









## Towns take differing approaches to religious displays on public property

By ALY MORRISSEY  
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As municipalities across the region grapple with how to balance faith, inclusion and the use of public space during the holiday season, communities are arriving at different conclusions about interfaith observances and religious symbols on municipal property.

Several towns continue to host public menorah lightings as community events. In Stanford, Millbrook and Amenia, the celebrations are framed as inclusive gatherings rather than formal religious endorsements.

In Stanford, residents are invited to a public menorah lighting on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall. The event, hosted by Chabad of Dutchess County, will include donuts and hot latkes.

Millbrook will hold its menorah lighting Sunday, Dec. 21, at 4 p.m. at the Thorne Building on Franklin Avenue. The celebration will continue afterward at Babette's Kitchen on Franklin Avenue with hot latkes, warm apple cider, coffee, baked goods and festive singing.

In Amenia, resident Ken Topolsky installed a menorah at Town Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 16, and the town will host a lighting ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 21.

In contrast, officials in the Village of Millerton have expressed reluctance to allow a menorah in Veterans Park, citing concerns about introducing new faith-based displays on public property. Village leaders say the policy reflects a long-standing effort

to keep seasonal decorations secular.

The response comes as the village continues long-standing seasonal traditions centered on secular displays. Each year, white holiday lights are strung throughout the village by the volunteer group Townscape, and the annual Festival of Lights parade features Santa Claus and other Christmas-themed imagery.

In a written statement to The News, Millerton Mayor Jenn Najdek said the village's policy is rooted in maintaining neutrality toward religion.

"By avoiding standalone faith-based symbols like nativity scenes or menorahs, the village maintains government neutrality toward religion, preventing any perception of endorsing one faith over others or religion over non-religion," Najdek wrote.

Debate over religious displays has become more pointed in the Village of Rhinebeck, where rumors have circulated that this may be the final year a large menorah will be permitted in Doughboy Park.

Those concerns came to light after Rabbi Hanoch Hecht of the Rhinebeck Jewish Community Center sent an email to residents urging them to contact village officials and express support for keeping the menorah in the park. Some residents believe a change in policy — potentially taking effect in 2026 — could result in the removal of all religious symbols from municipal property, including a Christmas tree.

Hecht emphasized the broader symbolism of Hanukkah amid rising concerns about global antisemitism.

"We live in a very dark world, especially after incidents like what recently took place in Sydney," Hecht said, referring to the fatal terror attack at a Hanukkah celebration in Australia on Sunday, Dec. 14, that left 15 people dead.

He said that while the attacks feel geographically distant, it has contributed to a broader sense of unease among Jewish communities worldwide.

Rhinebeck Mayor Gary Bassett said reports of a definitive decision are premature and stressed that no final determination has been made.

"Rabbi Hecht and I are very much engaged, working in collaboration for events both this year and for the future," Bassett said. "That's how this conversation started, by getting together and talking."

Bassett declined to comment on reports from web-based news source The Daily Catch that the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) advised his office to remove faith-based symbols from municipal property. The News independently confirmed those guidelines.

In a written statement, NYCOM's executive director Barbara Van Epps wrote, "NYCOM generally advises against local governments erecting religious displays on municipal property. Although there are limited circumstances in which such displays may be permissible without violating the First Amendment, it can be difficult to navigate both legally and politically." Van Epps added that the best course of action is to make the display entirely secular.

## Millerton Trustees amend parking requirements

By ALY MORRISSEY  
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MILLERTON — The Village of Millerton Board of Trustees approved a local law on Monday, Dec. 15, that will ease parking restrictions in the village's General Business District. The law was immediately passed following a public hearing.

The local law amends Chapter 170 of the Village Code, titled Zoning, by eliminating off-street parking requirements for changes of use within existing structures in the General Business District.

Under the amendment, "no additional off-street parking spaces shall be required to convert space within an existing structure in the General Business District from one use or occupancy to another, even if such proposed new use would increase demand for parking."

The change will only apply to existing buildings and will allow businesses and residents within the district to move forward with new uses without triggering additional parking requirements.

"This is intended to be a quick fix," said village legal counsel Victoria Polidoro. She noted that while the board has discussed several approaches to addressing parking and zoning challenges, this change was viewed as relatively easy to implement with fast results.

Village officials said the update would be communicated through their official communication channels.

Mayor Jenn Najdek and architects from engineering firm LaBella Associates pro-



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

An artist's rendering shows what the pool and poolhouse at Eddie Collins Park could look like. During a meeting on Monday, Dec. 15, Village of Millerton Trustees decided against heating the pool to reduce costs.

vided a few key updates on village projects at the meeting, including a presentation on the planned pool at Eddie Collins Memorial Park on Route 22.

The meeting drew roughly a dozen residents, including members of the Park Committee who have contributed to and followed the pool project for years.

Kevin Hasselwander, senior landscape architect with LaBella, joined the board meeting to walk trustees and members of the public through the proposed design.

"From an estimate to the village, to the Park Committee, to a napkin sketch and now a master plan — it's hard to believe that this project has come to fruition," Hasselwander said, thanking village officials and volunteers for their collaboration and refinement.

Following the presentation, the board made final decisions to refine the scope and design of the project.

First, they agreed unani-

mously not to move forward with heating the pool, citing both the significant upfront cost and ongoing maintenance expenses. Najdek expects the pool will operate primarily between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and the group agreed to instead use a solar pool cover, which will provide passive heating benefits and help with winterization.

The board also voted to fully equip the pool house kitchen to meet Department of Health standards, which would allow it to function as a commercial kitchen.

With LaBella on site at Village Hall, the board reviewed final design details for Veterans Park, including landscaping plans, paved pathway colors and a herringbone paving pattern. Trustees approved the revisions and directed that the updated plans be sent to the county for review. Village officials said the goal is to complete construction by Memorial Day.

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OBITUARIES

William Paul Corcoran

LAKEVILLE — Paul as a custodian at Salisbury Central School. He was predeceased by his four brothers, Tom, Jim, Jerry, and Peter. Survivors are the love of his life, his wife Norma of 34 years, his two stepsons, Glen and Michael Surdam, his grandchildren, Ben, Franchesca, Glynn, Sierra, and Sidney. Paul's wishes were to be cremated and have no service.



Jai Nathan Thomas Marshall

SHARON — Jai Nathan Thomas Marshall, 31, originally from Sharon, Connecticut, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 4, 2025. Born in Torrington, on April 4, 1994, he leaves behind his adoptive parents, Tom and Linda Marshall, a daughter, Mylieonah Jai Lynae Marshall, four sisters, Chauntine Donovan, Quinlin Marshall, Salirae "Ping" Marshall and Celie Besmer; two nieces, Zendaya Marshall and Inara Donovan and many cousins. Jai also leaves behind his mom, Kathleen V. Ambery, his uncle, Noel F. Ambery II and was predeceased by his grand-



Clayton Squire Smith

LAKEVILLE — Lifelong Lakeville resident, Clayton Squire Smith, 90, passed away peacefully on Nov. 24, 2025, at Noble Horizons in Salisbury, enveloped in the love of his attentive, tight-knit family. Born on Dec. 16, 1936, in Sharon Hospital, Clayton was the son of Harold M. and Evelyn K. (Meiklejohn) Smith, both educators, of Lakeville, Clayton was known for his sharp mind, gentle temperament, and lifelong curiosity. He had a deep interest in nature, history, meteorology, and data analysis; passions that reflected his inquisitive spirit and keen observations of the world around him. After graduating from Salisbury School in 1954, Clayton went on to receive a BA in History from the University of Connecticut in 1958. With a strong acumen for analyzing data and attention to detail, Clayton furthered his education to become a nationally certified laboratory technologist, enabling him to secure a job as a lab technologist at Sharon Hospital, a position he held for 30+ years. As a young boy, Clayton enjoyed annual summer vacations with his family to their lakeside cottage in Winthrop, Maine. With a desire to pass on the tradition of cherished, nature-filled experiences, Clayton took his family on yearly oceanside camping trips to Rhode Island (among other places) and devoted an entire summer to travelling across the country, visiting as many national parks and historical landmarks as the season allowed. Throughout his life Clayton thrived on peaceful, restorative activities: tending to his garden and property, observing nature (especially birds), and listening to classical music from his carefully curated collection. More recently, Clayton enjoyed a satisfying social life at



Noble Horizons. His favorite outings included excursions to restaurants, ice cream parlors, and local historical sites. Back on campus, Clayton looked forward to attending musical and cultural events, participating in still-life painting classes, winning at Bingo, and sharing laughs and daily meals with his dear friends, Martha Eustis, Peter Reyelt, Joe Soper, and Sally Pohlemus. Clayton is predeceased by his wife Cynthia "Cindy" of 53 years with whom he built a forever home on an idyllic, family-oriented street. He is survived by his son Darren Smith of Salisbury, his incredibly devoted sister Marion Romeo and her husband Fred of Lakeville, niece Susan Romeo of West Cornwall, niece Deanne (Romeo) and husband Jim Lyle of Sharon, niece Lori Romeo and husband Norman Leighty of Goshen, nephew David Romeo and his wife Suzanne of Quincy, Massachusetts, as well as two cousins, four grand nephews, and two grand nieces. Clayton was admired for his kindness, gentle strength, and unwavering loyalty to those he loved. He was a steady presence to friends, neighbors, and all who knew him. His warm smile and thoughtful conversations will be remembered with great affection. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the staff and administration at Noble Horizons for their compassionate and tender care, especially during his final days. In lieu of flowers, Clayton's family invites you to honor his memory by stepping out of your comfort zone to help someone in need. A celebration of Clayton's life will be held in the new year at the Noble Horizon chapel. Ryan Funeral Home in Lakeville is in care of the arrangements. To offer an online condolence, please visit ryanfhct.com

CANAAN — Bonnie Lynn Hunter Sheldon, 75, of East Canaan, passed away Nov. 28, 2025, at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington, where she was born on Dec. 17, 1949. Bonnie was the daughter of Lester William (Bill) Hunter, Jr., and Huldah (Bet) O'Donnell Hunter. She grew up in Canaan and spent her entire life in the Northwest Corner. She was a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School and received her BA degree from George Washington University. She later did advanced studies in Gerontology at the University of Hartford. Bonnie was the wife of

Bernie Galek

WASSAIC — It is with profound sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of Leola 'Bernice' (Decker) Galek, on Nov. 14, 2025, aged 92, at home while on hospice, in Wassaic, where she was surrounded by the love of family and friends. Born on April 7, 1933 in the Town of Huron, New York, to Leola F. Decker and Luther Decker, Bernie lived a life marked by hard-work, compassion, and quiet strength. Bernie met and married the love of her life, Stanley Galek, on Dec. 28, 1952, while working at the Coffee Cup in Wolcott, New York. Stanley and Bernie went on to own and operate the Galek Dairy Farm on Spring Lake Road, Town of Butler, from 1952 to 1997. Besides working in the Coffee Cup, Bernie also worked the breakfast shift at Billie's Diner, and the Greek's Restaurant in Wolcott before retiring from the Alzheimer ward at the Wayne County Nursing Home, Lyons, New York in 1995.



