22. The letter described Fliakos as a leader and “agent of educational change.”

Banning called attention to Fliakos’s managerial experience, including founding the GoodBrain Project Inc. in 2013. Fliakos started the organization in 2013 to guide schools and nonprofits in reducing employee burnout and improving culture. One thing she’s excited about as she begins her role at NECC is supporting the staff.

“There have to be resources provided to the people who are on the front lines,” Fliakos said. “Not-for-profit people or teachers or nurses — we live off the passion, but the passion can’t feed us.”

“There have to be resources provided to the people who are on the front lines. Not-for-profit people or teachers or nurses — we live off the passion, but the passion can’t feed us.”
Athena Fliakos

SISTERS HILL Continued from Page A1

working through the details of a purchase agreement and is “very encouraged” by the direction of talks.

The Stanfordsville farm supports a CSA program and is a popular destination for locally-grown produce. In July, the congregation announced plans to sell its entire property, just east of Route 82, without a public listing or asking price. The announcement offered no guarantee the land would stay in agriculture.

The letter refers to the farm as “much more than a piece of property,” a place where stewardship, education and service have flourished for almost 30 years.

The congregation hired Hambleton in 1999 to start a community-supported agriculture program, which has grown from 40 members to

more than 400. Members pay on a sliding scale, and 10% of the harvest goes to families in need.

In 2023, a lack of new congregants led the Sisters of Charity of New York to announce they would wind down.

Hambleton, who declined to comment on the planned sale in July, told CSA members at the time he was “still processing this.” He has described the farm’s purpose as being as much about community as vegetables. In a 2024 profile with The Millerton News, Hambleton said “there’s noth-

ing more basic and elemental than feeding people.”

His role extends beyond the fields. Since 1999, Hambleton has trained a class of apprentices every year, many of whom go on to farm in the Hudson Valley and beyond. Erin Bullock, who founded Mud Creek Farm CSA a year after apprenticing at Sisters Hill in 2008, told the News in August, “Dave was a true mentor, and shared everything he knew.”

The congregation thanked members for the “outpouring of love, concern, and support” since the sale was announced.



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PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

Meg Sher, executive director of the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village.

Meg Sher finds her calling among the stacks

By Robin Roraback

When Meg Sher came to Falls Village in 2006 from Old Lyme, Connecticut, where she grew up, she never imagined she'd someday be the executive director of the David M. Hunt Library.

Although, in hindsight, perhaps it makes sense.

"I was a library kid. I walked to the library after school," she said.

For Sher, the library is as much about the people as it about the books.

"Part of the job I love so much is that running the library is such a community," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

MUSIC

Close Encounters with Music celebrates 35 years of musical discovery

By Natalia Zukerman

For 35 years, cellist Yehuda Hanani has been inviting audiences to experience classical music in unexpected ways. As founder and artistic director of Close Encounters with Music, Hanani has built a concert series that goes beyond the music itself, exploring connections to literature, history, politics and the human experience.

This year, Close Encounters celebrates its 35th season with "Celebration & Discovery," a seven-concert series that opens Sunday, Nov. 1, at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington.

From Mozart and Gershwin to a cabaret inspired by Paris and Weimar Berlin, a full orchestra and the world premiere of a commissioned work, the season reflects Hanani's longstanding

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

FILM

A life reshaped by clay in "Matin"

By D.H. Callahan

On Monday, Oct. 26, a group of students, teachers and local residents gathered at the Hotchkiss School in Lakeville for a screening of the new short documentary "Matin." The film tells the story of Matin Malikzada, a seventh-generation Afghani potter making a new life in New Milford, Connecticut. The film was made by local filmmaker Yonah Sadeh, creator of the Video Wall at the David M. Hunt Library, and Berkshires-based potter Hannah Wheeler, who were both present for the screening, along with Malikzada himself.

As a member of the seventh generation of his family to master the art of pottery, Malikzada had done things the way his family had for over a century. Istalif, the village where his family has lived for generations, was known throughout Afghanistan for its pottery, with wares sent across the country for use as everyday cups, bowls, plates and other vessels. The pottery-making families of Istalif gathered clay from the same mountain, about 30 to 45 minutes away by donkey. Every July, they would head north toward the Uzbekistan border to gather ishkar, a plant they processed by hand to make their signature glazes.

By the time Malikzada became a master potter, he no longer processed or gathered the clays and glazes himself. He had assistants and family members to prep everything for him, allowing him to stay seated at the electricity-free kick wheel all day long, sometimes making more than 100 pieces a day.

Eventually, Malikzada became the head of the ceramics department at the Turquoise Mountain Institute, an NGO



PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Left to right: Hannah Wheeler, Matin Malikzada and Yonah Sadeh.

founded by King Charles III, where he had also trained as a student. After graduating, Malikzada was hired as a master ceramicist and eventually became head of the department. It's through his role there that he first started visiting the United States. Thanks to a relationship with Yale, he quickly took to Connecticut and eventually decided to move his family to New Milford.

The film explores Malikzada's challenges in relearning his craft far from the traditions and materials of his home. In Istalif, his family would fire a wood-fueled kiln packed with 1,800 to 2,000 pieces once a month. Now, he

would have to rely on the much smaller, standardized electric kilns found in most ceramic studios today. Without access to his ancestral clay, he had to learn to use an entirely new material, which he would now have to process and prepare himself. Perhaps most challenging, he was forced to develop a new method for creating glazes that could match his signature colors and textures. As he tells the filmmakers, he experimented with the glazes through 415 firings. "The 416th, I got result."

"Matin" avoids the fraught political questions that have dominated public discourse in recent years, choosing instead

to focus on Malikzada's art, ingenuity and determination. The film allows the artist to tell his story in his own words, with a remarkably calming voice.

Though the students, faculty, and ceramics enthusiasts thoroughly enjoyed the screening, the filmmakers hope to continue developing the story, incorporating animation and more of their footage. As Malikzada teaches his children the family trade, maybe someday they will film an eighth generation at work.

To learn more about Malikzada's work, visit malikzadapottery.com.

MUSIC

Crescendo's 23rd season speaks to the heart and mind

By Natalia Zukerman

For Christine Gevert, founding artistic director of Crescendo, music from centuries past is anything but a relic. It is a living, breathing art form, full of drama, emotional complexity and, occasionally, surprises. As the regional choral and period-instrument ensemble launches its 23rd season, Gevert is once again bringing forgotten masterpieces into the present.

"Early Music has been my lifelong passion and the focus of my specialization in Europe and South America," Gevert said. "Bringing this repertoire to our audiences in a nuanced way that does justice to its incredible depth, intensity, and beauty is deeply important to me."

