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**Special, Inside**

## North East Fire District commissioners challenged in Dec. 12 election

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The North East Fire District will hold an election for three of the five seats on its board of commissioners Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The board of commissioners, the fire department's municipal sector, oversees fire and emergency services for the Town of North East and the Village of Millerton.

Any citizens registered to vote in North East or Millerton may participate in the election, which will be held at the firehouse at 24 Century Blvd.

Four candidates, three of whom are incumbents, are jockeying for the three seats. The commissioners up for reelection are Larry Selfridge Jr., James Milton and David Vande Bogart; Anthony Sarvis is

challenging.

Commissioners' responsibilities include management of the budget, taxes and insurance. They order and purchase the volunteer firefighters' supplies including air packs and other safety equipment. Commissioners meet twice per month, for a workshop meeting and a general meeting.

The commissioners' five-year term is entirely volunteer, and most have full-time jobs as well. The only paid positions in both the fire district and the Millerton Fire Company are the secretary and the treasurer positions, which are non-voting positions on the board.

Selfridge, who is currently chairman of the board of commissioners, comes from a family of firefighters; he himself has been on the force for 33 years. He is also the fire/police captain, a position

which concerns traffic and street closures as well as emergency response. In his daily life, he is a painter, and works on hardwood floors.

Milton, who also has a family background replete with firefighters, has been with the fire department for almost 41 years. Retired from the town and village in 2017, he is currently filling a vacated position; he was appointed to the role in 2022.

Vande Bogart, who works for The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut, has been with the fire department for 37 years. He also has relatives in the firefighting field.

Selfridge, Milton and Vande Bogart all said that they want to continue to serve as commissioners

See **ELECTION, PAGE A8**



COMPOSITE IMAGE BY THE MILLERTON NEWS

Carson Power's rendering of the controversial solar farm (in white) that was just approved by the Pine Plains Town Planning Board for construction at 454 Bean River Road.

## Pine Plains OKs 42-acre solar farm

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**  
judithb@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The Pine Plains Planning Board unanimously approved Carson Power's plan to build a Tier 3 solar farm at 454 Bean River Road in Pulvers Corners at a special meeting Tuesday, Nov. 28.

The decision clears the way for the construction of a 42-acre solar farm on a 172-acre property: the

approval of the special use permit and site application will allow for Carol and Lucie Giardino to sell their land to SolaREIT LLC, which will then lease it to Carson Power.

The decision paves the way for the clearcutting of 22 acres of forest and the beginning of construction. Under the terms of the agreement, the property not being used for solar panels, which will largely

See **SOLAR, PAGE A8**

## Vicki Doyle reflects on a legacy of community service

*Doyle discusses her years of service and considers her own and the town's future.*

By **LEILA HAWKEN**  
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — When Vicki Doyle steps down from her position as councilwoman on the Amenia Town Board, following her narrow defeat by Republican Paul Winters in November's election, she will have held the position for 20 years.

"Serving the town is in my DNA," Doyle observed during an interview Saturday, Dec. 2, adding to statements made a few days earlier.

Doyle won her seat for the first time in November 2003, and began serving on the Town Board on Jan. 1, 2004. She has seen numerous changes over the years, she said:

"The town's budget has roughly doubled since I began. It was about \$1 million in appropriations when I started. Last year it was \$2.4 million and for 2024, it is \$2.8 million. And we still haven't built a new highway garage."

"We also had little debt," Doyle

said, "but for the closure of the landfill. We're still paying our share, and the Town of Sharon is keeping it mowed."

Moving the Town Hall in 2010 — from 2,500 square feet of rented space at the Amenia Fire Company costing \$30,000 annually, to 25,000 square feet of space at its present site — Doyle identified as another milestone. By virtue of the move, she said, the town gained a gym, auditorium, courtroom and spacious offices.

The move did, however, incur expenses, including a new boiler system, which cost more than \$1 million, insulation, asbestos abatement, roof repairs and replacement windows on the first floor.

"But we have a beautiful facility for residents to gather, play basketball and enjoy performances. And the town has gained adequate office and storage space," Doyle said.

Her work with residents to

See **DOYLE, PAGE A8**



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Vicki Doyle will continue to serve her community.

## Living in a post-pandemic world

By **PATRICK L. SULLIVAN**  
patrick@lakevillejournal.com

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. — James Shepherd painted a bleak picture of a future plagued by infectious diseases at a Salisbury Forum talk at Housatonic Valley Regional High School Friday, Dec. 1.

Shepherd, a faculty physician at Yale University and a farmer who lives and works in Sharon, opened by noting that he had given the same basic talk to a group of first-

year medical students at Yale a few days earlier.

He spoke of the difficulties facing Yale-New Haven Hospital staff in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, then recounted some of the notable lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said the virus was identified fairly quickly "for the most of the world."

Things moved slower in the

See **PANDEMIC, PAGE A8**



### CONTACT

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### OPINION

Solar power debate;  
Column, Letters **A5**



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OUR TOWNS

# Sharon debates solar project before vote

By LEILA HAWKEN  
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

SHARON, Conn. — Concerned residents gathered for an informational town meeting Wednesday, Nov. 29, focusing on a solar panel installation planned for town property adjacent to Sharon Center School (SCS).

The solar array received initial approval at a town meeting Aug. 18, 2022; on Wednesday, about 125 voters attended to learn about the project's evolving status and explore possible options.

As a result of the 2022 town meeting, and a unanimous vote by the 14 residents present, the town had signed a power purchase agreement with the Connecticut Green Bank. Preliminary implementation has begun.

A recent lawful petition carrying 209 signatures had asked for reconsideration of the plan and the scheduling of a town-wide referendum vote, which has now been scheduled by the Board of Selectmen for Friday, Jan. 5. The referendum will decide by "Yes" or "No" vote whether the project may proceed. Voting takes place at the Town Hall between noon and 8 p.m.

Further complicating the issue is a project application submitted by Verogy of West Hartford, installers of the project, awaiting approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) within the 65-day deliberation period, which is due to expire this week. The application details a ground-mount solar photovoltaic array of around 400 panels to be installed on SCS grounds. It would occupy the site of a student nature study trail, put in place several years ago, but not in active use.

"P&Z is not a part of this town meeting," Dale Jones announced after his election as moderator for the meeting.

Doug Rick, member of the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission (SEEC), provided historical context, noting that he also serves as a director of People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE), having been involved with that organization for the past 20 years. In late 2019, he had learned of a new program offered by the Green Bank called Solar MAP (Solar Municipal Assistance Program).

Rick brought news of the program to SEEC, whose members agreed that participation could bring clean, renewable electricity with no upfront cost while affording considerable savings. SCS was found to be the best site for the program, promising substantial savings in energy costs annually.

Hilltop Road resident David Levinson, who had promoted the petition drive and

town meeting/referendum request, outlined neighbors' concerns.

At principal issue was the question of the projected savings in energy costs.

"There are a lot of things that don't make sense," Levinson said, indicating that savings may not be as large as anticipated in the long run.

"We should have encouraged students to use the nature trail space," Levinson added.

First Selectman Casey Flanagan agreed that the numbers have been unstable, while noting that the projected electricity savings stand at \$524,000 over the 20-year life of the agreement, or about \$26,000 annually. The first year of savings, however, would be likely to be closer to \$16,000.

Noting that the Green Bank has already invested \$50,000 toward the project, Flanagan said that the town would likely need to pay back that amount should the project be voted down at the referendum.

"We're trying to get the benefit of a reduced energy bill," said Flanagan. "We won't own the system, and we won't need to maintain it either."

Explaining energy costs and how the annual savings figure of \$26,000 was computed, Roger Liddell noted that electrical rates from the grid are increasing. By studying the energy costs for the current year and estimating an amount for December, he found that the estimate was reasonable.

Several residents expressed positions in favor of solar energy, but not at the SCS location near residents' properties along Hilltop Road and other neighboring streets. "We are good neighbors," said school superintendent Doug Cahill. He recalled that the SEEC had suggested a solar array be installed on the SCS roof. He explained that there is too much equipment already installed on the roof and the integrity of the school's flat roof was also questionable. Now that a new roof has been installed, guaranteed to last 30 years, any installation could void the guarantee.

Cahill explained that the lower field was considered, as were the neighbors, as the Board of Education considered the proposal at length.

"We knew that it was proposed to be built within the nature trail area," Cahill said, but the faculty saw the potential for science learning for the students exploring solar energy while also retaining the integrity of the nature trail to support habitat. Twenty-five percent of the available space will be occupied by the solar array, and 75% will be re-

claimed as a natural habitat for native plants and pollinators.

"The benefits for the many outweigh the interests of the few," Cahill observed.

Neighboring property owner John Hecht asked about vegetative screening to mask the panels enclosed within steel fencing, learning that the current P&Z deliberations may include such screening strategies.

"Residents are looking for better landscaping to screen adequately," added Parez Hecht.

The wording of the resolution being voted upon at the referendum drew heavy discussion, particularly for its use of the word "relinquish" in connection to the town land that is not being relinquished, but rather is being leased for 20 years to the Green Bank for the solar project.

Flanagan noted that at the end of the 20-year lease period, the town can ask Green Bank to dismantle and remove the equipment, the town can extend the lease, or the town could purchase the solar panels.

Rick said that at the end of 20 years, the panels would be 90% viable. "It is a long-term lease," Flanagan said, adding that the Green Bank will maintain the space within the fenced area where the panels are to be located.

One resident asked whether the word "relinquish" could be changed, but Jones replied that the call to be voted on needs to remain as worded. The call was checked and approved by the town attorney and cannot be changed.

## Lyll Church to offer Christmas Day dinner

MILLBROOK — The eighth annual First Harvest Pantry Christmas Day Dinner at Lyll Community Church will take place Monday, Dec. 25.

Co-hosted by Ken Holzborg and Tom Kopfensteiner of Stonewood Farm and the Rev. Thom Feit, Lyll Church's pastor, the meal is free of charge and open to anyone in the community wanting a traditional holiday



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

## Bouncing off the walls

The Kids Basketball Clinic sponsored by the Amenia Parks and Recreation Department was all about dribbling and ball-handling skills at the Saturday, Dec. 2, session at the Amenia Town Hall, led by Chris Spitler. The popular free program, Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 6-12, will continue until Dec. 16. Children of all ability levels are welcome.

## Millerton News to host Winter Craft Fair

MILLERTON — The Millerton News invites everyone to a Winter Craft Fair Sunday, Dec. 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Millerton United Methodist Church, 6 Dutchess Ave. The event will feature

crafts for children of all ages, a wood-carving demonstration, ceramics and jewelry by local artists and makers, face painting, and a display of photos from the archives. Apple cider doughnuts, cof-

fee and cider will be served at the event.

