

REGIONAL

Buckley family’s ‘Great Elm’ in Sharon lists for \$4M

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS
Special to the Millerton News

SHARON, Conn. — For more than a century, the Buckley family’s sprawling estate, known as “Great Elm,” has stood at the heart of Sharon life, a gathering place for neighbors, world leaders and artists alike. Now, the circa 1812 Georgian Colonial with its rare glass atrium is on the market for \$3,999,000, drawing both serious buyers and viral attention on Zillow Gone Wild.

The sale, led by Cameron Smith, grandson of family patriarch and oil spectator William F. Buckley, Sr., and nephew to conservative icon William F. Buckley, Jr., marks the end of the family’s stewardship of one of northwest Connecticut’s most storied homes.

“It’s such a unique property,” said listing agent Pels Matthews, broker/owner of William Raveis Lifestyles Realty in Washington Depot. “There is nothing like it in Litchfield County. It reminds me of New Orleans, Charleston or Savannah.”

The listing has already reached a national and international audience thanks to Zillow Gone Wild, a popular online feed that highlights unusual and distinctive homes.

Great Elm’s soaring glass atrium and Buckley legacy has attracted thousands of comments and shares, with readers marveling at both its historic pedigree and its dramatic architectural centerpiece.

The Zillow feed notes: “The only thing better than a house with an atrium is a house with an atrium with bedrooms that all have access to it so everyone can ‘retire to their quarters’ at the end of the night and guess what? This Sharon home has just that. Are we moving to Sharon now?? Hello??? Will Sharon be there??”

“That has taken it to a whole different level,” Matthews said of the viral Zillow exposure. “I’ve got people calling me from Europe, and all over the country.”

Matthews noted that the estate is not just dramatic but is also incredibly livable. “The home can easily support multi-generational living or be shared by two families if desired, with the common atrium.”

The viral attention reflects how the estate, once known primarily within Litchfield County and political circles, now resonates with a wider public fascinated by unique homes with deep stories to tell.

Buckley family’s summer retreat

Built in 1812, purchased by William F. Buckley Sr. in 1923 and expanded in 1929, the house became the Buckley family’s summer retreat. It later shaped the early life of Buckley Jr., who founded the National Review and emerged as a leading conservative voice. To accommodate the growing Buckley family, the home was converted to five condominiums in the 1980s, three of which were occupied by Buckley siblings until their death.

Buckley Sr. died in 1958, Patricia Buckley in 2007, Buckley Jr. in 2008 and James Buckley in 2023.



Great Elm, the childhood home of William F. Buckley, Jr., is on the market for \$3.9 million.



The atrium is the highlight and heart of the home, having hosted many elegant dinners and weddings.

According to the listing by Willaim Raveis Lifestyles Realty, the home encompasses the majority of the original mansion and was renovated in 2013.

The house, on 8.072 acres, offers eight bedrooms, seven full and two half baths, period pine paneling, historic wallpaper, Art Deco details, multiple fireplaces and private terraces surrounded by specimen trees.

The atrium is the highlight and heart of the home, having hosted many elegant dinners and weddings over the decades. The mature plants can be included in the sale.

The home sits within a larger association that maintains shared amenities including a 70-foot heated pool and tennis and paddle/pickleball courts.

The estate is being sold by Smith, as his family’s presence in Sharon has gradually passed into history, he told Mansion Global in May 2024, when the house originally hit the market for \$5.5 million under another brokerage.

“Our generation, except for me, is no longer in Sharon,” Smith said at the time. “The home no longer provides the congregating place it used to. It’s no longer needed for it.”

Where world leaders, neighbors congregated

Though a national figure, William F. Buckley Jr. was deeply tied to local life. He supported the Hotchkiss Library, appeared at the Sharon Green fair, hosted organ recitals and opened Great Elm for musical evenings and fundraisers.

His wife, Patricia, was celebrated as one of New York’s great hostesses, famed for her fluttering parties that drew leaders in politics, the arts and business. At Great Elm, she carried that same spirit north, entertaining both Manhattan guests and Sharon neighbors under the soaring glass atrium.

Over the years the estate welcomed figures such as Ronald Reagan, Henry Kissinger, Margaret Thatcher, Tom Wolfe and Malcolm Muggeridge, as well as musicians and artists including harpsichordist Albert Fuller and pianist Samuel Barber, who performed in the house and nearby venues.

The mix of statesmen, writers, performers and townspeople gave Great Elm a unique social rhythm, where international debates might follow a neighborhood concert.

Together the Buckyleys gave the estate a dual role, a setting for cosmopolitan society and a lively hub of small-town life, until Paricia’s death in 2007 and William’s in 2008.

Gretchen Hachmeister, executive director of the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, said the Buckyleys’ generosity to the library extends to the grandchildren of William F. Buckley, Sr.

“Several of them, organized by Cameron Smith, made generous gifts to our recent capital campaign and named our new conference room in William F. Buckley, Jr.’s, memory,” she explained. “His son, Christopher, recently gifted us a complete set of his humorous political

novels, which have joined the collection of works of both Williams, Christopher and Priscilla.”

Hachmeister noted that several years before she joined Hotchkiss, the library held a fundraiser called “A Bevy of Buckyleys” and supporters dined under a tent at Great Elm. She also recalled that “Senator James Buckley was a frequent library patron.”

Matthews noted that Great Elm is more than just a piece of real estate. “It is part of the local fabric of Sharon along with national political history.”

A document known as the Sharon Statement was adopted on Sept. 11, 1960 by a group of 100 young conservatives who convened at the Buckley home for the purpose of creating Young Americans for Freedom, which has been widely regarded by historians as one of the most important declarations in the history of American conservatism.

“The Sharon Statement,” said Matthews, “is an important credo in the conservative movement, and there is a large stone with a plaque on the property with the full statement.”

For Sharon, the listing closes one chapter of local history and opens another. For buyers, said Matthews, it offers a chance to own one of the region’s most distinctive homes, anchored by its glass atrium and its place in American and cultural life.

Whoever buys Great Elm, said Matthews, “will be inheriting that legacy.”



Brian Ross, left, interviewed Judy Woodruff at the Salisbury Forum Saturday, Sept. 27.

Forum examines changes in national news landscape

By PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
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SALISBURY, Conn. — Judy Woodruff, former anchor and managing editor of the PBS Newshour, said that her fellow journalists do tend to “live in a bubble” and need to get out into the country more, but pushed back on suggestions that national journalists are biased.

Woodruff appeared at the Salisbury Forum at Salisbury School Saturday, Sept. 27. She was interviewed by Brian Ross, a veteran of television news with ABC News and NBC News (and a member of The Lakeville Journal board).

Ross noted that he and Woodruff broke into national TV news about the same time and invited Woodruff to share some of the story of her career path.

Woodruff said she was working in local TV news in Georgia and got to know Jimmy Carter when he ran for governor.

So when Carter started running for the Democratic nomination for President for the 1976 election, she had what she thought was an inside track

She told her bosses that Carter was worth their attention and was proved correct when he came in second in the New Hampshire primary.

But being the third-string political reporter, she “got knocked off” the campaign but kept hanging around, developing contacts within the Carter team and playing in the softball games between the campaign staff and the press.

It was during one of those games — “I was playing second base” — that she met her husband, Al Hunt.

Between her Carter contacts and consistent pushing on her part she finally landed a job as White House correspondent.

She said it took a while to find her feet. “I had to play catch-up.”

She said the Carter team came to Washington “believing they had the keys to the kingdom.”

Having received minimal help from the Democratic

establishment during the campaign, they thought they didn’t need the party’s help in governing.

“It was called the ‘Georgia Mafia.’ Carter relied heavily on his original team.”

Woodruff gave Carter credit for the Camp David agreement between Israel and Egypt, a pact that has lasted to the present day.

Ross asked about left-of-center “groupthink” within the press corps.

“It’s very competitive,” Woodruff said. “You want to get it right, get it better and you’d love to get it first.”

She said she thinks news organizations pay too much attention to the White House “and not enough on the agencies.”

“We have given the White House the ability to set the agenda.”

As to the groupthink, she said “It’s a hothouse environment, no question. I call it a ‘bubble.’ We don’t get out in the country enough and talk to people.

“I do think there is a kind of groupthink that sets in,” she continued. “But if everybody else is reporting a story and we don’t...”

Ross asked about the recent defunding of public television and radio, and President Trump’s remarks about “left-wing lunatics.”

“Lumping us in with ‘left-wing lunatics’ is absolutely not true,” said Woodruff.

She said the PBS Newshour is “straight down the middle journalism. It’s in our DNA.”

She said the loss of funding is a problem, and public broadcasting is reacting.

“We are not calling it quits. We are here to serve the American people.”

Ross asked about young journalists who are more familiar with new media such as Tik Tok and podcasts, which are heavy on opinion.

Woodruff said “there’s nothing wrong with having strong feelings but we always need straight factual reporting.”

So when she is asked about what she thinks about a particular issue, Woodruff said her reply is “That’s for others to say. I’m a reporter.”

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OUR TOWNS

Historical Society talk considers 18th century loyalist experience

By LEILA HAWKEN
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AMENIA — Continuing observance of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Amenia Historical Society attracted more than 80 members, residents and friends on Saturday, Sept. 27 at the historic Smithfield Church to hear a talk titled, “The Plight of a Loyalist in Revolutionary New York.”

Michigan author, historian and genealogist Jay A. Campbell presented a talk based on the journal of British loyalist Cadwallader Colden Jr., spanning the period of 1777-1779 — a period of imprisonment and frequent periods of exile into a variety of remote regions in New York, including Amenia.

With ancestral ties to the area, Campbell specializes in Hudson Valley history, and the stories of Revolutionary era families.

Colden Jr. was a Montgomery, New York, surveyor, farmer, mercantilist and the son of a New York Lieutenant Governor. His fortunes changed dramatically with the dawn of the Revolutionary War when he remained loyal to the British Crown. An arrest came in 1776, just before

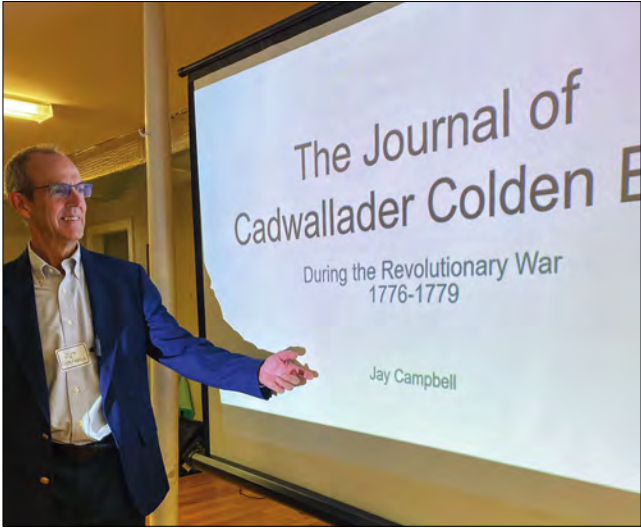


PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

One of a series of offerings to mark the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War, the Amenia Historical Society invited historian Jay Campbell to speak about the journal of a New York British loyalist whose movements in exile brought him into the local area. The talk was presented at The Smithfield Church on Saturday, Sept. 27, attracting a large audience.

the start of his journal.

Part of the journal was written during Colden’s imprisonment in the jail located in the basement of the Kingston Courthouse.

Colden’s father had been a surveyor of the Oblong, the disputed area of land between Connecticut and New York, settled by the Treaty of Dover. In his journal, the subject of the talk, Colden Jr., sought to explain his decision to remain

loyal to the Crown, without actively opposing the move toward independence. He sought to remain neutral.

“What to do with people like Colden,” was a question that plagued the authorities, Campbell explained. His father had been a well-respected intellectual and physician, but son was not much like father, instead becoming a farmer and merchant with a popular and necessary general store.

After being arrested for the second time and imprisoned for a few months in Fishkill, Colden was paroled and sent back to his farm and store to continue his sentence at home on the honor system, a common pattern in those times.

The stone home still stands, although it is now in overgrown ruins. It was stabilized in 2012, but nothing has been done with it since, Campbell said.

In 1776, Colden’s daughter died, leaving two children in the household. “Family relationships were complicated back then,” Campbell explained as relatives came and went from the household.

“Conscience comes up often in Colden’s journal writings,” Campbell said. “He had made an oath to the King.”

“The Revolution was more than a battle between patriots and redcoats,” Campbell observed. “It divided neighbors and families over loyalties.”

“Colden had done a lot of good things in his life,” Campbell said.

The program was introduced by Town Historian Betsy Strauss, who introduced Judy Westfall, soon to assume the duties of President of the Historical Society.

Amenia Town Board votes to approve Silo Ridge settlements

By NATHAN MILLER
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AMENIA — The Amenia Town Board voted to approve settlement agreements with 12 Silo Ridge property owners over disputed property tax assessments dating back to 2019.

Owners of houses and condo buildings in the Silo Ridge Field Club luxury housing development began filing lawsuits challenging the assessment of their properties in 2019, refileing each year to challenge every tax assessment since.

The settlements approved by Town Board members will resolve most of the pending litigation, Attorney Shane Egan said. Egan serves as the town’s attorney in tax cases, and has represented the town in court while the lawsuits were pending.

The settlement agreements were approved at a regular meeting of the Town Board on

Thursday, Sept. 18. Copies of the settlement agreements are available to view on the town’s website at ameniany.gov as part of the packet of documents submitted for the meeting.

Tables contained in the settlement documents detail reductions in assessed value ranging from 10% to 30% over the next three years for each property.

The settlement agreements are still pending approval from the Webutuck School Board and the Dutchess County tax attorney, Egan said, which could take a few more weeks, though final approval is expected in mid-October.

Egan expressed confidence that these settlements will bring an end to the years-long saga that has embroiled the town in court proceedings over the contested tax assessments. “Board members approved the terms because they believed them to be favorable to the town,” Egan said.

Spooky season and beyond: A roundup of local fall fun

By ALY MORRISSEY
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MILLERTON — The leaves are falling, Irving Farm is serving its seasonal Maple Pumpkin Chai and corn mazes are “cropping” up across the area. Fall fanatics can enjoy a variety of events and outings throughout eastern Dutchess County to celebrate the start of “Spooky Season.”

Here’s a sampling to get you started:

Oktoberfest Weekend at Back Bar Beer Garden
Oct. 3-5

2947 Church St, Pine Plains

Say “Ein Bier, bitte” at the upcoming Oktoberfest celebration at the Back Bar Beer Cabin in Pine Plains. Enjoy live music, German food specials and seasonal beers. Lederhosen not required.

“Spooky Month” at the NECC Farmer’s Market
Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25

Veteran’s Park, Millerton

Saturdays in October will be “spooky!” Visitors can enjoy fall-themed crafts — think glittery spider webs — and a tarot card reader. Halloween festivities will arrive early on Oct. 25, with costumes encouraged and kids invited to Trick-or-Treat around the vendors’ tables.

Soukup Farms Harvest Festival
Oct. 4–Nov. 1

271 Halls Corners Road, Dover Plains

Typically known for their maple syrup, this fall you can expect hayrides to the pick-your-own pumpkin patch, corn maze, and family-friendly activities at this nearby, third-generation family farm.



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Millerton’s Willow Brook Farm is once again hosting its annual corn maze just north of the Village of Millerton.

Festival hours are Saturdays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Willow Brook Farm’s Corn Maze and Haunted Happenings
Oct. 12, Nov. 1

196 Old Post Road 4, Millerton

The legendary corn maze is open Thursdays through Mondays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Oct. 12, enjoy pumpkin tic-tac-toe, paint-your-own pumpkins, mocktails from Elite Mobile Bar and adoptable pups from Bleu’s K9 Rescue.

On Nov. 1, the farm will host a haunted corn maze, decked out with spooky decor. Visitors can also shop cider donuts and fresh pumpkins, gourds and other fall harvest during regular operating hours.

Haunted Fortress of Stanford

11 Creamery Road, Stanford

The Peter Wing-designed haunted attraction draws

thousands of visitors every year to delight in a wholesome “creep fest,” as described by volunteer and Haunted Fortress Committee member Greg Arent. The fortress will be welcoming visitors again this October on Fridays and Saturdays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and on Sundays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sensory friendly shows will be offered on Sunday, Oct. 5, and Sunday, Oct. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Haunted History Ghost Tours
Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome
9 Norton Road, Red Hook, NY

Guided ghost tours are available on Fridays this month at the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome. Visitors can hear chilling tales of lost pilots, tragic adventures and eerie happenings as they explore the grounds on a 70-minute walking tour. Tours run every Friday night with four time slots available — 6, 6:30, 7:15, and 7:45 p.m. Advanced tickets are required.

Evergreen Cemetery Lantern Tours
Oct. 17 and 19

19 Maple Street, Pine Plains

Presented by the Little Nine Partners Historical Society, this annual guided cemetery tour combines local history and storytelling with the backdrop of the town’s historic burying ground. In collaboration with Pine Plains Free Library and the Stissing Center, actors will bring to life the lives of a Revolutionary War militia man, a Black farmer from Virginia, a society matron and more.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

The result of generous volunteer efforts, the Millbrook Library pollinator garden will be officially dedicated on Saturday, Oct. 4.

Millbrook Library to dedicate native garden Oct. 4

By LEILA HAWKEN
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MILLBROOK — Situated at the Millbrook Library on the very spot where a 1953 garden was planted by the Millbrook Garden Club as a memorial to the prominent Flagler family, a new native pollinator garden has been planted by the Millbrook Garden Club.

The new garden will be dedicated at a celebration ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 4, at the library from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The library asks that those interested in attending register in advance using the library’s website.

The garden project was underwritten by the library’s Friends using funds raised during the Holiday

Silent Auction and ongoing book sale. A grant from the Millbrook Garden Club also supported the project.

The garden was planted by Perfect Nature Landscaping Inc., of Millbrook, and designed by local landscape designer Andrew Durbridge.

The new garden is already registered with the worldwide Pollinator Pathway program that promotes the planting of native plants to provide sustenance and habitat for native insects and birds.

The Millbrook library also participates in the global Sustainable Libraries Certification Program, furthering the efforts toward environmental stewardship.

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Rose Hill Farm
14 Rose Hill Farm,
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Fishkill Farms
9 Fishkill Farm Road,
Hopewell Junction, NY

Pick sustainably grown apples, ride a wagon through the fields, explore the corn maze, and enjoy live music and hard cider from the Treasury Cider Bar. Tickets are required.

Barton Orchards
63 Apple Tree Ln,
Poughquag, NY

Experience live music, seasonal festivals, family-friendly activities and farm adventures across three venues: the Tap Room, Harvest Lounge and Sound Garden.

OBITUARIES

James van Benschoten Dresser

SALISBURY, Conn. — On Sept. 22, 2025, James van Benschoten Dresser passed away peacefully at his home in Salisbury. He was 83.

Born in New York City, to Elizabeth Jenks Dresser and James van Benschoten Dresser, Jim spent his youth in Bermuda and moved with his mother to Salisbury upon his parent’s divorce. He earned a scholarship to Salisbury School that Jim considered transformative, giving him the brotherhood and direction he needed to flourish. This resulted in a passion for education and a commitment to make things better for those less fortunate that would blossom into action in his later years.