The season opens Oct. 31 and

Nov. 1 with "Galant Fire — Masterpieces of Venice and Naples," featuring the Crescendo Chorus, a period string ensemble and guest soloists Douglas Ray Williams, Caroline Christopher, Laura Evans and Kevin Ray.

Among the program's highlights is Antonio Vivaldi's "Laetatus sum," a rarely heard choral work whose manuscript was rediscovered in 2017. Its obscurity, Gevert explained, was not entirely accidental.

"In the case of the Vivaldi piece, the bias stretches right back to his own lifetime; his work was intentionally mislabeled and 'rebranded' under the name of a more famous contemporary to financially benefit the owners of the manuscript."

Rediscovering works like this is what Crescendo is all about.

"It is a privilege to champion repertoire that is underrepresented in modern concert halls," Gevert said. "So much incredible music has been silenced over time due to historic cultural biases, lost manuscripts, or the simple fact that modern performing editions do not yet exist."

Crescendo was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation. The funding will support a large-scale production during the 2027-28 season devoted to historic female composers, in-

cluding Antonia Bembo, Marianna Martines and Amalia of Saxony.

"Female composers not only faced immense restrictions in their own eras, but remain underrepresented today," Gevert said.

As a music editor, arranger and specialist in early music transcription, Gevert often prepares performing editions herself, making otherwise inaccessible works available to contemporary musicians.

"Crescendo has a proud his-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

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You are not alone.

... Meg Sher

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

She treasures the relationships she has built, whether recommending books, celebrating accomplishments or helping patrons through difficult times.

“I am thankful that our community is so supportive of the library, unlike what is happening in some other places where librarians are villainized,” Sher said.

Sher takes pride in the Hunt Library’s reputation for being “open and welcoming to everyone. People come in and see things and get pulled into things they weren’t expecting. Our library is seen as a positive force.”

Sher came to Falls Village after being awarded a fellowship at Adamah Farm, then a program of the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center. She worked at pickling, in the greenhouse and later in the development office. She also worked as a nanny.

At the same time, “I was in the library all the time,” she recalled. “I’m a voracious reader. The library is where I met a lot of my first friends in Falls Village.”

She became assistant librarian at Hunt and worked in that position for almost a decade before becoming the executive director four years ago.

Sher met her husband, Adam, while working at Adamah. They had their wedding there in 2012. He now emcees many events which she co-organizes with the Falls Village Recreation Commission.

Sher and her family live near the library.

“It’s an easy commute,” she said with a smile. “My kids run back and forth. I can go home to walk the dog if I need to.”

“My kids have grown up here.” Her oldest son, Eli, “loves volunteering. He helps with Augustfest and often helps set up chairs for ArtWall gatherings.”



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

For Meg Sher, executive director of the Hunt Library in Falls Village, the library is as much about the people as it about the books.

“I always feel grateful for this job. I get to meet people, and I get to talk about books.”

MEG SHER

Her younger son, Noah, is often at events and was eager to taste cookies at last year’s holiday cookie swap.

When she is not at the library, Sher likes to hike with her family. Bella, their Portuguese water dog, often accompanies them.

Sher enjoys seeking out people to offer events at the library.

“I do a lot of different community programming. It is one of my favorite parts of the job.”

Augustfest, featuring food, music and an auction, is the library’s biggest fundraiser.

“This summer we had a record 152 attendees, which was pretty incredible.”

Yonah Sadeh, a filmmaker

from Falls Village, inaugurated the VideoWall this year, Sher explained.

“I’ve known Yonah since he was two. It’s wonderful to work with him as an adult.”

The VideoWall complements the library’s ArtWall, which showcases a new artist each month. Sher praised the ArtWall committee for its work and highlighted December’s popular “12x12 Show,” featuring works by local artists, each measuring 12 by 12 inches and priced at \$150.

Sher added that some of the artists who exhibit at the ArtWall offer workshops to students at Kellogg School, next door to the library. In September, artist Danielle Mailer worked with the children. Vincent Inconiglios taught a class last November.

Being next to the school, said Sher, is a great advantage.

“Kids are coming after school, to see friends, work on projects, find a great book. Kids that love the library end up using

the library as grownups.”

This past year, in partnership with Adamah, the library and school created a garden, with excess produce made available at The Center on Main.

This year is Sher’s second year participating in the Troutbeck Symposium in Amenia with James King, director of the library at Salisbury School. The Troutbeck Symposium is “a gathering of a year of student historical inquiry across the region” in which students “uncover stories that have been overlooked, forgotten, or never recorded.”

Last year, Sher and King began a project with a group of students researching Irish immigrants in Falls Village, exploring ancestry and creating small magazines about their findings.

They continued this year, visiting St. Patrick’s Catholic Cemetery on Dublin Road, cleaning seven gravestones and even righting one with the help of stonemason and gravestone restoration expert Karl Munson. Paul Kozeazny, a representative of the Catholic archdiocese, helped secure access to the site.

A film documenting their activities will be shown at the symposium in spring 2027.

A full schedule of programs and events, ranging from tech help to ceramic mug-making, can be found on the library’s website.

Despite spending her days surrounded by books, and a busy schedule of programming, Sher still loves to settle in with a book at home.

For more information on library programs and events, visit huntlibrary.org



PHOTO PROVIDED

Vieux Farka Touré

MUSIC

Malian blues and Moroccan Gnawa meet in Sheffield

By James FitzGerland

Desert winds rarely blow into the Berkshires, but on Nov. 5, they will carry the Malian blues and Moroccan Gnawa music to Race Brook Lodge.

That evening, Malian guitarist Vieux Farka Touré, often called “the Hendrix of the Sahara,” and Moroccan musician Samir LanGus will play at the lodge’s Event Barn in Sheffield, Massachusetts, at a benefit for the foundation Touré directs.

Touré was born in northern Mali in 1981. His father, the renowned guitarist Ali Farka Touré, came from a family of soldiers and wanted his son to join the army. The younger Touré studied drums and the calabash and practiced guitar in secret. He earned his father’s blessing to pursue music shortly before Ali died in 2006, and they played two tracks together on Vieux’s debut album.

Touré is known for his deft, polyrhythmic playing, and his songs grow out of riffs that repeat and layer to hypnotic effect. He draws on rock, blues, Latin music and various African traditions. This distinctive blend builds on his father’s work adapting the sonic traditions of Mali’s arid north to the guitar.