From a young age, Bernie knew her calling was to help others. She devoted 49 years as a Certified Nursing Assistant, bringing comfort to countless patients and families with her gentle spirit, shy smile and caring hands. Her colleagues admired her unwavering patience and personal warmth she brought into every room. She was known to volunteer to sit with bed bound patients at Sharon Hospital and Sharon Nursing Home. Bernie was predeceased by her sisters, Alice Bergstresser, Dorothy Hall, and Gerry Van Norstrand; her brothers, Kenneth Decker and Marvin Decker; and her husband Stanley in 1997. After his passing, she spent the next 25 years in Wassaic, working at the Kent Specialty Care Nursing Home, in Kent where she retired at the age of 80. She is survived by her son, Philip and wife, Laura

Bonnie Lynn Hunter Sheldon

Robert Sheldon prior to her move to East Canaan where she lived for the past 23 years with her partner, Robert Mather. Bonnie's early career was as an assistant doing research and editing for the syndicated columnist, Robert Yoakum, in Lakeville. Her interest in and passion for politics and current events continued throughout her life. In her later life she made a career change and became a recreational therapist at Noble Horizons in Lakeville. She loved and cared deeply for the residents she worked with. Her kind, compassionate nature made her a natural in the field of geriatrics. Bonnie loved

Galek, grandson Phil Galek, great grandchildren, Gianna and Gavin Galek of Wolcott, New York; her daughter, Colleen and husband, Leon Meunier; grandsons, Chad and wife, Bambi Meunier and Justin Meunier, and granddaughter, Keirstin Meunier of Wassaic.

Family and friends were the center of Bernie's life. She delighted in watching her grandchildren grow and was known for taking them out of school to go to Four Brothers or Round to-it for lunch. Her favorite shows were Gunsmoke and Roy Rogers. Favorite artists included Charley Pride, Freddy Fender and Eddy Albert. Bernie will be remembered for her devotion to her lifelong faith as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, where she viewed the resurrection hope in John 5:28, 29, as a source of comfort and light. She longed for the day when she will be reunited with the love of her life, Stanley.

"Happy Trails to you, Mom and Grandma, until we meet again." - Roy Rogers and the Sons of the Pioneers. Everyone who knew her is welcome to join us in a celebration of her life on Saturday, Dec. 27, 2025 at the Kingdom Hall on the corner of 101 East Duncan Hill Road and Route 22, Dover Plains, NY at 2:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served after.

ZOOM INVITE: For Saturday, December 27, 2025 Invite: 755 086 9766 Passcode: 51764 Messages of condolence, fond memories or any photos would be greatly appreciated.

All are welcome to sign Bernie's online obituary book/ memorial wall at https://hufcutfuneral-home.com/book-of-memories/5663406/Galek-Bernie/index.php

May also use this Email to send messages: Leb-Galek2025@gmail.com.

animals and to the delight of the residents she brought her dog to work with her. An avid runner, Bonnie competed in numerous local 5K and 10K road races for many years. Her other interests, talents and loves were reading, puzzling, gardening and cooking. She loved reading as a young child and went through most of the available books at the Douglas Library. This love of reading and writing continued through her study of literature and journalism at George Washington University. Additionally, she was a wonderful grandmother. She always enjoyed and supported her grandkids' curiosity, loved watching them swim, and kept a nurturing eagle eye on them and their safety while in her care.

Survivors include her brother, Barry James Hunter and wife Christine, of Lempster, New Hampshire, her two aunts, Lynn Hunter Cline, of Sharon, and Cynthia Hunter Fenton and husband Terence,

of Lincoln, Massachusetts, Robert Mather, of East Canaan, his son Justin Mather and wife Caryn Wright of Boulder City, Nevada, two daughters, Sarah Pollock and husband Brendan Pollock of Southfield, Massachusetts, and Bethany Mielke and partner Jamie Foster of Sandisfield, Massachusetts, grandchildren Isabella Pollock, Fiona Pollock, and Evan Mielke as well as numerous nieces and cousins. She was predeceased by her brother, Robert (Duffer) Hunter. Calling hours and a church service will be held in January. Date and time will be announced. The Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home of Canaan, CT, is in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to North Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corp. PO Box 178, 15 Main Street, North Canaan, CT 06018, www.northcanaanems.org.

For more obituaries, see page A7

Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com

Worship Services

Week of December 21, 2025

<div> <div>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</div> <div>9 South Main, Sharon CT</div> <div>Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.</div> <div>Transitioning through prayer</div> <div>All welcome to join us</div> <div>860-364-5260</div> <div>www.christchurchsharon.org</div> </div>	<div> <div>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</div> <div>30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT</div> <div>Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!</div> <div>Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming</div> <div>www.salisburyucc.org</div> <div>Sharing God's shalom:</div> <div>Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!</div> <div>(860) 435-2442</div> </div>
<div> <div>Trinity Episcopal Church</div> <div>484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville</div> <div>Offering companionship along the Way</div> <div>Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.</div> <div>Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org</div> <div>trinity@trinitylimerock.org</div> <div>(860) 435-2627</div> </div>	<div> <div>St. John's Episcopal Church</div> <div>12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT</div> <div>SUNDAY SERVICE</div> <div>10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)</div> <div>Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge</div> <div>In-Person and on You-Tube</div> <div>www.stjohnssalisbury.org</div> </div>
<div> <div>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</div> <div>Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people</div> <div>172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT</div> <div>Worship services Sundays at 10 am</div> <div>www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</div> <div>860-824-7232</div> <div>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</div> <div>is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan</div> <div>Tuesday 4-6 pm &amp; Thursday 12-2 pm</div> <div>www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</div> </div>	<div> <div>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</div> <div>Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons</div> <div>Sunday, January 11 at 10:30 a.m.</div> <div>For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com</div> <div>All are Welcome</div> </div>
<div> <div>Congregation Beth David</div> <div>A reform Jewish Synagogue</div> <div>3344 East Main St., Amenia</div> <div>SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM</div> <div>Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg</div> <div>(Calendar at congbethdavid.org)</div> <div>ALL ARE WELCOME</div> <div>Rabbi Jon Haddon</div> <div>845-373-8264</div> <div>info@congbethdavid.org</div> </div>	<div> <div>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</div> <div>Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk</div> <div>St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan</div> <div>St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville</div> <div>MASS SCHEDULE</div> <div>Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church</div> <div>Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary</div> <div>Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church</div> <div>DAILY MASS SCHEDULE</div> <div>Wednesday 6pm</div> <div>St. Joseph Chapel or Church</div> <div>Thursday 8am</div> <div>Immaculate Conception Church</div> <div>Friday 8am</div> <div>Church of St. Mary</div> <div>ALL ARE WELCOME!</div> <div>For information, please call 860-824-7078</div> </div>
<div> <div>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</div> <div>319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039</div> <div>9:15 a.m. Worship Service</div> <div>9:15 a.m. Sunday School</div> <div>"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"</div> <div>The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse</div> <div>860-435-9496</div> <div>Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</div> </div>	<div> <div>UCC in CORNWALL</div> <div>Cornwall Village Meeting House</div> <div>Worship Sunday, 10 am</div> <div>Outstanding Church School (10 am)</div> <div>Mission Opportunities</div> <div>Warm Fellowship following Worship</div> <div>860-672-6840</div> <div>www.uccincornwall.org</div> <div>Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister</div> <div>Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</div> </div>
<div> <div>Falls Village Congregational Church</div> <div>16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village</div> <div>10:00 a.m. Family Worship</div> <div>Coffee Hour</div> <div>A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!</div> <div>860-824-0194</div> </div>	<div> <div>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</div> <div>Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m.</div> <div>Trinity Retreat Center Chapel</div> <div>Lower River Road, West Cornwall</div> <div>in person and on zoom</div> <div>Warm fellowship following service</div> <div>All Are Welcome!</div> <div>www.allsaintscornwall.org</div> <div>Rev. Mary Gates!</div> </div>
<div> <div>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</div> <div>656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY</div> <div>Services every Sunday 10 a.m.</div> <div>www.thesmithfieldchurch.org</div> <div>21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</div> </div>	<div> <div>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</div> <div>40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY</div> <div>SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30</div> <div>IN-PERSON AND ONLINE</div> <div>Visit our website for links</div> <div>845-373-9161</div> <div>www.stthomasamenia.com</div> <div>A Community of Radical Hospitality</div> </div>
<div> <div>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</div> <div>313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT</div> <div>Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M.</div> <div>Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.</div> <div>Special Services Online</div> <div>Rev. John Kreta</div> <div>860-824-1340   allsaintsofamerica.us</div> </div>	<div> <div>Promised Land Baptist Church</div> <div>29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT</div> <div>Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow!</div> <div>Sunday School - 10am</div> <div>Sunday Worship - 11am</div> <div>Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting -- 7PM</div> <div>(860) 824-5685</div> <div>VISITORS WELCOME!</div> <div>www.promisedlandbaptist.org</div> </div>
<div> <div>Sharon Congregational</div> <div>25 Main Street, Sharon, CT</div> <div>Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.</div> <div>Visit our website</div> <div>sharoncongregationalchurch.org</div> <div>for Sunday services</div> <div>Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</div> </div>	<div> <div>Canaan United Methodist Church</div> <div>2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT</div> <div>8:00AM - Worship Service</div> <div>2nd &amp; 4th Sunday</div> <div>"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"</div> <div>The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse</div> <div>860-824-5534</div> <div>canaanct-umc.com</div> <div>canaanctumc@gmail.com</div> <div>We hope you will join us!</div> </div>
<div> <div>Millertont United Methodist Church</div> <div>6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812</div> <div>Millerton, NY 12546</div> <div>Services on the 1st &amp; 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M.</div> <div>518-789-3138</div> </div>	