Jim followed a lengthy family tradition to attend Wesleyan University where his interests broadened to include the state of the union and those who could improve it. His dedication to Wesleyan and its sports never wavered and as Chairman of the Board, he raised substantial funds in support of both. After college, Jim spent a stint in Air Force Intelligence in southeast Asia. He picked up a correspondence law degree (ever the learner), met his first wife, Patricia Van Allman, later moving with her to Boston and joyfully adding their son, Clay, to the family unit. He attended Harvard Business School and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Upon graduation, he joined the fledgling Boston Consulting Group (BCG) where he helped to make it grow into the multi-national powerhouse it is today. He married a second time to Evan Crosby and retired early from his role as Chief Administrative Officer to commit more fully to family and personal interests.

In retirement, Jim moved back to Salisbury and was

electd selectman which put him in a special position to benefit heartfelt causes such as housing and education. He had a firm belief that people such as nurses, teachers, plumbers, ambulance and fire volunteers etc. who provided valuable services to the community should be able to live in the community. Thus began his quest to help with affordable housing to make that possible. As a member of the Salisbury Housing Committee (for rentals), he joined forces with motivated, forward thinking, creative minds to move the onerous process forward. He donated property and raised significant funds to build more affordable housing. Jim also served on several boards that supported education and other needs of the community. He was never a passive participant – he threw body and soul into every committee he served on.

Happily, Laura Carlson met Jim through their affiliation with the Salisbury Association. At the time, they were both at loose ends and after 5 years of dating, they married. They enjoyed a rich, loving life together for 18 years - too short a time.

Jim is survived by his wife, Laura, his son, Clay Dresser (Dee), granddaughter, Ellie, his brother, Scott Dresser (Bonnie), and his sister, Marguerite Dresser (Michael Kluchman), niece and nephew, Elizabeth and Henry Dresser-Kluchman.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Salisbury Housing Committee, PO Box 10, Salisbury, CT 06068. Jim will be smiling.

A celebration of Jim’s life will take place in July 2026, at his favorite place on earth, Mt. Riga and with a community he grew up with and loved. Details will be published in The Lakeville Journal as the time draws near.

SALISBURY, Conn. — Carol Kastendieck was born April 10, 1945 in Brooklyn, New York. She died on Sept. 19, 2025, in Salisbury, Connecticut. She was the eldest child and only daughter of Miles and Clementine Kastendieck, older sister to her brothers Jon and Richard, and beloved friend and mentor to countless others.

Carol graduated high school from Packard Institute in Brooklyn, earned her BA at Indiana University and her MA at Carnegie Mellon. She had initially trained in classical dance, performing with the Metropolitan Opera ballet. However, during college she discovered a passion for the theater and would go on to have a rich and engaging career as a director for theater, opera and musical theater.

She directed and choreographed over 150 productions nationally, despite the challenges of being a woman in a profession dominated by men. Notably, she collaborated with her mentor, director John Houseman, and directed Rock Hudson in “John Brown’s Body” in Los Angeles.

Carol’s preferred playwright was Shakespeare and she was known to quote much of his work from memory. Toward the end of her career, Carol focused on teaching

and mentoring young actors, directors and filmmakers. She taught at Juilliard, Hofstra, Carnegie Mellon, the Riverside Shakespeare Company School, the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, and SUNY Purchase.

She ultimately retired from teaching to care for her aging parents, for whom she always expressed the deepest gratitude and with whom she remained until their final days.

She did not have children and never married, but had meaningful and life-long relationships with the friends and students she considered her adopted family. She was a faithful and beloved member of her community.

The Kastendieck summer residence was called The Mill, a historic 1744 grist mill they had renovated as a family when Carol was a child. After her mother’s death, she made Salisbury her home. She retained fond memories and a lasting connection with the place and people there.

Carol loved gardening, following in her mother’s footsteps, and drew inspiration from her gardener friends and the many adventures and con-

versations they shared. She devoted a great deal of time and care to her own garden. She considered it her greatest creative opus and experienced it as a living ecosystem of sentient beings.

Her creativity also manifested itself in whimsical sculptures and dramatic flower arrangements. She was a fan of tag sales and always wore delightful accessories and gave unusual gifts. She loved going to the theater or to the movies with friends, especially leading up to the Oscars. She also enjoyed throwing intimate dinner parties and having friends over for tea.

Carol was a breast cancer survivor and faced increasingly challenging health issues, but rarely allowed these to impede her vision. In recent years, she made a practice of sending daily poems and inspirational messages.

Those who knew Carol Kastendieck describe her as a force of nature, with strong opinions and passionate devotion to environmental causes. She loved life and had an ad-



venturous and joyful spirit. She was equal parts curiosity and determination, courage and delight.

She is survived by her brother Jon, her nieces and nephews and grand nieces and nephews, her family of friends, and her beloved cat.

Memorial Service details pending.

The Guest House
by Jalal al-Din Rumi
This being human is a guest house. Every morning a new arrival.
A joy, a depression, a meanness, some momentary awareness comes as an unexpected visitor.
Welcome and entertain them all! Even if they’re a crowd of sorrows, who violently sweep your house empty of its furniture, still, treat each guest honorably. He may be clearing you out for some new delight.
The dark thought, the shame, the malice, meet them at the door laughing, and invite them in.
Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has been sent as a guide from beyond.

Taken from *SELECTED POEMS* by Rumi, Translated by Coleman Barks (Penguin Classics, 2004).

In Appreciation Jim Dresser

Salisbury lost a great leader this week with the passing of Jim Dresser. Few can match his record of service to his town.

Jim grew up and attended school in Salisbury. Though his career, first in the Air Force and then in private business, took him all over the world, his Salisbury roots drew him back home.

His service to the town took many forms, from his 12 years as a Selectman to his involvement in a wide range of nonprofit organizations, but we want to highlight his tireless work to address the issue of affordable housing.

Jim was a founding member of the Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission in 2010 and served faithfully until his passing this week. His vision of a town where the people who work and volunteer here can also afford to call it their home pushed Salisbury to face its housing affordability concerns long before other towns in Connecticut even fully articulated the problem. Today, Salisbury is held up as a beacon of prog-

ress to neighboring towns, an example of how to wrestle with housing costs in a way that strengthens the fabric of the community.

But volunteer work was not enough for Jim! He really did “walk the walk” when he donated 5 acres of his own land, literally in his backyard at the time, to the Salisbury Housing Committee for the purpose of constructing affordable rental units. Plans for Dresser Woods are well underway; the eventual development will be a lasting legacy of Jim’s generosity, vision, and service to his community.

In a recent interview for the Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission’s monthly newsletter, Jim spoke of “leading from the front.” As friends and colleagues, we were fortunate to follow his lead.

Jim’s passing leaves some big shoes to fill, but he has ensured we have the tools and the vision we need to continue his work, and it is an honor to do so.

Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission

John Pond

LAKEVILLE, Conn. — John Pond, 88, of Lakeville, Connecticut, passed away peacefully at the Sharon Health Care Center on Sept. 26, 2025.

A graveside service will be held on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025, at 10 a.m. at Salisbury

Cemetery in Salisbury.

A full obituary will be published to thekennyfuneralhomes.com

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to a charity of your choosing.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Russell James Riva, Jr.

CANAAN, Conn. — Russell James “Teter” Riva, Jr, 94, of 7 Beau Ridge passed away Thursday morning Sept. 25, 2025, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of Caryl (Pennekamp) Riva. Teter and Caryl were married on April 11, 1953 and celebrated 72 years of marriage this year. In addition to his wife, Teter is survived by his son Russell P. “Rusty” Riva, his daughter Suzanne “Suzy” Riva, both of Canaan. His nephew Louis “Buddy” Riva and his wife Pam of Canaan, Cagney Riva of Sheffield, Massachusetts and Cody Riva of Canaan. Teter was predeceased by his brothers Louis “Sonny” Riva and LeRoy Riva, sister Cynthia Riva, and grandson Tate Riva.

Teter was born in the former Geer Hospital in Canaan on Sept. 17, 193, the son of the late Russel James “Red” and Edith (Massini) Riva Sr. After graduating from Housatonic Vally Regional High School, Teter earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Architectural Engineering from the Chicago Technical College. He was drafted into the US Army and served during the Korean War with the Army Corps of Engineers.

After serving in the Army, Teter and Caryl returned to Canaan where he worked as Forman in his parents store and eventually becoming President of C. A. Lindell & Son Inc. which included the hardware store, lumber yard, fuel oil, and John Deere equipment. Teter’s hard work, vision and foresight built a new hardware store, one of the first and largest drive through lumber yards on the east coast, expanded Lindell Fuels, Inc by building a complex tank farm with fleet dispensers, one of the first of its magnitude in New England, a full-service 24/7 HVAC and propane provider, and started an equipment rental company.

Teter took after his father, who started out as a carpen-

ter, and built the Canaan Post Office and several homes for family and friends while running Lindell’s. Never one to remain still, Teter started his own construction company, North Canaan Builders, Inc. and partnered with Chris Carr to form Carr Riva Developers. Working with US Department of Housing & Urban Development in Washington, DC and Connecticut Housing Finance Authority they developed, built and managed apartment complexes in Canaan, Middletown, Windsor, Plainville, and Meriden Connecticut and Longmeadow Massachusetts.

Teter thought of community as family and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone along the way. Among his many accomplishments he served as a Scoutmaster of Troop 22, Rail Road Historical Association, Board of Directors of Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County in Bantam, Chairman of the Board at Geer Village Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for 45 years, and Board of Directors of the National Iron Bank for 48 years.

Teter loved fishing with his family on Twin Lakes, Square Dancing and Round Dancing with Caryl in Connecticut and Florida. He was an avid golfer and a member at the Wyantenuck Country Club in Great Barrington, Massachusetts for 48 years as well as Plantation Golf and Country Club for 42 years in Venice, Florida.

Funeral services will be held at the convenience of the family. A celebration of Teter’s life will be held at the Couch Pipa Post 104 South Canaan Road Canaan, CT 06018 on Thursday October 2, 2025 at 1:00 pm. There are no calling hours. Memorial donations may be sent in Teter’s memory to the North Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corps PO Box 178 15 North Main St. Canaan, CT 06018. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. Canaan, CT 06018.

For more obituaries, see Page A6

Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com



Worship Services

Week of October 5, 2025

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

Trinity Episcopal Church

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

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC

Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people
172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT
Worship services Sundays at 10 am
www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational
860-824-7232

FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH
is at Pilgrim House, Canaan
30 Granite Ave., Canaan
Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm
www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org

Congregation Beth David

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

The Lakeville United Methodist Church

319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
9:15 a.m. Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
“Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors”
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-455-9496
lakevillemethodist@snet.net

Falls Village Congregational Church

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

The Sharon United Methodist Church

112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
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

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

Promised Land Baptist Church

29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT
Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow!
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Sunday Worship - 11am
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM
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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 3:00 P.M.
518-789-3138

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Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!
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10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge
In-Person and on You-Tube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT

Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons
Sunday, October 12 at 10:30 a.m.
CRUELTY AND KINDNESS IN SALISBURY:
The Moravian Missionaries in 1700
For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com
All are Welcome

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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
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Visit our website for links
Rev. AJ Stack
845-373-9161
www.stthomasamenia.com
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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

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!

EDITORIAL

Saluting Salisbury Forum’s success

Almost 20 years ago in a packed chapel at The Salisbury School a television journalist famous for his coverage of national politics led a discussion on the question: “Can Democracy Survive the Media?” His name was Sander Vanocur, a prominent reporter whose contemporaries were other big names at political conventions in the 1960s: John Chancellor, Frank McGee and Edwin Newman. Vanocur was was one of the questioners at the first of the Kennedy-Nixon debates in 1960.

The Salisbury event back then in 2005 was brought to the Northwest Corner by a unique regional organization known as The Salisbury Forum, which now is celebrating 20 years sponsoring open discourse for a community hungry for thoughtful dialogue.

Last week, another prominent journalist, Judy Woodruff, former anchor and managing editor of the PBS Newshour, was on stage at The Forum’s sold-out event at The Salisbury School. (Read Patrick L. Sullivan’s coverage on page A2.)

For two decades, the Forum, a nonprofit, has hosted speaker forums that “foster a deeper understanding of issues that affect our lives globally and locally,” to quote its mission statement.

As a community we are fortunate to be the beneficiary of such a committed and valuable local organization. The Forum is supported as well by other institutions in our community that provide venues for the Forum’s event. Those include The Hotchkiss School and Salisbury School, The Moviehouse in Millerton and Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village.

For twenty years, forums — free and open to the public — have explored a wide range of topics that span the rural health crisis in the Northwest Corner, to discussions on food access, the future of journalism, the future of democracy, climate change, citizenship, pandemics, the future of books in an age of AI, as well as subjects related to science, politics and international relations. There seems to be no end to the survey of topics explored by the forums. And no limit to the level of sophistication of its speakers. They include scholars from many disciplines, diplomats, housing experts, award-winning actors of theater, film and television, environmentalists, filmmakers, art critics, theater critics, and on and on with speakers who illuminate the challenges facing America today in civic, political, scientific and cultural life.

The Forum is an adult-ed course we receive for free, which connects us with ideas and draws conversation about the full gamut of Arts and Science of today’s complicated world.

We thank the Forum and its board for an indispensable service to the community. And encourage everyone to visit the Forum’s website to learn more about the people who make it happen and about the history of this nonprofit’s contribution to our community.

Backyard gardens offer biodiversity — food for pollinator population

Dear EarthTalk: Why do eco-advocates consider backyard gardens so crucial to conservation?
— Paul Murphy, Butte, MT

Backyard gardens might seem like just a hobby or a way to make a home look nice, but they actually play a much bigger role in conservation. As cities expand and natural habitats shrink, small green spaces like home gardens can provide essential food and shelter for wildlife. This idea falls under garden ecology. This is a field that looks at how gardens function as ecosystems. Homeowners can make a real difference in supporting biodiversity by choosing the right plants and maintaining these spaces with care.

Backyard gardens help is by supporting pollinators like bees, butterflies and birds, all which rely on plants for food. In return, they help plants reproduce. “Urban gardens can act as mini-refuges for pollinators, especially in places where natural habitat is disappearing,” says Dr. Susannah Lerman, research ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service. First of all, without enough green spaces, pollinator populations decline. This then affects everything from wild

EARTHTALK
Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss

plant growth to food production. Gardens also create small patches of habitat that connect larger green spaces. This makes it easier for wildlife to move around safely.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Not all plants offer the same benefits. Native plants that naturally grow in a specific area are the best choice for conservation gardening. They require less water and maintenance since they’re adapted to local conditions, and they provide the right food and shelter for local wildlife. On the other hand, non-native or ornamental plants look nice

but can do more harm than good, aggressively taking over native habitats.

Garden ecology research also shows that diverse gardens help improve soil health and support a wider variety of species. A mix of trees, shrubs, and flowers at different heights can create a more balanced ecosystem. The more plant diversity a garden has... the more kinds of insects, birds, and small mammals it can support. Some homeowners even participate in citizen science projects e.g. they can track the species that visit their yards to contribute to conservation research.

Making a garden more wildlife-friendly doesn’t require a complete overhaul. One can start by planting a few native species, reducing pesticide use, and letting part of their yard grow more naturally. Even small changes can make a difference. For example, leaving fallen leaves for insects to hide in or providing a water source for birds. Backyard gardens may not seem like much, but when enough people take the right steps they become an important part of conservation efforts.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk.



Double wedding, then a car crash

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

October 4, 1934

‘Double Wedding Performed Friday’; Miss Christine Hoffbeck became the bride of Arthur McGhee, son of Mrs. Catherine McGhee, of Millerton, and her sister, Miss Elda Hoffbeck, was married to Howard Wheeler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wheeler, of Wassaic, in a double wedding performed Friday evening in the Smithfield Church by the Rev. Arthur James, pastor. Both brides were the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Hoffbeck, of Millerton.

‘Married Two Hours, Couple In Accident’; Married just two hours and leaving Millerton on a wedding trip, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McGhee suffered minor injuries Friday night when their automobile was struck head-on by a car driven by Elisha Austin, of Winchell Mountain. Mrs. McGhee was formerly Miss Christina Hoffbeck, of Millerton.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Millerton News

The accident occurred on Route 22 in front of Sharkey’s Restaurant. Austin, arrested on charges of reckless driving by Police Chief Van De Bogart, will be arraigned in town court Monday night.

‘About Millerton’; Robert Lane, proprietor of the local movie theatre, has made the Millerton school a splendid proposition. He has selected a subject taught in all the grades, written the name of the subject on a piece of paper, placed the paper in a sealed envelope, and the envelope is now resting in the school safe. When the six weeks report cards are issued the envelope will be opened and all pupils in the grades having 90 or above in that subject will be admitted free to the movies for one night.

October 2, 1975

‘Downey Gains Nomination As Independent Candidate’; Edward Downey, a local attorney, has been nominated as an Independent candidate to seek a 4-year term as Councilman in the Town of North East. A petition signed by over 70 Town voters was filed with the Dutchess County Board of Election on Wednesday: Downey was recently nominated for the same office by the Democratic Party.

“My Independent candidacy is a response to the many Republican and independent voters who have expressed their support for me.” Downey stated.

Downey, a lifelong resident of the Town, was graduated from the Webutuck Central School, Union College and the Indiana University School of Law. He has also served 2 years in the field artillery of the United States Army.

‘Manson To Head Ticket For North East Dems’; The North East Democratic Caucus, meeting Sept. 25 in the Millerton Library community room, selected Willis H. Manson as candidate for Town Supervisor. Manson will face incumbent Frank Perotti, the Republican candidate. Seventeen Town Democrats attended the Caucus.

‘Boards To Take Up Comprehensive Plans’; The North East Planning Board began Wednesday evening, Oct. 1, with North East Town Board and Millerton Village Board members, to take the

final steps in considering and possibly enacting a comprehensive land use and zoning plan for both the Town and Village.

North East Zoning Board of Appeals members were also invited to attend the meeting.

The Comprehensive Plans will have to be approved or rejected by the Town and Village Boards, after they are brought before a public hearing.

Planning Board member Dave Sherman said of the complex plan, “The Boards have to be taken through it.”

No timetable has been established by the 2 Boards to consider the plans. Planning Board member Edward Downey said, “We want to sit down with the Boards and work out a schedule.”

Land use plans for the Town and Village were developed by the North East Planning Board with the assistance from Dutchess County Planners.

October 5, 2000

‘Grey House Coming to NE, Hamilton Inn Moving’; MILLERTON—There’s some moving and shaking going on including one convert from a neighboring town. Millerton businesses,

At least one business on Main Street will relocate to accommodate the Hamilton Inn restaurant, and a Lakeville company will move into the current Hamilton Inn location.

Grey House Publishing, a publisher of business, health

and demographic reference books with offices now in Sharon and Lakeville, is consolidating offices and moving to North East, a press release from the company said.

Completing the musical chairs, North East Travel shifts over next door to what’s known as the Benedict House, the pale yellow house which hosts A Stitch in Time.

