



MILLERTON

Rail trail
learning **A3**



AMENIA

Halloween
parade **B5**



COMPASS

Indigo girls;
Fields of Snakes;
and more **B1-4**



PHOTO BY NAIHAN MILLER

Despite the biting cold, Millerton's Halloween Festival of Frights brought out families to Railroad Plaza on Friday, Oct. 31. About 160 people stopped by the Irondale Schoolhouse for free hot dogs and chili, said Friends of the Irondale Schoolhouse President Lisa Cope, as visitors sought a warm snack to fend off the chill. By 7 p.m. — the event's scheduled end — most booths and trunks had been packed up, leaving the plaza quiet. Above, Alex and Amanda Cooper and their son Hudson enjoy a late bite at the schoolhouse. Right, Town of North East Town Clerk Tilly Strauss, right, and Deputy Town Clerk Marcy Wheatle, left, donned witchy outfits.



PHOTO BY RHIANNON LEO-JAMESON

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

Baxter, known for her textile-



PHOTO COURTESY JOSHUA SIMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY

based artwork, created this workshop to bring people together in an open, inviting environment with creativity at its center. “Shared creative experiences have been shown to strengthen mental health

See QUILTING, A6

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

Volunteers at the Food of Life Pantry — run by Amenias's St. Thomas Episcopal Church and Charlie Paley of Sharon — said they

That scarcity has pushed the pantry to lean harder on other organizations such as the Tenmile Farm Foundation in Dover Plains, which Wright said has delivered

See SNAP, A6

He joined Schneps in December 2022, after selling the Queens Post — a collection of hyperlocal



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

news sites that he founded including Sunnyside Post, Astoria Post, and Jackson Heights Post. The sites became a model for neighborhood

See CHRISTIAN MURRAY, A6



860-435-9873, ext. 608

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OPINION
Columns,
Letter **A5**

BENEFITING
The Lakeville Journal *and* The Millerton News

Salisbury Town Grove
Saturday, November 22, 2025 at 5:00pm



The Jubilee honoring Bunny Williams has been rescheduled and we look forward to celebrating with you.

For more information, visit
lakevillejournal.com/2025jubilee

OUR TOWNS

Pumpkin Smash returns to Millerton to promote composting

By ALY MORRISSEY
alym@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Halloween may be in the rear view mirror, but don't toss those pumpkins just yet. In partnership with McEnroe Organic Farm, the North East Climate Smart task force will host its annual Pumpkin Smash at Eddie Collins Park on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 2 to 5 p.m. The family-friendly event aims to help community members dispose of their pumpkins in a fun, eco-friendly way.

Attendees can enjoy cider and donuts, a beer tent hosted by Willa, and kids' sack races with prizes organized by the 175th Committee, whose members will be on hand to answer questions about the village's milestone birthday bash planned for July. The main attraction will be a life-sized slingshot — engineered by task force member Andrew Stayman — that will launch pumpkins of all sizes into the air for a satisfying smash.

"Our number one priority is to have fun," said Climate Smart task force coordinator Kathy Chow. "We will also introduce people to Climate



PHOTO PROVIDED

The pumpkin slingshot is ready to go for the Pumpkin Smash at Eddie Collins Park in Millerton on Saturday, Nov. 15.

Smart concepts, especially composting." Chow says the annual Pumpkin Smash is intentionally held two weeks after Halloween so people's pumpkins are "nice and mooshy." The smashed pumpkins will be hauled away by McEnroe Organic Farm for use in their composting operation, which was established in 1987. "We compost material from our own farm, our local food waste drop-off site and sources from New York City and the surrounding Northeast region," said Olivia Skeen,

McEnroe's development and communications manager. "Each year we process around 8,000 cubic yards of food waste — roughly the size of 220 school buses." While the event is meant to offer a bit of post-Halloween fun, Chow said the need for composting is serious. Nearly a quarter of everything sent to landfills is food waste, making it the largest contributor to municipal solid waste. As it decomposes, it emits methane, a greenhouse gas that Chow says is roughly 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Farms like McEnroe's help divert waste, sequester carbon, improve soil health, reduce erosion and manage stormwater. "The nutrient-rich compost we produce

supports our farm's organic crops, fruits, vegetables, herbs and our free-range beef cattle," said Skeen. "Our commitment to climate resilience is at the core of everything we do, from growing the food we eat to educating the public on sustainable practices that help protect the environment for future generations." Composting won't be the only Climate Smart topic discussed at the event. Chow said the task force will also be on-hand to educate village residents about their recently installed water meters. "We will share all types of clever tips and tricks about understanding water consumption," she said. "And how people can save water and money." Drop off your food scraps at McEnroe's and help reduce landfill waste

McEnroe's household food waste drop-off site is located in the parking lot of its market, 5409 Route 22, Millerton, where three bins are available for anyone in the community who wants to participate. "It's an easy and convenient way to ensure your food scraps don't end up in a landfill," said Skeen. She added that no plastic or compostable bags should be used, as they don't break down in the composting process. Skeen also recommended freezing food waste until drop-off. "This helps reduce any odors and makes it even easier to drop off your waste when it's convenient for you," Skeen said. "We're here to make it as easy as possible to reduce waste and help the community embrace a more sustainable way of living."

Route 82 repaving set for 2026

New York State Gov. Kathy Hochul announced Route 82 will be repaved next year between Route 44 in Millbrook and Sisters Hill Road in Pine Plains. The repaving is part of the state Department of Transportation's \$34.8 billion five-year capital improvement plan including state-maintained highways across New York.

Route 82 will get new pavement between Poole Hill Road and Woods Drive in the Town of Ancram. Route 22 will also be resurfaced between Route 23 and County Route 21 in the Town of Hillsdale and from Route 20 to the Rensselaer County line in the Town of New Lebanon. Hochul's announcement centered on an additional

\$800 million in state funding that was secured as part of the 2026 budgeting process to bolster the DOT's resources in the final two years of the 2022-2027 capital improvement campaign. Three-quarters of that new money — a total of over \$600 million — will pay for 180 repaving projects in 2026 alone, totalling over 2,150 lane miles to be repaved next year.

Stanford's 2026 budget passes with no public comment

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

STANFORD — The Town Board adopted the 2026 preliminary budget on Tuesday, Oct. 21, after no one attended the public hearing. "As there's no one here in the room, I make a motion to close the public hearing on the 2026 preliminary budget," Stanford Town Supervisor Wendy Burton said immediately after the public hearing was opened. She then provided a brief recap of some statistics, saying salaries account for 30% of the highway fund budget and that health costs rose 15%. "Please remember the

town is responsible for the general fund, the highway fund and the ambulance fund," Burton said. "Library, fire and Bangall light district taxes are simply pass-throughs that the town does not control." The total budget for the town increased slightly from \$4,570,690 in 2025 to \$4,828,200. That's a roughly 5.6% increase in the town's overall budget compared to 2025. But a combination of savings and a large reduction in the ambulance fund contributed to a decrease in the amount of tax revenue the town must collect from \$2,552,057 to \$2,247,477 — a nearly 12% decrease.

Salaries for Town Board members and the Town Supervisor stayed the same, but the supervisor's bookkeeper and legislative aide will see small pay bumps. The bookkeeper is getting a \$1,344 raise, bringing the position's salary to \$46,155. The legislative aide is getting an \$840 raise, with a new total salary of \$28,847.

Don't Miss This Week's Special Inserts! Sales and more! Check them out inside. • A+ Detailing

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
Brevi Properties LLC
Brevi Properties LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 8/27/2025. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 16 Peaceable Way Dover Plains, NY 12522. Purpose: Real estate management. Section 203 of the Limited Liability Company Law.

10-09-25
10-16-25
10-23-25
10-30-25
11-06-25
11-13-25

LEGAL NOTICE
ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE Pine Plains Fire District
On December 9, 2025
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Election of the Pine Plains Fire District will take place on December 9, 2025 between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the Pine Plains Fire House located at 7 Lake Road, Pine Plains, New York 12567 for the purpose of electing one Commissioner: one Commissioner for a five (5) year term, commencing January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2030. Only residents registered to vote with the Dutchess County Board of Elections on or before November 16, 2025 and have resided in the Pine Plains Fire District for at least thirty days prior to the election, shall be eligible to vote.