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Since we spend all of our time in the trenches with representing either sellers or buyers, it can be difficult to get a bird's eye view of what the real estate market is doing in Litchfield County as a whole. Fortunately, there are people in William Pitt Sotheby's whose only job is to measure the pulse of the market and to produce monthly and quarterly reports both for Litchfield County and for our towns. To access these countywide reports, please visit: www.virtualpreview.com/q3-2025-litchfield-county. One can also ask for a specific town—Salisbury for example, which can be viewed at www.williampitt.com/community-real-estate/litchfield-hills/salisbury-ct/market-report. This is a wonderful way to quickly get a sense of the real estate markets without reinventing the wheel!

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# Murders in the Caribbean

On September 2nd of this year, a fishing boat propelled by an outboard motor was attacked by a missile from an American helicopter overhead. The boat was demolished as were nine of its eleven member crew. Two members of the crew remained alive, floating in the water. Within a few minutes, the helicopter returned with another missile to kill the two survivors.

The U.S. government reported the incident saying that it was an authorized attack intended to stop the importation of banned drugs into the US by a “narco-terrorist” nation, in this case Venezuela. This incident was not an isolated event and was followed by dozens more over the next few months. President Trump spoke enthusiastically about the attacks, describing them as a part of our “war on drugs” and indicated that they might well be followed by future attacks on land. He seemed oblivious to the law that only Congress has the right to declare war and had not done so.

In the many lethal attacks on small boats that followed, no proof was ever offered that they were carrying drugs; the boats, their crews and any cargo were destroyed. Some experts have suggested that the September 2nd boat with its crew of eleven men wouldn’t have had space for a regular shipment of drugs.

In his many remarks on the matter, the President claimed that most of the illicit drugs entering the country, especially fentanyl, the most dangerous, were coming in by sea from South and Central America; actually, fentanyl largely arrives by land from Chinese sources via Mexico. The small boats in the Caribbean were probably transporting cocaine, if any drugs, with most of it going to other countries. Were President Trump really so distressed by cocaine traffic into the US, why would he have just issued a pardon to the former Honduran President who had recently been sentenced here for operating a very large international cocaine drug trafficking business?

Combating the international drug trade is an excuse for other Trump ventures south of the border. Perhaps it’s exercising military power in the mode of the Monroe Doctrine. Many notable observers (including The Lakeville Journal’s columnist Bill Schmick’s article 12/4/25) think that taking control of Venezuela’s enormous fossil fuel reserves might be Trump’s main goal.

But overthrowing Maduro’s government and controlling a replacement Venezuelan government might be very difficult for Trump to manage. The U.S. boarding and takeover of a giant Venezuelan oil tanker left us wondering if war might be around the corner, even more so if Trump decides to attack Columbia which he has threatened as well. Stay tuned!

Most commentators of late have been focused on the second strike of the September 2 attack where the two helpless individuals floating alive in the sea were killed. According

## OCCASIONAL OBSERVER

Mac Gordon

to numerous military experts such a killing would be illegal in either a civilian or military context. If so, the question remains: who is responsible? Admiral Frank Bradley, the Commander of the overall mission? Secretary Hegseth?, the officer firing the missiles?, someone else?

As the recent video by six members of Congress made clear, a member of the military is not obliged to follow an illegal order; it’s right there in the Uniform Code of Military Justice But is a private in the Army going to tell a high ranking commanding officer that he won’t follow the officer’s order, that it’s illegal?

In this case nobody seems to want to take the responsibility. Hegseth, who has lately gone out of his way to demonstrate his machismo, recently told a gathering of military officers at Quantico that “it was time to take the gloves off”.

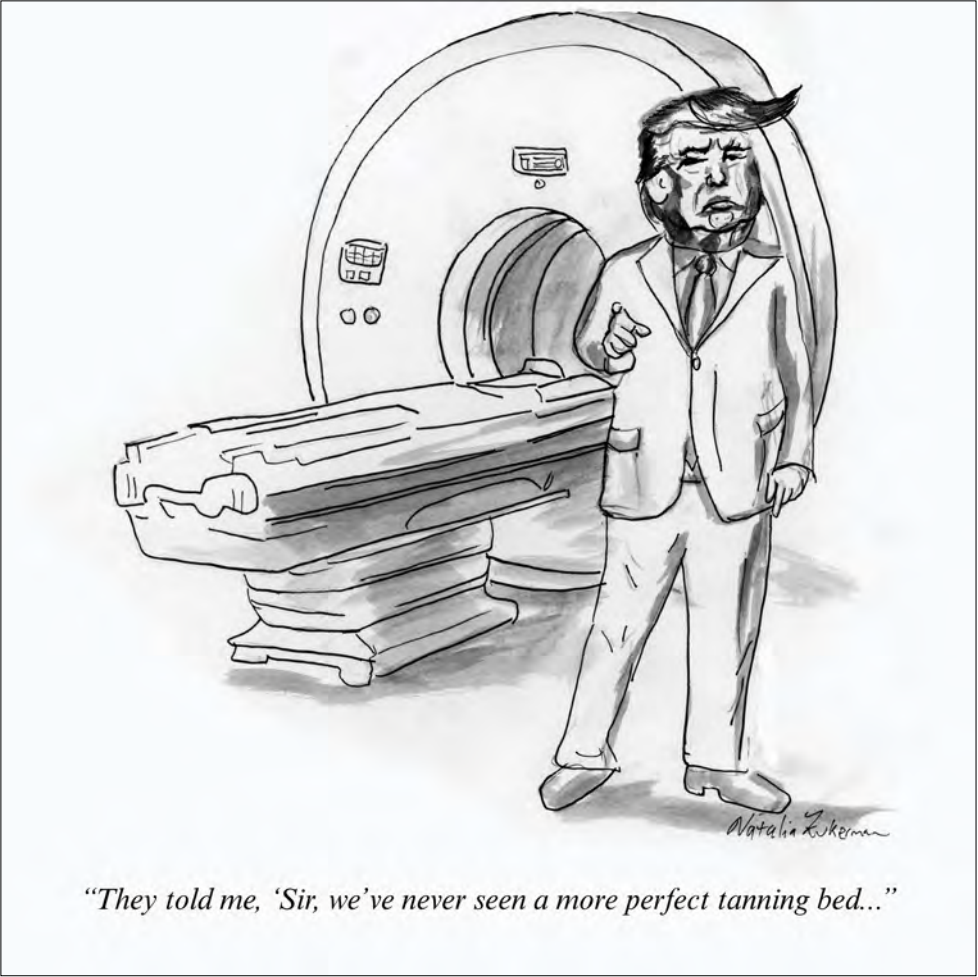
Perhaps because he remains invulnerable to legal discipline because of his Supreme Court grant of immunity, President Trump has been lately left out of the public discussion regarding responsibility for the September 2nd attack and the killings. But this whole conflict, with its two dozen attacks and more than 82 killings of supposed “enemy combatants” is Trump’s doing. Like Hegseth he may not have been right there in the attack helicopter to give the order to fire. But he planned the overall campaign while letting subordinates receive any blame.

President Trump’s use of the military in the Caribbean has much in common with his sending of troops into American cities. Describing several of our foremost cities as “war zones”, he has used his own inaccurate characterizations of Washington, Chicago, Portland, Los Angeles and other cities as justification for sending in troops that the mayors and governors of these places have told him were, not needed and not wanted. In both the Caribbean and in US cities, Trump has concocted ridiculous excuses for illegal and provocative incursions. Our cities are not “burning to the ground” as Trump publicly claimed to be the case.

We are on the wrong track if we continue to view the September 2nd attack as a military matter focused solely on the killing of the two men in the water. The Pentagon has admitted to more than twenty-two similar attacks on small boats and suggested that they killed at least eighty individuals.

What we know so far, prior to a serious Senate investigation, is that Secretary Hegseth,, Admiral Bradley and possibly others all have much to answer for; and so does President Trump who initiated and set in motion this whole shameful enterprise.

Architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon lives in Lakeville.



“They told me, ‘Sir, we’ve never seen a more perfect tanning bed...”

# Christmas baskets, Route 22, water bills and cell service

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

## December 20, 1934 Christmas Baskets To Be Distributed Monday By Auxiliary Of Legion

Needy families of the Community are to be made happy Monday when the Millerton American Legion Auxiliary will distribute Christmas baskets. The baskets will contain an ample Christmas dinner, and toys, books and candy for the children. Mrs. C. M. B. Williams, president of the unit, has requested that all members meet at the Post rooms Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock to pack baskets, wrap gifts and perform other similar tasks.

