The Millerton News

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County and its Environs

millertonnews.com

Thursday, November 26, 2026

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46 Pages in 3 Sections **$3.00**

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Special, Inside



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

A box truck destroyed by fire sits on its side along Route 22 after colliding with a passing vehicle and overturning on Friday morning, Nov. 20.

Box truck overturns, catches fire on Route 22

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — A box truck overturned and caught fire on Route 22 just north of the Wassaic train station Friday, Nov. 20. The crash blocked traffic for more than an hour. No injuries were reported.

New York State Police said Daneli Perez Ramirez, 33, was driving a Chevrolet box truck north on Route 22 around 8:15 a.m. when Evin Degrimencioglu, 32, lost control of his vehicle while trying to pass on the left and struck the truck.

Police said the truck crossed the southbound lane, struck a guardrail and rolled onto its side. It slid back across the road before coming to rest and catching fire.

Amenia Fire Chief Chris Howard said gasoline in landscaping equipment carried in the back of the truck ignited, and the fire quickly engulfed and destroyed the truck.

Police said three people were in the box truck, including the driver. Degrimencioglu was alone in his

See FIRE, A8

Empress outlines shared ambulance plan

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

At meetings on consecutive nights in Millbrook and Amenia, Empress Ambulance Services officials outlined a plan they say could lower ambulance costs without reducing service across the region.

Empress Executive Director Robert Stuck said that the new program would include the towns of North East, Amenia, Millbrook and Stanford as cooperating municipalities sharing in the services. Each of the towns has a lower emergency call volume than larger counterparts. By sharing the time of the vehicle fleet, there would be less idle time that is customarily charged to the towns, burdening their budgets.

Millbrook Trustees heard the presentation at their regular meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 18, that included an introduction of the new program by County Legislator and Town of Washington resident Eric Alexander, who serves as chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature's Public Safety Committee. Alexander has been actively seeking a solution to high EMS costs faced by communities in his district.

"There is a lot of geography, but not a lot of people, and only a single provider," Alexander said of the challenge facing area municipalities. "We needed to find a plan that would work for all of us," he added.

Millbrook and Amenia experience about the same volume of calls for service, Stuck said, adding that he had met with area town supervisors and learned that emergency resources are not being utilized, while providing the ser-

See EMS, A8

Neighbors' concerns over Cascade Creek subdivision mount

Developers say criticisms have been addressed over two years of Planning Board meetings

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — A proposed 26-home affordable housing subdivision has drawn opposition from nearby residents, who have rallied others from across town against the plan.

Hudson River Housing's Cascade Creek proposal calls for 26 single-family homes on lots ranging from 0.28 to 0.41 acres. The site is across Route 22 from Old North Road, near Freshtown Plaza. The homes would be sold to qualifying moderate-income buyers.

Over more than four years, Hudson River Housing has pursued plans to build homes in Amenia. Supporters say Cascade Creek would expand access to homeownership in a town where the median home sale price has risen about 90% since 2018, outpacing inflation and wage growth in Dutchess County. Opponents have questioned how

See CASCADE CREEK, A10



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Campaigners gather at The Lantern on Wassaic's Main Street on Thursday, Nov. 19, to discuss a proposal for New York State to purchase and run Central Hudson Gas & Electric.

Local Democratic Socialists rally for state to buy Central Hudson

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

WASSAIC — On Thursday, Nov. 19, organizers and local leaders gathered at The Lantern on Wassaic's Main Street to discuss a State Senate bill that would create a publicly-owned energy company in the Hudson Valley.

The New York bill, introduced by State Senators Michelle Hinchey and Sarahana Shrestha in June, is currently in committee. If it were to pass, it would see the state purchase Central Hudson Gas & Electric, which currently serves 315,000 electric customers. Its

See CENTRAL HUDSON, A8

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

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

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OUR TOWNS

Columbia County supervisors support moratorium on Flock Safety usage

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

The Columbia County Board of Supervisors are imposing a 3-month moratorium on automatic license plate readers. The unanimous vote came after a request from Columbia County Sheriff Jacqueline Salvatore to pause the county's use of the Flock cameras.

"The pause will allow the county to resolve questions about camera placement, finalize contract revisions and refine the office's policy governing the technology's use," the Sheriff's Department said in a statement.

Columbia County's relationship with Flock has followed a pattern similar to that of Dutchess: property line disputes, opposition from residents, and privacy concerns have led to this moment. Whether Columbia County joins Dutchess in killing the cameras completely remains to be seen.

"The three month moratorium is a good start," said Hudson Mayor Joe Ferris. "Flock has no place in Columbia County. This is a company that has lied repeatedly about what their technology is used for and what is done with the data they collect."

New Lebanon supervisor Tistrya Houghtling also released a statement. "If Flock fails to meet these requirements during the three-month moratorium, I intend to introduce a resolution calling for an outright ban on Flock cameras in Columbia County.

"Flock must agree to meaningful changes to its memorandum of understanding," the statement continued.

A memorandum of understanding is not legally binding, but usually sets broad terms of agreement that are formalized in a contract. The county's memorandum of understanding with Flock Safety gives the company numerous rights and unchecked access to the data collected by their cameras.

The MOU was the subject of recent State Assembly testimony by Columbia County's own Michael Chameides. Chameides is the co-Executive Director of the Columbia County Sanctuary Movement, and on Monday, Nov. 9, he gave testimony as part of an Assembly Public Hearing on Automatic License Plate Reader Systems.

Chameides pushed for comprehensive, statewide legislation to regulate the technology. He also revealed details about the county's MOU with Flock.

Columbia County's contract with Flock states that the company "retains the right to use [the data] for any purpose, at Flock's sole discretion."

The Columbia County MOU gives Flock the right to use the data as it sees fit, and caps Flock's liability in case of misuse at $100.

He went on to recommend that New York require municipalities to hold a public hearing and local vote before advancing contracts with ALPR manufacturers. "That should be the baseline," Chameides said. "Before you're paying for these ALPRs, I recommend you put in some basic safety recommendations."

"New York is the biggest purchaser of ALPRs in the state," said Chameides. "It was a mistake that they pushed the system before they put in safeguards. They really should have put in safeguards first."

Chameides' testimony was part of a series of panels regarding automatic license plate readers in the state. Gathered lawmakers, including local Assemblymember Anil Beephan, heard testimony from district attorneys, law enforcement officials, and privacy advocates about the drawbacks and advantages of the technology.

In northern Dutchess, Flock cameras in Amenia, Millerton, Pine Plains, and Milan were removed last month. Chameides cited Pine Plains as a particular case of "procurement concerns" — in February of 2026, a contract between Flock and the town of Pine Plains was cancelled after a retiring police officer agreed to install the cameras, and site markers began appearing in town. "This is a common pattern around the state," said Chameides. A similar situation played out in Columbia County—the sheriff at the time, Sheriff Don Krapf signed a contract for 10 Flock cameras in 2024. Columbia County's Board of Supervisors were not consulted. "We had a loophole that they were able to exploit."

But despite the nominal ban, Dutchess County's Sheriff's department still uses at least one Flock product. Dutchess County's decision to deactivate the cameras does not mean they're abandoning the technology. The Sheriff's Department is still using a program called Flock OS to "integrate systems," according to Captain John Watterson of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department. It allows law enforcement to connect various cameras into one platform.

New York is currently considering several pieces of legislation to regulate ALPRs. State Senator Michelle Hinchey introduced Senate Bill S9890A in September, which would ban the sale of ALPR data to private entities, block out-of-state license queries, and require auditable access logs. The bill is currently being debated in committee.

Assembly bill A00907A, first introduced in 2025, would have required police departments to develop minimum standards governing the use of ALPR systems. The legislation did not pass.

Speaking after the hearing, Chameides said his primary concern was the way civilian data was being shared and sold through the ALPR system. "They can monetize the data for their benefit…nobody should be able to sell our data without our consent."

"Any moment you can backslide," said Chameides. "There could certainly be another contract or a different company that can have these problems

"Even the people who were most excited about using surveillance technology understood that we need to put in safeguards," he said.

The full public hearing can be viewed at nyassembly.go/av/hearings.



PHOTOS BY LEILA HAWKEN

Homemade candles

From setting wicks, melting and pouring coconut-soy wax to coloring and adding scents of choice, a free candle making workshop led by expert Amenia candle maker Emma Berley, owner of Underdog's Revival Candles, attracted nine enthusiastic learners to the Amenia Free Library on Wednesday, Nov. 18.



YOUR NEWS
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Pine Plains begins natural resource inventory

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Pine Plains is taking stock of its natural resources. At a town board meeting on Thursday, Nov. 19, the board received a presentation from the environmental research firm Hudsonia and its Biodiversity Outreach Coordinator, Jenna Holub.

Hudsonia works with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation to help towns with their habitat mapping and conservation planning. They aim to protect a municipality's flora, fauna, and natural resources by taking a comprehensive account of physical and biological resources.

They do so by identifying potential threats, discussing existing protections, and providing conservation recommendations. Hudsonia's recommendations are informational, and not enforceable by law.

Hudsonia will then create a number of different maps detailing the extent and location of Pine Plains' natural resources. Bedrock, water, and soil are some of the resources that will be mapped out. The variety and population of animal species will also be updated by cross-referencing existing information for the region.

Hudsonia's Holub said this type of work is essential because "a lot of the really important natural resources are held on private land. We really need to work together to protect our resources," she said. "This will help you think long-term … an NRI can help you decide what you want to do with what you have."

Holub and her team will begin work on the map series in December. The entire NRI will take about 18 months to complete, with Hudsonia hosting draft map workshops with town leaders to confirm the validity and accuracy of their findings. A public information session may take place at the end of January, and a final presentation with the study's findings will take place upon completion.

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Millbrook Village Hall gym floor to be restored for basketball program

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — With a view toward revitalizing the village basketball program the Millbrook Trustees voted unanimously to proceed with the work of restoring the Village Hall's gym flooring at its regular meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Mayor Peter Doro reported that a lease in the amount of $5,000 has been received to re-establish a village basketball program to be held in Village Hall gym. The Trustees voted to use the funding to restore the gym floor, including sanding and application of a finishing sealant coat. Work is expected to be completed in early December.

"It is exciting stuff to bring basketball back to Millbrook Village Hall," Doro said.

Tax exemption

The trustees voted unanimously to adopt a local law exempting permanently and totally disabled veterans from paying local property taxes. A public hearing on the law drew no comment.

Mayor Doro noted to no one in the village would qualify for the exemption but all agreed that it was appropriate to adopt the law should someone qualify in the future.


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Pine Plains race car builders prime and paint at Sharon Auto Body

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com



PHOTOS BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Stissing Mountain High School students sand and prime body parts for their Shelby Cobra race car at Sharon Auto Body on Thursday, Nov. 12.

SHARON, Conn. — On Thursday, Nov. 12, high schoolers from Stissing Mountain High School visited Sharon Auto Body Shop to begin building a race car.

The field trip was part of a year-long project that will see the students assemble a roadster from scratch. On Thursday, they were preparing the car's body for paint by sanding down the component parts. Clad in face masks and gloves to protect against the fine particulates, 10 teenagers worked under the supervision of Jim Benincasa, a teacher at Stissing Mountain. They used scuff pads and sandpaper to smooth the hood and quarter panels.

"They're trying to get a nice uniform surface," said Benincasa. "Last year, a shop just did this part themselves. It looked great, but the kids didn't understand what happened. This year they're doing it themselves."

This is the second year that Stissing Mountain seniors have participated in the Winners Circle Project, a New York-sponsored competition that teaches students how to build—and sell—a race car.



Students received help and advice from Sharon Auto Body employees and Stissing Mountain High School teacher Jim Benincasa.

Under the watchful eye of Jim Benincasa, a teacher at Stissing Mountain Jr./Sr. High School, the teenagers will assemble a car from scratch.

On Nov. 12, the class convened at Sharon Auto Body Shop in Connecticut to smooth down the component parts.

About 10 students were scattered around the car's component body parts.

"They're trying to get a nice uniform surface," said Benincasa. "Last year, a shop just did this part themselves. It looked great, but the kids didn't understand what happened. This year they're doing it themselves understand."

Benincasa said the engine and chassis had recently arrived. They'll install those parts in the coming weeks. But the build is only half of the project.

The Winners Circle Project also involves a marketing class that handles the promotion and sale of the car. They'll document the car's progress and create marketing materials to help advertise the car for its eventual sale.

The proceeds will go towards next year's class. "Some of the marketing class is in the build class this year, and some of the build class is in the marketing class," Benincasa said. "It definitely helps to have a better understanding of what both sides do."

For their second year in the competition, the Pine Plains team is building a Ford Cobra model from a kit —the same car as last year. This time around, however, they're painting it a charcoal gray instead of last year's blue. Last year's car sold for nearly $60,000.

In 2019, the Winners Circle Project started in Ithaca, and has since expanded to other areas of New York.



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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Arborvitae line East Street in Sharon, where neighbors have raised concerns about the plantings' effect on a mountain view.

A wall of green stirs debate on Sharon's East Street

By RUTH EPSTEIN
Special to the Millerton News

SHARON — The planting of more than 120 trees at 152 East Street has drawn complaints from neighbors who say the trees have changed a longtime scenic view and may be within the town's right of way.

The Planning and Zoning Commission briefly discussed the plantings Nov. 12 and took no action. First Selectman Casey Flanagan said he was unsure whether the trees were within the right of way.

Adam Brammer of AB Landscaping, who planted the arborvitae, told the commission he had been advised that the trees could be planted as long as they were at least 15 feet from the roadway and did not obstruct drivers' views. The arborvitae can grow up to 50 feet tall and are typically planted in rows to form a privacy screen.

Kelly and Greg Kilmer, who live directly across the road, said planting began Sept. 3. The couple attended the meeting but did not speak.

Stone Hill LLC purchased the property in November 2025. The Kilmers identified Ann Light as the owner. Light did not attend the meeting, and attempts to reach her for comment were unsuccessful.