Vieux’s album “Mon Pays” (“My Country,” 2013) honored Mali’s culture after Tuareg separatists and extremist groups seized the north in 2012. “Samba” (2017) was recorded before about 50 listeners in Woodstock, New York. In 2022 came “Les Racines” (“The Roots”), a return to his father’s desert blues, and “Ali,” on which he and the trio Khruangbin reworked eight of the elder Touré’s songs.

Touré leads the Ali Farka Touré Foundation, which focuses on cultural and educational work in Mali. Around the anniversary of Ali’s death, it holds a

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

... Crescendo

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO BY STEVE POTTER

Christine Gevert, founding artistic director of Crescendo, conducts the audience at a performance.

tory of presenting U.S. and East Coast premieres of early music, and being part of this rediscovery process is profoundly exciting for both our performers and our audiences.”

The season also ventures into new territory with Celtic and Gaelic repertoire from Ireland and Scotland, presented alongside English traditions in two December programs, “The First Spark” and “A Celtic Wintertide.”

“We are introducing Irish and Scottish Celtic and Gaelic repertoire alongside English traditions, which is a first for Crescendo,” Gevert said.

The holiday concerts will feature soprano Zoe Vandermeer, who sings while accompanying herself on triple harps, as well as recorder player Tricia

van Oers. Vandermeer will contribute an original composition, while Gevert will introduce new arrangements of English and Welsh holiday tunes.

“In our Holiday concerts, we juxtapose early music with folk tunes and contemporary arrangements,” Gevert said. “This gives our audiences something familiar to connect with, offering the joy of hearing and singing along with beloved carols.”

The programming continues into spring with “The Paris Confluence,” featuring works by Teleman, Bach and Marais, followed by April’s “Sovereign Grandeur,” a dramatic exploration of a 1701 London musical competition inspired by the myth of “The Judgment of Paris.” The season concludes June 12 with “Forgotten Voices,”

a solo keyboard program featuring early female composers.

Throughout the season, audiences can expect ambitious vocal writing, including compositions with as many as 10 independent vocal parts and contemporary works requiring improvisation.

“This music is highly ‘text-driven’ and strongly appeals to both the emotions and the intellect,” Gevert said, “which is the unifying thread running through all of our productions this season.”

“Galant Fire — Masterpieces of Venice and Naples” will be performed Saturday, Oct. 31, at 4 p.m. at Saint James Place in Great Barrington and Sunday, Nov. 1, at 4 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lime Rock. For the full season schedule and tickets, visit crescendomusic.org.

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

WHDD AM 1020
Serving Northwest, CT and Adjacent Eastern, NY

WHDD FM 97.5
Serving the Route 7 corridor from Cornwall to Kent, and the Route 22 corridor from Amenia to Pawling

WHDD FM 91.9
Serving Sharon, Millerton, Lakeville, Salisbury and Falls Village, and adjacent Eastern, NY

WLHV FM 88.1
Serving in New York - Northern and Eastern Dutchess County, Columbia County, Eastern Ulster and Windham County, and Southern Greene County

WBSL FM 91.7
Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA



Folklorist and multi-instrumentalist Alex Harvey brings centuries-old songs of ghosts, murder and monsters to Spencertown Academy Arts Center Oct. 30.

MUSIC

Shinbone Alley brings spooky songs to Spencertown

By D.H. Callahan

Seeing isn't always believing. Sometimes it's the lack of a defined picture that can be the most compelling. And when Alex Harvey of Shinbone Alley sings his supernaturally charged sea shanties and street ballads, the unseen will be downright scary. On Oct. 30, the historically inclined storyteller and performer will create a spooky evening of forbidden tales and yarns through a carefully chosen series of songs at Spencertown Academy of Arts.

The repertoire for the performance is a bit fraught. Over the years, Shinbone Alley has explored the world of folklore through music. Though the group usually features two musicians, Harvey, a multi-instrumentalist and singer, will be performing solo. That is, of course, unless you include the spirits.

Harvey believes there's power in a good ballad. When those ballads are spooky in nature, unfamiliar feelings have a tendency to permeate the atmosphere.

With two or three decades of performing under his belt, Harvey, a trained ethnomusicologist, has sought out and stumbled upon quite a few of these haunting ballads, many of which date back hundreds of years. Through some of his many musical projects, he's cautiously dabbled in performing the tunes, but only one or two at a time.

Even nonbelievers in the supernatural can feel the power in these tunes. The musicians, therefore, treat them with care. Unleashing too many on an unsuspecting audience could simply be too much to handle. The selection Harvey will perform at Spencertown is what he refers to as the "superheroes of supernatural ballads."

With this program, Harvey is tempting the darkness, bringing all his most powerful ballads together in one performance. Will it be too much? Will everybody make it out alright? Will a portal open to another dimension, unleashing ancient demons into the realm that is upstate New York? Only time will tell.

Adding to the unsettling subject matter and lore of the tunes is the nature of song as a form of storytelling. Harvey is a firm believer in the tradition of passing stories along orally. Though he spent years as a filmmaker, he's decidedly avoiding screens these days. In fact, he doesn't even have a smartphone.

To him, a story told through words and music demands more of the audience and their imaginations than video ever could. In turn, it rewards listeners with more intimate versions of the stories, each visually unique to every single person present.

While Harvey has a series of seasonal repertoires, it's this special time of autumn that stirs up the most unsettling notions. It's not just Halloween, either. As the darkness creeps in, the trees reveal their skeletal forms and the verdant bounty of summer starts to decay, a profoundly grim feeling can wash over New England and the Hudson Valley.

Many despair at the thought of shorter days and colder nights. But some are willing to succumb to the season and embrace the darkness. Those hearty few will find themselves quite at home with the supernatural ballads and shanties of Shinbone Alley.

For morning information and tickets, visit spencertownacademy.org.

... Close Encounters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

belief that classical music should be accessible, adventurous and relevant.

As classical music has moved further from the cultural mainstream, Hanani has looked for creative ways to bring audiences into the concert hall.

"We try to figure out ways of drawing them into the concert hall," he said. "This was the idea behind thematic programs. Every concert had a theme, and my goodness, after 35 years, we've covered hundreds of themes."

Those themes haven't always been strictly musical. Over the years, Close Encounters has explored the relationship between creativity and mental illness, celebrated women's suffrage with a program featuring 15 female composers and presented music of political protest in response to a proposed cement plant along the Hudson River.

For Hanani, these connections are part of what makes the series distinctive.

This season opens with "Saluting the Clarinet," featuring acclaimed clarinetist Alexander Fiterstein alongside pianist Michael Cher-tock, violinists Xiao-Dong Wang and Helena Baillie, violist Daniel Panner and Hanani on cello.