## Falling With Gun, Boy Shot

Falling down stairs while carrying a rifle, Martin Palmer, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Palmer of John Street, accidentally shot himself in the left leg at about 12:30 P. M. Tuesday when the gun exploded, the bullet embedding itself in the depth of the shin bone just below the knee.

Dr. Gilbert S. Tabor was summoned and after administering first aid he ordered the boy moved to Sharon Hospital where X-ray pictures were taken. According

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Millerton News

to Dr. Tabor, the seriousness of his condition will be determined by response of the wound to treatment. An operation for removal of the bullet will not be necessary unless infection sets in, Dr. Tabor said.

## Petition Asks State to Rebuild Route 22

A petition seeking reconstruction of the portion of State Route 22 lying in Dutchess County is being circulated among the citizens of villages and towns in the Harlem Valley.

## December 18, 1975 Harlem Line Backers Make Last-Ditch Rescue Try

Railroad supporters have reached the final trench in an effort to preserve and improve the entire Harlem Division of the bankrupt Penn Central Railroad.

## Unpaid Water Bills Irk Village Board

The Village of Millerton has a problem with people who do not pay their water bill and the Village Trustees discussed how to resolve it at their Thursday, Dec. 11,

meeting. Mayor John Hermans reported that 12 persons had delinquent water bills dating back to October and the largest was for \$62.61. “They are the hardcore. They just won’t pay,” said Hermans, who also noted, “These people have been notified so many times.” The total Village water billing in October was \$11,775.85.

## December 14, 2000 Cell Phone Service Still Elusive in Millerton

MILLERTON — Everyone who has tried to use a cell phone within the village of Millerton and the surrounding area recently knows making calls from here is still next to impossible.

There is no service yet, despite Cellular One’s initial estimated completion date of Nov. 25 for cellular facilities atop the village water tower on Highland Avenue.

The company has been working to get cellular service to the village since mid-October, and may be completed soon. The building is up and the cables are laid. But as of now, there are no antennas to be seen atop the water tower.

Cellular One plans to place three 9-foot antennas atop the newly painted water tower in order to bring service to local areas that can-

# OPINION

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

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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.

not be reached by the Silver Mountain tower. A fourth antenna may be needed, depending upon the strength of the nearest signal, in this case, from a Cellular One tower in nearby Connecticut.

Village Mayor Michael Cawley is pleased with the progress of the tower, and is glad Cellular One chose to bring service to Millerton, for there is an “immense need for cellular service,” he said.

Mayor Cawley also sang the praises of the Cellular One employees who have been working on this project: “The Cellular One people have been perfect gentlemen. They have bent over backwards to accommodate us.”

## North East Board Gives Soccer League a Raise

MILLERTON - Since the Webutuck Valley Youth Soccer League (WVYSL) was incorporated as a non-profit organization about two years ago, the town of North East has contracted with the program to provide monetary support.

After an informative presentation outlining the program and its budget by Mr. McCaffrey and Gary Murphy, the board recognized the league’s importance to the community, and offered to increase the contract’s amount by \$250.

## THE MILLERTON NEWS

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OUR TOWNS



Pine Plains girls win season opener

The Pine Plains girls varsity basketball team beat the Millbrook/Webutuck Blazers 41-27 during the season opener at Stissing Mountain High School in Pine Plains on Friday, Dec. 12. The Blazers picked up steam early in the contest, scoring quick baskets just after the jump. But Pine Plains quickly matched Millbrook, finishing out the first quarter just a point behind and pulling ahead for an 11-point lead by halftime.



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Pine Plains boys gear up for basketball season

Pine Plains High School's boys basketball team crossed the state line Tuesday, Dec. 9, to play a scrimmage against Housatonic Valley Regional High School. The non-league preseason game gave both sides an opportunity to run the court ahead of the 2025-26 varsity season. Pine Plains got off to a slow start against HVRHS but found a rhythm toward the end. The momentum came too little too late and ultimately HVRHS won 60-22. The first regular season game for the Bombers was scheduled against Millbrook High School Friday, Dec. 12.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

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2025

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Stop by Quattro's and keep it local this December

The Lynn Chase Estate Sale

NEW INVENTORY JUST ADDED!

Find wonderful gifts for anyone on your list, no matter your budget. Prices start at \$10.

Browse the beautiful gift and tableware collections created by the late wildlife artist Lynn Chase, including rare and one-of-a-kind treasures from her personal collections. From Lynn's etched and hand-painted glassware, to centerpiece bowls accented with 24k gold, we have amazing items from her 35+ years in business.

We are also pleased to offer a curated selection of Lynn's original paintings, objets d'art, and home furnishings.

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3815 Route 44, Millbrook, NY 12545  
OPEN NOW THROUGH JANUARY ONLY  
Thursday - Sunday, 10:30 am - 5:30 pm  
Special Holiday Hours:  
We recommend you bring your own shopping tote bags. It'll be closed December 24-26 and in the event of inclement winter weather.  
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OBITUARY

John Carroll

AMENIA — John Carroll, 94, a lifelong resident of Amenia, passed away on Monday, Dec. 8, 2025, at Noble Horizons in Salisbury. Mr. Carroll was the business account manager at Audia Motor Sales in Millbrook, for 41 years, retiring in 2016.



Born on Oct. 1, 1931, in Sharon, he was the son of the late John J. and Florence (Brunese) Carroll. He was a graduate of Amenia High School class of 1950. Mr. Carroll later graduated from the GM Service Technical College in New York, New York.

Mr. Carroll was a former Vice President and President of the Parish Council at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia and St. Bernard’s Church in Sharon and a former member of the finance council at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Dover Plains. He was a lifelong parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia. Mr. Carroll is survived by a brother, Philip T. Carroll of

Amenia, and several nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by five brothers, Joseph, Richard J., Thomas, Alan and William Carroll and two sisters, Marion Ursula Robertson and Jean Leggett. Calling hours were held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025 at the Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial

was celebrated at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 12, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road, Amenia, with Rev. Andrew O’Connor officiating. Burial followed at St. Patrick’s Cemetery in Millerton, NY.

Contributions in memory of Mr.Carroll should be made to the Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road, Amenia, NY 12501. For directions or to send a condolence, visit [www.hufcutfuneral-home.com](http://www.hufcutfuneral-home.com)

For more obituaries, see page A4

Send obituaries to [obituaries@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:obituaries@lakevillejournal.com)

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice  
Notice of Formation of Studio Yarnell LLC

Notice of Formation of Studio Yarnell LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 20, 2025. Office location: Dutchess County, NY. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: 279 McGhee Hill Road, Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: Marketing consultancy.

11-13-25  
11-20-25  
11-27-25  
12-04-25  
12-11-25  
12-18-25

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC). The name of the LLC is: Kim’s Business LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: 11/8/2025. The County in which the Office is to be located: Dutchess. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: 420 Quaker Hill Rd Pawling, NY 12564. Purpose: any lawful activity.

11-20-25  
11-27-25  
12-04-25  
12-11-25  
12-18-25  
12-25-25

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of DULCIFY LLC Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 09/04/2025. Office Location: 56 South Center Street, Millerton, Dutchess County, NY 12546. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the Dulcify LLC, 56 South Center Street, Millerton NY 12546. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

11-27-25  
12-04-25  
12-11-25  
12-18-25  
12-25-25  
01-01-26

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that a license, ID No. TBD, for beer, wine and liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine and liquor at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at Listening Rock Farm, 78 Sinpatch Road, Wassaic, NY 12592 for on premises consumption. Millbrook Distillery, LLC d/b/a Tenmile Distillery

12-18-25

Legal Notice  
Notice of Formation of Lady Hounds Farm, LLC.

Arts. or Org. filed with SSNY on 8/25/25. Office Location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Jane D. Watson, 33 Prospect Avenue, Amenia, New York 12501. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

12-25-25  
12-18-25  
12-25-25  
01-01-26  
01-08-26  
01-15-26  
01-22-26

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Max Cohen Design LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/07/2025. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Max Cohen Design LLC, 253 Benson Hill Road, Dover Plains, NY 12522. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

12-18-25  
12-25-25  
01-01-26  
01-08-26  
01-15-26  
01-22-26

LEGAL NOTICE  
OF ESTOPPEL

A resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on March 13, 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 North East, in the County of Dutchess, 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 publication of this Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

ELIZABETH STRAUSS, Town Clerk

Town of North East  
BOND RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF NORTHEAST, NEW YORK, ADOPTED MARCH 13, 2025, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A HIGHWAY TRUCK AND ISSUANCE OF A STATUTORY INSTALLMENT BOND TO FINANCE SAID PURCHASE IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$168,000, STATING THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST THEREOF IS \$323,977.84,

APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$168,000 SERIAL BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION.

Object or purpose: Purchase of a highway truck and issuance of a statutory installment bond to finance said purchase in the amount not to exceed \$168,000  
Period of probable usefulness: Three years  
Amount of obligations to be issued: \$168,000  
A complete copy of the bond resolutions summarized above shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the Town Clerk, 19 North Maple Avenue, Millerton, New York.

Dated: December 12, 2025

Town of North East,  
New York  
12-18-25

Legal Notice

Please take notice that the organizational meeting for the Pine Plains Fire District of the Town of Pine Plains, County of Dutchess, New York, will be held on the 7th day of January, 2026, at 6:30 P.M. on that day at the firehouse, 7 Lake Road, Pine Plains, NY.

By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Pine Plains Fire District  
12-18-25

LEGAL NOTICE

Reorganization Meeting of the Town of Amenia, Town Board is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 6:00pm at 4988, Route 22, Amenia NY.

Dawn Marie Klingner  
Town Clerk  
12-18-25

Legal Notice

Reorganizational Meeting of the Amenia Fire District #1 Board of Fire Commissioners is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 2, 2026 at 6:30pm., at the Amenia Fire House, 36B Mechanic Street, Amenia NY.