The Kilmers say the plantings have affected a view that has long drawn people to East Street. For years, townspeople have gathered there for an annual sunrise service overlooking Mohawk and Skiff mountains.

The couple pointed to the Sharon Conservation Commission's 2005 Natural Resources Inventory, which identifies East Street as an area of special scenic value.

"We find it especially significant that these scenic resources were identified and documented by the town more than 20 years ago," the Kilmers wrote.

In a letter to Light, the Kilmers, whose roots in Sharon go back generations, acknowledged that property owners have the right to make decisions about their land. They said the view was part of their dream when they were finally able to build their home.

"We would like to see the trees removed," they said.

Neighbor Stefanie Lindahl told The Lakeville Journal after the Nov. 12 meeting that she found the plantings "shocking" and described them as "visual hoarding."

Separately, the Kilmers are seeking scenic road designation for three miles of East Street. Under Sharon's scenic road ordinance, designation requires written consent from owners representing a majority of the lot frontage along the proposed stretch.

The commission plans to discuss the East Street tree plantings again on Dec. 10.



PHOTOS BY LEILA HAWKEN

Wassaic firehouse hosts Thanksgiving dinner for seniors

About 30 residents gathered for a Senior Thanksgiving Dinner at the Wassaic Fire House on Saturday, Nov. 21, sharing lively conversation and a traditional holiday meal with all the fixings. Likely to become an annual event, the holiday dinner was organized by the Amenia Recreation Commission.



Amenia recreation leader Cassidey Howard assisted in doling out food to visitors at the buffet.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

New pumphouse installed

Following months of planning and site preparation to serve the local water district, the new Lavelle Road pump house was set onto its foundation on Thursday, Nov. 19. Modular in construction, the structure was built by EFI Solutions, based in Centralia, Illinois. VRI Environmental Services oversaw the project.

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OBITUARY

John Lawrence, Sr.

ASHLEY FALLS — John Lawrence, Sr., 101, died peacefully on Friday, Nov. 20, 2026, at Geer Village Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in North Canaan, Connecticut. Mr. Lawrence was a retired Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. He worked for Sharon Hospital, Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center and several physicians in New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island. He retired in 1989.

Born Oct. 18, 1925, in Manhattan, New York, he was the son of the late John and Margaret F. (Jenks) Lawrence. He graduated from the NYC Public High School of Commerce in 1943 and received a bachelor's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Rutherford, New Jersey and his master's degree from Long Island University. From 1943 to 1946 he served his country in the United States Navy during WWII. On April 8, 1950, in Jersey City, New Jersey, he married Helen Mae Kellum. Mrs. Helen M. Lawrence, RN, passed away in 1992 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Mr. Lawrence was a longtime member of the Millerton Lions Club where he served as site chairman for over four years. He was also a longstanding member of the North East Baptist Church in Millerton, where he served as a deacon and assembly member. He also taught at the Millerton Christian Academy for a number of years. Mr. Lawrence has resided in Ashley Falls, Massachusetts, for the past several years with his son John and daughter-in-law Geraldine, prior to that he enjoyed nearly thirty-five happy years in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He will be dearly missed by his loving family.

Calling hours will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2026, from 10-12 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, New York. A funeral service will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the funeral home. Pastor Rick Totten will officiate. Burial with Standard Naval Honors will follow at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton. A repast will follow in Ashley Falls, Massachusetts, and will be announced at the cemetery.

Worship Services

Week of November 22, 2026

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Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

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Wednesday Bible Study
and Prayer Meeting — 7PM
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VISITORS WELCOME!
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Canaan United Methodist Church
2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT
11:00AM - Worship Service
"Open Hearts – Open Minds – Open Doors"
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-824-5534
canaanct-umc.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com
We hope you will join us!

THE MILLERTON NEWS
EDITORIAL PAGE A5 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2026

EDITORIAL

The season of thanks

As Thanksgiving approaches, we want to thank the people who make The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News possible.

First, our readers. You read our reporting, share stories with your neighbors, send us news tips, challenge us when you disagree and help us understand what's happening in your towns. That engagement makes us better newspapers.

We're grateful, too, for the people who take time out of their days to speak with our reporters, for the businesses that advertise with us and for the donors whose generosity helps sustain independent local journalism.

And we're thankful for our staff, who put in the work each week to produce newspapers that our communities can count on.

Over the past year, your support has allowed us to invest in local reporting, improve how we reach readers online and in print, and continue introducing young people to journalism through our high school program and summer internships.

Decisions made at town meetings, changes in our schools, the challenges facing local businesses and the efforts of volunteers and community organizations all deserve attention. Our job is to report on them accurately, fairly and consistently, week after week.

♦ ♦ ♦

Your support is vital

This edition marks the start of our annual appeal. As a nonprofit news organization, we rely on contributions from readers and supporters for roughly half of our annual operating budget.

Inside this week's paper you'll find a letter describing what your support makes possible and how you can help us continue this work in the year ahead. You can also contribute online at lakevillejournal.com/donate.

Thank you for being part of our work, and for believing in the importance of independent local journalism.



"I'm starting to think the problem isn't winter..."

LET'S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

The Thanksgiving holiday is a time to reflect on the good that has surrounded us throughout the year. It's a time to celebrate family and friends, recognize the people who make a difference in our lives and appreciate the places and traditions that make us feel at home.

What is something or someone in the Northwest Corner that you're especially thankful for this year?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, Nov. 30 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

What does it take to keep a local business thriving in our communities?

"Supporting local businesses is something we can make part of our everyday habits. Choosing them regularly, recommending them to friends, and taking a moment to leave a thoughtful review all help. Those relationships are part of what makes a community feel like home."
—Cody O'Kelly

"We have a ton of new business opened in Amenia. You should come down & check them out and maybe do some interviews!! Plus many business are celebrating huge milestone in business in Amenia/Wassaic!"
— k.e.ghetti

"The right type of business, being affordable and available for the locals first and foremost. Being something desired by locals AND visitors. In order to be successful you have to be something everyone wants and/or needs, especially in this economy."
—Elizabeth Vincent

"We miss our department stores where we can get good socks and undies and jeans…"
—Eleanor Hartwell

"A trust fund?"
—Melissa Davis



To our readers, advertisers and donors, thank you.

We at The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News sincerely wish each of you and your families a healthy and joyful season of thanks.

The Lakeville Journal The Millerton News

Safe life in the AI age

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE
Peter Riva

In China there are already dark factories. What's a dark factory? One that does not need illumination, no lights, because it is all robotic, controlled by AI controllers, none of which needs human light.

Time will tell whether there were nation state actors, pimple-faced kids in basements, extortion criminal gangs, or most likely, rogue AI probing controls in computer systems. The truth of these disruptions is that they are very, very costly. The 430,000,000 Microsoft admitted MS Office users who went a full business day without Outlook, and related programs cost companies and workers, using IRS approved calculations of office time/cost numbers, over a $1,000,000,000,000 – yes, over a trillion dollars, and that's just the 430,000,000 admitted by MS. Within that number of users were hospitals, fire rescuers, emergency services of all kinds. It is likely that transplants and the very lives of citizens were put at risk if not adversely impacted.

The passengers put at risk while flying was, of course, equally if not more costly and potentially more risky when the federal ground stop was ordered.

No expert in their right mind believes that a single router caused all that. There was a penetration of the flight SMART system and the right thing to do was shut it all down 'til it could be determined what, how, and where – and remedy it, even if only temporarily.

One of the things to come out of the ground-stop was that the public learned that, suddenly, planes were flying without ground control, navigating themselves, their pilots hyper-alert to traffic in their area, searching for a safe place to land and relying only on radio calls to determine what was, or was not, a safe runway. Anyone who thinks we should have automated planes with only one pilot in the cockpit had a rude lesson on why there needs to be two experts on the flight deck for just such emergencies.

All those robot cars plying city streets, reliant on GPS guidance and AI internal computers… that risk is only matched by AI control of today's modern car that can be turned off remotely without your control.

The electrical grid, being turned over to AI programs, to route loads of electricity to industry, hospitals, the police stations, your home… could be cascading event any day now.

City water supply, septic systems, flood control barriers, dam control flow… AI is being trusted to monitor all of it.

In China there are already dark factories. What's a dark factory? One that does not need illumination, no lights, because it is all robotic, controlled by AI controllers, none of which needs human light. Similar factories are being built here by all US manufacturers, robots controlled by AI robotry, production lines operating on the whim of programming geniuses – often AI programmers, not humans – and we're supposed to be complacent enough to trust AI completely.

AI as a supercomputer set for, limited to, a task is reliable. AI set to take over a task and govern it according to acquired outside information is not to be trusted. If your child mixed with the wrong kids at school and learned how to shop-lift, or smoke, you would stop him or her. AI is like that, we've set it free to "improve" itself outside of its original programming, and in so doing, we've created dangers for our very existence.

Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenia Union, New York, now lives in Gila, New Mexico.

School crowding, library completion

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 28, 1935
School Board Studying Proposals To End Crowded Conditions; Discuss Centralization, Building

Acting on notice from the State Department of Education that a full time schedule must be provided for all pupils of the Millerton schools next year, the Board of Education is making a study of various proposals for the elimination of the existing conditions of overcrowding. Pupils of the first and second grades are on a half-time schedule this year.

The Board was notified three weeks ago when Inspector McCormick of the State Education Department made his periodical examination of the schools that something would have to be done to remedy the situation before another year. The matter, accordingly, was taken up Friday night at the Board's regular meeting which was attended by District Superintendent of Schools William R. Tremper of Rhinebeck.

All phases of the problem were discussed and several suggestions were advanced for its solution. Centralization, it is understood, is looked upon with favor by the Board and is considered the best method of solving the question.

Two plans were recommended to meet the room shortage situation. One provided for the construction of an addition to the present school building on Elm Avenue. Under the other plan, the present building would be used as a grade school and a new junior and senior high school would be erected.

November 24, 1976
Many Hands Help To Complete Library

"I'm just overwhelmed," Shirley Conklin, president of the Millerton Free Library Association, said. She was referring to the number of people who had given of themselves to make the new Main Street library a reality.

People of all ages and from all parts of the community were busy carrying boxes of books, dusting shelving and vacuuming the carpet last weekend in preparation for the library opening on Wednesday, Nov. 24 at the regular hours.

Mrs. Conklin recalled the terrible fire in Delson's about 20 years ago which entirely burned out the library, then located on the second floor of the building The one volume saved was "History of Dutchess County." June Davis, "at risk of life and limb," climbed the smoky stairs to rescue that book, she said. The library then temporarily resided in a building on John Street, and moved to the Village Hall building about 15 years ago when the firehouse built [sic] on Century Boulevard.

For the full From the Archives, go to millertonnews.com

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

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OUR TOWNS

Train service returns to Wassaic after months-long track renovations

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com



PHOTO PROVIDED

A Metro-North Railroad employee installs the "golden tie" on Friday, Nov. 20, signaling the end of months of work to replace railroad along the train line.

After nearly two months of busing, residents of northeast Dutchess will be able to take the train again from Wassaic.

On Friday, Nov. 20, Metro-North Railroad concluded track work that had stopped train service from Southeast to Wassaic. Train service resumed on Monday, Nov. 23.

The track work involved the replacement of over 60,000 wood ties across the Metro-North system. Railroad representatives celebrated its completion with an event at the Harlem Valley Wingdale station on Friday, Nov. 20. Metro-North Railroad President Justin Vonashek was on hand to install a golden tie to mark its completion.

The oak wood ties are the perpendicular supports that lie below a track's rail. They help to keep rails aligned and distribute weight evenly across the ballast below. Of the nearly 2.4 million ties east of the Hudson River, about 1.7 million are wood. The rest are concrete.

Metro-North travelers have had to rely on buses while the trains were out of service.

Amenia adopts 2027 budget with no changes

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — After considering residents' comments voiced at a Thursday, Nov. 5 public hearing on the proposed 2027 town budget, the Town Board adopted a final budget at its regular meeting on Thursday, Nov. 19. The annual budget will take effect in January, 2027.

The 2027 adopted budget shows total appropriations of $3,743,115 for the General Fund and $1,577,603 for the Highway Fund, a total of $5,320,718, amounting to an increase in tax rate over 2026 of 21.1% for General Fund and a decrease of 0.3% for Highway Fund.

Once expected revenues are applied, the General Fund total is reduced to $2,307,395 and the Highway Fund to $891,451, for a total of $3,198,847 that will need to be raised by taxes, an increase in the mill rate of 2.2% over the current year.

Commenting on the budget process, councilmember Vicki Doyle spoke of a need for long-range capital planning to lessen the impact of anticipated large expenditures.

Town Supervisor Rosanna Hamm agreed that the town needs to have a capital projects policy in place.

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

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.

DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Harlem Valley area activity report Nov. 5 to Nov. 18

Nov. 5 — Deputies responded to Sharon Road in the Town of North East to investigate a domestic dispute. The matter was resolved without further police intervention.

Nov. 6 — Deputies responded to Charles Colman Boulevard in the Village of Pawling for the report of a subject that may have been stealing from the business, and the owner wanted her trespassed from the location. Investigation at the scene resulted in the suspect being issued a trespass notice for the store.

Nov. 7 — Deputies responded to Freshtown at 5094 Route 22 in the Town of Amenia to investigate a complaint of a subject of shoplifting from that location. Deputies made contact with the suspect later identified as one Jonathan Toal, age 25. During the subsequent field interview, the suspect forcibly removed an investigating Deputy's cell phone from the Deputy's ballistic vest and threw it into the roadway, where it was destroyed after being struck by a vehicle. Toal was taken into custody and subsequently charged with robbery, criminal mischief and obstructing governmental administration. Toal was arraigned and released with a future court appearance date.

Nov. 8 — Deputies responded to South East Mountain Road in the Town of Dover to investigate a domestic dispute. Matter resolved without further police intervention.

Nov. 8 — Deputies responded to Beilke Road in the Town of North East to investigate a domestic dispute. The matter was resolved without further police intervention.