Why the clarinet? "It's so versatile. It can be velvety and smooth and sexy, and it can be brash and biting and it can bend notes," he continued. "It's perfectly suitable for jazz. It's prominent in operatic literature. It's symphonic. It's all over the place."

The opening program demonstrates that versatility with works by Beethoven, Mozart, Bartók and Gershwin. Among the highlights is Bartók's "Contrasts," commissioned by jazz clarinetist Benny Goodman and violinist Joseph Szigeti, with Bartók himself at the piano for the premiere.

The program also includes a jazz-inspired reimagining of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" by a female composer, which Hanani described as "a pretty crazy kind of jazzy piece of music."

The concert concludes with Mozart's Clarinet Quintet.

The musical variety continues Dec. 13 with "Come to the Cabaret! Paris and Weimar Berlin," featuring Israeli singer and actress Yael Rasooly in her Close Encounters debut. The theatrical program draws on the music of Édith Piaf, Marlene Dietrich and the cabaret traditions of inter-war Europe, complete with elaborate costumes and life-size puppets.



Close Encounters with Music's 35th season opens with "Saluting the Clarinet" featuring clarinetist Alexander Fiterstein

On Feb. 21, pianist Simone Dinnerstein joins Hanani and cellist Hannah Sohn for a more intimate program at Saint James Place devoted to Bach and Handel.

Although the two Baroque composers are often grouped together, Hanani is interested in their differences.

"It sounds like the same Baroque music, two guys with a big wig on their head," he joked. "But they were so, so different."

"Handel was affluent and lived in style, and he owned two Rembrandts, believe it or not," Hanani said. "Very worldly. And Bach, of course, is in another sphere altogether."

The season continues March 14 with the four-time Grammy-nominated Skylark Vocal Ensemble, presenting music inspired by gardens, birdsong and the natural world.

On April 18, Close Encounters turns to Dvořák, whose music bridges European and American traditions. The program includes the composer's "American" Quartet, Piano Quintet and vocal selections performed by baritone Tyler Duncan.

"We are going to just have a musical portrait of Dvořák, including some of his songs that are very seldom heard, sung in Czech," Hanani said.

Another milestone arrives May 16 with "The Golden Chain of Classical Music," featuring the 26-member Vivace Orchestra under conductor Joshua Gerson. The program includes Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony, Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante and Beethoven's First Symphony.

"We're having something we've never done before," Hanani said, describing the orchestral program as a way to illustrate "the three golden rings linked, which really make the foundation of the classical style."

The season concludes June 13 with perhaps its most personal offering: the world premiere of "Metamorphosis: Love," a work commissioned by Close Encounters from Cuban composer Jorge Martín.

The piece was inspired by the writings of Matt Morris, a young poet and librettist whom Hanani befriended in the Berkshires. Morris studied at the Royal Academy in London and struggled with serious mental health challenges before dying by suicide.

"We became very close," Hanani recalled. "What we did is we collected all his writings, his poems, his musings, even his libretto."

Martín used those writ-

ings to create a work for soprano and tenor with an unusual instrumental ensemble. The tenor represents Morris, while the soprano takes the role of his muse.

"Very unusual combination of sounds," Hanani said. "Very eerie, kind of very spiritual."

The new composition is part of a commissioning tradition that has become central to Close Encounters' identity. More than 20 composers have created works for the organization over the years, often bringing together musical traditions that might seem worlds apart. After 35 years, that spirit of exploration remains at the heart of Close Encounters.

"This is the nature of our series," Hanani said, "exploring old masterpieces, sometimes neglected masterpieces, commissioning a lot of composers and looking forward to the future."

Close Encounters with Music opens its 35th season Sunday, Nov. 1, at 4 p.m. with "Saluting the Clarinet" at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington. The seven-concert season runs through June 13, 2027, with performances at the Mahaiwe and Saint James Place. Tickets and information are available at cewm.org.

Galant Fire

Masterpieces of Venice and Naples by Vivaldi · Scarlatti
Leo · Lotti · Galuppi · Caldara · Durante.

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Caroline Christopher, soprano | Laura Evans, alto | Douglas Williams, bass
Crescendo Period Strings | Jeremy Rhizor, concert master
Christine Gevert, organ and direction

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at 4:00 PM
Saint James Place
Great Barrington, MA

Sun. November 1
at 4:00 PM
Trinity Lime Rock
Lakeville, CT

NorthEast-Millerton Library

Annual Craft Fair

Saturday, November 7
10 am–2 pm, 28 Century Blvd., Millerton

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& Raffles with Donations from
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Sponsored By
The Bank of Millbrook, North East Ford, Ed Herrington's Inc.

All proceeds go to support the NorthEast-Millerton Library

... *Vieux Farka Touré*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2



PHOTO PROVIDED

Samir LanGus

festival in Bamako, Mali’s capital. Bamako has been under blockade for much of the past year, besieged by JNIM, an al-Qaeda affiliate. Against this backdrop, Touré continues to carry the music of Mali to audiences abroad.

At the Nov. 5 concert, Touré’s desert blues will share the bill with Gnawa, the music LanGus plays, which developed in Morocco among West Africans who were brought north across the desert as enslaved people. Gnawa is religious music traditionally performed at all-night healing ceremonies called lila, intended to carry participants into trance.

LanGus was born and raised outside Agadir, Morocco, and began learning Gnawa from its masters at age 8. He plays the sintir, a three-stringed bass lute made of wood and camel skin. The player strikes a low string with the thumb to create a deep, resonant pulse. Iron castanets clat-

ter over the sintir’s bass line, and vocalists trade call-and-response refrains.

LanGus infuses the tradition with jazz and improvisation. In New York, he founded the ensemble Inn-ov Gnawa. His first solo album, “Gnawa Love,” came out in February.

Touré and LanGus’s Nov. 5 concert is one of the last public events at Race Brook Lodge, which is for sale and ended full-service operations at the end of 2025. The lodge’s final scheduled event, on Nov. 6, is an evening of Rumi’s poetry with translator and vocalist Haleh Liza Gafari, cellist Isabel Castellvi and ceremonial bard James Bird.

For tickets, visit rblodge.com.

James FitzGerald is a student at Yale Law School, where he focuses on ecological restoration and international environmental cooperation. He splits his time between Lakeville and New Haven.

THEATER

Ancram Play Lab explores the wars that follow soldiers home

By Richard Feiner and Annette Stover

In 2020, the Ancram Center for the Arts launched Play Lab in response to the challenges facing live theater during the COVID-19 pandemic. It continues today as a thriving residency program where artists develop original work and experiment with new forms of performance. Community connection is central to the Play Lab mission, with audiences invited to share in the creative process through interactive workshops, open rehearsals, discussions and more.

