

REGIONAL

Copake granted appeal in Shepherd’s Run solar fight

By JOHN COSTON
johnc@millertonnews.com

COPAKE — The Town of Copake has been granted an expedited appeal in its fight to stop a proposed 60 megawatt (MW) solar farm sited along routes 23 and 7, claiming that the applicant’s generating capacity has been cut by 20% and no longer stands as proposed. Known as the Shepherd’s Run Solar Farm, the project has been greeted with community opposition since it was announced in 2017 and opponents repeatedly have taken their case to court without success.

The project footprint spans 880 acres with a solar array covering about 220 acres. The installation would be one of the first things motorists encounter as they enter this agricultural community from the west along Route 23.

Last summer, the New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) declared the application by Hecate Energy of Chicago “complete” and subsequently issued a draft siting permit. That set the stage for ORES to announce a public comment period and in-person public hearings for Jan. 9 and 10.

On Jan. 2, the Town of Copake, having discovered that some of the land associated



Farmland vista where the proposed 880-acre, 60 megawatt Shepherd’s Run Solar Farm is planned along Route 23 at the entryway to the rural hamlet of Copake. Opponents say the project, big enough to power the equivalent of 15,000 homes annually, would detract from the scenic farmland community.

with the project had been sold to a new uninterested party, filed a motion to dismiss the application or adjourn the public comment hearings “pending major revision to the application.”

According to the town’s filing, almost 60 acres, or about 20% of the entire facility’s solar array, along with the sole access road for adjacent facility parcels, no longer are under Hecate’s control.

“The project no longer exists in its proposed form,”

said Town Supervisor Richard Wolf. “The application is no longer what [Hecate] said it was,” he added.

The town filed its motion after the 60-acre farmland parcel, located at the corner of Cambridge Road and County Route 7, was sold to a buyer that is uninterested in the Shepherd’s Run project.

Hecate Energy could not be reached for comment, but a company spokesman had told the Albany Times-Union that Hecate would let the process

speak for itself.

At first, during a hearing on Thursday, Jan. 4, an administrative law judge denied the town’s motion, but later in the same day, the town filed for an expedited appeal of the judge’s oral ruling. What followed was the executive director of ORES, Houtan Moaveni, overruling the judge and granting the town of Copake its motion.

“This project has to be rejected,” said Wolf. “Or go back to do the engineering and de-



PHOTOS BY JOHN COSTON

Solar panels cover a hillside along Route 23 in Craryville near the entrance to Copake. The array pictured provides power to Taconic Hills High School.

sign and go through the whole process again.”

Moaveni set new dates for the town to file arguments in its request to dismiss Hecate’s application (Tuesday, Jan. 16) and for Hecate to respond to the town’s statements (Monday, Jan. 22). All public comment hearings were adjourned by Moaveni pending a decision on the town’s appeal.

Under a 2020 New York law — the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act — new large-scale renewable energy projects producing 25 MW or more must obtain a permit from ORES. Projects under that threshold fall under so-called “home rule.”

A community solar project approved by the Pine Plains Planning Board late last year falls under “home rule” because it envisions two solar arrays, each producing close

to 5MW for a total of 10MW.

Throughout last year, the town of Pine Plains considered an application from Carson Power of New York City for a Tier 3 community solar project that would sited on 42 acres of a 172-acre property near Pulvers Corners on Route 199.

As the year came to a close and after the Planning Board had given its approval, a group of neighbors and landowners near the proposed project filed a legal action in New York Supreme Court in Dutchess County seeking an injunction prohibiting any work at the site.

The case will be heard by Edward J. McLaughlin, an acting justice in the New York County Supreme Court who is expected to sit in Dutchess County for the case brought against the Pine Plains Planning Board and others.

Salisbury selectmen eye site for affordable housing

By PATRICK SULLIVAN
patrick@lakevillejournal.com

SALISBURY, Conn. — The Salisbury Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to refer a proposal for affordable housing on a town-owned parcel to the Planning

and Zoning Commission (P&Z) at the board’s regular meeting (online) Monday, Jan. 8.

The Salisbury Housing Trust wants to build two affordable homes on a parcel on Undermountain Road (Route 41), roughly across

the street from the junction of Undermountain Road and Conklin Street.

The lot is currently used for parking by, among others, employees of the White Hart Inn.

First Selectman Curtis Rand emphasized repeatedly

that by referring the matter to P&Z, the selectmen are not signing off on any particular plan. He also pointed out that the selectmen’s meeting was not a P&Z public hearing.

P&Z will conduct a review to determine if using the site will align with the town’s

Plan of Conservation and Development. The P&Z review is a necessary first step.

Because the parcel is owned by the town, the final decision on whether to go ahead rests with the town meeting.

Rand said of the dozens

of emails he received on the matter, the ratio was about 3:1 in favor of using the site for affordable housing.

A preliminary plan shows two modest two-story dwellings and a buffer of open space on the western side of the property.

Sharon Hospital



When you focus on what truly matters, great things happen

Sharon Hospital is honored to be recognized by the American Heart Association (AHA) and the American Stroke Association (ASA) for excellence in heart disease and stroke care. Additionally, Sharon Hospital was also awarded a five-star rating, the highest overall, by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for quality patient care for the 4th consecutive year.

We proudly thank the talented doctors, nurses and employees of Sharon Hospital for these tremendous achievements in keeping high quality healthcare right here in our community.



Find care now



Washington and Millbrook take action on short-term rentals

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — On Wednesday, Jan. 10, and Thursday, Jan. 11, the Town of Washington unanimously passed its first resolution to govern the permitting of the town's short-term rentals.

STRs have been at the forefront of board meetings for both the Village of Millbrook and the Town of Washington for the last few years, an issue resulting in part by the influx of new residents brought to the area by the pandemic.

While STRs need to be registered with Dutchess County before they can be listed, and are subject to a county Hotel Occupancy Tax, until now, neither the Town nor the Village have issued permits or collected any funds pertaining to these rentals.

That will change following the Town of Washington's passage of its STR resolution on Thursday.

The 13-page resolution is the product of three years of work and research, meetings with different constituencies, polls and surveys, public hearings, the hiring of a consulting firm, and three drafts.

It defines an STR as a rental of not more than 31 days, and caps the number of STRs operating in the town at 40.

The permit for operating an STR is non-transferrable, and can only be obtained after a code enforcement officer has inspected the premises. A myriad of safety measures and precautions as well, with instructions for outdoor pools, fireplaces, signage and reapplying for permits. STR owners may not have had a STR permit revoked within a previous year.

A \$1050 fee to offset time and effort put in by the Building Inspector will be paid to the town.

The Town of Washington, like most of the towns and villages in the area, will



SCREENSHOT

AirBNB includes several listings in the Village of Millbrook and Town of Washington.

use Granicus, a service that helps municipalities maintain records and in other ways oversee STRs. Their charge of \$4,700 will be reimbursed to the municipalities by Dutchess County.

Councilman Michael Murphy, who has been working on the STR item since 2021, introduced the Thursday night vote with a discussion of Robert Frost's "The Mending Wall," in which two neighbors rebuild a stone fence dividing their properties — one doesn't see the need for the wall, the other says, "Good fences make good neighbors."

Some want everything to stay as it is; rural, quaint, charming. Others see a need for more places for people to stay, so that local businesses can thrive and the community can move forward.

Murphy then called for a vote, was seconded by Councilman Robert Audia, passed unanimously.

Village of Millbrook

For the last two years, STRs have also been at the forefront of Village of Millbrook.

The draft of the legislation currently up for debate stipulates that the Village will sell a total of 15 two-year permits (an earlier version of the leg-

islation had capped permits at 20) for a nonrefundable \$1,000 fee.

The proposed resolution is the third iteration in a series prepared by village Trustee Peter Doro in the last two years.

On Wednesday, Jan. 10, the village had scheduled a public hearing followed by a vote on adopting the resolution in its current form. However, the hearing was extended to and the vote delayed until Feb. 14, following a complaint from bed and breakfast proprietor Tanya Jackson that there hadn't been enough time for interested parties to read the documentation pertinent to the hearing.

Nevertheless, the hearing began on Wednesday night as planned; three residents spoke, taking on issues that have been consistent sticking points in Village debates.

One is that the current draft of the legislation doesn't allow for "grandfathering in," meaning that current STR proprietors will not have any precedence over newcomers. Some feel that the number of permits allowed, having gone from the original 20 to 15, is not enough, though 15 permits are expected by the Board to cover all of the registered STRs already operating in Millbrook.

Lastly, some residents are contesting a stipulation that an owner needs to be on the premises, arguing that a manager could be in place when the owner is not there.

It is possible that the public hearing and subsequent vote on Wednesday, Feb. 14, will be the final chapter in the Millbrook STR saga. Maybe.

Habitat For Humanity, Heat Smart Capital Region, Columbia Land Conservancy, Guaranteed Rate, Columbia County Housing Task Force, RUPCO, the State of New York Mortgage Agency, Solstice Power, members of the Ancram Climate Smart Community Task Force (CSCTF)/Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), Gallatin CSCTF/CAC, and Taghkanic CSCTF/CAC members.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact affordable-housing@ancramny.org



PHOTO COURTESY NORTH EAST COMMUNITY CENTER

The old Millerton Elementary School, on a rise overlooking the Village of Millerton, has been part of the village's history since 1937.

NECC gifted new building

MILLERTON — Morgan Coy and Richard Lanka of Particles Elementary LLC have donated the Millerton Elementary School property to the North East Community Center (NECC). Sit-

ting on a rise overlooking the Village of Millerton, the building has been part of the village's history since 1937.

"We are very grateful to have received this remarkable donation," said Chris-

tine Sergent, executive director of NECC. "We are excited to study how this historic building fits into NECC's future and how it can best help our entire community thrive."

Amenia Town Board conducts traditional reorg meeting

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — At its first meeting of the new year and in accordance with the results of the November election, the Amenia Town Board convened its traditional reorganization meeting Thursday, Jan. 4, administering the oath of office to new councilmembers and passing a significant number of resolutions necessary for the functioning of the local government.

A capacity audience attended the meeting to see Leo Blackman take his seat as town supervisor, and Rosanna Hamm and Paul Winters to become a councilmembers. Councilman Brad Rebillard was continuing his term. The seat vacated by Blackman is to be filled by a town board appointment.

Numerous residents spoke during the public comment period, recommending that former Councilwoman Vicki Doyle be appointed, citing her longstanding record of service to the community, her multi-term experience on the board and the close election result, a difference of nine votes. Residents spoke of "institutional memory."

A motion to appoint Doyle to the seat, however, was promptly tabled, followed by board discussion in which newer members sought a wider range of candidates to be brought forward and interviewed. At Blackman's suggestion, councilmembers Rebillard and Winters agreed

to provide a list of qualifications against which such candidates should be measured. To achieve the widest reach possible, residents will be invited to submit names and the seat will be advertised on the town website and in this paper (see sidebar and Classifieds for more information).