Nov. 9 — Deputies patrolled to the Cascade Spirit Shoppe 5058 Route 22 to investigate a report that the business received counterfeit money during a transaction. Matter currently under investigation.

Nov. 10 — Deputies responded to the Valero gas station at 851 Route 22 in the Town of Pawling to investigate a burglary alarm activation at that location. Upon patrol arrival, Deputies confirmed a burglary to the business. Matter currently under investigation.

Nov. 13 — While conducting a property check of the Stissing Mtn. High/Middle School the Deputy discovered what appeared to be new graffiti on an exterior wall of the school. Investigation on-going.

Nov. 13 — Deputies responded to Charwill Drive in the Town of Stanford to investigate a reported domestic dispute. The matter was resolved without further police intervention.

Nov. 14 — Deputies conducted a traffic stop on an erratic vehicle that had been reported to Dutchess County 911 on Stater Route 22 in the Town of Dover. Subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Sarah A. Sohl (age36) for Driving While Intoxicated. Sohl to be appear in the Town of Dover Court at a later date.

Nov. 15 — Deputies responded to State Route 22 in the Town of North East for a reported Car vs Bear property damage automobile crash. No injuries were reported.

Nov. 18 — Deputies investigated a domestic dispute that was occurring in a vehicle on State Route 22 in the Town of Pawling. Matter investigated 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.

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.

Ann & Ron Reich



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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Community outreach

Tom Garrity, Economic Development Analyst at left, Harry Hechehouche, Community and Government Relations Manager at center, and Dylan Miyoshi, Eastern Region Manager at right turned up at Amenia Town Hall on Thursday, Nov. 19, to provide information about the federal Home Energy Assistance Program. More information about HEAP can be obtained by phoning toll-free 800-572-1111, NYSEG's Customer Service line.

Thorne Center construction expected to begin next year

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com



PHOTO PROVIDED

Dozens gathered in the Thorne Center's auditorium space on Sunday, Nov. 15, to hear about the plans.

MILLBROOK — A community meeting on Millbrook's Thorne Center yielded a brief update about the historic building's long-awaited renovations.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, representatives from the Thorne Center detailed their vision. Oakleigh Thorne, the president of the Millbrook Community Partnership and CEO of Thorndale Farm, Inc., gave a presentation to about 200 members of the community who had gathered in the Thorne Center to learn more about the project.

About $28.6 million has already been raised from private donors. Community fundraising will open when construction breaks ground, Krista Fragos of the Millbrook Community Partnership, the project's non-profit entity, said following the meeting.

Four bids from pre-qualified contractors are currently being reviewed. The former high school, originally built in 1895, is being reimagined as a community center and concert venue. Construction on the project is tentatively scheduled to start in mid-2027 and finish in 2029, with an estimated price tag of $35 million.

Once finished, the Thorne Center will include a concert venue, digital arts lab, recording studio, community garden, and more. They'll also show movies. "There's a huge range of programming planned," said Fragos, "but one of the main spaces is the performance hall."

The MCP has been working with Charcoal Blue, an acoustics design studio from London, in designing the space. Most of the construction will take place in the existing building's footprint. The one expansion will take place in the main theater. The back wall will be extended to allow for a catwalk and backstage amenities. Next up comes some "preconstruction exploration," according to Fragos.

The back wall of the theater needs to be examined to further understand the building's structure. "There are some big columns there," she said, "and we're just not sure what's inside." But while the theater will be sure to attract top-tier talent, Fragos said "the daily heartbeat of the building is the digital arts center in the basement … The idea is that our school kids, and older folks, can come and use it to create, and get tech help. It's going to be a robust program."

While Sunday's meeting did not yield many new details, it was the first time the MCP had discussed bids and the construction timeline in such detail. Oakleigh Thorne shared blueprints and maps of the prospective layout. "The goal is to transform the Thorne Building into a center which offers activities and programs that attract everyone to the Village," Thorne said in a statement.

North East adopts 2027 budget that includes 7.2% EMS contract hike

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Town of North East adopted its 2027 budget Thursday, Nov. 12, following a public hearing that drew no comment.

Next year's budget would see mill rates fall by between 2.46% and 9% across the town's five funds. The mill rate is a number used to calculate a property's tax bill. It represents the tax rate in dollars per $1,000 of home valuation.

The town's general fund mill rate is expected to drop by 2.46%. That amounts to a reduction in tax bills of just under $6 for every $100,000 of home valuation. Tax bills may be estimated by dividing the valuation of a property by 1,000 and then multiplying that amount by the mill rate recorded in the budget.

Falling tax rates don't necessarily translate to drops in bills. Next year's tax rate drop corresponds with an average increase in land assessments town-wide of about 8% for general fund appropriations.

That 5% tax levy hike, driven in part by a 7.2% increase to the town's emergency medical services contract with Empress EMS to $746,345, required the town to pierce New York State's maximum allowed tax levy increase of 2%. The state typically requires municipalities to rein in tax levy hikes under 2% but towns can override that cap via resolution.

Following the public hearing, the Town Board made one change before final adoption — an additional $5,000 expense line to hire a labor attorney for the town. Town Supervisor Chris Kennan said the town was hiring a labor attorney for the first time, and the town's budgets did not previously account for it.

Washington town budget includes 3% tax rate hike

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Town of Washington's 2027 budget will result in slight tax increases for residents in both the town and the Village of Millbrook.

The budget was adopted at a town board meeting on Thursday, November 12. Mill rates, which are numbers used to calculate tax bills, will rise 4.87% outside the Village of Millbrook. Within the Village, the increase is only 2.97%. Tax bills are calculated by dividing a home's assessed value by 1,000 and multiplying that amount by the mill rate.

The preliminary budget has a subtotal of $7,504,766 — $3,090,278 in appropriations for the general fund, $3,545,092 for highway fund, and $869,396 for the fire department. After revenues, the 2027 budget shows tax levies of $1,163,314 for the general fund, $1,151,551 for the highway, and $869,396 for the fire department. That makes for a total tax levy of $3,184,261, up 4.85% from last year's levy of $3,036,946.

The budget also included an increase of $50,000 for the town library. The resolution passed on election day, and increased the library budget from $349,000 to $399,000.

Budget documents provided several examples of how Washington's home values will be influenced. For a Washington home with an assessed value of $266,900, taxes will increase overall by $37.74. Homes with an assessed value of $721,600 will see their taxes increase by $102.03, and a home of $2,146,300 will see an increase of $303.47.

The budget also includes a line item of $235,000 for building improvements. The Town Hall will repave its blacktop in 2027 for an estimated cost of $85,000 and replace the building's windows for a total of $150,000. A grant of $25,000 will cover a portion of that cost.

LEGAL NOTICES

ANNUAL ELECTION OF AMENIA FIRE DISTRICT #1 DECEMBER 8, 2026

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Annual Election of the Amenia Fire District #1 will take place on Tuesday, December 8, 2026 between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the firehouse located at 36 Mechanic Street, Amenia, New York for the purpose of electing (1) Commissioner to serve a five (5) year term commencing of January 1, 2027 and ending on December 31, 2031.

Candidates for District Office of Commissioner shall file their names and the position they are seeking in writing to the District Secretary, Dawn Marie Klingner, PO Box 214, Amenia, New York 12501 no later than December 4, 2026. Only residents of the Fire District duly registered with the Dutchess County Board of Elections as of November 20, 2026 shall be eligible to vote.

Dawn Marie Klingner
Secretary
Amenia Fire District#1
Board of Commissioners
11-26-26

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

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of EXQUISITE BREATH PROJECT LLC. Arts of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 9/12/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. Principal office of LLC: 242 Main Street #282, Beacon, NY 12508. SSNY is 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, 242 MAIN ST #282, BEACON, NY 12508. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

11-19-26
11-26-26
12-03-26
12-10-26
12-17-26
12-24-26

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



FIRE *Continued from Page A1*

vehicle. Howard said all four people were out of the vehicles and waiting by the roadside when first responders arrived.

Firefighters put out the blaze by 8:45 a.m., but the road remained closed while State Police investigated.



An Amenia firefighter douses a few flames that spread to brush just beyond the guardrail along Route 22.



Firefighters assemble hoses and other equipment as crews work to clean up the scene following the fire.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

Emergency responders from Amenia and Wassaic, in addition to New York State Police and EMTs, were on scene.

CENTRAL HUDSON *Continued from Page A1*

coverage area includes Millerton, Millbrook, Rhinebeck, and Red Hook.

The concept of a government-owned entity, called the Hudson Valley Power Authority, is still theoretical, but public energy companies do exist in other regions, including in Los Angeles, Long Island, Tennessee and Arizona. By removing profit incentives, the utilities have been able to lower costs for their customers, advocates say.

Event organizers such as Millerton resident Brandon Wolfe, a Mid-Huson DSA member and campaign manager for the HVPA, said now is the time to push for bold reforms.

"We're living in a time of mass unaffordability," he said. "People are realizing that just because we disagree on politics doesn't mean that life should be as expensive as it is."

About 30 supporters of the bill gathered in Wassaic to hear from local organizers about the campaign.

The event was described as a "casual social" by the Mid-Hudson Valley DSA, the organization that hosted the evening. Local legislators in attendance included Pine Plains Supervisor Trevor Roush, Millerton Village Trustee Katie Cariello, and County Legislator Chris Drago.

The concept in favor of the HVPA is a simple one: remove profit from an energy company's objectives, and rates will fall. The Tennessee Valley Authority, originally created in 1933, has been in existence for nearly 100 years. Energy prices in Tennessee are 26% below the national average, according to ElectricRates.org. Just last month, the U.S. Department of Energy announced plans to expand the TVA with $250 million in federal funds.

Central Hudson customers have seen their utility bills rise 76% over the past 5 years, compared to the national average of 33%. "Something has to change in terms of how our community is interacting with Central Hudson Energy," said County Legislator Chris Drago. But these are early days. "I think this is a first step to getting the area to hear about the bill," said Millerton Village Trustee Katie Cariello. "You have to start somewhere, and that's what's happening here today."

Both Cariello and Drago said energy costs were one of the concerns they heard the most about from their constituents. Most estimates put HVPA savings between 5-10% of the current energy bill, with savings increasing over time and depending on investments in advanced grid technology and renewable energy.

Supervisor Roush expressed an openness to the campaign, but said it's a complicated issue for families in the region. "I think that many people in the region have some connection to Central Hudson. My understanding is that everything for the workers will still be there, and it could potentially be a better situation, but it's a legitimate concern."

Still, he said, the prospect of lower, more predictable utility bills was worth exploring. "It resonates with a lot of people who are looking for help," Roush said. "And it's my job as Pine Plains Supervisor to make sure people in my town can live the best life they can."

The HVPA faces a number of challenges. Central Hudson representatives have said the utility is not for sale in comments to NPR station WAMC and that a government takeover would actually drive rates higher. The cost to purchase Central Hudson is another potential hurdle. The bill puts the estimated purchase price between $3.5 and $7.5 billion. Central Hudson also contributes more than $60 million in local taxes, while the HVPA would be tax-exempt.

Electricity prices have outpaced inflation by 49% in the last three years, according to the American Economic Liberties Project.

But enacting the HVPA would first mean gaining wide support from New York's political sector. Once that happens, the company would likely need to issue revenue bonds to finance itself, which could be recovered through customers' bills.

Despite the mammoth task ahead, Mid-Hudson DSA's Brandon Wolfe closed the night on an optimistic note. "What we're doing here may be a small community effort," he said, "but the way we pass things like this is by showing that small, rural communities want change."

EMS *Continued from Page A1*

vices is creating significant costs to the towns.

Stuck reported that Empress, a for-profit company, has designed a new program that could reduce the number of ambulances while keeping service the same, thereby reducing cost to the towns. It will be a "dynamic system," providing more efficient service, Stuck said.

"We would leave the Millbrook and Amenia ambulances where they are now," Stuck said of the new system. The Amenia vehicle is now stationed between Amenia and Millerton. If the Millbrook ambulance is sent out on a call, then another vehicle would move to a location where it would be ready to respond quickly should another call come in.

How the four towns allocate the costs is a still unresolved piece needing to be discussed by the participating towns before the new program could be launched, Stuck said.

On Thursday, Nov. 19, Stuck and Alexander attended the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting in Amenia to give a similar presentation.

"We need a plan," Alexander said, responding to the need for a solution to the rising costs of EMS services impacting area towns. "The priority must be safety."

"This has been a long time in the works," Alexander said of the planning process to find a way toward lowering ambulance costs.

Currently, four ambulances are serving the four communities 24/7, Stuck said. In a community with a low call volume, the ambulance is idle, but accruing costs that fall to the town to cover.

Under the proposed dynamic system, the number of ambulances would be three but they would reposition as calls are received. For example, if the Amenia ambulance were summoned, the ambulance serving Millbrook might move to a new position nearer to Amenia and the Stanford ambulance might move to a new position nearer to Millbrook.

Councilmember Walter Dietrich asked about possibilities for cooperating with nearby Connecticut towns with shared services and learned that there would be legal barriers, although perhaps it could be explored in the future.

Of all calls, half go to Sharon Hospital from the four area towns, Stuck said.

Town Supervisor Rosanna Hamm asked about staffing shortages in the industry and learned that Empress does its own recruitment and training.

Some residents spoke in opposition to the plan. Robert Boyles, captain of the Wassaic Fire Department, urged the town to consider providing its own ambulance services, an idea he had championed for 25 years. Resident Judy Moran agreed, suggesting that the town provide cost analyses to consider the idea.

Alexander offered to remain available to town officials as they continue to consider the proposal in the coming months.