The next Play Lab work-in-progress presentation, “Be Safe, I Love You,” is a new musical theater piece based on Cara Hoffman’s acclaimed 2014 novel. It follows Iraq war veteran Lauren Clay as she returns home to Watertown, New York, where post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) drives her to protect her family from an enemy only she can see. It is a story about class, loyalty and the wars that follow soldiers home.

The novel has been praised as a critique of the social and physiological costs of war. It asks

whether a person can return to a familiar place when their understanding of the world has fundamentally changed. It is also a powerful study of the unequal treatment of women in the armed forces and the expectations placed on women both in the military and at home.

Two leading contemporary women artists, playwright Darrah Cloud and composer and lyricist Stephanie Salzman, are collaborating on the piece, which balances intimate family drama with the emotional intensity of a returning soldier’s experience.

Cloud is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter whose work explores family, history, social conflict and people confronting difficult moral choices. She has also served as the elected town supervisor of Pine Plains, effectively combining her creative career with local government service.

Salzman is a songwriter, composer and lyricist whose career spans musical theater, commercial pop songwriting and artist development. She teaches at NYU’s

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5

FOOD

A feast of cookbooks in Wassaic

By D.H. Callahan

On Nov. 7, Ten Mile Table, the independent wine and spirits shop in the hamlet of Wassaic, will host its first Cookbook Fest and Swap. Erika DaSilva, the shop’s owner, is a big fan of cookbooks. While most people will flip to a recipe that piques their interest, she reads them cover to cover like novels. She’s already published two volumes of her community-based cookbook, “The Corner Table,” featuring recipes and writings from cooks and foodies all hailing from Wassaic and the surrounding towns. For DaSilva, community is half the reason for the event.

Spend any amount of time at Ten Mile Table, located in Wassaic’s old candy shop, and one thing will become obvious: Community comes first. DaSilva stops to talk with local residents as they pass by her open door, asking about health updates or letting them know she has something they requested back in stock. It shouldn’t come as a surprise that, as publisher of the hyperlocal newspaper the Hamlet Gazette, DaSilva knows more or less everything about everybody in town. But despite having all that knowledge, she doesn’t treat it like gossip. She holds it with care until the story is ready to be told — or kept forever as a secret.

Of course, sharing information is the other big reason to hold a cookbook swap. More than most forms of literature, cookbooks have one overriding purpose: to share knowledge. Over time, cookbooks have undergone a whirlwind of changes. Scholars have noted that cookbooks of the past two or three centuries often contained language that reinforced the subordinate roles of women and people of color. On the other hand, many cookbooks were written for and by women who wanted to share hard-won wisdom from their experiences in those very roles, offering guidance to others in similar circumstances.

Problematic or progressive, cookbooks are, at their essence, are a way to help others become better cooks, bakers, mixologists, gardeners or providers of sustenance. Unless there’s an amazing chef in your life, chances are many of your best home-cooked meals come from recipes that have been shared. The cookbook



PHOTOS BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Erika DaSilva at Ten Mile Table.

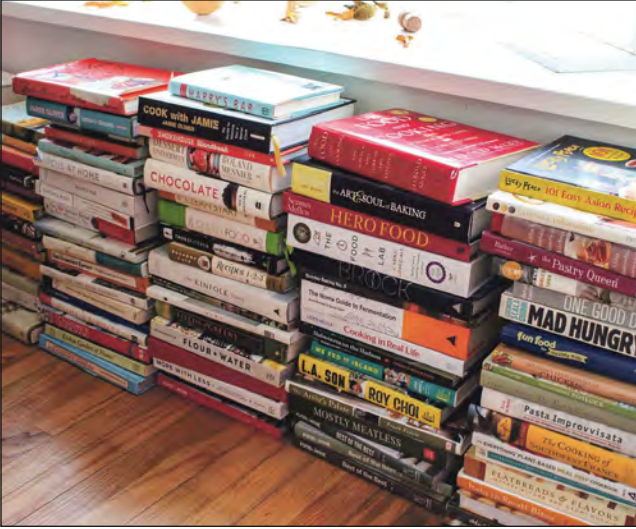
swap offers a chance to keep that tradition alive.

For the past two weeks, DaSilva has been busy gathering donations from bookstores, restaurants and enthusiastic members of the culinary community. Those books will fill a long swap table (though probably not 10 miles long) in the garden of the Lantern Inn, next door to Ten Mile Table and run by DaSilva’s husband, Minh Le.

That table will be the heart of the cookbook swap. No money is involved. Bring books, take books, trade with friends. DaSilva believes people who participate in a cookbook swap are there to share, not hoard, so she isn’t placing rules or restrictions on what or how many anyone can take.

Beyond the swap table, DaSilva has partnered with Merritt Bookstore in Millbrook to offer a selection of cookbooks and books about food, many chosen by chefs and friends in the culinary world.

Some of those friends will be on hand to share their favorite recipes for visitors to sample. Wassaic favorite Vitsky bakery and former White Hart Inn pastry chef Gaby Rios will provide baked goods. Daniel Meissner, executive chef at Willa in Mil-



Some of the donated cookbooks that will be at the swap in Wassaic.

lerton, will serve soups, while his longtime cooking collaborator, Wilfrido Landaira, will grill yakitori.

The Lantern Inn will offer its grandma pizza slices bánh mì sandwiches. Meatballs and other delights will come from Fat Apple Farm, a sustainable livestock farm, while oysters will come from Millbrook’s Canoe Hill. Maitri Farm in Amenia will bring certified organic produce, jams and cut flowers.

Ten Mile Table will also sell its curated selection of wines, spirits, sundries and publications, with beverages for adults and all ages available to try and to buy.

As part of the fest, DaSilva is encouraging visitors to bring recipes that are meaningful to them so she can begin another community collection. While the recipes in “The Corner Table” come from food professionals, she knows that everyday home cooks sometimes have the most hidden gems.

Whether that collection becomes another cookbook will be determined by the recipes people bring. Nothing’s set in stone, but she has faith that the community will provide.

For more information about Cookbook Fest and Swap, visit tenmiletale.com.

New Harmony

Where the music takes you.

Shortly after WKZE was founded in Sharon in the late 1980’s, the station approached Oblong Books as a possible advertising client. Unwilling to part with cash at that point, Dick Hermans and Holly Nelson proposed creating a radio show in return for advertising. **Harmony Junction (as the show was called then) was born.**

The Millerton News and The Lakeville Journal congratulate **Dick, our 2026 Estabrook Community Leadership honoree**, who continues hosting his weekly program nearly 40 years later, live from 98.1 KZE’s studios in Red Hook.