Dawn Marie Klingner  
District Secretary  
12-18-25

PUBLIC NOTICE  
TOWN OF AMENIA  
NOTICE OF ADOPTION  
OF RESOLUTION  
SUBJECT TO  
PERMISSIVE  
REFERENDUM

Notice is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, at a regular meeting thereof, held on December 4, 2025, duly adopted the following Resolution, subject to Permissive Referendum:  
RESOLUTION No. 139 of 2025  
RE: AUTHORIZING THIRD AMENDMENT

TO TOWER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH VERIZON WIRELESS OF THE EAST LP d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS

WHEREAS, the Town of Amenia (“Town”) owns real property located at 12 Washington Court, identified on Tax Grid No. 7167-00-410168, in the Town of Amenia, New York (the “Premises”); and

WHEREAS, the Town recognized the need to upgrade the municipal communication services for Fire, Police, Water Department, Highway Department and future municipal communication needs; and

WHEREAS, the Town desired to construct a municipal tower for municipal use and for other companies requiring electromagnetic signal distribution; and

WHEREAS, on or about October 17, 2002, the Town of Amenia entered into a Master Management Agreement with JNS Enterprises, Inc. whereby JNS was engaged to arrange for the development, construction and management of a municipal cell tower and to manage the ongoing operations; and

WHEREAS, the municipal cell tower was constructed along with an accessory structure for storage on the Premises; and

WHEREAS, on or about October 28, 2004, the Town and Orange County-Poughkeepsie Limited Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless now known as Verizon Wireless of the East LP d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Verizon”) entered into a Tower Lease Agreement whereby Verizon leased a portion of the cellular tower and the land owned by the Town located at 12 Washington Court, for the purpose of transmitting wireless signals and maintaining an equipment shelter; and

WHEREAS, on or about April 15, 2011, JNS entered into an Asset Purchase Agreement with Crown Communications, LLC (“Crown”) whereby Crown agreed to accept and assume JNS’ obligations under the Master Management Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Amenia, by Resolution No. 24 of 2011, agreed to, consented, and authorized the Assignment and Assumption Agreement; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 9, 2012, Crown and Verizon entered into a First Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement, whereby Verizon was granted the right to substitute antennas on the tower without any fee increases, provided the

number of antennas did not exceed 12 and the maximum allowable surface area of 10,140 sq. ft. was not exceeded; and

WHEREAS, on or about November 19, 2020, Crown and Verizon entered into a Second Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement in order to modify certain terms of the Agreement and the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Verizon and the Town now wish to enter into a Third Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement in order to modify certain terms of the Agreement, the First Amendment and the Second Amendment as described in the Third Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement, a copy of which is affixed hereto; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Town Board Resolution #20 of 2002, the Town Board, in accordance with New York State SEQRA Regulations, caused an Environmental Assessment Form to be drafted and, after careful evaluation, issued a Negative Declaration determining that the municipal tower would not have any significant adverse environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Amenia determines that this Third Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement is a Type II action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and therefore not subject to review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the approval of this Third Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement is subject to a Permissive Referendum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:  
1. The recitations above set forth are incorporated in this Resolution as if fully set forth and adopted herein; and be it further

2. The Town Board hereby approves the Third Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement, in substantially the same form as annexed hereto, and authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the Third Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement on behalf of the Town.

3. The Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign any additional documents that may be necessary to effectuate the Third Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement and to take such administrative and ministerial action as may be necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

4. This Resolution is adopted subject to Permissive Referendum.

5. The Town Clerk shall give Notice of Adoption of Resolution by publishing a copy of this Resolution,

together with the Notice of Adoption thereof, in the official newspaper of the Town, and, in addition, the Town Clerk shall post or cause to be posted on the bulletin board maintained by the Town Clerk at Town Hall and on the Town’s website, a copy of such Resolution and Notice of Adoption thereof, with the publication and posting to be done within ten (10) days of the date hereof.

Motion made by C/Rebillard

Seconded by C/Hamm

The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all councilmembers voting as follows:

Supervisor Blackman  
Aye  
Councilmember  
Rebillard  
Aye  
Councilmember Hamm  
Aye  
Councilmember Ahearn  
Aye  
Dated: Amenia, New York  
December 4, 2025  
DAWN MARIE  
KLINGNER,  
TOWN CLERK  
12-18-25

TOWN BOARD OF THE  
TOWN OF NORTH  
EAST  
NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the North East Town Board shall conduct a public hearing on the 8th day of January, 2026 at 7:05 p.m. at the Town of North East Town Hall, located at 19 N. Maple Avenue, Millerton, New York 12546 on the adoption of Local Law No. B of the Town of North East which enacts certain amendments to the North East Zoning Code and Map. The amendments to the Code primarily focus on provisions relating to the Town’s non-residential zoning districts and uses with several additional amendments affecting general standards, definition of terms, supplemental use, specific standards, site plan requirements, procedural components, as well as aspects specific to residential districts and uses for continuity. Any person desiring to be heard on the Local Law shall be provided with an opportunity to do so at the public hearing. Copies of the proposed Local Law and Full Environmental Assessment Form are available for inspection at the Town Clerk’s office during regular business hours and at the North East Public Library. Dated: November 13, 2025.

BY ORDER OF THE  
NORTH EAST  
TOWN BOARD.  
ELIZABETH STRAUSS  
Town Clerk  
12-18-25



THORNE BUILDING *Continued from Page A1*

nary programs, gallery space, a computer gaming room, music and art studios, and facilities for public meetings, events and seminars.

The proposal includes restoration of the building’s exterior while maintaining its overall architectural character. Modifications are planned for the carriage arch on the east side of the structure. Plans also call for construction of improved access, adding a room to accommodate a loading platform. The existing auditorium would be converted into a full performance space.

The basement level is planned to house an education center with a kitchen that could support cooking classes, as well as an arts lab, digital instruction space, music practice rooms and a small recording studio.

The first floor would feature exhibit space for local artists, offices and studio workspaces. Flexible classroom space planned for the third floor would be designed to be divided into three smaller classrooms using movable partitions. That level would also house the director’s office, fine arts programming and the control room for the performance space below.

“The whole building is for the community,” Sloan said.

Site improvements include upgrades to the parking lot shared with Lyall Community Church. Sloan said a new subsurface would be installed to address an ongoing prob-

lem with ponding, followed by paving with permeable asphalt. Lighting would be dark-sky compliant, limited to 12 feet in height and directed downward at minimal brightness for safety.

Plans also call for a perennial garden at the front of the property. Traffic access would be one-way from Franklin Avenue, with vehicles exiting onto Maple Avenue.

Planning Board Chairman Frank Redl said the board will want to review whether any easement exists that allows traffic to flow through the church’s parking lot.

Oakleigh Thorne, president of the nonprofit Millbrook Community Partnership, said \$26 million has been raised toward the project’s estimated \$30 million cost. The organization owns two limited liability companies — one overseeing development of the 32-acre Bennett Park and another, Thorne Memorial Building LLC, overseeing the Thorne Center project.

Sloan said the team hopes to begin the bidding process in late spring, with construction expected to take about a year once work begins.

Thorne added that the Tribute Garden organization will provide maintenance for the Thorne Center, at least during its early years of operation.

“I think it’s exciting for the village,” Redl said, as the Planning Board accepted the application.

RALPH FEDELE *Continued from Page A1*

Ralph,” Kennan said. “It was his vision and persistence that enabled this dream to become a reality.”

Fedele joked that people may have thought he was crazy during the lengthy restoration. “I was a tyrant,” he said with a laugh. “I really made sure that we were able to get it done.” The effort required coordination with the state, the county, village and town officials, and his newly assembled nonprofit board.

As a self-proclaimed history buff, Fedele didn’t stop at the restoration. He found a list of students in old records and did what any determined historian would do. He opened the telephone book and started making calls.

Eventually, he tracked down one of the schoolhouse’s original students — Mary (Mechare) Leitch — who, at the age of 101, returned to the building after renovations were complete.

“It was a marvelous time,” smiled Fedele. “I was so happy to see her.”

“Trust is earned”

Today, even though he won’t call himself a local, Fedele is a familiar fixture in town. You can find him each week enjoying conversation and a cup of coffee at Talk of the Town Deli, or getting stopped in town by neighbors and friends for a chat.

“I have gained the trust and confidence of a lot of people,” Fedele said. “It comes a little bit at a time. Trust is earned.”

Not only has Fedele served as a town board member, he has volunteered for Townscape and served as the president of the North East Historical Society. He was also one of the first advocates of preserving history by fixing toppled gravestones at the Spencer’s Corners Burying Ground.

His service was formally recognized at his final Town Board meeting through a resolution commending his three four-year terms as councilman, citing his “good humor, kindness to all and deep concern for the community’s senior citizens and for those living on fixed incomes.”

An emotional Fedele addressed the room with a mantra he often repeats. “When you leave, leave this place a little bit better than you found it,” he said. “That’s what I have always tried to do.”

Neighbors react

During the public com-

ment, several residents stood to thank Fedele.

Claire Goodman, a member of the village Zoning Board of Appeals and Townscape volunteer, said Fedele was among the first to welcome her to Millerton.

“Whether we’re standing out in the cold, scrubbing tombstones at Spencer’s Corners, or ringing the bell at the schoolhouse, you always have such grace and you’re such a gentleman.” She added, “The way you laugh, it opens my heart.”

Kathy Chow, who serves on the Conservation Advisory Council and the Climate Smart Task Force, referred to Fedele as a “pitbull,” adding, “We all have hard things that we do, and we keep pushing at it, but you’re the one who makes me think I can keep going.”

Fedele describes his retirement from the town board as bittersweet. “I’m going to miss this,” he said. “I really am.”

ZONING *Continued from Page A1*

that most often appear before the ZBA and Planning Board.