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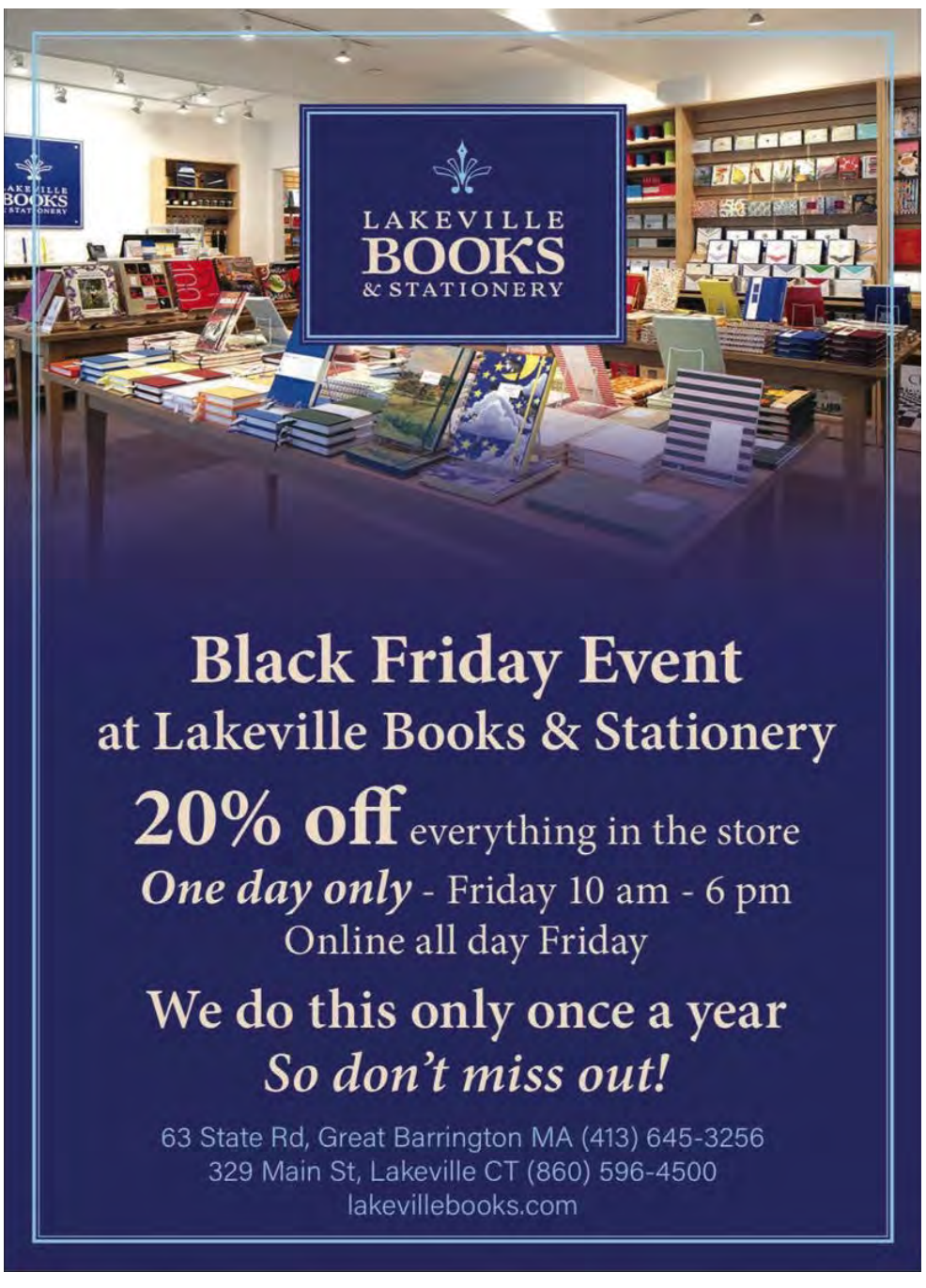

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Neighbors' concerns mount as Cascade Creek subdivision nears preliminary approval

Continued from A1

the subdivision would fit into the surrounding neighborhood where the standard residential lot is significantly larger, and raised concerns about its environmental impact, including potential effects on nearby wells.

Amenia's workforce housing provisions allow developers to build more homes if they meet federal and state affordability standards. The Cascade Creek proposal also qualifies for additional homes because more than half of the 24.13-acre site would be protected by conservation easements.

Some supporters say the opposition reflects stereotypes about affordable housing and the people who rely on it. Leo Blackman, a former Amenia town supervisor and longtime affordable housing advocate, said he was disappointed by the neighbors' opposition.

"It's crazy that that's still so deeply embedded in people's heads," Blackman said. "It makes me very, very angry because I have been working on affordable housing in this area as part of the Tri-Town Coalition for a long time."

Several opponents said they recognize the need for affordable housing but questioned whether the project needed 26 homes to be financially viable. Ashley Merritt, who lives near the site with her husband, Kenny, said they would support a smaller development.

"We do need affordable housing, we know that's an issue," Merritt said. "It's the amount of houses that are in that property. If they came back and said 15 to 20 houses, we would be OK with that."

Under Amenia's zoning code, the Planning Board must approve both a preliminary and a final plan for a major subdivision such as Cascade Creek. Hudson River Housing has been working toward preliminary approval since December 2024. The board opened a public hearing Oct. 29, 2026, and voted to keep it open after hearing from neighbors Nov. 12, citing significant public interest.

Hudson River Housing and project engineer Peter Sander of Rennia Engineering say the public record addresses most of the concerns raised. They say some questions, particularly those about neighboring wells, require testing that would follow preliminary approval. Opponents say the developer has yet to do enough to address their concerns.

Density concerns

Chief among neighbors' criticisms is the total number of units — Hudson River Housing is currently pursuing approval for 26 homes, down from 28 after the developer reduced the number of units in June following comments from the public and Planning Board members.

Critical neighbors have balked at that reduction, saying just two fewer houses still isn't reasonable for the neighborhood. The Merritts drew comparisons to the homes along Cascade Road, which borders the development site's western side. Single-family homes along that road sit on parcels ranging from 0.34 to 2 acres. They said the Cascade Creek lots, which are mostly 0.28 acres, would be too small.

Ashley also called attention to the bucolic views of the hay field that currently occupies the site. The loss of agricultural land has been a chief concern among many critics, among them Mygatt Road resident Bobby Powell. He said he moved to Amenia in the '80s from Brewster to escape suburban sprawl and enjoy a life in the countryside. The Cascade Creek development reminded him too much of communities he said he moved here to get away from.

"I would like to keep the community the same way I moved in. It's a nice place," Powell said. "It's happening all over the country where they're trying to force low-income housing in places where people don't want it."

Still, Powell and the Merritts said they aren't wholly opposed to homes. They, along with other neighbors, said the site did make sense for houses, but the developer should bring the number of homes down and the lot sizes up to fit in more with the surrounding neighborhoods.

Sander and Hudson River Housing President of Real Estate Development Mary Linge have spoken about the number of homes in the project at multiple Planning Board meetings, saying repeatedly that reducing the number of houses would break the economics of the project.

Sander directly addressed concerns over the number of proposed lots at a Nov. 12, 2025, Planning Board meeting. He said that a reduced number of lots would be infeasible because of cost and environmental impacts.

Sander said a smaller number of houses would reduce the pool of homeowners paying into the shared maintenance costs for the common well and septic system, driving up each individual homeowner's HOA fees. Reduce the number of lots too much, Sander said, and the developer would have to install individual wells and septic systems for each lot. A change like that would dramatically increase the environmental impact of the development, costs to build and individual homeowners' costs.

Affordable housing in Amenia

Those claims have drawn further scrutiny from critics. They questioned how the homes could be sold for affordable prices at all after the cost of construction, calling attention to significant price jumps in building materials over the past two years the plans have been in the discussion phase.

Ashley Merritt said she was discouraged by a lack of financial transparency surrounding the project. She didn't believe the homes would be capable of benefiting cost-burdened buyers, and questioned whether there was a demand for new single family homes in the real estate market.

She used her coworkers in the medical field as an example. She said many healthcare professionals she knows are looking for rentals rather than to purchase a home, and that salaries in the area don't pay enough to attract people, let alone afford homeownership.

"We can't get providers to come to this area because they can work somewhere else and make more money," Ashley, who works to recruit doctors and nurses as part of her job at a healthcare facility, said. "Or it's those that are stuck making $17.25 an hour and they can't afford it so they're not looking to purchase. They're looking for a decent rental."

Blackman pushed back on that assertion. He said home construction in Amenia has slowed, and many employers told him during his tenure leading town government that they struggled to hire people because of a small hiring pool exacerbated by high housing costs.

Blackman worked over the course of years to bring affordable housing development to Amenia, helping lead the Housing Board during its revival in 2019. Blackman and other Housing Board members helped form with Hudson River Housing the Tri-Town Coalition in 2019 — a collaborative effort between the nonprofit and Pine Plains, Amenia and Millerton housing advocates to bring more affordable housing to northeast Dutchess County.

"Working class people cannot afford to buy a house," Blackman said, continuing on to say that rising prices have displaced many people he knows who grew up in the area but couldn't afford to stay. "My neighbors who grew up here have gone into great depth about how their grandchildren, their children had to leave because there was no place for them to live."

Hudson River Housing's Mary Linge has said that the subdivision will target homebuyers earning up to 80% of Dutchess County's area median income, a figure set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD's 2026 fiscal year 80% AMI figure for Dutchess County is $100,700 for a four-person household.

The proposal's project narrative, available with application documents on the town's website, details a mix of New York State subsidies, grants and borrowed funds that will pay for the development. The housing project is being developed as part of the New York State Department of Homes and Community Renewal's Affordable Homeownership Opportunity Program.

That program provides state funding and backs mortgages for home buyers in housing developments that meet state and federal affordability standards. Under those standards, a home must be priced such that annual costs — including mortgage payments, insurance, Homeowners' Association fees and maintenance among other costs — don't exceed 30% of a household's gross income.

To meet those standards, Sander said, the builders have to be mindful of the shared costs of infrastructure maintenance. Too few homes and it becomes impossible to build the subdivision at a reasonable cost and even the homes themselves fail to meet affordability standards.

"We believe that consolidating utilities in one spot and also dispersing those maintenance costs really do benefit the community as a whole," Sander said at the November 2025 meeting.

At more recent meetings Sander clarified that position, saying that ultimately the number of homes in the project is dependent on water availability. At a June 10, 2026, Planning Board meeting, he said county Board of Health testing could determine that the available water on site won't support 26 houses. If that were to happen, he said, Hudson River Housing would have to rethink the scale of the project before seeking further approval.

Impacts on water

Alan Peck, who lives on Cascade Road in a property that's adjacent to the subdivision site, has been most vocal about the proposal's potential impact on his private well. He said Sander's assurances that water impacts will be thoroughly studied aren't satisfactory.

He doubted the planned test wells' ability to accurately determine the impacts on groundwater in potential drought conditions, saying the proposed 72-hour test period wouldn't produce enough data to draw appropriate conclusions. Peck said he doesn't think he should be responsible for the cost to redrill his well if the subdivision reduces his water availability.

"If they put those wells in and mine goes dry, the town is not going to do anything to help me and HRH is not going to do anything to help me," Peck said. "If HRH gets approval on this project the minimum they could do is guarantee the surrounding wells for 10 years."

Sander said he won't have clear answers about the proposal's water impact until after the Planning Board grants preliminary approval, and that the plans for the subdivision won't be set in stone even after the Board of Health approves water and septic plans. The proposal will have to go back to the Planning Board following that testing, according to Amenia's subdivision code, which will have the authority to either grant final approval or reopen environmental review depending on how the plans had changed.

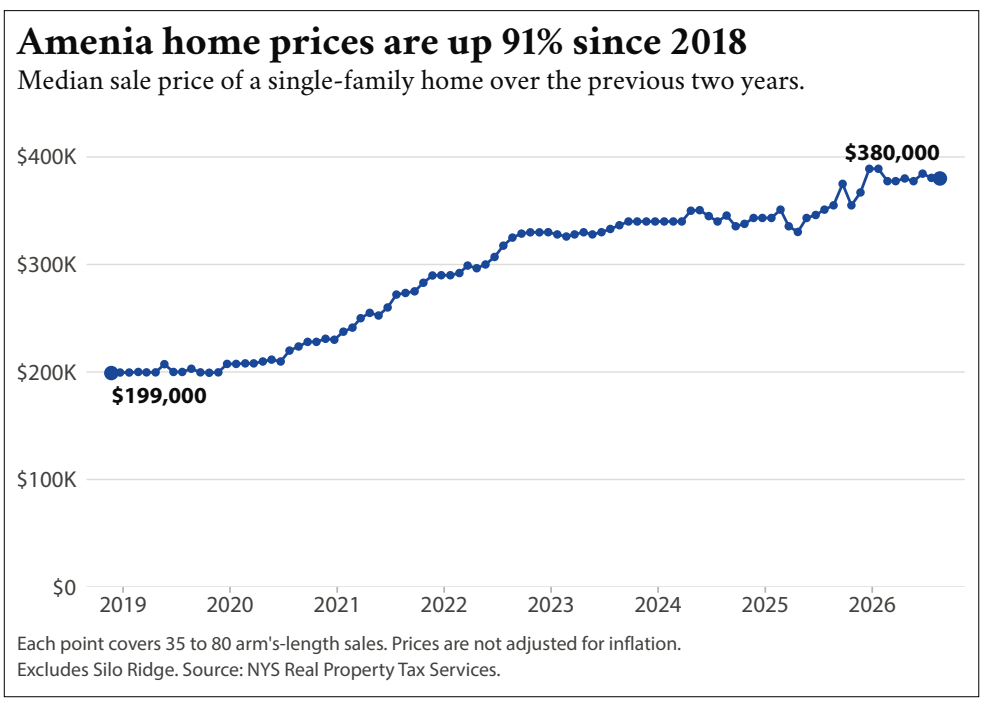
During the June 10 meeting, prior to the reduction from 28 units to 26, Planning Board members pressed Sander and Linge on potential water test results and assertions that the project's economics break with reduced numbers of houses. Board member Jamie Vitiello asked what would happen to the project as a whole if Board of Health testing determined the site's water capacity wouldn't support the number of homes that Linge and Sander say are necessary to make the economics work.

