The Millerton News

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County and its Environs

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MILLERTON
Water billing **A3**



REGIONAL
County budget **A6**

COMPASS
Affordable art; and more **B1-6**

THANKSGIVING CATERING

Special Banner, Page A8



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Zeke Diebboll uses one of the handmade wooden mallets at Pumpkin Smash to cave in a pumpkin at the former Millerton Elementary School on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Climate Smart Millerton's Pumpkin Smash draws biggest crowd yet

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The third annual Pumpkin Smash drew the largest crowd yet for the Climate Smart Task Force's composting promotional extravaganza.

About 50 people visited the field that used to house Millerton Elementary School's playground equipment on Saturday, Nov. 7, braving a drizzling rain to join in bashing and flinging pumpkins. This year's event marked the return of repeat partner McEnroe's Organic Farm and a new collaboration with North East Community Center, which owns the former elementary school property.

The Climate Smart Task Force supplied the slingshot and wooden mallets, McEnroe's brought some pumpkins to smash and NECC provided cookies, warm cider and live bluegrass music under the cover of a tent.

The main event, for the children at least, was the pumpkin smashing. Climate Smart Task Force member Andrew Stayman led the smashing effort with an improved version of his slingshot from last year.

Stayman's improvements included adding two more elastic straps to form a more stable X-shaped con-

See PUMPKIN SMASH, A8

Grieving father advocates for septic system safety after toddler's death

By NATHAN MILLER
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MILLERTON — A father's grief has driven him to fight for stricter septic safety requirements after the death of his 2-year-old son who fell into an unsecured septic tank.

Jonathan Rea, whose son Olly died on July 25 after falling into a septic tank, has taken to advocacy in the months following the accident — fighting to reform rules regulating septic tank covers. The effort is in its early stages, with Board of Health staff responding to Olly's death with new guidance in September that specifies all new septic lids must have the ability to lock, while county officials work out whether they have the authority to guarantee the covers are actually locked.

The Reas were attending a wedding at their church, Faith Bible Chapel, on Saturday, July 25. Near the end of the day, after the newlyweds had left and guests had begun to clean up, Olly disappeared. After several minutes of searching, one of the church's pastors discovered Olly had fallen into a septic tank on the property that had an unsecured lid and drowned. The death was deemed accidental by a Dutchess County Sheriff's Office investiga-

See SEPTIC SAFETY, A8

Empress outlines EMS plans for northeast Dutchess

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
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MILLERTON — Empress Executive Director Robert Stuck provided details of a proposed regional emergency medical service system to North East Town Board members on Wednesday, Nov. 4. He said the changes would save participating towns hundreds of thousands of dollars in EMS costs by pooling resources with neighbors.

Stuck said the new so-called dynamic system would better use the company's labor and equipment and would ultimately reduce the total number of ambulances servicing North East, Amenia, Washington and Stanford. Under the new agreement, the four towns would share three ambulances that would be placed strategically between each of the towns and repositioned to provide backup for occupied EMTs and paramedics. Stuck said the dy-

See EMS, A8

Democrats earn big wins in 2026 elections

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN and NATHAN MILLER
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Democratic candidates in northeast Dutchess County scored wins alongside their state and federal counterparts.

Voters cited the rising cost of living and opposition to the Trump administration's policies as reasons for turning out. In the Pine Plains town supervisor race, transparency and police surveillance were also concerns.

Pine Plains was the only town in northeast Dutchess County with a contested Town Supervisor race. Republican incumbent Brian Walsh lost to Democratic challenger Trevor Roush. Roush is a sitting Town Board member who was first elected to the board in November 2025.

Roush won the contest with 598 votes to Walsh's 465, according to preliminary election results avail-

See ELECTION, A2



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Voters wait in a line that stretches out the door to receive their ballots at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3. Voting machines had recorded a total of more than 700 ballots cast in Millerton by 4:45 p.m.

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OPINION
Let's Hear It, Column **A5**

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OUR TOWNS

Democrats earn big wins in 2026 elections

Continued from Page A1

able on the Dutchess County Board of Elections website — a margin of nearly 13 percentage points. Walsh won reelection last year by just 8 votes in a contest with Town Board member Kevin Walsh.

Some voters said their decision was influenced by Walsh's role in entering into an $80,000 agreement with surveillance company Flock Safety without Town Board approval, as reported earlier this year by the New Pine Plains Herald.

"We need a change locally," said Mary Woods, a resident in her 80s. "I didn't like the camera stuff. And nationally, this is the most important midterm of my life."

"I broke lines to go with Roush," said a woman named Eileen, who declined to share her last name. She said her vote was influenced by the Flock controversy, but her chief concern was the lack of affordable housing in the area.

Other Pine Plains residents were more concerned about finding forward-looking candidates, regardless of ideology.

"We want someone who wants what's best for the community," said Lisa Zayas. "Who will bring in businesses, improve water and sewage, and make Pine Plains alive again. I don't care who does it — it's not political."

Poll watcher Jim Petrie — who also chairs the Pine Plains Democratic Committee — said attendance was steady throughout the day. "It was non-stop from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.," he said, commending the poll workers charged with processing voters. "They've barely had a chance for coffee."

Alexander secures County Legislature seat

At the county level, Legislator Eric Alexander defeated Republican challenger Stefanie Hubert. He will now serve a full two-year term representing Amenia, Washington and the eastern portion of Pleasant Valley in the County Legislature. He secured his reelection with 54.6% of the vote, with 2,583 votes, to challenger Stefanie Hubert's 2,143.

Alexander, a Town of Washington resident, was first elected to the seat in an upset election last November. He defeated Republican incumbent and fellow Washington resident Deirdre Houston, who served in the position for eight years.

In his first year, Alexander took an active role in the Flock camera controversy and encouraged EMS reforms. He's also been an advocate for animal welfare, recently launching the county's first hotline to report animal cruelty.

Alexander, Walsh and other candidates that were elected to two-year terms last November had their terms cut short by a year due to a state mandate. New York State required all local and municipal elections to align with the even-year midterm and presidential election schedules starting this year. Officials elected to four-year terms last November will have to campaign for reelection in the next presidential election in 2028.

Democrats' strong showing

During an election results watch party in Poughkeepsie, the next chapter started for Dutchess Democrats.

"I don't have to campaign tomorrow," Alexander said with relief. He, along with County Legislator Chris Drago and North East Supervisor Chris Kennan, had gathered with fellow local candidates to watch the results come in. The Democratic wins piled up: Nakia Simmons won her County Legislature bid to represent Poughkeepsie, as did David Siegel in Lagrange.

One exception was in the State Assembly, where Republican Anil Beephan fought off a challenge from Brooklyn Talarico for District 105, which includes Amenia and Dover. Beephan won with 54.2% of the vote.

But Democrats' overall success in Dutchess County aligns with national trends. Preliminary results from the Dutchess County Board of Elections indicate voters across the county were more supportive of Democrats this year than in previous midterms. That sentiment appears to have affected results in the county for statewide races such as governor and attorney general.

Dutchess County has leaned Republican in statewide and national elections. In 2022, the last time Governor Kathy Hochul was on the ballot, she lost the county by more than 5,000 votes. This year, preliminary results show that Hochul came out on top among voters in Dutchess County. She secured 63,452 votes from Dutchess County voters this year, a more than 14% increase in votes from 2022, despite an overall drop in total ballots cast in that race by about 1,000 votes. GOP candidate Bruce Blakeman ended the night with 49,458 votes.

Data from other races makes the trend clearer. State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, State Attorney General Letitia James and U.S. Rep. Pat Ryan, all Democrats, outperformed their 2022 elections by thousands of votes.

Local sentiment

Voters in Millerton were mixed in their support, and had differing views on what was important in this year's election.

Many voters who spoke to The Millerton News as they left the polls said they were supporting Democratic candidates to counter the Trump administration, expressing dissatisfaction with his policies regarding immigration, the economy and conflict in Iran.

Others focused on state issues, expressing dissatisfaction with Hochul over high utility bills and the cost of living.

Donna Scott and her husband, John, said they didn't have any particular issues at the top of mind as they cast their ballots, except disapproval for President Trump. They said they felt it was important to vote for candidates at every level who would work to fight against the president's agenda.

"We don't like the way the administration is going, and we don't want to support him through the Senate and the House," John said. "Even our local representatives. I stand firmly on that."

Other voters, such as Audra Milano, took a different perspective. She said her decision was influenced by dissatisfaction with Hochul and high electricity and natural gas prices in the state. She said her daughter, who recently moved to Amsterdam, New York, after a stint living in Arkansas, has had to contend with expensive utility bills recently that she blamed on Hochul's administration.

"She wanted to come back closer to family," Milano said. "Now they're probably going to have to leave again, because they cannot afford their mortgage and that electric bill every month."

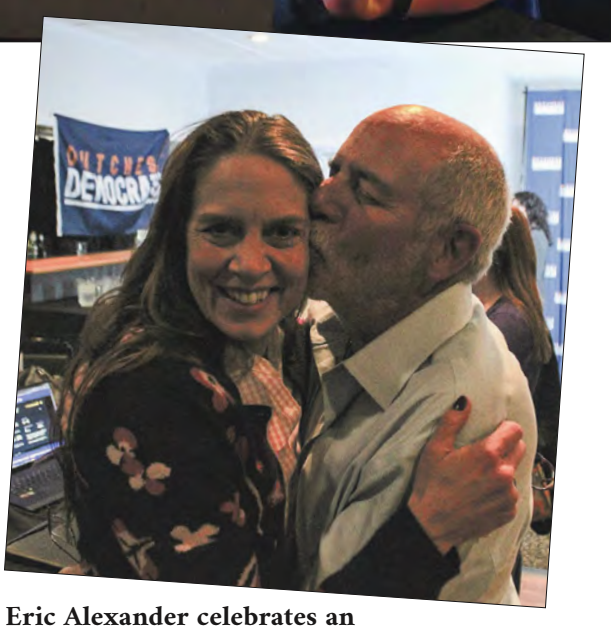
Many other races in northeast Dutchess County went uncontested — Stanford and Amenia did not have Republican candidates for Town Supervisor and Town Board. Amenia Town Supervisor Rosanna Hamm will now serve a full two-year term in the position after winning an uncontested election this year. She was first elected to that seat last year when she defeated Republican challenger Terrence McCauley.

Wassaic resident Damian Gutierrez will be taking a seat on Amenia's Town Board after an uncontested general election. Gutierrez previously served on Amenia's Town Board from 2016 to 2023. In Stanford, Town Supervisor Julia Descouteaux was reelected this year in an uncontested race.



PHOTOS BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Eric Alexander, back right, examines the latest headlines and election results from the midterms on Election Day, Nov. 3, at the Pirate Canoe Club in Poughkeepsie.



Eric Alexander celebrates an Election Night win with his wife. Alexander won reelection to his seat representing Washington, Amenia and Pleasant Valley.



Democratic County Legislators Eric Alexander, right, and Chris Drago, center, pause for a photo with fellow Democrat North East Town Supervisor Chris Kennan.

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. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

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Millerton trustees consider usage-based water billing

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Village trustees are considering a change to water billing and the first rate increases since 2019.

Mayor Jenn Najdek presented preliminary findings from a water rate study produced by engineering firm Tighe & Bond at the Board of Trustees' workshop meeting on Monday, Nov. 9. The study outlines a potential usage-based fee system, at a rate of $4.50 per 1,000 gallons of water used per quarter plus a flat rate based on the size of a user's water meter.

Najdek specified the rate changes are still in their early stages, and expected the full board to have multiple public discussions of the plans in the coming months. Trustees Dave Sherman and Katie Cariello were the only board members present at Monday's meeting.

The changes to billing aim to make water service costs more equitable across the village by curbing underpayments from high intensity users. Under the current system, customers pay a flat rate per quarter based on the use of the property. Residential users pay $115 per quarter and businesses pay $165 per quarter.

"We're going to get away from billing commercial and residential separately," Najdek said.

The current rates do include usage fees, but only after a customer uses more than 25,000 gallons in a quarter. Residential users that exceed 25,000 gallons per quarter pay $2.34 for every additional 1,000 gallons used and businesses pay $4.68 for every additional 1,000 gallons.

An average typical residence uses about 10,000 gallons per quarter, according to the Tighe & Bond study. With the proposed rate schedule, the average user would pay about $163 on their quarterly bill. That includes a $117.50 flat fee for the home's water meter.

The study also examined costs for typical low and high water users. At the low end, estimated at about 3,000 gallons of water used per quarter, customers would pay about $131 on their quarterly bill. A typical residential high user, estimated at just under 50,000 gallons per quarter, would pay about $328.

"Those are — I would say — fairly nominal," Najdek said of the proposed fees. "Not a huge jump considering it's been six years since we increased it."

The preliminary numbers did not include estimates for commercial users, but it did detail proposed meter fees for the range of meter sizes in the village. Of the village's 488 water customers, 435 are residences using five-eighths-inch or three-quarter-inch meters, 10 use 1-inch meters, 2 use 1.5-inch meters and 2 more use 2-inch meters. There are 39 customers who have not installed water meters on their property.

The rate study proposes 1-inch meter users would pay $293.75 in meter fees, 1.5-inch meters cost $411.25 quarterly and 2-inch meters would cost $470. Unmetered customers would pay a flat $327.88 per quarter regardless of usage.