The process of seeking and examining interested candidates is expected to extend into mid-February.

Briefly summarizing his perceived goals for the town, Blackman described progress on wastewater, affordable housing, a new highway

garage, improvements to the downtown, upgrade of the town website, and perhaps introducing a local satellite office for the North East Community Center.

"Stay tuned and get involved," Blackman urged, adding that several town committees have openings for volunteers.

Winters echoed the call, encouraging residents to step up, citing needs within the fire department and local food banks as examples.

"People need to know the range of services available," councilman Rebillard added.

OPEN CALL TO FILL VACANT SEAT ON AMENIA TOWN BOARD

The Amenia Town Board invites all Amenia residents to consider serving the town as a member of the Town Board for this calendar year.

The position opened when Councilman Leo Blackman became Town Supervisor, leaving behind his unexpired term on the Town Board.

The appointment will expire on Dec. 31 of this year; the remaining duration of the unexpired term will be filled at the General Election in November. The person serving for 2024 would have the option of running for the seat in the election by

seeking to be included on the November ballot.

Nearly everyone is eligible to be considered for this town leadership position. The qualifications are that the candidate be at least 18 years of age, a resident of the town of Amenia, and a U.S. citizen. The deadline for submitting a resume and letter of intent is Monday, Jan. 29 at noon. The resume and intent letter can be dropped off at the Town Clerk's office or emailed to dmklngner@ameniany.gov.

Questions can be directed to the Town Clerk's office or any current member of the Town Board.

Affordable housing fair to be held in Hillsdale

HILLSDALE — The Ancram Affordable Housing Committee will hold an affordable housing fair Saturday, Jan. 27, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Roeliff Jansen Community Library, 9091 NY-22.

Topics to be discussed include affordable housing options, reduction of energy bills, low-maintenance programs for a more sustainable landscape, and options for workforce housing.

Presenters will include the Roe Jan Housing Committee of Ancram/Copake/Hillsdale,

Habitat For Humanity, Heat Smart Capital Region, Columbia Land Conservancy, Guaranteed Rate, Columbia County Housing Task Force, RUPCO, the State of New York Mortgage Agency, Solstice Power, members of the Ancram Climate Smart Community Task Force (CSCTF)/Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), Gallatin CSCTF/CAC, and Taghkanic CSCTF/CAC members.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact affordable-housing@ancramny.org

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OBITUARIES

Sharon D. Alther

SHARON — Sharon D. (Smith) Alther, 77, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024, at Sharon Health Care Center.

Born in Bronxville, New York on Dec. 1, 1946, to Dr. Stuart Bertine Smith and Ruth E. (MacMonigle) Smith, Sharon, graduated from Eastchester High School in 1964, and married her high school sweetheart, Roger, in 1966.

Sharon moved with her husband and young son to Los Angeles, California in 1970. After many years spent raising her son, Rick, and daughter, Kristin, and being a beloved teacher's aide in her children's classrooms at Melrose Avenue Elementary School, Sharon and family relocated to El Cajon, California in 1979. There, Sharon put herself through nursing school where she graduated at the top of her class. After earning her LPN, she worked at Grossmont Hospital in La Mesa, California.

In 1984, Sharon and her family moved back east to her beloved Pine Grove in Falls Village where she worked at Parkside Lodge (now Mountainside), an addictions recovery center, for many years. Thereafter, Sharon worked at Ann's Nursery for Babies in Norfolk and Noble Horizons Assisted Living in Salisbury, helping to care for the most vulnerable. She was also a dedicated volunteer EMT for North Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corp. (NCVAC) for 20 years. During her tenure with NCVAC, she twice earned the President's Award for outstanding service.

Sharon's biggest passion was her family. It was important to her to always bring family together for special occasions. She was thoughtful and generous to a fault when it came to her children and grandchildren, her mission being to make birthdays and holidays as memorable as possible.

Sharon is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Shannon Alther of Woodbury, Connecticut, and grandsons Ryan and David; and her daughter and son-in-law, Kristin and Joseph Murphy of Clifton Park, New York and grandsons Declan and Liam.

Sharon also never met an animal she didn't like. While she had a menagerie of various pets throughout her life, including dogs, birds, and guinea pigs, she always had at least two cats who almost all lived amazingly long lives. Proof of Mom's love!

Calling hours will be Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home at 118 Main St.,

Canaan, CT.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial contributions to North Canaan Ambulance Corps, P.O. Box 178, 15 North Main St., Canaan, CT 06018 or the Veterinary Care Foundation (www.veterinarycarefoundation.org/). Please make sure to select Sand Road Animal Hospital LLC (Falls Village), who lovingly tended to mom's pets for many years. Many heartfelt thanks to the staff of the dementia care unit at Sharon Health Care Center, who lovingly cared for our mother for nearly ten years.

WASSAIC — Margaret Y. Deister, 94, a lifelong resident of Wassaic, New York, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, at Sharon Hospital with her family by her side. Mrs. Deister was the comptroller at the Maplebrook School in Amenia and also worked for Leon Rothstein, CPA in Amenia. She later worked for Ann Linden at Red Hen Sign Co. in Amenia.

Born on Jan. 14, 1929, in Patterson, New Jersey, she was the daughter of the late Murray Elliot and Margaret (Markert) Rivenburg. Mrs. Deister was a graduate of Dover High School class of 1946. On Oct. 4, 1947, she married Gustave Deister, who predeceased her on Jan. 29, 2012.

Mrs. Deister was a former member of the Wassaic Presbyterian Church Ladies Auxiliary. She later became a member of the Sharon United Methodist Church in Sharon.

NORTH CANAAN — Cathleen Ann Caranci passed away on Jan. 3, 2024, at Yale New Haven Hospital after battling congestive heart failure for many years.

She met her husband Donald Caranci at the fireworks put on by Railroad Days over 20 years ago.

Cathleen was born on April 1, 1966. She was the daughter of Nicolas and Ev-

EAST CANAAN — Linda Sue (Calkins) Strattman, 65, of 20 Furnace Hill Rd., died Jan. 11, 2024, at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington. She was the wife of John Strattman. They had been married for 48 years.

Linda was born in Plattsburgh, New York, daughter of the late Walter Lee and Cecil Mildred (Cobb) Calkins.

Linda had worked at Geer Memorial since 1979.

In addition to her husband

MILLERTON — Richard Neil "Rick" Sinclair, 70, passed away peacefully at Vassar Brothers Medical Center on Jan. 13, 2024, following a lengthy illness. Born May 20, 1953, in Dover, New Hampshire, he was the son of the late Neil Anthony Sinclair and Barbara (Woundy) Sinclair. He was the eldest of five children. Rick was a graduate of Arlington High School and Dutchess Community College.

Rick lived in Oregon for several years and became a salmon fisherman. He returned to New York and was employed by Schatz Federal Bearing in Poughkeepsie prior to the business closing. Rick then used his passion for antiques and became owner of Papa Hobo Antiques on Main Street in Millerton. After closing the store, he became a Group Home/Human Ser-

Margaret Deister

Mrs. Deister is survived by her loving children; Bar-

bara E. Lisi and her husband, Paul J., of Lansing, New York, Paul F. Deister and his wife, Deborah, of Hahnville, Louisiana, and Peter G. Deister and his wife, Margaret-Ann, of Amenia, New York. She is survived by three grandchildren, Joseph P. Lisi and his wife, Traci, of Lansing, New York, Matthew P. Deister and his wife, Jessica, of Amenia, New York, and Austin M. Deister and his wife, Cameron, of Costa Mesa, California; and two great-grandchildren, Cody and Connor Deister. She is also survived by two sisters, Evelyn Handke and her husband, Gene, of Wassaic, Phyllis J. Quinones Barker and her husband, David, of Lynchburg, Virginia, and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, Mrs. Deister

elyn Graf of Green Acres, Canaan.

She was a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School and had a Bachelor of Science degree from Post University. She excelled in accounting and had her own business with Shannon Allen, Lakeview

Accounting. After suffering many heart attacks Cathy backed off of full time ac-

Linda Sue Strattman

she is survived by her two daughters; Julie Strattman and her fiance Paul Goddard, and Kelly Groover and her husband Andrew. Grandchildren; Alyssa Strattman and her fiance, Chad Closson, Chandler Strattman-Groover, Shane Groover, and Reese

vices Manager.

Rick was the former President of The Danbury Mineralogical Society and former Board Member of the Mid-Hudson Gem and Mineral Society and was passionate about his large rock and mineral collection. He was the Founder and co-chair of the Water Alliance in South Kent.

Richard was married in 1979 to his lifelong partner, Robert Joseph Rockefeller. Together they lived in South Kent for 32 years. Rick had recently moved to LaGrangeville, New York, following Bob's passing on April 19, 2022. Their marriage lasted nearly 44 years. Recently Rick became a resident at Holiday

was predeceased by a sister, Janice Sledge Freer.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Sharon Health Center, Sharon Hospital, and the Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County for your compassion and support during Margaret's final days. A special thanks to her home caregivers, Lacey Luther, Sally Barton, Nancy Luther, and her sister, Evelyn Handke, for their love and assistance while Margaret was at home.

Calling hours were held from 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, at the Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. Funeral services took place at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023, at the Sharon United Methodist Church, 112 Upper Main St., Sharon, CT. Burial followed at Amenia Island Cemetery in Amenia. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon United Methodist Church, 112 Upper Main St., Sharon, CT, 06069 or the Wassaic Fire Company, P.O. Box 287, Wassaic, NY 12592.

counting.

Cathy was active in her community. She was currently involved with the Falls Village Day Care Center and many other organizations.

She will be missed by all that knew her, especially her beloved dogs Hunter, Bella and Ash. Cathleen is survived by her 3 sons, 6 stepchildren, 10 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

There will be a graveside service in the spring. An announcement will be made prior to the event.

Groover. Her best friend Lynn Miller. Linda is survived by many brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews, and a host of friends. Linda was predeceased by her granddaughter, Brandy Strattman.

Funeral services were private.

Richard Neil Sinclair

Manor at Woodside.

The family thanks the staff at the Manor at Woodside, the staff at Fresenius Kidney Care, and the staff at Vassar Hospital for their loving care.