"If the wells don't support 28 houses, is this binary?" Vitiello asked. "Is this truly binary, 28 homes or it's nothing?"

Sander and Richard Rennia, the principal engineer and founder of Dover-based engineering firm Rennia Engineering Design, said the project wouldn't necessarily be abandoned if the water capacity required a reduction in the number of homes.

"Say if the water comes back that it supports 23 houses, then Hudson River Housing would have some big decisions to make," Rennia said. "It could be 23 lots, it could be something completely different."

Sander responded to those concerns again at the most recent public hearing on Nov. 12. "We are also eager to make sure that there is an adequate water supply on the site for our subdivision and the community," Sander said. "At this point, there are no other insurances that we can provide to the board or the public regarding water. We cannot drill test wells or monitor effects on neighboring wells until we receive sign-off from the Health Department — and that can only happen if the Planning Board grants preliminary subdivision approval."



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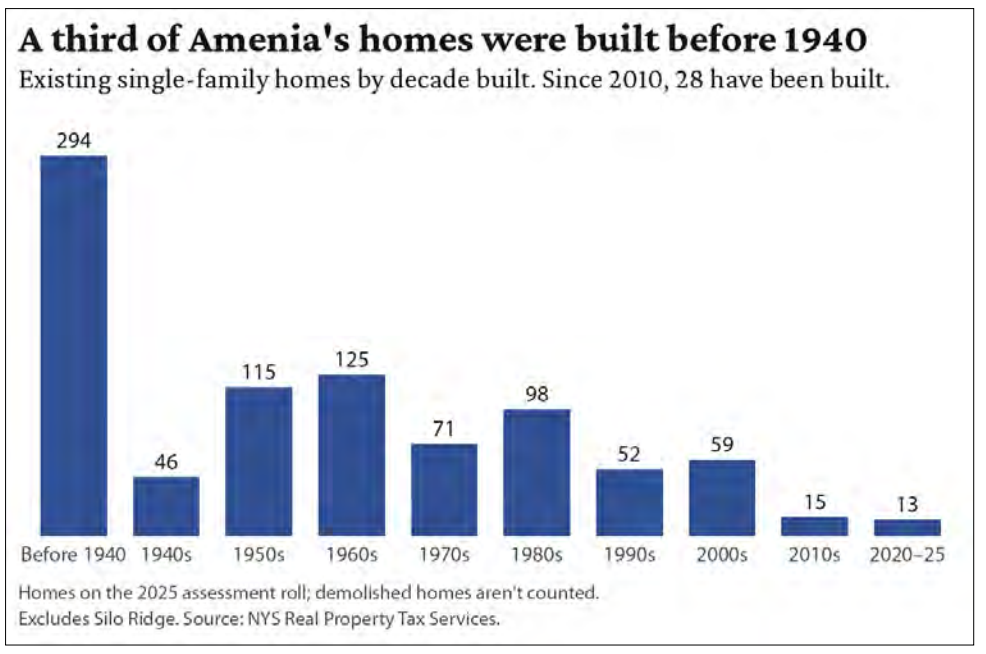

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PHOTO BY ANNETTE STOVER

Paul Chaleff

Paul Chaleff's life in clay

By Richard Feiner and Annette Stover

Paul Chaleff never thought he'd be an artist and never quite considered himself an insider. Even with a career that has brought his ceramics into some of the world's most prestigious museums and the homes of collectors around the world, the Ancram-based art world pioneer still describes himself as something of an outsider. Perhaps this independence of spirit is precisely what makes his journey so extraordinary.

Chaleff grew up in the Bronx, the youngest of three sons in a working-class family. His father, a Jewish baker, immigrated from Poland (in what

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

LIFESTYLE

Setting the table for a season of celebration

By Kerri-Lee Mayland

There is something wonderful about welcoming people into our homes for the holidays, pulling out extra chairs and making an ordinary meal feel like an occasion. But with so many reasons to celebrate, the pressure to create a picture-perfect table can quickly become another stressful expense, another unwanted errand and another valid reason to feel behind before guests even arrive.

So let's simplify!

Start with plain, inexpensive white plates. Think of them as the little black dress of your dining room. They never go out of style, work for every occasion (you don't have to worry about breaking them) and make whatever you're serving look that much more inviting. From colorful salads to a traditional holiday feast, white dishes allow the food to take center stage without competing with busy china patterns.

If your plates do not match, that's OK! Repeat something else, such as a napkin color or a drinking glass, to give the table a sense of connection. A collected table often feels warmer than one purchased all at once.

Before buying decorations, step outside.

A few fallen twigs in a pretty vase can create a graceful centerpiece. Pine cones, acorns and colorful leaves can be arranged down the middle of the table. Small evergreen clippings or herbs tucked into napkin rings bring in texture and a seasonal scent.

Keep in mind: Gather only where you have permission, check everything for insects and keep unfamiliar plants away from food, children and pets. Use little vessels to separate greenery from dishes, and keep anything dry safely away from candle flames.



PHOTO BY KERRI-LEE MAYLAND

A centerpiece straight from the produce aisle. Cook with it as needed for your festive feast.

The grocery store offers another decorating aisle: produce.

Pears in a wooden bowl, a line of apples, lemons in clear glasses or small pumpkins scattered among serving dishes can look wonderful. I have arranged produce down the entire length of a table and cooked with it as the holiday weekend went on. A centerpiece that becomes tomorrow's lunch is a good investment.

Then shop your own house. A scarf can become a runner. A cutting board can anchor a centerpiece. Little bowls, old bottles and pitchers can hold flowers, greenery or even candles. Turn a cake stand into a pedestal for fruit, giving the table height without purchasing another decorative object.

Thrift stores are good places to find pieces with personality. Look for brass candlesticks, cloth napkins, small bud vases and interesting serving bowls. You do not need six identical finds. Three different vessels become a collection when each holds the same kind of stem.

Inspect dishes for chips and cracks, and reserve questionable vintage pieces for decoration rather than serving food.

Fabric does a surprising amount of work. An inexpensive length of washable cotton can become a runner, while neatly folded kitchen towels can stand in for oversized napkins. Keep the palette simple and let texture supply the interest.

Personal touches are a win-win: They cost very little and mean a whole lot. Write guests' names on folded paper, tie a handwritten note around each napkin or place an old family photograph beside a setting. Whatever holiday you are celebrating, invite guests to share a favorite memory or tradition.

Those details give people something to talk about before the first course arrives.

Lighting matters. Lower harsh overhead lights and gather a few battery-operated candles along the center (or use real flames when safe!). Keep arrangements low enough for conversation, and leave room for the platters. You want to prevent guests from having to peer at each other through branches or move half a centerpiece to pass the potatoes!

If the table is small, decorate the sideboard instead. And take some pressure off yourself — a welcoming room does not require every inch of the dining table to carry the theme.

The most memorable tables make room for people: their stories, their favorite dishes and their willingness to linger. Set yours with what you have, add something personal and let the warmth of the holiday celebration do the rest.

BOOKS

The littlest reindeer comes home for the holidays

By Natalia Zukerman

For author and editor MacKenzie Cadenhead, Christmas has long meant Pine Plains. It's where her family gathers, where she got married and where her father, a retired theatrical producer with a gift for building things, transformed an old farmhouse into a beloved family retreat. It's also where the children's book author will return this Thanksgiving weekend, bringing along a new member of the family, at least in spirit: a tiny, determined reindeer named Jingle.

Cadenhead's new picture book, "Jingle: How the Littlest Reindeer Earned Her Bells," illustrated by Erin Kraan and published by Random House Studio, follows the North Pole's smallest reindeer as she competes against bigger, faster and stronger rivals for the chance to fly with Santa. It's a delightfully sweet tale about finding your way in a world that doesn't always make room for the little guy. The story grew out of bedtime

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

MUSIC

Misty Blues brings its own brand of blues to Egremont

By D.H. Callahan

Gina Coleman of the band Misty Blues has been rocking the Berkshires for over 30 years. On Saturday, Nov. 28, she'll bring her full band to the Buttonball Barn in Egremont for a Thanksgiving weekend show that's bound to get concertgoers off their feet to shed some of that extra holiday heft.

Coleman had already been a fixture on the Berkshire music scene when she performed as a gospel blues singer who took the stage between scenes for a Williamstown Theatre Festival production of "A Raisin in the Sun" in 1999. The production starred Ruben Santiago-Hudson and eventual EGOT winner Viola Davis. Coleman had been mostly playing her own funky brand of acoustic folk with her band Cole Connection, but when Sentiago-Hudson heard her try her hand at the blues, he encouraged her to pivot.

He gave Coleman a copy of "Men Are Like Streetcars," a compilation of blues tunes sung by women between 1929 and 1964. Featuring blues pioneers like Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Big Mama Thornton and Billie Holiday, the collection opened her eyes to a new world of musical possibilities. For Coleman and the band, it served as a road map through the history and different iterations of the blues. As they developed their own approach to the genre, Coleman and her band decided to take Santiago-Hudson's advice. They ditched the old name, plugged in some electric instruments and were reborn as Misty Blues.

In 2019, the band made it to the finals of the prestigious International Blues Challenge in Nashville. This was a huge win for the band and helped earn Misty Blues some hard-earned press. After all, a band from rural Massachusetts isn't exactly what you expect to see on a Nashville stage, let alone performing in the finals. To keep the momentum going through the shutdown, the band quarantined together and performed live online every Friday night for 63 weeks.

Misty Blues is still going strong today, with 18 albums under its belt and a documentary called "Silver Lining: 25 years of The Misty Blues." There have been a variety of musicians over those years, with most of the founders recently taking their final bows, but that hasn't slowed down the music. In fact, one member in particular seems to fuel the band's perpetual creativity.

Coleman's son Diego Mongue was in high school when the COVID-19 pandemic shut down schools, forcing students to take classes remotely, and isolate themselves from their friends and the activities so integral to youth. But Mongue took the

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... Paul Chaleff

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

is now Belarus) at 13; his mother, the daughter of Austrian immigrants, worked as a secretary. They lived next to a cooperative housing development built in 1919 at Bronx Park East and Allerton Avenue, a community Chaleff fondly remembers as a "workers' paradise" and where many of his father's relatives lived.

There were no artists in the family and no connections to the art world. Yet, as a child, Chaleff loved making things. When his parents bought a house and renovated it themselves, his job was to collect nails with a magnet. He also loved spending time in his great-uncle's workshop, shellacking and helping with small projects. He was an adventurous child and roamed the neighborhood collecting anything that caught his eye. His father often joked that there wasn't a piece of neighborhood trash Chaleff didn't drag home.

Still, he never imagined these experiences might lead to a life in the arts.

At the Bronx High School of Science, he excelled in geometry. "No one could come close to me," he recalled. "I felt comfortable with three-dimensional space; it made sense to me."

He enrolled at City College of New York (CCNY), intending to study science and perhaps become a dentist. Art was something he enjoyed, but he had not considered it as a career. Then one of his professors asked a question that changed everything: "Why are you studying biology? Don't you know you were born to be an artist?"

When Chaleff admitted he'd never even visited an artist's studio, the professor arranged a visit to a friend's studio in the West Village.

"I decided right there and then that this would be my life."

At CCNY, Chaleff studied under accomplished ceramic artist and educator Walter Yovaish, who became a longtime friend and mentor. He was in the first group to graduate with an MFA from the college's new program, earning a fellowship and teaching in the ceramics department. His early work included ambitious clay murals and sculptural



PHOTO BY ANNETTE STOVER

Paul Chaleff in his studio with some recent ceramic sculptures.

> "I decided right there and then that this would be my life."
>
> PAUL CHALEFF

fountains, some inspired by the social and political issues of the day.

But it was Japanese ceramics and calligraphy that would ultimately shape his artistic direction. A fifth-century Japanese wood-fired bottle by one of Rosanjin's workers, displayed at the Japan House Gallery in New York and associated with the ancient anagama firing tradition, made a lasting impression.

Through a fortunate friendship with legendary Japanese calligrapher Kampo Harada, Chaleff moved to Japan, spending two years studying ceramics, working alongside accomplished Japanese artists and mastering the demanding tradition of wood-fired pottery.

Returning to the United States, he joined a group of artists establishing Stissing Hollow Craftworks, a craft community in Pine Plains. He built a studio and one of the country's first anagama wood-fired kilns, bringing the ancient Japanese ceramic tradition to America.

His ambition was not simply to recreate Japanese pottery but to develop a language of his own while making beautiful, meaningful ceramics that were within reach of all.

Recognition followed. At the 1978 Rhinebeck Crafts Fair, his work caught the attention of Rand Castile, founding director of the Japan House Gallery. Astonished by what this American artist had accomplished, Castile introduced Chaleff's work to Arthur Drexler, the celebrated director of the Museum of Modern Art's Department of Architecture and Design.

Today, Chaleff's work is held in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery, among many others.

Yet international recognition has not changed his daily routine. Chaleff continues to work every day in his renovated sculpture studio in Ancram, where he lives with his wife, Haesook Kim, a retired professor of sociology.

There is plenty to look forward to. Chaleff's work can be seen in the "Perfect Imperfection in Ceramics" recurring exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum. MoMA plans to include one of his vases in their exhibition, "Bold Is Better: '80s and '90s Design," opening Jan. 17. Closer to home, beginning Dec. 5, Mad Rose Gallery in Millerton will showcase a selection of his powerful and socially significant cylindrical forms, new wood sculptures and a group of jar forms.

There is something timeless about Chaleff's ceramics. They seem almost discovered rather than made, as though the earth has been waiting for his artistic vision to release long-dormant shapes and structures in clay.

There was no road map for his journey from a working-class Bronx neighborhood to Japan and the world's great museums. It came through curiosity, friendships, a willingness to take chances, his sense of humor and, as Chaleff readily admits, a good deal of luck.

We are fortunate that this internationally celebrated artist continues to make his home and his art here in our community. And even more fortunate that he is still making something new every day.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Handmade treasures by Polly Shindler.