The study estimates the new rate schedule could raise a total of $373,749 in revenue from a combination of meter fees and usage charges. The village's water district brings in a little under $360,000 in customer revenue annually under the current flat-fee billing system. Najdek said one goal of the billing changes was to keep the water district "revenue neutral" while providing a mechanism for the village to increase revenue incrementally to address costs.

"We will likely do a cost increase of around 3%," Najdek said, adding that the numbers were not final and future cost increases would depend on the needs of the water district.

North East Historical Society's annual meeting set for Nov. 14

MILLERTON — The North East Historical Society will hold its 2026 annual meeting on Saturday, Nov. 14, at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex.

The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. with a business meeting to elect directors to the group's board followed by the annual report to members. The three proposed directors up for election are Laura J. Conklin, John C. Hicks and Linda C. Orlando.

Ed Downey will then give a talk on local teacher and philanthropist Violet H. Simmons. Simmons grew up in Millerton, taught in its schools for 48 years, and inspired the creation of an annual scholarship to support Webutuck graduates. At her death she created endowments to support that scholarship and other important parts of our community.

Immediately following will be a reception with refreshments and a tour of a historical society exhibit at the NorthEast-Millerton Library.

"Historic Millerton — People, Places & Things," is a reprise of the exhibit held this past July at the Millerton Methodist Church as part of Millerton's 175th anniversary.

Amenia residents call for budget cuts

By LEILA HAWKEN
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AMENIA — Concern about the current economic environment was evident as residents offered comments on the proposed 2027 budget during an Amenia Town Board meeting on Thursday, Nov. 5.

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.

"Everyone needs to deal with affordability," said resident Ken Topolsky, citing increases in gas prices compared with the previous year as one example. Most residents who commented said that they agreed with Topolsky's stance.

"With money in short supply," Topolsky said, "perhaps an austere budget is in order. Do we really need a $15,000 Harvest Festival expense?" Topolsky had initiated the town-wide celebration in 2025 and continued to serve as organizer for its second year in October. Having experienced lagging community engagement and a smaller number of volunteers, Topolsky suggested that the festival might skip a year.

"Maybe in two years, we'll have a surplus," Topolsky said, suggesting that this year, each department should come up with an "austerity budget" for the good of the town.

Resident Kim Travis agreed with Topolsky, opposed to raising taxes in the midst of an affordability crisis.

"Spend tax dollars on things to improve local life," Travis said.

"There are plenty of things to cut back on," said resident Judy Moran, also agreeing with Topolsky. "We have to make tough choices."

Rising again to speak, Topolsky praised the town officials for the weeks of effort to create the budget.

"None of this is of your making," Topolsky told the board. "Dealing with budgets is miserable work."

Speaking of the value of recording public meetings, resident Kenny Merritt urged that funding remain in the budget to support the costs of live broadcasting and taping of town board and committee meeting. He also urged that funding for the summer camp program be continued for its value to local residents as a form of summer day care.

Describing the significant number of residents who use the rail trail for recreation, resident Wanda Rozelle, who resides near the trail system, urged the Town Board to keep the trail cleared and safe for use year-round.

A resolution passed by unanimous vote to approve an override on the 2% tax cap for the coming year as established by the State Comptroller's Office. The cap is equal to the inflation rate. The board had determined that expenses were anticipated to increase while revenues are not expected to keep pace, necessitating the override.

"If you need to override the cap, you need to override the cap," was a comment from Judy Moran, the only comment offered on the issue.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

The annual contract for sidewalk snow removal was awarded to Kindred Property Care of Millerton, the sole bidder on the project. The bid was $40,910.


Local Matters
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An Open Letter to the Public
Olde Farms FURNITURE
To our valued customers & friends,
As we celebrate the upcoming holidays Annie and I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for your continued loyalty, support and friendship.
It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to serve you and your families over the years. We are truly grateful for the trust you have placed in us to provide you with the highest quality home furnishings and bedding, along with the very best value and personal service that we can offer.
We completely understand that the cost of nearly everything we use and purchase today has increased. During these challenging times, Annie and I will continue to work together to offer you the best possible prices while never compromising the quality we have always stood behind.
We have always believed that there is no substitute for quality that lasts. Well made furniture and bedding can provide years of comfort, enjoyment and satisfaction — and, in many cases, can be enjoyed by generations.
Most importantly, you have become much more than valued customers — you have become our friends, and we sincerely appreciate each and every one of you.
As a token of our appreciation during this Holiday Season, for a limited time, you will receive AN ADDITIONAL 10% OFF your purchases as our way of saying: "Thank you for your support and friendship."
We look forward to seeing you soon and continuing to serve you and your families for many years to come. Wishing you a safe, happy & healthy Holiday Season.
With our warmest wishes and deepest appreciation.
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Letters to the Editor deadline is 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 20th
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OBITUARIES

William Hendrik DeVries

TACONIC — William "Bill" Hendrik DeVries born April 9, 1947 in Morristown, New Jersey, and passed away Nov. 3, 2026. After graduating from Livingston High, he attended Lincoln Tech and then studied engineering at UCONN.

Always curious from a young age to adult, he was constantly taking things apart to see how they worked. Projects ranged from his 57 Chevy, his Jaguar XK 120, or the many different motorcycles he owned. Throughout his life, Bill was a well-respected home builder. His many beautifully crafted homes dot the Tri-State region. Later in life Bill and Joan purchased and successfully ran a small hardware and lumberyard for 32 years.

Upon retirement, he decided to build a Kit Fox light sport airplane in his garage with his best friend Dave. Many platters of cookies straight from the oven to the shop helped keep the project going. Both engineers claimed "they never met a cookie they didn't like." Bill flew his plane several times and then sold it. It was fun to fly but, the greatest enjoyment was building it.

Bill leaves his wife, Joan, of 57 years, his daughter Meghan, his son William and his wife Lindsay, his two grandchildren Fyn and Hendrik, and his brother J. Dale and his wife Kate.

We are heartbroken and wish Bill well on his next adventurous journey. We love him, his spirit, and will miss his presence forever. There are no calling hours as our family will mourn privately. A celebration of his life will be announced in the Spring of next year.

Raymond C. Sprague

MILLERTON — Raymond C. Sprague Jr., 70, of Millerton, New York, passed away Nov. 1, 2026, under the loving care of East Mountain House in Lakeville, with his long time companion, Nila Flint by his side.



Born on July 6, 1956, in Sharon, Connecticut, Butch was the son of the late Raymond C. Sprague Sr. and Emma (Konlechner) Sprague of Falls Village.

He enjoyed cooking at home, fishing, hunting, games of chance and vacationing in Maine and Pennsylvania in recent years. He retired in 2013 from Taconic DDSO with 30 years of service as a cook.

Butch was the life of the party. He had a huge heart, the quickest wit, and the greatest sense of humor ever. If you were lucky enough to know him and he let you into his life, you truly had a gem!

He is survived by his long-time loving companion, Nila Flint, wife of many years Brenda L. Sprague, daughter Carrie S. Stenger of Colorado, sons Raymond C. Sprague III of Lakeville, Matthew J. Sprague of Colorado, grandchildren, Jacob Stenger and Ella Stenger of Colorado, siblings Barbara Sprague of Norfolk, Robert C. Sprague, Brian L. Sprague, Brenda E. Sprague of Canaan, and several nieces, nephews, and long time friends.

Calling hours were held Saturday, Nov. 7, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at The Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon and a service followed.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Litchfield County, 32 Union Street, Winsted, CT 06098 or to the East Mountain House, 14 Bostwick Street, Lakeville, CT 06039.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Chad William Dickinson

PINE PLAINS — Chad William Dickinson, of Pine Plains, New York, passed away at home on Oct. 27, 2026. Born on April 19, 1978, in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, Chad will be remembered for his love of family, his hardworking nature, and the simple joys in life that meant the most to him.

Chad attended BOCES and went on to pursue a career in carpentry with the Carpenters Union. His love for building and working with his hands began at a young age, when he could often be found with a hammer and nails, eager to create something of his own. What started as a childhood interest became a lifelong passion and a career he took pride in.

Beyond his work, Chad found his greatest happiness in the moments spent with those he loved. Whether he was camping, cooking a good meal, or simply enjoying time surrounded by family, he appreciated the little things that made life special. His children and grandchildren held a particularly special place in his heart, and the memories they made together will forever be cherished.

Family meant so much to Chad, and he leaves behind many loved ones who will carry his memory in their hearts. He is survived by his daughter, Phairah (Charles) Machia; his sons, Qorii (Cassandra Danna) Dickinson and Caleb Enes; and his beloved grandchildren, Qorii Jr., Payton, and Caleb, who brought him tremendous joy.



He is also survived by his parents, William Dickinson, Sr. and Dolores Dickinson; his brothers, William (Jennifer) Dickinson, Jr. and George (Courtney) Dickinson; several nieces and nephews; and his dear friends Andrea MacArthur, Jessica Serrotore, Bella Serrotore, Sonya Knutson, and Maria Enes.

Chad was preceded in death by his brother, Brad Dickinson; his grandparents, Percy and Gladys Dickinson and George and Mabel Frenzel; and his favorite uncle, George Frenzel, Jr.

Although Chad's time here ended far too soon, the love he shared and the memories he leaves behind will remain with those who knew him. Life wasn't always perfect, but the moments of laughter, the family gatherings, the meals shared, and the time spent together are what will be remembered most.

Chad leaves behind more than the things he built with his hands. He leaves behind a family who loved him, memories that will bring both tears and smiles, and a place in the hearts of those who knew him that can never be replaced.

He will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever a part of the lives he touched.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Peck & Peck Funeral Homes.

To leave a message of condolence please visit www.PeckandPeck.net

Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com

William C. Palmer

EAST CANAAN — William C. Palmer, lovingly known as Bill, passed away suddenly on November 1, 2026, in his home in Louisa, Virginia, at the age of 61. Bill was born on March 6,1965 at Camp Zama military base in Kanagawa-Ken, Japan, where his father was stationed. Bill graduated from Oliver Wolcott Technical High School, practicing his love of trade in machine tool and die. Bill is survived by his loving wife of 39 years, Diane Palmer, who was his devoted partner in life. He leaves behind his daughter, Nicky, who was truly his pride and joy. He is also survived by his pups, Luna and Jasper, as well as his grand-pup, Mason, and grand-kitty, Chance. In addition, Bill is survived by his mother, Hazel Williams; his sister, Sherrie Palmer; his brothers, Doug Palmer, Larry Zani and his wife Ashley; Almo Zani and his wife Ginger; and several cherished nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, Fred Palmer.

Bill's sudden passing leaves a deep sadness in those he left behind. The memories he created and the love he gave will continue to live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. Bill's life was one of tenderness, loyalty, authenticity and a quiet strength that defined him. Bill was a father not only to his beloved daughter, but also a father figure to many of his fellow firefighters, masonic brothers, coworkers and friends. He met the world with a gentle heart and a thoughtful manner, and in doing so, he created a legacy of love that will not be forgotten.

Bill lived in East Canaan, Connecticut for 35 years after marrying Diane, which is where they raised their daughter, Nicky. Because of his love of trains, Bill worked at Housatonic Railroad in Canaan for many years. Looking forward to retirement, Bill and Diane moved to Louisa, Virginia where he continued to work in railroad services with Amtrak. Bill and Diane were discussing retirement and had many dreams and plans about their life together in the future.

His life was all about service to the communities he lived in. There was never a question that he would follow in his father's footsteps and join the Fire Service. He joined the Juniors in the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department as a young teenager. Over the years, he rose through the ranks to First Lieutenant. Once he moved to East Canaan, he joined the Canaan Fire Department, contributing another 13 years of service. Altogether, he dedicated over 20 years to the fire service in various roles, including firefighter, fire police, and pump operator on the water tankers.



He was introduced to the Masons by his father-in-law, Paul Johnson. He joined Housatonic Lodge #61 in Canaan in 1998, where he became a Master Mason that same year. Later, he joined Montgomery Lodge #13 in Lakeville. He held several offices in both lodges, ultimately serving as Master of Montgomery Lodge #13 for 2 years. After moving from Connecticut to Louisa Virginia, he joined Day Lodge #58 and was still a member of this Lodge at the time of his passing. Bill was also a member of Scottish Rite, serving in the Valley of Norwich in Norwich Connecticut for many years. He became a 32nd degree Mason during this time.

Both Bill and Diane's families have strong ties to Sharon Mountain, and they joined the Taghhannuck Grange #100 together in Ellsworth, Connecticut in 2019. He was happy to become a 5th Degree member the same year. He was involved with community service and held the office of Assistant Steward during this time with Grange. He remained a member of this Grange until his passing. Bill and Diane were also members of Eastern Star in Litchfield Connecticut where he held an office in Ephraim Kirby Chapter #75 for several years.