Greenwood offered two key suggestions for the village’s early stages. First, she recommended becoming fluent in the 2019 Comprehensive Plan, which she said guided the town’s zoning process and served as a blueprint. Second, she urged the village to hire a consultant, pointing out that zoning code is generally “too technical” to interpret and rewrite without professional support.

She also advised beginning the process with a clear purpose. “Whether you call it ‘legislative intent’ or ‘purpose,’ that’s the brainstorming of what you want to happen in that district,” Greenwood said.

With the help of Greenwood and Sherman, Kilmer outlined four immediate next steps for the village:

- 1.) Review the 2019 Comprehensive Plan, including the village zoning audit
  - 2.) Revisit materials from a prior Pace Land Use Law Center training held for village boards
  - 3.) Ask Dutchess County Planning and Development staff to provide additional training — a service already supported by county taxpayers
  - 4.) Ensure ZBA members and those involved become fluent in the village zoning law and districts
- Greenwood recommended additional in-person and online training, including

programs through Cornell Cooperative Extension and the New York Conference of Mayors. While ZBA members are only required to complete four hours of training annually, officials said they intend to do more.

Even as the zoning conversation moves ahead, board members stressed that the village’s long-running wastewater constraints will ultimately shape what any zoning changes can accomplish.

“We can dream all we want,” said ZBA member Delora Brooks, “but if the wastewater doesn’t get addressed, everything else we do will be shaped around that.”

Cathy Fenn, who has served in multiple village and town roles over the decades, questioned why the Planning Board was not at the table, noting that it led the last major zoning change in the village.

The meeting took place as the Village Board weighs whether to consolidate or potentially eliminate the Planning Board in favor of a different structure. Kilmer said there was value in keeping the initial zoning conversations small and focused while the village works through those broader governance questions.

Looking ahead, Kilmer said that transparency will be central to the process, noting that she intends to use the public as a sounding board and help demystify the steps ahead.

ROADS *Continued from Page A1*

is the small but mighty crew that keeps the roads and sidewalks safe, and not only do crew members feel prepared for the colder months, they’ve already been tested by several early-season snowfalls.

“Now we finally have all the proper equipment that we need,” said Jim Milton, a longtime member of the village’s Highway and Fire Departments. “That’s all thanks to this man right here,” he added, gesturing toward Highway Superintendent Joe Olenik.

Olenik, who also serves as Millerton’s police chief, stepped into the role of highway superintendent at the end of September. While this will be his first winter leading the department, he brings extensive knowledge of the village and has a close working relationship with the crew.

“Joe has been a great help and has given us the opportunity to be more prepared,” said William J. Clark, who joined the department a year and a half ago. “Even after the fire and having to work out of a temporary space, we were able to get back up and running fairly quickly.”

Milton said every vehicle currently in use by the department is new, after the fire destroyed nearly everything housed in the building. In the months that followed, the village relied on borrowed equipment from the county and neighboring municipalities, including the towns of Ancram and Amenia.

During one of this season’s first storms, Clark said conditions became especially challenging due to slush and freezing. “Our first storm wasn’t too crazy, but because of the slush, it gets pretty dicey having to go back and scrape,” he said.

Navigating those conditions requires coordination and trust among the crew. Olenik praised the department’s teamwork, a sentiment echoed by crew members.

Clark and Milton agreed, saying the crew regularly puts their heads together to develop a plan and respond efficiently — often before the first flake hits the ground.

That planning extends beyond equipment and manpower, and deciding which roads to plow first isn’t an exact science. Olenik said the

department remains flexible and works to clear all “village-dedicated roads.” He added, “All roads are important to clear to allow emergency vehicle response for fire and EMS vehicles and school buses.”

Olenik also noted the importance of intermunicipal cooperation, saying it is reassuring to have support from the Town Highway Department when needed. He said that Bob Stevens, the town’s highway superintendent, has been a valuable resource.

When storms hit, timing is often dictated by safety rather than the clock. “It’s really dependent upon conditions and how safe the roads are,” Clark said, noting that crews are often out in the middle of the night or early pre-dawn hours if conditions warrant it. “It’s just part of the job — it’s what we do!”

While the crew is a posi-

tive group, fueled by jokes and wisecracks, the job carries very real risks. During winter storms, workers face limited visibility, hidden road hazards, fatigue and long shifts, slippery roads and challenges of operating large and heavy equipment.

One of the most preventable hazards is other drivers on the road. The department reminds drivers to slow down, give plows space and adhere to the seasonal overnight parking ban, which allows crews to clear the roads more efficiently.

There is no fixed snowfall amount that triggers a response from the department. Olenik said they are “flexible based on staffing, storm severity, and real-time conditions.”

*The highway department is made up of Jim Milton, Spencer Parks, William J. Clark, and Joe Olenik.*

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Advertising deadline including legal notices, for the Dec. 25<sup>TH</sup> issues will be  
**THURSDAY, DEC. 18<sup>TH</sup>, at NOON**  
Classified line deadline will be  
**FRIDAY, DEC. 19<sup>TH</sup>, at NOON**

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

FILM: BRIAN GERSTEN

## ‘The Nutcracker at Wethersfield’ captures creativity and resilience in dark times

In the fall of 2020 — months into a global shutdown and at the onset of a long, uncertain winter — a group of artists, organizers and community members in the area undertook what many believed to be an impossible task: staging a full reimaging of “The Nutcracker” during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their story is now captured in the new documentary “The Nutcracker at Wethersfield,” directed by award-winning filmmaker Annie Sundberg.

For Sundberg — long known for documentaries tackling heavy social issues — the project was a significant departure from her previous work. “It really felt like a fairy tale. This just felt very pure in an incredibly delightful way,” she said. The idea began when choreographer and Ballet Collective artistic director Troy Schumacher feared that the annual “Nutcracker,” a lifeline for dancers and audiences alike, would vanish entirely that year. “We all began to realize that ‘The Nutcracker’ was probably going to end up getting canceled,” he said. “As working artists this also felt very scary for us, because ‘The Nutcracker’ is such an essential part of our year.” Around this time, Schumacher was invited on an impromptu tour of the Wethersfield Estate in Amenia. After seeing the historic home and gardens, he immediately recognized its potential. “We weren’t expecting to have this revelation that this place could actually serve as the perfect and perhaps only place that a ‘Nutcracker’ could exist that year.” But that’s ex-



Still from the movie ‘The Nutcracker at Wethersfield’.

actly what he came away thinking. As the seed of an idea gradually became something more tangible, Tara Schafer — the executive director of the Wethersfield Estate and an executive producer of “The Nutcracker at Wethersfield” — recalls the legwork that went into the project. “The entire production was really made possible by people of the Millerton, Millbrook and Pine Plains area. People in the community really rallied together to support these artists to try to achieve the impossible.” What followed was a whirlwind. Over five weeks, 24 New York City Ballet dancers lived and rehearsed on site — masked, distanced and isolated — to bring the performance to life. And the performance itself prioritized an audience who most needed joy that season: frontline workers, first responders and community members deeply affected by the pandemic. Sundberg’s film captures both the dreamlike

beauty of the production and the emotional stakes behind it. “It’s about creative resilience,” she said. For Schumacher, the memory remains powerful. “It was this really bright spot in a very dark, scary time for all of us,” he said. “People can come together and work hard and achieve things that seem impossible.” For the filmmakers, the dancers and the local volunteers who helped make the performance possible, “The Nutcracker at Wethersfield” stands as a testament not only to artistic determination but also to community collaboration in times of uncertainty. This holiday season, the film offers audiences a chance to revisit a moment when creativity, courage and holiday spirit helped light the way through darkness. The film, which had its world premiere at DOC NYC, screened at The Moviehouse in Millerton on Thursday, Dec. 11, and was followed by a Q&A with director Annie

Sundberg and executive producer Tara Schafer. Upcoming screenings will take place Thursday, Dec. 18, at Upstate  
*Continued on B3*

MUSIC: MIKE COBB

## Crescendo presents holiday concerts in Great Barrington and Lakeville

Crescendo, the award-winning music organization of the Berkshires, presents several concerts this holiday season, including A Tapestry of Traditions: Unraveling the History of Christmas Carols and A Baroque Portrait: Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre. A Tapestry of Traditions explores the history of holiday carols. The Crescendo Chorus and Vocal Ensemble, accompanied and directed by Christine Gevert at the organ, will trace the origins and development of carols and Christmas songs, their evolution over centuries and their adaptation across cultures. “Song and dance were very important at the ancient winter solstice celebrations of the Northern Hemisphere,” said Gevert. “While we don’t have the original music from these festivities, modern poets and composers have written about this dark time of the year when we yearn for hope, joy and symbolically search for light.” The program starts with a winter solstice piece that superimposes a secular poem, sung by one choir, with a Latin Christmas prayer, sung by a second choir, accompanied by handbells. “The Romans celebrated the feast of Saturnalia in a very similar way to what we do for Christmas. We present a piece that portrays the spirit of Saturnalia — something you don’t get to hear very  
*Continued on next page*



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PERFORMANCE: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

# All is calm, all is bright as Kingston prepares for Unsilent Night

In the spirit of community and creativity, Kingston will host its sixth annual Unsilent Night on Dec. 19, an immersive, musical walking experience created by composer Phil Kline. The event transforms the streets into a moving soundscape, inviting participants to become part of a living, breathing musical composition.

Kline, a veteran of New York City's downtown scene with a résumé that zigzags from rock clubs to revered museums, has long delighted in blurring the boundaries between public art and public ritual. Raised in Akron, Ohio, he came to New York to study English literature and music at Columbia University, then embedded himself in the unruly creative ferment

of the early 1980s East Village. He co-founded the post-punk band the Del-Byzanteens with Jim Jarmusch and James Nares, collaborated with Nan Goldin on the soundtrack to "The Ballad of Sexual Dependency," and played guitar in Glenn Branca's cacophonous ensemble, all experiences that shaped his appetite for art that is social, subversive and never quite where most expect it to land.