Editors from the paper will be on hand to meet with visitors.

The event is free and open to the public.

## LEGAL NOTICES

**Legal Notice**  
Hazy Rafa LLC filed Articles of Organization with the NY Department of State on November 14, 2023. Its office is located in Dutchess County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served, and a copy of any process shall be mailed to 55 Locust Grove Road, Apt 1, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Its purpose is any lawful business.

- 12-07-23
- 12-14-23
- 12-21-23
- 12-28-23
- 01-04-24
- 01-11-24

Intricate Carpentry, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/13/23. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brandon Smith 124 Sharon Road, Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

- 11-30-23
- 12-07-23
- 12-14-23
- 12-21-21
- 12-28-23
- 01-04-23

**Legal Notice**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Village of Millerton Planning Board**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Planning Board of the Village of Millerton, Dutchess County, New York, on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall, 5933 North Elm Avenue, regarding the application of Arnoff Storage, Inc., at 5979 North Elm Avenue, Millerton, NY for site plan approval. The application is open for inspection at Village Hall.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard on said application at the hearing at the aforesaid time and place.

By the order of:  
Village of Millerton  
Planning Board  
Anna Clune  
Planning, Zoning & Building Secretary  
12-07-23

**Legal Notice**  
Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC). The name of the LLC is: LQPCONSULTING, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: November 1, 2023. The County in which the Office is to be located: DUTCHESS. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: 20 LINDEN COURT, MILLBROOK, NY 12545. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

- 11-23-23
- 11-30-23
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OUR TOWNS

# CT approves closure of labor and delivery at Windham Hospital

By KATY GOLVALA  
CT Mirror

The Connecticut Office of Health Strategy (OHS) announced on Friday the approval of a plan to terminate labor and delivery services at Windham Hospital, bringing an end to a three-year saga that pitted community organizers against one of the state's largest health systems.

The decision marks the first of three applications currently under consideration by OHS to close labor and delivery units in rural areas of the state.

In addition to Windham Hospital, Sharon Hospital and Johnson Memorial, in Stafford, also have pending applications to terminate birthing services. If all three receive approval, Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam would be the only rural hospital in the state offering birthing services.

Under the terms of the settlement, Windham Hospital, owned by Hartford HealthCare, must hire an independent third party to assess the need for and feasibility of establishing a birthing center in the area. If the study concludes that it is necessary and possible to do so, the hospital will have to either find a provider to operate a birthing center or operate it itself.

"Together with Windham Hospital, we carefully crafted this settlement to ensure the healthcare of birthing parents is not compromised by the termination," said OHS executive director Deidre Gifford in a statement.

The hospital will also be required to provide both emergency and non-emergency transportation for the birthing parent, as well as any support people, to and from the hospital for predelivery exams, labor and delivery, and post-delivery visits. Windham Hospital will continue to provide prenatal and postpartum care.

Windham Hospital stopped performing births in June 2020. Three months later, Hartford HealthCare applied for state approval — known as a "certificate of need" — to officially close the unit, pointing to patient safety concerns due to low birth volumes and difficulty recruiting health care providers.

Community organizers from Windham have sustained a fierce campaign opposing the closure for over three years, holding vigils and protests in Windham and Hartford to voice their concerns about the service cuts. In July 2022, OHS issued an initial denial of the proposal to permanently close labor



PHOTO BY SHAHRZAD RASEKH / CT MIRROR

**Activists on the steps of the state Capitol on November 13, 2023 protested the proposed closure of the labor and delivery unit at Windham Hospital. The decision illuminates one possible outcome of the ongoing fight over the maternity ward at Sharon Hospital, which Nuance Health is seeking to close through the same OHS process.**

and delivery at Windham, finding that, among other potential negative outcomes, the move could exacerbate existing health inequities, diminish access, increase costs and limit patient choice in the region.

[MN: Similar findings led the OHS to issue a preliminary rejection of Sharon Hospital's application for a certificate of need to close their Labor & Deliver Unit in September. Sharon Hospital has since appealed that decision.]

Per the approval process, Hartford HealthCare appealed the decision the following month, which gave the health system the opportunity to present additional evidence and conduct another round of oral arguments.

Among the new evidence Hartford HealthCare presented was the findings from a survey where hospital administrators reported "needing at least 200 annual births for safety and financial viability." Hartford HealthCare noted that "Windham handled approximately 100 births in each of its last several years of operation."

The survey's authors also concluded that "many administrators indicated prioritizing local community needs for obstetric care over concerns about viability and staffing."

The issue of low birth volumes at Windham has been one of the most contentious points of disagreement between Hartford HealthCare and community members opposed to the closure.

"It comes down to both sides saying it's unsafe," said John Brady in a November 2021 interview with the CT Mirror. Brady is a registered nurse and serves as the executive vice president of AFT CT, a union representing health care professionals, as well as teachers and public employees.

According to the state-

ment, once both OHS and Windham sign the agreement, the parties will meet to establish a work plan for the study of the birthing center.

"This is how you kill a small city," said Willimantic town council member Rodney Alexander on the steps of the state Capitol during a November evening vigil calling for the restoration of services. "How can you convince a young couple to move to Willimantic, raise a family, with no maternity ward?"

The News occasionally will offer articles from CTMirror.org, a source of nonprofit journalism and a partner with The Lakeville Journal.



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**OBITUARIES**

**Joyce Anne Marshall**

NORTH CANAAN — Joyce Anne Dame Thompson Marshall, age 88, of 85 South Canaan Road, passed away Nov. 19, 2023.



Joyce was born March 25, 1935, in Plattsburgh, New York, the daughter of the late Lloyd Peter Dame and Jennie (Miner Trombley) Dame of Dannemora, New York.

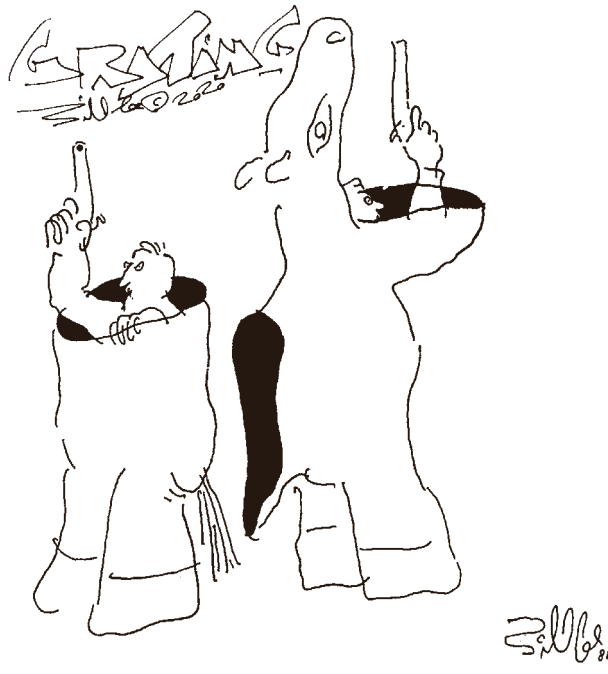
Married June 18, 1954, to Harry Ayres Thompson, Dannemora, New York, predeceased Jan. 9, 1981, Dover Plains, New York.

Married June 5, 1982, to Douglas Drew Marshall, Pine Plains, New York, predeceased Feb. 25, 2002, Sharon, Connecticut.

Her sister, Mrs. Nancy Conklin, New Port Richey, Florida, predeceased 2022.

Joyce is survived by her daughter, Deborah Thompson, Jacksonville, Florida, son Philip A. Thompson, Afton, Tennessee, and daughter Julie Thompson Lane, Ashley Falls, Massachusetts; step children, Judith Marshall, Fulton, New York, Susan Marshall, Fulton, New York, Douglas Marshall Jr., Syracuse, New York; her sister, Mrs. Eva Miner, Springfield, Massachusetts; 7 grand children, James Grant Smith III, Millerton New York, Bambi Denise Smith, Steven Lloyd Smith, Shaun Smith, Dover Plains, New York, Amanda Wright Whitehead, Dylan Nutter, Jacksonville, Florida, Ian Ayres Lane, Sharon; 5 great grand children; 7 great great grand children.

Married June 18, 1954, to Harry Ayres Thompson, Dannemora, New York, predeceased Jan. 9, 1981, Dover Plains, New York. Married June 5, 1982, to Douglas Drew Marshall, Pine Plains, New York, predeceased Feb. 25, 2002, Sharon, Connecticut. Her sister, Mrs. Nancy Conklin, New Port Richey, Florida, predeceased 2022.



**A Bill Lee cartoon**

**Linda Louise Sheridan**

MILLERTON — Linda Louise (Kitchens) Sheridan, age 84, a resident of Millerton, died on Oct. 20 in Sharon. She was born Jan. 17, 1939, in Jacksonville, Illinois to Gerald and Ruth (Underwood) Kitchens.



Linda attended Jacksonville High School and Stephen Decatur High School. She went on to study at Millikin University, MacMurray College, the Ray Vogue School of Design, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Linda had a daughter, Frances Ruth Sheridan, with her husband, film and TV director, Jay J. Sheridan.

Her secretarial career in Illinois included working at Marvel-Schebler Borg Warner, IITRI, the American Dental Association, Illinois Power, John Deere Life Insurance, and as a Nuclear Steno at the Clinton Power Plant. She was a Sr. Administrative Assistant at TransUnion LLC Chicago, in the International Department, which she loved.

Linda was a devoted mother to her daughter and son-

in-law, and grandma to her grandchildren. She was a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Creative, ever-loving, sharp of mind, and wit, she was always willing to go above and beyond for family and friends. Her strength of spirit and never-quitting constitution will be forever inspiring.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Evelyn (Nunes) and Andy Kitchens; her parents; her husband, Jay J. Sheridan; and one brother, Michael Kitchens.

Linda is survived by her daughter, Frances Ruth (Tristan) Sheridan; her much-loved grandchildren, Clyde, Beatrice and Louise; her brothers, Jerald (Linda) Kitchens, and Stephen (Linda) Kitchens; sister-in-law Karen Kitchens; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, please pray a Novena or Rosary, as they were meaningful to her in life.

A memorial will be held in Jacksonville, Illinois, at a later date.

**In Remembrance**

**E. Bloxom Baker**

Bloxy Baker was an angel: a hard driving, newspaper carrying, helicopter flying, hockey playing angel. He had so many sides to him, and in the years he worked at The Lakeville Journal driving, delivering and picking up newspapers, he shared the side of himself that was relentless, reliable to a fault, and endlessly responsible to his community.

When Bloxy first walked in our doors, we had just had a particularly difficult time with our driving. He truly came in as an angel who could reorganize the delivery department and understand every part of it, keeping the logistics in his head and implement them every week. Does that sound easy? Trust me, it is not.

He was always thoughtful and attentive to his co-workers, especially his fellow drivers. When his buddy who drove with him fell on hard times, he tried everything to find ways to help him through a rough patch in his life. He never backed down from that, and stayed in close contact with him until the end of his own life.

During one end-of-year shutdown when the Journal was still at 33 Bissell Street in Lakeville, Bloxy took the

time to paint a lot of that old, abused building. One part was a stairwell that needed staging to get to the high parts. When I asked if the Journal could help with that, paying for something that would work for him, he just said, "Don't worry, I've got this. It will work." As he expressed with so many things. And it did.

We sold that building to the bank not long after that, and it wound up being torn down, but that didn't diminish the worth of his efforts in that moment. He had the mission of making things better around him, which was not ever an easy task at a small, struggling community weekly newspaper group.

The gratitude I, and we all at the Journal, have for Bloxy's efforts in keeping the papers out there during COVID shutdown and so many other challenges is boundless. All I would hope is to emulate his spirit of getting up and moving forward despite all obstacles. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, Bloxy, for setting a shining example of being undaunted by anything life could throw at you.

**Janet Manko**  
Publisher Emeritus,  
The Lakeville Journal

**Patricia O'Loughlin Zucco**

LAKEVILLE — Patricia O'Loughlin Zucco passed away peacefully at her home on Nov. 15, 2023.

She was born on March 28, 1955, in Sharon, the first daughter of Francis and Bernice O'Loughlin, who predeceased her.

She grew up in Lakeville, and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. After spending most of her life in Lakeville, she moved to North Carolina and later to Florida.

Patty was passionate about her family, animals, and politics, and was a proud and frequent visitor to Facebook jail for her liberal views.

She is survived by her beloved son, Daniel Zucco of Holly Hill, Florida; her sisters Erin Reid of Sayville, New

York, and Shannon Olsen of Portland, Oregon; her nieces Casey Reid of Chicago, Illinois and Abigail Neugebauer of Sayville, New York; five great-nieces and nephews; her cousin Ross Fenn of Germantown, New York and extended family.

In lieu of flowers, Patty would be honored by gifts to the Humane Society, the American Cancer Society, or to the Hospice Foundation of America.

For more obituaries, see page A6

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Instagram: @johnharneyjr

The holiday season is here and one way to celebrate it is to donate to our local food banks. In the northwest corner, it is sometimes hard to see that food insecurity exists, but, for example, The Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville provides nutritious food for thousands of families in the Tri-State area. Here are websites of two local food pantries to consider donations to: The Corner Food Pantry: www.thecornerfoodpantry.org and the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry: www.northcanaancongregationalchurch.org/\_wpez/the-fishes-loaves-food-pantry/. Both all volunteer organizations do tremendous work to support our communities!

ADVERTISEMENT

**In Remembrance**

**Bill Lee**

Bill Lee's relationship with The Lakeville Journal spanned many years. The Journal had a long tradition of giving cartoonists space on its editorial pages, and Bill, as a resident of Sharon and New York City, was generous in sharing his thoughts with our readers. His process was formed before the digital age, and what he did with his cartoons was draw them on paper, then bunch up a number of them, or just a single one, jam them into a paper envelope and mail them to us at the Journal.

Many of those cartoons are still relevant today. The one accompanying this remembrance was done years ago. He commented on worldwide, national, local and New York City topics, depending on the week.

Besides sending the cartoons he sent some writings as an "Investigative Cartoonist," reporting the ongoing drama/comedy that plays out in the streets and bars of New York

City, the world at large and the Northwest Corner.

Longtime readers will remember his cartoons, and may have met him in one of the local restaurants/bars, as he was a friendly presence and chatted up anyone who was willing to engage.

Sometimes he would call the Journal just to chat about wide-ranging topics, and those conversations were treasured by me, and those who came before me, I know. He often asked about doings in Sharon if he hadn't been able to get up to the country for a while. Thank you to Bill for being such a prolific supporter of his local community newspaper. Though he was a professional cartoonist whose work appeared in publications such as Esquire, Playboy, National Lampoon and more, he did everything for the Journal gratis.

**Janet Manko**  
Publisher Emeritus,  
The Lakeville Journal

**Worship Services**  
Week of December 10, 2023

Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.

<p><b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>	<p><b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p><b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p><b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b> 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p><b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p> <p><b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b> is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm &amp; Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p><b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org Misa en español a las 4 de la tarde el último domingo de mes The Revs. Heidi Truax &amp; Felix Rivera trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>
<p><b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p><b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b> JOIN US FOR OUR HOLIDAY PROGRAM! Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, December 10 at 10:30 a.m. Christmas Reflections on Giving and Taking Joy For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p><b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p><b>Chabad of Northwest CT On The Green</b> 69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759 Childrens Camp   Shabbat Services Hebrew School   CTeen   YJP Judaism With A Smile! chabadNW.org 860.567.3377   office@chabadNW.org</p>
<p><b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p><b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p><b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p><b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am North Cornwall Meeting House 115 Town Street, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p><b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	<p><b>Sharon Congregational</b> 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p><b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall</p>	<p><b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>
<p><b>Congregation Beth David</b> A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p><b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b> 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340   allsaintsofamerica.us</p>
<p><b>Millerton United Methodist Church</b> 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st &amp; 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M. 518-789-3138</p>	

**Correcting Errors**

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

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EDITORIAL

Solar power debate

Last summer the Pine Plains Planning Board agreed that the solar project at Pulvers Corners, proposed by Carson Power of New York City, would not create significant harmful impact. That meeting in June was viewed by many as a significant advance for the project.

But there was more to be done, and more meetings, workshops and hearings to get through. Even after there had been many already.

In the last week of November, the long process came to fruition for Carson Power. The Planning Board, in a 7-0 vote, approved the project. The Planning Board didn't get to this decision without a lot of hard work and diligence. We commend this all-volunteer body for all its hard work. The resolution approving the project is a testament to its due diligence. Through 22 pages of "whereas" this and "whereas" that, the Board establishes consideration of dozens and dozens of fact-finding and stipulation matters.

No matter whether you stand "for" or "against" the project, the Planning Board deserves credit for doing its job. Some might consider that it is a model for this kind of project evaluation.

The members of the Board have faced a persistent opposition to the project, ranging on several issues from its impact on the environment, its fit in the Pine Plains rural countryside, its impact on wildlife and its threat to the pastoral viewshed and real estate values. And more.

While we're at it, we offer praise to the Planning Board for its transparency and documentation on the town web site.

Our story on Page A1 by Judith O'Hara Balfe reports on the Board's decision at its special meeting in the Town Hall. But throughout the year, as we said, the project was the subject of dozens of meetings. Over time Carson Power agreed to stipulation after stipulation — weekly erosion inspection during construction, no herbicides, and much more. Planting pollinator-friendly plants, such as the milkweed preferred by the Monarch butterfly, became part of the agreement. And more, including having the town retain the right to permit a beekeeper to keep bees on the property.



The day after the Pine Plains Planning Board gave the green light to Carson Power, about 125 concerned residents of Sharon, Connecticut, attended an informational meeting about another, considerably smaller solar project.

Less than a half an hour drive to the east, the townspeople of Sharon are wrestling with a municipal solar project proposed adjacent to the Sharon Center School. Their late November meeting was a chance to learn about the status of the project — already started down the road — and to explore options that might still be available. See story on Page A2.

The Sharon project had received initial approval at a town meeting in August, attended by only 14 residents. (The town has 635 residents, according to the 2020 U.S. Census.) With the approval of the dozen-plus residents present, the town signed a power purchase agreement with the Connecticut Green Bank. Preliminary implementation has begun.

But a recent petition carrying 209 signatures requested reconsideration of the project and the scheduling of a town-wide referendum vote, which has now been scheduled by the Board of Selectmen for Friday, Jan. 5. The referendum will decide by "Yes" or "No" vote whether the project may proceed.



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

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

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

The Letters to the editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for that week's publication. No more than 500 words. Send to editor@millertonnews.com with the phrase "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line. Please include a phone number for confirmation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More on Medicare (Misnomer) Advantage

General Medicare Enrollment ends on Dec. 7, 2023. If you have made a mistake in opting for Medicare Advantage during this time, there is another enrollment period (Medicare Advantage Enrollment) between January and March, 2024, when you can also make the change.

If you have noticed, the TV ads for Medicare Advantage during this first enrollment period have become tamer and more informative and less aggressive/offensive. This is because President Biden's administration has made the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) track down fraudulent advertising. This misleading and false ad-

vertising puts many of vulnerable Americans at risk of opting for inferior services called "Medicare Advantage" — which is neither really Medicare or an advantage.

In a great advance over previous administrations, this year CMS pre-screened over 700 ads for MA for the Enrollment Period and rejected a high percentage of them for offering misleading claims of service and for offering confusing or truncated service explanations to the medical buyer. Still unable (politically) to completely sever these branded MA policies from the governmental umbrella, this is, nonetheless, a giant step forward for CMS.

While it is too late for the consumer to ask some questions — like "Is my doctor in the network that I am signing up for?" "Does this plan cover my prescriptions?" "Does my coverage continue when I leave the geographic network, or my state permanently or when I travel?" "Why do I have a copay with this policy?" — it is not too late to decide that you want to get regular Medicare or return to regular Medicare.

If you discover that you have opted into a Medicare Advantage plan that offers those extras (like eyeglasses, dental work, cash back to your Social Security deduction, hearing aids) but fails to

offer the things you are relying on, consider un-enrolling and asking CMS for that option. There is another open Enrollment Period between January and March of 2024 for doing that.

Try going to Kaiser Family Foundation (kff.org) for your questions. An ignorant public is a marketplace gold mine.

Nancy McKenzie

Amenia

Crafts for a Cause thanks

Thanks to the Millerton News for the excellent coverage of the Crafts for a Cause fundraiser and to everyone who came by. All money raised will go to Grow Against Poverty's education programs in Busia County, Kenya including "Pedal Power for Kenyan Education," "Green Fields," and "Prevent Period Poverty." These programs help hundreds of students get to school, learn, eat well and graduate.

It was the best year ever thanks to your coverage!

John and Jean Roccanova

Amenia

that the project comes out just as the client wants, even when swamped with everyone's printing projects. Her knowledge of, and commitment to, the community, her understanding of what organizations need and her ability to put so much together on paper help keep many organizations on their road towards success. Stacey and Moore & More Printing is truly a gift to our area, one that we are fortunate to have.

Holly J. Nelson

Millerton

Thanks for all you do, Stacey!

Thank you for the story about Millerton's Adopt-a-Family program. Its strong foundation will help ensure a smooth transition as the NECC moves into leadership on this important community effort.