Candidates for District Office shall file their names and the position they are

seeking with the Secretary of the Pine Plains Fire District, Heather Lamont, P.O. Box 860, Pine Plains, New York 12567 no later than November 19, 2025. November 6, 2025.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
PINE PLAINS
FIRE DISTRICT
11-06-25

Legal Notice
SilentMind 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

LEGAL NOTICE
The South Amenia Cemetery Association Annual Meeting will be held Friday, November 07, 2025 at 7:00PM at 4007 Route 22, Wassaic, NY 12592 for the election of officers and trustees and the transaction of other such business as may legally come before it.

Amiee C. Duncan,
Secretary
11-06-25

NOTICE OF ANNUAL ELECTION Wassaic Fire District in the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York
NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN, that pursuant to Section 175 of the Town Law, and other applicable statutes, an annual election of the Wassaic Fire District will be held on the 9th Day of December, 2025, at the firehouse located at 27 Firehouse Road, Wassaic, NY, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of electing the following:

ONE FIRE COMMISSIONER for a term of five (5) years commencing on January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2030; and

Each registered elector of the Town of Amenia who shall have resided in the Wassaic Fire District for a period of thirty days next preceding the election shall be qualified to vote at the election.

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES
Candidates must file their names with the Fire District Secretary on or before November 19, 2025. A candidate must be a resident elector of the Wassaic Fire District and registered voter in the Town of Amenia.

Dated: Wassaic, New York
November 5, 2025
BY ORDER OF THE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE WASSAIC FIRE DISTRICT in the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York.
Fire District Secretary
11-06-25

Notice of Publication SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
Index No. 2025-51557
FORECLOSURE SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS
LLACG COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND,
Plaintiff,
-against-
DONNA PARILLO,
AS HEIR, DEVISEE, DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD P. SWEENEY, DECEASED; BRENDA J. SWEENEY, AS HEIR, DEVISEE, DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD P. SWEENEY, DECEASED; DONALD E. SWEENEY AS HEIR, DEVISEE, DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD P. SWEENEY, DECEASED; JAMES RICHARD SWEENEY AS HEIR, DEVISEE, DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD P. SWEENEY, DECEASED; ROSEMARY SWEENEY AS HEIR, DEVISEE, DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD P. SWEENEY, DECEASED; SCOTT P. SWEENEY AS HEIR, DEVISEE, DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD P. SWEENEY, DECEASED; THOMAS SWEENEY AS HEIR, DEVISEE, DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD P. SWEENEY, DECEASED; RENEE PERRY AS HEIR, DEVISEE, DISTRIBUTE

OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD P. SWEENEY, DECEASED; ANY AND ALL KNOWN OR UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF EDWARD P. SWEENEY, DECEASED; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; "JOHN DOE #1- #50" and "MARY ROE #1- #50", the last two names being fictitious, it being intended to name all other parties who may have some interest in or lien upon the premises described in the Complaint,
Defendants.
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon plaintiff's attorney an answer to the complaint in this action within twenty days after service, or within thirty days after service is complete if the summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty days of service hereof. If you fail to answer, judgment will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
Trial is desired in the

County of Dutchess. The basis of venue designated above is that the real property that is the subject matter of this action is located in the County of Dutchess.

NOTICE
YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the Summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

Dated: October 14, 2025
MCMICHAEL TAYLOR GRAY, LLC
By: s/ Patricia Pirri, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
3550 Engineering Drive,
Suite 260
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092
(404)474-7149
10-23-25
10-30-25
11-06-25
11-13-25

A first look at Harlem Valley Rail Trail’s new outdoor classroom

By ALY MORRISSEY
alym@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — More than eight months before construction is set to begin, several colorful, museum-quality panels that will be installed along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail as part of its new 27-panel outdoor classroom were pre-viewed this week.

The immersive learning space, expected to be completed this summer, will feature vibrant, educational displays exploring water ecology, natural and social history, birds, insects and other elements of the local landscape. Designed to engage visitors of all ages, the outdoor classroom aims to transform a stretch of trail near Millerton into an inviting place for discovery and reflection.

The project has been more than a decade in the making. The original concept came from Dick Hermans, a member of the HVRTA Board of Directors, who envisioned the bridge over Webatuck Creek near Millerton as a center for education and gathering. Hermans also serves on the board for the Lakeville Journal and Millerton News.

“I hope people who’ve never been on the trail before stop and think, ‘Oh, that’s

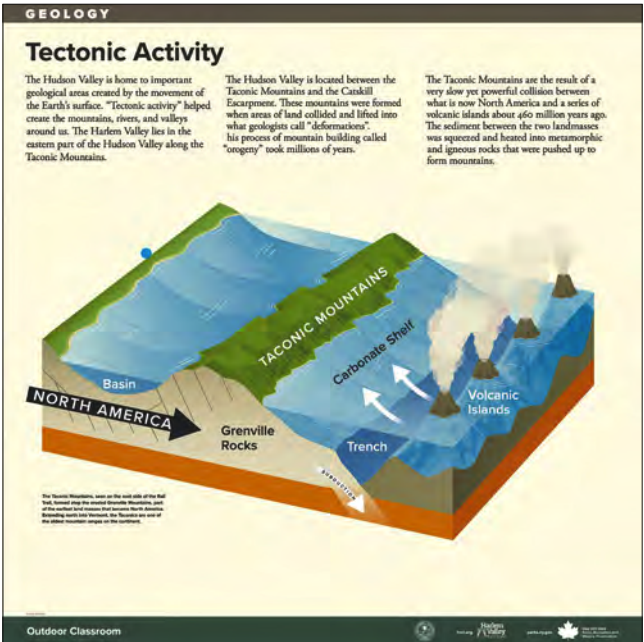


ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

A sneak peek at one of the panels planned for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail’s new outdoor classroom, which features geological information about the region. The project is expected to be installed in time for Millerton’s 175th anniversary next summer.

pretty cool — I didn’t know that,” said Hermans. “Those mountains you see off in the distance are the Taconics, and they actually stretch all the way into Vermont. Most people don’t realize it’s one of the oldest mountain ranges in the country — once more than 10,000 feet tall.”

According to one of the panels on geology, “The Taconic Mountains are the

result of a very slow yet powerful collision between what is now North America and a series of volcanic islands about 460 million years ago.”

Hermans said that history is what gives the area its rich soil and distinctive terrain. Even after all these years, he said, he has learned a lot working on the project, especially about the region’s geology.

The 27 panels will make up five different educational stations that will be set slightly off the trail for safety but easily accessible to anyone who wants to stop and learn.

With designs now complete, the HVRTA will conduct a final round of edits before having the signs manufactured. Through a combination of grants and community fundraising, the organization partnered with Dutchess County Parks and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to ensure signage meets all state standards. One requirement calls for the text to be written at roughly an eighth-grade reading level to keep the material accessible to visitors.

“It’s called a classroom, but it’s not a course,” said Hermans. “It’s something to intrigue people — to make them stop and think, ‘I wonder what that tree is, or ‘what happens underground?’ We’re very excited about it.”

The panels will mark the latest milestone in a project nearly four decades in the making. The long-running effort has so far preserved 26 miles of scenic trail, with approximately 20 additional miles to go from Hillsdale to Chatham.

Millbrook Listens: An ear to the ground with an eye to the future

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — A year-long effort is underway to help Millbrook residents define their vision for the community’s future and identify priorities that would enhance life in the village for generations to come.

The Millbrook Listens project, led by Christopher Wilson and a 20-member volunteer committee, aims to collect as many ideas as possible. Volunteers in colorful T-shirts have been attending community events, eager to hear residents’ thoughts.

“We have had over 200 idea submissions since Community Day that cover everything from walkability and town park improvements to community dances and masquerades to road safety concerns on Franklin Avenue to the need for more afterschool teen programming,” Wilson said in response to interview questions on Thursday, Oct. 23.

Residents can share their ideas using the Project/Idea Submission Form on the Millbrook Library website (www.millbrooklibrary.org) under “Resources.” The form also lets participants vote for their top three priorities.

Praising the commitment and talent of his volunteer team, Wilson said the project aims “to enhance, not to change” the village experience.

“I believe that the simplicity of just listening to what



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Millbrook Listens is listening. Project Leader Christopher Wilson paused for a photo at The Millbrook Library on Monday, Oct. 27. The year-long project to gather residents’ ideas for the village’s future is now underway.

people care about will be the wellspring toward success,” Wilson said. “We are here to celebrate the traditions and heritage that continue to inspire people every day to choose Millbrook.”

Wilson said the project’s reach extends beyond the village limits, encouraging all residents—both in and around Millbrook—to share their ideas.