Unsilent Night debuted in Greenwich Village in 1992 and has since traveled to more than 175 cities on five continents. The premise is simple: Participants walk a set route while playing one of four prerecorded tracks on phones, speakers or whatever portable device they can wrangle. The piece lasts 45 minutes, "the length of one side of a cassette," Kline likes to remind people, and the format he originally composed for.



PHOTO BY TAYLOR DAVIDSON

**Unsilent Night is an original composition by Phil Kline, written specifically to be heard outdoors in the month of December. Since its debut in 1992, the piece has been performed in cities around the world.**

In practice, Unsilent Night is far more than a clever technological

conceit. Its chiming, layered textures refract through streets and buildings, creating what one Wall Street Journal critic described as "bell sounds [that] lap up against buildings and

ricochet all around," warming "even the coldest of hearts."

That sense of immersion has resonated with critics over the years. Jon Pareles of The New York Times called the experience "suspended wonderment."

For Kevin Muth, the organizer of the Kingston event, that feeling was immediate and personal.

"I went to my first Unsilent Night in Manhattan in 2002," Muth said. "I was new in town, hadn't quite found my people yet, but braved the cold and took the subway with my boombox to Washington Square Park. It was snowing. There were hundreds of people gathered around the fountain and volunteers handing out cassette tapes. There was a countdown, and we all pressed play at the same time and started walking. The music was sparkling and shimmering, and the crowd felt like a funny mix of solemn and festive. As the procession slowly made its way east, the sounds changed from chimes, to choruses, to church bells, bouncing off the buildings and

mixing with the honking horns of traffic waiting for us to pass. When the crowd reached the Christmas tree in Tompkins Square Park, the music faded except for one warbling boombox with dying batteries that made everybody laugh. The crowd cheered and dispersed, and it became one of my favorite annual holiday traditions."

This year's walk will begin at Frog Alley Park in Kingston's Uptown/Stockade District at 6 p.m. Participants are encouraged to download the track or the Unsilent Night app in advance and bring Bluetooth speakers if possible. The route takes about 45 minutes and is, as Muth describes it, "a moving boombox parade."

Kline has likened the experience to a contemporary twist on a familiar holiday tradition. "I always thought of it as being sort of a variation on Christmas caroling," Kline said, "a combination of my own work and memories of caroling back in Ohio."

For Muth, the event's enduring appeal lies in its openness and emotional range. "I really love this event because the holiday season can mean different things to different people," he said. "For some, it's a time of celebration and joy, and for others, it may be a time of reflection, or sadness. This event allows us to come together and experience the season however we need to."

On Dec. 19, residents are invited to come as they are and take part in the transformation of Kingston's streets. As Kline put it, "Sometimes the only way to escape is to use your imagination."

For more information, visit [unsilentnight.com](http://unsilentnight.com).

## ...Crescendo *Continued from previous page*

often. The rest of the program features carols and holiday songs that are mostly familiar, in traditional settings, with modern arrangements for chorus, organ, bells and percussion. Audience members will be invited to join in singing some of them."

The concert will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Saint James Place in Great Barrington.

Crescendo will close out the year with a New Year's solo recital of music by French composer Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre, one of the few prominent female composers of her era. The concert will include sonatas for solo violin and basso continuo and the "Suite in D Minor" for harpsichord, complemented by "Caprices" for solo violin by Louis-Gabriel Guillemain. Edson Scheid will perform on Baroque violin, with Gevert on harpsichord.

Regarding A Baroque Portrait, Gevert said, "Jacquet de La Guerre was a Baroque composer, harpsichordist and organist, and the first woman to compose an opera in France. A musical prodigy, she made her debut as a singer and harpsichordist at the court of Louis XIV at a very young age. She later became his protégé and court musician, something unusual for a woman in those times. The harpsichord piece on our program is from her collection published in 1687, noteworthy especially because publication of harpsichord music was still rare in France in the 17th



PHOTO BY STEPHEN POTTER

**Crescendo, under the direction of Christine Gevert, present two holiday concerts.**

century, even for male composers."

These concerts will take place at 4 p.m. Dec. 27 at Saint James Place, and at 4 p.m. Dec. 28 at Trinity Church in Lakeville.

Both venues are historic buildings that

enrich the performances acoustically and visually.

Tickets are available at [crescendomusic.org](http://crescendomusic.org) and on a first-come, first-served basis at the door beginning 45 minutes before each concert.

Support for the concerts is provided by

the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts through funding from the Connecticut Legislature, with additional support from NBT Bank and WMNR Fine Arts Radio.



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# A designers weighs in on the color of the year

Every January, the design world waits with the same anticipation fashion lovers reserve for runway week. Pantone announces its Color of the Year, something it has been doing for more than two decades. Suddenly, our social feeds fill with mood boards, swatches and breathless predictions about what we'll all be painting our living rooms.

For 2026, the palette designers were buzzing about ranged from Sunlit Citrine (a soft, optimistic yellow), to Quill Blue (a dusty, serene blue-green), to Verdant Drift (an herbal, grounding green). All beautiful. All fresh. And they would photograph beautifully on Instagram.

But around here — where the landscape itself offers a centuries-old palette of neutrals like pine, granite and sky — clients often ask: “Should I jump on a color trend?”

And the answer? Maybe... but carefully.

As an interior designer, I see the same pattern every year. A new color lands, and clients begin to wonder whether their red Shaker cabinets or their beloved Hale Navy office suddenly feel “out.” After all, we’re surrounded by inspiration here — from the quiet sophistication of Salisbury’s historic homes to the

WRITER'S  
NOTEBOOK  
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newly renovated estates near the shores of the Grove.

Trends bring a spark. They keep design exciting. They remind us that a refresh is always possible, even in spaces we’ve lived in for years. There is nothing wrong with loving what’s new.

But there’s a flip side designers talk about quietly — especially when we chat at design centers while flipping through samples.

Here’s the truth: What’s “in” will always go out. Always. Often faster than we expect.

Chasing trends year after year can leave your home feeling disconnected — a collection of quick fixes instead of a story. And in the Northwest Corner where many homes carry histories and families carry traditions, constant reinvention can be exhausting (and expensive).

When everything changes every year, nothing feels settled. Your home should be a sanctuary, not a revolving door of what’s new and next.

New throw pillows are one thing. New furniture? A new backsplash? Those decisions add up quickly — especially as the trend cycle acceler-

ates.

If your choices hinge on what designers say is hot, you risk losing what you actually love. Your home becomes a showroom, not a reflection of the people who live there.

And authenticity is everything. Our homes don’t need to look like every city apartment or every online mood board. They should look like us — rooted in the natural textures, calm silhouettes and lived-in beauty we are surrounded by.

So... How Do You Stay Current Without Redecorating Every Year? This is where the fun begins.

You can touch on trends without committing to a full remodel. In fact, the most stylish homes blend timeless bones with fresh seasonal energy.

Here’s how:

Your big pieces — sofas, cabinets, rugs, built-ins, lighting — should be neutral, well-made and enduring. Think warm whites, natural woods and the slate blues and greens that mirror our surroundings.

Introduce Pantone-inspired colors through art that can rotate, pillows and throws, small side tables or vases, seasonal florals, even a painted back-of-bookshelf or interior door. These changes give you the hit of “new” without major commitment.

Nature always sets the



PHOTOS PROVIDED

For 2025, the Pantone Color Institute selects PANTONE 17-1230, "Mocha Mousse," as the color of the year.

palette better than Pantone ever could. Mossy greens, stone walls and honey-gold fields — those hues are forever. If a trend aligns with the colors we already see outside our windows, it will never truly feel dated.

If a color or style speaks to you emotionally, it’s less likely to feel temporary. When a trend resonates with your taste, it becomes part of your home’s narrative, not a passing

phase.

In the end, trends are fun — a gentle nudge, a fresh lens, a reason to re-imagine. But your home anywhere in the Northwest Corner should feel like you every day of the year.

So enjoy the Pantone buzz, pull in a touch of Sunlit Citrine or a whisper of Quill Blue or Cloud Dancer if it calls to you, but let the bones of your home remain beautifully, confidently timeless. Design, after all, isn’t a moment. It’s your best way of living.

Kerri-Lee Mayland is an Emmy award-winning news anchor and designer. She lives in Lakeville.

## ...Nutcracker Continued from B1

Films/Orpheum Theater in Saugerties, New York, and Saturday, Dec. 20, at Bantam Cinema in Bantam, Connecticut. Both screenings will be followed by a Q&A with Sundberg.

For a listing of upcoming screenings, visit: nutcrackerfilm.com. For those who can’t make it to a local screening, the film is also available to rent exclusively through the website from Dec. 21 through Jan. 5. You can even gift a rental to someone for the holidays!



Movie poster for “The Nutcracker at Wethersfield”

PHOTO PROVIDED


### Correction

An article on “Peter Pan” at the Sharon Playhouse misspelled the name of co-director and co-adaptor Drew Ledbetter. The article also misstated several cast roles: Sienna Rose Lyon plays Skylights and Lily Starr; Kellen Lockton plays First Twin; and Sam Norbet plays Second Twin.




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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com

DECEMBER 18

**The Holiday Pop Up Shop at the Gallery of Dreams**

Gallery of Dreams, 156 Gay St. Sharon, Conn.

Fine art, gifts and artisan crafts by local artists. 860-671-4651. Open this week Dec. 18 to 21, Thursday to Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

DECEMBER 19

**Closing Reception for Local Artist Marilyn Hock**

Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main St., Sharon, Conn.

This is the last opportunity for art lovers to view and purchase work from Marilyn Hock. Closing reception will be 5 to 7 p.m.

Make & Mingle

4 Studio Hill Rd., Kent, Conn.

4:30 to 6 p.m.

Join us for Make & Mingle—a gathering where Kent's history comes alive through community connection.