Massage Therapist Matthew Schwartz said he has been allowed to stay on in the office spaces in the rear of the Platt A. Paine House.

‘NE-Millerton Library Will Dedicate Children’s Room to Sapersteins’; MILLERTON — Refreshments, remembrances, a bronze plaque and new additions to a colorful mural: all are happening this Saturday at the North East-Millerton Library, as it holds a ceremony dedicating the children’s room to the memory of Irving and Shirley Saperstein.

The occasion marks a gift by Susan Saperstein Rabin of a piece of land from the Saperstein estate, said library board of trustees President Carol Decker. The land will eventually be sold to benefit the library and its programs for kids.

The Sapersteins were a fixture of the community since the 1940s, when they arrived in town and opened a shop next to the Village Diner. The store bearing his name at the corner of Dutchess Avenue and Main Street is owned by Irving’s son, Louis.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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Thursday, October 2, 2025

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

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OUR TOWNS



Katie Cariello, left, is wrapping up her first season as market manager for the North East Community Center.

Millerton Farmer’s Market set for ‘spooky’ sales month

By ALY MORRISSEY alym@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — As the Northeast Community Center’s farmer’s market heads into its final outdoor months, organizers say there are still a few tricks left in their bag. With autumn underway, the market will continue its new tradition of monthly themes to bring structure and fun to a season that doubles as a family-friendly outing, a place to meet friends and a chance to enjoy local music.

October will be “Spooky Month” at the market, and visitors can expect fall-themed crafts and maybe even a tarot card reader. Halloween will come early on Saturday, Oct. 25, and Katie Cariello, NECC food programs coordinator and market manager, said costumes are encouraged. Kids will be invited to go trick-or-treating around the vendors’ tables.

Looking ahead, November will be “Gratitude Month.” On Saturday, Nov. 8, the market will host programming in honor of Veteran’s Day and spend the month thanking their vendors and other community members.

Cariello is wrapping up her first season as the market manager and has enjoyed working with a small but collaborative team of vendors. “Our vendors are a tight knit group,” she said. “It’s always so lovely to see them collaborating together during the market.” Rather than competing for sales, Cariello and her team have observed a camaraderie that sets the tone for the community-oriented market.

For example, The Baker’s Wife — a small artisan bakery and mill in the Hudson Valley — has supplied bread to a few vendors so they can enhance the display of their products. You can also hear the vendors promoting each other, adds Cariello.

Attendance has spiked and plateaued at different points throughout the summer, but NECC said attendance isn’t always a good indicator of sales, with some vendors selling out on days when attendance was lower. Either way, Cariello and her team are grateful for the foot traffic through Veteran’s Park. “Customers of all kinds, whether they are weekly, visiting or come through once a month, all bring value to the market.”

But it’s not all about the produce and food. Cariello said one of her favorite aspects of the market is actually the NECC crafts table. “A point of pride is when a kid asks to stay and color while parents go

purchase their vegetables and baked goods,” she said. “I’m happy we have created a safe and inviting place for families.”

With eyes toward expansion, NECC tested the waters this summer with a secondary market in Amenia, though the organization collectively decided there wasn’t quite enough momentum to continue with that initiative. “Launching a small town farmer’s market can be tough,” Cariello said, offering that while not entirely successful, there were positive aspects that came out of the pilot program. “A lot of good ideas were generated and the experience will positively inform community events moving forward.”

Cariello is grateful for the market’s longtime and new vendors and the relationships she has made in her first year at the helm. “They are the literal bread and butter of the program!”

Accessibility remains a central focus for the market, which continues to expand programs that make fresh, local food more affordable. Through the Double Up Food Bucks program, shoppers using SNAP benefits can double their spending power up to \$50, turning \$50 in tokens into \$100 worth of market food. The market is also working to better support use of Farmers Market Checks, which are provided to seniors, WIC recipients and veterans. So far this season, the market is on track to redeem \$1,000 in nutrition incentives — its benchmark goal — though organizers say more outreach is needed to ensure community members know these resources are available.

The NECC Farmer’s Market is always on the lookout for new vendors. If interested, an application is available on the NECC website and prospective vendors can contact the market manager at farmersmarket@neccmillerton.org.

State OKs Hecate bid for solar project, triggering 60-day time clock

By JOHN COSTON johnc@millertonnews.com

COPAKE — The 42-megawatt solar project planned for this hamlet has moved a notch ahead in the application process at the state level, but it continues to face strong opposition on the local level.

The New York State Department of Public Service’s Office of Renewable Energy Siting issued a “complete application” notice to Hecate Energy LLC on Friday, Sept. 19. Since February, when the company’s application was dismissed, the state had issued two notices of incomplete application based on filings by Hecate.

The notice of complete application triggered a 60-day period during which ORES can either issue a permit or deny the application.

Sensible Solar for Rural New York, a citizens group, said the state’s action to grant a complete application status shows “utter disregard” for the safety of the 1,400 students who attend the Taconic Hills Central Schools in Co-

pake.

“We are dismayed that ORES has deemed the Shepherd’s Run application complete, without requiring an evacuation plan for the Taconic Schools in the event of fire,” wrote Sara Traberman of SSRNY. “We urge ORES to issue a permit denial, rather than a Draft Permit, in the next 60 days.”

“ORES ignored concerns not just of citizens but of the Copake Town Board, and in engineers’ reports filed on behalf of landowners which highlighted areas where the application was not correct or complete,” Traberman adds.

Matt Levine, Shepherd’s Run’s project manager, said in a statement: “Hecate Energy is pleased to mark this key step forward in New York’s rigorous renewable siting process.

“We understand the responsibility that comes with developing a project of this scale, and we are committed to meeting all regulatory requirements, engaging openly with the community, and delivering a project that

balances environmental stewardship with energy reliability and economic value for Columbia County and beyond,” he wrote.

The project has been a flashpoint for the town since it initially was discussed in 2017, then envisioned as a 60-megawatt solar farm to be located near the intersection of Routes 23 and 7. The project was later downsized after the company lost control of a portion of the land designated for the project.

In February, State Sen. Michelle Hinchey, D-41, and State Assemblywoman Didi Barrett, D-106, both expressed concerns about the project in letters to ORES and to Gov. Kathy Hochul, respectively.

In his September message to residents, Copake Town Supervisor Richard Wolf wrote: “As we wait to see whether ORES will issue a third notice or grant Hecate a draft permit, we will continue to press our major concerns about the proposal, which include woefully inadequate screening with saplings instead of mature

trees, lack of compensation for adjacent homeowners, clear-cutting of forested areas, and fire safety. Project components would be adjacent to the Taconic Hills School campus. There are no evacuation plans for the 1,400 students, teachers, and staff; an access road to other areas of the proposed project crosses a stream, goes through wetlands, and is too narrow to permit passage of a fire truck should a fire occur.”

Besides opposition to the siting of the project in Copake, Hecate has faced headwinds in court. A Brazilian buyout fund has filed a motion in Delaware Chancery Court to intervene in a case involving concerns about Hecate’s financial solvency. LCM Fund, a creditor to Hecate, filed a motion on Aug. 26, following a motion brought in the same court by another creditor, NEC VI, which loaned Hecate \$82 million and which is seeking a restraining order against the Chicago-based developer of solar, wind and energy storage projects.

Pet blessing and adoption returns to Amenia’s St. Thomas

By ALY MORRISSEY alym@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — St. Thomas Episcopal Church will host its annual St. Francis animal blessing and pet adoption on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. to noon in Amenia. The celebration marks the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron

saint of animals and the environment.

Community members are invited to bring pets to be blessed by the Rev. AJ Stack. Furry, feathered and scaled friends should be leashed, caged or crated for safety. Those whose pets don’t travel well — or who want to honor or deceased animals — may

bring photos or ashes.

“Pet blessings have been an Episcopal tradition for many decades,” said Rev. Stack. “It’s a way to celebrate the beauty of creation and recognize the sacredness of all of creation.”

The drop-in event will also feature partner organizations like The Little

Guild, The Animal Farm Foundation and Hope Rising Farm, with pets available for adoption throughout the morning.

The blessing will be held rain or shine on the church lawn and parking lot. St. Thomas Episcopal Church is located at 40 Leedsville Road, Amenia.

OBITUARIES

Steven Willand, Jr.

LAKEVILLE, Conn. — Steven Willand, Jr., 97, of Newton, died Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, at the United Methodist Communities at Bristol Glen in Newton.

Steven was born in Montclair and lived most of his childhood years in Fairfield. He graduated from Grover Cleveland High School in Caldwell, then proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. He was the former owner and operator of Steven Willand, Inc. in Augusta until his retirement in 1994. Steven was a longtime Sussex County resident, spending many years in Frankford Township and Lafayette.

Steven was a lifetime member of the VFW. He found peace outdoors, enjoying bass fishing, fly fishing in Montana, and hunting in his younger years. One of

his true joys in life was living on the lake in Connecticut before returning to New Jersey. He had a love of country music and enjoyed the simplicities of tending to his vegetable garden.

Steven was predeceased by his parents, Stephen Willand, Sr. and Mae (Paige) Willand; his first wife, SophieAnn Willand; and his second wife,

Ruthmary Willand. He is survived by his children, Scott Willand and wife, Synda, and Suzanne Willand; his stepchildren, James, Mary and Richard Pellegrino; and his grandchildren, Sharyce, Statler, and Steffen.


Arrangements are private under the direction of Smith-McCracken Funeral Home. Steven will be laid to rest in Frankford Plains Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made in Steven’s memory to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl, Memphis, TN 38105 or to Father John’s Animal House, 50 Father John’s Lane, Lafayette, NJ 07848.

Online condolences may be offered at www.smithmccrackenfuneralhome.com.


For more obituaries, see Page A4






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Amenia Planning Board continues discussion of new subdivisions

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Two current subdivision applications were discussed at the regular meeting of the Planning Board on Thursday, Sept. 25, both progressing toward public input phases but needing more clarity on environmental and visual impact.

Cascade Creek
Representing developer Hudson River Housing, a Poughkeepsie nonprofit, was Senior Planner Peter Sander of Rennia Engineering who provided a summary of the plans for the conservation subdivision along Cascade Road. A conservation subdivision allows for reduced lot sizes, Sander explained.

Plans call for 28 residential lots with two parcels allocated to provide underground utilities, including common wastewater treatment. Potable water supply would be sourced from on-site wells.

The conservation analysis was accepted by the Planning Board in June, Sander noted, adding that the area is surrounded by similarly-sized lots.

“We believe that the application is ready for action and scheduling of a public hearing,” Sander said.

“A voluminous amount of material has been submitted,” agreed Planning Board engineer John Andrews who said that the studies embedded within those materials appear to show no information that would lead to an adverse environmental impact.

Those materials include a traffic study, ecological study, discharge analysis, archeological assessment and an analysis showing conformity with the town’s comprehensive plan for development, Andrews said.

Board attorney Paul Van Cott noted, however, that before scheduling a public hearing, the board would still need to arrive at an environmental determination of whether there exists any significant adverse impact.

Board member Ken Topolsky said that he continues to have concerns about density, visual impact, and whether the housing would be defined as affordable housing or workforce housing. He also had concerns about impact on the nearby creek and the effect of stormwater runoff, as well as the effect on bog turtle migration.

Hearing the concerns, Sander asked the board to provide him with a written listing, feeling also that the concerns were answered by data contained within the materials already submitted.

“[HRH] is an organization that wants to benefit the community,” Sander said.

Continuing his concern about traffic and public safety, board member Walter Dietrich noted that 28 homes could produce 56 cars making daily trips. He also noted the absence of streetlights in the planning.

“How does that not impact?” Dietrich asked.

Agreeing with Dietrich, board member James Walsh noted the number of vehicular accidents in that area, close to Freshtown Plaza.

“Streetlights would make for more visual impact,” Sander noted, a topic that is already a “hot issue.”

Planning Board chairman

Robert Boyles expressed concern on behalf of the fire company about the capacity of the planned hydrants, feeling that the water volume might be insufficient to extinguish a house fire.

By unanimous accord, the board agreed to discuss the application again at their Wednesday, Oct. 22, meeting, giving Sander time to extract and summarize the data from submitted documents in response to board concerns.

Keane Stud
Taking a step toward review of the visual impact of plans to subdivide Keane Stud acreage, the Planning Board learned that a “scope analysis” has now been submitted for their consideration.

Representing the Keane Stud developers was attorney Diana Kolev, Partner of DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise Wiederkehr, LLP, of White Plains. Since June, the developers have worked to define environmental and visual impacts of the proposed subdivision, advised by the board’s visual consultant George Janes.

Attorney Van Cott explained that the scope analysis needs to be “owned by the board” and he suggested a public meeting to introduce and review the information.

Accordingly, the board voted unanimously to publish the scope analysis on the town website and to schedule a review and discussion of the document at its next scheduled meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 8. Board member Nina Peek recused from the vote; board member Jamie Vitiello was absent.

Millbrook earns bronze status as a Climate-Smart Community

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Having committed to demonstrating climate leadership as a community through participation in the Climate Smart Community program, the village of Millbrook has recently achieved bronze certification from the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation.

A total of 19 communities throughout the state achieved



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

Webutuck students showed off dance moves from the Hispanic diaspora during the second annual Hispanic Heritage Night at Webutuck High School on Saturday, Sept. 27.

Hispanic Heritage Night returns for second year at Webutuck

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Students of the Webutuck School District celebrated their hispanic heritage with a demonstration of dances and home-cooked food on Saturday, Sept. 27.

The dancing kicked off just before 6 p.m. starting with a demonstration of classic Mexican moves, followed by dances of Ecuador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

Dancers ranged in age from elementary students to seniors at Webutuck High School, all clad in changing costumes representing each country.

Following the dance presentation in the auditorium, members of the audience were directed to the cafeteria where a buffet of homemade dishes representing cuisines from across the Spanish-speaking world awaited

them. Available for diners were fresh tamales, rice, beef, pork, churros, chicharrones, and hibiscus juice to wash it all down.

The buffet didn’t last long, as many people piled the home cooked food high on their plates and ate the traditional cuisines with gusto.

Then it was off to the gym, where a dance party was taking place for the now well-fed and energized group of parents and students.

Saturday’s celebration marks the second year of what district staff say they hope will become a regular annual tradition at the school.



Students donned traditional costumes for the dance presentation.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Chocolate and Pines LLC.

Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/26/2025. Office location: Dutchess County.

SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Natalia Hurley, 108 Old Post Rd N, Apt 2, Red Hook, NY 12571. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

08-28-25
09-04-25
09-11-25
09-18-25
09-25-25
10-02-25

LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL

The bond resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on July 17, 2025, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. Such resolution was subject to a permissive referendum. The period of time has elapsed for the submission and filing of a petition for a permissive referendum, and a valid petition has not been submitted and filed.

A complete copy of the resolution summarized herewith is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Town Clerk for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Dated: Amenia, New York, September 8 2025.

Dawn Marie Klingner
Town Clerk
BOND RESOLUTION
DATED JULY 17, 2025.

A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING THE BOND RESOLUTION DATED DECEMBER 5, 2025, TO AUTHORIZE, SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM, THE ISSUANCE OF AN ADDITIONAL \$3,936,116 BONDS OF THE TOWN OF AMENIA, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW

TO PAY A PORTION OF THE COST OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HIGHWAY GARAGE AND SALT STORAGE SHED, IN AND FOR SAID TOWN.

Class of objects or purposes: Construction of a new highway garage and salt storage shed

Period of probable usefulness: 30 years

Other monies: \$1,065,412

Amount of obligations to be issued: Additional \$3,936,116 bonds

New maximum estimated cost: \$11,334,977

SEQRA:

Unlisted Action. Negative Declaration. SEQRA compliance materials on file in the office of the Town Clerk where they may be inspected during regular office hours by appointment. 10-02-25

Legal Notice

Silent Mind Apparel, LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/09/2025. Office

location: Dutchess County, NY. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: P.O. Box 593. Purpose: any lawful act.

10-02-25
10-09-25
10-16-25
10-23-25
10-30-25
11-06-25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NAILED BY ALYSSIA LLC has been formed as a limited liability company (LLC) located in Dutchess County, New York by filing Articles of Organization with the New York Secretary of State (NYSS) on July 15, 2025. Alyssia Morton Beliveau is designated as registered agent for the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Alyssia Morton Beliveau will be mailed any process against it served to 579 Carpenter Hill Road, Pine Plains, NY 12567. The purpose is to engage in any lawful business practice.

09-25-25
10-02-25
10-09-25
10-16-25
10-23-25
10-30-25

The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.

Notices can be emailed to legalnotices@lakevillejournal.com or mailed to

The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Go to millertonnews.com/legalnotices to view current and past legal notices.



PHOTO PROVIDED

50/50 raffle winner

Townscape President Elizabeth Barrett, center, hand-delivered the 50/50 raffle cash prize to winner Jason Jobson, left, at the Dutchess Trading Company on Main Street. Proceeds from the 50/50 raffle will support the Townscape committee’s goals of beautifying Millerton through planting flowers, installing benches and tables and decorating Main Street.

HAUNTED FORTRESS *Continued from Page A1*

ily is going to do it different from these three kids from Bard, who are going to do it different from these three middle school kids.”

The sets themselves were all built from recycled material to be as creepy and decrepit as possible, Ar-ent said. Concrete culverts adorn the sides of a bridge over a stream, stacked vertically with a cone on top to elicit a fortress’s spires. Reclaimed lumber bolted to a fence evokes a dark and scary forest blocking any escape. A rusting tractor with a steel box welded above the seat sits on a set of rails with two cars attached to it, mimicking

a wrecked train with it’s inner mechanisms exposed and blowing steam on passersby.

This year the Haunted Fortress is following a haunted circus theme featuring clowns and other carnival staples alongside the classic settings of the Fortress.

The team of volunteers is dedicated and numerous, and the Stanford Highway Department lends a hand too, Arent said, but there’s always a need for skilled labor at the local attraction.

And the group appreciates all the help they can get. “Whatever you’re interested in and capable of doing,” Arent said.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

Volunteers were hard at work putting the finishing touches on the crucial creepy decorations for the Haunted Fortress of Stanford on Sunday, Sept. 28.

INN RE-ZONING *Continued from Page A1*

missions in the A5A and R3A districts — where their property sits — to accommodate uses such as weddings and small events that could provide supplemental income to sustain the vineyard.

While existing zoning regulations in the district allow for “repurposing an existing structure” for overnight accommodations, King hoped to amend the code to allow for new structures. His ideal winery would feature 24 rooms for overnight guests and work force housing that would provide a number of local jobs.

On a tour of the property, King pointed out where grapes would be grown and where lodging might be tucked into the treeline in order to blend with the natural charm of the land.

“The goal, first and foremost, is to build a vineyard and winery,” King said. “My family would be living there so we have no interest in hosting frequent, weekly weddings,” he said, addressing rumored concerns about local traffic and noise.

King also noted his commitment to hiring locally and boosting the economy. “Everyone we’ve brought on is local — architects, engineers, excavators — because we want to be part of the community, not just some city people coming in.”

Early encouragement

When the Kings’ petition first came before the Town Board in April, it was met with cautious optimism. The

Board accepted the application for review, but warned that zoning amendments could take time.

In a July meeting, Town Attorney Warren Replansky called the proposal “reasonable” and “likely to benefit the community.” He added that it was consistent with the rural character of the area. Replansky said the applicant established an escrow account to cover the town’s legal costs — a gesture of good faith that signaled cooperation.

Supervisor Chris Kennan also sounded supportive, telling King that he would attempt to move the process forward quickly and solicit necessary feedback from experts including the town’s Planning Board, the Conservation Advisory Council and Nan Stolzenburg, a zoning consultant with decades of experience.

Deferred dreams

At the September Town Board meeting, the tone had shifted and the Board backed away from the idea of treating the petition as a standalone amendment. Instead, the group agreed to address the request during the broader second phase of the town’s zoning overhaul, which will review residential and agricultural districts. This move would honor the hard work that went into the commercial review, said Kennan, and put safeguards in place for the residential and agricultural districts.

Councilwoman Meg Win-

kler described the winery application as “putting the cart before the horse.” Fellow Councilman Chris Mayville said the Town had “learned a lot” about how complex zoning work can be. Kennan, once optimistic, now stressed caution. “Things can sound wonderful, and this application in particular sounds like a wonderful thing, but I realize it applies to a lot of other parcels and there are reasons to spend time making sure this is what we want to do.”

The CAC raised environmental concerns, particularly about noise from outdoor events. Stolzenburg pointed to state guidance that “incidental uses” must clearly support — not overshadow — agriculture. Universal feedback recommended more careful language and new definitions to avoid future loopholes.

The shift left King disillusioned. “We’ve tried to align with everything the Town wants so there isn’t friction. And yet here we are,” he said.

While Bill Kish, a member of the Planning Board, suggested the applicant prove his agricultural commitment by planting vines before seeking broader permissions, King insists that model isn’t financially viable.

“I’ve run the numbers every which way,” he said. “Without events and additional revenue, we’ll fail in the first year. We’re at the point of deciding whether or not to pull the plug.”

The town’s perspective

For Kennan, the answer lies in process. The town has spent years — and more than 100 meetings — modernizing its commercial zoning code in response to the 2019 Comprehensive Plan. That work is nearing completion, with residential and agricultural zoning next on the docket. Kennan hopes to assemble that review team before the end of the calendar year and move forward more efficiently.

At the end of the day, the petition represents not just one project but the precedent it could set. The Board’s caution highlights the tension between supporting economic growth and protecting the character of North East.

“I appreciate Mr. King’s interest and we welcome people who want to come and start a business and invest in our town,” Kennan said. “We want to make sure it’s done in a way that keeps the nature of the town consistent with what we know.”

PUBLIC WORKS *Continued from Page A1*



PHOTOS BY ALY MORRISSEY

From left, Jim Milton, Spencer Parks and William J. Clark stand with Joseph Olenik on their first day working under him as the head of Public Works on Monday, Sept. 29.

his impact on Millerton and we’re confident this change will bring lasting improvements to operations, communications and community engagement.”

Police Chief Olenik, who will continue his leadership role within the Millerton Police Department, said he is looking forward to the added responsibilities.

“I am excited to help move the department forward and rebuild it after the devastating fire,” Olenik said. “I am also looking forward to working with the dedicated staff and helping the residents of Millerton by making needed changes and repairs.”

Though Olenik will assume additional responsibilities as he leads the Highway Department, the Millerton Police Department will continue to operate separately — but with the same shared goals of supporting the village community.

Mayor Najdek added that Olenik has extensive supervisory and administrative experience that, given the imminent need to rebuild the Highway Department

building, will be critical. In addition to managing the upcoming construction, his first orders of business will include making sure the village is on track for leaf pick-up and snow removal, working to ensure the right equipment and personnel are in place.

Olenik held his first meeting with the Village Highway Department on Monday, Sept. 29 and discussed a new leaf container — built by Millerton’s Highway Department — that will support efforts to collect leaves. The leaves will then be turned over to McEnroe’s Organic Farm for composting. While the team configuration — which includes Jim Milton, William J. Clark, and Spencer Parks — will be new, Olenik said they are not strangers. “They’ve always helped me out and I’m looking forward to working with them more closely.”

The Board said in a statement the Village is in good hands moving forward. “Joe’s leadership style — hands-on, structured, and community-focused — makes him well suited to guide this department through the transition.”



William J. Clark installs the leaf container he and his colleagues built. Leaves from the Village will be delivered to McEnroe’s Organic Farm for composting.

BENNETT PARK *Continued from Page A1*

is a major undertaking by the nonprofit Millbrook Community Partnership, whose president, Oakleigh Thorne, is expected to share plans for the rest of the project, including the Woodland Trail feature, now underway.

The project began in 2021 with the demolition of the imposing Bennett College buildings, deteriorated beyond saving.

“I am thrilled to have been a part of restoring the Bennett College campus to a place of beauty,” Thorne said in a statement on Wednesday,

Sept. 24. “It was truly sad to watch its slow deterioration over the years, and our hope is that Bennett Park becomes a spot for our community to enjoy for many generations to come.”

The grand opening will welcome all residents and their families, along with visitors. There will be souvenirs, refreshments and children’s activities.

Bennett Park is located at 7-9 Bennett Common Way. Additional event parking will be found on Carroll Boulevard off of Franklin Avenue.

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COMMUNITY: RUTH EPSTEIN

Project SAGE hosts events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

With October designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Project SAGE, based in Lakeville, will host three events to shine a light on the issue.

Kicking off the initiative is the annual Vigil and Red Sand Project Action, scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 9. Supporters will gather at 6:30 p.m. at Community Field, 10 Sharon Road, where a candlelight remembrance walk will proceed to the Project SAGE office at 13A Porter St.

The vigil is dedicated to honoring individuals who have lost their lives to domestic violence in Connecticut over the past year, while reaffirming Project SAGE’s commitment to ending relationship violence. Discussions and reflections on sensitive topics will take place. Staff will be on hand to provide support as needed. A small reception will follow the memorial ceremony. The event is sponsored in part by National Iron Bank.

Fifteen minutes prior to the start of the vigil, Red Sand Project Action members will conduct an activity to raise awareness of human trafficking. More information about the program is available at redsandproject.org/about.

On Saturday, Oct. 18, the third annual Take Back the Hike will be held to raise awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault, spur discussions about personal safety in public spaces, and highlight the therapeutic and healing power of nature. The event is sponsored by Project SAGE, the Kent Land Trust and Kent Park and Recreation.

Hikers will gather at Skiff Mountain South Preserve at 10 a.m. to embark on a three-mile hike across Skiff Mountain to the Harrison Overlook, embracing both the beauty of the outdoors and the strength found in community action.

“The partnership between Project SAGE and the Kent Land Trust has created an event that resonates deeply with the values of community,



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

“The Red Sand Project” from 2024 will once again open this year’s annual vigil.

safety and conservation,” said Melissa Cherniske, program manager of the land trust. “We are looking forward to this year’s Take Back the Hike and are excited to continue building on this meaningful tradition.”

To register, go to <https://bit.ly/register-forhike?r=qr>.

The final event will be held Saturday, Oct. 25, when Project SAGE launches a new partnership with The Moviehouse in Millerton. A screening of the documentary “Another Body” will begin at 7 p.m. This award-winning film follows an American college student’s search for answers and justice after she discovers deepfake pornography of herself circulating online.

Following the screen-

ing, Virginia Gold, Project SAGE’s director of client services, and Linda Ciano, director of community engagement, will hold a talkback, moderated by executive director Kristen van Ginhoven.

This event is part of Project SAGE’s Year of Digital Safety offerings. Ciano said, “Nearly every relationship today has some sort of virtual component, whether that means meeting new love interests through dating apps or staying connected with family and friends on social media. Building the skills needed to have healthy interactions online and knowing what to do if things go awry are vital.”

Moviegoers should note the film includes language and images

that may be difficult to watch. Staff will be on hand to provide support if needed.

Tickets are \$18 and available for purchase at themoviehouse.net.

“We are looking forward to a full Domestic Violence Awareness Month this year,” said van Ginhoven. “With new and ongoing events that are accessible to all, we look forward to uniting with advocates, sister agencies and coalitions across the country to raise awareness and uplift efforts toward our common goal of ending domestic violence.”



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Acclaimed author Susan Choi opened the Hotchkiss Library’s fall series, reading from her new novel, “Flashlight.”

BOOKS: LEILA HAWKEN

Author Susan Choi opens Hotchkiss Library’s Fall Author Series

A rare opportunity to engage with the studied, meticulous process through which a recognized, award-winning author turns a core idea into a full-length work was the order of the day when the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon invited Susan Choi to speak on Saturday, Sept. 27. The program kicked off the Fall Author Series planned by the library, with two more authors scheduled for October and November.

A winner of the National Book Award, Choi based her talk on her recently published work, “Flashlight,” and the happy news that it has moved from the longlist to the shortlist for a Booker Prize.

“We’ll just be here together,” was the tone set by Choi in the informal talk. She spoke without notes and welcomed audience questions in

conversation. Choi began by reading an excerpt from the very beginning of her book — what had once been a short story published in The New Yorker. A father disappears. The story unfolds over time, memories, and the culture of nations, examining mysteries and catastrophe, all acting in concert to impact characters over decades.

“How memories shift over time” was something Choi said her book explores.

“It was challenging,” Choi said of the writing process and the research involved in depicting 1970s Japan, not yet westernized. “Mysterious things had happened in that era,” she said.

“I was interested in how long these things had gone unexplained and whether the characters who populate

Continued on next page

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Salisbury, CT 06068
860-435-9851
noblehorizons.org

Sandi Ouellette's
Illuminated Designs
October 2-November 23

Local artist Sandi Ouellette is the imaginative force behind *Illuminated Designs*. This creative exhibit features painted dotilism stones, laser etched tumblers, and wooden wall art. Join us on October 2nd from 4-6 in the Learning Center for opening night and meet the artist behind these creations. Wine and light snacks will be served.

Exhibit will stay open weekends 11-4 until November 23rd

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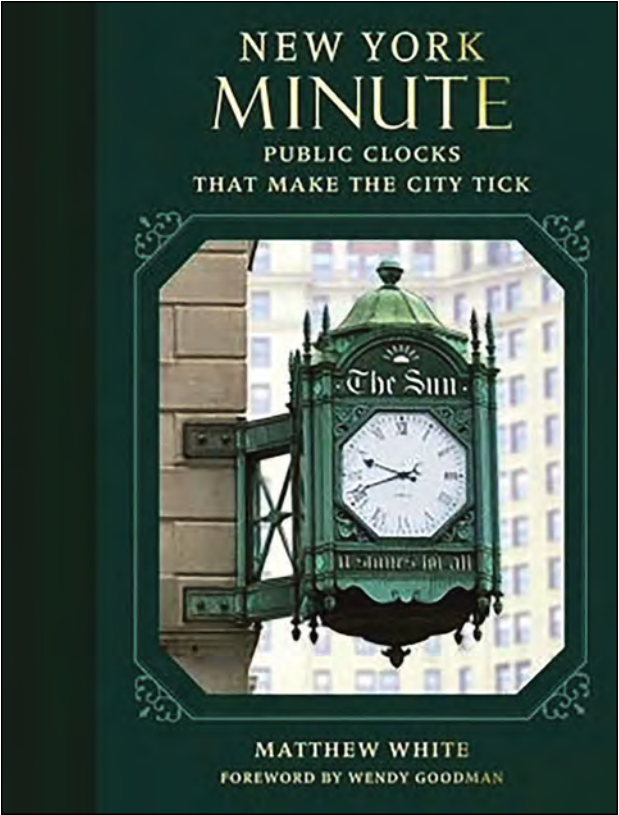
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WLHV FM 88.1
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Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA



“New York Minute” by Matthew White contains over 150 images and illustrations by the author.

BOOKS: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

‘New York Minute’: a book signing with Matthew White at Hillsdale General Store

On Saturday, Oct. 4 at Hillsdale General Store, design devotees, urban romantics, and those who’ve ever glanced up at a clock tower in New York City will find their time well spent. Literally. Designer and author Matthew White will be on hand to celebrate the launch of his new book, “New York Minute: Public Clocks That Make the City Tick” (Abbeville Press), a lavish ode to the unsung sentinels of the city: its public timepieces.

If the title sounds nostalgic, that’s intentional. In “New York Minute,” White — one half of the storied design firm White Webb — turns his discerning eye to more than fifty clocks scattered throughout the five boroughs. Think sidewalk-level curiosities, soaring church towers and those quietly majestic lobbies. It’s architectural tourism with a personal twist.

The book, featuring a foreword by New York magazine’s design editor Wendy Goodman, is gorgeously produced, but it’s White’s storytelling that elevates it and makes it, shall we say, timeless. These clocks aren’t just decorative; they’re witnesses. “Every time I went out photographing, it was a

perfect New York day,” said White. “It made me fall in love with New York again, in a different way.”

His chapters unfold not by neighborhood, but by where the clocks live architecturally — on façades, rooftops, or nestled within unexpected public spaces — offering a fresh look at a city already so mapped and mythologized. White’s favorite? The Grand Central Terminal clock. He describes it with reverence: “It’s not just a clock. It’s a public art piece. It’s the largest sculptural group in the city and home to the largest installation of Tiffany glass in the city,” White explained, his three years of research evident.

White weaves personal narratives throughout, transforming the text into an intimate exploration of time’s cultural and personal significance. Among the photographs, some historical and most taken by the author, White has added his illustrations of each clock, quiet interludes that invite the reader to pause.

Originally from Texas, White moved to New York City at eighteen to attend the School of American Ballet. After

Continued on next page

COMMUNITY: ROBIN RORABACK

Mariann Edgar Budde, Marilynne Robinson and Paul Elie offer voices of courage

On Sunday, Sept. 28, at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, a full audience eagerly gathered to hear authors Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, Marilynne Robinson and moderator Paul Elie discuss what is happening in the United States.

The talk was part of the 2025 Words, Ideas, and Thinkers Literary Festival (WIT), presented by the Authors Guild.

Mary Rasenberger, CEO of the Authors Guild, introduced the panel, saying, “With the growing tyranny and attacks on democracy, what can we do? Budde and Robinson will give us reason to hope.”

The day after the inauguration on Jan. 21, Budde ascended to the pulpit at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., to ask the new president “to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now.” She is bishop of the Diocese of Washington, D.C., and author of three books.

Marilynne Robinson, well known for her four-book Gilead series, is the recipient of many awards for her fiction and nonfiction, including a Pulitzer Prize.

Moderator Paul Elie, a regular contributor to The New Yorker and author of several books, has twice been a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Elie began the talk by asking Budde what considerations she had when speaking to the current president.

Budde said she “worried about the consequences of speaking to a country that had been barreling toward division.” She wanted to “speak for those being dehumanized” and to offer “a gentle exhortation” on their behalf.

Elie asked Budde to define bravery and Robinson to define courage. Robinson said, “Courage celebrates all the other virtues.” Courage answers the question: “How generous can you be at



Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde (foreground), Paul Elie, and Marilynne Robinson sign books for attendees.

PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

your own cost?”

Budde answered, “At times in life, you may be called upon to do something you haven’t done before which involves a risk. At those times, we are invited to be brave.” She continued, “Courage is of the heart, when we become aware of that summons that beckons us.”

Elie commented, “Courage is a learned trait, but courage is not encouraged.”

Robinson said, “People need a meaningful measurement of courage and honesty on which to judge themselves.”

“People that should be traditional guardians of democracy continuously backpedaled. We need courage,” she continued. “We should be screaming in the streets about people starving who counted on us. We’ve made concessions until we feel there is nothing left to defend.”

Budde said, “Movement-building is critical.” She spoke of a “quiet network working to protect people” in Washington, D.C., including lawyers, people helping with food and those walking children to school when their parents are afraid to — fearful of being detained.

She advised, “I try to never violate the dignity of people who see the world differently. This is part of the solution. We have to overcome the reflex to see people in the

worst possible way who oppose us.”

Elie asked, “How can we make more pointed recommendations for action? What can we do now?”

Budde said to ask ourselves, “What is being summoned from me now? What should I be

doing? The next right thing will be revealed to us.”

Robinson said, “No one has power now except the people. There is no salvation now except democracy, and that is what I hope for.”

For more information, go to authorsguild.org

...Susan Choi

Continued from previous page

the narrative would come to understand those real mysteries,” Choi said.

“How lives are formed by circumstances we don’t understand” was an idea that invited exploration as Choi wove her narrative.

A background as a professional fact-checker informs and influences Choi’s meticulous research and writing process, with a strong emphasis on historical accuracy.

“If we are exploring our shared human history, I can’t get it wrong,” Choi said.

Next up in the Fall Series at the library is

Peter Kuper, insect illustrator, who will describe his creative process that led to “Insectopolis: A Natural History.” The talk is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 5, at 4 p.m.

The final program in the series will feature Aleksandra Crapanzano speaking about her cookbook, “Chocolat: Parisian Desserts and Other Delights,” and offering a cooking demonstration on Sunday, Nov. 16, at 4 p.m.

Advance registration is advised and can be made on the library’s website: www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org

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WORD OF THE WEEK @THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

OUR TOWNS

Washington’s median home price reaches \$700,000

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — Transfers of real estate recorded in July and August in the Town of Washington continued a pace with the median price of a single-family home rising to \$700,000 at the end of August 2025, up from \$492,500 last year.

At the end of September there were 24 single family homes listed for sale in the Village of Millbrook including the most expensive 45 Hitchcock Lane for \$65 million and the least expensive at \$629,000.

August Transfers
16 Shunpike — 3 bedroom/3 bath home on 6.9 acres sold to Stephen White

for \$745,000.
515-521 Woodstock Road — Single family home on 5.35 acres sold to Oliver Brown for \$450,000.

3925 Route 82 — 5 bedroom/5.5 bath home built in 1850 on 13.49 acres sold to Butterfly Hill LLC for \$1,817,500.

59 Bangall Road — 4 bedroom/3 bath/2 half bath on 6.18 acres sold to Michael Thompson Millbrook LLC for \$1.9 million.

Hammond Hill Road (#595902) — 14.71 acres rural vacant land sold to Anthony Galente for \$157,500.

July Transfers
620 Route 343 — 3 bedroom/2 bath home on .94 acres sold to Donald E Brandes for \$700,000.

471 Butts Hollow Road — 1 bedroom/1 bath 1,259 square foot ranch sold to Fallerhof LLC for \$537,500.

667 Shunpike — 4 bedroom/2 bath home on 9.3 acres sold to Porterfield, Hathaway Lynch Trustee for \$1.9 million.

**Town of Washington recorded real estate transfers from July 1 to August 31 not previously reported sourced from Dutchess County Real Property Office monthly reports. Details on each property from Dutchess Parcel Access. Market data from One Key MLS and Infosparks Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.*



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Built in 1999 and updated in 2017, 59 Bangall Road is a 5,086 square foot house with panoramic views which sold for \$1.9 million on July 30.

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