Bill had several hobbies which included blacksmithing, ham radio, trains, and gardening, which proved challenging in Virginia clay, but being as stubborn as he was, he eventually conquered it. He was involved with various fund-raising events for the communities he served in both Connecticut and Virginia. These included annual lobster sales, the Connecticut Wine Festival, Chicken Barbeque Sales, and Roast Beef Sandwich Sales for Canaan Railroad Days to name a few. His hands were rarely still, and his heart was always in his work, and it is in that same spirit of community that his family invites you to join them for his services.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday, November 22, 2026, at 11:00 AM at Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, 118 Main Street, Canaan, CT 06018. During the service, friends and family will be encouraged and invited to share their favorite memories, stories, and reflections. We welcome you to speak and help us celebrate the moments that made him so special to us all. A burial will immediately follow at Ellsworth Cemetery at 11 Cemetery Road, Sharon, CT 06069. Once services conclude, a Celebration of Life, including a meal, will be held at the Falls Village Fire Department 188 Route 7 South, Falls Village, CT 06031.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the following organizations. Falls Village Fire Department - 188 US-7 South Falls Village, CT 06031; Montgomery Lodge #13 - PO Box 222 Cornwall, CT 06753; Taghhannuck Grange #100 Care of: Deb Hanlon 12A Williams Road, Sharon, CT 06069.

In appreciation

Myra "Mumsie" Dell

Myra "Mumsie" Dell, 104 years and five days, left us to fend for ourselves in the wee hours on Saturday November 7, 2026 at her home in Lakeville.

The extent of her life in next week's issue.

Worship Services
Week of November 15, 2026

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Growing together in God's love
Rev. John Allison
Priest-In-Charge
All are welcome
860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

Trinity Episcopal Church
484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville
Offering companionship along the Way
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people
172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT
Worship services Sundays at 10 am
www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational
860-824-7232
FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH
is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan
Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm
www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org

Congregation Beth David
A reform Jewish Synagogue
3344 East Main St., Amenia
SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM
Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg
(Calendar at congbethdavid.org)
ALL ARE WELCOME
Rabbi Jon Haddon
845-373-8264
info@congbethdavid.org

The Lakeville United Methodist Church
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
10 a.m. Worship Service
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

Falls Village Congregational Church
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village
10:00 a.m. Family Worship
Coffee Hour
A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!
860-824-0194

The Sharon United Methodist Church
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
9 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

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

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church
313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT
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Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
Special Services Online
Rev. John Kreta
860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

Sharon Congregational
25 Main Street, Sharon, CT
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Visit our website
sharoncongregationalchurch.org
for Sunday services
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or *info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org*

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

St. John's Episcopal Church
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge
In-Person and on You-Tube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org

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St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan
St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville
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Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church
Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary
Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE
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St. Joseph Chapel or Church
Thursday 8am
Immaculate Conception Church
Friday 8am
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www.promisedlandbaptist.org

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The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-824-5534
canaanct-umc.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com
We hope you will join us!

Local Matters

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

Please visit millertonnews.com/donate to give a donation of any size.

Thank you!

The Lakeville Journal ▪ The Millerton News

THE MILLERTON NEWS
EDITORIAL PAGE A5 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026

LET'S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has proposed a $722 million budget for 2027, a 10.5% increase in spending. The proposal would raise the county sales tax from 3.75% to 4% and draw $28.5 million from reserves to help cover rising costs and a nearly $90 million gap between projected expenses and revenues.

How should the county balance rising costs with the financial burden on residents, and what priorities should guide its budget decisions?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, Nov. 16 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 do you think the proposed Cascade Creek development could affect the Amenia community?

"It will drain the water and resources from the soil and town until another water source has been used up and disappears."
—David Brown

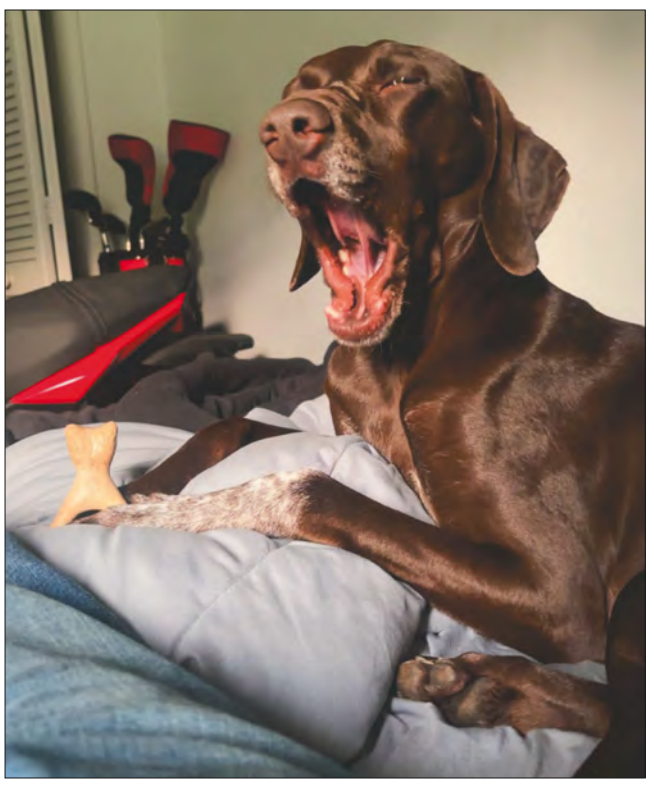
"More traffic on Old North Road."
—Anne Shisler-Hughes

"Maybe we could get some sidewalks? Why are there orange cones and unfinished walks STILL two years later? Why are there no sidewalks to the Ames plaza? Get it together Amenia!"
—Eleanor Hartwell

"Since it's in a flood plain, don't believe people who say that it's not! Or that's pretty much what they told us when we owned the property whenever we wanted to do anything with it! Too many homes without sufficient water and sewer! The focus should be to get water and sewer for the entire hamlet which greatly opens up opportunity for the community. I also think that the people involved haven't been forthcoming with the people in the town. Meaning too many backroom discussions. This whole proposal sounds fishy to me and the fact that it's even being considered tells me that it's about who you are and who you know!"
—Stephen Perotti

"I want one?"
—Douglas Sands

Meet the pets of our community



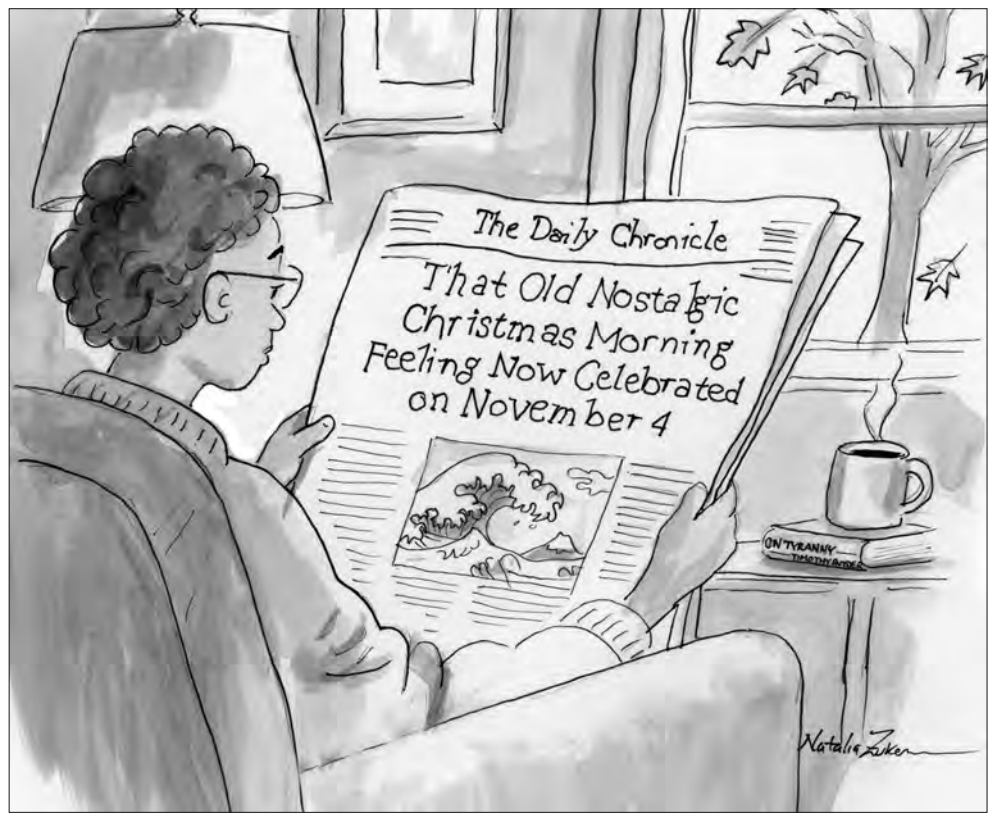
Trixie

Trixie is a 5 year old German short haired pointer. She lives in Millerton, New York. She's extremely vocal she has no problem expressing what's on her mind. She loves going for rides in the truck no matter what we are doing from tractor supply runs to plowing snow in the winter. Loved by Andrew Lacasse.



Susie Lucy Sharon Stone

Susie Lucy Sharon Stone was a street cat and can be a bit clumsy but loves a window seat in the sun. She lives in Millerton. Loved by Melissa.



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

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

'Mud-pie' roads, library moves, orchard closes

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Millerton News

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

November 14, 1935
Approves WPA Road Program For Dutchess

Herzog Passes on $498,370 "Mud-Pie" Projects in Townships

A $498,370 "mud-pie" road program for Dutchess County was approved last week by Lester W. Herzog, upstate WPA administrator. Part of the Works Progress Administration program to "get the farmer out of the mud," operations will be started, on dirt roads in various towns as work is needed to relieve local unemployment problems. The program is designed to improve the roads sufficiently to enable farmers to get their produce to market at all times of the year.

In addition to the mud-pie program, Mr. Herzog approved other appropriations of $114,517 which included projects in the Towns of Amenia and North East and brought total allotments to the county up to approximately $1,560,000.

The new list of approvals include:

AMENIA - improve county road No. 17. $10,350.

WASSAIC - Improve roads, $4,933; community service program, $420.

NORTH EAST - Improve highway, $15,333.

November 11, 1976
Gift To The Library
(photo caption)

Cheryl Sullivan, president of the Nanny and the Kids 4-H Club, presented Mrs. Shirley Conklin and Mrs. William Gormley with a book entitled — what else - The Modern Dairy Goat. This volume is one of many to be moved to new library quarters on Main Street in Millerton next weekend. The staff of the Millerton Free Library will be looking for volunteers to help with the project, and they urge residents to keep the weekend of the 19th and 20th open.

Needlework Expert Has New Book On Market

LAKEVILLE — Martha Zimiles of Millerton, who has been a designer and teacher of needlework and a salesperson at the Designing Woman in Lakeville, is now also an author.

Mrs. Zimiles' book, "A Treasury of Needlework Designs," was published in mid-October by Van Nostrand Reinhold. It was promptly accepted by the cooking and crafts division of the Book of the Month Club.

Mrs. Zimiles found her ready stock sold out at an author's lunch with the Embroiderers' Guild recently at G. Fox. She has also spoken and given a demonstration at Bloomingdale's in White Plains, N.Y. and will appear this Saturday at Bloomingdale's in Garden City, L.I.

The author credits the immediate success of her book to the fact that the designs are printed in actual size, ready to be traced on canvas with an indelible pen without the complications of enlarging or reducing on graph paper and the needleworker's being able to choose his or her own colors and stitches.

Designs are offered for items ranging from Christmas tree ornaments and dog collars to church kneelers and an area rug. They are set up so that portions of some illustrations can be used independently or combined with others, allowing for "at least 300 designs," says Mrs. Zimiles.

The book is a soft cover edition, priced at $10.95. Any of its designs can be painted on needlepoint canvas to order at The Designing Woman, for those who do not care to do the pre-stitching work at home.

Mrs. Zimiles, who has been associated with the shop for two and a half years, says she had done embroidery as a child but had lost interest in it until, during a visit to Norway, she found herself kept indoors by torrential rains. When she decided to try needlepoint she taught herself the various stitches from a book. She now teaches classes in both needlepoint and crewel in Lakeville, and also has a class in Norfolk.

The idea for "A Treasury of Needlework Designs" came to her from an editor working with her husband, an artist who was writing a book on lithography.

The Zimiles live on Silver Mountain in Millerton.

November 8, 2001
Students Paint Fire House

MILLERTON — The meeting room at the Millerton Firehouse received a fresh coat of paint thanks to student volunteers from Webutuck School.

Elizabeth and Ryon Angelvich, Isaac Coon, Victoria Herow, Jennifer McGhee, Robert Stevens and Jennifer Zeis-Way passed up their usual Saturday activities on Nov. 3 for this community service project.

Last April, more than 30 students, staff and parents painted the walls and ceiling in the firehouse's garage as part of "Christmas in April." There was still a little work to be done and the students decided to continue in the fall.

Besides the meeting room, Saturday's group completed the garage and the bathrooms. Student Assistance Counselor Tom Marshall, his son Jai and technology teacher John Roccanova worked along with the Webutuck volunteers.

Breakfast was provided by McEnroe's Organic Market and lunch by the Round Tuit.

Want to Pick Apples? Take a Tree Home

MILLERTON — A noted landmark in Millerton is getting ready to close, but those who have visited the Millerton Orchard to handpick apples can take a piece of history with them.

Bruce Sallinger, who has owned and operated the Millerton Orchard for a number of years, has sold the farm to a couple who plan to call the orchard home. However, they do not plan to continue with the fruit picking business. But tree lovers can still take a piece of the action with them.