ART

Papier-mâché with Polly

By Natalia Zukerman

Millerton-based artist Polly Shindler has discovered the joy of turning ordinary household materials into extraordinary little objects. On Sunday, Nov. 29, she'll bring that spirit of playful invention to Troutbeck in Amenia — along with newspaper, glue and a healthy disregard for perfection — for a festive papier-mâché ornament workshop that promises even the most artistically hesitant participants will leave with a handmade treasure to hang on their tree.

With an MFA in painting from Pratt Institute, Shindler has exhibited widely, including solo shows in New York City and at Standard Space in Sharon. Her work has also been featured in The New Yorker, and she was awarded the Martha Boschen Porter Grant in 2023. She is primarily a painter, but her creative practice has always been one of exploration and reinvention. During the pandemic, she began teaching herself new skills through YouTube tutorials, experimenting with quilting, sewing and, eventually, papier-mâché.

"It was just a matter of turning paintings into objects and miniaturizing things, which I love to do," she said.

Those experiments have resulted in a delightfully whimsical collection of three-dimensional objects, from ice cream trucks and mail trucks to a sewing machine and even a miniature soda dispenser. Often, the inspiration is as simple as wanting to make something she wishes she had.

"I love to make things that I actually want," she said.

For the Troutbeck workshop, participants will begin by sketching an idea for an ornament, then turning that drawing into a sturdy cardboard template. Layers of torn newspaper, glue and water

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... Misty Blues

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shutdown as an opportunity to develop his skills. Starting with drums, he would sit in with the band for many of its pandemic livestreams.

As a self-designated Frank Zappa freak, Mongue took a page from his idol's book and used the time to sharpen his skills. Zappa preached the gospel of musical proficiency as the most righteous way to bring ideas to life. The pandemic gave passionate players like Mongue room to master their instruments. Soon, thanks in part to his studies at Williams College, where Coleman also studied, his skills had become so well-rounded that he could fill in wherever he was needed. After drums, he did a stint as the rhythm guitarist but eventually found his place on the bass.

It's not quite right to categorize Zappa as blues, but that's what makes Misty Blues so unique. The band members all come from different musical worlds. They bring their own interests and skills, be they folk, funk or jazz, to the kitchen, mix it all together and come out with their own brand of blues.

"I don't think I exist without the blues," Coleman says in "Silver Lining." Her passion seems to mirror that of everyone in the band.



PHOTO BY RICK PAULINE

Gina Coleman of the band Misty Blues.

As an homage to the women who came before her, and perhaps as a nod to the album that started her down the blues road, Coleman and the band have a couple of dedicated projects. "Queens of the Blues" sees Misty Blues interpret the songs of blues legends Big Mama Thornton, Ruth Brown, Bessie Smith and Koko Taylor in a self-contained stage show. This past spring, Coleman released her third solo album, "Uncrowned; A Tribute to Ida Cox."

For the show at the Buttonball Barn in Egremont, the band will be diving into its arsenal of toe-tappers and booty shakers. Expect to hear Misty Blues originals alongside recognizable classics, all handpicked to make you get up off of your seat and boogie the night away.

For tickets, visit buttonballbarn.com

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slightly off... but very good

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ART

Art and Design in Kent

By D.H. Callahan



Elizabeth Place is a woodworker who specializes in burl and live-edge work.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Stoneware by Dale Wolfield.

Kent, Connecticut, is firmly establishing itself as a notable fine art hub, with five dedicated galleries and seemingly an opening every other weekend. But while those galleries feature art from around the country and the globe, the Kent Art and Design Show is turning its eye back on the arts community in the Northwest Corner itself.

Organized by local artists Ellen Corsell, Alison Palmer and Elizabeth Place, the juried show brings together 15 artists and craftspeople from the region, blending functional crafts with fine art. The three organizers spend much of their time scouting talent at galleries and craft shows throughout the area. With two shows a year, that's a lot of artists to wrangle.

Their goal is to find a good blend of functional crafts and fine art to cover a wide range of artistic representation. For this show, they have 15 artists and artisans exhibiting their work.

One of the organizers, Alison Palmer, is a ceramicist who specializes in fostering talent in other artists. As a leading member of the Clay Way weekend and the owner of a studio in Kent that hosts a variety of workshops, Palmer seems to be an inspiration for a whole army of artists.

Cornwall-based painter and crafter Magaly Ohika has works that range from abstract paintings to hand-designed lampshades and even stuffed figures inspired by her Puerto Rican cultural background.

Munya Avigail Upin has been making fine jewelry for over 50 years. Beyond her own work, she has taught at the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Penland School of Craft as well as a variety of universities.

Margaret Lent is a fiber artist who started out knitting clothes for her barbies as a little girl and hasn't slowed down, making limited-run and one-of-a-kind garments for her studio, Margaret Lent Handwovens.

It's hard to pin down exactly what Barbara Graham makes, but it's easy to tell how full of creativity each piece is, be it a painting, a sculpture or maybe a children's book.

Northwest Corner native Judish Secco makes photographs that look like paintings, bringing an otherworldly feeling to common scenes with her precise framing and use of contrast.

Elizabeth Place is a woodworker who specializes in burl and live-edge work. She also paints the duck decoys made by her husband, Kevin Place, which are also featured in the show.

Danielle Mailer is a multidisciplinary artist who makes murals and sculptures and is collaborating with the Nutmeg Conservatory to help design the ballet costumes for the company's 2027 production of "El Colibri."

Former photographer and graphic designer Deborah Seidman pivoted to ceramics after experimenting with clay in a class 20 years ago and has been exploring the world of ceramics ever since.

Jill Scholsohn's anthropology background fuels the funky pieces of jewelry which she makes with stones and inspiration from her travels around the globe.

Susan Randel uses a loom to knit her colorful and sometimes whimsical pillow cases and wall art.

Woodworker Robert Pearl specializes in deconstruction, taking fallen trees and limbs from his property, and turning them into works of fine art.

Lina Wilder is a metalsmith and jeweler who specializes in ancient and traditional metalworking practices to create jewelry, plates, bowls and other vessels.

In another life, Michael Sciulli designed shoes for some seriously big brands. Today, he makes stylish, functional knives that are perfect for life in the forests and fields.

Dale Wolfield spends much of his time on the water or in the woods of the greater Hudson Valley area, collecting inspiration for his detailed and disciplined functional stoneware.

The show takes place on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 28 and 29, at the Kent Community House, and is sponsored in part by the Kent Chamber of Commerce.

... *Papier-mâché*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

give the piece its form before it is dried, primed, painted and sealed. A hook and decorative beads provide the finishing touches.

Those who don't consider themselves artists needn't worry. Shindler will have simple templates available, including candy canes and stars, and participants are welcome to bring photographs or ideas for something more personal.

"People can bring their dream object with them or the idea of it or a picture of it, and I'll help them accomplish their dream," she said.

The process is intentionally simple, and Shindler embraces the unexpected results that come with working by hand.

"It's not going to come out the way you think it's going to, but it's probably going to come out better," she said.

Shindler's painting practice has followed a similarly open-ended path. Originally an abstract painter, she spent years creating representational interiors before turning her attention to the landscapes of the Hudson Valley. More recently, she has been moving back toward abstraction, exploring color and natural forms, including plants, seeds, oceans and even comets.

"I don't want to pigeonhole myself. I want to make what I want to make," she said.

That spirit of curiosity extends to her teaching. A co-founder of Cottage Courses, a local workshop initiative designed to bring artists and curious beginners together, Shindler has since gone in her own direction. She remains committed to making art accessible to people who might not otherwise consider themselves makers.

"I want people to lean into their idiosyncrasies and the childlike nature of beginners," she said.

For Shindler, the pleasure of teaching is less about producing a perfect object than helping someone discover an unexpected ability.

"I love showing people that they're capable of things they didn't know," she said.

And while the ornaments may begin as nothing more than newspaper and glue, Shindler says they're surprisingly durable. Troutbeck's fireplace will help speed the drying process, giving participants time to enjoy the setting as their creations take shape.

By the end of the afternoon, everyone should have a finished ornament to take home, perhaps still a little tacky from the sealant but full of personality.

"We want it to look handmade. We don't want it to look polished," Shindler said. "It's either for yourself or for someone that you love."

"Papier-Mâché Ornaments with Artist Polly Shindler" takes place Sunday, Nov. 29, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at Troutbeck in Amenia. For information and registration, visit troutbeck.com. To see more of Shindler's work, visit pollyshindlerpainting.com

... *Jingle*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1





PHOTOS PROVIDED

MacKenzie Cadenhead will read from and sign copies of her debut picture book "Jingle" at Merritt Bookstore in Millbrook on Saturday, Nov. 28 at 11 a.m.

storytelling, creative collaboration and a particularly difficult chapter in Cadenhead's own life. On Saturday, Nov. 28, at 11 a.m., she'll share the book at Merritt Bookstore in Millbrook with a reading and signing on Small Business Saturday.

Although she was raised in New York City, Pine Plains has been a second home for much of Cadenhead's life. Her parents purchased the property there in the 1990s with her older brother.

"It's always been a very cool place to go and to sort of consider home, even though I didn't grow up there, because my parents are so rooted there," she said.

Family visits have long included movies at The Moviehouse in Millerton, trips to the Trevor Zoo (the red panda is a family favorite) and browsing the area's independent bookstores.

Art and theater were always part of Cadenhead's life. After studying English at Haverford College and earning a master's degree in dramaturgy at Brooklyn College, she worked in theater before finding her way into comic book editing at Marvel. There, she discovered a love for storytelling aimed at younger readers, eventually writing comics, chapter books and novels of her own. She still credits her background in dramaturgy with shaping her approach to comics.

"It was kind of perfect because those dramaturgical skills, they applied perfectly to editing comics," Cadenhead explained.

That collaborative approach carried over to the creation of "Jingle" as well. Cadenhead describes the work she did with her literary agent, illustrator and editor to bring it to life. "This is, again, this is the dramaturg in me," she said of the process.

Jingle first appeared during the pandemic, when Cadenhead's children requested a story about Mrs. Claus. Improvising on the spot, she invented a tale in which Mrs. Claus delivered presents for Christmas in July, accompanied by a miniature reindeer.

Years later, Jingle resurfaced as a supporting character in another holiday story. When Cadenhead's agent pitched the idea, it was the little reindeer who captured everyone's attention. A new proposal followed, along with a collaboration with illustrator Erin Cron.

The book's message of hope and determination took on particular meaning as Cadenhead wrote it during her father's illness.

"I was looking for light and I was finding it," she said. "And sometimes I feel like I needed to hear that myself."

Her father, who died in 2024, was with her when the publishing offers arrived. Her agent called him her good luck charm.

Another cherished moment came when the finished books arrived at her home. Her three children gathered around the box, then took turns reading "Jingle" aloud, passing the book from one to another.

"I just sat there going, 'Oh, this is probably one of the coolest moments of my life,'" she recalled.

Now Cadenhead gets to share Jingle with a new generation of young readers, including those in the community that has been part of her family's story for decades.

"There's pretty much nothing cooler than going to a bookstore and reading your story to kids," she said.

MacKenzie Cadenhead will read from and sign copies of "Jingle: How the Littlest Reindeer Earned Her Bells" on Saturday, Nov. 28, at 11 a.m. at Merritt Bookstore in Millbrook. For event details and registration, visit merrittbooks.com.





PHOTO PROVIDED

David Strathairn narrates "Peter and the Wolf" with the Frisson Ensemble at Stissing Center.

PERFORMANCE

David Strathairn brings "Peter and the Wolf" to life at Stissing Center

By D.H. Callahan

"Peter and the Wolf" is an enduring work of musical theater that has managed to teach children about classical music in a playful, if not dramatic, way for 90 years. On Saturday, Nov. 28, The Frisson Ensemble will bring the Russian educational classic to life at Stissing Center in Pine Plains with the help of Oscar-nominated actor David Strathairn.

Created to help children learn the parts of the orchestra, as well as the power of different sounds and musical modes, the symphonic tale for children, as it's classified, has helped generations of curious kids fall in love with music.

The idea for the work came in 1936 from Natalya Sats. At the young age of 20, Sats was appointed to lead the Central Children's Theatre in Moscow following the departure of the theatre's first director, who refused to bow to the political demands of the emerging Soviet Union.

The Children's Theatre was a point of pride for Russian and then Soviet artists, including composer Sergei Prokofiev, who frequently attended performances with his children. Sats enlisted Prokofiev to bring her idea to life, hiring Nina Sakonskaya to write the libretto, or story and lyrics, for the orchestral work.

Prokofiev was already a cosmopolitan success with worldly tendencies that extended beyond the borders of politically volatile Russia. He wrote librettos in French. He drew inspiration from Italian literary classics. He even performed his own works in New York City, something remarkably rare for a Russian at the time.

With the fall of the Russian Empire, however, Prokofiev began to focus his efforts on Russian themes. He composed works based on great Russian authors, including his opera "The Gambler," based on the short novel of the same name by Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

"Peter and the Wolf," too, has many deep Russian and Soviet cultural themes, like man's triumph over nature and the counterproductive stubbornness of the non-Bolsheviks, represented by Peter's grandfather and the bassoon.

Representation is the name of the game when it comes to "Peter and the Wolf." To help children learn the parts of the orchestra, Prokofiev assigned instruments and musical themes to the characters in the story. The light and airy instruments are the protagonists and usually play more whimsical or uplifting themes. Peter's famous tune played by the strings. The dark and discordant tones are reserved for the old and the evil.

One of the most important instruments is the voice of the narrator. Prokofiev didn't like the original story written by Sakonskaya, so he rewrote it all to fit his music and vision. This gave the narrator an outsized role, leading the tone of the orchestra and introducing the children to all its parts. Sats was slated to narrate the piece herself at the 1936 premiere alongside the Orchestra of the Moscow Philharmonic Society, but fell ill and had a substitute fill in. It wasn't until her first performance that the work gained the sort of reception it deserved.

Sats would also miss out on her chance to perform when "Peter and the Wolf" came to the United States in 1938, as she had been sent to the Gulag following the execution of her lover, a former Soviet Red Army general.

Since then, the narrator's role has been taken on by such memorable performers as Viola Davis, David Bowie and even Frankenstein's Monster himself, Boris Karloff. Strathairn, an alumnus of Williams College, has captivated audiences for decades with memorable performances in film and television projects like the "The Sopranos," "L.A. Confidential," "The River Wild," "A League of Their Own" and "Good Night and Good Luck," for which he received a best actor Oscar nomination in 2006.

Strathairn will lead the New York City-based Frisson Ensemble. Featuring musicians who have played on stages like Carnegie Hall, Frisson is known as "the classical group that does it all." The ensemble can expand or contrast to fit a performance's programming. This allows it to stay small and nimble for certain performances, whittling its numbers down for piano trios or string quartet performances. But when it comes to Frisson's acclaimed rendition of "Peter and the Wolf," the ensembale expands to a robust 10-piece group.

For tickets to "Peter and the Wolf," visit thestissingcenter.org.



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Artist Francie Lyshak at her exhibition "Dreamscapes" at Mad Rose Gallery in Millerton.

ART

Dreams, memory and healing in the art of Francie Lyshak

By Natalia Zukerman

Dreams often bring to the surface what our waking minds work hard to conceal. For artist Francie Lyshak, the strange and sometimes unsettling imagery of dreams became a language through which she could explore her inner life, confront buried memories and ultimately find a path toward healing.

Her exhibition, "Dreamscapes," at Mad Rose Gallery in Millerton, revisits an earlier chapter of her career, bringing together recently unearthed, large-scale oil paintings filled with symbolic animals, mysterious landscapes, dolls, toys and figures navigating worlds that feel both fantastical and hauntingly familiar.

Lyshak, who grew up in Detroit before finding her way to New York City's East Village art scene in the 1970s, was part of a vibrant community of artists, performers and outsiders. Theater became a significant influence on her work.

"They're all a little bit like theater," she said of the paintings. "It's like a shot of one scene in a psychological, emotional life of being human."

Some of the compositions recall *mise en scéne*, the staged tableaux popular in the Victorian era, with figures, objects and landscapes carefully arranged to suggest a larger story. But rather than telling a complete narrative, Lyshak captures a single emotionally charged moment, inviting viewers to imagine what came before and what might happen next.

And though the exhibition's title suggests dreams, Lyshak explained that the paintings weren't necessarily drawn from actual dreams. Rather, they emerged from ideas, memories and emotional states she was trying to understand.

In "Snowscape with Signposts," a thinly dressed woman stands alone in a snowy landscape. Fires mark her path, and a glorious sunset suggests the possibility of something beyond her immediate circumstances.

"Conditions are not good, but it's not a hopeless situation," Lyshak said. "And there's maybe a future."

Trained as both a fine artist and an art therapist, Lyshak has long understood symbolism as a language for expressing what words often cannot. Lyshak is open about her history of childhood abuse and how the process of uncovering those experiences profoundly shaped her imagery. She is equally clear about art's capacity to illuminate hidden emotional states and create pathways toward healing, transformation and renewal.

Today, Lyshak's paintings have evolved from richly populated narrative scenes into restrained, textured, monochromatic abstractions, open fields of color and gestural marks. Yet the emotional inquiry remains. Seeing these earlier paintings together again has been unexpectedly affirming.

"I feel I accomplished something by seeing them like this," she said.

More than anything, she hopes viewers recognize something of themselves in the work.

"We've all been afraid, maybe of different things," she said. "I hope that someone will walk in here and feel a connection, and connecting is a good thing for us."

"Dreamscapes" is on view at Mad Rose Gallery in Millerton through Jan. 31.







MUSIC

Sue Foley and the women who changed guitar history

By Natalia Zukerman



PHOTO BY DOUG HARDESTY

Blues guitarist Sue Foley plays Infinity Hall Friday, Dec. 4

On Friday, Dec. 4, blues guitarist, singer and songwriter Sue Foley will perform at Infinity Hall in Norfolk. Compass editor Natalia Zukerman interviewed Foley in March 2025 about her work and her latest project, "One Guitar Woman," in which Foley honors the women who helped shape guitar history. The interview originally appeared in the May-June issue of Acoustic Guitar magazine.

Here is an edited version of the interview.

NZ: Tell me about the flamenco guitar you played on this album. Did you just come across it, or did you know the luthier?

SF: I actually went on a pilgrimage to Paracho, Mexico — a fantastic town in the mountains of Michoacán. It's a dream for guitar players! You drive in, and there are guitar shops everywhere, builders on every street and people walking around with guitars. You can visit workshops and talk to the luthiers, which I did. It was a really special experience.

NZ: Did it take time to adjust from your trusty Telecaster to this nylon-string guitar?

SF: I've been playing Spanish-style nylon-string guitars for a couple of decades, so I'm pretty comfortable switching. The neck is wider, but a lot of right-hand principles transfer between the Tele and nylon-string. I do a lot of open right-hand playing and use a thumbpick, so the transition feels natural. There's a lot of nuance and tone variation — whether you play with your fingertips, the edge of your nail or a pick.

NZ: Were many of the songs on "One Guitar Woman" already in your repertoire?

SF: It took time to develop them. I'd been working on this project in different forms for years — it actually started as a book I'm still trying to finish. Everything took on a life of its own, and when the album happened, I was ready. But getting to that point took a long time.

NZ: Wow. What's the book project?

SF: It's a collection of my interviews with women guitarists, which I started in 2001. It's had several offshoot projects, but for some reason, the book has taken the longest to finish. This record isn't based on those interviews. When thinking about how to represent that study as a musician, I turned to the historical pioneers because I'm a traditional artist.

NZ: I understand that getting a Memphis Minnie record when you were 16 was a pivotal experience. Was that what first exposed you to the pioneers?

SF: It really was. I think we take for granted now that there are thousands of great women players, but that's been an evolution. There was a time when there were none. Then there was one. Then Sister Rosetta Tharpe. Where did Memphis Minnie get the idea that she could go play guitar like a man and run around? Nobody did that in the '30s. You could count them on one hand. I find it fascinating — what their lives were like, but also their mindset. What kind of person thinks that far outside the box? To me, it's not just about gender — it's about people who were different in a really cool way.

NZ: Your whole family played guitar, but it was all boys, right?

SF: Yes, my dad and my brothers. When I was a kid, there weren't many women playing. I'd always notice, "Hey, there's one," and it made me think, OK, I can do this, too. Having my family play made it natural, but seeing another woman doing it really stuck with me.

NZ: Absolutely. Representation matters. Do you mentor any younger women players?

SF: Not directly, but I guess this is my way of doing that.

NZ: Your rhythmic sense is rock solid. The original recordings of these songs really move, but your versions feel very grounded. Did you practice with a metronome?

SF: With the Maybelle Carter stuff — especially the Carter scratch — I practiced with a metronome. When working on my solo show, I find all my tempos and practice with them to lock them in. When you're solo, there's no safety net — you're on a tightrope. Strong rhythm is key. Thanks for noticing!

NZ: Did you write "Maybelle's Guitar" specifically for this record?

SF: I wrote that a few years ago while touring. I had started on the book, interviewing and then researching the past, which I'd already kind of been doing my whole life but started doing with a lot more depth. And then I ended up back in school. I don't have an undergraduate degree, but I jumped into a master's program at York University in Toronto. I'm kind of a natural researcher, so I thought university would be OK. I went in for composition, and "Maybelle's Guitar" was one of my songs that I'd written. I focused on pioneering women guitar players and was studying Lydia Mendoza and Memphis Minnie, and that grew into my Ph.D. So these are all offshoot projects from my Ph.D. I just don't talk much about the academic side because I don't want to sound like a chin-scratching academic [laughs].

NZ: Speaking of influential women in guitar history, you mention a Charo performance in your liner notes that had a big impact on you. Do you remember what it was?

SF: Yeah, it was probably a variety show from the late '60s or early '70s. Charo was the first woman I ever saw really play guitar. I grew up with her and always loved her. In this video, she comes out in a tuxedo, her hair is full and beautiful — it just struck me. We took her for granted because she was everywhere, but when you really consider her artistry and ability, it's astounding. She was way ahead of her time.

NZ: You say her entertainment value overshadowed her talent. Do you think that was just sexism in how she was portrayed?

SF: She put it all out there and was unapologetic about it. Even now, she still wears short skirts and bounces around on Instagram — but she's also incredibly serious about her playing.

NZ: You've spoken about a responsibility to bring this music into the present. Do you feel that putting your own spin on it is another way of honoring these artists?

SF: Absolutely. As a blues artist — especially a traditional one — I interpret a lot of other people's work. But you still have to find your own way. You have to be honest with the material and make it your own. That's key to playing older music.

NZ: Were there any women you wanted to include on this record but didn't have space for? Any chance of a part two?

SF: I don't know about a part two. Right now, I just want to finish my book — I actually have to deliver it this year. And honestly, I'd like to focus on myself for a while. There were artists I would've loved to include, like jazz guitarist Mary Osborne, but that would've required an ensemble, which didn't fit this solo album. At a certain point, I just needed to finish it. But there's still plenty of material out there — definitely a lot of meat on the bone.

NZ: Do you ever feel haunted by these musicians, or are they leaving you alone?

SF: Not haunted — honored. I love introducing people to these artists. At shows, I get folks who've never heard of them, sometimes just because they have a theater subscription. They come up afterward saying, "Wow! I had no idea. This is amazing." And now they know who Memphis Minnie is — which they should! She's important.

I do feel a bit haunted by some of the women I interviewed for my book, though. I've been carrying their stories for over 20 years, and some have passed away. In that sense, I'm traveling with ghosts. I'm excited to finally deliver the book and, in a way, put those stories to rest — make sure they land where they're supposed to.

To read the whole interview and bonus tutorial, visit acousticguitar.com.

Sue Foley will perform with GA-20 at Infinity Hall in Norfolk on Friday, Dec. 4, at 8 p.m. For tickets, visit infinity-hall.com.



PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

On Saturday, Nov. 28, Bunny Williams will sign copies of her new book, "Decoration" at 100 Main in Falls Village.

BOOKS

Bunny Williams celebrates "Decoration" at 100 Main

By D.H. Callahan

Bunny Williams is a giant in the interiors — and let's face it, exteriors — world as well. With decades of experience, Williams has built a formidable interiors brand, Bunny Williams Home. She is the founder of Trade Secrets, one of the most buzzed-about garden events in the country. Her boutique, 100 Main in Falls Village, showcases local artists and artisans alongside nationally recognized brands and hand-selected antiques. She has published several books about her work which can be found on some of the most prestigious coffee tables around.

On Saturday, Nov. 28, many corners of the Bunny Williams world will converge at a book signing and art opening event at 100 Main.

Williams will be on hand to sign copies of her new book, "Decoration," which she co-wrote with collaborator Elizabeth Lawrence. All of Williams' books make perfect gifts for the interior decorating and gardening lovers in your life. "Decoration" only came out this past September, so there hasn't been a major holiday opportunity to give the book as a present. With the signing event falling on Small Business Saturday, all the pieces of the puzzle are there for you to put together.

"Decoration" works not just as a visual feast for the eyes, as many interiors books can, but as a candid look into the processes of these two esteemed design world professionals. They write about their approach to collaboration with clients, architects and designers, their philosophy behind the choices they make and some of the lessons they've learned from their storied careers.

Alongside the signing will be an art opening featuring works by an artist who happens to be one of Williams' gardeners, Kari Englehardt. Englehardt is obsessed with the power of plants. Through her mixed-media works, she highlights the roles plants can play as "record-keepers, raconteurs, and reflections of our own civilization." She draws inspiration from academic research into botany and environmental issues, and has earned a certificate in botanical art and illustration from the New York Botanical Garden. Using a variety of materials, including wax, pollen, resin, rust and soil, she looks to create "a dialogue on the importance of plant life within our shared biosphere."

The whole event also works as a way to encourage the community to shop local for the holidays. Though Williams is an internationally known name in the interior design world, most of the artisans whose work she stocks at 100 Main are not. The shop features unique ceramics, carefully crafted leatherwork, kitchenware, jewelry, furniture and even children's clothes and toys from New England- and New York-based artisans, and all of it fits into the Bunny Williams aesthetic. So if you have someone in your life for whom "Decorations" is a perfect gift, there's good chance you'll find even more at 100 Main.

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PHOTO PROVIDED

Millerton kicks off the holiday season with its annual Festival of Lights on Friday, Nov. 27, featuring a free screening of "Elf" at The Moviehouse, children's activities, treats, caroling along Main Street and the illuminated parade at 5 p.m. Festivities continue Saturday, Nov. 28, with a farmers market and gingerbread house decorating. More information at visitmillertonny.com

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Community Thanksgiving Dinner
Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., North Canaan, Conn.
Thursday, noon to 2 p.m. Enjoy a community Thanksgiving meal with live accordion music by Paul Ramunni. Takeout and delivery available. Volunteers needed Wednesday, Nov. 25, and Thanksgiving Day. Contact Beverly Becker at beverlybecker4@gmail.com for details.

Stissing Mountain 5k Turkey Trot
The Lions Club Pavilion, Pine Plains, N.Y.
Race starts at 8:30 a.m. All proceeds go to the Pine Plains Recreation Department. To register, contact Danielle Boyles at (631)742-6127.

NOVEMBER 27

Merwinsville Hotel Holiday Show
Merwinsville Hotel, 1 Brown's Forge Road, Gaylordsville, Conn.
Nov. 27 to 29 and Dec. 4 to 6. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., enjoy two weekends of holiday shopping at the historic Merwinsville Hotel, featuring handmade gifts, artwork, jewelry and pottery, along with decorated trees, nutcracker displays, a miniature Dickens Village and model trains. Fresh-cut trees and wreaths available for purchase. merwinsvillehotel.org.

"Now and Then"
Ghent Playhouse, 6 Town Hall Place, Ghent, N.Y.
Nov. 27 to 29 and Dec. 4 to 6

Sean Grennan's thought-provoking comedy-drama explores love, destiny and the choices that shape our lives. Directed by Dianne Hobden. Tickets at ghentplayhouse.org.

NOVEMBER 28

The Great Gingerbread House Party
NorthEast-Millerton Library, 75 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. nemillertonlibrary.org
12:30 to 2 p.m. Presented by the Millerton Business Alliance and the NorthEast-Millerton Library, join us for a magical morning of decorating, laughter, and holiday fun! Houses will be displayed in Main Street shop windows, and winners will be picked at the Winter Market on December 19. Free. Houses and candy provided. Space is limited, registration required at nemillertonlibrary.org

Small Business Saturday in North Canaan
North Canaan, Conn.
Celebrate Small Business Saturday with special offers at local shops and restaurants. Flea at 99 (99 Railroad St.) will feature vendor booth sales and mystery boxes from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Homegrown Cafe (5 Railroad St.) will offer 10% off orders from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Half Shell Vintage (11 Railroad St.) will offer 15% off homeware and décor from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Whistle Pig Books (62 Main St.) will offer 10% off purchases from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Opening Reception: Perry Rollins
Kent Art Assoc., 21 S. Main St., Kent, Conn.
Opening reception for an exhibition featuring the work of Perry Rollins. 2 to 4 p.m. The exhibition will be on view through Dec. 20.

The Joint Chiefs Thanksgiving Weekend Concert
The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.
Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with music at 7 p.m., for The Joint Chiefs' annual Thanksgiving weekend concert. Tickets are $20 cash at the door; children admitted free. More information at thecenteronmain.org/events.

"Winter Salon"
Friday Arts, Bantam Arts Factory, 931 Bantam Road, Suite 2-3, Bantam, Conn.
Nov. 28 through Jan. 2

Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. and by appointment, explore a group exhibition featuring 11 artists working in painting, drawing, sculpture and photography. An opening-season reception will be held Saturday, Dec. 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. Ten percent of exhibition sales will benefit the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy. Closed Dec. 26. More information at friday-arts.com.

Bounty for Our Birds!
Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.
Saturday, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Give thanks to the center's resident birds by creating enrichment activities for them to enjoy. Learn how enrichment supports their well-being and watch live demonstrations as birds interact with specially designed activities in their enclosures. $10 adults, $5 ages 5-17. Online registration required. sharon.audubon.org

"Sherlock Jr." with Live Musical Accompaniment
The Triplex Cinema, 70 Railroad St., Great Barrington, Mass.
Buster Keaton's silent comedy classic "Sherlock Jr." comes to life with a live score performed by Joanna Seaton and Donald Sosin. The benefit screening includes a singalong of songs from 1924, a slideshow of famous Sherlocks and an additional Keaton short film. Presented in partnership with Christ Trinity Church of Sheffield to benefit Berkshire Bounty. 7 pm. thetriplex.org

Art Opening: Cathleen Halloran's "Animism"
Hunter Bee, 21 Main St., Millerton
Opening celebration from 4 to 6 p.m. of new paintings by Cathleen Halloran

Cornwall Reads Cornwall: Cornwall is Dog Country
Cornwall Town Hall, 30 Pine St., Cornwall
Cornwall Library's traditional Thanksgiving weekend event returns with readers including Sam Waterston reading James Thurber; Giovanna Calvino reading her father; Roxana Robinson and more. 4 p.m. Registration required at cornwalllibrary.org.

NOVEMBER 29

"Peter and the Wolf"
Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
At 3 p.m., the Frisson Ensemble presents a family-friendly chamber orchestra performance of Sergei Prokofiev's beloved musical fairy tale, narrated by Oscar-nominated actor David Strathairn. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

Connecticut Hurricanes Drum and Bugle Corps Open House
Amity Regional High School, 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, Conn.
From 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Connecticut Hurricanes host an open house for prospective members of all ages and skill levels. Registration and information at cthurricanes.org/join.

Movie Matinee: "Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves"
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
From 2 to 4:15 p.m., enjoy a screening of the fantasy-adventure film about a charming thief and a band of unlikely adventurers on a quest to retrieve a lost relic. Rated PG-13. Free popcorn and drinks provided. Registration required.

Papier Mâché Ornaments with Polly Shindler
Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y.
Artist Polly Shindler leads a hands-on workshop creating festive paper mâché ornaments using cardboard, newspaper, glue and paint. Open to all ages. 1 to 4:30 p.m. Tickets required at troutbeck.com

DECEMBER 3

"The First Spark – Early Celtic & British Airs for the Winter Gateway"
Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass.
At 7:30 p.m., soprano and harpist Zoe Vandermeer, recorder virtuoso Tricia van Oers and historic keyboardist Christine Gevert perform an intimate program of Renaissance masterworks by Dowland and Byrd, traditional Celtic airs, folk dances and Irish melodies by O'Carolan. The evening concludes with a "Greensleeves" sing-along. Tickets at CrescendoMusic.ludus.com.

Lakeville Parade of Lights
Parade line up 5 p.m. Line up at the Lakeville Town Grove (42 Ethan Allen St.). Any and all floats are welcome. Email brandon@limerock.com for participant entries. Prizes awarded at Town Grove after the parade ends.

DECEMBER 4

Holiday Trivia
The Grace Note at Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., local trivia maven Alec Sisco hosts a festive evening of friendly competition, testing your knowledge of classic holiday movies, TV specials, music, traditions and pop culture oddities. Gather a team or come solo for a night of laughs, questionable answers and holiday cheer. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

Hidden Treasures Storytelling Tour
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., embark on a Dickens-inspired journey through the library's secret spaces, encountering storytelling ghosts of the past, present and future. Explore hidden towers, stairways, an archival vault, a belfry and collections of rare books and artifacts. All ages welcome. Registration required at scovillelibrary.org.

"The First Spark – Early Celtic & British Airs for the Winter Gateway"
St. John's Church, Salisbury, Conn.
At 7:30 p.m., soprano and harpist Zoe Vandermeer, recorder virtuoso Tricia van Oers and historic keyboardist Christine Gevert perform an intimate program of Renaissance masterworks by Dowland and Byrd, traditional Celtic airs, folk dances and Irish melodies by O'Carolan. The evening concludes with a "Greensleeves" sing-along. Tickets at CrescendoMusic.ludus.com.

Banned Book Club
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village
At 1 p.m., the library and Falls Village Equity Project host a discussion of "Lawn Boy" by Jonathan Evison. Open to high school students and adults. Copies of the book are available at the library. huntlibrary.org

DECEMBER 4-5

Holiday Market at Noble Horizons Auxiliary
17 Cobble Road, Salisbury
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., enjoy gift shopping and raffles, free hot cider & donuts, family-friendly fun and lunch for sale. Proceeds benefit Noble Horizons.

Christmas Fair
Sharon Methodist Church, Upper Main St., Sharon
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Christmas decor, hand-crafted vintage ornaments, small decorated artifical trees, wreaths, jewelry and more!

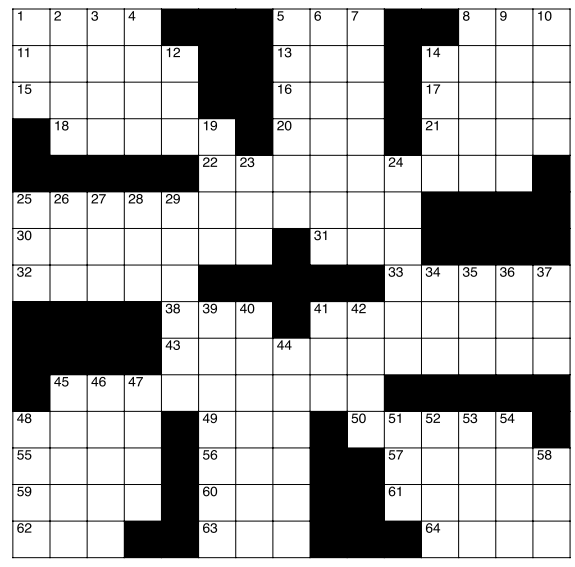
DECEMBER 5

Kent Barns Holiday Market
Kent Barns, 8 and 10 N. Main St., Kent, Conn.
From noon to 6 p.m., enjoy holiday shopping, local artisans and festive treats, with wreaths and seasonal goods at the Red Barn, an artisan market above House of Books and a holiday happy hour before the Parade of Lights. kentbarnsct.com

12X12 2026 Benefit Art Sale
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
From 5 to 7 p.m., the library hosts a reception for its annual benefit art sale featuring more than 50 local artists. All works measure 12 by 12 inches and are priced at $150, with a portion of proceeds benefiting the library. Unsold works remain on display through Jan. 8. More information at huntlibrary.org/art-wall

Craft Fair Benefit for Lee H. Kellogg School
Lee H. Kellogg School, 47 Main St., Falls Village
Fundraiser for the LHK eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. Door prizes, 50/50 raffle, homemade soup and baked goods, plus hand-crafted items from local vendors. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Brain Teasers



CLUES ACROSS
1. Insect feeler
5. Central processing unit
8. Part of (abbr.)
11. Typical
13. Tall, rounded vase
14. __ Alto, California city
15. Lustrous, velvet-like fabric
16. "Fresh Prince of __ Air"
17. Hebrew calendar month
18. British surgeon who discovered bone disease
20. Agreement between debtor and creditor (abbr.)
21. Elongated part of anatomical structure
22. Acts slowly on
25. Keeps a little too safe
30. Greek seaport
31. "Baba O'Riley" rockers
32. Vision
33. Potassium nitrate in mineral form
38. Midway between northeast and east
41. Not a pro
43. Give a new look
45. Sensational
48. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
49. Annoy constantly
50. Vaccine developer
55. Lying down
56. Type of language (abbr.)
57. Flat-bottomed boat
59. Smallest or slightest
60. Bind
61. Speeds
62. The products of human creativity
63. Consume food
64. Ancient Greek sophist

CLUES DOWN
1. A young canine
2. As fast as can be done
3. Soviet moon probes
4. Sharp spasm of pain
5. One who adheres to a specific art movement
6. Show parts of
7. Unfasten
8. San Diego ballplayer
9. Santa
10. Rocky peaks
12. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
14. A written agreement between two sides
19. Beginning to end (abbr.)
23. Greek goddess of the dawn
24. Not written in any key
25. Organized missions
26. Seven
27. Work unit
28. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
29. Broadway legend Bernadette
34. Belonging to a thing
35. Vietnamese offensive
36. Bitterly regret
37. Make a mistake
39. Newborn child
40. A combined landmass
41. Satisfaction
42. Hilly peninsulas in Denmark
44. Young swine
45. Type of sword
46. Siskel's partner
47. Brood of pheasants
48. Hindu model of ideal man
51. Suitable in the circumstances
52. La __ tar pits
53. Unstressed-stressed metrical foot
54. California wine country
58. Badly

November 19 Solution

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

November 19 Solution

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

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OUR TOWNS

Median home price reaches $900,000 in Washington and Millbrook

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to the Millerton News

WASHINGTON — The median sale price of a single-family home in the town of Washington, including the village of Millbrook, was $900,000 for the 12 months ending Oct. 31, 2026.

That was 35% higher than the $667,500 median for the 12 months ending Oct. 31, 2025, and 48% higher than the $609,000 median for the same period ending in 2024.

Annual single-family home sales have remained below pandemic-era levels since 2022. Thirty-seven homes sold in the 12 months ending Oct. 31, 2026, compared with 41 in the same period in 2025 and 33 in 2024. Sales peaked at 64 in the 12 months ending Oct. 31, 2021.

In mid-November, 64 properties were listed for sale or rent in Washington, up from a month earlier. The listings included eight commercial properties in the center of Millbrook.

Of the 29 single-family homes for sale, 19 were listed above $1 million, including nine above $3.5 million. There were no listings between $2 million and $3.5 million. Nine homes were listed at or below the $900,000 median sale price.

Village of Millbrook October transfers

22 Haight Ave. — 3 bedroom/1.5 bath cape cod on 0.31 acres transferred to Edgar Rugenstein for $725,000.

33 Millbrook Hollow Lane — 3 bedroom/3 bath condo transferred to Maxine Kahn for $234,167.

Haight Avenue (Parcel # 501348) — 0.32 acres of land transferred to Avery Wilse for $250,000.

Town of Washington October transfers

50 Horseshoe Lane — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath raised ranch on 1.52 acres transferred to Michael Delgrosso for $565,000.

7 Edgewood Lane — 3 bedroom/2 bath home on 1.1 acres transferred to Millprop III LLC for $1.3 million.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Located in the Village of Millbrook, this home at 22 Haight Ave. sold for $725,000 last month.

304 Mabbetsville Road — 3 bedroom/3 bath house plus guest house transferred to Lillian Pyne-Corbin for $2,026,122.

766 Route 343 — 4 bedroom/2 bath house on 5.03 acres transferred to Kenta Murakami for $642,330.

646 Oak Summit Road — 4 bedroom/2 bath two family home transferred to Armando Pilumaj for $350,000.

790 Stanford Ford — 5 bedroom/2 full bath/2 half bath home on 34.99 acres transferred to Bellavista Property Holding for $4.6 million.

3881 Route 44 — 2 bedroom/3 bath ranch on 12.31 acres transferred to Troy Lois for $689,750.

** Town of Washington recorded real estate transfers from Oct. 1 to Oct. 31 from Dutchess County Office of Real Property. First Key MLS and market data from InfoSparks. Details on each property from Dutchess Parcel Access. Current listings from One Key MLS. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, licensed in Connecticut and New York.*

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Classifieds

Real Estate

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REAL ESTATE

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Contact Fran Chapell, Director, at 860 824-0597 or canaanchildcarecenter@gmail.com

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Managing Editor

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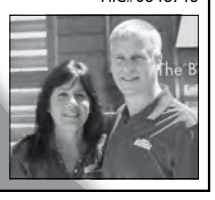

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