Broad in scope, the initiative invites open-ended input on everything from future development and infrastructure to the conservation of the natural environment, recognizing that all aspects of community life are interconnected.

“My education is in Parks and Public Management. Understanding and fostering the relationship between human and natural worlds is critical. If we continue to talk

about them separately, we will continue to undermine the effectiveness of calls to action, Wilson said.

“Our environment includes the forest, the streams, the wildlife, as well as the businesses, houses, roadways, and people. So many speak about nature as something apart and different; it does not have to be one or the other, it is the harmony between accessibility and stewardship that needs to be achieved,” Wilson explained.

Drawing on his background in grants administra-

tion, Wilson said the project’s outcomes will help shape future goals for both the village and the town.

“We are looking to come out of this planning process with three priority projects that the community has voiced and voted on in order to show that we are unified in our direction,” Wilson said, a step toward seeking new funding sources and collaboration with potential funders.

Reflecting on his work as an outdoor educator, writer, and strategic planner, Wilson expressed a deep appreciation for the people, landscapes, and communities that have influenced his life.

“I have dedicated my life to articulating and securing funding for opportunities that inspire people and their communities,” Wilson noted. He serves as one of six select Fellows of the Funding Futures Program in conjunction with the Partners for Climate Action organization.

Two Millbrook Listens project information sessions are planned for November at the Millbrook Library. The first will be held on Monday, Nov. 17, from 1-2 p.m. and the second on Wednesday, Nov. 19, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Harlem Valley rail documentary resurfaces after more than 40 years

By ALY MORRISSEY
alym@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association Board Chair and longtime local business owner Dick Hermans was reminded recently of how much the region has changed since its railroad days.

That reminder came in the form of a resurfaced documentary film that had been tucked away in an attic in Dover Plains for more than 40 years. The film’s subject was the Harlem Valley Transportation Association — a grassroots group that fought to retain passenger and freight rail service between New York City and Chatham, New York, in the 1960s and 1970s.

Hermans, who serves on the board of The Millerton News, remembers being an early member of the transportation association.

Opening his laptop, Hermans played the video — grainy but clear, with crisp audio. A young woman stood in the corner of a bookshop, speaking passionately into a handheld microphone about the loss of rail service and its impact on rural businesses, farms and residents.

“It brings in the whole question of rural powerlessness,” the woman said, warning that locals would soon become “highway hostages,” forced to drive gas-guzzling cars. She asked, “Do the small towns of America have a right to have their needs voiced? Have a right to say how decisions are made? We’ll fight ‘til the very end to prevent these lines from being ripped up.”

Hermans recognized the speaker instantly. “That’s my former partner, Holly Nelson, in our original Oblong store,” he said.

The film, titled “The Plight of the Harlem Valley Transportation Association,” serves as a time capsule of the region’s transportation struggles and provides a rare glimpse into Millerton in the 1970s.

B-roll footage shows the former Saperstein’s building on Main Street — now Westerlind — and

its famed railroad mural, along with shots of the old Sharon and Millerton stations.

The filmmaker behind the 28-minute documentary is Philip Milano, a longtime Dover Plains resident who made the project while studying at New York University.

“It took me about a month to make,” Milano told The News. “I played all the music myself, lined up the interviews and edited it.” His dedication even left him with battle scars after he pumped a hand car — “the kind Buster Keaton used,” he said — from Copake to Sharon on the rail line to get a moving shot. “By the time I got back, I had blisters all over my hands,” he said with a grin. “But I got the shot.”

Milano was recently contacted by a former Copake Falls resident who wanted to view the film for research. He agreed to ship the only existing copy of his movie out west although he was skeptical the old videotape from the 1970s would still play. To his surprise, it was successfully digitized in Las Vegas.

The student film went on to air on cable television, which was only available in Manhattan at the time. Milano watched the premiere from his aunt’s city apartment, surrounded by friends and bottles of wine. “This must be what the Beatles felt like the first time they heard one of their songs on the radio,” he remembers thinking.

The film was also screened at The Moviehouse in Millerton for a one-night showing.

Milano stayed rooted in the area, opening and running Milano’s Restaurant in Pine Plains for 14 years. The establishment, now Back Bar Beer Garden, still operates today.

Nearly 50 years later, Milano said he is content with how history unfolded. “If the trains had stayed, this whole area would look completely different,” he said. “In a way, I’m glad it didn’t happen because I still like bouncing along these scenic back roads. It’s one of the prettiest parts of New York.”

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ZEN PRACTICE

Saturday, November 8, 8am-4pm
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Beginners Welcome

For more info, contact Kyonen Jim Gordon
evenmorezazen@gmail.com • (413) 229-2458

Zazen
Teicho
Chanting
Q&A

Realtor® at Large



Rob Keller, who is the owner of the Sultans of Soot, once again came to the rescue last week in helping to inspect and clean a fireplace here in Salisbury. Rob bought the business 30 years ago from the rowing legend Dick Curtis whose career has been coaching and teaching up at Salisbury School. My question to Rob was how did he survive in business for all those years? In Rob's words: "Hard work and being honest". There is a lovely interview with Rob in Main Street at: mainstreetmag.com/the-sultans-of-soot-robert-keller-master-sweep/ and to visit his web site, please see: www.sultansofsoot.com/. It is people like Rob that make our community so special, so thank you!

JOHN HARNEY
Associate Broker with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Office: 19 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068
Email: jharney@wpsir.com
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OBITUARIES

William Searby Leicht

LAKEVILLE — William (“Bill”) Searby Leicht passed away at the age of 89 on Oct. 1, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Bill’s life story encompassed science, art, and Quaker activism. Born in Winona, Minnesota, to Margaret and Robert Leicht, he attended the University of Chicago. After serving in the Army, he earned an MA in Fine Arts Education through Teachers College at Columbia University. Following an early career in neurochemistry research, Bill taught at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Hunter College, and Bronx Community College. Bill was also involved in the arts, particularly ceramics. In 1968, Audubon Artists awarded him a national medal of honor for his sculpture.

His commitment to social activism began with his involvement in the civil rights movement, as well as the South Bronx community through the organizations United Bronx Parents and The Phoenix School. Bill participated in the evolution of the Ghetto Brothers, a street gang that grew to become respected community leaders and musical innovators during the early days of Hip-Hop. Bill was also the founder of Urban Visions, a non-profit helping young people obtain arts industry apprenticeships and careers in graphic design.

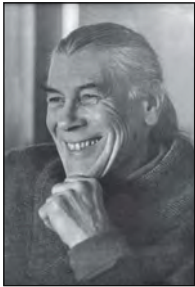
Bill became deeply involved in the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), training ex-cons and prisoners

in conflict resolution skills. Inspired by his decades-long practice of Aikido (a non-violent Japanese martial art), Quaker principles, and AVP, Bill created Aiki Workshops, a conflict resolution training technique he brought to schools and community groups. A passionate peacemaker, Bill remained an activist into his elder years, continuing his work in the South Bronx through a “Peace Dojo” community center, plus traveling to Columbia and Palestine to offer Aiki Workshops.

After many years in New York City, Bill relocated to Ancramdale, and later, Great Barrington. Bill is survived by his children; Cara Vera of Lynchburg, Virginia and Paul Leicht of New York City, his stepchildren Sarah Getz of Sharon and Kurt Gubrud of Canaan, his sister Morgan, and his brother John. Bill was predeceased by his beloved wife, Winifred “Anne” Carriere, who passed away in March 2025.

His family wishes to thank the staff of East Mountain House in Lakeville, the hospice where Bill spent his final days. East Mountain offered comfort and support not only for Bill, but also for his family and friends. Donations to East Mountain House in Bill’s honor would be warmly appreciated.

A memorial service will be held this spring, date TBA, at Bull’s Head - Oswego Friends Meeting House in Clinton Corners, New York.



REGIONAL

Transfer Station gets grant for ‘pay as you throw’ garbage plan

By ALEC LINDEN
alecl@lakevillejournal.com

SALISBURY/SHARON, Conn. — The governor’s office announced on Oct. 29 that the Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station will receive a state grant to implement a unit-based pricing system — known as UBP or “pay as you throw” — and expand its composting operations.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection awarded the transfer station \$266,692 through its Sustainable Materials Management grant program. The funds will support a gradual, three-phase transition to a pay-per-bag model to replace the current \$150 flat fee paid by households. Both the Salisbury and Sharon selectboards endorsed the application when it was submitted in June.