Enjoy wine & cheese while making a fun holiday craft for gift-giving. Bring your curiosity and enjoy an evening celebrating Kent's unique heritage. Your participation helps ensure that the tales and artifacts of this beautiful town continue to resonate with future generations. Tickets: [www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/make-and-mingle](http://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/make-and-mingle)

DECEMBER 20

**Holiday Themed Story Time**

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

At 10:30 a.m. join Miss Anna for stories about winter holidays, enjoy snacks and make a fun ornament to take home.

**Holiday Cookie Decorating with Chef Emma**

Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y.

Dec. 20, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., join Pastry Chef Emma Isakoff for a family-friendly cookie decorating session featuring fresh baked cookies and holiday treats. Each kit includes materials for six to eight cookies; limit one to two people per kit. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by a parent.

**Cornwall Christmas Pageant**

United Church of Christ (UCC), 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall, Conn.

The traditional Christmas story and carols begins at 7:30 p.m. at the UCC in Cornwall, culminating with the giving of “white gifts” for children in need.

DECEMBER 21

**Cornwall Parade of Lights**

Cornwall Village, Pine Street, Cornwall, Conn.

Cornwall Parade of Lights in Cornwall Village, Sunday, Dec. 21. Lineup at 5:30 p.m. and step off at 6 p.m.

**Holiday Block Printing and Bakery Pop-Up at the Center on Main**

The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [thecenteronmain.org](http://thecenteronmain.org)

From 1 to 3 p.m., free for all ages. Print your own wrapping paper, cards, or gift tags using stamps carved from sprouting potatoes, turnips, and radishes from Adamah. While your creations dry, enjoy tea and browse a Black Crust Bakery sourdough pop-up.

**A Tapestry of Traditions**

Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass.

Crescendo explores the history and evolution of beloved holiday carols, with audience sing-alongs. Sun., Dec. 21, 4 p.m., Saint James Place, 352 Main Street Great Barrington. Tickets \$15–\$80 at [crescendomusic.com](http://crescendomusic.com).

**Winter Solstice at the Library**

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. [norfolklibrary.org](http://norfolklibrary.org)

Celebrate the Winter Solstice around the fire in the Great Hall from 4 to p.m. We'll gather with warm beverages and light refreshments, and participate in a rolled candle craft. There will be time for conversations and short readings, so feel free to bring a solstice poem or reflection. This program is limited to 16 adults. To register, please visit [www.norfolklibrary.org](http://www.norfolklibrary.org) or call front desk circulation 860-542-5075 ext. 2.

DECEMBER 23

**Cocoa & Crafts**

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

Join Miss Anna on Tuesday, Dec. 23 and Tuesday, Dec. 30 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for cocoa and crafting! Hot cocoa and a light snack will be served while we make star ornaments out of recycled books (on the 23rd) and recycled book paper lanterns (on the 30th). All ages are welcome,

Last week's WotW

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DECEMBER 27

**New Year's Recital: Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre**

Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass. and Trinity Church, Lakeville, Conn.

A New Year's solo program featuring works by Jacquet de La Guerre, performed by Edson Scheid and Christine Gevert. Sat., Dec. 27, 4 p.m., Saint James Place, 352 Main Street Great Barrington; Sun., Dec. 28, 4 p.m., Trinity Church, Lakeville. Tickets \$15–\$80 at [crescendomusic.org](http://crescendomusic.org).

DECEMBER 30

**Hidden Treasures Storytelling Tour Featuring our Revolutionary Founders**

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

On Tuesday, Dec. 30, 5 to 6:30 p.m., join Scoville Library staff and friends for some holiday-magic time travel! Hear thrilling tales from our Revolutionary founders, explore the library's towers, climb secret staircases, and discover hidden treasure chambers. All ages welcome. Registration is required at [scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/13599821](http://scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/13599821).

Word of the Week

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


- 1. Mean kid in school
- 2. Window material
- 3. “ZZZzzzz” in comics
- 4. Piece of pie
- 5. Slipping on ice

WORD OF THE WEEK ©THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. American automotive titan
- 4. Tire term
- 7. Two-year-old sheep
- 10. Indigenous people of Thailand
- 11. Anti-Soviet Cold War group
- 12. Actress de Armas
- 13. Not moving
- 15. Cool!
- 16. Plants of the arum family
- 19. Connected with touch
- 21. Pen stain
- 23. Monetary units
- 24. School kids’ art project
- 25. Early Bell Canada executive
- 26. Sword
- 27. Hates
- 30. Fixed in one place
- 34. Pie \_\_ mode
- 35. Moved swiftly on foot
- 36. Carrier on vehicle
- 41. A path to get through
- 45. “Rule, Britannia” composer
- 46. Spiritual leader
- 47. Flowing
- 50. Respectful compliments
- 54. Cure
- 55. Soft, lightweight fabric
- 56. Building material
- 57. Japanese delicacy
- 59. A way to cause to be swollen
- 60. One and only
- 61. You might get one in summer
- 62. Wreath
- 63. Thus far
- 64. They \_\_
- 65. Employee reference number

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Policemen (French)
- 2. Toy dog
- 3. Intestinal condition
- 4. Muscular weaknesses
- 5. Helps little firms
- 6. Alphabetical lists
- 7. Takes down
- 8. Facilitates

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
					11			12		
13	14				15			16		17 18
19				20		21	22			
23						24				
		25				26				
27	28	29				30			31	32 33
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36			37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
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47	48	49					50		51	52 53
54							55			
56					57	58		59		
		60			61			62		
		63			64			65		

- 9. Ethnic people of Ethiopia
- 13. Engine additive
- 14. Explorers group
- 17. Written account
- 18. Consumed
- 20. Opposite of first
- 22. No (slang)
- 27. Government lawyers
- 28. NY Giants great
- 29. Small amount
- 31. A way to save for your future
- 32. Fall behind
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Head pain
- 38. Wildly popular sport
- 39. “Princess Diaries” actress Hathaway
- 40. Boat race
- 41. About fish
- 42. Nursemaid

- 43. Able to be marketed
- 44. Not as large
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Paddle
- 49. Oneness
- 51. Bitter chemical
- 52. Not around
- 53. Very fast airplane
- 58. Main tributary of the Rhine

December 11 Solution

R	A	B	B	I	S		S	A	L	I	N	E					
M	A	D	E	I	R	A		A	B	A	L	O	N	E			
A	B		A	N	A	L	O	G	I	Z	E		D	A			
H	I	N	D	S		A	U	G		E	A	G	E	R			
D	E	U	S		S	A	T	E	S		C	R	A	N			
I	S	M		R	A	M		D	K	G		O	R	E			
				E	X	E	C					R	O	G	U	E	S
A	C	R	I	S								W	U	N	D	T	
B	R	A	V	E	D					M	A	I	O				
R	U	T		T	A	R		P	O	N		H	U	S			
E	S	O	P			B	A	S	A	L		T	O	N	E		
A	A	R	O	N		P	I	P		S	A	G	E	R			
S	D		E	A	T	I		R	I	C	A	L		A	U		
T	E	H	E	R	A	N		S	A	R	C	A	S		M		
S	E	R	A	P	E			T	R	I	A	G	E				

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

December 11 Solution

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



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OUR TOWNS

Solid sales in North East and Village of Millerton

By **CHRISTINE BATES**  
Special to the Millerton News

MILLERTON — November transfers reflected an active real estate market in the Town of North East, with six sales recorded during the month, including two in the Village of Millerton. The average sale price was \$588,000, and four of the transactions exceeded \$500,000.

As of mid-December, inventory remained limited, with just 10 single-family homes on the market, priced between \$125,000 and \$11.75 million, along with 11 parcels of land listed for sale.

- Transfers**
- 37 Simmons St. — 3 bedroom/1 bath renovated ranch on .17 acres in the Village of Millerton sold to Jenna Marie Garofalo for \$330,000.
- 19 Traver Place — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath ranch in the Village of Millerton on 1.3 acres sold to Sheila Srere for \$525,000.
- 23 Country View Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath home on 1.54 acres sold to Hyun Jo Jung for \$410,000.
- 331 Merwin Road — 4 bedroom/2 bath home built in 1820 sold to Gregory Scheidler for \$545,000.
- 82 Moadock Road — 2 bedroom/2 bath contemporary home on 10.29 acres sold to Robert Kaus for \$1.1 million.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

**Located in historic Spencer's Corners in the Town of North East, 331 Merwin Road was built around 1820. It was a stopping off point on the Salisbury Turnpike and retains much of its period charm and details. The four-bedroom home sold for \$545,000 above its listing price of \$525,000.**

942 Smithfield Road — 4 bedroom/1 bath home built in 1870 on 71.18 acres sold to Colonial House & Barn LLC for \$617,000.

\*Town of North East and Village of Millerton property transfers for October 2025 are sourced from Dutchess County Real Property Office monthly reports. Details on property from Dutchess Parcel Access. Actual parcel numbers indicated by (#\_\_\_\_) are included for properties without specific street address. Note that transfers often lag the date of closed sales. 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.

DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Harlem Valley area activity report; Dec. 4 to Dec. 10

Dec. 4 — Deputies responded to Generator Super Store at 31 Route 22 in Pawling to investigate larceny committed by a suspect who used a fraudulent credit card to purchase a generator in the amount of \$8684.92. Investigation on-going.

Dec. 7 — A traffic stop in the area of Route 22 and Rural Avenue in the Town of Dover took a dramatic turn when the driver refused to comply with officers and fled into the state of Connecticut. Deputies were forced to abandon attempts to stop the vehicle. Further investigation on Dec. 9 resulted in the arrest of Ronald Schiavone, age 67, who was charged with obstructing governmental administration as well as several other traffic violations. Schiavone was also wanted on other outstanding warrants from other police agencies which were also addressed as part of his arrest.

Dec. 9 — