



**SUMMER
NIGHTS
OF CANAAN**

Special Banner, Page A6



PHOTO BY CHARLIE GREENBERG

Rides and games thrill at Millbrook's Fire Dept. Carnival

See CARNIVAL, PAGE A8

Pine Plains native makes on-stage debut in 'Million Dollar Quartet'

See ALEC SISCO, PAGE A8



PHOTO BY CHARLIE GREENBERG

Alec Sisco of Pine Plains joined the cast of “Million Dollar Quartet” at the Sharon Playhouse as Fluke the drummer, marking his on-stage debut after years playing in the pit.

Demolition of fire-damaged Water Dept. building planned

The company, BELFOR Property Restoration — a nationally recognized firm specializing in disaster recovery — will take on the long-anticipated task of clearing the damaged structure. While no firm start date has been set, Caroline Farr-Killmer, who serves as the village's Planning and Zoning Board secretary and has taken on the role of fire project manager, said demolition could begin as early as the next few weeks.

In the immediate aftermath of the fire, the village declared a state of emergency and began working through insurance assessments and inventory recovery. "It's been a long process, and one we knew wouldn't be quick," said Farr-

See DEMOLITION, PAGE A8

Annual corn maze brings fun to local farm's hard work

Despite its long-lasting suc-

See WILLOW BROOK, PAGE A8



PHOTO BY GRACE DEMARCO

Willow Brook Farm's store carries beef, eggs, dairy and locally sourced goods and gifts.



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Our Towns.....	A2-4
Legals.....	A3
Obituaries	A4
Opinion.....	A5
Summer Nights.....	A6

Our Towns.....	A7
Compass.....	B1-4
Our Towns.....	B5
Classifieds.....	B5
Specialist Directory.....	B6

Columns A5



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OUR TOWNS

Village Trustees propose change to allow county residents to sit on some committees

By ALY MORRISSEY
alym@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Village of Millerton Board of Trustees held its annual organizational meeting on Tuesday, July 8, when it voted on a dozen resolutions that set the groundwork for the upcoming year.

Among those present was newly elected trustee Katie Cariello, who joined the board for the first public trustee meeting since her recent election.

As part of the annual housekeeping, several key

positions were appointed or reappointed. Patti Lynch-VandeBogart was named temporary chair of the Planning Board and will serve until September 1, 2025. Village officials noted they will seek a new Planning Board Chair to fill the full term, which runs from July 2025 to June 2026.

An open seat on the Planning Board remains unfilled, though the board hopes to broaden its recruitment pool by adopting a new local law.

That proposed measure, referred to during the meeting as “Local Law X,” would allow both Planning Board

and Zoning Board of Appeals members to live anywhere in Dutchess County — a departure from the current rule, which requires village residency. The goal, according to Village Mayor Jenn Najdek, is to attract a wider range of qualified candidates at a time when local participation has proved challenging.

A public hearing on the proposed law will be held during the trustees’ next meeting on Tuesday, July 29. Residents are encouraged to attend and offer input before the board moves forward with any vote.

Kelly Kilmer was appointed chair of the Zoning Board for the 2025–2026 term, while a five-year seat on that board remains open. Matt Hartzog was reappointed as Deputy Mayor, and Lisa Cope was reappointed as Clerk/Treasurer. Cope was also appointed as the Registrar of Vital Statistics for the coming year.

Other routine resolutions included the naming of the Poughkeepsie Journal as the official village newspaper, approval of mileage and food reimbursements, and setting the schedule for monthly board meetings. Trustees also approved board member attendance at official conferences, continued authorization for certain check signers, and designated emergency interim successors: Deputy Mayor Matt Hartzog, followed by Trustee David Sherman.

Beyond the appointments and resolutions, the board noted the importance of their

next meeting on July 29, which will include the village’s legal counsel and revisit ongoing discussions surrounding ICE. This upcoming session is a continuation of the previous meeting on the issue, and the board is prepared to hear directly from village residents on the matter.

Representatives from Ob-long Books appeared before the board to discuss final preparations for their 50th anniversary celebration, which will take the form of an old-school block party on Saturday, August 9.

The event, which will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on South Center Street, was previously approved by the village, but the bookstore team came to provide updates on safety measures, street closures and logistics. Organizers expect a steady stream of foot traffic and will have food trucks on-site. South Center Street will be closed to vehicles for much of the day for the festivities.

Superintendent of Public Works Peter Dellaghelfa also gave a brief presentation outlining the department’s ongoing efforts to replace vehicle equipment lost in a recent fire. Dellaghelfa noted that the department needs trucks to assist with plowing, maintenance and daily operations.

The board passed a motion allowing the village to move forward with the purchase of a 2016 Dodge Ram Dump Truck, contingent on a successful inspection and a check of the truck’s emissions control system.

Silo Ridge condo plan public hearing continued

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — A public hearing on an application by Silo Ridge to eliminate 13 planned townhouses and substitute ten condominiums in the same space on a single lot was discussed at the regular meeting of the Planning Board on Wednesday, July 9, and then continued again until the Wednesday, Aug. 13, meeting of the Planning Board.

The public hearing on the townhouse to condo planning had begun on Wednesday, June 25. In the meantime, the Housing Board has been drafting a response to the Planning Board’s request for an opinion because local workforce housing laws are a consideration in Silo Ridge master planning. The Housing Board’s opinion has been furnished to the Planning Board, but the board felt more time was needed to digest the contents.

Of concern to planning board members at the June 25 meeting was a potential loss of tax revenue to the town due to the reduction in number of residential units.

“The change will result in no reduction in tax revenue,”

said Silo Ventures consultant Patrick O’Leary at the July 9 meeting. Since the June 25 meeting, O’Leary had examined the plans and completed further fiscal data analysis, leading to his conclusion.

“We are here to be transparent and to provide clarity,” O’Leary told the Planning Board.

A workshop requested by O’Leary has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 23, to allow Silo Ridge developers to describe how the three units being eliminated will be added back in. The July 23 meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

“So, when you come back in, you will do a fiscal analysis,” asked deputy planning board chair Nina Peek

“We want to talk with the Planning Board,” O’Leary explained.

Discussion ensued seeking clarity on the number of units involved in the phased planning to understand the history of the addition and subtraction of units.

“It evolved over time,” said Planning Board engineer John Andrews.

“The Silo Ridge numbers match exactly with John Andrews’ numbers,” O’Leary said.



PHOTO BY CHARLIE GREENBERG

Millbrook Librarian Bridget Martinez holds a baby kangaroo, aged nine months, at the Library’s petting zoo on Saturday, July 12. Each July the Library hosts a free petting zoo with animals from Two-by-Two Animal Haven, open to children and adults alike for an hour every year. “People are always so happy to see [the petting zoo],” said librarian Courtney Tsalhis.

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Local Matters

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OBITUARIES

Camilla Cloney

LAKEVILLE — Camilla Cloney, (née Duncan), May 24, 1930-July 7, 2025, beloved by her husband Tom; stepson Tom (Hiro-mi) and stepdaughter Mary; brother George (MaryLou); sister-in-law Cathy; brothers-in-law Jack, Bob, and Gerry; her niece Janine, and nephews John, Chris, and Marc.

A proud graduate of the University of Oklahoma (Pi Beta Phi), 1950, and the University of Michigan, 1952 (B.A. in Music), she was also a Fulbright fellow in Munich.

Camilla lived a life filled with music, joy, and generosity—sharing her talents as a pianist, percussionist, singer, arranger, music historian, and storyteller. Memorial services will be arranged by the family at a later date. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Camilla's name to the Sharon Playhouse at www.sharonplayhouse.org/donate or mailed to:

Sharon Playhouse
P.O. Box 103
Sharon, CT 06069



Niels Pedersen Sr.

SHARON — Niels (Pete) Pedersen Sr. of Sharon, passed away peacefully on June 27, 2025, at the age of 94.

Born in Sharon, he possessed the ability to talk with anyone and make them feel at home.

He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend known for his storytelling and truck driving. In 1960 he and his brothers started the Pedersen Bros. Bus Company. He later left Pedersen Bros. to drive his tractor trailer truck hauling large farm equipment.

His greatest joy was being surrounded by his family, especially at Sunday night dinners and enjoying his wife's cooking. He also enjoyed driving his Peterbilt across the country and loved when his wife was able to accompany him.

He is survived and missed by his two sons; Niels (Peter) Pedersen, Jr and wife Lori of Sharon, Dennis Pedersen and wife Bonnie of Winchester and his daughter Deborah Pedersen of Winsted. He will forever be remembered by his granddaughters; Hollie Boyuk and husband Michael, Sarah White and husband Michael; five great-grandsons, Dylan and wife Ashley, Brandon, Caleb, Christopher and Jacob and numerous other family members who will forever cherish his memory.

Pete is now reunited with his wife of almost 75 years, Marion Pedersen, and his four siblings Hans, Edward, Anna and Betty.

Calling hours will be held on Aug. 23, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at The Kenny Funeral Home, 41 Main St., Sharon, CT. Burial will be private.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



Father Joseph Kurnath

LAKEVILLE — Father Joseph G. M. Kurnath, retired priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford, passed away peacefully, at the age of 71, on Sunday, June 29, 2025.

Father Joe was born on May 21, 1954, in Waterbury, Connecticut. He attended kindergarten through high school in Bristol.

After graduating in 1972, he moved to Hartford, and after working many temporary jobs, in 1977, he began employment as an office assistant at the law firm of Robinson and Cole. He remained there until 1984 when he began studies at Saint Mary Seminary & University in Baltimore, Maryland.

He was ordained a deacon in 1989 in Baltimore and a priest in 1991 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford.

He has served as seminarian, deacon and priest at Saint Stanicslaus in Meriden, Saint Luke in Hartford, Saint Rose in East Hartford, Saint Mary in Newington, Saint Anthony in Bristol, Saint Mary Hospital in Waterbury, and at over 10 parishes in the archdiocese, and finally as pastor of Saint Mary's Church in Lakeville for 13 years, retiring in 2019.

Father Joe was always proud of his Slovak roots and enjoyed celebrating the Christmas Eve "Vilija" or vigil supper.

In addition to earning a B.A., S.T.B. and M.A. from Saint Mary's Seminary, he also received a M.A. in scripture from the Hartford Seminary.

Preaching and doing pastoral work were his favorite parts of ministry. Father Joe loved people, working with the youth and seeing each person at church, gathering together in imperfection in closeness with God as the Perfect Mystery.

Services will be held July 15, 2025, at 4 p.m. at St. Mary's Church in Lakeville.

He is survived by all his members of the Church in which he considered his family.

You are never alone – God is right beside you.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



Frederick L. Baldwin

CORNWALL — Frederick L. Baldwin was born March 22, 1938, in Cornwall, Connecticut. His parents were Lester F. Baldwin and Esther Strattman Baldwin. He had two siblings, a brother, Lester (Sonny) Baldwin and a sister, Betty Baldwin Bernoi of Canaan. They have both predeceased their brother. He had three daughters; two of them, Katherine Baldwin, and Constance Badwin Whittton, have both predeceased their father. Fred is survived by his daughter, Lisa Baldwin Cragoe of Seattle, Washington, and his grandson, Kevin Whittton of West Hartford. Fred shared many happy years with his life long friend, Barbara Monroe Commerford of Canaan.

Mr. Baldwin graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School (1956), received a B.S. degree from Central Connecticut State College (1960), and an M.A. degree from The University of Connecticut (1964). He did doctoral work at both The University of Connecticut and at The University of Miami.

He taught for five years in the Clinton, Connecticut school system, three years at Central Connecticut State College (laboratory training schools), two years at Florida Atlantic University and twenty eight years at Miami Dade Community College where he retired as Economics Professor Emeritus.

At his request there will be no public funeral services. His remains will be placed in the Hillside Cemetery in East Canaan, Connecticut.

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. Canaan, CT 06018.

Celebration of Life
James Michael 'Mike' Perotti

The family held a Celebration of Life for Mike Perotti who passed away May 5, 2025. It was held at the Knights of Columbus home, 122 Marshall Street in Winsted, CT Saturday July 12 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

David Michael Riva

CANAAN — David Michael Riva, born May 30, 1949, with customers and contractors alike. He worked 7 days a week for most of his adult life, made time for family, and also had time for all of his weekly chores. Even in retirement he worked hard every day.

He is survived by his wife Dina Riva of Colebrook, his sons and family; Jared, Brooke, Elodie, and Val-lie Riva, youngest son and his wife, Kurt and Zuny Riva and his two sisters, Betsy Devino and Lynette Godburn. He will be missed dearly by all.

David requested no services.



OUR TOWNS

Stissing Center to hold art auction fundraiser

By CHARLIE GREENBERG
Special to the Millerton News

PINE PLAINS — This Saturday, July 19, the Stissing Center of Pine Plains will hold an art auction fundraiser between 4 and 6 p.m. to raise funds for the non-profit's cultural programming, which serves as a performance venue and exhibition space.

The auction will be held at the Stissing Center's headquarters at 2920 Church St. in Pine Plains. Admission will cost \$125 — a fee that can be deducted against the selling price of any pieces of art attendees may purchase.

Tickets are available through the Stissing Center's website, or by calling the organization's main phone number. Refreshments and music at the event are included with the price of entry.

On offer at the auction are photographs, paintings, drawings and sculptures — among pieces of other mediums — by such artists as Chuck Close, Kenro and Yumiko Izu, Ellen Berkenbilt, and Anne Lindberg.

Proceeds will contribute to the ongoing restoration of the historic building and toward funding the Stissing Center's programming. Such events at the Stissing Center during its 2025 Summer Season include theater performances, solo and ensemble musical performances and culinary events hosted in the venue's professional kitchen.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Summer music

The first concert of the Paul Winters Summer Music Series on Monday, July 7, moved indoors to the Town Hall due to rain forecasts. Residents turned out to enjoy the rocking sounds of The Crew, a band of veteran NY musicians. Concerts are set for every Monday until Aug. 11.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

'Cello fellows' at Smithfield

Three critically acclaimed NYC cellists playing together in concert for the first time attracted an enthusiastic capacity audience for a varied program at The Smithfield Church on Sunday, July 13. The concert titled "Three Cello Fellows" was part of the Bang Family Concert series. Performing were Robert Burkhart, foreground, Arthur Fiacco, at left, and Alberto Parrini. An added surprise came when NY Philharmonic organist Kent Tritle accompanied the cellists for a Popper Requiem on the church's historic tracker organ.

Realtor® at Large

After years of study, the towns of Kent, Warren and Washington will be voting on restricting the practice of wake boarding on Lake Waramaug this summer. To become educated on this issue, please visit the Waramaug Authority sections on each town's website. For example, here is Kent's: www.townofkentct.gov/lake-waramaug-authority. To dive into the each side of the issue, then please visit Lake Waramaug Friends' website to understand voting no on this issue: lakewaramaugfriends.org/vote-no/. And for voting yes on the petition, please see: www.protectlakewaramaug.org/. Finally, here is the latest development in Kent: lakevillejournal.com/unprecedented-crowds-force-postponement-of-wakesurfing-vote.

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<h2>Worship Services</h2> <p>Week of July 20, 2025</p>	
<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>	<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are, 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</p>
<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>	<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, September 14 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House 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</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates!</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd & 4th Sunday "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>
<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 515 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>	
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138</p>	

Setting fire to normalcy

Come out, come out, wherever you are.

Have you ever watched a pot of water come to a boil? A pot with cool, still water is placed on a stove and the gas is turned on. At first there are little bubbles forming on the pot bottom, then as the heat builds, the bubbles drift to the surface, more bubbles form and enlarge, rise and the process repeats, expands, grows until the surface is roiling away. America is like that now, as the heated MAGA rhetoric has been turned up, gas bubbles rising, now popping, releasing very heated steam.

The scalding steam you see in our country now comes in the form of verbal rhetoric and even on X postings. Anne Coulter said on X: “We didn’t kill enough Indians.” Other MAGA mouthpieces turn up the heat with statements from the likes of Tony Hinchcliffe calling Puerto Rico a “floating island of garbage.” Of course, the leader of the pack is always Stephen Miller who claims that “America is for Americans and Americans only” adding, “restore America to the true Americans,” presumably not meaning the Indian nations.

Another loyal MAGA proponent, Rep. Clay Higgins, took aim at Haitian immigrants, “These Haitians are wild. Eating pets, Vodou, nastiest country in the Western hemisphere, cults, slapstick gangsters... All these thugs better get their mind right and their asses out of our country ...” Of course, there’s always Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (interesting they always use her three names, as they do with perpetrators like Lee Harvey Oswald and Jared Lee Loughner of Tucson). Rep. Marjorie is prized for her outlandish BS-heat making with “Jewish space lasers” causing forest fires or arguing that Reps. and Rashida Tlaib were not official members of Congress because they didn’t swear in on the Bible (neither did Trump put his hand on the bible last inauguration either), or that Obama is secretly a Muslim, or equated vaccine requirements to the persecution of Jews during the Holocaust, and, worst of all, once lied that Nancy Pelosi had said that “We need another school shooting.”

When challenged, these folks always resort to, “...we do have freedom of speech. I’ll say what I want.” All the while

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

they perfectly know they are turning up the heat, setting fire to normalcy.