Under the new system, residents would pay based on the amount of trash they generate rather than a single flat rate. Smaller households, such as retirees or couples, would pay less, while larger families that produce more garbage would pay more.

Per the application, “the goal of the three-phase process is to gain as much support as possible for the program.”

On Oct. 30, Brian Bartram, manager of the transfer station, said efforts to switch to a UBP system began in 2000 when the proposition was met with community backlash. Another attempt

to look into UBP was initiated in the early 2010s, but it didn’t go anywhere, said Bartram.

UBP is controversial because while it brings costs down for some, it will not benefit the larger households who have grown used to the flat rate. There is evidence, though, especially from nearby Massachusetts, that the system lowers overall residential and commercial waste production.

The application estimates a UBP model at the Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station will lower waste yields by 25-40% in the two towns, as it has in other Connecticut towns like Woodbury and Guilford/Madison.

Part of the waste reduction comes from diverting food scraps out of the trash. The savings to the town with the program will help further develop the transfer station’s growing composting initiative. Cornwall was also awarded an SMM grant on Oct. 29 in the sum of \$15,000 to build its own composting program.

Bartram said the purpose of the phased strategy is to allow for “parachutes” or “fire extinguishers” in case the system proves to be inappropriate for the towns or widely unpopular. In the immediate term, the selectmen have the right to decline the grant money, even though they signed on to the application in the early summer.

Bartram said if the two selectboards choose to ac-

cept, the first step will be to compile an advisory committee for the project with members on both sides of the UBP issue.

Once that team is assembled, the first phase will be “groundwork” and will begin with deliberating implementation specifics about pricing, bag distribution and public outreach efforts.

As of Monday, both first selectmen expressed enthusiasm at the transfer station’s success with its application and for beginning the initial process.

Following the groundwork stage is the “launch” phase in which the Committee will initiate widespread community engagement as the program kicks off for a mandatory 1-year run, which will have to be approved by both selectboards. The final phase outlined in the application is

the “monitoring” phase where feedback and program results are reviewed and the system is streamlined for long term success.

Bartram said he was confident in the plan, but that he understands the difficulty in bringing an unfamiliar program to the transfer station. “I think it’s a good idea but there are so many nuances,” he said. He stated it will be the job of the committee to discern the best way to move forward with a program that could help the state mitigate its waste crisis.

Since the closure of the Materials Innovation and Recycling facility in Hartford in 2022, Connecticut has shipped more than 40% of its municipal and commercial waste to landfills across state borders, which is expensive to the state, towns and ultimately residents.

Salisbury School alumnus becomes World Series champion with Dodgers

By RILEY KLEIN
rileyk@lakevillejournal.com

Pitcher Emmet Sheehan earned a World Series championship ring Nov. 1 when the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Toronto Blue Jays in Game 7.

Sheehan, who graduated from Salisbury School in 2018, pitched four innings over three different games in the series.

In Game 1 he entered in relief during the sixth inning. He recorded one out.

Sheehan pitched two and two-thirds scoreless innings in Game 3, which the Dodgers ultimately won in the 18th inning.

In Game 7 he threw a scoreless seventh inning with two strikeouts, helping to keep the game tied before the Dodgers’ extra-inning win.

Sheehan received congratulations from his alma mater after the win via Salisbury School’s Instagram account @sarumknigh. “Way to go, Emmet!”

Sheehan was born in New York and grew up in Darien, Connecticut. He attended Fordham Prep School in the



PHOTO BY JOE MEEHAN

Emmet Sheehan graduated from Salisbury School with the Class of 2018.

Bronx prior to transferring to Salisbury School where he helped the Knights win the Western New England Prep Baseball League 2018 championship.

He played for Boston College for three seasons before

being drafted by the Dodgers in 2021. Sheehan made his Major League Baseball debut in 2023.

Sheehan underwent elbow surgery in 2024 and was reactivated by the Dodgers earlier this year.



While at Salisbury School, Emmet Sheehan helped the Knights win the WNEPBL championship in 2018. Now in 2025, he is a World Series champion.



Worship Services

Week of November 9, 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
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Livestream at 10:30 found at
www.trinitylimerock.org
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627

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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

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is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan
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www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org

Congregation Beth David
A reform Jewish Synagogue
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SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM
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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
860-435-9496
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
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Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
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12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
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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, November 9 at 10:30 a.m.
WAIT, JESUS WASN'T CHRISTIAN?
For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialuoi@gmail.com
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Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary
Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church
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Thursday 8am
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Friday 8am
Church of St. Mary
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2nd & 4th Sunday
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We hope you will join us!

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Industrial society is over

Ever since the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution about 200 years ago, the world has been shaped with the maxim to end of piece work, terminating most cottage (meaning single person) output, and transitioning to a cohesive workplace where workers come together, each as part of the process, manufacturing goods, services, and product. Factories became the norm, mines were reorganized to train miners each to a singular task, leather workers tasked with portions of the whole making shoes as component parts, wheelwrights tasked for single spokes instead of the whole wheel, engine builders becoming specialists with pistons, cranks, molding individually, never together.

The whole point of the industrial society is that you mastered a single task and were a repetitive integral part of that physical process, making corporate end product dependent on assembly of product designed and compartmentalized to allow corporate structure to oversee the whole. We became an industrial society — workers and management, services and delivery, sales and marketing.

Some say we are now in a new industrial revolution. Revolution? For sure, but industrial? When every component portion of industry can now be made by machine or robotics, the age of humans fitting into the old Industrial Revolution pattern is over, redundant. We’ve begun a move to the knowledge revolution, wherein only knowledge and individual learning and intelligence determine societal structure.

Look, a robot can easily replace a car assembly worker. \$35,000 and you’re done; a new “worker” capable of 24/7 operation, no pension, no benefits. For every 50 robots you need a technician, a knowledgeable technician, a human currently (until robots simply unplug, allow a replacement automatically in place, and take themselves off to a scrapyard). Same goes for all miners, truck drivers along freeways, airlines wanting AI and only one pilot in the cockpit, Madison Ave. using machine learning to design marketing campaigns, or Amazon firing warehouse workers for robots.

Some current trades, often thought of as menial labor, will have to reap greater respect. The knowledge of a plumber, fixing existing pipes and sanitation, are

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

very specifically specialist-empowered — plumbers are a knowledge based industry. As are electricians, doctors, nurses, astronauts, teachers, and a host of other “trained” humans with complicated variables in their learning and output. Training is gaining knowledge, experience is improving that specialist knowledge — knowledgeable people are indispensable in the new society we are forging.

But the truth is, the shift from industrial to knowledge-based societal structures will be painful. The least educated will be — as they were in the mid-1800s — the worst hit. Deemed marginal consumers, marginal capitalist participants, some in power will either seek to take advantage by claiming to be “on their side” for political control or politicians in power will degrade social and medical services to allow the poorest, least educated, to perish. Make no mistake, there are already restructuring forces at work in America — either by design or by inevitable outcome of the switch from industry to knowledge. Gone already are the lifetime jobs’ plans and structures, job mobility is already the norm. Education (gaining knowledge and therefore a place in the new societal structure) has become more and more expensive — increasing the societal divide. Apprentices are gaining traction — as they did in the 1800s — to ensure specialist knowledge supports a sustainable societal future — everyone needs a plumber, car mechanic, nurse, electrician.

It is a brave new world, one which may well flourish, but currently is being undertaken by subterfuge, hiding the reality from civilians, workers, families — all who want to plan for their future. Without knowing what the future may hold — unless you are an architect or purveyor of the new knowledge society — most people haven’t got a clue. And history has shown that deliberate — but secret except for a few at the top — new societal change is going to hurt everyone, everywhere. The question is: How big will the backlash be?

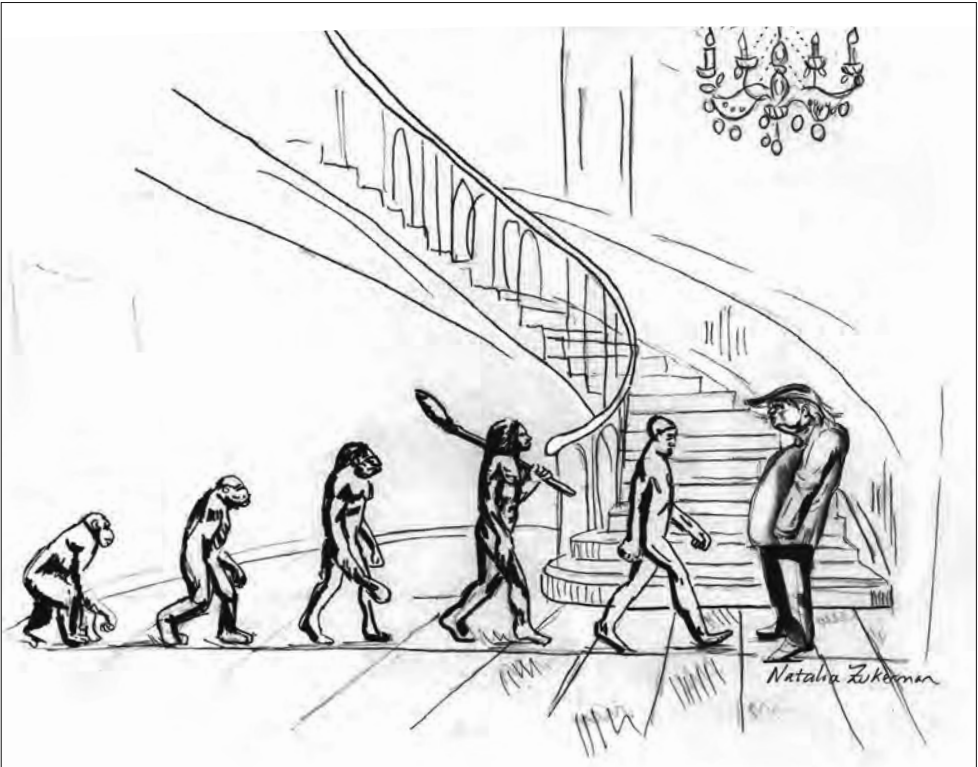
Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenia Union, New York, now lives in Gila, New Mexico.



PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Mums

Letters to the editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for that week’s publication. No more than 500 words. Send to editor@millertonnews.com. Include town and phone number for confirmation.



“And one day, the process will begin to reverse.” - Charles Darwin

Equal rights, voting and charter schools

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

November 1, 1934 Post Office In New Building

The Millerton post office was moved Tuesday night into permanent quarters in the new one-story brick building on Center Street. The post office has been situated in the erstwhile saloon of Charles A. Corey for the past five months, having been transferred there the first of April from the Shufelt building on Main Street. It was understood when the office was moved last spring that the new quarters, also situated on Center Street, were to house it only temporarily pending construction of the new building which was to have been ready for occupancy July 1.

Voting Machine To Be Demonstrated

Supervisor Frank L. Minor of the town of North East has announced that a voting machine will be demonstrated at

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Millerton News

the town room in the Brick Block Friday and Saturday from 10 a. m. to 9 p.m.

November 8, 1934 New Evidence Is Rumored In Germond Case

Important new developments are expected in the Germond murder case, according to prevalent rumors, although authorities have denied that any new angles have entered the picture and state that no definite information has been presented. Private agencies, however, have been attempting solution of the crime and are seeking to obtain evidence of sufficient strength to warrant official action, it is said.

Dobbin Honored On Birthday

MT. WASHINGTON-Saturday was dobbin’s birthday party day. “Chubby,” a twenty-five-year-old Western broncho

owned by Betty Melius, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Melius, was the guest of honor at a unique birthday party held on the lawn of the Melius place here Saturday afternoon. Invitations were sent to four other saddle horses, and upon arriving at the scene of festivity with their child riders each of the equine celebrants was fastened to a tree on which a place card was tacked.

November 6, 1975 Residents Ignore Planning Hearings

No member of the public showed up at the Comprehensive Plan hearings held last week in the Village of Millerton and the Town of North East.

ERA Loses In New York

The controversial Equal Rights Amendment was handed a defeat by New York State voters on Tuesday, 1,724,189 voting no and 1,329,545 yes. (At press time, 92 per cent of all the State election districts had reported).

In Dutchess County, the ERA, Amendment 1 on the ballot, lost 35,566 to 20,784.

November 2, 2000 Proposed Charter School Board Answers Public School Critics

WEBUTUCK — If approved, will a proposed charter school in the Harlem Valley result in significant tax increases? Do charter schools and conventional public schools compete on a level playing field?

These are some of the questions being asked in the wake of the revelation last month that a Dover group has proposed to start a charter school at the campus of the now-defunct Immaculate Conception School in Amenia.

At a joint meeting of the Webutuck and Dover school boards last month, Webutuck Superintendent Justine Winters said if the proposed Harlem Valley Charter School (HVCS) draws evenly between the Dover and Webutuck districts, Webutuck residents could see a 9.1-percent increase in taxes to make up for the loss of state aid per student. Dover Superintendent Craig Onofry projected a 7.6-percent increase.

According to Mr. Herald, if the HVCS draws about 80 students from Webutuck, the district may have to consider closing one of its community elementary schools in Millerton or Amenia. Such a move is particularly vexing in light of a recently passed 120-million capital project that includes extensive renovations to both schools.

“We’d be smarter to keep those students in one school and revisit the central campus concept,” said Mr. Herald, adding that the district “would still have to stay within the money that was approved.”

[Mr. Slater] cited reported vandalism to charter school board members’ property in Hempsted, Long Island.

“There’s been threats made and they’ve had their tires slashed,” he added.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

(USPS 384600)
An Independent New York Newspaper
Official Newspaper of the Village of Millerton, Town of North East, Town of Washington, Town of Amenia, Town of Pine Plains, North East (Webutuck) Central School District and Millbrook Central School District
Published Weekly by LJM Media, Inc.
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; Dan Dwyer, Chair
P.O. Box 625, Millerton, NY 12546
(860) 435-9873 ext. 608 • millertonnews.com • editor@millertonnews.com

Volume 94, Number 42 Thursday, November 6, 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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Subscription Rates - One Year:

\$120.00 in Dutchess and Columbia Counties, \$147.00 Outside Counties
Known Office of Publication: Lakeville, CT 06039-1688. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Millerton, NY 12546. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to LJM Media, Inc., PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688.

QUILTING *Continued from Page A1*



PHOTO COURTESY JOSHUA SIMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Participants can choose from a variety of patterns and designs for their individual quilt squares. All materials will be provided.

came amid the COVID-19 pandemic when Baxter saw growing social isolation and political division. “It felt like people were increasingly speaking into echo chambers online rather than connecting face-to-face,” she said. “I noticed how few opportunities there were for people with different backgrounds and viewpoints to gather in the same space.”

Baxter said her choice to use the firehouse as a venue was intentional. “I wanted to get out of these unapproachable spaces like museums and galleries and actually bring people together in a shared space — like a firehouse.”

When Baxter and her family moved from New York City to Wassaic several years ago, it felt like a “significant shift.” She found herself seeking connection and belonging in what she calls a “purple county,” one with political diversity — something that informs much of her work.

Having grown up in Kentucky in a family that supported open-carry gun laws, Baxter’s perspective evolved after years spent in New York City. Today, she takes pride in her ability to bridge opposing perspectives — an ability that threads its way through her art. “My work often explores the space between these divides, and I wanted to take that exploration beyond the gallery and into real, shared action,” she said. “What better way to bring people together than through the act of creating?”

Working primarily in fabric, Baxter’s practice spans soft sculpture, quilted wall hangings and community-

based projects. Her work has been exhibited in galleries, museums, universities and fairs in the United States, Hong Kong and Sweden.

“I create approachable work that playfully confronts the complexities of social and political division,” Baxter said, describing her series of stuffed caricatures of assault weapons made from vibrant fabrics. “Using humor and precision, I reflect the absurdity and intensity of our political climate.”

Quilting, however, is where it all began. Baxter learned to sew as a child in Kentucky, following a long line of family quilters. “I never imagined I’d have a career using the same art form I learned from my grandmother,” she said, adding that she is eager to share her experience and talents with the community.

“Shared creative experiences have been shown to strengthen mental health and community bonds, and quilting felt like the perfect medium for that kind of connection,” she said.

This event invites many hands and perspectives to collaborate on a shared vision, all in support of the Wassaic Fire Company.

Baxter received grant funding for the workshop, allowing all quilting materials to be provided to participants free of charge. This project is made possible with funds from the New York State Legislature and administered by Arts Mid-Hudson. This year will feature an optional potluck to encourage additional community building and conversation.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

EARLY DEADLINE

OFFICE CLOSED NOVEMBER 27 & 28

Ad deadline for the Nov. 27th issue is

Noon on Thursday, Nov. 20th

for ALL Display Advertising

Legal Notice Deadline is

4 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20th

Classified Line Deadline is

Noon on Friday, Nov. 21st

Letters to the Editor deadline is

10 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 21st

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SNAP *Continued from Page A1*

24,758 pounds of fruits and vegetables to the pantry this growing season.

“What’s been happening since late January is that there’s been less and less food that’s either free or lower price,” Wright said. “So many of our partners have stepped up.”

The Tenmile Farm Foundation is part of a network of like-minded organizations in the Tri-corner region of New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts that collaborate to promote access to nutritious, locally-produced food at an accessible price or for free.

The North East Community Center’s Food Programs Director Jordan Schmidt heads up the network — officially known as the Tri Corner Nutrition Security Coalition — as part of her role in charge of the community center’s food pantry and outreach programs.

Among the coalition’s partners is Tri-Corner F.E.E.D., which offers an alternative to traditional pantries. Linda and James Quella of Sharon, Connecticut, formed the organization and opened a market in Millerton that sells locally-produced groceries at subsidized prices.

Blake Myers, manager of the Tri-Corner F.E.E.D. Market on South Center Street in Millerton, collaborates with the coalition. She said the coalition has been closely monitoring local residents’ access to food, allowing its member farms, pantries and nonprofits to quickly redirect supplies when needs arise.

Tri-Corner F.E.E.D. operates a market with tiered pricing. Customers can sign up to buy groceries either at full price, at a 30% discount or at a 60% discount depending on their need.

Myers echoed Food of Life volunteers’ concerns about the community’s increasing dependence on local food pantries.

She said food pantries are supposed to be a resource in emergencies. “What’s happened is that they are now a regular resource that people need in order to feed their families,” Myers said. “This case of the SNAP benefits be-



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Volunteers at St. Thomas Episcopal Church’s Food of Life Pantry donned masks and costumes to celebrate Halloween while distributing meals on Friday, Oct. 31, at the church on Leedsville Road in Amenia. The pantry regularly serves more than 600 people every week.

ing cut is an emergency emergency, because there’s already so many families that are barely scraping by.”

The Rev. AJ Stack of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Amenia said the most effective way to support the Food of Life pantry is through cash donations. “We can purchase things at much lower prices elsewhere,” Stack explained, adding that every dollar goes further when the pantry buys in bulk from its suppliers.

Myers offered a similar perspective when it comes to supporting Tri-Corner F.E.E.D. She told The News that customers with the means can best assist the nonprofit by purchasing items at full price — providing revenue that helps fund the market’s mission to offer affordable food to those in need.

“All of our shoppers here are by word of mouth,” Myers said. “Which is really important to me, because I wanted the experience to be something that people wanted to return to and feel comfortable.”

CHRISTIAN MURRAY *Continued from Page A1*

journalism in the borough of Queens.

“I’m thrilled to join The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News,” Murray said. “I’ve always believed that strong local journalism builds strong communities, and I look forward to continuing that tradition here in Northwest Connecticut and Dutchess County.”

“Christian is a proven builder of local news organizations and a champion for community reporting,” said James Clark, CEO and Publisher. “His leadership and experience will strengthen our

newsroom and help advance our mission to provide essential journalism for Northwest Connecticut and New York’s Harlem Valley.”

Early in his career, he was a political reporter with Newsday and a business reporter with Reuters. Murray, who is originally from New Zealand, holds a master’s degree in journalism from Columbia University. After living in New York City for 25 years, he moved to Northwest Connecticut in 2022.

Murray can be reached at christianm@lakevillejournal.com.

Food pantries in northeast Dutchess County

Millerton/North East
North East
Community Center
51 S. Center St., Millerton
Contact: Jordan Schmidt — foodaccess@neccmillerton.org or 518-789-4259 ext. 124
Hours: Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 6; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Available to families and individuals that reside in North East, Millerton, Amenia, Dover Plains, Washington, Millbrook, Pine Plains and Stanford. Recipients may utilize the food pantry up to two times per month.

Amenia
St. Thomas Episcopal Church Food of Life/ Comida de Vida food pantry
40 Leedsville Road, Amenia
Contact: Charlie Paley — 845-373-9161
Hours: Friday, 2 p.m. to 5 at St. Thomas Episcopal in Amenia and 6 p.m. to 8 at 12 Reimer Ave. in Dover Plains.
Available to anyone regardless of residence or need. Food of Life distributes collections of food intended to serve as nine complete meals for each recipient.

Sun River Health/ Dutchess Outreach mobile food pantry
Contact: 845-838-7038
3360 Route 343, Amenia
Hours: Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Church Vine & Branches Food Closet
4 Lavelle Road, Amenia
Contact: Denise Conway — icspamen@optonline.net or 845-373-8193
Hours: Monthly on the third Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10:30

Pine Plains
Willow Roots
7730 S. Main St., Pine Plains
Contact: Nelson Zayas — willowrootsinc@gmail.com or 518-751-0164
Hours: Monthly on the first and third Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11
Recipients must be a resident of the Pine Plains school district

United Methodist Church Community Food Locker
3023 East Church St., Pine Plains
Contact: Pat Nannetti — 518-398-7692
Hours: Monthly on the second Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11:30
Recipients must be a resident of the Pine Plains school district

Washington/ Millbrook
Lyall Community Church
30 Maple Ave., Millbrook
Hours: The food pantry is open as necessary by appointment. Call Diane Moretti at 845-242-6508 to arrange an appointment.
Meals on wheels are delivered weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Contact John Hummel at 845-242-6508 or by email at mealsonwheels@lyallmemorial.org to arrange delivery.
Soups and sandwiches available monthly on the second and fourth Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. during the school year.

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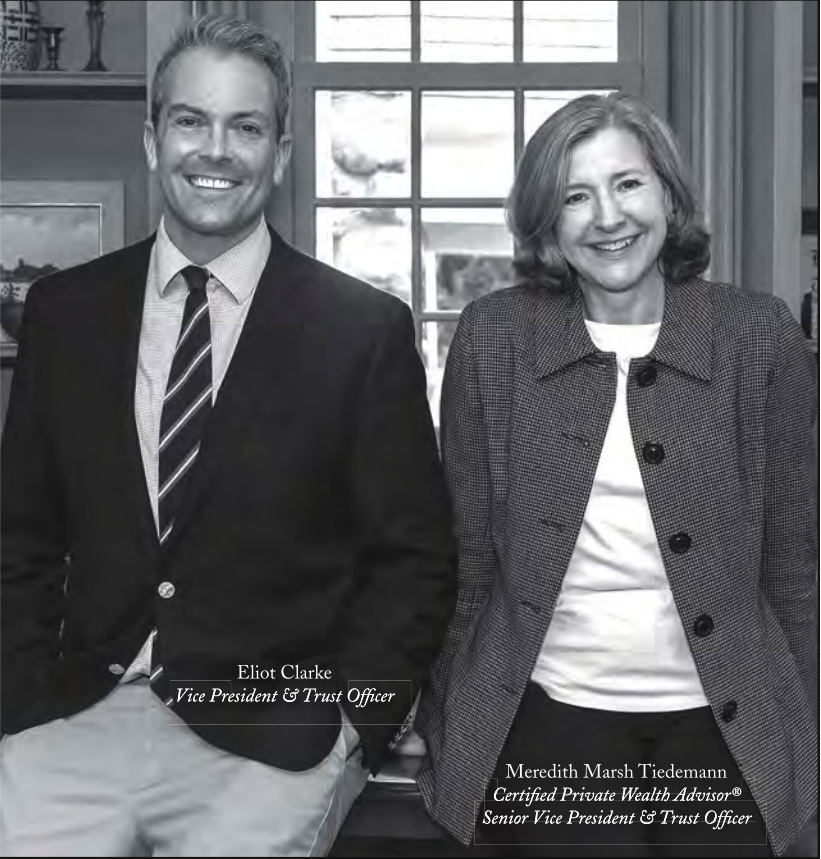
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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

ART: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Indigo girls: a collaboration in process and pigment

In Amenia this fall, three artists came together to experiment with an ancient process — extracting blue pigment from freshly harvested Japanese indigo. What began as a simple offer from a Massachusetts farmer to share her surplus crop became a collaborative exploration of chemistry, ecology and the art of making by hand.

“Collaboration is part of our DNA as people who work with textiles,” said Amenia-based artist Christy Gast as she welcomed me into her vast studio. “The whole history of every part of textile production has to do with cooperation and collaboration,” she continued.

That sense of shared purpose is at the heart of the invitation Gast extended to artists Natalie Baxter and Janis Stemmermann to process a bumper crop of Japanese indigo (*Persicaria tinctoria*) at her studio this fall. All three artists’ practices intersect through material, process and an interest in the handmade. Gast and Stemmermann have collaborated on a series of hand-knit vests dyed with black walnut, available through Stemmermann’s store, Russell Janis. Baxter is a Wassaic Project residency and fellowship alum, who is leading a community quilting workshop there on Nov. 15. She also co-directs “Cottage Courses” with artist Polly Shindler, a series of hands-on artmaking workshops throughout the region.

“Lisa Dachinger of Hilltop Farm & Fiber Arts north of Pittsfield, Massachusetts had an abundance of indigo this year,” said Gast of her learning about the crop’s availability. In two trips to the farm, Gast



PHOTO BY NATALIE BAXTER
Artists Christy Gast, above, and Natalie Baxter in Gast’s studio

harvested the plants and began experimenting with the ancient art and science of extracting pigment from the plants and transforming it into rich, layered blues.

“There are a lot of steps,” Gast noted with a laugh, as vats of aerated indigo bubbled in the corner of the studio. The process is slow and physical, dependent on timing, temperature and a kind of faith in chemistry. The freshly harvested Japanese indigo leaves are first soaked in warm water and left to ferment for several days. The plant matter is then removed, the solution is strained and the pH is raised with the addition of calcium hydroxide, and then the mixture is aerated, poured back and forth between containers until it oxidizes and the pigment turns dark blue. After the indigo settles to the bottom, the resulting paste is filtered, dried and ground



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

into powder. Only then is it ready for dyeing.

But as Stemmermann pointed out, “It’s not a dye. It’s a coating and reaction.” Indigo’s elusive chemistry means each piece is unpredictable, shaped as much by chance as by control. To achieve a deep, saturated blue, “you have to layer it and dip it up to eight times,” she explained.

Each artist uses dye in their work, albeit quite differently, yet all share a deep sensitivity to material and process. “There is a seasonality to textile work,” said Baxter, referring to dye plants. “First, there’s the planting. And then you wait for them to grow, you harvest them, you

dye the fabric and then it’s wintertime.” During quilt season when our attention turns inward, the patient, hands-on process becomes a meditation on slowness for Baxter, mirroring the rhythm of the earth and a quiet longing to move with it.

For Gast, working with plant dyes is a way to align artistic practice with ecology and activism. “I’m working on a project that will be showing at Mass MoCA in 2027,” she explained. “It’s a collaborative opera about peatlands for which I’m producing a textile installation that functions as the curtains.

Continued on next page



PHOTO PROVIDED

‘Snakes on Downey Rd, Millerton, NY, 2025,’ a pigment print by Theo Coulombe and Eve Biddle, from the series ‘Fields of Snakes.’ Printed from an 8×10-inch color negative on archival rag paper, 32 by 40 inches, 2024.

ART: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

‘Fields of Snakes’ opens at Standard Space, exploring collaboration and transformation

Artist and Standard Space founder Theo Coulombe and Eve Biddle, artist and co-executive director of The Wassaic Project, share a fascination with land, body and transformation. Their recent collaboration is culminating in “Fields of Snakes,” opening at Standard Space in Sharon on Nov. 8.

The exhibit features new large-format landscapes by Coulombe alongside a collaborative body of work: photographs of Biddle’s ceramic sculptures placed within the very landscapes Coulombe captures.

Collaboration is central to both artists’ creative lives. Coulombe opened Standard Space in 2017 after decades in Brooklyn’s photography scene and has built the gallery into a space known for its collaborative spirit and sharp curatorial eye. For Biddle, collaboration is

practically a medium in itself.

“I love his work,” Biddle said of Coulombe. “It’s so fun to collaborate with someone who thinks about the same things — about land and our physical relationship with land, and our body and looking and appreciating our local beautiful landscape.”

For Coulombe, the process of working with his 8x10 Dearn-dorff camera — a slow, meditative tool — shapes both the work and his relationship to his subjects.

“You become part of the camera,” he writes in his artist statement. “You use a dark cloth and look at the ground glass on the back of — not through — the camera. You become an interior of the eye. You’re upside down and backward... the composition and the groundlessness is the canvas.”

That attentiveness to the natural world

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Living with Dying: Allowing the End to Inform the Present

Join us on November 8th at 4:00 in the Community Room of Noble Horizons 17 Cobble Road Salisbury Connecticut.

Noble Horizons and East Mountain House are co-sponsoring this talk by Roy Remer, Executive Director of Zen Caregiving Project in San Francisco, CA on a topic often avoided: our own mortality. He is the author of the forthcoming book, *Zen Caregiving: How to Care for Yourself While Caring for Others* (April, 2026). With nearly 30 years of experience in hospice care and learning from individuals with life-limiting illnesses, Roy will discuss the profound value of turning toward death throughout life. He will discuss how this acknowledgment is key to living a meaningful and happy existence. No registration necessary. All are welcome to attend this informative talk.

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THEATER: MATTHEW KRETA

Hotchkiss presents ‘Pippin’

The Hotchkiss Drama Association is kicking off its 2025–26 season with “Pippin,” the Tony Award-winning musical by Stephen Schwartz. The show opens Nov. 7 in Walker Auditorium. Director MK Lawson, who heads musical theater at Hotchkiss, said students on the Drama Association board chose Pippin after discussing this year’s theme, “Innocence. Lost.” “The students were big fans of Pippin when they read it,” Lawson said. “It spoke to their desire to present shows that reflect some of the disillusionment they’re feeling as young people, while still having a lot of comedy and a wonderful score. I thought it was a great choice because it gives our bold actors the chance to play big, broad characters — and to show off our talented dancers.” The musical follows a



PHOTO PROVIDED

Rehearsal for ‘Pippin’ at Hotchkiss.

troupe of performers telling the story of Pippin, the first son of Charlemagne, in a playful “show within a show.” “Pippin has this fascinating structure — a group of players performing Pippin: His Life and Times...,” Lawson said. “I hope audiences really follow that element and enjoy the broad theatricality of it. We’re also including a cool new tech

element for the finale that’s sure to wow — no spoilers, though!” The cast features Jack McCarthy ’26 as Pippin, Carla Oudin ’26 as the Leading Player, Tyler Rosenblum ’27 as King Charles (Charlemagne), Lily Siris ’26 as Fastrada, Ryan Lee ’28 as Lewis, Serena Nam ’26 as Berthe, Olivia Kwon ’26 as Catherine, and Hermione Wu ’27 as Theo. Behind the scenes, Avery Hines-Mudry ’27 serves as production stage manager, and costumes are co-designed by Isabel Schlaack ’26. The set and run crew are

entirely student-built and operated. Lawson praised the cast’s professionalism and collaboration. “This cast has been so prepared and thoughtful,” she said. “They’ve brought their own creative ideas to the table — some moments in the show are directly inspired by their input. It’s been amazing watching them bring the ‘players’ to life and build real relationships onstage.” “Pippin” runs Nov. 7–9 in Walker Auditorium. “Come see Pippin! It’s gonna be lit,” Lawson said.

...indigo girls

Continued from previous page



PHOTO BY NATALIA BAXTER

Processing Japanese indigo

I’m using as many natural and regional processes as possible because our work has to do with local-to-global activism and conservation. There is a chemical alchemy in peatlands, which despite covering just 3% of the Earth’s surface, capture more than twice the carbon of all the planet’s forests combined. There’s a direct poetic alignment between plant dye processes and peatlands, which preserved some of the earliest textiles we know of. And the color

palette is ancient, both familiar and uncanny.” There’s a certain chaos in balancing experimentation with intent. For Gast, Baxter, and Stemmermann, this first attempt at pigment extraction has been as much about curiosity as outcome, a communal act of making, rooted in patience, experimentation and discovery. To find out more about these artists, visit: christygast.com, nataliebaxter.com and janisstemmermann.com

...‘Fields of Snakes’

Continued from previous page

complements Biddle’s sculptural practice, which often explores the body and transformation through form and myth. “The snake is really a symbol of resiliency,” she explained, “our ability to let things go in our lives — to still be the same people but shed what we don’t need. It’s more a metaphor for death and our contemporary experience as humans in our landscape.” To create the work in Fields of Snakes, Biddle handed her sculptures to Coulombe with complete trust. “It was all Theo,” she said. “I lent him the pieces and was like, ‘go nuts.’ That’s one of the fun things about collaborating successfully — really leaning into the expertise and skill set of the people you’re collaborating with.”

This show marks Biddle’s first exhibition at Standard Space. “I’ve been a huge admirer of Theo’s program,” she says. “There’s been wonderful overlap between his program and the Wassaic Project. He’s been really open and kind about those connections.” For both artists, collaboration is a natural extension of how they move through the art world. Biddle describes her practice — from co-founding the Wassaic Project to making ceramics, curating, and building community — as “a big radical collabo-

ration.” “I don’t love working alone,” she said. “It’s important as creatives to recognize what drains us and what feeds us.” And because no opening at Standard Space is complete without a touch of community celebration, there will also be a dance party after the opening at Le Gamin. “We’ll have some purchasable wares as well,” said Coulombe, “like t-shirts, ceramics, and jewelry.” Coulombe was referring to Biddle’s new limited-edition merch release. T-shirts and sweat-shirts will be available

only at Standard Space on opening day. They will be available later at the Wassaic Project Winter Wonderland Market which takes place the first two weekends in December. Fields of Snakes is the 58th exhibition at Standard Space, but in many ways it is a new chapter — a show about reciprocity, risk and the creative ecosystems that emerge when artists trust one another. As Biddle put it: “I really believe in bringing my full self to whatever I’m doing... and this show feels like a natural extension of that.”

Continued on next page

Rethinking Fall cleanup

The new fall cleanup The almost two-month drought has made the exuberance of fall color all the more enchanting. How remarkable are the oaks this year, with their jewel-tone shades of deep red and reddish orange. You might not have been able to differentiate between oaks when all the leaves were all green, but now the swamp oak is distinct in color from the red, white or pin oak.

The pinkish purple of the almost translucent mapleleaf viburnum leaf makes up in color, if not quantity, what the gaudy burning bush used to accomplish on our property. I spotted a small volunteer Nyssa sylvatica by its shockingly brilliant red color, Pantone number 180, to be exact. Its seed may have traveled along with a mountain laurel we planted over a decade ago. By now, you know to leave the leaves on the ground and not sweep them up. It might seem untidy, but these leaves are the winter home for caterpillars and other



beneficial insects that will feed baby birds when they hatch in spring. Turn your attention instead to another kind of fall clean up. With many of the leaves gone, you can now clearly see the lingering leaves and berries of the invasives that are causing harm to your soil and trees. It is peak burning bush season; their scarlet leaves signal you to them. The smaller ones — less than 2 feet high — are easily pulled out of the ground with roots intact. Same for the pale-yellow leaves of bittersweet vine running vertically on trees — pull them out and observe the orange roots. Pulling after a rain is always easiest. After a hard frost, we will need to move on to other tasks, as plant roots might easily snap off from the stems, remain in the ground and regrow. Our next window

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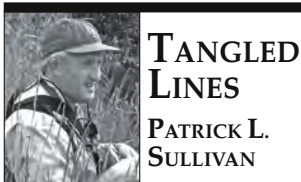
How to fish with a bad hip

I've got news. First the bad news: I am having my right hip replaced in about a month. Even more annoying, I have to be nicotine-free for this, so I am quitting cigars, which is making me very grouchy. More so than usual.

It's certainly for the best and will make my mother, my dentist, and the general public happy. Plus the money I save can be spent on useful things, like more fishing stuff.

The procedure also counts as good news. By scheduling the surgery in early December, I should be off the injured reserve list by the time fishing gets going in the spring.

The half-decent news: There's been some significant rain at long last and while the Housatonic and Farmington rivers are fishable, the little blue lines are decidedly not. They were very low before last week's rain and they dropped fast. The brook trout are stressed enough after the



TANGLED LINES
PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

dry summer, so it's best to leave them alone. This is a shame because I really enjoy prowling the small streams when the leaves are off, which I can't do anyway because of my hip. Grrrr.

Also in the okay-for-now file: the steroid shot I got in my hip Sept. 9 has kicked in and I have been moving around almost normally for a few weeks.

Almost normal is not the same as normal. It flares up every so often, and I have taken to going about with a cane, just in case.

Still, it was possible last week, before the rain, to go over to the Blackberry, which was fishable in spots and was stocked recently

I took a whack at the big pool at the dam at Beckley Furnace, a venture that requires a



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

This is a standard hatchery rainbow trout. They put up a decent fight, considering they grew up in a tank.

short, mostly level walk and the bare minimum of wading.

I caught half a dozen cookie cutter hatchery rainbows, all on small weighted nymphs like Zug Bugs, Bread and Butters and Surveyors, size 16-20. After an hour or so I declared victory and packed it in.

It was actually kinda boring but at this point I have to take what I can get.

Surgery is Dec. 2, and the doc says full recovery is six months. Other informed opinion says it's

more like three months, and blatantly anecdotal opinion has me leaping around like a pescatorial Nureyev in a matter of weeks.

So my autumn plans are all but canceled. I did not get to test out the isonychia soft hackle flies I got from some guy in Massachusetts, and only tried the switch rod rig Gary Dodson set up for me once in September when every step was an unpleasant adventure.

And if I meet you streamside I can't even say "Have a cigar."

...fall cleanup

Continued from previous page



PHOTOS BY DEE SALOMON

Northern Red Oak

for pulling will be the spring thaw. If you feel ambitious, the bright red berries on bittersweet and burning bush — as well as those on barberry and multiflora rose — scream for your attention. These will require a gloved hand and secateurs or loppers. Add the berries to your fireplace or a winter bonfire so that they don't have a chance to germinate.

The abundance of berries on our native shrubs and trees this year is quite the bird buffet. A few weeks ago, the migrating birds were stocking up on aronia berries while here, in a friend's backyard, a hedge of gray dogwood was stripped of its white berries overnight. The rest they seem to spare for the over-wintering birds, who here at least will have dogwood, winterberry and the

American holly that the robins will strip bare in early March.

All of these are native and most of them were planted by us. I have written in a previous Ungardener column of the science behind why native berries are critical sustenance for over-wintering and migrating birds ("Birds in a Candy Store," January 2024) and why the berries on the pervasive and invasive barberry, bittersweet, burning bush and multiflora rose do not provide our feathered friends with the fats and proteins they require to survive.

Leaving leaves, removing invasives and planting natives that grow food for birds — these are the new fall chores. Have a wondrous autumn season!

Dee Salomon 'ungardens' in Litchfield County.

Our visit to the Borscht Belt Museum

Our trip to the Borscht Belt Museum at 90 Canal St., Ellenville, New York, was a delight.

The museum brings the Catskills' golden age to life through many great displays — photos, articles, videos, items, and even entire rooms recreated to resemble those in the hotels and bungalows that once dotted the area.

We learned a great deal about the many resorts in Ulster and Sullivan counties that sprang up during the 20th century. The history is truly fascinating. In the 1920s, many Jewish New Yorkers sought to escape city life and found cheap land in Sullivan County. Eventually, about 1,200 families established farms there.

They raised dairy cows and meat animals — such as chickens, beef cattle, lambs and veal — but not pigs. They also grew vegetables. However, farming was difficult due to the area's poor soil and the physical and financial challenges involved. Middlemen often cut into profits, so many farmers began renting out rooms and outbuildings, and feeding their guests.

These guests were treated like family and served wholesome food



PHOTO PROVIDED

Dancers at the Raleigh Hotel's teen club, 1950s-early 1960s.

WRITER'S NOTEBOOK

THOMAS JENSEN

in generous portions, what they called "a full hand." The farms had an abundance of meat, vegetables, milk and cream, and they made butter, sour cream and cheeses on-site. If a guest wanted another potato, they got one.

Soon, the farmers realized it was more profitable to grow hospitality than potatoes. The resorts emerged — organically, you might say. It was one of the earliest "farm-to-table" hospi-

ality movements in the region.

Eventually, some resorts added entertainment like music, dancing, comedy acts and the famous Simon Says game. They even offered childcare using local teenage counselors. It all worked remarkably well.

These resorts became springboards for musicians and comedians who went on to build careers and perform in larger venues, including Las Vegas.

It's all laid out wonderfully in a charming brick building for visitors to explore and enjoy. Plans are underway to open a restaurant there

— tentatively named "Fort Lox" — featuring Jewish delicacies such as borscht, knishes, blintzes, and bagels with lox. Both indoor and outdoor seating will be available.

The addition of food will make the experience even more enriching, and we plan to return. But don't wait — check it out now and relive the memories.

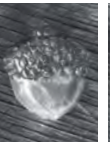


Native Dogwood berries

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