New Harmony is every Saturday morning from 9 to 11 and features an eclectic blend of acoustic folk, bluegrass, Celtic and related musical genres contributing to the station’s notable musical diversity.

The Millerton News | The Lakeville Journal
Local Matters

You may have heard Dick before ...
For several years, Dick also did a similar show, “The Borderline,” on Robin Hood Radio. Those programs were recorded and are rebroadcast every **Tuesday at 8 pm and Saturday at 6 pm**, on WHDD 91.9.

EDUCATION

The case for leaving the leaves

By Patrick L. Sullivan

Dee Salomon, the “Ungardener,” whose advice appears regularly in Compass, told a packed house at the Scoville Memorial Library on Sunday, Oct. 25, what to do in the garden before the ground freezes and what can wait until next year.

Salomon emphasized the importance of creating and maintaining diverse ecosystems. She said that, from a human perspective, paying attention to biodiversity has practical benefits.

For example, getting rid of barberry can reduce tick populations because white-footed mice, which thrive in barberry thickets, are important hosts for ticks.

Reduce or eliminate the barberry, and landowners may see a dramatic reduction in ticks.

A well-managed property that emphasizes native plants and removes or controls invasive species is more valuable, aesthetically pleasing and connected to nature.

For fall and winter, Salomon advises leaving leaves where they fall rather than raking and burning them. She also recommends leaving plant stems, flower heads and dead trees undisturbed.

If someone rakes up all this material, “you lose 45% of the potential insect population. It’s their home for the winter.”

Seed heads feed birds that don’t migrate south for the winter, and decay-



Dee Salomon, aka “The Ungardener,” at The Scoville Memorial Library.

PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

ing wood adds nutrients to the soil.

Before the ground freezes is the time to tackle herbaceous invasive plants. Cut them down to the stems so their seeds don’t spread.

Just before winter is also the time to address woody invasive plants, such as multiflora rose, and remove aggressive ornamentals.

It’s also a good time to collect and plant native seeds, transplant plants and protect vulnerable trees from deer and beavers.

And before the bleak winter sets in, spend some time planning spring gardening activities.

Salomon is a fan of

“keystone plants,” such as oaks, spruce, sugar maples, native blueberries and black-eyed Susans.

Careful shopping is critical. “If you go to the nursery, they have everything. Make sure it’s a sugar maple first, and a red maple second. Don’t get a Japanese maple.”

Fighting invasive species and replacing them with native plants helps restore balance to the overall ecosystem.

It’s a daunting task. Salomon was modest about her own efforts on her 12-acre property.

“I really don’t know what I’m doing. I’m very good at taking things out, not so much at putting things in.”



PHOTO PROVIDED

Comedian Maria Bamford plays a therapist in “Too Many Buddhas” at Pine Plains Festival of Shorts.

PERFORMANCE

Stissing Center hosts the Pine Plains Festival of Shorts

By D.H. Callahan

For 15 years, Rhinebeck has welcomed Sinterklaas, a Dutch tradition celebrating community and togetherness with giant puppets, elaborate costumes and whimsical holiday cheer. Created by artistic visionary Jeanne Fleming, the event brings light to winter’s darkness.

This year, however, Sinterklaas is on hold as Fleming faces new financial challenges. SUNY New Paltz filmmakers documented what may be the Hudson Valley’s final celebration, at least for now. Their film screens Nov. 1 at Stissing Center as one of seven shorts in the Pine Plains Festival of Short Films.

Short films offer rich sto-

ries without the budgets or demands of features. Some explore a topic in minutes; others hint at something larger or offer glimpses into scripted worlds created by enterprising minds like the Presses.

The mother-daughter-father team of C. Fraser, Maeve and Darren Press wrote, acted in, produced and directed “Too Many Buddhas.” In less than 15 minutes, we meet and are quickly overwhelmed by a precociously anxious tween who’s dealing with some pretty big issues. Daughter Maeve stars as the girl, acting opposite comedian Maria Bamford, who plays her therapist. C. Fraser Press, Maeve’s mother, directed the film, while her father, Darren, produced and edited it.

“Burgers with the Heard,” a slice-of-life film by Stan Hirson, captures an evening gathering at local Chaseholm Farm.

Local filmmaker Matt Bartolomeo, who premiered his independent feature-length film “Dream” at Stissing Center two years ago, will show his scripted, award-winning short “The Misadventures of Jane and Phil.”

“The Blending of Bernie Williams” is an interview-style short by Hudson Valley reporter Jeanine Agnolet, known regionally

as the News Lady. She sat down with Yankee legend and Millbrook Winery collaborator Bernie Williams to talk baseball and wine.

Things get a little more experimental when cinematographer Elias Hill teams up with dancer and choreographer Lola Buczkowski. Their film “Rock Party” is an experiment in nature-inspired stop-motion animation, a departure for both creators, who typically draw on movement and the natural world in their work.

“6 on Grove” is a short film created and co-written by Savannah Chambers and students from The Art Effect in Poughkeepsie. What might these young people have to say?

Finally, Michael Churton’s “Bound to Everest” takes viewers to the roof of the world, following a father and daughter in their attempt to reach the highest point on Earth. Though thousands have summited Everest, theirs is a uniquely harrowing tale full of danger and destruction.

Following the screenings, many of the filmmakers will join Justin Stangler, a former co-head writer of “The Late Show with David Letterman,” for an interview and Q&A.

For more information about the Pine Plains Festival of Shorts, visit thestissingcenter.org.

... Play Lab

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B4

Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program and runs Power Pitch Music Studio, where she coaches, co-writes, produces recordings and helps develop the careers of emerging recording artists.

“Be Safe, I Love You” has received support from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. It has been developed through Ancram Center for the Arts’ weeklong Play Lab residency program, leading to the upcoming presentation.

Play Lab is an important part of the Ancram Center’s seasonal programming and builds on its longstanding role as a cultural gathering place in rural Columbia County. The center is committed to the idea that theater can serve not only as a place where finished productions are presented but also as a safe home where the community participates in the questions, experiments and collaborations that shape new work.

While the work-in-progress presentation of “Be Safe, I Love You” at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 8 at the Ancram Center is sold out, a free invited dress rehearsal will be held at 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 at 5 p.m. To attend, email info@ancramcenter.org.



Composer and lyricist Stephanie Salzman



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Playwright Darrah Cloud

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MARY EVELYN TUCKER, JOHN GRIM & SAM KING

Change the Story, Change the World:
A New Vision for an Ecological Era

Oct 30th at 7:30pm
The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT

On Friday, Oct. 30, the Salisbury Forum will host Mary Evelyn Tucker, John Grim and Sam King, co-producers of the Emmy Award-winning film “Journey of the Universe,” for a conversation about “Change the Story, Change the World: A New Vision for an Ecological Era.” They will explore how ancient wisdom and contemporary science can guide a new era of planetary health and flourishing. The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Free; registration required at salisburyforum.org.

Welcoming new voices

We welcome story ideas, tips and pitches, and we’re interested in working with writers and photographers who want to contribute thoughtful, independent arts and lifestyle coverage. Send inquiries to nataliaz@lakevillejournal.com.

Tri-Corner Calendar

OCTOBER 29

“The Phantom of the Opera”
American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. The 1925 silent horror classic celebrates its second century with live musical accompaniment by Donald 7 p.m. Reservations recommended at AmericanMuralProject.org/amp-films.

OCTOBER 30

Change the Story, Change the World
The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn. The Salisbury Forum presents “Change the Story, Change the World: A New Vision for an Ecological Era,” a conversation with Mary Evelyn Tucker, John Grim and Sam King, co-producers of the Emmy Award-winning film “Journey of the Universe.” The discussion explores how ancient wisdom and contemporary science can inspire a more sustainable future. 7:30 p.m. Free. Registration at salisburyforum.org

Diana Hickman
Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Singer, pianist and songwriter Diana Hickman blends soul, pop and jazz with expressive storytelling and a dynamic performance style. In The Grace Note, 7:30 p.m. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

Supernatural Ballads with Shinbone Alley
Spencertown Academy Arts Center, 790 State Route 203, Spencertown, N.Y. Folklorist and multi-instrumentalist Alex Harvey leads a lamplit evening of centuries-old monster, murder and ghost songs from the British Isles and early America, performed on bouzouki, harmonium, mandriolla, bowed banjo and guitar. Ages 12 and up. Tickets at spencertownacademy.org.

OCTOBER 31

Forró Dance Workshop and Halloween Party
Pine Plains Community Center, 7775 S. Main St., Pine Plains Learn Brazilian forró dancing with instructor Rafa Wilker from 2 to 5 p.m., followed by a dance party featuring Brazilian music, tango and Halloween favorites from 7 to 10 p.m. Costumes encouraged. Workshop \$30; party \$15; both \$40 in advance. Register at <https://bit.ly/4ielhC0>

The Rocky Horror Picture Show
The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton Jonathan Bee and guests host a raucous Halloween screening of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” with a special pre-show by VEMiLO. Costumes encouraged! 8 p.m. Tickets at themoviehouse.org

Galant Fire
Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass. Crescendo presents “Galant Fire,” a musical performance at Saint James Place. 4 p.m. Tickets at CrescendoMusic.ludus.com.

Final Curator’s Tour of 2026
Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y. Join landscape curator Kate Kerin for one last behind-the-scenes look at the remarkable history, design, and nature-based practices that make Innisfree so special. 1:30 p.m.

Halloween at Seven Hearths

Seven Hearths Museum, 4 Studio Hill Road, Kent, Conn. The Kent Historical Society celebrates Halloween and the final day of its “Homespun Kent” exhibition with an afternoon of tricks, treats, a child-friendly seasonal craft and community festivities. Noon to 5 p.m.

NOVEMBER 1

Training Seminar
H.H.H Canine Lodge & Ranch, 332 Norfolk Road, East Canaan, Conn. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., join HHH Canine Lodge & Ranch for a hands-on training seminar designed to give you tools and knowledge to build a well-mannered, confident and balanced dog. Register at lodge@hhhcanines.com or call (860)453-4478.

The Yale Cellos
The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn. The acclaimed Yale School of Music cello ensemble, directed by Ole Akahoshi, performs works by Bach, Ravel, Wagner, Villa-Lobos and The Beatles. The program features guest soprano Hyunah Yu and cellist Paul Watkins. 4:30 p.m.

Galant Fire
Trinity Church, 484 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville, Conn. Crescendo presents “Galant Fire,” a musical performance at Trinity Church. 4 p.m. Tickets at CrescendoMusic.ludus.com.

Reading Innisfree’s Forested Landscape with Tom Wessels
Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y. Discover the hidden stories of Innisfree’s woodlands as renowned forest ecologist Tom Wessels reveals the clues that tell us how a landscape has changed over time. 8:30 a.m.

Lost Greek Plays with James Romm
Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org Bard College classicist James Romm discusses his new book, “Since You’re Mortal: Life Lessons from the Lost Greek Plays,” which brings nearly forgotten fragments of ancient Greek drama to life. A book signing follows. 4 p.m. Free; registration required at hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com

Carol Goodman – “Our Marriage Is Murder”
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org Mary Higgins Clark Award-winning author Carol Goodman joins Cynthia Hochswender for a conversation about Goodman’s new novel, “Our Marriage Is Murder,” and the art of mystery writing. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Registration required at scovillelibrary.org.

Saluting the Clarinet
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. Close Encounters With Music opens its 35th season with clarinetist Alexander Fiterstein, cellist Yehuda Hanani and fellow chamber musicians performing works by Mozart, Beethoven, Bartók and Gershwin. An “Afterglow” reception with the performers follows the concert. 4 p.m. Tickets at cewm.org.

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

NOVEMBER 3

“Armchair Traveler: The Pictorial Maps of Michael R. Stone ’80”
Tremaine Gallery, The Hotchkiss School, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn. Nov. 3 through Jan. 24

Explore the art of mapmaking through colorful, imaginative pictorial maps from 1900 to 1960, drawn from Hotchkiss alumnus Michael R. Stone’s (1980) collection. Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Closed Nov. 21 to 30 and Dec. 17 to Jan. 4.

NOVEMBER 5

Medicare Q&A
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org 5:30 to 7 p.m. Amanda Halle of the Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging will answer questions about Medicare and preparing for Medicare Open Enrollment. Registration is encouraged but not required. Email dm-huntlibrary@gmail.com.

Vieux Farka Touré & Samir LanGus
Race Brook Lodge, 864 S. Undermountain Road, Sheffield, Mass. Malian guitar virtuoso Vieux Farka Touré brings his electrifying blend of desert blues, rock and African musical traditions to an intimate benefit concert supporting the Ali Farka Touré Foundation. Moroccan musician Samir LanGus opens with Gnawa music, blending North African traditions with jazz. Doors open at 6 p.m.; music begins at 7:30 p.m. rbldodge.com

Medicare 101 & 2027 Updates
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org Insurance specialist Sheri Wright explains Medicare basics, coverage options and changes for 2027 during the annual open enrollment period, which runs through Dec. 7. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Registration recommended at scovillelibrary.org.