And their “freedom of speech” rhetoric affirmations are bringing whole gangs of MAGA supporters out of hiding, out into the open, like the Neo-Nazi rallies in Nashville, Tennessee, Columbus, Ohio, Portland, Oregon, Cincinnati, Ohio and a town soon near you. And do you see any of them being arrested or charged? That’s part of the usefulness of the MAGA sponsored steam heat, it frightens away true law-enforcement.

So what does one do with a pot of steaming hot water, to which more and more heat is still being applied? Online you can find sensible solutions like, “Listen and Understand” while you disagree, or “Manage your own reactions, keep calm” or “Engage constructively while looking for areas of agreement.”

Or you can do what real Americans do: Hold individuals accountable for using harmful language and lies. But be careful, when their words of stochastic terrorism becomes overwhelming and boils over, you are likely to become aware of your urge for physical retribution —said another way: riots. It is what they are counting on, for you to get so scalded, and then react with violence.

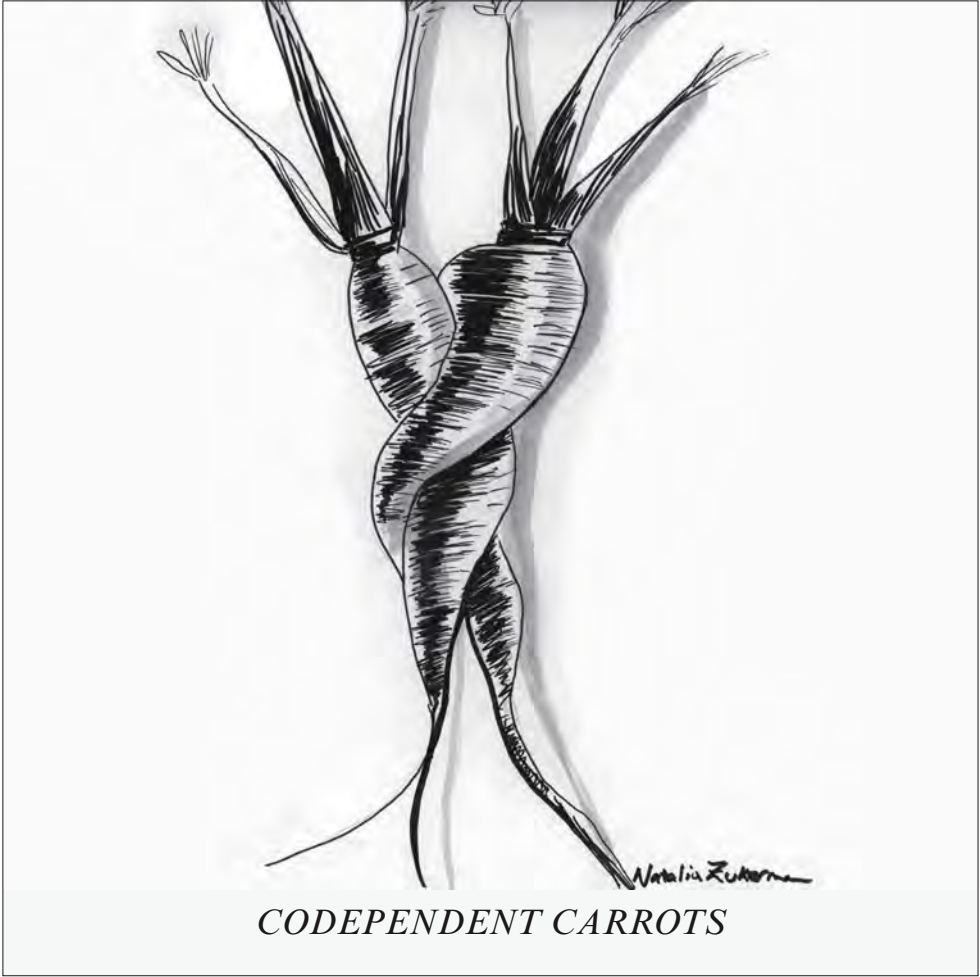
And here’s the lesson: Martin Luther King and Ghandi had it right: Protest in force and numbers non-violently. Oppose them with your presence, be like the young man in Tiananmen Square before those tanks, show up and protest and take the beating, show the real America what is right and expose the real message of fascists. Be the calm of righteousness, not the poison steam of evil. For these people are evil and want to change our nation to gain control over your life — all of your life, every aspect, every moral, every code, every freedom you currently have and will lose if they prevail. We have to oppose them, turn off their heat, before they scald us all.

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



PHOTO BY OLIVIA VALENTINE

On a morning walk last week in Millerton, this non-aggressive black bear had no problem posing for a portrait.



Huge rattlesnake killed; water rate hike; library summer program runs

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

July 19, 1934

‘Lumbermen Kills Huge Rattlesnake’; A huge rattlesnake four feet ten inches in length and having sixteen rattles was killed last week on East Canaan Mountain by lumbermen who exhibited it in Millerton Wednesday evening. The reptile is said to be one of the largest ever seen in that section.

July 17, 1975

‘Town Planners To Make Report Public’; The North East Planning Board met in executive session on Wednesday night, July 16, in order to formulate its position and write up its report on the shopping center proposed for Route 44 on the State line.

The Planning Board is charged with the task of submitting a recommendation to the North East Town Board on whether or not the controversial center should be built.

Planning Board Chairman Harry Schroeder said he hopes to have the report written and ready for the Planning Board’s final approval at its scheduled July 23 meeting: “We should have it written up by then. I should hope so.”

‘Board Plans Increase Of Village Water Rates’; For the first time in 60 years the Village Board has decided to greatly increase the water rates in Millerton. The scale of increase is still being considered.

At a Board meeting on Wednesday night, July 9, Jack Dean, Village superintendent of public works, reported that between 250,000 and 280,000 gallons of water was pumped to 450 customers every day in the Village. The revenue from that brings in an estimated \$12,000 to \$13,000 a year.

By comparison, asserted Mayor John Hermans, Pine Plains pumps 40,000 gallons a day to 280 customers but takes in revenues of \$16,000 a year.

Hermans said this week that “the water system is getting more and more expensive. We can’t give it away anymore. We’re close to running in the red every year.”

Hermans also contended that local industries are not paying for the percentage of water used. He cited that Taconic Products uses ap-

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Millerton News

proximately 33 per cent of the water, but is not billed accordingly.

The Board is considering a plan to double the present flat rate for water to Village residents. Customers will be billed according to the number and type of water outlets they own.

‘Bicentennial Quilt Contest Continues’; A sewing square competition continues in 3 area towns for the benefit of the Dutchess County Bicentennial Quilt, according to North. East Town Quilt Chairperson Joan Hicks.

The North East Committee will judge the squares made in the town for the county quilt. The entries must be completed by Sept. 1 and left at the Millerton Free Library.

The competition is open to all organizations and citizens in the Towns, of North East, Pine Plains, and Milan. The squares are to depict an historic event, a noted historic building or artifact or a mode of lifestyle, representative of the locale such as farming, candle making, weaving, mining or other industries.

The square must run 12 inches by 12 inches when finished. It should be cut to the measure 13 inches by 13 inches, allowing a ½ inch seam in cotton or cotton blend. The color in the background should be neutral or pastel since the joining strips will be medium blue to incorporate the county colors. The square can be designed by applique or embroidery or any combination.

Ms. Hicks said that she hoped that there would be enough entries in the contest so that the squares not sent to the county could be made into a quilt for the Town of North East. For information contact Joan Hicks or Marion Byron.

July 20, 2000

‘Summer Program Continues at Millerton Library’; MILLERTON - The North-East-Millerton Library began its summer reading program July 18. “Discovery 2000 Read,” will last for five weeks and end with a celebration party Saturday, Aug. 19.

Children of all ages are encouraged to sign up at the library so that the books they

read throughout the summer may be recorded. For each book that is read, a ticket will be awarded and the child will be eligible for the daily raffle for a chance to pick a prize from the Treasure Chest.

Each week, there will be a different “Guess the number” jar on our registration desk. Guess the number of items in the jar and, at the end of the week, the child who has guessed closest to the actual number will be the winner of the contents of the jar. In previous summers, the jars have contained balls, cars and trucks, candy or school supplies.

Story and craft hours will also take place during the summer program.

Infants to 36 months will have a short nap-time session (20 minutes) Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.; preschool ages 3 to 5 years will enjoy a 45-minute story hour and craft project Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.; and school-age children are invited Saturdays, at 10:30 a.m., for a craft project and story.

‘Rail Trail Association Will Sponsor Celebration’; MILLERTON - The Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association (HVRTA) will sponsor a day-long celebration of the Rail Trail’s arrival in Millerton Saturday, July 29. The day’s activities include a Fun Run for kids and a spike-driving ceremony to mark the connecting of Millerton and Amenia by the Rail Trail. “The arrival of the trail

OPINION

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in Millerton has been long awaited and is a huge milestone for the trail,” said HVRTA chairman Dick Hermans. Mr. Hermans said the number of users on the 8.2-mile Amenia-to-Millerton section has skyrocketed since Dutchess County officially opened the new section from Coleman Station to Millerton June 22.

The celebration July 29 will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a Fun Run for kids on the Rail Trail behind the North East Community Center. “This is just a prelude to bigger, higher caliber races that we hope will be run on the trail in the future,” added Mr. Hermans.

After the Fun Run, there will be a bike parade to Coleman Station for the spike-driving ceremony. Simultaneous bike parades from Millerton and Amenia to Coleman Station, along the Rail Trail, will commence at 10 a.m.

Amenia Town Supervisor Arlene Juliano will lead bicyclists from Amenia, while North East Supervisor David Sherman and Millerton Mayor Michael Cawley will lead bicyclists from Millerton. A panel of judges will select the best-decorated bikes and prizes will be awarded.

At 11 a.m., a golden spike will be driven into the ground at Coleman Station in a ceremony similar to the one that marked the completion of the transcontinental railroad in the 1800s.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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

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2025 SUMMER NIGHTS OF CANAAN

July 16-19, 2025 • North Canaan, Conn.

**WEDNESDAY,
JULY 16**

**COBBLER
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Market & Bakery
324 Norfolk Rd.

**CANAAN
CARNIVAL**
6 to 10 p.m.
Bunny McGuire Park

**FRIDAY,
JULY 18**

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5 to 7 p.m.
Douglas Library | 108
Main St.

**CANAAN
CARNIVAL**
6 to 10 p.m.
Bunny McGuire Park

**THURSDAY,
JULY 17**

**CANAAN
CARNIVAL**
6 to 10 p.m.
Bunny McGuire Park

**SATURDAY,
JULY 19**

BOOT DRIVE
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
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3RD ANNUAL FLY-IN
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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547 W. Main St.

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Canaan Union Station

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ACCORDION
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9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Canaan Union Station

**CANAAN
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3 to 10 p.m.
Bunny McGuire Park

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of Canaan**
July 19th 2025

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10am-6pm	Canaan Union Depot Museum The museum tells the story of the town, station, and railways that once passed through North Canaan.
4pm-8pm	Snow Berry Treats Food Truck Food truck featuring unique desserts such as Dubai chocolate, bubble waffles, spaghetti ice cream & more!
5pm-8pm	Berkshire Resilience Brass Band Musical Performance - A group of musicians from the Southern Berkshire, MA region.
6pm	Canaan Fire Co. Annual Parade Annual fireman's parade showcasing local fire companies along with a float/group contest for participating individuals & organizations.
9pm	Fireworks Show Set to start once dark 9/915pm. Prime viewing from the Canaan Union Depot!

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Millbrook Horse Trials ready for 40th anniversary

By **ALY MORRISSEY**
alym@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Millbrook Horse Trials will mark a major milestone this summer as they celebrate their 40th anniversary — a legacy of world-class equestrian sport, land conservation and community engagement.

Held from July 24 to 27 on the scenic grounds of Riga Meadow at Coole Park, the four-day event features dressage, cross-country and stadium jumping. But it also offers a full weekend of family-friendly fun, with food trucks, local vendors, a petting zoo, tailgating and a Trade Fair and Millbrook Weekend Market.

Roughly 400 horses will compete, from Olympic athletes to young, local riders. Spectators can walk the cross-country course, catch stadium jumping from benches and enjoy refreshments.

Board members Mimi Babcock and Nancy Stahl, longtime stewards of the event, say the Horse Trials' endurance stems from its competitive range and community spirit.

"One of the things that makes the Millbrook Horse Trials special is that it's a true community event," said Stahl. "There's something for everyone — from elite sport to great food and vendors. Saturday's cross-country day is a favorite — it's exciting and beautiful to watch."

In a retrospective on the event's history, event volunteer and writer Tara Kelly noted that the Millbrook Horse Trials was "born out of tragedy." When founding organizer Louise Meryman lost her barn and all of her horses in a fire in 1982, clients rallied to rebuild on what had been the Kinney family dairy farm. "It's the same land the event still calls home today," Kelly wrote.

That land was later saved from development by a group of conservation-minded residents and ultimately transferred to Millbrook School, securing the Trials' future and tying the event closely to local land preservation efforts.

"It's thanks to that community effort that we're able to use this land today," said Babcock. "It's a real example of how preservation and sport can work together."

As the only Advanced-level horse trials in United States Eventing Association Area 1, the Millbrook Horse Trials have become a key event for riders at the top of the sport.

"So many events have closed across the country in the last 10 years," said Babcock. "We're one of the few left. Riders come from as far as Virginia, Florida and New England. It's incredibly exciting for the sport."

But it's not just for top competitors. With levels ranging from beginner novice to advanced, the event draws riders of all backgrounds — from Olympians to children riding with trainers.

"That inclusivity is part of what's kept us going," Stahl said. "Younger riders warming up next to Olympic athletes — it's inspiring. The kids always want autographs."

The event wouldn't be possible without a vast network of volunteers and sponsors. Key supporters this year include Goldman Sachs, Porsche of Danbury, Bank of Millbrook, Millbrook Equine, Rhinebeck Equine and Yellow Frames Farm, among others. Babcock and Stahl also gave thanks to fellow board member Caroline Merison, and volunteers Louise Meryman and Olivia van Melle Kamp.

The Trials also host a Sunday benefit luncheon near the stadium course, where guests can purchase tickets or reserve private tents.

"It's a lovely way to enjoy the day and recognize the people who make this event happen," Stahl said.

"This is a team effort," Babcock said. "Our mission is to keep it going, to bring in the next generation of riders and volunteers so this can continue. Millbrook is on the map, and we're proud of that."

The Millbrook Horse Trials are free and open to the public, welcoming both horse lovers and curious newcomers to one of the region's most celebrated summer events.



PHOTOS BY LEILA HAWKEN

Amenia Garden Tour visitors took in the beauty on Saturday, July 12, exploring the garden paths nurtured by Emily Fuller surrounding her Teeniepaw Cottage home.



Welcoming visitors during the Amenia Garden Club annual tour, Real Gardens of Amenia, on Saturday, July 12, was Garden Club vice president Nina Peek, stationed near the entrance to the Stefanopoulos family garden.

Annual Real Gardens of Amenia Tour shows a varied sampling of local gardens

By **LEILA HAWKEN**
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — Always an annual draw, the Amenia Garden Tour, titled "Real Gardens of Amenia," drew a steady stream of visitors to admire five local gardens on Saturday, July 12, each one presenting a different gardening vibe, but all specializing in beauty of layout and blooms. A true community feel, the event was an activity planned by the Amenia Garden Club and supported by Paley's Garden Center in Sharon.

With the exception of the manicured beauty of Wethersfield, one of the five stops on the tour, the remaining four gardens were spectacular showings of gardens in progress, evolving from season to season, under the informed care and dedication of their owners, assisted by

their bright green thumbs. "Anyone can garden," said Michael Peek as he greeted visitors to Wethersfield, pleased that the grand show-case gardens were part of the tour. He expressed amazement that so many local residents are not familiar with that "most beautiful place."

Also on the tour was Emily Fuller's Teeniepaw Cottage garden pathways brimming with color and texture with attention to finding just the right location for a plant or tree to thrive. Her garden is attractive to birds and insects alike.

The Stefanopoulos family opened their expansive garden property to the Garden Club for the first time this year, allowing visitors to see orchards, perennials, and vegetables.

"I'm delighted by the variety of gardens," said Garden Club vice president Nina

Peek, welcoming visitors to the Stefanopoulos property.

"It's a positive thing for the community to enjoy this annual event," Peek added.

Also included on the tour was the impressive garden of Jim Flaherty developed over 15 years surrounding his home that is a converted and renovated dairy barn. He and his late partner, Bob Skibsted, developed the garden landscape from weedy terrain into breathtaking beauty that visitors enjoyed on the tour.

Thomas Tunk's Wassaic

garden offered colorful repose in the rear of his home, demonstrating gardening possibilities in a limited area, intriguingly close to the railroad tracks. The tracks only come to mind when a train speeds past, leaning on the horn. Tunk's garden project began in 2020 during the pandemic when outdoor activities were popular. A theme to the planning was to create a collection of plants and that collection, now happily in bloom, proved to be a delight to Garden Club tour visitors.

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DEMOLITION *Continued from Page A1*

Killmer. “This isn’t something you can rush. There are environmental regulations, safety procedures and a lot of paperwork. But we finally have a demo company and that’s a good step forward.” Village officials want the public to feel assured that Millerton is “in good hands,” with much of the hard work happening out of sight.

Once the site is cleared, the village will begin planning for reconstruction — though this time, two separate buildings will be erected: one for the highway department and one for water operations. The separation is required under Dutchess County Department of Health regulations due to the presence of a municipal water well on site.

In the months since the fire, officials have worked to reassure residents that the village’s water supply remains safe and unaffected. Weekly testing is conducted by VRI Environmental Services, and results are reported to the Department of Health.

“Even though the building is gone, our water operations are still being handled with care and oversight,” said Farr-Killmer, who has led much of the recovery effort.

Once demolition begins, the area will be fully secured

with fencing, especially given its proximity to Eddie Collins Park, where children and families frequently gather. Farr-Killmer stressed that the site will be treated as a construction zone and closed to the public during the process.

“It’s right next to where kids play, so safety is at the top of our list,” she said. “There will be no access to the site, and the restoration company will be taking full measures to ensure it’s sealed off.” Farr-Killmer added, “We know people want to see something happening, and we do too,” said Farr-Killmer. “This is just the beginning, but it’s a very important step.”

WILLOW BROOK *Continued from Page A1*

plans for Beneke to carry out in the field. This year, Swift was joined by a local boy named Leo, who came up with this year’s barn-themed design.

Swift sketches the design onto a piece of paper and creates a graphic design before she hands it off to Beneke. “Ken’s brain works in mysterious ways. He just holds the paper while he drives his lawn mower, while most people pay to have it done on a GPS. He just does it on his own,” she said.

While creating these plans, Swift thinks of how Beneke will be able to put mower to corn. With last year’s Yankee logo design, there were curves to keep in mind. “I have to think of the curves,” she said. “It obviously works better if there are angles. So we got the curves with the angles. It just took a little time, but he’s just super creative in getting it done.”

After the plan is put in place, Beneke will mow the corn about three times during the preparation season to keep it from growing back, the first of which he began on a sunny Thursday, July 10.

Usually, the maze is ready around the last week of August, when people begin to ask and anticipate its arrival. Customers will be able to come in, pay and walk across the street to complete the maze on their own, given a map to follow, courtesy of Beneke’s

friend who provides aerial drone images.

Although opening day to the maze is busy, Swift said that the farm “doesn’t do any grand opening or anything. It is mostly word of mouth, and we haven’t had to advertise yet, which is fantastic. People know we’re going to be here.”

The corn maze has become an important event for not only its customers, but its proprietors as well. “The corn maze is very important to Ken,” said Swift. “He has always wanted to do it since he was young.” It is what keeps the pair excited to create the maze every year.

After last year, Beneke has also been eager to provide a second haunted corn maze on Halloween weekend, which will be put into action by Beneke’s son and Swift’s daughter along with friends. With the previous years being successful, Willow Brook Farm hopes to attract more customers to the haunted maze through advertisements.

For all eager to navigate this year’s Willow Brook Farm Corn Maze, it will be open Thursday through Monday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from late August until the field is mowed after Halloween. It will also be open for groups by appointment. Prices are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children. Willow Brook Farm is located at 196 Old Post Road off of Route 22 just north of the Village of Millerton.

every taste. Drawing on his 25 years of experience, Mack had programmed his playlist to start off with easy listening tunes and then build up intensity as the event progressed and he could see toes tapping.

Former Mayor Tim Collopy was happy to attend the carnival on Thursday, July 10, with his grandchildren. He noted that the carnival had not been held for the past five years.

“It’s a great community event for kids young and old,” Collopy said, heading off in the direction of the carnival rides.

Friday’s musical performance featured Heavy Gauge, a classic rock band that plays shows across the Hudson Valley.

The carnival wrapped up on Saturday, July 12, starting with the firemen’s parade at 6 p.m. followed by more live music from the aptly named Rhythm & Blues.

Charlie Greenberg and Nathan Miller contributed reporting to this story.

CARNIVAL *Continued from Page A1*

Serving up fried dough at the Millbrook Fire Department Carnival on Thursday, July 10, were members of the Amenia Fire Company, left to right, Chris Klingner, Dawn Marie Klingner and Joe Bartlett.



PHOTOS BY LEILA HAWKEN



Little Ritchie Pitz, 2, having won a prize of a large orange bat, celebrates the moment with his dad, Brad, at the Millbrook Fire Department Carnival on Thursday, July 10.

ALEC SISCO *Continued from Page A1*

ran at the Sharon Playhouse between June 20 and July 6.

The musical included songs made famous by Presley, Cash, Lewis and Perkins played live on stage by the actors portraying them. Sisco’s character of ‘Fluke’ provided a live drum accompaniment during the show, before taking center stage in a solo.

The majority of the musical’s cast included professional and union players, who travelled to Sharon from New York City to perform in Million Dollar Quartet. But Mr. Sisco, a music teacher with the Pine Plains Central School District, joined the occupational actors for the summer out of his love of music and theater.

Sisco’s mother introduced him to music while growing up in Pine Plains through piano lessons, igniting a passion that would lead to a career focused on performing and teaching. “I always loved singing, dancing and playing piano ... then I eventually got into playing drums in elementary school and it all started there,” Sisco said.

Though Mr. Sisco has been engaged previously at the Sharon Playhouse, as a musician in the “pit” accompanying performances, his appearance in Million Dollar Quartet marks his first true, on-stage role. “This is my first

time [at the Sharon Playhouse] being on stage acting and having lines and things like that,” Sisco said.

Having acted in college and played the drums for musicals in the area, the role of “Fluke” intrigued Mr. Sisco in its union of acting and playing the drums. “Hearing about this show and seeing how fun the story and the music are ... it seemed like a really awesome opportunity for someone who drums,” the actor said.

Mr. Sisco was not alone in the impression that the drummer’s role would be an appropriate one for him. “When we decided to produce Million Dollar Quartet, I knew Alec was the perfect person to take on the pivotal role of ‘Fluke,’ the drummer,” said Carl Landress, Artistic Director at the Sharon Playhouse.

In addition to being a talented performer in his own right, Sisco spends much of his time teaching aspiring actors and musicians. Following his work in Million Dollar Quartet, the local educator will spend time as the musical director of the upcoming youth show Finding Nemo Jr. at the Sharon Playhouse.

Mr. Sisco’s affection for musical theater and its instruction aligns strongly with the mission of the Sharon Playhouse, a non-profit fo-

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Brothers Paul and John Stefanopoulos at the Four Brothers Drive-In in Amenia, NY

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When the guide gets it wrong

After moving to West Cornwall in 2012, we were given a thoughtful housewarming gift: the 1997 edition of “Dirr’s Hardy Trees and Shrubs.” We were told the encyclopedic volume was the definitive gardener’s reference guide — a fact I already knew, having purchased one several months earlier at the recommendation of a gardener I admire.

At the time, we were in the thick of winter invasive removal, and I enjoyed reading and dreaming about the trees and shrubs I could plant to fill in the bare spots where the bittersweet, barberry, multiflora rose and other invasive plants had been. Years later, I purchased the 2011 edition, updated and inclusive of plants for warm climates.

On the cover of the new edition, a quote from Adrian Higgins of The Washington Post boasts, “Michael Dirr is the oracle of ornamental horticulture. I trust his judgements implicitly.” I heartily disagree with Mr. Higgins: I blame this book — and my poor use of it — for some of my worst tree and shrub choices.

I realize some readers might find this declaration inflammatory. The book still occupies a place of high regard among experienced and novice gardeners alike, so please allow me to explain.

In addition to giving the reader his opinion on the aesthetic worthiness of the woody plants included in the book, Mr. Dirr makes good on the book’s title with a review of each species’ hardiness. What makes a tree hardy? It thrives in its intended site, resisting disease with leaves and bark not readily eaten by insects and other critters.

Non-native plants make up the majority of the recommended hardy plants in the book. And here is why: Native trees and shrubs are, by evolution’s design, food source and host to our native fauna — critters large and small. There is no substitute equal to the fauna’s co-evolved flora. A native caterpillar cannot eat a kousa dogwood leaf, as it has not evolved to digest it. Non-native plants seemingly have the advantage if the lens we look through values pristine, uneaten leaves. In the days when



there were sufficient thriving ecosystems to maintain local habitats, a non-native specimen tree here and there was just fine. But where we live in Northwest Connecticut, our woods, meadows, marshes and other natural areas have, for a couple of decades, been severely compromised by invasives that have almost entirely removed the food sources for native insects. It is up to us — now — to plant native plants to save the food chain. Without insects, not only will native animals die, but human food sources will also be at risk.

The security of our food pipeline seems a worthy exchange for some caterpillar-eaten leaves — and to be clear, we’re not talking about non-native infestations such as spongy moth, but rather native caterpillars, which are the singular food source for nesting birds.

My issue is that, in being a trusted source for plant selection, Dirr’s book should give equal — if not prioritized — space to information on ecological impact. For example, it would be good to know when selecting a tree, that a native oak provides food and other ecosystem services to more than 400 native animal species, while a native tulip poplar supports fewer than 30 — though that includes the Eastern tiger swallowtail. Including information on the birds and insects attracted to a given plant would enable reader to weigh these factors in choosing what to grow. But this information is not mentioned at all.

Dirr makes no mention of the role some of



Rosa setigera is a native climbing rose whose simple flowers allow bees to easily collect pollen.

these plants have played in the degradation of our natural areas — an omission that is highly relevant, as many of the plants featured in his book are, in fact, invasive culprits. Plants like barberry, porcelain berry and tree of heaven are showcased for consideration alongside native plants without recognition of the devastating infestations they can manifest. Tree of Heaven is now responsible for hosting the spotted lanternfly, which is devastating crops.

Similarly *Euonymus alatus* (winged euonymus) and *Actinidia arguta* (hardy kiwi) — two highly invasive plants touted in the book — have been banned or are close to being banned for sale from nurseries in the state of Massachusetts. To his credit, Dirr does point out the invasive nature of *Ligustrum sinense* (Chinese privet), calling it “a terrible and devastating escapee that terrorizes floodplains, fencerows and even open fields, reducing native

vegetation to rubble.” Yet Japanese honeysuckle gets an understated warning, with Dirr describing this massively invasive shrub as “bullying their way into understory and open areas.”

The latest edition of Dirr’s book devotes seven pages of copy and photos to various *Berberis* species, about which Dirr waxes poetic. He notes the addition of “30 new cultivars” in the latest revision and complains that “this species is under assault for its aggressive invasive nature.” He refers to *Berberis thunbergii* — Japanese barberry, the most invasive of them all — as “the species of major importance in garden commerce.” This plant has already been outlawed for sale in New

Continued on Page B4



Foxtrot Farm & Flowers’ historic barn space during UAW’s 2024 exhibition entitled “Unruly Edges.”

ART: BRIAN GERSTEN

A few highlights from Upstate Art Weekend 2025

Art lovers, mark your calendars. The sixth edition of Upstate Art Weekend (UAW) returns July 17 to 21, with an exciting lineup of exhibitions and events celebrating the cultural vibrancy of the region. Spanning eight counties and over 130 venues, UAW invites residents and visitors alike to explore the Hudson Valley’s thriving creative communities.



Here’s a preview of four must-see exhibitions in the area:

1. Wassaic Project
37 Furnace Bank Road, Wassaic)

“So It Goes” is a powerful group exhibition curated by Eve Biddle, Bowie Zunino, Jeff Barnett-Winsby, and Will Hutnick. The title, drawn from Kurt Vonnegut’s “Slaughterhouse-Five,” signals a reckoning with how we process the horrors of the world. Through play, reflection, and immersive scale, 43 artists respond with urgency and imagination. Installations can be seen throughout the town of Wassaic at Maxon Mills, Gridley Chapel, and Luther Barn, each space

Continued on next page

At The Movies

 Moviehouse		SHOWTIMES & TICKETS ▶		
FRI 07/18 > THU 07/24		(518) 789-0022		themoviehouse.net
SUPERMAN		Saturday, July 19 9:00PM Late Night Classics		
JANE AUSTEN WRECKED MY LIFE		PRIMER		
SMURFS		Thursday, July 24 Art House Theater Day		
PLIGHT		WHISPER OF THE HEART NIGHTS OF CABIRIA		
F1: THE MOVIE		THE SEARCH FOR INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE		
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Summer Concert Series

Music by the Pond Presents



THE CORNER CHOIR
Thursday, July 24th
2:00-4:00pm

Bring your chairs and blankets and settle down to the uplifting songs from the combined churches of St. Martin of Tours, an incredible choir that boasts three generations of members. With Deridre Broderick as the as the Choir Master, you know this will be a performance you won’t want to miss! Enjoy complimentary snacks and drinks. The show will go on rain or shine!

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Remembering Glenn the Trout Spotter

My nomadic attorney Thos is planning a fishing and camping trip of major proportions later this summer, starting in New Mexico and working his way north through the Rockies into Canada.

So I wanted to reconnect with a fellow named Glenn May, who was my main fishing buddy for several years in the 1990s when we both lived in Albuquerque and worked at the same bookstore. Last I heard he was living in Colorado, which is on the itinerary, more or less.

An email bounced back so I tried Facebook, only to learn he died in his sleep in February.

He was a little younger than me, about 60 I guess.

This was disconcerting.

I was already working at the bookstore when he came on board, and we recognized our mutual interest when I found him trying to carve out a shelf or two for fly-fishing titles amid the general chaos of the sports section.

I had a Ford Escort, which was good on gas but didn't hold much gear, especially when you factored in critical supplies such as beer.

He had a gigantic and battered Ford F350 which was terrible on gas but would go anywhere and could hold everything. It also had a long-expired Delaware li-



TANGLED LINES
PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

cense plate, which made for some tense moments.

We managed to wangle the same two days off, Sunday and Monday, and we'd often bug out after our Saturday second shift and fetch up somewhere around 1 a.m., pitch a tent and be on the water at dawn.

The bookstore did not pay much, and out West the distances (and gas consumption) are exponentially greater than in the relatively compact East.

If it was near the first of the month, we took the Escort. Mid-month when we were feeling bucks up, we'd go with the truck.

Glenn was a dry fly guy to his core. I had been trained in similar fashion but was dabbling in the dark arts of subsurface fishing, so when one of us was catching the other was often fishing.

He was also a Dallas Cowboys fan. They were suffering through a particularly bad season one year in the mid-90s, and as we drove from river to river we listened to the games on the radio. He lamented, and I privately gloated.

I wandered back east but Glenn stayed put, eventually becoming a fairly big name in the New Mexico newspaper



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

The late Glenn May on one of his favorite rivers, the San Juan in New Mexico, circa 2010.

world. He wrote about fly-fishing for the Albuquerque Tribune and about everything for the Santa Fe New Mexican, and that's not a complete list.

Then he was off to Cameroon with the Peace Corps. And then Turkey, not in the Peace Corps. He did a stint teaching English in South Korea.

I occasionally got cryptic emails describing the fishing in places like Bulgaria, and he kept up a Facebook presence, so I had some idea of what he was doing.

More recently he was

back in the Four Corners, working for the Ute tribal nation in some capacity. I think there was a wife in there too.

I'm struck — again — by how, over the years, I have spent a lot of time with fishing friends and I know next to nothing about them except they dislike fishing with dropper rigs and have a weakness for hazelnut coffee.

The other thing that stands out about Glenn was that he was the best trout spotter I have ever fished with. No scouting flies for this guy. He was almost always aiming at specific fish, where I was working specific spots. To use a sports analogy, he played man-to-man while I played zone.

I spoke to him on the phone in 2004. We reminisced about the time we were edging around a canyon pool and when he looked back all he saw was my ballcap floating on the surface. (I was underneath temporarily.)

Or the time the drunk idiots chucked rocks

into the pools we were working. They were poor shots so the rocks came very close to hitting us. They also called our fly rods "fairy sticks."

We snuck up on them later when they were cavorting in a hot spring and let the air out one of their tires. Only one. We wanted the punishment to fit the crime.

They recovered enough that we encountered them later at a rustic saloon that sold flies and had a collection of brassieres attached to the ceiling. Luckily they didn't put two and two together, probably because they were engrossed by the decor. We prudently oiled out and made our escape.

I'll wrap this with a story about the famous New Mexico tailwater, the San Juan River.

The first time we tried it together he was doing well with miniscule dry flies, size 24 callibaetis, and long leaders tapered to 7X.

I think this was when my antipathy for what I

call "specks" started. No matter what, I could not lay out my speck the way he could.

So while he was horsing big fat rainbows into the net, I was fumbling with tackle and cussing.

Finally, I tied on a big gaudy Royal Coachman fly with a pink post and about twice the normal amount of hackle. I think I bought it at the brassiere bar.

Shortening my leader to something around seven feet and 3X, I heaved it near the streamside vegetation while Glenn watched. He may have smirked a bit.

A nice rainbow, probably rejoicing at the prospect of a square meal instead of nibbling on specks, smacked the ridiculous fly and we were off.

It was big enough, and I had consumed enough beer, that Glenn kindly assisted in netting the beast. He looked at it, the fly and at me, shook his head, and said "Now that is some raggedy fly-fishing."

... Upstate Art

transformed by this deeply thoughtful show.

2. Foxtrot Farm & Flowers (6862 Route 82, Stanfordville)

"Queer Bestiary," a group show curated by Charlotte Woolf, is inspired by Patricia Ononiwu Kaishian's book "Forest Euphoria." The exhibition investigates queer ecology and human relationship to land through the work of 10 artists using painting, sculpture, textiles, and photography. The exhibit is accompanied by a variety of interactive experiences including tattoo pop-ups, karaoke, book readings, and pick-your-own flowers.

3. ChaShaMa North/ChaNorth (2600 Route 199, Pine Plains)

ChaShaMa North (ChaNorth) will have open studios all weekend and has partnered with Paradise Palase, a platform for emerging artists, to mount a site-specific sculpture exhibition featuring 20 artists entitled "Alone, You Are Heard." On Saturday evening, July 19, stop by for Weird Music Night for an audio-visual synthesis of experimental music, performance art, and unexpected

happenings. Don't miss this opportunity to experience an eclectic lineup of acts that redefine the boundaries of performance.

4. Millbrook Arts Project (3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook)

The Millbrook Arts Project is hosting a curated exhibit entitled "Generated Utility" at the newly renovated gallery at the village library. The exhibit will feature the work of artists Natalie Beall and Kathy Greenwood. Additionally, visitors will have access to 12 open artists studios across town. The weekend culminates in

Continued from previous page

a free outdoor concert on Saturday evening at 6 p.m. at the Millbrook Bandshell. Enjoy the Indie-Folk sounds of Strawberry Runners and She Keeps Bees.

For more information and a complete list of participating artists and locations, visit: upstateartweekend.org

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ART: ROBIN RORABACK

Collage exhibit brings layers of history and art to Falls Village

From July 12 through August 8, the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village will host “Collage Redux!,” an exhibit featuring the collages and box constructions of Lakeville resident, Ingrid Freidenbergs.

A highlight of the exhibit will be Freidenberg’s Art Talk on July 24 at 5:30 p.m., featuring a screening of “Cycles,” a short film by her son, Paul Feder, who also co-composed the score with fellow musician Sam McCoy. The film presents the photography of Freidenbergs’ late husband Jack Feder, whose photos appeared in “Life,” “Newsweek,” and “The New York Times.”

The film is an important piece of the show. “This is my first show without Jack here. A way to bring Jack in is to show the film.”

Although both Freidenbergs and her husband were psychologists, they also pursued and loved the arts. When they first met and throughout their years together, “Art was the thing we communicated about,” said Freidenbergs.

Freidenbergs recalled a trip to the British Museum. She’d been studying watercolor with painter John Hardy and with a letter of introduction from him, she and Federal went into the vaults and spent the day looking at cases of Turner watercolors. “I loved it,” remembered Freidenbergs.

She and Federal traveled the world together, bringing home pieces of art they loved.

Freidenbergs’ art was — and continues to be — heavily influenced by her family’s flight from Latvia when she was just an infant in 1944. In her personal statement she says, “World War II changed my life, so little wonder that collage has



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

Ingrid Freidenbergs at her studio in Lakeville.

become my mode of expression as well. The family farm disappeared; fortunes were buried and scattered. So, we too were scattered around Europe, then America, picking up pieces of culture and cast-off debris along the way.”

She and her family spent seven years in displaced persons camps in Europe before emigrating to the United States.

Freidenbergs began her pursuit of art with watercolor but after her son’s birth, she found collage to be a perfect fit for her. “It was something I could do with the many distractions of a young child.” She developed a method of working that she still utilizes. “I could put things down, walk away, go back, move things, look at them upside down and all ways, and walk away again...” until she arrived at the perfect composition.

Collage also com-

bined her love of cloth, paper, color (red being a recurring theme), feathers, buttons, old books, and other found materials.

And most perfectly, collage gave her an outlet to “make sense of a shattered world. Form, line, texture, and color are joined to balance the disparate parts. Through the process of assembling these parts I can once again start to feel in control of my life,” she explained.

Of one show Freidenbergs participated in, “The New York Times” wrote “there is no doubt as to Freidenbergs’ gift for conveying atmosphere thick with something, be it guilt, intrigue, death or simply a relish for the forbidden.”

The David M. Hunt Library is located at 63 Main Street in Falls Village and Collage Redux! will be on view during library hours.

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• Kid’s activities

• Scavenger hunt

• Live music

• Face painting



Questions?

Please email
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Local Matters

The Lakeville Journal is a 501(c)(3) news organization covering the communities of Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon.

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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JULY 17

Modern Calligraphy
Workshop with Debby Reelitz

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

On Thursday, July 17, 4 p.m., come learn the popular and playful Modern Calligraphy with calligrapher Debby Reelitz at the David M. Hunt Library! In this workshop, you will learn where this style comes from, strategies on how to create this lettering style and projects to use the skills you have learned. No experience necessary! More information about Debby Reelitz is available at: letteringdesign.com This program is free and available for ages 8 – adult or younger with permission. Sign up today or contact the library to register.

JULY 18

Roaring 20s Cocktail Party

Douglas Library, 108 Main St., North Canaan, Conn. douglaslibrarycanaan.org

The Douglas Library of North Canaan will host a summer cocktail party with a Roaring 20's theme on Friday, July 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, wine and punch will be served: tickets are \$15 per person and \$25 a couple and available at the door. Dressing up is optional. All proceeds benefit the Douglas Library. 860-824-7863 for further info.

JULY 19

Stanford Grange Summer Penny Social

Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville, N.Y.

Stanford Grange #808 will host a Summer Penny Social on Saturday, July 19, 2025. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. (strictly enforced), calling begins at 7 p.m., and the Grange Hall has air conditioning! There will be penny prizes, \$1 table, homemade baked goods, theme baskets, 50/50 drawing, and door prizes. Summer items will be featured. The Grange Youth will have refreshments for sale (please don't bring outside food - it takes money away from the kids). For more information, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869 or the Stanford Grange Hall at (845) 868-1700.

The Great Amusement Park Mystery

Sharon Playhouse, 49 Amenia Road, Sharon, Conn.

Saturday, July 19 at 11 a.m. (Morning Cast) & 4 p.m. (Afternoon Cast) A comedic whodunit set in a porcupine-themed amusement park, performed by local youth ages 9–12.

Farm Feast with Kevin Pike and Robin Touchet from Branchwater Farms

Stissing House, 7801 S. Main St., Pine Plains, N.Y.

Saturday, July 19, 6 p.m. Gin, brandy, wine, chicken, and duck eggs all from our neighbors at Branchwater Farms. Come celebrate them with a feast!

JULY 20

Public Conversations of Consequence

Congregational Church of Salisbury, 30 Main St., Salisbury, Conn.

Congregational Church of Salisbury's second Public Conversation of Consequence will be held on Sunday, July 20, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., and the topic will be “Who is my neighbor?” The four guest presenters include: Will Conklin, Executive Director of Greenagers; Jill Drew, Director of the Steering Committee for Vecinos Seguros 2; Peter Halle, President of the Salisbury Housing Committee; and Ellie Youngblood, Associate Director for Regional Food Access Partnerships at Sky High Farm. Refreshments will be served following the structured program for those who wish to continue the conversations.

JULY 22

Historic Music Festivals and Community Impact

Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwood's Road E, Norfolk, Conn.

Melvin Chen and Vin Cipolla explore the rich tradition of music and arts festivals in New England, looking at what these institutions are doing to attract new audiences, address priorities and challenges, all while sustaining their missions and communities. To register or for more information, please contact Amanda Breen at ABreen@HistoricNewEngland.org or (617) 994-5966.

Blooms & Brushwork with Hilary Cooper

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

On July 22 and 23, join artist Hilary Cooper for a watercolor workshop focused on flowers and bouquets. We'll learn how to simplify our approach to complex botanical forms and review basic watercolor techniques focusing on fluidity and color. No previous experience is required; art supplies are provided. Registration is required, and information is available at scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/14805215

JULY 23

Garden to Table Series: Pesto and Herb Salsas

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

Wednesday, July 23, 3:30 p.m.

Our community garden is bursting with delicious vegetables — let's use them! Join us for Garden Club on alternate Wednesdays June through August for Garden to Table, where we'll take vegetables from the community garden and use them to create delicious bites. On July 23 we'll be making Pesto and Herb Salsas using basil, cilantro, dill, and parsley from the garden. You can also bring your own produce from home! This event is free and open to the public.

Let's Dance for Housing

White Hart Inn, Salisbury, Conn.

“Let's Dance for Housing” Wednesday, July 23, at the White Hart Inn from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., cost \$30 per person. The event will benefit homeownership in Salisbury through the Salisbury Housing Trust. DJ Dave Leonard will play music and there will be a silent auction. First drink is on the trust. For more information, or to purchase tickets, go to www.salisburycthousing.org/about-salisbury-housing-trust, or call organizer Judy Gafney at 860-435-2173.

Last week's WotW

C	R	U	M	B
C	L	O	A	K
C	H	A	I	N
C	A	C	H	E
C	A	T	C	H

Word of the Week

Hints relate to adjacent five-letter words. Solve to reveal correct letters. Green tiles indicate correctly placed letters in the Word of the Week. Yellow tiles indicate a correct letter in the wrong place. Uncolored tiles indicate letters that do not appear in the WotW.

- 1. Old bread
- 2. Item passed in a relay race
- 3. Luxurious boat
- 4. Late
- 5. Canaan Summer Nights fun

JULY 24

Where the Mountain Meets the Sea

Ancram Center, 1330 County Route 7, Ancram N.Y.

July 11 to 20. A Haitian man travels from Miami to California on a once-in-a-lifetime road trip and, years later, his gay son travels the same route in reverse. These parallel journeys allow them to forge a connection that had eluded them for years.

Berkshire Opera Festival: Behind The Curtain

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass.

4 p.m. FREE, Reservations required. Join Berkshire Opera Festival for

a presentation and discussion of BOF's upcoming mainstage production of Verdi's La Traviata. This free public preview event will be led by BOF Co-founders, Artistic Director Brian Garman and Director of Production Jonathon Loy, as they pull back the curtain on the history, story, and magic of this iconic opera.

JULY 25

Photo Exhibit Opening

Sharon Hospital, 50 Hospital Hill Road, Sharon, Conn.

A photo exhibit featuring work by The Housatonic Camera Club will be on display at Sharon Hospital beginning July 25. An opening reception will be held 5 to 7 p.m. The public is welcome.

JULY 26

Understanding AI

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

Starting on Saturday, July 16, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Hotchkiss Library "Understanding AI: What It Is and What It's Not," is a beginner-friendly series that will separate fact from fiction about AI technology. Pam Doran, Digital Accessibility Coordinator at SUNY Empire State University, will present the program with a follow-up session Sept. 6 at 11 a.m. Register online at hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org.

...Ungardener

York, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and Maine. A few weeks ago, a bill was passed in Connecticut recognizing the harm of a broad group of invasive plants. Under this new legislation, barberry will be phased out from sale or transport by October 2028.

In understating the invasive nature of many non-natives and de-prioritizing the importance of native species, Dirr's widely used reference

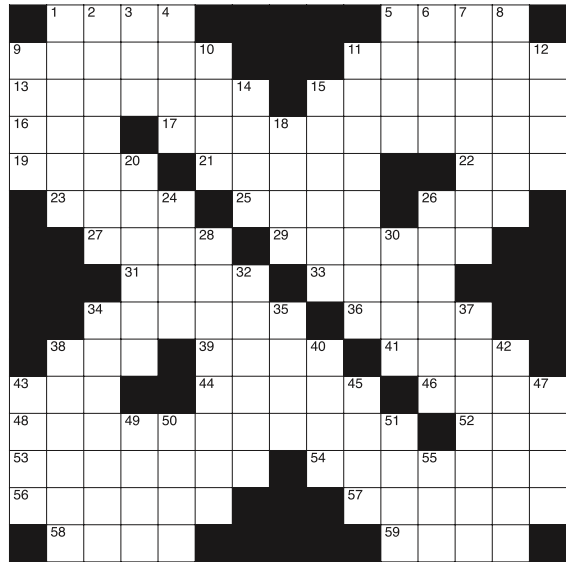
may be partly responsible for many a devastated woodland, forest, meadow and marsh in New England — if not across the U.S. Certainly, the evolution of species, and scientific knowledge about the environment, is changing faster than new editions of books can be printed. I can only hope that if a new edition of Mr. Dirr's reference book is in the works that it will account for this criteria we now

know to be vital in plant selection. Which brings me back to that quote on the cover from The Washington Post and the larger issue it suggests: Should “ornamental horticulture” get a pass when it comes to ecological survival? I think we can agree — it should not. The consequences are simply too destructive. Dee Salomon ‘ungardens’ in Litchfield County.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Resorts
- 5. One point south of southwest
- 9. Musical performances
- 11. Matched
- 13. Four-footed animal part
- 15. Express severe disapproval of
- 16. Type of leaf
- 17. Preparatory
- 19. Walk heavily
- 21. Succulent plants
- 22. Rectangle of grass
- 23. Lump in yarn
- 25. Too
- 26. Foot (Latin)
- 27. Afflicts
- 29. Smoothed
- 31. Mind (Greek)
- 33. Tampa ballclub
- 34. Semitic language
- 36. Sheltered sides
- 38. Ocean
- 39. Electronic point of sale
- 41. Thrust a knife into
- 43. 12th month (abbr.)
- 44. Ringworm
- 46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.)
- 48. Fighting back
- 52. Cease to exist
- 53. Insects in adult stage
- 54. Freestanding sculpture
- 56. Caps
- 57. Repents
- 58. Brown and Wallace are two
- 59. Moved quickly



- 11. Particular to a given individual
- 12. Brave or noble act
- 14. Sicilian city
- 15. Conqueror
- 18. Elected officials
- 20. Type of “pig”
- 24. Drop of viscous substance
- 26. Monetary unit of Spain
- 28. Guarantees
- 30. Coloring materials
- 32. Reddish browns
- 34. Square measure
- 35. Will not
- 37. Canned fish
- 38. Appeared
- 40. Six (Spanish)
- 42. Took off

- 43. Negligible amount
- 45. Posts in a Greek temple
- 47. Witnesses
- 49. Phil __, former CIA
- 50. Places to park
- 51. Guns
- 55. Dance to pop music

July 10 Solution

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

Sudoku

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

July 10 Solution

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

Level: Intermediate



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OUR TOWNS

Millbrook home sales in May stay under \$1M

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — In May, six homes were sold in the Town of Washington all under a million dollars with three closing under \$500,000. Only one home, at 20 North Ave., was sold in the Village of Millbrook itself. At the beginning of June, the inventory of available residences for sale had jumped to 30 homes with 20 of them over a million dollars and only two under \$500,000. The rental market remains active with 14 homes ranging from \$13,000 a month to four apartments for \$2,000 or less.

75 Verbank Road — 3 bedroom/1.5 bath home built in 1940 sold for \$450,000 on May 1.

311 Shunpike — 4 bedroom/3 bath home on 11.6 acres sold for \$940,000 on



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Located close to the center of the village the contemporary colonial at 20 North Ave., built in 1997, sold for \$625,000 in the middle of May after a brief time on the market.

May 2.

211 North Tower Road — 2 bedroom/3.5 bath home on 1.9 acres sold for \$600,000

on May 12.

20 North Ave. — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home in the Village of Millbrook sold for

\$625,000 on May 16.

41 Horseshoe Lane — 3 bedroom/3 bath home on 1.4 acres sold for \$454,900 on May 16.

4-6 Neighborly Lane — 3 bedroom/1 bath home on .36 acres sold for \$115,000 on May 23.

*Town of Washington closed real estate sales beginning May 1 and ending May 31 includes reported as sold from One Key MLS and Realtor.com ending on May 31, 2025. Information on active listings taken from One Key MLS. Private transfers are not included from March 1 to May 31 and will be reported when they become available from Dutchess County Real Property. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Under pressure

Two Millerton men's league soccer teams played a no-score game on Sunday, July 13, at Eddie Collins Memorial Park. The matches will extend a few more weeks and have drawn big crowds on Sunday afternoons.

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TAG SALE: Friday and Saturday, July 18 and 19, from 11 AM to 7 PM, 119 Granite Avenue Extension, Canaan, CT, off Route 7, on the corner of Railroad Street and Granite Avenue Extension.

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TAG SALE: July 19 & 20, 2025, 9am to 2pm, 351 Gay Street, Sharon CT 06069. No early birds.

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THE DAVID M. HUNT LIBRARY IN FALLS VILLAGE IS HIRING: an Assistant Director/Youth Services Coordinator to start mid-August. The position is 28 hours a week. A full job description and how to apply can be found at huntlibrary.org/employment/

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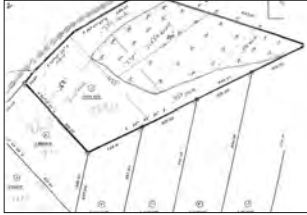
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