Those interviewed in the story noted that co-founder Stacey Moore isn't one for accolades, preferring to get the work done behind the scenes. This is an additional apprecia-

tion for Stacey and Moore & More Printing, who provide a range of services for many of the non-profit organizations throughout our region. Stacey and her crew have become an integral component of how many groups function, providing the printing needed for communication, fundraising and operations. She offers the friendly and professional help that many groups need, taking the time to ensure

GPS is now 50 years old (and obsolete)

In May 1983 the very first transatlantic flight (military) using GPS was completed — thereby completing the primary testing of the world's newest navigational aide. Three years later I helped load a prototype GPS unit on the Voyage for the first circumnavigation, non-stop, non-refueled flight — and it was found to be accurate to within 80 feet just south of Hawaii (at the time there were only a few satellites in the system).

Over the years, GPS has been an incredible boon to safety globally and this taxpayer-funded system has provided over \$1,700,000,000,000 in commercial trade. What, you thought this freebee from you the taxpayer was only made for the military? Well, until the U.S. military relinquished the "selective ability" constraints in 2020, GPS really didn't have a future commercially — and then BOOM, it was everywhere — your

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

smart phone, your car, your ability to stream TV — all these are dependent on the use of free GPS.

The problem with GPS is that it is no longer as secure as the military needs it to be. Since 2020 those government agencies have been inventing other navigational systems, mostly space-based. So have Russia, China, and India. There are vision-aided bolt-on systems that use space imagery to verify what the GPS is claiming as locations. There are star based navigation verification systems (first developed for the Blackbird spy planes that needed to automatically verify location using star charts). And there are even bio- and non-bio magnetic verification "sca-

lar magnetometers" double checking the GPS readings.

And then there are two breakthroughs that will, in the coming decades, replace everything else.

First is Quantum sensors, which rely on ultraprecise quantum physics. In quantum gyroscopes, cold atoms act as waves and travel along two paths. These are excited by lasers that create (in each atom) two states at the same time — this is called superposition. As the gyro moves, the atoms' states alter differently and the waves either agree or cancel each other out.

This creates an interference pattern which, when measured, allows acceleration and rotation to be measured. Quantum inertial navigation will be far more accurate for longer periods of time than GPS.

A weirder but interesting development is opportunistic navigation using Signals-of-Opportunity measurement

(SoOP). Measuring the signals to and from satellites, measuring the doppler shift of those transmissions, SoOP allows navigation "piracy" — meaning they can track and navigate using any signal from anyone thereby preventing an enemy from jamming signals: you simply cannot jam every satellite's signals.

Oh, and just one more weird spin off from CERN in Geneva... the U.S. Transportation Department is running White Rabbit. White Rabbit allows subnanosecond synchronization accuracy over all optical links used across all our standard telecom links. In short, you can't expect signals reaching your devices to be accurate unless they are checked, and rechecked, for perfect timing. White Rabbit does this now for every navigation and telecom signal.

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

THE MILLERTON NEWS

(USPS 384600)

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Thursday, December 7, 2023

Mission Statement

The Lakeville Journal Company, Publishers of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News  
Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

John Coston  
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## OBITUARIES

### Cameron Middlebrook Casey

KENT — Our dearly loved son, brother, uncle and friend, Cameron Middlebrook Casey, 36, of Kent, and Kentfield, California, passed away on Nov. 22, 2023, after a long and courageous battle with depression.

Cameron was a graduate of Marin Catholic High School in Greenbrae, California and the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado. He worked in the film industry in New York City and Brooklyn for ten years before moving to Kent, where he managed a family real estate business. Cameron was an avid mountain

biker, snowboarder, gifted stone artist and world traveler.

In addition to his mother and father, Janette Casey Bertrand of Marin County, California, John Casey of Kent, and his stepmother, Carolyn Casey, Cameron is survived by Caroline Simons and her husband, Taylor Simons, their children Henry and Tatum Simons of Shelter Island, New York, Madeline Casey and her husband, Michael Mutchler of Louisville, Kentucky, and Devan Casey of Kent, as well as his extended family.

A memorial Mass will

be held for Cameron at the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Catholic Church at 17 Bridge St., Kent, CT at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023. Interment will follow at the Flanders Cemetery in Kent immediately after the Mass. A reception will be held at the Fife 'n Drum Restaurant at 53 N. Main St. Kent, after interment.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSAlliance.org). Requiem in pacem.

Kenny Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### In Appreciation

### Joan Palmer

I knew of Joan Palmer from an early age. My sister and Mrs. Palmer's daughter were in the same class at school. I began to know her better in 1988 when I graduated from art school and got a "temporary" job at Housatonic Day Care Center and began working with Mrs. Palmer. The temporary job lasted 17 years.

We had a lot of fun working together. We shared an interest in art and did many, many art projects with the children. We also shared a love of animals.

When I began at daycare, Mrs. Palmer was doing a split shift. She'd come in at opening, leave at 1:00 and come back at 3:00. When she came back at three, there were always excited calls of "Mrs. Palmer's here! Mrs. Palmer's here!" She'd been gone only two hours, but she'd been missed. While the rest of us on the staff were called by our

first names, she was always "Mrs. Palmer."

I learned a lot working with her. She knew how to keep the children captivated when she did story time. She gave the characters voices and drama. A favorite was her reading of "Snow White." When she did the evil queen, the children were spellbound. The children adored her always, all the seventeen years we worked together. She had fun with them but had a quelling glance and a tone to her voice that let them know when they'd overstepped a boundary. She was always gentle and kind to them, even when the quelling was needed.

We talked a lot about art, and I went to her art shows, amazed at how she had conquered the difficult medium of watercolor. She painted local scenes and scenes from the

many trips she took, traveling to Europe, Africa, and South America.

I admired her great sense of style. I often thought she could take a paper bag, cut holes for head and arms, add a few accessories and transform it into a fantastic outfit.

When she retired, the day care was not the same for me. She'd been part of it since the beginning, when it formed in the early 1970s. It was then in a little building by the Lakeville Methodist Church. The children she taught in those many years of day care were very fortunate to have had her to teach and nurture them.

She was extraordinary.

I feel lucky to have worked with her and learned from her and to have become her friend.

**Robin Roraback**

Salisbury

For more obituaries, see page A4

## The Lakeville Journal FOUNDATION

Dear Friends and Readers,

There is GOOD NEWS to report about The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News! We have added more journalists to our staff, expanded our news coverage and we are about to launch new websites for both papers with seven-day-a-week news coverage.

Like many newspapers across the country, we face financial pressures that threaten our ability to continue this vital work. Even after a successful matching campaign, we still need your help. As a non-profit news organization, we must close the gap between what we earn by selling newspapers and ads and our operating expenses. That's why we are reaching out to you, our loyal readers and community members.

The papers led the way this year in reporting on important issues to our community: Sharon Hospital, affordable housing, and environmental challenges to our lakes and state parks. And, of course, we remain the place to catch up on the police blotter, town meetings, local elections, local sports, festivals, movies, and the latest bear and wildlife sightings.

Since The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News were converted to non-profit status last year, you have kept us in business with your generous contributions. We are asking you once again to consider a tax-deductible contribution as part of your year-end giving. Every donation goes to support our journalists and the mission to deliver the stories that matter to you.

To donate, please visit [www.tricornernews.com/contribute](http://www.tricornernews.com/contribute) or fill out the form below and mail a check. For information on donating shares of stock, please email [donation@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:donation@lakevillejournal.com).

Thank you for your continued support!

*Noreen Doyle*

Noreen Doyle, Chair  
The Lakeville Journal Foundation, Inc.

*Susan Hassler*

Susan Hassler, CEO, publisher

Enclose your check or money order and mail to The Lakeville Journal Foundation, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039  
To donate by credit card, please go to [www.tricornernews.com/contribute](http://www.tricornernews.com/contribute) or scan the QR code to the right.



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The Lakeville Journal Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible according to the law.

The Lakeville Journal

The MILLERTON NEWS




## Sharon Hospital Community Update



Learn about the latest developments at our hospital. Sharon Hospital leadership will present a virtual community report that includes information on new services, and an update on our community needs assessment and health improvement collaboration. The independent monitor engaged by Nuvance Health will also report on its review of compliance with the April 1, 2019 Agreed Settlement with Connecticut's Office of Health Strategy.

We will discuss and answer questions from the community following the presentation.

### Please join us via Zoom webinar:

 [nuvancehealth.org/CTForums](http://nuvancehealth.org/CTForums)  
Join via phone: (646) 558-8656  
Meeting ID: 958 1353 9011 Passcode: 480818

 December 12  5-6:30 pm

This will also stream live at [facebook.com/sharonhospital](https://facebook.com/sharonhospital)

### To submit questions in advance:

Call: (203) 739-7919

Email: [andrea.rynn@nuvancehealth.org](mailto:andrea.rynn@nuvancehealth.org)

Mail: Sharon Hospital, Attn: Community Forum  
50 Hospital Hill Road, Sharon, CT 06069

No registration required

TTY/Accessibility: (800) 842-9710

# Letter from the farm: garlic planting

By JANNA SILLER  
Special to The Millerton News

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. — Colder weather, overnight frosts and shortening days mean that most production on local farms slows considerably in November.

Tree fruit and most vegetables had better all be harvested and stored away; hay and grain for animal feed is stocked up in barns; hens lay fewer eggs; meat is in the freezer; and farmers set to the long-neglected tasks of fixing broken things, cleaning up the fields, analyzing sales, and perhaps getting a breath of rest.

There is one fresh beginning around the Thanksgiving season, however, for those of us growing vegetables: garlic. Most veggie plantings get scuttled into the ground at a breakneck pace in April and May; they take off immediately, rapidly doubling in size under the long hours of sunlight, and demanding constant watering and weeding. But garlic gets its start with the unhurried energy of fall.

There are two types of garlic: hard neck and soft neck. Soft neck is the kind you sometimes get at the grocery store, with tiny cloves: It grows in warmer climates and can be braided, as you may have seen as decorations in Italian restaurants. Hard neck garlic is better adapted to grow in our region. It likes to go through a period of cold weather; it is the one vegetable that we plant during in the dark, liminal moments of autumn.

Most growers plant garlic from last year's stock. It doesn't grow well from seed, but each clove will grow a



PHOTO BY JANNA SILLER

November garlic planting garlic at Adamah Farm.

nice head, genetically identical to the one it came from. At Adamah Farm, at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center in Falls Village, we set aside one-seventh of the heads we harvest each July. We select the largest heads for replanting, so that the genetics of our crop have potential for great yields.

On planting morning, we gather the full farm community together and pop apart the garlic heads, filling our individual buckets with single cloves, warming

our icy fingers every so often with breath and pockets, having chosen dexterity and the pleasure of feeling flaky garlic skins and smooth cloves against our fingers, to the awkwardness of trying to do the work in gloves.

In the low angle light and long shadows of late October, we'd prepared the garlic beds meticulously: They have been forked and covered in our farm-made compost.

Now, in November, we begin the planting together. With each clove we press

into the soil, we offer blessings and intentions: for peace, for a healing planet, for living in harmony across difference, for abundance.

We then help a neighboring hay farmer clean out his barn, gathering bits that have fallen from his bales. Back at Adamah, we mulch the whole garlic planting with his hay. This will keep the soil temperature and moisture more even over the winter, and prevent weeds from taking root.

In the spring, each clove will send up the first green shoots in our fields. Over the summer, it will grow into a head. In June the plants will produce garlic scapes, the flower stalks of the plants which, left attached, will inhibit the head from sizing up. They also happen to be delicious, making them a perfect bonus harvest.

In mid-July, the garlic will be ready for harvest. We will sell and eat most, saving one-seventh to be planted when the temperatures and light and farmers next fall into that November rhythm.

*Janna Siller is the Farm Director at Adamah Farm.*



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

## Desperately seeking Santa

The North East Fire District Millerton Fire Co. is making it easy for children to write to Santa Claus: they've installed a special mailbox in front of the fire station on Century Boulevard in Millerton.

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**ELECTION** *Continued from Page A1*

because the longer you serve, the better you understand what the needs are, and the longer you stay, the more relationships you build.

All four candidates agreed that the most important thing is that everybody gets along.

Sarvis has been with the Millerton Fire Company for six years, and volunteered with the Dover fire department for five years before that. Sarvis, who works for Welsh Sanitation, moved to Millerton nine years ago. He plays the Grinch in the Christmas Parade and the Easter Bunny at Easter.

Sarvis told The News that he came to a decision to devote himself to community service after losing his brother, Thomas, to post-traumatic stress disorder, following his military service.

Sarvis said that he saw a



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

**Anthony Sarvis is running for a seat on the North East Fire District's board of commissioners.**

need for volunteers in fire and emergency services, and began volunteering.

Sarvis agreed with the commissioners that the Millerton Fire Company is a great company and that everyone gets along, but he said that he hopes to get elected because



PHOTO BY PATRICIA LYNCH

**Incumbent fire commissioners David Vande Bogart, Larry Selfridge and James Milton are running for reelection on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at the firehouse from 4 to 7 p.m.**

he feels that some younger blood on the board would be a good thing, suggesting that he could bring some new ideas and some new energy.

All of the candidates reminded The News that there is always a need for volunteers. The Millerton department has in-house training,

and invites anyone interested to pick up an application.

It also invites the public to come to the firehouse any Monday (except holidays) at 6 p.m. to talk to its members and see what goes on.

The candidates urge voters to participate in the Dec. 12 election.

**SOLAR** *Continued from Page A1*

screen the panels from view, is slated for conservation and continued farming.

The 24,000 solar panels planned should generate some 18 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually, or enough to power roughly 1,500 homes. Residents in the area will have the option to subscribe to power from the farm, receiving a credit on electric bills.

The decision came down after a year of intense debate and regulatory review.

Carson Power first submitted their application to the Town last November.

In December 2022, the board passed a law that allowed for Tier 3 solar arrays such as Carson's to be sited in rural areas of Pine Plains (Tier 3 describes large-scale solar projects that produce energy for off-site use). That law is now under review.

Last January, Andrew Gordon presented the plan to the board and a public of some 60 residents at a special meeting.

Town residents, particularly close neighbors of the

project, were largely aligned against it. They cited concerns about traffic; noise, light and other pollution (though common concerns about solar farms, they are not evidence-based); unsightliness; and environmental impact, particularly on endangered species.

Homeowners also expressed concerns that the field would devalue their property.

In the following months, the planning board determined that the farm would have no significant negative environmental impact, a decision formalized Aug. 9, with a negative State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) determination.

In meetings that have taken place over the course of the year, Carson Power has agreed to make changes and amendments to prioritize the protection of wildlife, including endangered species; preservation of the land not dedicated for solar panels; protection against erosion during construction; safe decommissioning; and to ensure that the solar panels remain

nearly invisible from roads, farms and homes.

The town reserved the right to send an engineer or the building inspector to ensure that all the stipulations are being followed.

Noting that the life cycle of a solar farm is about 25-40 years, Gordon said that after it was decommissioned, the land would be put into a permanent conservation easement.

Among the 19 stipulations Carson Power agreed to was a ban on herbicide use, and the planting of pollinator-friendly native plants to attract pollinators and monarch butterflies.

The town also reserved the right to permit a beekeeper to also inhabit the property.

Carson Power plans to partner with nonprofit conservation organization Scenic Hudson to permanently protect the 70 acres set aside to remain forested.

Further considerations, all of which were studied and researched, were access to and from the site for emergency vehicles and traffic congestion

possibilities.

The Zoning Board of Appeals ruled Aug. 28 that the fences surrounding the solar plant could be 7 feet high, the national standard for solar fencing, rather than the town's usual allowance of 6 feet.

Construction, estimated to take six to eight months, will take place on weekdays and Saturdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. "Noisy" construction will only take place on weekdays.

The project is part of New York state's plan for 70% of its power to come from renewable energy sources by 2030.

**DOYLE** *Continued from Page A1*

create the rail trail extension between the Wassaic train station and the village center of Wassaic, completed in 2020, was an achievement of which Doyle is particularly proud.

"This was a heavy lift," she said, praising the leadership of Town Supervisor Victoria Perrotti, who was elected in 2008.

"Her leadership made all the difference; it would never have gotten off the ground without her support," Doyle said, recalling that she had obtained a \$100,000 state grant for the project with the assistance of state Sen. Greg Ball.

Doyle celebrates seeing visitors and residents bringing more activity to the hamlet.

The Amenia Free Theater Arts Program is also a point of pride, Doyle said. The theater program had been initiated by the Luther family around 1980, some 20 years before Doyle moved to Amenia in 2001. Having enrolled her daughter in the program and seen the benefits to young participants first hand, Doyle sought and received grants to support the program's continuation when the Luther family moved away.

Firmly rooted in the values of service to the community, Doyle said that she will continue her volunteer work on the Enhancement and Comprehensive Plan Review committees, as well as the Conservation Advisory Council's Climate Smart Task Force. She will also continue to write grant requests to support that work.

Electric Vehicle charging stations are being made pos-

sible by an \$82,000 grant, now in final stages of processing, Doyle noted.

"The Climate Smart Task Force just needs to dot the i's and cross the t's," Doyle said. "When installed, the charging stations will provide free charging to residents and visitors for years to come."

In addition to continuing her full time job at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, she said, she plans to spend the time that she once devoted to the Town Board to volunteer for the projects that she believes have the greatest potential for future impact.

"The biggest hurdle [for the town] continues to be the addition of a sewer system in downtown Amenia," Doyle said. "That is key for meaningful economic revitalization, affordable housing, preservation of open space and quality of life in our town centers."

"It has eluded the town for 60 years. We need to 'seize the day' with new leadership while there is serious assistance available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law," Doyle said, referring to a program of federal grants for clean water projects. Doyle said she will do what she can to continue supporting the initiative.

"And of course, the town highway garage simply must be built, as soon as possible," Doyle said. "With Supervisor-elect Leo Blackman's architectural expertise, I know this will be done expeditiously; on time and on budget, in partnership with the highway superintendent."

**PANDEMIC** *Continued from Page A1*

U.S., however. Shepherd said the decentralized nature of the U.S. health care system accounted for a lot of the delay, as did the Trump administration's decision to leave the World Health Organization (WHO).

Shepherd said that WHO and the United Kingdom's National Health Service (NHS) provided the bulk of the useful data that he and his colleagues had used.

Shepherd compared the COVID-19 pandemic with the HIV pandemic.

He said HIV, which can cause AIDS, has jumped from primates to humans at least 12 times in the last 120-140 years in Africa.

The likely cause is the hunting and consumption of "bush meat," he said.

What facilitated the spread of the disease was human activity. "The event that made it a pandemic was the development of Kinshasa, Congo, into a major trade center" by the colonial Belgian government.

Shepherd then segued into a discussion of climate change and infectious diseases.

Global warming, increased urbanization, and a loss of biodiversity together contribute to an increase in the numbers of insects (such as mosquitoes and ticks) and their host animals (such as mice and deer).

Shepherd noted that ticks previously confined to areas in the southern U.S. have now made their way north as far as Canada, bringing with them diseases such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

"In short order, things will change as a result of our environment changing rapidly around us."

Shepherd said he told the Yale first-year students that they would be dealing with a much larger group of infectious diseases in the future.

Shepherd was not sanguine about international efforts to combat global warming.

Instead he made a plug for his Sharon neighbor, Michelle Alfandari, co-founder

of Homegrown National Park, which urges homeowners to plant native plants on their properties.

Shepherd observed that some 80% of the U.S. is privately owned, and if the owners took steps to restore a proper natural balance, it would go a long way in combating the problems he foresees.

To see a video of the talk, go to [www.salisburyforum.org](http://www.salisburyforum.org).

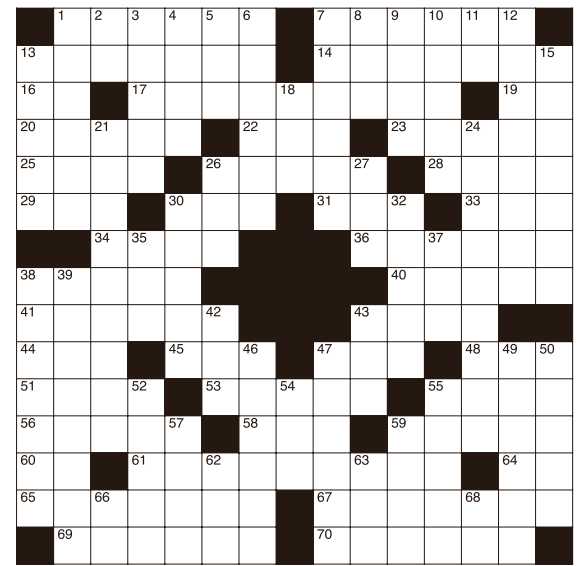
**Brain Teasers**

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Spiritual leaders
7. Salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. It begins with them
17. A way to compare
19. Government lawyer
20. Back parts
22. 8th month (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. \_\_\_ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. Quebec river
29. A doctrine
30. Popular pickup truck
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. German founder of psychology
41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. A "place" to avoid
45. Cigarette (slang)
47. Canadian politician Josephine
48. French ballet/acting dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Belonging to the bottom
55. Sound
56. Yankees' slugger Judge
58. Dickens character
59. More wise
60. Flash memory card
61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
64. Atomic #79
65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary assessment of patients

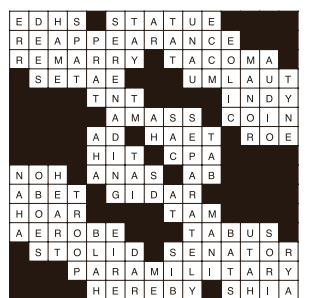
**CLUES DOWN**

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Craft supply
4. Storage units
5. Investment vehicle
6. Colorado Heisman winner
7. In a way, sank
8. Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)

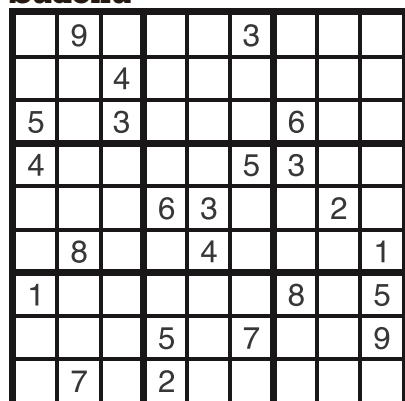


9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. The opposite of yes
12. Caused to be loved
13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology
15. Showing since conviction
18. Not safe
21. The number above the line in a fraction
24. Yard invader
26. Pouch
27. Swedish krona
30. Start anew
32. While white or yellow flower
35. Fourteen
37. Graphical user interface
38. Up-to-date on the news
39. Campaigns
42. Touch softly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Anxiety
50. Body fluid
52. Phony person
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. City in central Japan
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. Man
68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)

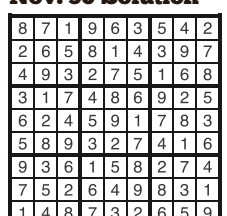
**Nov. 30 Solution**



**Sudoku**



**Nov. 30 Solution**



Level: Intermediate



# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

WELLNESS: ISABELLE CLARK FOSTER AND MARGO DAVIS

## Managing holiday stress

The holidays are a source of joy for some, and challenge for others.

For many of us, the holidays are simultaneously filled with the promise of making new memories, and rife with recollections of the past. The emotional and physical energies often expended during this season can leave us exhausted. Top stressors reported by people are: financial, travel, hosting, overloaded or empty schedules, grief and loss, and strained relationships.

### Challenges

**Feelings:** In managing holiday stress, the first thing that mental health providers recommend is to acknowledge feelings. Any and all of our feelings are acceptable, both positive and negative.

Allow the negative feelings to pass when ready, and notice the positive ones with appreciation.

**Grief and loss:** A sense of loss can stem from many reasons. For some it might be the first holiday after the death of a loved one. For others, divorce can cause transition stress in addition to new and positive experiences and relationships. Perhaps some are struggling with health challenges.

Others are finding it hard to celebrate when larger world conflict and loss is happening.

**Financial stress:** With many people facing economic challenges, the pressure to buy gifts or produce elaborate meals can seem daunting. Media advertising and marketing content is not always helpful. Town food banks and agencies can be helpful with assistance. In some areas like the Northwest Corner, towns have social workers to help connect people with services. For people of all socioeconomic, groups it might be important to reframe the holidays as a time to connect with others versus overspending.

**Relationships:** Strained relationships can be a source of pain



“Let’s just do hannukah this year.”

during the holiday season.

Although it might be tempting for some to air grievances or resolve conflict, it is likely better to put these types of agendas aside during this time. Focusing on positive qualities in one’s self and others has better outcomes and produces a sense of grace/acceptance.

**Overload and isolation:** For some, it might be tempting to overfill their holiday calendars with events and travel, which can often lead to burnout. For others, the impulse might be the opposite, and can create loneliness. The ideal is to strive toward balance.

Setting limits with “no” to an invite might be equally balancing as accepting an offer that could be nourishing. Self care means knowing when to look outward for connection and when to spend more quiet time with one’s self or an intimate few.

When this season becomes too busy, arranging for down or quiet time can help us to recharge. Stress-free, screen-free time can allow us to drop into our

“rest and digest” parasympathetic nervous system, rejuvenating the body and brain.

### Techniques

In coping with holiday stress, there are a variety of techniques that have proven to be helpful. It can be challenging to regulate one’s emotions and behaviors during this time.

**Mindfulness and meditation:** Even brief mindfulness meditations with breathing can be helpful. The following link to a meditation on Insight Timer is an example of the many apps and forms of online support available, some of them free: [insight-timer.com/terrijenkins/guided-meditations/holiday-de-stress-with-mindfulness-of-now](https://www.insight-timer.com/terrijenkins/guided-meditations/holiday-de-stress-with-mindfulness-of-now).

Yoga might also be helpful, whether it be online or in person locally at a practice such as Be Well Community Yoga in North Canaan.

**Lowered expectations:** Lowering expectations of those around us, and of the holiday experience itself, is beneficial. None of us are going to be on our best behavior at all times. A forgiving sense of humor, different from sarcasm or barbed commentary, about one’s self and others can

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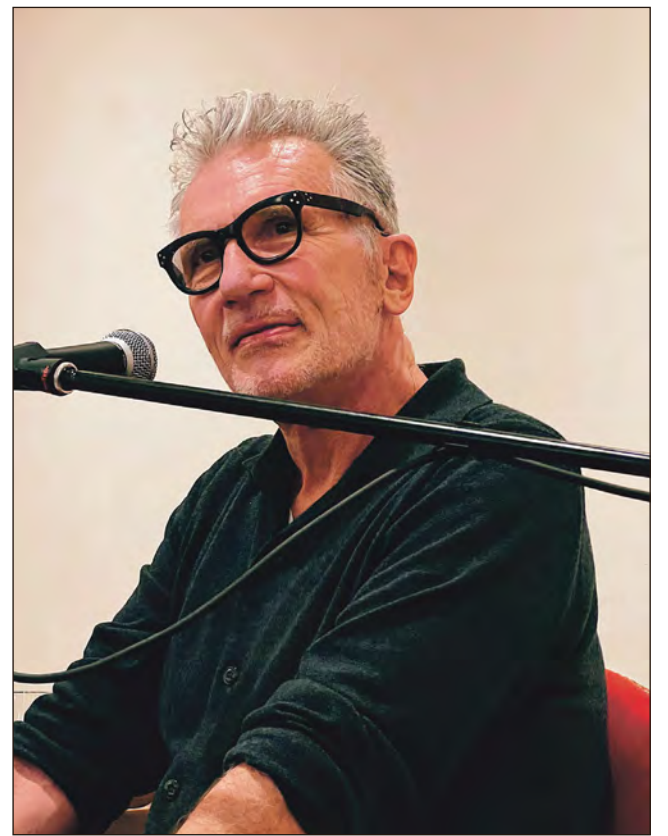


PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Cunningham was in conversation with WAMC’s Joe Donahue at The White Hart Inn.

## BOOKS: ALEXANDER WILBURN Michael Cunningham on new novel, 'Day'

In Michael Cunningham’s new novel “Day,” which he discussed with WAMC’s “The Book Show” host Joe Donahue at The White Hart Inn in Salisbury, Conn., the night of Thursday, Nov. 30, a New York family faces changes over the course of three years.

Like his 1999 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel “The Hours,” Cunningham’s first novel in a decade is a triptych, told in three parts. The story begins on the morning of April 5, 2019, moves forward to the afternoon of April 5, 2020, and concludes on the evening of April 5, 2021.

“There’s the Holy Trinity, the three-act play. We are consistently drawn to the number three,” Cunningham told Donahue. “Any two beings, objects, can only be in proximity to one another. You see this napkin...” he held up his cocktail napkin and water glass to demonstrate his point. “You can always draw a straight line between the napkin and the glass. If you add a third element, endless permutations are possible. At the subatomic level, an atom of hydrogen, a nucleus with one electron, behaves entirely predictably. An atom of something like helium, an atom with two electrons — it’s impossible to tell how it will behave. When two storm systems are in proximity, they just go on, side by side. When the third one joins, it’s a hurricane.”

In addition to the novel’s three acts, the story centers on three adults cohabitating in a Brooklyn brownstone: former high school golden boy Dan, now married to his wife, Isabel, as well as Isabel’s younger brother Robbie, who moves in with the pair, often acting as a third, or even

primary parent to the couple’s two children. Cunningham described the unconventional family unit as “Not quite good enough to be good, but not quite bad enough to dissolve... Dan and Isabel are screwing the kids up and are helpless in the face of it. The marriage is fraying, and they’re doing the best they can, but they are complicit in the novel. They are watching in horror as their inability to continue loving each other harms their children.”

Robbie’s presence further strains the relationship, as a triangle of affection disrupts the status quo of the cozy brownstone. “Dan and Isabel are each, in their own way, in love with Robbie,” said Cunningham. “Dan flirts with Robbie with a clear understanding that Robbie’s not going to make a move or anything. So it’s this atmosphere in which Dan, for complicated reasons, feels free to be flirtatious with Robbie. One of my favorite quotes is from Oscar Wilde, who said, ‘Everything in the world is really about sex except sex. Sex is really about power.’”

Though COVID-19 and the pandemic are never named directly, the isolation created for New Yorkers forced to remain in their homes weighs heavily on the middle section of the novel, set in April 2020. Cunningham said, while he wanted to avoid the trappings of the post-COVID novel, he was keenly interested in the early responses to the crisis, the fastidious washing of groceries, the loneliness and the paranoia. He felt a contemporary novel set in New York couldn’t overlook

Continued on next page

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COMPASS

FOOD: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

# Reaching new consciousness through baking

**K**oenraad Van Der Meer doesn't just bake bread; he is a bread philosopher with beliefs that are rooted in biodynamic principles, the intrinsic connection between the natural and spiritual worlds, and an approach to baking that produces not only a more nutritious and flavorful product but also fosters a new consciousness.

Originally from Holland, Van Der Meer has been making bread for over 40 years. He had two bakeries in Holland before moving to New Hampshire where he had a bakery on a farm. He worked for a bagel shop for another 10 years until, he said: "I woke up. In 2012, I decided that this is what I'm going to do for the rest of my life." The waking up he

is referring to was the realization of the shortcomings of modern agricultural practices, notably the use of chemical fertilizers. He noticed that these practices were resulting in less vitality and flavor, a reduced nutritional value and, perhaps most importantly, a depletion in a spiritual connection.

He began to search for alternatives which led him to spelt and einkorn, ancient grains that thrive in nutrient-poor soils and maintain a closer connection to their original, wild state. "Every plant grows because it likes to grow there," says Van Der Meer. "We just need to observe and then we start to really learn things, if you open your eyes and see what's happening."

Van Der Meer's philosophy extends beyond just the choice of grains. He is a firm believer in Rudolf Steiner's teachings, particularly the concept of the group soul that links plants, animals, and humans to the cosmos. He views modern genetic manipulation, especially in the case of GMOs, as a disruption of this sacred connection.

In his quest to restore this bond, Van Der Meer incorporates unique practices such as using



PHOTOS BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Koenraad Van Der Meer, above, and his bread displayed on a table at a recent Millerton Farmers Market.

dew drops collected on specific days to imbue his bread with positive, cosmic energy. "Well, on certain days in the spring, like 40 days after

Easter," explained Van Der Meer, "there's this rising force in nature. And of course, that would be very beneficial to put it in bread. And so Ascension Day, that's when you see these rising forces both in the natural world and the spiritual world. This is also the day when the body of Christ is taken up into heaven."

On Ascension Day, Van Der Meer goes into the field with a bottle of spring water and a dropper. "We marry the dewdrop with the spring water homeopathically," he explained. "I discovered that there's some ionization going on. So negative ions are healthy for us. When the dewdrops are very fine, there's negative ions there. I actually observed a group of grass sprigs

together and I didn't even touch them, but they started moving. There's some magnetism going on there, it's really magical. It's a healing force that goes into the bread homeopathically."

Van Der Meer uses natural yeast cultures grown on sprouted barley, avoiding the sourness often associated with sourdough and producing bread that is both nourishing and easily digestible. He sees his work as part of a larger mission to foster a new consciousness, one that rejects the materialism and greed of the modern world in favor of a community-oriented, spiritually aware approach.

This New Age Consciousness, a term attributed to Steiner, emphasizes intuition, clairvoyance, tolerance and love. "Ignorance and corruption and greed, that's a dead-end road," said Van Der Meer. "But there is an economy that's community-based. He continued, "If you do something and you do it for the community's interest, then the community is going to support you."

A member of the Philmont Market and Cafe Cooperative's processing kitchen — a shared-use, fully licensed commercial kitchen facility — Van Der Meer does indeed have the support of the community, as his Holy Grain breads have become a popular staple at farmers

## ...holiday stress

Continued from previous page

be fun and emotionally freeing.

Humor, as they say, "is often the best medicine." When in doubt, "put on" comedy, whether it be through humorous personal recollections/ observations or entertainment media.

**Faith:** Whether it be religious or spiritual, faith can provide a spiritual rudder when we are challenged and help us to navigate better choices once we are not "operating" from a place of fear.

**Empathy and giving back:** Often, we find meaning and healing in service to others. Helping a friend or neighbor, making a financial donation, or volunteering for a community agency are all powerful ways to make a positive impact. As we all know, the holidays can spark feelings of generosity.

**Boundaries:** In the rush to celebrate the season, we can all get overwhelmed by an inundation of invitations to create, donate and celebrate. Evaluating when to say yes and when to say no can be part of healthy self preservation.

Being mindful of our own and other people's particular vulnerabilities, whether they be physical or emotional, is especially important during the holidays.

Perhaps seating,

timing, location and other concerns need to be thought out the best we can in order to accommodate different personalities and generations. Thoughtful and active listening can be more rewarding than any heated debate or conflict that may come up.

In some settings there is an agreement to stay away from divisive topics during gatherings. Others may not want to take this more structured approach. In these cases, taking space for a time when needed and then rejoining activities might be helpful.

**Self care:** Self care can mean many things: sleep, exercise, fresh air and vitamin D.

Abstaining from or limiting alcohol, nicotine, caffeine and excess sugar intake can reduce stress and protect the immune system. Overall, balancing care of one's self and others seems to be a key element in creating a positive holiday experience.

*Isabelle Clark Foster and Margo Davis are licensed independent clinical social workers. Davis publishes at goingfor-whole.substack.com and offers a free meditation group every Friday at 4:30 p.m. at the Bushnell-Sage Library in Sheffield, Massachusetts.*

## ...cunningham

Continued from previous page

the emotional toll of the outbreak. "I didn't want to write a pandemic novel, yet it would have felt like setting a novel in London during World War II without mentioning the Blitz."

Besides attending The White Hart event, sponsored by Oblong Books in Millerton, N.Y., the New York City-based writer has another Connecticut connection — his 14-year teaching

position at the English department of Yale University in New Haven, Conn. "The students are amazing. I teach a literature class that is really about craft. We do a lot of reading, but the implied question is: Virginia Woolf picks up the dictionary and finds 'The Lighthouse' in it, then Toni Morrison picks up the same dictionary and finds 'Beloved.' How do they do that?"

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[www.CrescendoMusic.org](http://www.CrescendoMusic.org)

Continued on next page

MUSIC: MIKE COBB

## Where to find music in The Berkshires

Thanksgiving's over, the leftovers are gone, and now it's time to get out of the house and see some live entertainment.

Luckily, there are many options to choose from in the region. Winsted has gradually seen its options for live music expand. Located at 524 Main St., 2nd Home Lounge serves tapas, wine and beer on draft in a cozy setting that lives up to its name. Grab an armchair or a sofa and share a charcuterie board with beers from Little Red Brewing, Norbrook, and Great Falls, as well as locally produced wines and spirits while you watch local musicians or comedians perform. 2nd Home Lounge is unique in that it emphasizes local. Hours vary so check the website for specifics: [2ndhomelounge.com](http://2ndhomelounge.com)

The Gilson Theater at 345 Main St. has live jazz every Sunday from 5 to 7 p.m. Seating is limited and tickets are typically \$15 and are available at the door or online at [gilsoncafeinema.com](http://gilsoncafeinema.com)

Further on up the road, Little Red Barn Brewers (LRB) features a wide range of hand-crafted brews in a former factory. With ample seating inside and out, it's a popular spot, with live acoustic music and trivia nights throughout the week. Partnering with the Old Riverton Inn, LRB has recently expanded into a massive adjacent space where it will have live events. For more info, check the website: [lrbbrewers.com](http://lrbbrewers.com)

Continuing north, Norbrook Farm Brewery in Colebrook serves some of the best beer around in a bucolic setting with great views overlooking hop vines, grazing sheep and stunning sunsets. Surrounded by 450 acres of wooded land, it also boasts trails popular with mountain bikers, hikers and Frisbee golfers. In warmer weather, the parking lot is usually packed with food trucks,

and Thursdays nights in August are cruise nights with vintage cars on display. Inside, there's ample seating; outside, fire pits allow year-round libation. Norbrook has a regular schedule of live acoustic music, typically on weekends. For a complete schedule, see [www.norbrookfarm.com](http://www.norbrookfarm.com)

Undoubtedly, one of the finest live event spaces in northwestern Connecticut, Infinity Music Hall in Norfolk has top-notch booking with an approximately 300-person capacity. Built in 1883, it's a gorgeous venue with wainscoted walls, colorful stained glass windows and a state-of-the-art sound system. Run by Good Works Entertainment, Infinity Music Hall has resumed a full booking schedule. Downstairs the bistro serves small plates and drinks in a convivial atmosphere. Check the website for popular national touring acts: [www.infinityhall.com](http://www.infinityhall.com)

With recent efforts to beautify and revitalize, Canaan is looking better than ever. The Music Lab's mission is "To Teach, Inspire and Promote Music in the Community." Located at 93B Main St., The Music Lab serves as a practice space and a recording studio, and hosts an acoustic night hosted by Mark Yard every Thursday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.: [www.musiclabct.com](http://www.musiclabct.com)

The Colonial Theatre just up Route 7 occasionally offers live music, usually in the form of sponsored benefit concerts and, lately, free movies in a gorgeous, mid-century movie theater. Performances have been held downstairs in the main space, but there's also a stunning upper level: [www.canaancolonial.com](http://www.canaancolonial.com)

Crossing the state line into Massachusetts, Dewey Hall on Route 7 in Sheffield is a beautiful events space featuring folk music, contra

dancing, open mics and community events. The focus is on the traditional. See the calendar at [www.deweyhall.org](http://www.deweyhall.org)

Just off of Route 23, The Egremont Barn in Egremont is one of the coolest venues around. As the name implies, the action happens inside a beautiful barn built in 1786. Comedian Jenny Rubin and musician Nick Keene curate a hip booking schedule open from Wednesday to Sunday from 5 p.m. onward. It features food and drink,

and has become one of the most desired places to play in the Berkshires. There's also accommodation at the adjacent inn. See the site: [www.theegremontbarn.com](http://www.theegremontbarn.com)

Tucked way back on Undermountain Road, Race Brook Lodge in Sheffield offers eclectic musical and cultural programming, often with a global flavor. Live performances typically happen in the large barn situated on stunning property that also features an inn and a restaurant. Check

the website for complete listings: [rblodge.com/events](http://rblodge.com/events)

The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington is one of the more stunning venues in the area, with a capacity of 681 that makes it ideal for larger live events. High-brow programming includes movies, plays, comedy, and music that ranges from classical to rock 'n' roll. For a full list of programming, see [mahaiwe.org](http://mahaiwe.org)

For those seeking something really differ-

ent, Familiar Trees bookstore at 80 Railroad St. in Great Barrington programs music from time to time in its adjacent gallery. Recent shows have included electronica soundscapes and avant garde jazz. Check the site for listings: [www.familiartrees.com](http://www.familiartrees.com)

Big Elm Brewery at 389 Stockbridge Road in Great Barrington has live acoustic music in a lively setting where great beer and spirited conversation flow: [www.bigelm-beer.com](http://www.bigelm-beer.com)

HOLIDAYS: MATTHEW KRETA

## Santa's favorite cookie

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon hosted a festive cookie contest and meet and greet Saturday, Dec. 2.

With its first contest in 2019, the library has been hosting annual cookie contests in December where the public can submit and vote on entries.

Ribbons and decorations adorned the railings and lamps of the library's main hall, giving the room a beautiful and cheery glow.

This year there were about 15 cookie entries, and people could vote on three categories: best adult-made cookie; best child-made cookie; and prettiest cookie. For the two hours in which voting was open, the library saw consistent visitors come in and out to enjoy some cookies and hot chocolate. At the same time as the voting period, the Hotchkiss Library hosted Santa, who had his own gift exchange and meet-and-greet in the library's children's section.

Children enjoyed a chance to talk and sit with him over the two hours before he had to return to his workshop.

As people filed out toward the Town Green for the lighting of the town tree, votes were tallied

and the winners were revealed.

The winner of best adult-made cookie was Candice Hellman with her peppermint meringue cookies, the winner of best child-made cookie was the Atkins family with their chocolate marshmallow bites, and the winner of prettiest cookie was Barbara McCollum.

To learn about more upcoming events go to [www.hotchkisslibraryof-sharon.org](http://www.hotchkisslibraryof-sharon.org)



PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA

Children visited with Santa Claus at the library.



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## ...baking

*Continued from previous page*

markets, the Berkshire Food Coop in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and multiple farm stands and stores in the region. Lately his attention has turned to education: "My next chapter is to do workshops and to inspire others to make this bread."

The New Year will find Van Der Meer traveling and leading workshops, teaching others about his spiritual approach to bread baking. "We shouldn't be dominating nature, we are the guardians," he explained. "We need to lift nature up, to advance evolution. By

doing that we advance our own evolution."

This reciprocity is the very basis of his mission and commitment to the transformative power of bread. "Bread is a symbol of peace," he said. "When you go somewhere, you need to come with a gift. Same with a plant. You need to come with something, and it responds." He added: "There's a saying in Dutch. It says, 'Whose bread one eats, whose word one speaks.' So, I better put out a good mission because that's going into the bread and that nourishes people."

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**TRI-CORNER CALENDAR**

Items are printed as space permits. All entries can be found at [www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar](http://www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar). To submit calendar items, email [editor@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:editor@lakevillejournal.com)

**DECEMBER 7**

**Annual Menorah Lighting**

Sharon Town Green, Sharon, Conn.

Join us at the Sharon Town Green on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 4:45 p.m. for the Annual Menorah Lighting.

Even in darkness we can create light and encourage compassion. The spirit of Hanukkah—the Festival of Lights...is shared by all people who love freedom.

**DECEMBER 8**

**Through the Artist's Eye**

Kearcher-Monsell Gallery, Paul Stoddard Library, HVRHS, 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, Conn.

Painter and art educator Warren Prindle will exhibit a retrospective of his work at the Kearcher-Monsell Gallery (HVRHS) opening on Dec. 8, 2:30 to 5 p.m. The salon-style exhibition covers twenty-plus years from Prindle's oeuvre...plein air sketches, graphite studies, drawings and larger accomplished pieces, will be on exhibit and for sale with a portion of sales benefiting the HVRHS Fine Art Society. The Show runs through Jan. 15, 2024. For more on Prindle's work, visit [warrenprindle.com](http://warrenprindle.com) or [@hvrhsgallery](https://www.instagram.com/hvrhsgallery) on Instagram.

**Douglas Library Holiday Party**

Douglas Library, 108 Main St., North Canaan, Conn [douglaslibrarycanaan.org](mailto:douglaslibrarycanaan.org)

Douglas Library of North Canaan will host its Annual Holiday Party on Friday, Dec. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. There will be hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and drinks. The cost is \$15 per person, \$25 a couple and all proceeds benefit the library. For more information, call the library at 860-824-7863.

**Friends of Roe Jan Library Annual Cookies, Books, Soups, and Tag Sale**

Roeliff Jansen Library, 9091 Route 22, Copake, N.Y. [roejanlibrary.org](http://roejanlibrary.org)

On Dec. 8 & 9, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., home-baked cookies and homemade soups will be available for purchase

as well as small holiday gifts such as tabletop books, candles, jewelry, children's books, picture frames, puzzles, and other homewares. During the sale, patrons are also encouraged to visit the Friends bookshop, located on the lower level of the library, and browse their extensive and well-organized selection of gently used books. Tickets for a 50-50 Raffle are available to purchase in the Friends Bookshop downstairs on Saturdays through December 9 and at the Cookies, Books Soups, and Tag Sale. A winner will be announced on Saturday, Dec. 9.

**Community Reading**

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [hotchkisslibrary.org](http://hotchkisslibrary.org)

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon and the Sharon Historical Society & Museum invite you to participate in the live reading of Louisa May Alcott's Little Women. The first reading session will begin on Friday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m. and sessions will continue until Saturday, Dec. 9 at 10 p.m. Sign up to read for 15 minutes and learn more up at [hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com](http://hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com).

**DECEMBER 9**

**Celtic Holiday Concert**

Amenia Town Hall Auditorium, 4988 NY-22, Amenia, N.Y.

Come to a free Celtic Holiday Concert at Amenia Town Hall Auditorium featuring Dave Paton, Joseph Sobol and Friends, Sat. Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. Free admission and free refreshments — a holiday gift from the Town of Amenia.

**A Rose in Winter Concert**

St. Andrew's Church, 1 N. Main St., Kent, Conn.

The Kent Singers will present A Rose in Winter on Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 3 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church in Kent, CT.

Join us for these festive holiday concerts featuring songs of hope in the bleak midwinter. A gentle and beautiful program of music expressing joy, hope

and peace. The favorites you love and some new songs, too! The concerts will be conducted by our Music Director James Knox Sutterfield.

Tickets are \$20 in advance at [kentsingers.com/category/tickets/](http://kentsingers.com/category/tickets/) or at the door, with children under 12 admitted free; further information available at 860-619-8110 or at [kentsingers.com](http://kentsingers.com)

**12X12 Art Exhibition**

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)

On Saturday, Dec. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m., the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn. will host the twelfth edition of 12X12, its annual art exhibition and sale which features over 60 artists this year. All works in the exhibition measure 12X12 inches and are priced at \$150 each. A portion of each sale benefits the library. For more information call the library at 860-824-7424 or visit [huntlibrary.org/art-wall](http://huntlibrary.org/art-wall)

**Current Fiction Book Group**

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

On Saturday, Dec. 9, from 4 to 5 p.m., the Scoville Library Current Fiction Book Group will discuss National Book Award winner The Rabbit Hutch, by Tess Gunty.

A limited number of books are available to borrow at the Scoville Library.

**DECEMBER 10**

**Book Talk**

Colonial Theatre, 27 Railroad St., Canaan, Conn. [canaancolonial.com](http://canaancolonial.com)

Drawing on the best of boots-on-the-ground journalism, The Fabulist tells the bizarre, page-turning, and frankly hysterical story of George Santos, America's most outrageous grifter. The Dec. 10 discussion, starting at 3 p.m., will be moderated by Will Yakowicz, who covers the vice beat for Forbes. The author will be signing books after the program. The event is free, but space is limited, so please reserve your seat: [tinyurl.com](https://tinyurl.com).

[com/y7ku592f](https://www.com/y7ku592f)

**DECEMBER 12**

**Scoville Library Writing Circles**

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

Starting December 12 and 14. Using prompts as a springboard, this writing workshop invites you to write freely, read your work aloud, hear responses, and respond to others' writing. Workshop leader

Karen Vrotsos has been teaching writing for over 25 years and is certified in the Amherst Writers and Artists method. Choose a Circle to join: Tuesday afternoons, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., or Thursday evenings, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The next 4-session cycle begins the week of Dec. 11. This in-person, Adult Programs workshop is limited to 10 participants. To register, visit [scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/11505458](http://scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/11505458)

**DECEMBER 15**

**Sandy Hook Vigil**

In front of The White Hart Inn, Salisbury, Conn.

Please join us in remembering the victims of Sandy Hook and all victims of gun violence on Friday, Dec. 15, from 5 to 6 p.m. Meet in front of The White Hart Inn. Please bring your own candle.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Children at the David M. Hunt Library made ornaments on Saturday, Dec. 2, prior to the town's tree lighting festivities.

**HOLIDAYS: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN**

**Handmaking ornaments at Hunt**

Residents with the holiday spirit were already milling about the town Green well ahead of the official starting time of 4:40 p.m. for the lighting of the town's tree and the singing of carols and holiday songs Saturday, Dec. 2.

Candles were distributed and lit, relative newcomers mingled with old-timers, and children dashed about according to their own logic.

The revelers sang a mix of traditional carols

and popular songs, led by Rachel Gall on violin and John Stey on guitar.

Once darkness settled in and the tree was lit, a Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department fire engine, suitably decorated, motored slowly down Railroad Street to the corner of Main Street by the Green.

This was the moment the youngsters had been waiting for.

Santa Claus — the genuine article, not some department store impostor — clambered down

from the cab and made his way into the crowd.

The children looked on in awe, seemingly unable to speak.


Until a young voice piped up.

"Hi, Santa Claus!"

"Ho ho ho," replied Santa.


The ice now broken, the children swarmed the man in the red suit.

Earlier in the day, children gathered at the David M. Hunt Library worked on handmade ornaments, some of which made it to the town tree.

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**Millbrook's Parade of Lights**

# Lights dazzle in a light drizzle

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**  
juthidb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Christmas and the holidays have overtaken Millbrook, and a little bit of rain couldn't put a damper on the Parade of Lights Friday, Dec. 1.

For half an hour, brightly lit vehicles ferried Grinches, Santas, reindeer and elves up Franklin Avenue; costumed helpers gave out candy to children; John McDonald deejayed, ensuring that holiday music trilled throughout.

Leading the parade were members of VFW Post 9008, followed by Santa, who waved from a fire truck. Decorated vehicles included pickup



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

**A gaily decorated fire truck from Town of Stamford headed up Franklin Avenue at the Millbrook Parade of Lights in a light rain on Friday, Dec. 1.**

trucks, tow trucks, wagons, tractors and plows.

Santa and Mrs. Claus, also known as Roxanne Wolf and Tom Falciano of Pleasant Valley, walked back through the

village greeting people and stopping for pictures.

Cecilia Collopy, with help from a great many volunteers, organized the parade. She said that there was a lighter crowd

this year than last, and about 50 vehicles; last year there were 80 or more cars, trucks and floats. Yet she was pleased with the results of all of the hard work:

"The crowd was fun! We got lucky, the weather wasn't as bad as predicted and people dressed appropriately."

One of the things she was disappointed about was the fact that a motorcycle club that had signed up for the parade canceled because of the rain. But, for the first time, Dutchess Transportation had a fully decorated bus in the queue.

"The work gets started right after Election Day, and it is a lot of work. But everyone was happy, and I'm very satisfied," Collopy added.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

**Myles and Lloyd Munoz, 4 and 2, visited Santa and Mrs. Claus at Angels of Light offices at 57 Front St. They were two of many who stopped in for photo ops, cookies, and the chance to pull a stuffed toy out of the huge pile under a Christmas tree donated by Petco. Angels of Light works to support Hudson Valley families that have sick children or that have experienced sudden losses.**

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## Classifieds

## Real Estate

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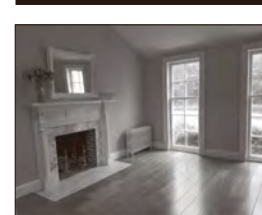
### REAL ESTATE

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:** Equal Housing Opportunity. All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1966 revised March 12, 1989 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap or familial status or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. All residential property advertised in the State of Connecticut General Statutes 46a-64c which prohibit the making, printing or publishing or causing to be made, printed or published any notice, statement or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, physical or mental disability or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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