NOVEMBER 7

Millbrook Repair Café
Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. Give broken belongings a second life with help from local repair coaches. Knife and garden tool sharpening, bicycle repairs and recycling for plastic bags and batteries also available. Limit two repairs per person. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. millbrooklibrary.org

“Cool & Collected – The Gift Edition”
Kenise Barnes Fine Art, 7 Fulling Lane, Kent, Conn. Nov. 7 through Dec. 20

The gallery’s annual holiday exhibition celebrates the art of giving with small-scale paintings, drawings, ceramics, textiles and handmade objects priced under \$2,000. Featuring work by more than 20 artists, the show offers an accessible introduction to collecting original art, whether for someone special or yourself. kbfa.com

Current Fiction Book Group
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org Join Claudia Cayne for a discussion of Colm Tóibín’s “A Long Winter,” a moving story

of loss, grief and the bond between mother and son. Copies are available at the library. 4 to 5 p.m. No registration required. scovillelibrary.org

Farm Cat: A Farmer Appreciation Dance Party

Coyote Flaco, 6063 Route 82, Stanfordville, N.Y. Celebrate local farmers with an evening of music and dancing featuring a local DJ. Free admission. Doors open at 6 p.m.; dancing from 7:30 to 11 p.m. RSVP at farmcat.green-space.earth.

Fall Celebration and Pumpkin Smashing
Grounds of the Old Elementary School, 5833 South Elm St., Millerton, N.Y. 2 to 4 p.m. NECC and Millerton Climate Smart host a

free community celebration featuring pumpkin smashing with a catapult, live music, warm apple cider and composting demonstrations. Kids can create splatter paintings, and everyone is invited to bring their own pumpkins or smash those provided. Free and open to all.

The Burritt Percussion Group

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Founded by acclaimed percussionist Michael Burritt, the ensemble of former students brings contemporary percussion to life with driving rhythms, lyrical passages and virtuosic performances. The program features Burritt’s original compositions alongside modern works. 7:30 p.m. Tickets thestissingcenter.org

Innisfree Woodland Terrarium Workshop with Brad Roeller

Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y. Create your own miniature Innisfree landscape using mosses, plants, stones, and other natural treasures from the garden, then take it home to enjoy all winter long. 1 p.m.

Sergei Fedorjaczenco – “The Engineering of Art”

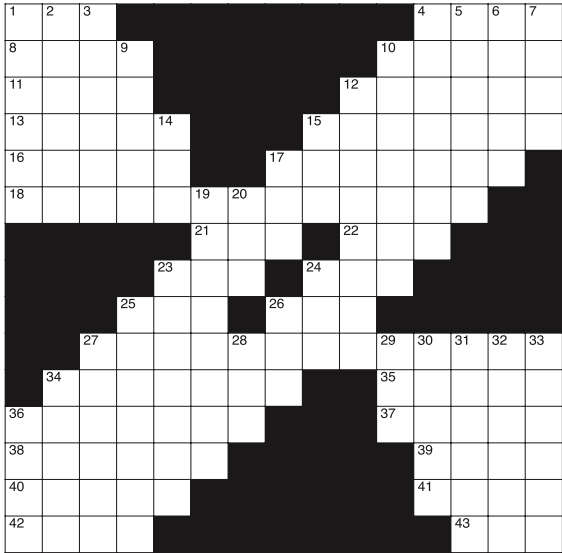
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org Nov. 7 to 27

Falls Village artist Sergei Fedorjaczenco presents paintings and sculptures inspired by Bauhaus principles and constructed around three elemental shapes: the circle, square and triangle. An opening reception will be held Nov. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m., with an artist talk Nov. 19 at 5:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit the library. huntlibrary.org.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

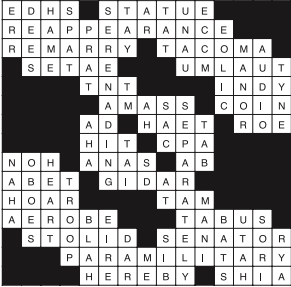
- 1. Prepare for a military confrontation
- 4. Harsh, grating noise
- 8. Feudal estate
- 10. Boiled cow dish
- 11. Crater on Mars
- 12. Prevaricate in speech
- 13. Electronics intelligence
- 15. Small, tree-dwelling primate
- 16. One of 50 in the U.S.
- 17. Landscaper’s machine
- 18. Special time of year
- 21. Israeli city _ Aviv
- 22. Wear
- 23. Genus of grasses
- 24. One-thousandth of an inch
- 25. “Meet your maker”
- 26. Eccentric person
- 27. “The Blonde Bombshell”
- 34. Inhabitant
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Out cold
- 37. Three-dimensional
- 38. Landscaping features
- 39. God in Indian religion
- 40. City in southeastern France
- 41. Leak slowly through
- 42. Legal document
- 43. Midway between south and southeast



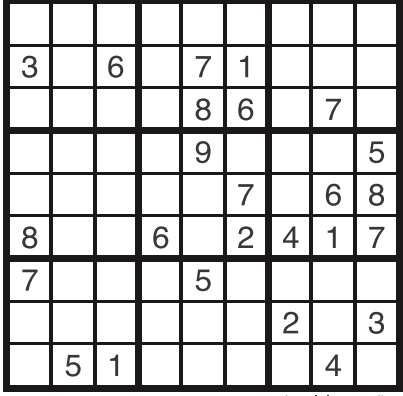
- 9. Peoples of southern Ghana
- 10. Collapsible source of shade
- 12. Typical example of something
- 14. CNN’s founder
- 15. Where golfers begin
- 17. Sign language
- 19. Converts into particles
- 20. Affirmative
- 23. Shiny yellow minerals
- 24. Individual
- 25. Supervised
- 26. Field force unit
- 27. A way to interfere
- 28. Light bulb type
- 29. Type of drug (abbr.)

- 30. German city
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away
- 34. Farm machinery manufacturer
- 36. Herring-like fish

October 22 Solution

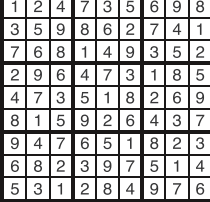


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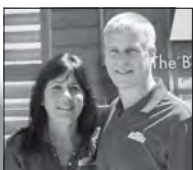
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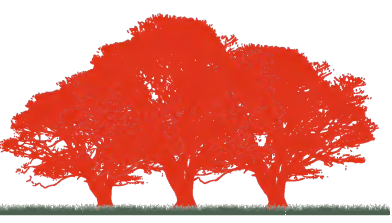
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