Richard is survived by his four siblings and their spouses; Mark Sinclair (Karen), Sharon Sinclair Merriam Young (Stephen), Sandra Sinclair and Donna Sinclair Burke (Brian). He is also survived by his nieces and nephews and their children; Eric Sinclair (Samantha) Jake, Gracie, Connor & Gus; Andrew Sinclair (Lauren) Charleigh & Riley; Cathrine McCormick (Michael) Quinn & Emma; John Merriam (Jennifer) Jonah & Jared and Kayla Burke. Rick



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Worship Services

Week of January 21, 2023

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

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. <i>Transitioning through prayer</i> All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org	The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) <i>In-Person and on YouTube</i> www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290	Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville <i>Offering companionship along the Way</i> 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 & Felix Rivera trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627
North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC <i>Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people</i> 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232 FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org	Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT <i>Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons</i> The next meeting will be Sunday, February 11 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokiauloi@gmail.com All are Welcome
Congregation Beth David <i>A reform Jewish Synagogue</i> 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org	Chabad of Northwest CT On The Green 69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759 Childrens Camp Shabbat Services Hebrew School CTeen YJP <i>Judaism With A Smile!</i> chabadNW.org 860.567.3377 office@chabadNW.org
The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School <i>"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"</i> The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net	ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH <i>Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk</i> St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078
The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green <i>Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits</i> 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	UCC in CORNWALL <i>Cornwall Village Meeting House</i> Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community
Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour <i>A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!</i> 860-824-0194	Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org
The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT <i>Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow!</i> Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org
The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. <i>Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall</i>	All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us
Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 5:00 P.M. 518-789-3138	

Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

In Loving Memory of

Jeffery Jay Petkovich

May 12, 1968 to January 20, 1990



May the wings of Heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear

How much we Love and Miss you and Wish that you were here.



You are loved deeply:

Mom, Jamie, Nonnie

In Loving Memory of

Peter C. Roosa

October 12, 1950 to January 11, 2019

Time slips by and life goes on
But from our hearts you're never gone.
We think about you always, we talk about you too, we have so many memories but we wish we still had you.

You are deeply loved:

Phyllis, Jamie, Nonnie,

The Petkovich and Roosa Family



EDITORIAL

Two Decades of Progress

Only a little more than a month ago there was a small celebration at the White Hart Inn in Salisbury. Three women lined up for a photo opportunity to mark an important occasion: Nancy Heaton, flanked by state Rep. Maria Horn, D-64, and New York Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-Dutchess/Columbia County), received citations for her work and for the contributions of the Foundation for Community Health (FCH) to our Connecticut and New York communities over the last 20 years.

Heaton, as president and CEO of FCH, has overseen the Sharon-based philanthropic organization as it has granted more than \$21 million through 609 grants to 118 organizations, and invested thousands of staff hours to support better health in our regional communities, many that historically have been underserved.

Our front page story this week by Debra A. Aleksinas provides a comprehensive look at the foundation's work since its inception in 2003 with a goal to promote healthier individuals and communities. Aleksinas' story also explains FCH's connection to Sharon Hospital's sale back then to a for-profit company.

Since the early years of the 20th century, many generous donors had contributed to the hospital to help support its nonprofit work. After it was sold, then-Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal petitioned to create the Foundation for Community Health "to maintain and improve the physical and mental health of all the residents historically served by Sharon Hospital, Inc." His move was approved in Litchfield County Court, and the charitable funds were transferred to the foundation.

FCH has met its mandate, stewarding the funds from that sale for the benefit of a rural community that stretches across 17 towns in Northwest Connecticut and the Greater Harlem Valley in New York. Approximately 52,000 people call this community home.

Under Heaton's leadership the foundation can be credited not only for what it has accomplished in awarding grants, but how it has carried out its mission. As it states on its website, it invests "in people, programs and strategies" to improve health in our community. That includes access to food, safe and stable housing and the opportunity for positive childhood experiences, along with services for seniors, mental health support, and support for immigrants and more. It also includes supporting strategic planning initiatives, focusing on infrastructure needs, and lending a hand to build leadership skills and organizational restructuring. What this means is that besides funding, FCH has been "focused on strengthening the capacity and sustainability of [...] organizations so they can do their work more efficiently," said Heaton.

With two decades of success under its belt, FCH and Heaton envision new growth in 2024 and has new faces on its board. In 2023, the FCH board added Jill Feldstein, of Dover Plains. She is business manager of the Louis August Jonas Foundation in Rhinebeck. Dr. Zachary McClain of Falls Village, medical director of the Wieler Health Center at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, also joined the board.

Looking ahead to 2024 and beyond, Heaton said FCH will be exploring a role in statewide advocacy efforts.

We applaud Nancy Heaton and her staff at the Foundation for Community Health for their stewardship and contribution to a healthier community.

Suez Canal: A supply-chain mess

There are two shortcuts to moving goods around the world — the Suez and the Panama canals. Drought has more than halved the traffic able to sail through the Panama Canal that connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. That was bad enough, but the alternative shortcut around the world has all but shut down.

This is a serious matter, since maritime transport accounts for 80% of global trade. Under normal circumstances, the Panama Canal would account for about 3% of that global trade and 46% of container traffic moving from Northeast Asia to the East Coast of the U.S. On average, more than 13,000 vessels passed through the Panama Canal per year until last year.

Climate change, and now the El Nino climate pattern,

THE RETIRED INVESTOR

Bill Schmick

has sabotaged Panama's ability to keep the system of water locks and infrastructure functioning properly. This has already delayed American exports of grains bound for East Asia. In the case of Japan, U.S. corn exports account for more than 65% of that country's needs and 71% of its soybean imports. Shippers have bid up the price for a transport slot through the canal as waiting times lengthen. A slot can now cost anywhere from \$1.4 million to \$2 million. Given this background, is it any wonder that shippers had decided to opt for the Suez Canal instead, even though it adds about



Let It Go: Disney's new catch-and-release mouse trap

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Stand By The Constitution

As controversy intensifies about whether the Constitution disqualifies Trump from holding office, we trust our election officials, judges, and justices to enforce the Constitution as their oaths of office require.

From 1776, Thomas Paine inspires:

"THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer judge and the sunshine justice will, in this crisis, shrink from enforcing the constitution of their country; but he that stands by it NOW, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman." (Based on The American Crisis Number 1.)

1. Section 3 of Amendment XIV is clear: "No person shall ... hold any office, ... who, having previously taken an oath ... to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same

But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability."

2. There is only one critical question — Did Trump engage in insurrection against the Constitution? If "Yes," Section 3 prohibits Trump from holding office. If "No," Section 3 does not apply.

3. The prohibition is automatic and absolute ("No person shall ..."). The prohibition does not require action by Congress or conviction of any crime.

4. While Section 3 does not require Congressional action in order to disqualify, it permits Congress (by two-thirds of each House) to remove the disqualification. Congress has not removed the disqualification; the prohibition is in effect if Trump engaged in insurrection.

5. In the second impeachment of Donald J. Trump, the House of Representatives vot-

ed 232 to 197 to indict Trump for "Incitement of Insurrection," and the Senate voted "Guilty" by a vote of 57 to 43. While the Senate vote fell short of the two-thirds necessary to convict in an impeachment trial, Congress has determined by a majority vote of both the House of Representatives and the Senate that Trump engaged in insurrection.

6. The results of criminal prosecutions of Trump are not relevant to the Constitutional question of qualification to hold office.

7. State courts and election officials are considering the issue in the context of the preparation of ballots for Republican Party primaries. Both the District Court and the Supreme Court of Colorado determined that Trump engaged in insurrection as did the Secretary of State of Maine. Some state courts and election officials have avoid-

ed the issue on procedural grounds. There will be more decisions shortly.

8. Some argue that enforcing Section 3 to disqualify Trump from office and the ballot would be anti-democratic and that voters should be able to vote for Trump even if he is an oath-breaking insurrectionist. On the contrary, in the context of the determination by Congress and state courts and election officials that Trump has engaged in insurrection, failure to enforce Section 3 would be anti-democratic. American democracy will shine as Section 3 is enforced and Trump is prohibited from holding office again. We shall then be able to express our love and thanks to the election officials, judges, and justices who stand by the Constitution.

G. A. Mudge
Sharon

The 'Baby Derby' held fascination 91 years ago

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Millerton News

The following excerpts from The Millerton News were compiled by Kathleen Spahn, Vivian Sukeinik, Nancy Vialpando and Rhiannon Leo-Jameson of the North East-Millerton Library

91 years ago: January 1933 "Baby Derby is a Great Sporting Proposition": Seldom has anything caught the interest of the public and enlisted the enthusiastic support of the merchants of the community as the great Baby Derby. One reason for this is that it combines the thrills of a sweepstakes with the suspense of a drama. The big question is, "Who will be the lucky youngster?"

"Millerton Free Library Ass'n has Meeting": ...The Book

Committee, which consists of Mrs. George Culver, chairman: Mrs. G.S. Tabor, Mrs. David Traver, Mrs. Frances Rundall and Mrs. David Sherman has Miss Clara Bercher as a new member for 1933. 'It was voted to set aside \$100 for the purchase of new books, ...'

"Missing Safe Discovered Near Copake": The safe which was stolen from the New York Central Railroad station here two and one-half years ago was discovered be-

tween Copake and Ancram by Clarence Cole on Sunday while he was hunting rabbit in the swamplands owned by the Copake Developing Co.

It was on the night following Labor Day in 1930 that thieves entered the station through a window, opened a door, and loaded the safe into an awaiting truck, leaving clues as to their methods behind them.

The safe, which was found locked, contained \$127, tickets, stamps, and chewing gum...

25 years ago: January 1999 "Joshua McGhee Heads to Australia": While most col-

lege students are preparing to return to their second semester college classes, Joshua McGhee is planning to continue his education in Australia. Mr. McGhee of Millerton, leaves Jan. 27, with a one-day stopover in Singapore, for Australia, where he will remain until mid-May.

During the three and one-half month term, students [study a wide-ranging array of topics]. In addition to coursework, Mr. McGhee will visit a rainforest, travel to Queensland to dive at the Great Barrier Reef, the New Zealand Tableland region, and the western plains in the outback zone.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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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.