The new owners, Allison and Henry Stolzman, plan to sell off favorite trees to those who are interested. Ms. Stolzman said she and her husband arranged with Bob Jasmin tree moving to help tree lovers get their favorite trees.

"Some people want specific types of trees, while others want the specific tree, their favorite," Ms. Stolzman said.

According to Ms. Stolzman, this time of year is considered the best time to transplant trees once the fruit is picked.

"The moving season generally starts in early November and lasts into December, until the ground becomes too cold," she said.

There is no short supply of trees since the orchard has a large number of them spread across its 68 acres.

Current economic conditions have reportedly made it very difficult for pick-your-own orchards, which is why the Stolzmans decided not to keep that portion of the farm going.

"We have to clear the land. So rather than cut them [trees] down, we are letting people know they can purchase them," Ms. Stolzman said.

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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

County Executive proposes 4% sales tax rate to cover higher costs

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has unveiled a $722 million budget proposal for 2027 that would increase spending by 10.5%, raise the county sales tax and use $28.5 million from general fund reserves.

Serino presented the proposal Oct. 30 after her administration sought to close a gap between projected costs and revenues that approached $90 million. County officials cited rising operating expenses and government mandates, including $1.8 million in additional costs from changes to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's administrative funding formula.

"Despite tremendous fiscal pressure from ever-increasing state and federal mandates and rapidly rising costs," Serino said in a statement, "we are delivering a 2027 budget that includes no cuts to services and no layoffs."

The budget aims to keep the overall tax levy increase to less than 1%. To do so, Serino proposes using more than $28 million from the general fund balance — plus an additional $3.75 million from American Rescue Plan funds — to minimize the effect on taxpayers.

To cover the increase, Serino plans to raise the sales tax from 3.75 to 4%. That would generate an additional $9.3 million, the County Executive estimates. Serino's budget would preserve an exemption on clothing and footwear under $110.

Property tax levies, under her plan, would stay under the tax cap, and the average property tax rate would fall 4.5% across the county. The current tax rate of $2.11 per $1,000 of assessed value would fall to $2.02. Those savings, however, are likely to be offset by higher property value assessments.

Other big items in the budget include $22 million from the state for the "First 3" early education program. Dutchess was one of three counties—chosen to create 1,000 additional childcare seats in the county. The program has set a target date of March 2027 for enrollment.

Serino's budget also includes $3 million for the Dutchess County Drug Task Force, with $1 million going to local police departments.

EMS services would receive $2.5 million from the aforementioned ARP funds to launch a new community paramedic and telemedicine program. Community paramedicine allows paramedics to deliver non-urgent and preventative care to high-risk patients, reducing overall system strain.

There's also a proposed $1 million investment that would go to the County's Housing Trust Fund, designed to address the area's lack of housing.

A Humane Law Enforcement Officer would be hired to strengthen animal welfare enforcement by investigating animal cruelty, neglect and abuse.

The budget now heads to the County Legislature, which has until Dec. 10 to propose changes. A full copy of the 2027 Dutchess County Budget is available at dutchessny.gov/2027budget.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino presented her proposed county budget to legislators at the end of October. The budget would see total expenditures climb 10.5% and require a county sales tax hike.

Amenia Fire Co. breakfast Nov. 15

The Amenia Fire Company will hold its monthly Pancake Breakfast at the Firehouse on Sunday, Nov. 15 from 7:30 to 11 a.m.

Fire company members serve an all-you-can-eat menu of pancakes, French toast, eggs and omelettes, home fries, bacon, sausages and beverages.

Dine in and take out options are available.

The firehouse is located at 36 Mechanic St. in Amenia.

Adult tickets are $12. Seniors & children under 12 are $11.

For information send an email to administrator@ameniafire31.org



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With Veterans Day to be observed on Nov 11th, I thought it might be excellent to remember a few of our past residents of Salisbury who made a difference for our country. So in no particular order (and my apologies to those I did not mention): Berger Torrissen, Olympian, 10th Mountain; Nicholas Gandolfo, Army, Korea; Chester Lyle, USMC, Tarawa; John Burkhart, USMC; John Harney Sr, USMC; David Harris, 10th Mountain; Reese Harris, 10th Mountain; George W Clark, USMC, KIA Vietnam; and Nick Nickerson, 10th Mountain. Thank you for your service!



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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
ANNUAL ELECTION
OF THE
Pine Plains Fire District
On December 8,2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Election of the Pine Plains Fire District will take place on December 8, 2026 between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the Pine Plains Fire House located at 7 Lake Road, Pine Plains, New York 12567 for the purpose of electing one Commissioner: one Commissioner for a five (5) year term, commencing January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2031. Only residents registered to vote with the Dutchess County Board of Elections on or before November 15, 2026 and have resided in the Pine Plains Fire District for at least 30 days will be eligible to vote.

Candidates for District Office shall file their names and the position they are seeking with the Secretary of the Pine Plains Fire District, Heather Lamont, P.O. Box 860, Pine Plains, New York 12567 no later than November 18, to 2026. October 22, 2026.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
PINE PLAINS FIRE DISTRICT
11-12-26

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

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

NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING CIPA
INTERNET SAFETY
POLICY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Amenia Free Library Association will hold a public hearing on November 16th at 6:00pm at the Amenia Free Library, 3309 Route 343, Amenia, New York, 12501, pursuant to the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

The Amenia Free Library Association is in the process of implementing CIPA in accordance with rules set forth by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC), in order to receive funding through E-Rate (the Schools & Libraries USF Program).

The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss and consider the adoption of the library's updated Computer, Internet and Wireless Use Policy. The proposed policy addresses:

Computer and internet use, including through wifi .

Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet.

The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful online activities by minors.

Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identifi cation information regarding minors.

Measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors, along with a technological device (fi lter) that blocks or fi lters visual depictions that are obscene, commit child pornography, or (with respect to use of computers by minors) are harmful to minors.

A copy of the proposed Computer, Internet and Wireless Use Policy is available for public inspection at the Circulation Desk in the Library or online at www.amenialibrary.org.

All members of the community are invited to attend the public hearing and comment on the proposed policy. Written comments may also be submitted in advance to the Library Director at director@amenialibrary.org, no later than Monday, November 16th, 2026 at 5:00pm.

Dated: November 5th, 2026

Victoria Herow
Amenia Free Library Association
3309 Route 343
Amenia, NY 12501



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PUMPKIN SMASH *Continued from Page A1*

figuration. The new configuration prevents the pot he uses to hold the pumpkins from twisting during launch, improving safety and consistency of the launches.

He used a winch to pull the slingshot basket back. After the bands are tight, one of the visiting children pulls a release switch and sends the pumpkin flying.

Then goes the retrieval crew — bands of children running in a mad dash after the flung pumpkin to pick up the broken pieces in a bucket and bring it back for further smashing with wooden mallets.

The mallets, made by Stayman and Millerton resident Henry Smedley, were also a new touch this year. They provided more hands-on smashing that proved a hit with parents as well as children.

The event doubled as a celebration of Sam Busselle, a Millerton resident who helped establish NECC. Inside the tent, while children were busy smashing pumpkins outside, NECC Board Chair Irene Banning and North East Town Supervisor Chris Kennan shared a few thoughts on Busselle's legacy and a toast of hot cider to his memory.

"He gave us this sense that we should have a north star — we should have purpose," Kennan said. "Sam's contribution goes on today and tomorrow and on into the future."

Climate Smart Task Force Coordinator Kathy Chow added to Kennan's comments, saying sustainability and resilience are the task force's guiding stars. She said composting was a pet project of the group, and encouraged attendees to start composting at home or to bring food waste to the McEnroe farm on Coleman Station Road.

"We as a town are unbelievably lucky to have a free drop-off," Chow said. "Other communities spend a lot of time and effort trying to make that happen, but we have it right at McEnroe's."





PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

Zeke Diebboll of Pine Plains dons a piece of smashed pumpkin as fashionable headwear near the end of the day.

Andrew Stayman, right, checks the launch angle of his slingshot just before letting a pumpkin loose to fly across the field. Stayman redesigned his slingshot this year, adding two additional elastic bands to stabilize the pot he uses to hold the launched pumpkins.

SEPTIC SAFETY *Continued from Page A1*

tion, Capt. John Watterson said.

Jonathan said the death could have been prevented if the septic tank's cover was locked or secured. But there's a gap in regulations in New York State, he said. Under current regulations, septic tank covers at ground level must be lockable — meaning the covers can be locked or secured in some fashion — and property owners bear responsibility for ensuring their safety, but no system exists to verify the covers' security on an ongoing basis after installation.

"Just one screw would have done it," Jonathan said, referencing the unsecured plastic septic lid that covered the tank at Faith Bible Chapel. "Even though it's a heavy plastic, it's light enough for a 2-year-old to pick up."

Jonathan said requiring covers to be lockable didn't go far enough. He wants strict requirements that septic system access be locked and secured at all times. Other goals of his advocacy are implementing requirements that lid security be verified with a photo at the time of maintenance, and more standard safety features from manufacturers — such as nets inside the septic tank access that could catch animals or children who fall in.

Chris Drago, a County Legislator who represents Millerton, Pine Plains and Milan, has been working with the county's Board of Health. Triggered by reports of the death in The Millerton News and outreach from North East Town Supervisor Chris Kennan, Drago began advocating for the Rea family with the Board of Health in September. In an email exchange he provided to The News, Board of Health Assistant Commissioner of Administration Anthony Ruggiero said Drago's advocacy led to new Board of Health requirements for septic tank installation in September that are being phased in on plans under review, but the board's jurisdiction concerns the septic system itself and not haulers or pumping.

Septic tanks in Dutchess County are regulated by the county's Board of Health, while septic haulers — companies that pump and transport septic tank contents — are regulated by New York's Department of Environmental Conservation.

The new guidance specifies septic system plans with ground-level access points must include water-tight and lockable covers. Those covers' existence must be confirmed during Board of Health inspections, the email said, but Board of Health staff only inspect systems at installation and those inspections are done with all of the system's components exposed.

The policy would not have applied to Faith Bible Chapel, which was constructed in 2002. Ruggiero said the new rules are being applied to septic systems currently under review by the board.

"The Board of Health is still sort of digging into what we could potentially do," Drago said. He suggested requiring septic haulers to take photographs of locked septic lids and file them with the Board of Health to verify their security. He has not yet drafted or submitted any legislation to the Dutchess County Legislature, opting for now to consult with the Board of Health before proposing a new local law.

Ruggiero indicated support for that proposal in an email to Drago, but expressed concerns over how regulations could shift responsibility between property owners and septic haulers. He said requirements that haulers verify covers' security might require a change in policy with the Department of Environmental Conservation's hauler permitting process.

"Right now, responsibility for maintenance is the owners'," Ruggiero wrote in an email to Drago. "We just want to be careful and not transfer responsibility to the haulers, who we do not permit."

Ruggiero did not respond to a request for additional comment as of press time.

Jonathan and his wife, Darryl, are eager for a more immediate fix, but they may have to take the fight to New York's capital if the county lacks the authority to implement their proposed changes. Drago said he wants to exhaust the county's options before seeking a solution at the state level.

"I worry that going to New York State and having them try to change something is going to be a few years long fight," Drago said. "I'd rather find something that we can do sooner than later at the town or county level."

In service of the effort, the family has started a change.org petition to collect signatures in support of their proposed regulations seeking lockable lids and photo verification. The petition currently has 165 signatures, but the Reas say new signatures have stalled and they need more.

Jonathan and Drago remain determined to address the issue however possible, either through county regulations or taking the fight to Albany. Drago said he was encouraged by Ruggiero's response, but he is still exploring options for what is possible at the county level.

"What else can we do? I don't have that answer yet," Drago said. "I'm encouraged that some things have been put in place in short order, but I don't know if that necessarily goes as far as we need to."

Jonathan echoed that sentiment, saying that lockability and actually being locked are two different standards. He said he doesn't plan to give up if he doesn't find success at the county level.

"I'll close the gap myself," Jonathan said. "I'll stand on Albany's steps."

EMS *Continued from Page A1*

namic model would cut North East's upcoming 2028 contract by $675,000, from $1.3 million to $625,000.

"The service is the same, but the trucks are going to move a lot more," Stuck said. By combining several towns' EMS contracts into a shared service, the company will reduce costs associated with staffing and operating their ambulances.

Currently, each of the four towns — North East, Amenia, Washington and Stanford — has its own dedicated Empress ambulance. Those trucks go unused many days out of the year due to low call volume in the area. Empress data shared at the meeting revealed that for the first 9 months of 2026, there were 130 days that North East's ambulance did not leave its station. That number was 46 days for Washington, 55 days for Amenia, and 146 for Stanford.

Under the existing contract, North East's cost burden would climb to $1.3 million in 2028. Amenia would owe $1.1 million.

The new model would use three advanced life support (ALS) vehicles, down one from the current four. That number drops to two at night, with a basic life support vehicle replacing the ALS ambulance in Stanford.

When one ALS ambulance is called into action, the remaining vehicles shift to fill the space. Stuck detailed a number of scenarios using the company's interactive map, keeping response times steady by repositioning the remaining ALS units as an ambulance was called in different corners of Northeast Dutchess. The dots moved defensively, shoring up gaps as they emerged.

"The new technology that's really helping us is the GPS," Stuck said. "Being able to predict response times. The data's always been there, but it's new to us because we really just took these systems over in October of last year." Empress took over EMS service and gained access to data in northeast Dutchess when the company purchased Northern Dutchess Paramedics in 2025.

North East is entering the second-to-last year of its pre-existing 5-year contract with NDP. The cost of EMS has ballooned in that time, from $376,858 in 2024 to $746,000 in the coming fiscal year.

In addition to financial challenges, the dynamic system intends to address service issues. One of the immediate effects of the dynamic system, Stuck said, will be to cut long wait times on calls received when a town's sole ambulance is already in service.

The rural geography in northeast Dutchess means round trips to Vassar Hospital can take an ambulance out of commission for several hours. With the second and third ambulances able to float, those second calls could be answered as quickly as the first, Stuck said.

In the dynamic daytime system, one ALS ambulance team would start the day at the existing substation between Millerton and Amenia. To the west, a Stanford ALS vehicle waits. The third starts in Millbrook.

At night, the two ALS ambulances would start in Millbrook and between Millerton and Amenia. A Dutchess County Supplemental ALS vehicle would support Stanford from Rhinebeck. Existing mutual aid networks and fire departments, Stuck said, will not be affected. "The system still probably has too many resources because of the volume," he said. "But because of the geography, you can only go so far."





COMPASS

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PHOTO PROVIDED

Jennifer Terzian, founder of Jennifer Terzian Gallery in Litchfield.

Jennifer Terzian's sanctuary for contemporary art

By Troy McMullen

On a recent crisp, fall afternoon in Litchfield, Jennifer Terzian welcomed a steady stream of collectors, artists, and art-world insiders into her jewel box of an art space on South Street, just off the town's manicured historic Green.

The occasion was an opening for Jenny Kemp, an artist noted for balancing fluidity and structure in her abstractions through repetition, variation, and gradual shifts in hue. Hers is exactly the kind of tactile, process-driven work Terzian

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

ART

Original art, attainable prices

By D.H. Callahan



PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Kenise Barnes Fine Art presents "Cool & Collected '26," its annual exhibition celebrating the joy of collecting, featuring works priced under $2,000.

There's a corner of YouTube populated by real-time footage of high-dollar art sales from prestigious New York and London auction houses like Sotheby's, Christie's and Phillips. Hundreds of thousands of viewers routinely watch with rapt attention, popcorn and cocktails in hand, as recognizable pieces from art history make their way to the upper echelons of grossly unattainable hammer prices. Pieces can often start with opening bids of tens of thousands of dollars and work their way up to multiple millions. Bidding increments alone can grow to sums unattainable for the average American family in several lifetimes.

Kenise Barnes Fine Art in Kent, Connecticut, wants to help make fine art more accessible. The 2026 version of the gallery's annual "Cool and Collected" exhibition is subtitled "The Gift Edit" and features dozens of works by fine artists at prices that are much more in reach than an art-world outsider might expect. More than 30 artists contributed pieces to the show. Almost all available works are priced under $2,000, with many below $500. The collection features paintings, drawings, collage and ceramics.

Kenise Barnes, the gallery's owner, has been gifting art to friends and family for years. Now, many of them have their own personal collections, with works carefully selected for and by them.

It's not just aspiring collectors who benefit from this kind of show. Smaller price tags can often mean less pressure on the artists, giving them more to experiment.

"This exhibition encourages artists to play and explore while giving visitors the opportunity to acquire original artwork at an approachable scale and price," Barnes said. "It's a celebration of creativity, generosity, and the pleasure of living with art."

Across the border in Millerton, a similar exhibition is up at The Re Institute. Artist and gallery owner Henry Klimowicz has curated a show that features more than 400 original works of art from more than 200 artists, all priced under $750. The exhibition is a continuation of an accessible art show put on by LABspace in Hillsdale, which routinely had more than 300 pieces in its small, two-room gallery. Klimowicz has also hosted an art gift shop at the Re Institute, with moderately priced art as the shop's inventory.

Klimowicz understands that even more moderately priced art isn't necessarily any more accessible to all audiences. The first hurdle, he said, is that "buying art is a privilege. If you're worried about buying groceries, you're not buying art."

With more and more people worried about groceries, the art market's growth potential seems at least temporarily stunted.

The second hurdle is finding something that speaks to you.

"You have to decide that you like this unique thing. In Amer-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

ART

Peter Cusack is finding the eternal in North Canaan

By Natalia Zukerman

"I think art is the thing that allows us to feel there's something in the universe that loves us," said painter Peter Cusack in his new studio, a mid-19th-century stone church on Main Street in North Canaan.

For Cusack, art has always been a way of reaching toward something beyond the physical world. That sensibility runs through "Eternal: New, Recent, and Near Distant Paintings," his upcoming exhibition in the church, a setting that seems an improbably good fit.

Cusack recently moved his painting practice from Torrington into the former church at 58 Main Street. The move came about somewhat unexpectedly, after a change in ownership made his previous studio untenable.

"At first I thought it was just gonna be too much," Cusack said. When he first saw it, the building still looked unmistakably like a church, with its vaulted ceiling, stained glass and architectural details intact. It had served as a place of worship for generations before closing roughly 12 years ago.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

MUSIC

Cowboy Junkies celebrate 40 years at the Mahaiwe

By Mike Cobb

Now celebrating 40 years, Cowboy Junkies will perform Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

The band is celebrating its long career with a triple-vinyl retrospective album called "Open to Beauty," featuring a selection of songs from 2000 onward, including material from its most recent release, "Such Ferocious Beauty."

Initially, the band was inspired by the dark, spacious qualities of post-punk and goth groups such as Siouxsie and the Banshees and Joy Division. But the musicians soon settled on an organic, rootsy country-blues sound with hints of psychedelia. Their hushed sound developed from playing quietly in their garage rehearsal space so as not to disturb their neighbors.

Formed in 1985, the band made a huge impact on the indie rock scene with its second album, "The Trinity Session," recorded with a single ambisonic microphone at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Toronto.

"Part of going to Trinity Church was because I couldn't afford a studio. We continue to do as much recording as live as possible, said guitarist and songwriter Michael Timmins. "Playing together for 40 years, you develop a certain chemistry. You react to each other, and that lends the track your personality. We want people to hear the band when they listen to our record," Timmins said.

The album included a serene version of Lou Reed's "Sweet Jane," later used in Oliver Stone's "Natural Born Killers," TV's "Stranger Things" and many other productions.

When asked if Reed ever heard their version, Timmins said:

"Yes. He said it was the best and most authentic version he'd ever heard. The record company used that quote on the cover. He really appreciated the bridge sec-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

INSIDE

REAL ESTATE
Pine Plains median home price holds steady

CALENDAR
A list of upcoming events





... Jennifer Terzian

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

champions at a subterranean space that feels less like a commercial art gallery and more like stumbling into an impeccably edited sanctuary of contemporary thought.

"I don't really consider myself a traditional gallerist," explained Terzian, a Southern California native who moved to Connecticut in 2008. "I see myself more as an artist advocate."

Established in 2021 as a platform to promote the work of emerging and mid-career artists, Terzian's gallery has grown into one of Litchfield County's most compelling launching pads for contemporary art. Focusing on drawing, works on paper and paintings in ambitiously varied visual vocabularies, the gallery has built a reputation for its devotion to the artists' methods, tools, materials and critical thinking. Terzian has also cultivated a niche rooted in an ethos that favors intense tactile engagement over sheer wall acreage.

"The gallery is really meant to create a very intimate relationship with the artist and the story behind their work," said Terzian, who has spent two decades organizing exhibitions in galleries and museums and taught art history and museum studies at Miss Porter's School in Farmington for six years. "It's always very much about the process and I think the artists and the visitors to the gallery really recognize and appreciate that focus."

That commitment to creative rigor is raising Terzian's profile among art institutions. The gallery's acceptance into the New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA) earlier this year marked a significant milestone, cementing its place within an international network of contemporary galleries and arts professionals dedicated to supporting vanguard talent.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Jennifer Terzian's gallery showcases emerging and mid-career artists, with a focus on drawing, works on paper and painting.

> "The gallery is really meant to create a very intimate relationship with the artist and the story behind their work."
>
> JENNIFER TERZIAN

"Her innate enthusiasm allows artists to test out new bodies of work on the walls in a supportive environment, creating space for both joy and growth," explained Rebecca McNamara, chief curator at the Mattatuck Museum.

Jenny Kemp, whose solo exhibition "Reverbs" runs through Dec. 12, echoes that sentiment: "She encourages artists to lead in shaping their exhibitions and the installation, giving them the freedom to respond to the space and bring their own vision to it."

While Litchfield County has long attracted creative minds, Terzian's arrival in 2021 coincided with a period of cultural momentum, allowing her to tap into an expanding cadre of local talent. The gallery's roster bridges mid-career artists such as Fritz Horstman, Kristin Lamb and Richard Pasquarelli, who have exhibited their work in museums, galleries and art fairs throughout the U.S. and Europe.

Yet her programming also crosses geographic boundaries seamlessly, bringing work by painters and paper-makers from Brooklyn, Providence, Berlin as well as artists working in established studios across Connecticut.

Recent exhibitions highlight Terzian's curatorial leanings toward precision and patience over hyper-commerciality. Jessica Smolinski's mixed-media works probed memory and time through photography and textiles, while Aliza Morell employed holographic streamers against flat fields of color transferred to canvas via a layered material process. China-born artist Jenny Wu, who studied studio art at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and American University, poured and layered liquid paint until it took on dense, sculptural forms.

"The space feels like you are leaving the day's responsibilities behind and entering a world of serenity," said Wu, whose paintings explore composition, color and materiality. "Stand there, look at the works, feel them, and let them consume you for once."

Terzian advocates for a more intimate scale to help amplify impact and says the diversity of aesthetics allows her to build a space tailored to creative rhythms of the artist. "It fosters a better dialogue between artist, curator and collector."

The gallery's momentum coincides with a broader revival across Litchfield. The recent arrival of three boutique hotels — The Abner, Belden House and Lost Fox Inn — has brought a steady influx of younger, design-conscious travelers to Connecticut's northwest corner, energizing the town's cultural landscape.

"I love for people who are new to Litchfield to walk down those stairs to my gallery and just come inside and just be educated about the artists and their work," Terzian reflected. "Whether or not they walk away with purchasing something, I just think the experience of coming into a space and not feeling intimidated is valuable."

For more information, visit jenniferterziangallery.com.

Troy McMullen is a former Wall Street Journal reporter in Berlin and New York and currently an executive editor at ABC News. His arts and culture reporting appears in several New England publications, including Litchfield Magazine, New England Home and Connecticut Magazine. He splits his time between Manhattan and a weekend home in Litchfield, adjacent to the Hauser Nature Preserve.

... Cowboy Junkies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO BY HEATHER POLLOCK

Cowboy Junkies celebrate 40 years together at the Mahaiwe Nov. 14

tion, which had been taken out of his version. We met him a few years after the record had come out, and he said he'd started to play it live again. He thanked us for that, which was pretty amazing."

The band also toured with legendary singer-songwriter Townes Van Zandt while promoting 1990's "The Caution Horses." Cowboy Junkies continued recording, producing 16 studio albums and five live albums.

Reflecting on the band's earliest days, Timmins recalled how his sister Margo had not envisioned herself as a singer.

"Margo was reluctant. Alan and I were working on this next project, which had this more rootsy kind of direction. We knew Margo could sing because, as a kid, she always got the lead in the school musical. She wasn't looking to do that as a career, but we knew she had a voice, so we invited her to the practice. She quickly fit right in."

Asked how the musicians view their Canadian identity, Timmins said:

"'The Trinity Sessions' got our name around the world. So, we consider ourselves a Canadian band, but we're not Canadian-centric."

Over the years, the band members grew up, married, took on mortgages and had children. But the lineup has remained essentially unchanged, with singer Margo Timmins, guitarist and songwriter Michael Timmins, drummer Peter Timmins and bassist Alan Anton.

Timmins said the Mahaiwe audience can expect old favorites as well as new material.

"After 40 years, you have people who have come to the band at different points along the way. You're bound to hear something you know and a lot you don't, which is always a good thing at a live show, I think. Hopefully you walk away smiling and inspired." *For tickets, visit mahaiwe.org.*



PHOTO PROVIDED

"R46 Interior" (2026). Solid cherry and acrylic, 21" x 26.75" x 0.75"

ART

Mike Selbach finds the extraordinary in everyday life

By Natalia Zukerman

Subway stations may seem unlikely places to encounter the divine, but amid the rumble of trains, the crush of commuters and the cavernous underground passageways, Salisbury artist Mike Selbach finds moments of unexpected beauty.

In "Subway Saints," his solo exhibition opening Thursday, Nov. 12 at the Warren Family Gallery at Berkshire School in Sheffield, Massachusetts, Selbach transforms ordinary commuters and familiar transit spaces into sacred moments.

Through carved, two-sided wooden sculptures and expressive woodcut prints of New York City subway stations, Selbach captures both the individuality of the people who pass through these spaces and the shared experience of moving through the city. His work draws on decades of experience in sculpture and printmaking, with a distinct focus on the expressive possibilities of wood. Influenced by German Expressionist printmakers, Selbach brings a striking interplay of color, texture and perspective to his work, finding connections between the ancient art of woodcarving and the rhythms of contemporary urban life.

An opening reception will be held Thursday, Nov. 12, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The exhibition runs through Dec. 20 at the Warren Family Gallery, 245 North Undermountain Road, Sheffield. For more information, email the curator at victoria.selbach@gmail.com or call (516)220-9909.

robinhoodradio.com
slightly off... but very good

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Winding down in Fall? Think again.

The Ungardener
Dee Salomon

Putting the garden to bed is not just a metaphor; some blanket trees and shrubs with mulch and burlap. Think of leaves as nature's blanket, giving precious caterpillars and other insects food, shelter and warmth during the winter. Gentle treatment of leaves now will give insects the best chance of surviving and feeding baby birds in the spring. A gentle blow or rake to move leaves from footpaths into woodland margins or under trees will work. But do not shred or mulch leaves or pile them up too densely, as this will kill the life overwintering there.

For me, fall, especially late fall, is an opportune time for action rather than winding down. Poison ivy has disappeared and, as the days get colder, tick numbers decline (still, no complacency on ticks!). Most of all, now is when the major invasive offenders are easiest to see and eradicate.

Norway maple, *Acer platanoides*, stands out with its five-lobed, yellow leaves and red stems that are still attached; native maples lost their leaves weeks ago. This invasive tree has a straight, vertical trunk that, combined with its large leaves, can resemble a child's drawing. Instead of the sugary sap from which we make maple syrup, Norway maple oozes a milky liquid that does not provide nutrition to our native wildlife.

You can see the dominance of Norway maple along many of our roads, where it deftly outcompetes native trees and plants with a trifecta of superpowers characteristic of many invasives: its leaves cast dense shade, blocking sunlight from reaching the forest floor and preventing the growth of other plants; its leaves emerge earlier in spring and fall later in autumn than those of most native plants, giving it a longer growing season; and, finally, it disperses far more seeds than native species.

These trees grow as tall as 90 feet and, as with all large trees, benefit the Earth by storing carbon and producing oxygen. But this alone does not give these maples a pass; our native oaks do the same while supporting hundreds of species of caterpillars, insects, birds and small mammals. And I challenge anyone to defend the visual appeal of the Norway maple over, say, a mature scarlet oak, especially in the fall.

As with any large tree, mature Norway maples are best cut down by a professional, but a tree under 10 feet tall is easier to tackle yourself. If it is shorter than a couple of feet, try pulling it out by its base; the roots are shallow. Young trees have soft wood trunks that can be easily cut with pruning shears or loppers or, if larger, with a hand saw. You can then apply an appropriate herbicide to the cut surface of the trunk, following label directions. If you do not have an herbicide handy or are opposed to using one, repeated cutting over several seasons can work, but this can be tedious, especially as there likely to be many trees where there is even one.

Burning bush, *Euonymous alatus,* is like a blinking red light along just about every road this time of year. It is a noxious invasive that alters soil chemistry with its leaf litter, turning soil alkaline so that natives cannot germinate and grow. There are some who cannot let go of this notorious invasive, which is restricted or prohibited for sale in several Eastern states. The fact that it no longer can be bought in some nurseries is a moot point, as it long ago jumped the garden fence and is now running rampant, damaging our native habitats.

Some laud its leaf color in fall; to my eye, it's blue-red shade is a sore thumb among the orangey russets and scarlets of the native oaks and the brilliant red of our sumac varieties or the *Nyssa sylvatica,* the tree known as tupelo or black gum. By the time you are reading this, burning bush leaves will have mellowed to a pale purplish pink. Native Mapleleaf viburnum has a similar pale leaf color in fall, along with a sweet lacy white flower in spring, and is a sensible replacement in wooded environments.

I have been steadily working on about an acre of a dense burning bush infestation behind our house. As with Norway maple, the small ones are easily seen and pulled this time of year. The larger ones can be cut with loppers or a hand saw and then treat with herbicide — always closely following label directions. A nice last effort before the winter cold sets in.

Dee Salomon ungardens in Litchfield county.



PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON

Burning bush and Norway maple are two invasive species that stand out in the fall, making late autumn an ideal time to identify and remove them before they further threaten native plants and habitats.

... *Peter Cusack*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

But the space began to make sense.

"I'm very philosophical, very spiritual, very humanistic," said Cusack. "And so for me to be in a church sort of fits."

Cusack still lives in West Cornwall, where he has a garden he describes as mature and beautiful, along with a saltwater pool. The church is strictly a working studio, though he hopes to bring students in and occasionally invite other artists to exhibit alongside him.

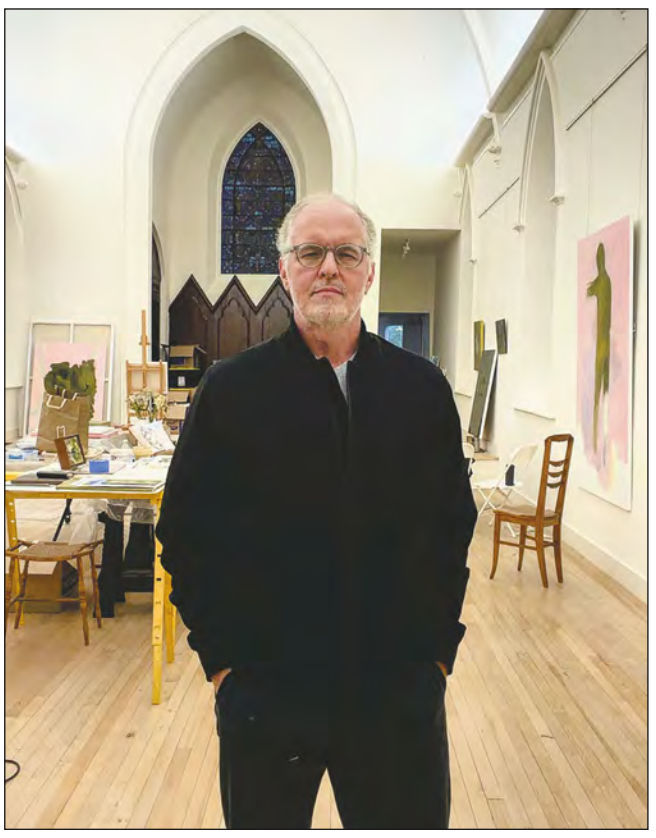
As with every studio, Cusack says, there is a particular direction and position that feels right for painting. In the church, he gravitated toward a spot where the geometry of the building creates a distinct rhythm, near where the pews once ended, before the altar.

"I can already see the arc of the dome involved in my work," he said.

The first painting he made in the new space, "Prophets and Proverbs," grew out of three forms he encountered during his morning meditation at home. After drawing and reflecting on them, he came to understand them as expressions of different aspects of maturity: "ego, strategy, agency."

The exhibition's title comes from "Nature Eternal," a painting of a young nude figure in a pink field that evokes, for Cusack, the Garden of Eden and an idea of bliss and perfection. "The Narcissist," by contrast, considers what happens after that innocence is lost: the arrival of consciousness, self-awareness and the search for identity.

Two paintings of swimmers explore another dimension of that relationship. In "I Will Love You Completely," Cusack sees a figure reaching outward from the canvas almost like an angel. "It's a message from the divine," he said. In another painting, the swimmer appears to be held by the water, suggesting the possibility of being held by something larger than ourselves.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Peter Cusack in his studio.

Having grown up in New York, Cusack says his relationship with the natural world has deepened since moving to northwest Connecticut. He thinks about the glacier that passed through this region, leaving stones behind that have remained through countless chapters of human history. In a painting of stones, Cusack considers the wisdom of the landscape and the extraordinary passage of time. "To me, that's an eternal wisdom."

Cusack regularly visits the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where he sits in the sculpture galleries, contemplating and drawing the figures.

"Drawing is just a way of looking and continuing to look," he said. "It just helps me ground myself and be very present."

That practice of extended observation can be seen in the paintings. At first glance, Cusack's color palettes can appear remarkably simple, sometimes almost monochromatic. But the longer one spends with them, the more they open up. Subtle shifts in tone and color begin to emerge, deepening and expanding the visual experience. What initially seems restrained becomes increasingly expansive as the viewer gives the work time and attention.

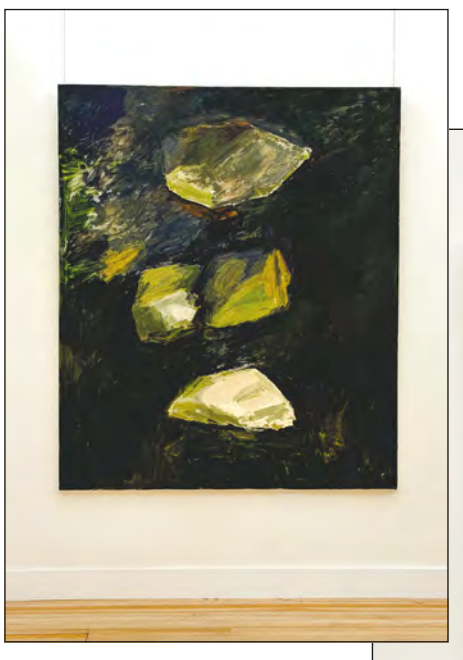
Before turning fully to painting, Cusack spent 12 years as a commercial artist represented by Morgan Gaynin Inc., where his work became known for its emotive storytelling. His paintings have appeared in Architectural Digest, Veranda, New England Home and Litchfield Magazine, among other publications, and are held in the collections of the United States Air Force, the New York Transit Museum and the Society of Illustrators. His training included an MA at Syracuse University and a year of classical study in France's Loire Valley with a master painter who was also a former Zen monk.

The church, meanwhile, has its own layers of history. During the many repairs required after Cusack moved in, a plumber mentioned that he had been married there. His wife had since died, and Cusack asked whether he was sure he wanted to return to the building. He was.

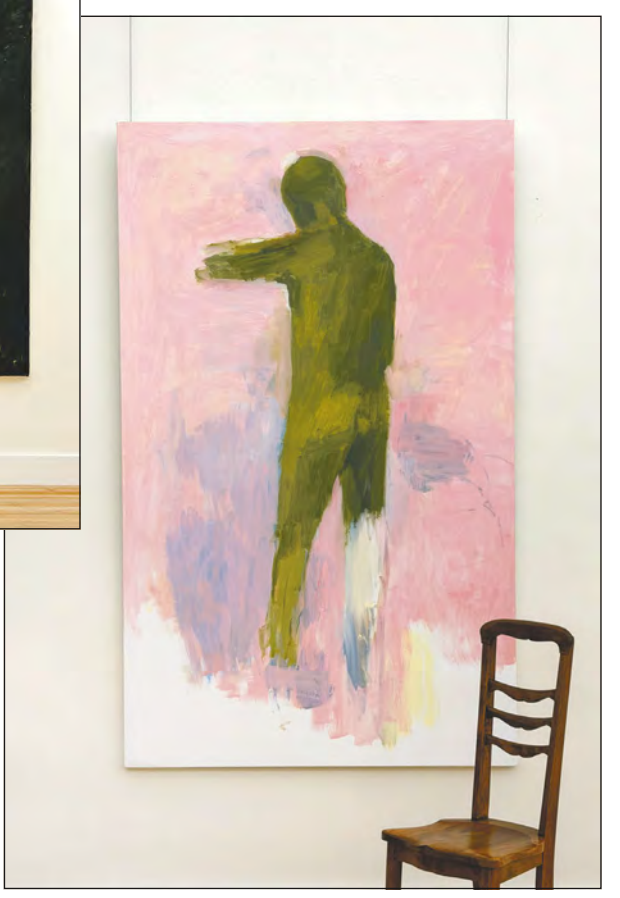
It is a small story, but one that seems to resonate with Cusack's interest in the passage of time and the histories held by places and objects. Although he says he doesn't feel a particular presence in the church, he is conscious of its history and of the community for whom it was once a gathering place.

For now, he is looking forward to welcoming people into his new studio and seeing how they respond to the paintings. "Interacting with the work" is important, he said. "It always feels good to have people in your studio space."

"Eternal: New, Recent and Near Distant Paintings" will be on view Nov. 13–15, from 1 to 5 p.m., at 58 Main Street (the Stone Church) in North Canaan. An opening reception will take place Saturday, Nov. 14, from 4 to 7 p.m.



"From Ground to Gravity," 2026, Oil on Canvas, 77 x 65 inches



"Nature Eternal," 2026, Oil on Canvas, 77 x 47 inches.

Painting and Acoustics with Bobby + Kellyn Trapp





Thursday, November 19
2:00 - 3:30PM
Learning Center

Bobby and Kellyn are a very special couple with a calling to create, teach, and build community through artistic expression. During this unique class Kellyn will teach us to paint an autumn scarecrow while Bobby serenades us with his acoustic guitar! Join us for this creative class that you will never forget. Beginners are welcome, no experience necessary. There is no fee for this class and supplies will be provided, but registration is required!
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MUSIC

A dinosaur is coming to Cornwall

By D.H. Callahan

On Saturday, Nov. 14, Cornwall Town Hall will be the coolest place in the county. Lou Barlow, of the rock bands Dinosaur Jr., the Folk Implosion and Sebadoh, will be joined by Attawalpa's Luis Felber and hauntingly raw singer-songwriter Amelia Jackie as they transform the official administrative building into a rockin' music venue.

Lou Barlow rarely gets the credit he deserves. As bassist for 1980s pre-grunge indie sensation Dinosaur Jr., he influenced a whole generation of bass players. Barlow started his music career by playing guitar in a hardcore punk band called Deep Wound out of Central Massachusetts.

When Barlow and the band's drummer, J Mascis, left to form their own band, Dinosaur, Mascis took over on guitar and asked Barlow to join him on bass. As this was long before widespread public access to the internet, there was no easy way to find out that there was already a band called Dinosaur. Like the Warlocks before them, who eventually changed their name to the Grateful Dead, Dinosaur needed its own identity. Their solution? Simply add a Jr.

Barlow took his hard-playing guitar method and transferred it to the electric bass. By playing chords and using a guitar pick instead of the standard bare fingers, he gave his bass a richer, fuller sound, allowing Mascis to play with his guitar and litany of pedals. Along with their drummer, Murph, the band was rising to uncharted levels of popularity.

This was all happening in the late 1980s, when MTV was starting to take over the airwaves and commanded an outsized influence on the music industry as a whole. Eventually, the pressures of the road and the band's creative struggles led to a famously fractured relationship between Mascis and Barlow. In 1989, Barlow was kicked out of Dinosaur Jr.

Because Mascis didn't like sharing the band's creative direction, Barlow had already been writing his own material. On a four-track cassette recorder, he cobbled together songs in bedrooms and living rooms while still touring with Dinosaur Jr. Many of those songs were about the tensions between Barlow and Mascis and the way he had been treated in the later days of his tenure with the band.

Barlow teamed up with Northampton-based musicians Eric Gaffney and Jason Loewenstein to form Sebadoh. Together with bands like Pavement and Guided by Voices, Sebadoh was instrumental in pioneering the lo-fi sound that would eventually be inextricable from shoegaze and other forms of indie rock in the late 1990s and early 2000s. While Sebadoh's albums rarely garnered the kind of popularity they deserved upon release, music critics and record collectors would eventually look back and lavish praise on the band for setting trends that the industry couldn't see as they were happening.

Popular success finally came for Barlow with another project, the Folk

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5



PHOTO BY DEREK MCCABE

Jaimoe performs with Friends of the Brothers.

MUSIC

Jaimoe keeps the Allman Brother's sound alive at Infinity Hall

By D.H. Callahan

The Allman Brothers Band has a wild history that involves more than its share of death, drugs, booze and blues. The band played through several iterations from 1969 until 2014. For most of that time, it was powered by the rhythm and texture of its two drummers, Butch Trucks and the enigmatic Jaimoe. On Thursday, Nov. 12, Jaimoe will get back behind the drums to bring the music of the Allman Brothers to life with Friends of the Brothers at Norfolk's Infinity Hall.

Jaimoe, born in 1944 as John Lee Johnson and also performed under the name Jai Johanny Johanson, was already an accomplished drummer before he met guitarist Duane Allman in 1967. Trained as a soul and jazz drummer, he started playing R&B at a young age and eventually made his way to Otis Redding's band before Redding died in a plane crash at age 26. Jaimoe had an effortless texture to his drumming that set him apart from most drummers of the day, who were frequently enlisted to hold the beat rather than contribute to a bands' musicality.

Though the Grateful Dead had already been playing with two drummers for a couple of years, it was still a highly unusual arrangement. When Duane Allman put his band together, he was looking for something similarly unconventional. The harmonizing guitars that the Allman Brothers Band would eventually be known for demanded another layer of sound to really set it apart from traditional blues. To give it that undefined X factor, the band paired the straight-ahead rock and blues drumming of Butch Trucks with Jaimoe's more rhythmically intricate jazz and R&B style. The result was an unmitigated success. Jaimoe provided that intangible texture for that classic Allman Brothers Band sound.

While his contribution was integral to the music, his presence was not always welcome at Southern venues. As a Black man playing in a band with a bunch of long-haired white boys, the group was forced to sign "race waivers" stating that it had a black man in the band and that the white members would take responsibility for his actions. When told Jaimoe wouldn't be permitted onstage in Florida, the band famously responded, "if he doesn't play, we ain't gonna play." It's partly due to the racist attitudes in the south that Gregg Allman rejected the term "Southern rock" for the more appropriate "progressive blues."

Throughout the Allman Brothers Band's 45-year history, Jaimoe played with the band for extended periods but was absent for most of the 1980s. He rejoined the band in 1989 and remained through its final performance in 2014. That break in the 1980s gave him time to develop Jaimoe's Jasssz Band, which takes a more R&B-influenced approach to the progressive blues sound of the Allman Brothers Band.

In 2017, Jaimoe's Allman Brothers Band drummer, Butch Trucks, died. To commemorate Trucks' life, friend, writer and musician Alan Paul, who wrote a best-selling book about the Allman Brothers Band, gathered a group of musicians with deep connections to the band for a tribute concert. These were musicians who'd played with original members of the band in their many side projects. Among them were Junior Mack from Jaimoe's Jasssz Band; guitarist Andy Aledort, who played with Allman Brothers Band guitarist Dickey Betts for 12 years; and keyboardist Peter Levin, who had played with Gregg Allman's solo band.

The shows were so successful that Paul knew he had to keep it going, and formed Friends of the Brothers. More than a tribute band, Paul sees the act as a way to preserve the music of the historic band. With a lineup of seasoned musicians steeped in the Allman Brothers tradition, they have mastered that progressive blues sound.

Paul had spent countless hours talking to and playing with Jaimoe before asking if he'd like to join the project. For the past two years, Jaimoe, now in his 80s, has been adding the signature texture that helped set the Allman Brothers Band apart from everyone else who simply played Southern rock.

For tickets, visit www.infinityhall.com.

... affordable art

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

ica, we buy a lot of stuff. Almost everything we buy, we can count on the fact that we're not the only person buying it."

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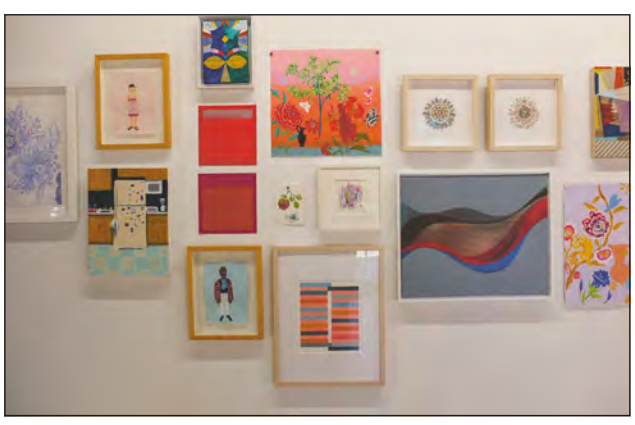
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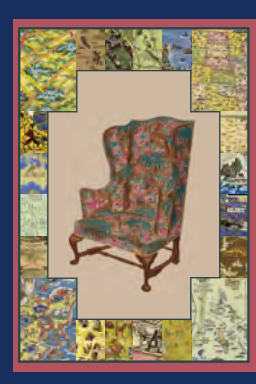
PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

The Re Institute's Holiday Show features more than 400 works by over 200 artists through Dec. 6, with a closing party from 1 to 4 p.m. that day.



Part of "Cool & Collected" at Kenise Barnes in Kent.

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MUSIC

Is it a concert or a play? "Yes, Darling." It is.

By D.H. Callahan



PHOTO PROVIDED

Ryan Montbleau and Hayley Jane bring "Yes, Darling" to the Berkshire Theatre Group's Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield on Nov. 13.

On Friday, Nov. 13, a truly unique performance will hit the stage of the Berkshire Theatre Group's Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. "Yes, Darling" is the musical culmination of a longtime collaboration between musicians Hayley Jane and Ryan Montbleau. What sets this performance apart from a traditional musical or a regular concert is that the writers of the songs are the actors and performers themselves.

Though "Yes, Darling" is their first official album and subsequent show together, Jane and Montbleau share a number of compatible traits that work together marvelously in this project.

First, both musicians are leaders of their own bands with their own names on the marquee. The Hayley Jane Band out of Vermont feels like a jam band fronted by a Broadway performer. Live audiences dance along to her original tunes as Jane's backing band noodles away behind her expressive vocals that seem ripped out of a smokey nightclub from the 1930s. The Ryan Montbleau Band leans a little more on the jazz-influenced side of the singer-songwriter spectrum. Like Jane, Montbleau develops intimate connections with his audience, matching and elevating the energy of any room he plays.

Next, both artists write very narrative songs, where the lyrics are just as important as the notes played. Their songs often feel like vehicles used to drive a story right into the hearts of their listeners.

Finally, both Montbleau and Jane are just about as funny as they are talented.

Mix it all together, and you've got a recipe for something toe-tappingly different that can make you think, make you laugh and have you swelling with emotion.

When the duo decided to dedicate some writing time together, they didn't know just what the project would evolve into. As their songs took shape, each one seemed to deal with similar topics involving the often funny and frequently combative intricacies of romantic relationships. The songs feel both nostalgic and new as the "couple" explores the familiar nuances of vulnerability, infatuation and past baggage through a series of folk, jazz, pop and even ska sounds.

Montbleau reflected, "It was immediately apparent that we had two strong 'sides of a relationship' points of view going on. It naturally lent itself to writing these kind of timeless love songs with classic style but where we could also fight and drop f-bombs and bring modern situations into the songs."

During the process, the pair focused on those notions and ended up with a series of songs that worked as a cohesive album. But Jane, who has a background in drama, had some bigger ideas. The pair connected with Chicago-based director Dorian Weinzimmer, who had a distinct vision of bringing the songs to life through a series of music videos. Once they saw how naturally it all lent itself to a visual format, they knew they had to keep going and bring the stories from the songs and videos to live audiences.

The "Yes, Darling" stage show is a real playhouse production. The musicians play versions of themselves, and their chemistry feels so natural that you'll question whether or not they're a real-life couple. They have set pieces, use props and costumes and explore the stage like it's their own little world. Unlike a traditional play, however, the members of the band are right up there with them, as though they were playing a regular old-fashioned concert.

For tickets to "Yes, Darling" visit berkshiretheatregroup.org.

... dinosaur

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B4

Imposition. Formed with multi-instrumentalist John Davis, the band was heavily featured on the soundtrack to Harmony Korine and Larry Clark's independent blockbuster "Kids." The movie became a generational touchstone, due in no small part to its use of music.

Barlow, Mascis and Murph seemed to use the 1990s as a way to grow up and work out their creative demons. In 2005, Dinosaur Jr. reunited with a lot less baggage and a greater willingness to work together as a band. Since the reunion, the band has released several new albums and achieved egendary status, with a new generation of music fans obsessing over the ahead-of-its-time albums released 30 to 40 years ago.

At Cornwall Town Hall, Barlow will perform solo. The show offers a series of ticket tiers, from general admission to a post-show wine-and-cheese soirée.

Tickets are available at dice.fm.



PHOTO BY ROBERTA OSMERS OF ILLUMINATED SCENE

Lou Barlow performing with Dinosaur Jr.



PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Tenmile Distillery in Wassaic is a finalist for a Destination Dutchess 2026 Tourism Award of Distinction for its Revolutionary Whisky.

BUSINESS

Local favorites among Destination Dutchess tourism award finalists

By Natalia Zukerman

Three familiar names from eastern Dutchess County are among the finalists for Destination Dutchess' 2026 Tourism Awards of Distinction, recognizing the people, businesses and organizations that make the county a vibrant destination for visitors.

House of Stefas in Millbrook is a finalist for the Newcomer Award of Distinction, which celebrates tourism-related businesses that opened in 2025 and have already made an impression on visitors and residents alike.

Tenmile Distillery in Wassaic is nominated for the Storytelling Award of Distinction for its Revolutionary Whisky, recognizing creative efforts to bring Dutchess County's history, heritage and culture to life.

And in Pine Plains, Marie Stewart of The Stissing Center for Arts and Culture is a finalist for the Hospitality Service Award of Distinction, honoring front-line staff members who go above and beyond to create exceptional experiences for visitors.

The three are among 21 finalists across seven categories in the 13th annual awards, which celebrate everything from cultural attractions and special events to hospitality and community collaboration.

Winners were scheduled to be announced Tuesday, Nov. 10, at a breakfast ceremony at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Home in Hyde Park. Elaine Hayes, longtime executive director of Mount Gulian Historic Site in Beacon, will also receive the Mary Kay Vrba Spirit Award for her decades of leadership and dedication to preserving local history.

For more information and a complete list of finalists, visit destinationdutchess.com/awards.

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Robin Wall Kimmerer

Robin Wall Kimmerer, acclaimed author of "Braiding Sweetgrass" and "The Serviceberry," comes to Hudson Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 6 p.m. for a talk and conversation with garden writer Margaret Roach, followed by a book signing. The in-person event is sold out, but a free livestream is available. Visit hudsonhall.org.

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NOVEMBER 12

Opening: Subway Saints

The Warren Family Gallery at the Berkshire School, 245 Undermountain Road, Sheffield, Mass.

Opening reception from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for Mike Selbach's new exhibition of woodblock prints, low relief panels and carved standing figures.

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Times

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

Thursday, 1:30 p.m. In honor of Veterans Day, author Aaron Elson shares stories from nearly four decades of recording the experiences of World War II veterans. Elson is the author of numerous books, including "Tanks for the Memories" and "Prisoners of War: An Oral History." Books will be available for purchase and signing following the program.

Genre Fiction Book Club

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

Explore the worlds of fantasy, romance and mystery with this informal book club. November's selection is Deborah Harkness' "A Discovery of Witches." Copies are available at the library. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Registration requested. scovillelibrary.org

NOVEMBER 13

Edie Carey

The Grace Note at The Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.

At 7:30 p.m., award-winning singer-songwriter Edie Carey brings her soulful voice, heartfelt songs and humorous storytelling to The Grace Note. Blending folk, country and Americana, Carey has performed alongside Shawn Colvin and Brandi Carlile and appeared at the Newport Folk and Telluride Bluegrass festivals. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org.

Ben Cosgrove in Concert

Dewey Hall, 91 Main St., Sheffield, Mass.

At 7 p.m., pianist and composer Ben Cosgrove performs music inspired by landscapes, places and the natural world. Known for his evocative instrumental compositions, Cosgrove has collaborated with scientists, contributed music to Ken Burns documentaries and held residencies at national parks and research institutions. Tickets at deweyhall.org/events

NOVEMBER 13-15

"Something Rotten!"

Walker Auditorium, The Hotchkiss School, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn.

The Hotchkiss Dramatic Association presents this hilarious musical comedy set in Renaissance England, where two brothers attempt to outshine William Shakespeare by creating the world's first musical. Featuring a cast of 22 students, shows are Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.

"Eternal: An Exhibition of New, Recent, and Near Distant Paintings"

Peter Cusack Studio, 58 Main St. (The Stone Church), North Canaan, Conn.

Artist Peter Cusack celebrates his new studio with an exhibition of new and recent paintings alongside earlier works. Gallery hours Friday through Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.; reception Saturday, 4 to 7 p.m. petercusack.com

NOVEMBER 14

Opening: Susan Jennings' "Echo Loop" and Claudia Tienan's "Pecking Order of Bullshit"

LABspace, 2642 Route 23, Hillsdale, N.Y.

From 1 to 5 p.m., LABspace celebrates its final exhibitions in Hillsdale with two concurrent solo shows. Susan Jennings' "Echo Loop" features an immersive installation of hanging crystal sculptures that visitors can gently activate to create sound, while Claudia Tienan presents her first solo exhibition of paintings. The shows mark the culmination of 12 years of programming at the artist-run gallery. Both exhibitions run through Dec. 19.

Outdoor Holiday Fair

413 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike, West Cornwall, Conn.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a selection of gifts, crafts and baked goods for sale, as well as hot chocolate and a bonfire for toasting marshmallows . Rain date Nov. 21.

Wassaic Community Quilting Workshop

Wassaic Firehouse, 27 Firehouse Road, Wassaic

Noon to 4 p.m., join the fourth annual community quilting workshop with Natalie Baxter and help create a log cabin quilt square. All ages and skill levels welcome. Free, with potluck. Finished quilt will be raffled to benefit Wassaic Fire Company.

Apple Pie Workshop with Chef Emma

Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y.

From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., get ready for Thanksgiving with a hands-on apple pie workshop led by Troutbeck pastry chef Emma Isakoff. All ingredients and tools provided. Ages 13 and up. Registration at troutbeck.com.

Slocan Ramblers

The Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.

At 7:30 p.m., Canadian bluegrass band the Slocan Ramblers brings its high-energy, inventive take on traditional roots music to Banning Hall. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org.

Introduction to the Hare Preserve

Hare Preserve, Popple Swamp Road, Cornwall Bridge, Conn.

From 10 to 11 a.m., join Carlos Neto and Terry Burke of the Cornwall Conservation Trust for a guided walk along the preserve's short, winding 0.45-mile trail, which passes wooded hollows, a pond and sculptures by Monty Hare. Parking is available off Popple Swamp Road. Dogs must be leashed. More information at cornwallconservationtrust.org

Revolutionary Roundtable

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

At 10:30 a.m., local historian Richard Berzine leads a reading and discussion group exploring the founding of the United States from 1740 to 1791. November's session focuses on the Revolutionary War (1775-1783) and the Treaty of Paris. More information at huntlibrary.org.

"Merciless Indian Savages: Native Americans and the Legacy of the Declaration of Independence"

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

At 2 p.m., Irene Norman of the Institute for American Indian Studies explores Indigenous nations' influence on the founding of the United States and the lasting impact of the Declaration of Independence and Revolutionary War on Native communities.

November Is for Sparrows!

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.

Saturday, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Join Bethany Sheffer and George Wallace for an introduction to the sparrows that spend the winter in our region. Learn to identify these often-overlooked birds through an interactive presentation and guided outdoor exploration. Online registration required. sharon.audubon.org

Autumn Ecology Walk

Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y.

Join ecologist and naturalist Loren Merrill for a guided walk exploring how plants and animals prepare for winter, from migration and hibernation to food storage and natural antifreeze. Bring binoculars and dress warmly. Rain or shine. 8 to 10 a.m. Preregistration required. innisfreegarden.org

Tinsley Ellis

Infinity Music Hall, 20 Greenwoods Road West, Norfolk, Conn.

Acclaimed blues guitarist, singer and songwriter Tinsley Ellis brings his raw, soulful sound to Norfolk, performing songs from his latest album, "Labor of Love," featuring 13 original compositions steeped in blues tradition. 8 p.m. Tickets infinityhall.com

Splendor of the Night Sky

Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main St., Sharon, Conn.

Join astronomy enthusiast Roger Liddell at Sharon Town Hall for a tour of the night sky and a look at Sharon's new Dark Skies initiative, which aims to reduce light pollution, protect nocturnal wildlife and preserve our view of the stars. 5 p.m. Register at tinyurl.com/DarkSkiesNov14

"Painting Outdoors: Cornwall and Brittany"

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org

5 to 7 p.m. The Cornwall Library hosts an opening reception for an exhibition of paintings by Cornwall resident Henry Finkelstein. Featuring landscapes painted outdoors in Cornwall and Brittany, France. The exhibition remains on view through Jan. 10, 2027. Registration requested at cornwalllibrary.org.

Jazz Flutist Ali Ryerson and Her Quartet

St. Andrew's Parish, 1 North Main St., Kent, Conn.

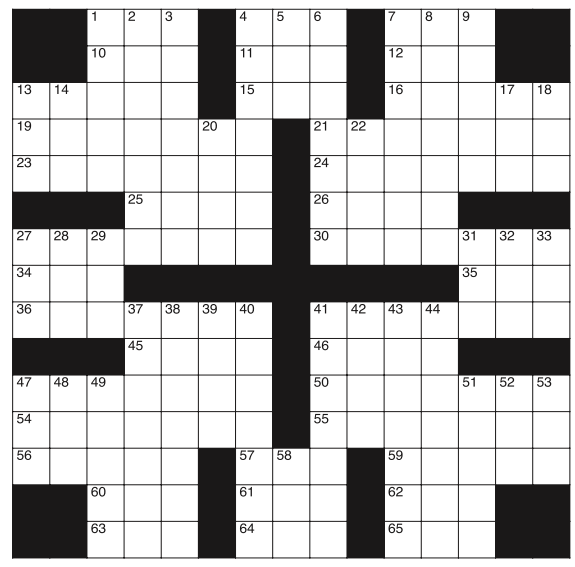
3 p.m. Music in the Nave presents an afternoon of jazz and bossa nova with acclaimed flutist Ali Ryerson, whose five-decade career includes performances with Wynton Marsalis, Stéphane Grappelli and Luciano Pavarotti. Joining her are pianist Larry Ham, bassist Lou Pappas and drummer Tom Melito. Tickets at bit.ly/RyersonQt or at the door. For more information, call 860-927-3486.

Autumn Ecology Walk with Loren Merrill

Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y.

Discover the fascinating ways plants and animals prepare for winter on an early morning walk with naturalist Dr. Loren Merrill. 8 a.m.

Brain Teasers



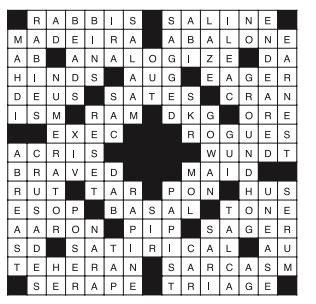
CLUES ACROSS

1. Tire pressure metric
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator Fleming
11. Male adult
12. Norse mythological figure
13. Coffin cloths
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. We all take them
21. Nobleman's jurisdiction
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Rummy-like card game
25. Unable to move
26. Type of horse
27. Parted
30. Woman's cloak
34. South American plant
35. Prohibit
36. Something one takes
41. Dish detergent manufacturer
45. Romanian river
46. Personification of pity
47. Makes upset
50. Discuss again
54. Medical instrument
55. Support
56. Informal term for money
57. Catch doing something wrong
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Automobile
62. "Losing My Religion" rockers
63. High-resolution scientific instrument
64. A major division of geological time
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Indoor plant
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Irish rap group
7. Ageless
8. Lists indicating curriculum
9. Pokes at
13. Public television station
14. They __
17. Cooking tool
18. Separately managed account
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Unhappy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Lists of items to be discussed
39. An informal body of friends
40. Indispensable quality
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. A place to dock
44. Festive singer
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Northernmost point of mainland Wales
49. Most worthless parts
51. Type of "bear"
52. Take or consume
53. Defunct European organization
58. Swiss river

November 5 Solution



Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

November 5 Solution

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

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Pine Plains median home price holds steady at $520K

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to the Millerton News

PINE PLAINS — The median sale price of a single-family home in Pine Plains was $520,000 for the 12 months ending Sept. 30, unchanged from a year earlier and up 46% from $357,000 two years ago.

The median remained below the record $624,250 reached in November 2025. The town's rolling 12-month median has stayed at or above $500,000 for the past year.

A total of 15 single-family homes sold during the 12-month period, compared with 16 a year earlier and 11 for the same timeframe in 2024. Annual sales have ranged from 10 to 18 over the past three years, well below the peak of 40 recorded during the 12 months ending June 2021 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the beginning of November, 18 homes were listed for sale, including 11 with price reductions. Five were listed above $1 million while eight residential properties were asking below the $520,000 median price. Six parcels of land remain listed for sale on the MLS and three commercial buildings.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

This ranch at 553 Lake Road overlooks Twin Island Lake and has a private dock. Built in 1985 on 3.7 acres, the home was listed June 5, went under contract Aug. 7 and sold Sept. 25 for $640,000.

Transfers

553 Lake Road — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath ranch on 3.7 acres transferred to Alexander Wolf for $640,000.

60 Bowman Road — 3 bedroom/1 bath home built in 1952 on 1 acre of land transferred to Patricia Anne Vincent for $80,000.

18 Wicks Ave. — 4 bedroom/1.5 bath ranch on .86 acres transferred to Tyler Amato for $310,000.

40 Myrtle Ave. — 2,789 square foot commercial building built in 1969 on 0.89 acres transferred to Glarmanagement LLC.

* Town of Pine Plains real estate transfers recorded between Sept. 1, 2026, and Sept. 30, 2026, provided by Dutchess County Office of Real Property. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from First Key MLS and single-family home market statistics from InfoSparks. Note that recorded transfers frequently lag sales by a number of days and include properties sold privately. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.

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DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Harlem Valley area activity report Oct. 22 to Nov. 4

Oct. 22 — Deputies report the arrest of David I. Bonilla-Barahona, age 25, for driving while intoxicated subsequent to a traffic stop on Route 22 in Dover. Bonilla-Barahona to appear in Dover Town Court at a later date.

Oct. 23 — Deputies report the arrest of Jay M. Labell, age 45, for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the second degree subsequent to a traffic stop on Route 22 in the Village of Pawling. Labell to appear in court at a later date.

Oct. 24 — Deputies report the arrest of Jose A. Rios, age 58, for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, subsequent to traffic stop on Route 22 in the Town of Pawling. Rios to appear in the Town of Pawling Court at a later date.

Oct. 26 — Deputies responded to 9 Bundy Hill Road in the Town of Pawling to investigate a domestic dispute between a grandmother and granddaughter. The matter was resolved without further police intervention.

Nov. 2 — Deputies patrolled to Old Post Road 4, in North East to investigate a disturbance between male/female roommates. The situation was confirmed to be an argument between two intoxicated roommates. The matter was resolved without further police intervention.

Nov. 2 — Deputies responded to 160 Holsapple Road in the Town of Dover to investigate a brother vs. brother verbal domestic dispute. The matter was resolved without further police intervention.

PLEASE NOTE: All subjects arrested and charged are alleged to have committed the crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty and are to appear in local courts later.

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned criminal cases, or any other suspected criminal activity please contact the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office tip line at 845 605 CLUE (2583) or email dcsotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.

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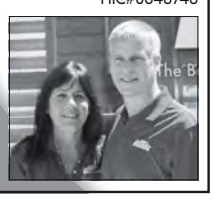
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