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Janet Manko
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1936-2011
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Editor and
Publisher Emeritus

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OUR TOWNS

Falling into fire: Michael McCracken recalls his time as a smoke jumper

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Michael McCracken had two careers in his life: he taught social studies at Yorktown High School in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., for 37 years, and for 25 of those years, he spent his summers as a smoke jumper. Smoke jumpers are specially trained firefighters who fight wildfires, often reaching the fires by parachuting into the area, carrying with them enough food and supplies to carry them through 72 hours of fire fighting. Smoke jumpers, members of the firefighting teams of the U.S. Forest Service, are deployed across North America. Highly trained and experienced, they often provide expertise and leadership throughout long-term fires. McCracken worked for the Forest Service in the summers between semesters. Every summer he and his family would travel to McCall, Idaho,

just north of Boise, to a USFS compound that housed fellow firemen and smoke jumpers. While McCracken was off fighting fires — “one summer, I spent almost all of it in Alaska,” McCracken recalled — his wife and two children swam, boated and fished at the complex. After retiring from teaching in 1999, McCracken and wife Dorothy traveled. They lived in Vermont and Great Barrington, Massachusetts, before finally settling on Millbrook, where they have lived for the last 15 years. Three months ago, they moved into The Fountains, where McCracken spoke Wednesday, Jan. 10, regaling an audience of about 50 with tales from his smoke-jumping career. Though in his 80s, McCracken is still spry and fit. He laid out the basics: Smoke jumping takes rigorous training, as the gear alone can weigh up to 115 pounds. If they can't parachute into an area, smoke jumpers may have to walk long distances

“Do it with passion, because it’s important.”
—Michael McCracken

to reach a fire, hauling heavy equipment. They know the ins and outs of parachuting in all types of weather and less-than-ideal situations, and they must learn to think quickly and clearly, as fires move swiftly and sometimes in unexpected directions. Asked about his own personal worst experience, he recalled one harrowing drop. McCracken's best friend and a Lutheran minister jumped first. McCracken jumped too soon after him, hitting the first man's parachute and becoming entangled. His chute opened also, but they went down face-to-face, hitting a tree, and upon landing, had to have help getting disentangled. McCracken was 21 years old when he started fighting fires, and 22 when he began

smoke jumping, prompted by the reports from his roommate at the University of Virginia with stories of his own adventures as a smoke jumper. Although the public sees quite a lot of these fire jumpers when the news is reporting massive wild fires, few people are aware that the service, started in 1939, saw its first jump in 1940. Not until 1981 were women allowed to join the ranks of smoke jumpers. Asked why wild fires seem more common and more vicious today, McCracken responded, “Global warming. “There's drought, brought on by global warming. Then, people build houses where houses shouldn't be built.” He added, with just a shade of misgiving, “The U.S. Fire Service has been too efficient putting out fires.” Some forest fires are needed to help in the natural life cycle of trees for growth and replenishment. They release seeds, return nutrients back into the surrounding soils, and aid in the removal of dead and diseased trees, thinning the forest, allowing in more light and encouraging growth of healthy trees. He has advice for new smoke jumpers: “Do it with passion, because it's important. You're doing it for your



PHOTOS BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
Michael McCracken talked about his years as a smoke jumper for the U.S. Forestry Service at The Fountains in Millbrook where he and his wife Dorothy recently took up residence.

country.” His own love of the service was evident. Does McCracken miss the excitement of smoke jump- ing? “Yes. Around the first of March, I still get the urge to start training, to meet the challenge.”



Michael McCracken, right, speaks to an audience of about 50 at the auditorium at The Fountains on Wednesday, Jan. 10, about his career as a smoke jumper for the U.S. Forest Service during summers in between teaching social studies at a high school.

Remember
The Lakeville Journal Company offers free online subscriptions to our website, tricornernews.com, for active duty military personnel from the Tri-state region. For more information or to set up a subscription, contact Sandra Lang at circulation@lakevillejournal.com or 860-435-9873, ext. 301.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: That a meeting of the owners of lots in Irondale Cemetery Inc. located in Millerton N.Y 12546 will be held at North East Muffler ,5654 rt 22 Millerton N.Y 12546, on January 29th 2024 at 6:00 pm. For the purpose of electing trustees and for such other matters that may properly come before the meeting. The annual meeting of the trustees will immediately follow the meeting of the lot owners.
Cindy L. Heck
Irondale Cemetery Sexton
01-11-24
01-18-24
01-25-24

LEGAL NOTICE
West Main Street Apartments LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 5/30/2023. Office located in Dutchess Co. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: United States Corporation Agents Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful activity.
12-14-23
12-21-23
12-28-23
01-04-24
01-11-24
01-18-24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Planning Board of the Town of North East on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at the North East Town Hall, 19 N. Maple Ave., Millerton, NY at 7:40 PM or as soon thereafter as possible on the application of MGHR, LLC for a Major Subdivision on Tax Parcel #7170-00-414515 located at McGhee Hill Road, Millerton, NY in the A5A Zoning District of the Town of North East. The above application is open for inspection at the Town Hall or via email. Please request a copy by emailing the Planning Board office at pb@townofnortheastny.gov or calling 518-789-3300, Ext. 608. Persons wishing to appear at such hearing may do so in person or by attorney or other representative. Communications in writing relating thereto may be filed with the Board at such hearing. Dated: January 11, 2024.
Dale Culver
Chairman
Planning Board
01-18-24

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TAX ROLL AND WARRANT 2024
TAKE NOTICE, that I, Dawn Marie Klingner, the undersigned Collector of Taxes of the Town of Amenia, County of Dutchess and State of New York, have

duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Amenia for the year 2024, and that I will attend at 4988 Route 22, Amenia from January 2, 2024 to February 29, 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon to 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon on each day, excepting Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays for the purpose of receiving the taxes listed on the said roll. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that taxes may be paid on or before February 29, 2024. On all taxes received after such date, there shall be an additional one percent for each additional month or fraction thereof thereafter until such taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the county treasurer pursuant to law. January to February 29, 0% (percent) penalty; March 1 to April 1-2% (percent) penalty; April 2 to April 30-3% (percent) penalty; May 1 to May 31 - 4% (percent) penalty; June 1 until settlement with County Treasurer, 5% (percent). In addition, after May 15, a fee of \$2.00 will be added for each parcel. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that pursuant to the provisions of law the tax roll of the Town of Amenia will be returned to the County Treasurer of the County of Dutchess on

the 1st day of June. Dated January 2, 2024.
Dawn Marie Klingner
Amenia Tax Collector
01-11-24
01-18-24

OPEN VOLUNTEER POSITION
TOWN OF AMENIA is seeking applications for the following Volunteer Positions
Board of Ethics (term to expire 12/31/2026)
Board of Assessment Review (2 seat, terms to expire 12/31/2026 and 12/31/2027)
Recreation Commission Member (term to expire 12/31/2026)
Amenia Housing Board (2 seats)
Comprehensive Plan Review (1 seat)
Wastewater Committee (1 seat)
Town residency required for the volunteer positions. Letter of Interest and Resume may be submitted via email to dmklingner@ameniany.gov via mail to Town Clerk, Dawn Marie Klingner, 4988 Route 22 Amenia NY 12501. Application Deadline: Noon, January 29, 2024.
01-18-24

PUBLIC NOTICE
Transportation providers and other interested parties are hereby notified that the North East Community Center, Inc. at 51 South Center Street, P.O. Box 35, Millerton NY 12546, is

applying for a federal grant of up to \$500,000, under Section 5310 of Chapter 53 of Title 49, United States Code, for transportation services within the Towns of Amenia, North East, Dover, Pine Plains, Stanford, and Washington to meet the need the needs of elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities. The purpose of this notice is to invite private, for-profit bus, taxi, ambulette operators and other interested parties to participate in the development of the proposed grant project and in the provision of enhanced transportation services to elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities. Please contact Christine Sergeant, NECC Executive Director, at (518) 789-4259, within 15 calendar days of this public notice to request a copy of the project proposed. Comments on proposed projects must be submitted to Christine Sergeant within 15 calendar days after receipt of the proposed project information. Griffin Cooper
Marketing and Outreach Coordinator
01-18-24

TOWN OF NORTH EAST, DUTCHESS COUNTY
NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TAX BILLS AND WARRANT
TAKE NOTICE, that I, Elizabeth “Tilly” Strauss,

the undersigned Collector of Taxes of the Town of North East, County of Dutchess and State of New York, have duly received the Tax Rolls and Warrant for the collection of property taxes within the Town of North East for fiscal year 2024. Collection of taxes will begin with the receipt of taxes through February 29, 2024 at the Town Hall, 19 N. Maple Ave, Millerton, New York, on the following days and times: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; and FEBRUARY ONLY Fridays and Saturdays 9:00 a.m.-noon. Checks are to be made payable to “North East Tax Collector”. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that taxes may be paid on or before February 29, 2024 without penalty. All taxes received after that date shall have an added interest of 2% for the month of March, 3% for the month of April, and 4% for the month of May. In addition, after May 15th, a fee of \$2.00 will be added for each parcel. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that after June 1st, 2024 all unpaid taxes will be turned over to Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Dated: January 4, 2024
Elizabeth Strauss Town Clerk/North East Tax Collector
01-11-24
01-18-24

OUR TOWNS

Dine Out for History returns with more

By MEG DOWNEY
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — The North East Historical Society’s popular Dine Out for History series returns this month with two additional dining establishments participating this year, bringing the total to five.

On select dates from Sunday, Jan. 21, through Monday, March 11, participating Millerton restaurants will host their own Dine Out for History nights, during which 10% of the proceeds from all patrons on those nights will be donated to the historical society to support its research, digitize its collection and make historic content more available to the public, particularly educators.

“This collaboration is so important to the historical society because it helps people

understand the importance of preserving the region’s past,” said Edward Downey, president of the North East Historical Society. “And just as critical, this also benefits local restaurants at a time of the year when business can be slow. Our supporters have been terrific in the past about turning out for these special nights, and we hope they do the same this year.”

Diners can go whenever they want at dinnertime on the designated nights, but they are encouraged to mention Dine Out for History to the hosting restaurant.

The historical society will launch the series at The Millerton Inn, 53 Main St, on Sunday, Jan. 21. An optional brief presentation on the history of farming in the region will be at 5:30 p.m. for those who want to come early. It will be offered with a glass

of wine, and guests can enjoy their dinners at the inn after that. Dinner reservations are requested.

The other participating restaurants are the Oakhurst Diner, 19 Main St., on Sunday, Feb. 4; Willa, 52 Main St., on Thursday, Feb. 15 (reservations requested); Round III, 5523 Route 22, on Monday, Feb. 26; and the Golden Wok, Railroad Plaza, 2 Main St., on Monday, March 11 (take-out only). To get a reminder, sign up for the North East Historical Society newsletter by contacting Ed Downey at eddowney12@gmail.com

The North East Historical Society is on the second floor of the NorthEast-Millerton Library, 75 Main St. Its hours are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays or by appointment. For more information, contact Ed Downey at eddowney12@gmail.com



Borden Condensed Milk Co. plant by the Harlem Railroad line on North Center Street in Millerton in the early 20th century.

Millerton’s winter farmer’s market carries on indoors

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Farm fields may be lying fallow, but local food producers are not taking a long winter’s nap.

Instead, many are keeping local foodies well-supplied at the indoor winter farmers’ market at the Millerton United Methodist Church at the corner of Dutchess Avenue and Main Street from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every second and fourth Saturday. The next market will take place Saturday, Jan 27.

According to Paul Bengs-

ton, community program director of the North East Community Center’s (NECC) Millerton Farmers Market, the organization will provide tempting specialty choices from rotating vendors as well as the regulars, including: CoCo’s Crumbs, Herondale, Jacuterie, Light Force Bakery, Love Feast, Moon in the Pond, PBP Farms, and the soon-to-be-returning Baker’s Wife.

While the market is well-stocked, Bengston welcomes others. “It’s never too late if someone is a vendor who is interested,” he said. “Reach

out to me directly because we’re always looking to have a variety. Email is usually easiest because I have to send them forms and rules.” He can be reached at paul@neccmillerton.org.

He added that while space is at a premium, the market will continue to have a community table for nonprofits, the organizers of which should apply directly to him.

Vendors, whose prices are often competitive with local stores, accept payment from EBT, WIC checks, and the Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program.

Having moved inside when the weather turned in November, Bengston is appreciative of the church facility: “We’re happy to have a year-round market.”

Bengston noted that the market schedule is listed on the website and added that if shoppers are unsure of weather disruption, they may check Instagram or the website at neccmillerton.org/farmers-market.

SHERIFF’S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for Jan. 4-10, 2024.

Jan. 8 — Deputies arrested Fernando Cruz-Cabrera, 30, for aggravated driving while intoxicated subsequent to a traffic stop in the area of 5085 Route 22 in the Town of Amenia. Subject to appears in the Town of Amenia court at a later date.

Jan. 8 — Deputies responded to 5650 Route 22 in the Town of North East for a report of a male causing a disturbance and destroying property. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Mark S. Asea, 31, for three counts of criminal mischief. Subject arraigned in the Town of North East court with an order of protection issued upon the complaint’s behalf.

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned cases or any other suspected criminal activity, please contact the Dutchess County Sheriff’s

Office tip line at 845-605-CLUE (2583) or email dcsotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.

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



Realtor® at Large

This past Saturday I went down to the Shepaug Dam in Southbury to see the eagles at their observation area and had a great time. The bald eagles gather there in the winter as the water just past the dam does not freeze allowing the eagles to fish throughout the winter. Reservations are needed and the volunteers running the site are from the CT Audubon. They are unbelievably hospitable and welcoming, making the visit very pleasant. Additionally, there are live presentations of birds of prey at the observation site, so it is very educational for the whole family. For more information, please visit firstlight.energy/stewardship/shepaug/.



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ADVERTISEMENT

Recent property sales in Millerton

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to The Millerton News

The Millerton News will periodically publish a listing of residential real estate sales in eastern Dutchess County and adjacent towns.

The Village of Millerton encompasses only half a square mile with around 900 residents within its borders. It’s not surprising that property sales are infrequent. In the five months ending in November, only five residential sales were recorded. Four of the five houses had been purchased within the last five years, three since COVID-19 in 2020, and then resold. Village living has become more popular and prices on village homes continue to rise. Currently there are only three homes for sale, two of which are listed for over \$600,000.

July 2023 Sales
29 North Maple Ave., single-family with 3 bedrooms, 1 bath on a .19-acre lot, sold for \$309,900.

September 2023 Sales
9 David Road, a home with an accessory apartment with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, sold for \$360,000.
56 Simmons St., a single-family home with 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, sold for \$475,000.

October 2023 Sales
81 Main St., a single-family home with 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, sold for \$450,000.

Monthly pancake breakfast at Amenia Firehouse

AMENIA — The Amenia Fire Company will hold its monthly pancake breakfast Sunday, Jan. 21, from 7:30 to 11 a.m. at the firehouse, 36 Mechanic St. The all-you-can-eat menu is available to eat in or take out and includes pancakes, French toast, eggs and omelets, home fries, bacon, sausage and beverages. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$11 for older adults and children under age 12. For more information, call 845-373-8352.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

This 1,688-square-foot, four-bedroom house at 56 Simmons St. had been operated as a popular Airbnb until the house was sold for \$475,000 in September. In 2023 it was assessed at \$265,000.

November Sales
19 Highland St., a single-family home with 816 square feet and 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, sold for \$320,000.

Village of Millerton real estate sales recorded as sold be-

tween July 1, 2023 and November 30, 2023 sourced from monthly Dutchess County Real Property Tax Service Agency.
Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

Regional real estate prices continue to rise

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to The Millerton News

DUTCHESS COUNTY — Expectations at the beginning of 2023 were that by year’s end, real estate prices would fall from the high levels of 2021 and 2022.

That didn’t happen here, nor in most places, with home prices steadily rising during the year while the volume of unit sales fell.

In Dutchess, an analysis from Rocket Homes released in January 2024 showed that the median sold price of a single-family home in the month of December had increased to \$416,104, 4.2% above December of 2022.

New York state annual median price data indicates a median price of all homes in Dutchess County in 2020 of \$335,050; in 2021 of \$375,000; and in 2022 of \$395,000.

December’s median price represents a 24% increase over

the COVID-19 low interest-rate environment of 2020. Columbia County median home prices increased even more off a lower base in December to \$474,000, an increase of 29.4% compared to the 2020 median price.

Our regional residential real estate market, like most in the United States, is still a seller’s market as supply remains less than demand despite high interest rates and high prices. Sellers are just not moving despite the high equity most have in their homes — there’s simply no place to move to.

The decrease in new residential construction has added to this supply imbalance with fewer new houses built in Dutchess County compared to the housing boom of the 2000s. At the same time, the demand side has increased from remote working and also by the decline in the number of people living in a household.

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TOWN BOARD *Continued from Page A1*

board committees. Between meetings, it falls to these committees to tackle the work of town government.

Kennan and Morrison will continue on the Budget Committee. Kennan and Ralph Fedele will be responsible for the Highway Committee. The Building and Grounds Committee, which has overseen the construction of the new garage and will focus on the new Town Hall next year, is Morrison and Winkler. Fedele and Mayville were appointed to the Cemetery Committee, which is involved in the restoration of the historic Spencer's Corners burying ground on Merwin Road, and the Emergency Services Committee.

Hazard Mitigation planning will involve Kennan and Fedele as well as Bob Stevens and Ken McLaughlin. Mayville and Winkler will guide the town's Communication Committee.

The town's involvement with housing will be headed by Kennan and Winkler. Fedele and Morrison will be in charge of the Personnel Committee, and Mayville and Morrison will coordinate recreation with the village. Kennan and Morrison will continue to work on the Wastewater District. Kennan, Morrison and Winkler will coordinate with the work of the Zoning Review Committee (ZRC).

In addition to board committees, Kathy Chow, who has been very active in Climate Smart initiatives, was formally added as a member of the Climate Smart Task Force.

FARM *Continued from Page A1*

farmers globally.

The Cookingham family is seeking support to keep their tradition of providing local homegrown vegetables and cherished farm experiences alive.

Cookingham's mother, Jessica Cookingham, said: "My husband and I really love being able to provide essentials for people to grow their own food and, you know, take flowers to loved ones. And my husband, this is his passion. He loves farming, loves to do the field work."

She reflects on a lifetime spent on the land and shared: "It's been so awesome to see all the families, when they would bring their children in, then now their children are bringing their children. It's kind of like a little congregation, a place that they can come and chit chat and catch up. It's just what we do, you know? It's what we want to do."

The community response to the GoFundMe has been strong so far. To date, the campaign has raised over \$14,000.

"Anything helps," said Cookingham, who is a stylist at The Hair Salon in Millerton

Kennan welcomed the new year and the new town board. He emphasized the collegial, collaborative working environment at Town Hall: "It's a pleasure to be at work."

The big projects for the new year will be the renovation and move to the new Town Hall, and the sewer project.

Housing in the Town of North East continues to be an issue, and Kennan promised to see what creative and constructive solutions could be implemented.

Also mentioned was the pedestrian bicycle plan the village is considering that will be put before the Town Board at its February meeting after consideration by the Village of Millerton.

On Jan. 2, 2024, the Town of North East held its first meeting of the year: the legally mandated annual organization meeting, which specified 25 appointments or designations for everything from the official newspaper — The Millerton News — to records retention policy, animal control and town appointed officials. The town's official bank has changed from Salisbury Bank and Trust to NBT. The last item was the reappointment of Julie Schroeder to the Zoning Board for another five-year term ending in 2028.

There were no surprises, and policies and people remained the same as at the beginning of 2023. The town's website is current and contains the positions, names and contact information of all town government members.

FCH *Continued from Page A1*

\$36,000 toward programs. Eight executive directors received one-on-one leadership support, and four sessions of the foundation's Community of Practice assisted nonprofit leaders.

"Our goal has really been more focused on strengthening the capacity and sustainability of these organizations so they can do their work more efficiently," said Heaton.

Conditions that influence health go beyond medical care, such as access to food, safe and stable housing, and the opportunity for positive childhood experiences. According to FCH, "On average, 45 percent of renters in our community pay more than 35% of their income on housing."

"The pandemic shone light on all the issues and cracks and needs, and how fractured our system is," noted Natashea Wilson, FCH's director of programming and learning.

2023: a 'year of newness'

Heaton described 2023 as "a year of newness," with new tools to capture support beyond the grant, new community members including two new board members and one new staff member, and five new grantee partners.

Based on feedback from its grantee partners, FCH developed a Community of Practice for Nonprofit Leaders, offering one-to-one leadership support to executive directors of organizations. The foundation also helped grantee partners secure nearly \$2 million in additional grant funding.

"I think it speaks to the value we can provide. We call it support beyond the grants," Wilson noted. "No two organizations are the same. It's part of the uniqueness of our region and uniqueness of our foundation."



PHOTO BY SARAH KENYON

State Rep. Maria Horn, D-64, left, with Nancy L. Heaton, president and CEO, Foundation for Community Health, center, and New York Assemblymember Didi Barrett, (D-Dutchess/Columbia) with citations for the foundation at its 20th anniversary celebration Thursday, Nov. 30.

Neither are the communities served by FCH the same. For instance, she said, "Dover is our largest community and our neediest community."

The organization's board of directors comprises representatives from throughout its vast region.

In 2023, two new faces joined the FCH board: Dover Plains, New York, resident Jill Fieldstein, business manager of the Louis August Jonas Foundation in Rhinebeck, New York; and Dr. Zachary McClain of Falls Village, medical director of the Wieler Health Center at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville.

Supporting nonprofits' leaders

Last October, FCH granted \$81,500 to eight nonprofits through its Capacity Building Grant Program. Since its start in 2021, the program has granted \$423,070 to 21 organizations by supporting important work including strategic planning, infrastructure needs, leadership support and organizational restructuring.

FCH has been "a consistent

grantmaking process. In my mind it has been revolutionary. I feel that Natashea has a great sense of what we do and how the money is being spent."

Helping seniors, protecting immigrants

The Lakeville-based Chore Service Inc. was the recipient of a \$12,000 grant from FCH last fall. The funding, said Executive Director Jane MacLaren, has been critical for helping seniors and disabled residents live safely and independently in their homes.

"Our federal funding has been reduced by 33%, which is difficult as the need is increasing. Last year we served 137 clients in seven towns and provided part-time work to 30 workers and 5,181 hours of service," MacLaren noted.

"The foundation's support has been instrumental to Chore's commitment to increasing community impact, maintaining organizational health and long-term financial viability. Many people do not have the means to pay for services, so they call Chore. We provide services regardless of ability to pay, so for many, we are a last resort to remaining at home."

A \$15,000 Capacity Building Grant was also distributed to the Columbia County Sanctuary Movement in Hudson, New York.

"We are really grateful for this fund," said Diana Laura Cruz, co-executive director of programs and services. "CCSM has experienced a rise in racist and xenophobic attacks against our immigrant community. Funds have been able to support our staff to rest and recover while also giving us the opportunity to train community members to keep us safe."

MAURO *Continued from Page A1*

ference in the community she grew up in.

With a background in ministry and higher education, including work with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, Mauro brought a unique blend of compassion and leadership to Project SAGE. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in geology from the University of New Hampshire, a Master of Divinity from Earlham School of Religion, and a doctorate in ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Throughout her leadership at Project SAGE, Mauro was driven by a profound sense of social justice, influenced by her faith and her time at the Earlham School of Religion, a Quaker institution known for its focus on peace and social justice. Her approach to leadership has not been about seeking personal accolades but about creating a supportive learning environment among her staff.

She said: "My role has really been to find the right people at the right time and put them in the right place. So, if I'm proud of anything, it's the fact that I've been able to open the door for clients to work with really amazing people."

When Mauro began in 2016, the organization was



PHOTO BY JOHN DOLAN, COURTESY OF BERKSHIRE TACONIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Since 2016, Betsey Mauro has guided Project SAGE through significant expansion.

called Women's Support Services. It has since changed its name to Project SAGE.

Under her stewardship, Project SAGE outgrew its old building, moving to a larger, more accessible location at 13A Porter St. in Lakeville. The new space, renovated with a focus on health and accessibility, reflects the agency's growth from a staff of six to over a dozen dedicated professionals. This expansion has allowed for an enhanced range of services to victims of relationship violence, including counseling, legal advocacy and a robust prevention education program that has tripled the number of sessions taught.

Asked about her plans post-retirement, Mauro looked forward to some planned trips; hiking and kayaking; and spending time with her partner, Paul, who is the head of maintenance at Mountainside Addiction Treatment Center in Canaan. Yet her commitment to social justice and community remains at the center of her life.

"You know, I'm not the kind of person who's going to sit still," she said. "I don't know if it will be paid or volunteer, but I'm really sort of taking time to just take a deep breath, come back to myself in a way."

Having done prior work in hospice, Mauro shared that she might be interested

in taking up work in that area again. She shared, "Social justice wise, I'm really concerned about housing, and particularly housing in this area."

She explained that COVID-19 led to a period of hiring people who worked remotely, with the express idea that they'd relocate to the area post-pandemic. But, she shared: "Housing has been a real barrier. And we find housing is a real barrier for our clients as well. How can people start anew when they can't get affordable housing? It's a huge challenge."

In her ongoing pursuit of creating a better, more just world, Mauro will undoubtedly continue to be of service. "I really believe that my faith informs my strong sense of social justice and so in that regard, I see a continuum," she said. "Whether I'm in a church or I've been in this role here, it's all about how we lift up people and also challenge the systems that are unfair, that keep people from accessing their full selves."



PHOTO COURTESY DAISEY HILL FARM

Jessica Cookingham and her husband, James, have been farming at Daisy Hill since they were teenagers. They raised their daughter Hailey Cookingham on the farm as well.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Why are so few films set in CT?

In her new book from Lyons Press, actress Illeana Douglas deftly chronicles a fictionally neglected state in “Connecticut in the Movies: From Dream Houses to Dark Suburbia.” Full of deep cuts and an entire section dedicated to Yale University making brief appearances in film — Indiana Jones lectures at a fictional version of the college, but we all know globetrotting Indy is a New Jersey man — it becomes clear that a book with the same attention to minor detail about New York or Boston movies would have to be three times as long.

Why does Connecticut, a state in such close proximity to New York City — in the heart of New England, a region where Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allen Poe, Louisa May Alcott and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow helped solidify American fiction — have so little to show for its cultural canon? Even Hartford’s crowning historical site, The Mark Twain House and Museum, celebrates an author whose best-known masterpieces are set in Missouri, waxing on “half-forgotten Southern intonations and elisions.”

In terms of material to adapt, Yale does not have its alum-penned collegiate novel to hold up next to “This Side of Paradise” (Princeton), “Love Story” (Harvard), or “The Group” (Vassar). Neither has Connecticut had its populist hometown laureate mining its culture for the masses like Stephen King did for Maine or John Irving for New Hampshire. Certainly, the most famous piece of fiction set in Connecticut



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MOVIESTILLSDB

Left, Julianne Moore in “Far From Heaven”; below, Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio in “Revolutionary Road.”

cut is Amy Sherman-Pallidino’s television series “Gilmore Girls,” inspired by the Californian writer’s brief visit to Washington, Conn. Set in an imaginary Litchfield County-type town filmed on a studio set in Los Angeles, the robust ensemble of verbose and anxiety-inducing residents — class-conscious, parochial meddlers — are satirically rendered as they belligerently assault each other’s character in the echo chamber of weekly town ordinance meetings. Small-town Connecticut, Sherman-Pallidino’s writing suggests with a gleeful smirk, is no place for privacy. Is it a place for happiness?

The magnum opus of literary Connecticut fiction is Richard Yates’ largely forgotten “Revolutionary Road,” the author’s debut that was a finalist for the 1962 National Book Award. Vivisecting the underbelly of suburban conformity, Yates’ bitter marital plummet into empty adultery and emotional paralysis served as the chief inspiration for Matthew Weiner’s Emmy-winning series, “Mad Men.” However, in the 1960s-set show, the frigid central family is placed in Ossining, N.Y. and Connecticut plays a minor role much later



when a supporting character’s nightly commute to Cos Cob serves as the setting for an extramarital affair with a troubled housewife that ends with her undergoing electric shock therapy.

In examining the 2008 film adaptation of “Revolutionary Road,” along with Ang Lee’s “The Ice Storm” and Todd Haynes’ “Far From Heaven,” Douglas writes of the Connecticut period pieces: “Sometimes the dark storylines about adultery, insanity, abortion, alcoholism, racism, homosexuality, and wife-swapping are filmed so elegantly, or set against such sumptuous production values... that the savagery is muted by the beauty of the sets and photography. Women who live in modern glass houses or well-appointed mansions are imprisoned by circumstances they cannot escape, but their hair is amazing!” Key,

she points out, is though each of these stories is dripping in destructive sexual activity, “There is no joy in it.”

More contemporary depictions of Connecticut can be seen in Jonathan Demme’s 2008 drama “Rachel Getting Married” and the 2005 Diane Keaton-led Christmas film “The Family Stone,” both caustic descents into dysfunction as an offputting outsider (Anne Hathaway, the black-sheep sister; Sarah Jessica Parker, a potential daughter-in-law) intrudes on a horrible family of smug liberals, resulting in a horrific time. Douglas quotes “Rachel” screenwriter Jenny Lumet (daughter of director Sidney Lumet) as barely apologizing for her indictment, “Sorry if you’re from Connecticut, but, ‘ech.”

Perhaps the state’s proximity to Manhattan and its commuter railway — all the appealing



PHOTO BY MICK THOMPSON/AUDUBON

A Swainson's thrush in spring.

Birds in a candy store

Thanks to invasive shrubs, birds need a nutrition makeover

It has not been easy to work outdoors this winter thanks to the rain and melting snow. I am spending more time on social media, which I am not proud to admit, and have found several Facebook Groups — rather Facebook found them for me — that share information on native and invasive plants. The algorithm did good this time. I am rather hooked.

These groups include ‘Native plants of the Northeast’, ‘Native and Invasive Plants of the Eastern US’, ‘Propagating Native Plants’, ‘Invasive Plants ID and Removal in the US and Canada’,

‘Connecticut Native Plants’ and ‘New England Native Plant Seed Share/Trade’. Many within the communities are fierce advocates of native plants. They identify species almost competitively, the way someone might with the New York Times Spelling Bee, and offer suggestions on ridding invasive plants, propagating and planting native substitutes.

Recently, a community member shared a chart that put some data around a serious issue.

Berries of invasive plants do not offer the nutrition required by migrating songbirds. For birds that migrate south for the winter, a lot of fat is needed in their food to sustain them through their journeys. The research study behind this chart comes from a 2013 paper published in the scientific journal Northeastern Naturalist. Even though the study is now 10 years old the findings remain relevant and the issue it informs is more



acute than when the study was published.

In addition to migrating birds, those that over-winter in our area require food with a high fat content to nourish them through the winter and into spring when they can rely on caterpillars (and, for the caterpillars to survive we need to plant the native plant they eat.) Sadly, birds in the wild are being malnourished due to the proliferation of non-native and invasive plants and their berries. Birdfeeders can only do so much.

According to the study, Japanese honeysuckle, Lonicera japonica thunbergii berries have less than 1% fat content. Compare this to northern bayberry, Myrica pensylvanica, a native shrub, at 50% fat. Remember tasting the sweet nectar from honeysuckle flowers as a kid? Perhaps the berry is similarly tasty to birds, but don’t eat a berry to find out; although the flowers are fine for human consumption, the berries are toxic to us. Japanese honeysuckle is basically junk food for birds.

The avian candy store includes berries from multiflora rose and buckthorn, with less than 1% fat, and autumn olive and oriental bitter-sweet at less than 3% fat. Compare with the native plants that co-evolved with local birdlife over millennia: gray dogwood has 35% fat, virginia creeper 34%, arrowwood viburnum and spicebush at 48%. These plants have been largely replaced in our backyards, fields and woodlands with non-natives and invasives, adding to the decline of our bird life.

When a bird ingests a berry it also ingests the hard seed or seeds inside the berry. The bird’s digestive system removes the outer part of the seed and excretes it coated in poop fertilizer, greatly increasing the seed’s chances for germination.

Continued on next page

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Continued on next page

COMPASS

A break from the bleak

We were only a few days into 2024 and I was casting around for a word to describe the immediate angling prospects.

After rejecting “lousy” as ordinary and “@&#%!” as unsuitable for publication in a family newspaper, I settled on “bleak.”

It was cold. It was rainy, except when it was snowy. All the rivers and streams were high.

And then it happened. Friday, Jan. 12, wasn’t bleak.

The day before, I had to go to the dentist in Kent. I decided to improve the shining moment by doing a little recon work in the vicinity.

Macedonia Brook was just barely fishable. It would have been a question of walking along and dropping a line into intermittent spots, primarily deeper slower pools and runs with some soft water on top.

Kent Falls brook was in similar shape.

Problem is, Lakeville to Kent is 45 minutes no matter how you slice it, unless you drive over the speed limit and don’t take your foot off the gas for anything, such as other cars, stop signs, animals or people — then it’s 43 minutes.

So I looked around here first. The Blackberry was too high, full stop. But the Mystery

TANGLED LINES

PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Brook (That Shall Not Be Named) was in decent shape.

I suited up and deployed a fixed-line rod, a Dragontail Mizuchi, with No. 3 level fluoro line and the same 2 feet of 4X nylon tippet I used the last time. Hell, I used the same fly, a bedraggled size 12 March Brown dry with most of one wing chewed off.

No takers on the surface, which wasn’t surprising. The fish were feeling the bleakness.

The only way forward was to get something down into the slow-moving depths, where a lethargic char might shake off the winter blahs long enough to eat something. Similar to me falling asleep during a Knicks game and only stirring from the couch long enough to get something from the fridge.

Sounds bleak, doesn’t it?

Around 1 p.m. two things happened. The sunlight hit the water, and almost immediately little tiny speck-type insects appeared. Nobody was eating them, at least not on the surface, but it did indicate the stirring of life.

The second thing that happened was I caught a spunky little brookie



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Joe’s Green Weenie, top right; Bread and Butter nymph, bottom right; Wooly Bugger in grey/purple.

while tight-lining a size 14 Bread and Butter nymph through a slow, deep section.

This dizzying success made me think of trying a bigger fly.

The size 16 Wooly Bugger in a greyish purple-y color and with a tungsten head had the fish swimming in circles. I nicked a couple but could not seal the deal.

So I went with the nuclear option: a Green Weenie.

Not just any Green Weenie, either. This is Joe’s Green Weenie, tied with a darker green material than the average store-bought Weenie, with a jig hook and a heavy bead head.

I have suggested to Joe that he sell these remarkably effective flies and even offered a marketing slogan: “Nothing Beats Joe’s Weenie.”

For some reason Joe

thinks the slogan might be a bit much.

Anyhoo, Joe’s Green Weenie sinks like a stone, and provoked bona fide tugs.

But the bleakness had rendered me rusty, and I was unable to bring any of the participants to hand.

I did, however, land a stick. For a hot second, I thought it was the proverbial monster brook trout.

Bottom line, I spent an enjoyable two hours and change on a trout stream with some action in the middle of January. I did not freeze, fall in or suffer any injury other than getting slapped in the face by a branch.

My message is simple. Never mind bleak. Just watch the weather, monitor the streams and keep your gear handy. The opportunities will come.

...films in CT

Continued from previous page

traits a realtor would point out — has damned its fictional portrayal. Connecticut has become media shorthand for a stultifying caucasian bubble, a resting place for city men to dump their wives and children, a claustrophobic limbo for couples with enough money to own a home but not enough internal excitement to hack it in the big city. No one grows up in Fairfield County in the movies; it is a place you go when you want to feel rich.

This stereotype of Connecticut is used to opposite effects in the 1945 romantic comedy “Christmas in Connecticut” and in the 1975 and 2004 comedy/horror adaptations of “The Stepford Wives.” In the Christmastime crowd-pleaser, Barbara Stanwyck is a single Manhattan writer who uses the imagery of a fabricated Connecticut farm in her weekly column to sand off her rough edges and lull her readers with a placating false persona of a wedded homemaker. In “The Stepford Wives,” based on the novel by “Rosemary’s Baby” author Ira Levin, New York wives are moved to Fairfield County and brainwashed into conformity — becoming docile, serving homemakers.

Douglas devotes a good deal to the lush

summer palette of 1986’s “The Swimmer,” starring Burt Lancaster and directed by Eleanor and Frank Perry (the late uncle to pop singer Katy Perry). The setting of the film was moved to Westport, Conn., by the suggestion of the directing team, but the short story published in a 1964 issue of The New Yorker by John Cheever focused its criticism on New York’s Westchester County. Like Don Draper in “Mad Men,” Cheever spent his later life in Ossining. The preeminent anthropologist of WASP culture never wrote about Connecticut, targeting instead the upper-middle class peculiarities of New York’s Upper East Side and Greenwich Village and the suburbs of Westchester. That Cheever’s stories are synonymous with Anglo-Protestant Connecticut likely speaks more to the city’s influence on the state than its unique cultural identity. There are still plenty of Connecticut stories to be told, true of any American state, and the small canon of films and novels should not be a deterrent to writers but an open invitation to explore undocumented territory.

Douglas will discuss her book at Kent Memorial Library on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 2 p.m.

...ungardener

Continued from previous page

This helps to explain the rapid spread of invasive species.

Some of the berries of invasive plants have healthful benefits, providing a few useful nutrients for the birds, and even for humans. Invasive Barberry, Berberis Thunbergii, is a relative of the Barberry, Berberis vulgaris, that is used in Persian cooking. Both types of plants have sour-tasting berries that contain berberine, an antioxidant phytonutrient that has been shown to lower cholesterol and help control blood sugar in humans.

Autumn olive, Elaeagnus umbellata, which comes to us from Asia, is a shrub or small tree that can produce as much as 30 pounds of fruit from a single mature specimen. The fruit contains many more times the lycopene levels than our main food source of this carotenoid — tomatoes.

Lycopene has been shown to inhibit certain cancers and protects against diabetes among other benefits of its anti-oxidant rich pulp. Harvesting the prolific number of berries from the autumn olive will help to reduce seed dispersal by birds so, if you

decide not to remove the plant it is a good idea to collect as many berries as possible when they are ripe. There are many recipes for autumn olive condiments and dishes to be found online.

The berries of the Amelachier genus are being touted as a superfood in Canada, where the tree is called saskatoon (here we know it as shadblow or ser-

viceberry). According to Web MD and a few other sources I have checked, the berries have plenty of vitamins and minerals as well as the kind of flavonoids that can help prevent blockages in our blood vessels and can protect our heart and liver. They are ripe when purple; not red, or they will be too sour.

There’s only so far a bird feeder will go

to solving this life and death issue for the birds in our area; still, it can’t hurt. Planting more native shrubs that produce fat-containing berries is the only long-term solution to the winter nutrition issue. A health food pantry to replace the existing sweet shops in our backyards.

Dee Salomon “ungardens” in Litchfield County.

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MUSIC: MIKE COBB

Scottish music at Battell Chapel and the Norfolk Library

Norfolk resident Andrew Thomson will be presenting an evening of Scottish music at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, at the Battell Chapel in Norfolk and Saturday, Jan. 27, from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Norfolk Library. He will be accompanied by Scottish bagpiper Ken Storrs for both events.

Friday's show honors Robert Burns and is a paid ticketed event that includes haggis, whisky and poetry reading. Saturday's event is part of the Norfolk Library's Music Among Neighbors

series and is free with registration required.

Thomson plays the traditional Irish bagpipe known as the uilleann pipes, as well as piano, vibes, percussion and other instruments. He's also the proprietor of Pipeman Studios, a full-service recording studio on Route 272 in Norfolk. The name of his studio comes from the fact that he used to smoke a pipe rather than his musical talents on wind instruments.

At age 18, Thomson was the youngest member of the composition and arranging staff at the Armed Forces School of Music. He earned a Bachelor of Music in composition and percussion with a minor in anthropology from Ithaca College. Thomson teaches percussion and gives clinics, recitals and masterclasses around the country. He has collaborated with the internationally acclaimed choirs of Joyful Noise Inc. and the United States Marine Corps.

With Scottish heritage, Thomson was familiar with the instrument from a young age.

"We trace our family back to both Inverness and Glasgow," he said. "I've been a couple times and would like to make it a regular thing, if not for family then certainly for the culture. It's a fairly difficult instrument to master, and I wanted a challenge."

The Saturday concert will be primarily Scottish music, as a continuation of the Burns Supper being hosted at the Battell Chapel the previous night, although there will be some Irish music as well. Thomson and Storrs will also speak about Scottish music and culture.

When asked about the difference between Irish and Scottish pipes, Thomson said: "Scottish, Highland pipes are probably the most familiar to people. They are much louder, mouth-blown, and utilize three drones and a nine-note chanter that plays the melody. Irish uilleann pipes are played seated and are powered by bellows. They feature drones, a chromatic chanter with more notes and range, and on full sets, regu-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ken Storrs, left, on Scottish bagpipes and Andrew Thomson, right, on Irish uilleann pipes.

lators, which are extra pipes with keys that can be played by the wrist to provide chordal accompaniment."

Thomson and Storrs have been friends for some time. They sang together as children in a local choir, and after growing apart during their teenage years, reunited at a funeral where Storrs was playing. After discovering they both played pipes, they became close friends and colleagues, even working together at a sign shop in Torrington, Connecticut.

"Celtic music in general is a very communal genre," said Thomson. "Sessions of musicians are very common and are a great way for

Continued on next page

BOOKS: MATTHEW KRETA

Peter Steiner shares newest book at Hotchkiss Library

On Sunday, Jan. 14, author, cartoonist for The New Yorker and for The Lakeville Journal, and Sharon resident Peter Steiner gave a preview and signing of his new book "The New Detective" at the Hotchkiss Library.

The book is the fourth in Steiner's series featuring German detective Willi Geismeier, and is a prequel to the previous three novels that goes into Geismeier's origin as a veteran of World War I.

Steiner addressed a small crowd and opened with a section of the book. The section detailed the protagonist's stay in a hospital after being injured in the war, damaging his eyesight. The opening description of the state of the hospital filled with patients hurt due to the war was gripping and vivid, painting an immediate grim reality. Geismeier slowly regained part of his eyesight before being unceremoniously sent home via train after being dismissed from the army due to injury. Steiner ended his excerpt there, stating the book will go on to deal with topics such as the Spanish flu and the rise of Hitler.

Steiner, the son of Austrian immigrants who studied German literature at a college graduate level, said that the series was inspired in 2015 with the political appearance of Donald Trump. Fearing for the political state of the country, Steiner created the story as a direct critique and comparison with 1920s Germany.

"The only thing I really knew to do about it was cartoons and writing," Steiner said.

After that initial book, "The Good Cop", Steiner continued the series due to a love of the characters he had created. Despite the novels being set in such a difficult



PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA

Peter Steiner

gether and the steps he takes to reach his conclusions rather than the mystery itself.

Steiner described himself as a writer who very much just went with the flow of his writing, planning very

time and place in world history, Steiner said the books are ultimately about hope and good people doing the right thing in the face of bad circumstances.

Despite being marketed as "A Willi Geismeier Thriller," Steiner believes the book doesn't really conform to the genres of thriller or mystery. Although there is a crime and mystery to solve, Steiner believes the novel and series is more of a character study. According to him, the payoff of the book rests more in how the protagonist pieces the mystery to-

few things in advance. As an example, Steiner offered the fact that in his first book, Geismeier was not even a planned character, and the soon-to-be protagonist was introduced about 40 pages into the book. In his words, the hard part of writing is not creating the story, but bringing it to life.

After fielding a few more questions, Steiner thanked everyone for coming and the group mingled over some refreshments.

Copies of the book were available to be purchased and signed.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Microgram
- Where golfers begin
- Each
- Warm weather metropolis
- Coat with sticky substance
- Girl's given name
- Myth (Spanish)
- Ultrahigh frequency
- Former NBAer Jeremy
- Where rockers work
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- Soft-finned fishes
- Localities
- Paddle
- Union
- Member of religious community
- Small shrill flute
- Small constellation in the Milky Way
- They —
- College kid on vacation
- de Armas and Gasteyer are two
- Part of the human body
- A progressive grading
- Sound unit
- Noise some birds make
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Portuguese city
- Be extremely, uncritically fond of
- Resembling old Norse poems
- Ask for out of extreme need
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- An insane person
- __ Boothe Luce, American author
- Buttock muscles
- Men's fashion accessory

Jan. 11 Solution

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Jan. 11 Solution

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

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COMPASS

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

JANUARY 18

What Papa Told Me: Virtual Book Talk

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

On Thursday, Jan. 18, at 5 p.m., the David M. Hunt Library will host a virtual book talk with Felice Cohen, author of "What Papa Told Me," which is the story of Cohen's grandfather, Murray Schwartzbaum, whose courage and sheer will to live helped him survive eight different labor and concentration camps in the Holocaust, start a new life in America and keep a family intact in the aftermath of his wife's suicide. A copy of the book is available to check out at the library. Register for the talk at huntlibrary.org

JANUARY 19

Poetry Workshop with Sally Van Doren

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

On Friday, Jan. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m., there will be a poetry workshop with Sally Van Doren at the Scoville Memorial Library.

This intensive, immersive workshop is designed to give writers the time to generate new work and to hone in on whatever it is that is begging them to bring it to the page. Guided by prompts and in-class writing assignments, participants will dive deep and emerge transformed.

Van Doren is the author of four books of poetry and a winner of the Walt Whitman prize. To register, go to scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/11749378

JANUARY 20

Film Screening

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

On Saturday, Jan. 20, at 4 p.m., The Cornwall Library will show the award-winning feature documentary film "WHAAM!BLAM!," directed by James L. Hussey. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Hussey, editor and co-producer Tory Estern Jadow, and visual artist/art historian David Barsalou. The event is live only (no Zoom). Seating is limited. Registration on the library website is required at cornwalllibrary.org/events/

52 Places to Go in 2024:

A Talk with New York Times Travel Editor Amy Virshup

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

On Saturday, Jan. 20, from 4 to 5 p.m., hear the inside story of 'The New York Times' annual "52 Places to Go," the much-awaited list of outstanding destinations and insider tips on what to see and do. Times Travel editor Amy Virshup will discuss how the travel research gets done, who makes decisions, what distinguishes a list-maker from a runner-up, what Times readers look for in travel, and how Times Travel has changed over the years.

Registration is required for this event at scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/11670848

JANUARY 21

The North East Historical Society Dine Out for History

Millerton, N.Y.

The North East Historical Society's popular Dine Out for History series returns this year with two more dining establishments, bringing the total to five.

On select dates from Jan. 21 through March 11, participating Millerton restaurants will host their own Dine Out for History night, where 10% of the proceeds from all patrons that night will be donated to the historical society to support its research, digitize its collection and make historic content more available to the public, particularly educators.

Sunday, Jan. 21, The Millerton Inn, 53 Main St., 5-9 p.m., (518) 592-1900. Reservations requested.

Sunday, Feb. 4, Oakhurst Diner, 19 Main St., 5-8 p.m., (518) 592-1313.

Thursday, Feb. 15, Willa, 52 Main St., 5-9 p.m., (518) 789-0252. Reservations requested.

Monday, Feb. 26, Round III, 5523 NY-22, 5-9 p.m., (518) 592-1240.

Monday, March 11, Golden Wok, Railroad Plaza, 2 Main St., 5-10 p.m., (518) 789-9236. Takeout only.

"The Art of the Stitch and Needle": A Group Show of Fiber Arts

Cornwall UCC Parish House, 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall Village, Conn.

"The Art of the Stitch and Needle," a Group Show of Fiber Arts, will launch at an opening reception Sunday, Jan. 21, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the UCC Parish House in Cornwall Village. All are welcome. The show will continue until Feb. 29. Artisans exhibiting their work will be: Beth Dinneen, Eileen Gargan, Susan Hellmann, Jen Markow, Dana Saccardi, and Susan Saccardi. A wide variety of crafts will be represented; some will be for sale.

The show may be viewed Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon, Sundays 10 a.m. to noon, and by appointment. The Parish House is located directly behind the United Church of Christ at 8 Bolton Hill Road in Cornwall Village. For more information, call the church office at 860 672-6840.

Free Concert

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibrary.org

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon and The Guild, in partnership with Music Mountain, announce a free classical music concert series in the newly restored Hotchkiss Library of Sharon at 10 Upper Main St. in Sharon. The first concert will take place Saturday, Jan. 21, at 3 p.m. with The Ulysses Quartet and Oskar Espina Ruiz, clarinet. Concert seating is very limited and registration is required for the first concert at: hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/11763366

JANUARY 23

Literary Seminar with Mark Scarbrough — Willa Cather: The Dystopia of Originality

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

On Tuesdays, Jan. 23 to March 12, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., there will be an eight-part, discussion-based literary seminar. Mark Scarbrough will lead readers on a fascinating exploration of Willa Cather in mid-career. Willa Cather's novels are a riddle: American originals, those seemingly pure but deeply ironic voices from the heartland, once best-sellers, then mid-listers in her own lifetime, once critically favored in colleges, now mostly overlooked. Registration is required for this hybrid-format series. For more information, please use this link: scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/11756531

Beatles tribute show coming to Colonial Theatre

On Saturday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m., the Tri-State Chamber of Commerce will present a recreation of the 60th anniversary of the Beatles' first appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show" at the Colonial Theatre in Canaan.

Music will be provided by the Beatles tribute band Studio Two, who will play the same set the Beatles performed on the show followed by 90 minutes of early Beatles music. There will be plenty of room to dance.

Studio Two features alumni of Berklee College of Music in Boston who focus on the Beatles' early years of 1962-1966 while using period attire and equipment to transport the audience back to 1964.

Tri-state Chamber of Commerce member restaurants will be offering pre-theater specials, and those wishing to take part may make 5 p.m. reservations at The Boathouse, Black Rabbit, Fern and Interlaken Inn in Lakeville; The Miller-

ton Inn; or The White Hart Inn and Neo's in Salisbury.

Tickets are \$45, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Sharon Woman's Club. The event has been underwritten by Assured Partners, Elyse Harney Real Estate, Ed Herrington Inc., Harney & Sons Teas, National Iron Bank, NBT, North East Ford and Peerless Trees. For more information, contact lorraine.oler@ironbank.com. For tickets, see canaancolonial.com

...Scottish music

Continued from previous page

strangers to play together. Many tunes are known widely and can be learned by ear or sheet music fairly easily. It's not uncommon for Ken and I to trade tunes back and forth or figure out tune sets to play together in advance. This concert will not be an exception — we'll probably figure out our set list the night before or during the actual concert, gauging the atmosphere and choosing tunes accordingly.

"The piping tradition isn't just about music. It's about community, pageantry, and it's an opportunity to highlight a lesser known art form. Beyond the trope of deafening volume and kilts, Scottish music is a highly

complex art form that is both a proud tradition and an intimate communal experience," he added.

The supper at the Battell Chapel will celebrate the life and poetry of Robert Burns with piping, poetry, whisky, and fanfare. "I sort of consider it a black tie event to celebrate the common man," Thomson said.

For Friday's Burns Supper, contact the Norfolk Church of Christ for tickets and info: office@cofcucc.org

For Saturday's concert, registration is recommended via the Norfolk Library website: www.norfolklibrary.org

To find out more about Thomson's upcoming projects, see his website: www.pipemanstudios.com

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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.

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Thank you for your continued support!

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OUR TOWNS

After losing its director, Pine Plains Library perseveres

By ANNA MARTUCCI
Special to The Millerton News

PINE PLAINS — After a successful two years, Pine Plains Free Library director Alexis Tackett is stepping down in order to pursue opportunities closer to her family home in Texas.

Most notably, she worked with the library board to advocate for a more sustainable budget from the Town, work that resulted in voters approving a nearly \$67,000 increase in annual funding.

“Alexis is leaving, and it’s devastating and everyone will miss her, but she left the library in a good place,” said library board president Claire Gunning. This will be the first year that the library is not actively using its reserve money to pay the bills.

However, Gunning said, it remains a challenge to be public library located in a small, rural community. Fundraising can be difficult due to the small population of the town and because other organizations such as The Stissing Center and the fire department compete for donations.

For similar reasons, the library also struggled to fill a vacant board seat until recently, when it was filled by a library volunteer.

“Pine Plains is a very small town, and the same people are tapped for boards everywhere,” Gunning explained.

Another challenge the library faces is the building



PHOTO BY ANNA MARTUCCI

The Pine Plains Free Library is housed on the main floor and has use of some basement rooms. An open upstairs floor is the town Community Center.

can find.”

Gunning is hopeful that with the influx of newcomers to the town and its environs, more people will be interested in supporting the library.

Gunning herself moved to Pine Plains full-time with her husband, who grew up here, in 2022 after retiring from her library position in New York City. Shortly after, she was asked to join the board of the Pine Plains Library, and when former board president Beth McLiverty finished out her term, Gunning was nominated to take over.

Currently the library board has seven members, with bylaws that allow for up to 12.

“The board has a really interesting skill set,” said Gunning. “We have someone who worked for a nonprofit in New Hampshire and has an HR background, a lawyer, someone with a fundraising background — it’s a great group of people who are really working for the same goal. Some of the other libraries that are bigger than ours have larger boards with subcommittees, but we are the kind of board where everyone who

wants to have a say in what is happening can have a say.”

The most pressing matter is the search for a new director, although Tackett is still working part-time doing some of the administrative tasks from afar. The plan is for her to continue to stay on in this capacity and facilitate the transition of the new director.

“A library isn’t just about books, it’s about community and creating a space for people to gather,” said Gunning. “The board supports the work of the librarian, and we are anxious and eager to find someone to take on an interesting role in a small town.”

Located in a town without many cafes, or centralized locations for gathering, the library is a place where books, Wi-Fi and computers are available for anyone who needs them. The library also provides a weekly tech support session, ESL classes, a monthly cookbook group potluck, and a weekly youth writers’ workshop.

“There are lots of people in Pine Plains who need services but won’t necessarily ask for them,” said Gunning. “But they get to know people at the library. Some of the staff have been there a long time.”

The staff and the board are hoping to continue to expand the library’s programming, ideas for which include a Mahjong club, pickleball, yoga, lecturers and author visits.

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The Executive Director collaborates with the Board of Directors and staff to advance the Trust's core mission of safeguarding the natural landscape of Sharon, CT through preservation and conservation, fostering benefits for both the environment and the community. The candidate oversees the administrative and all programmatic aspects of the Trust, managing organizational responsibilities and initiatives. The Executive Director is responsible for overseeing public relations, development, land stewardship and acquisitions, communicating the needs of the Trust with the Board, and the community. Compensation of \$100,000, plus benefits, or commensurate with experience. For more information, please visit sharonlandtrust.org/about/job-postings. To apply, please submit your resume and a cover letter to Tim Hunter at info@sharonlandtrust.org

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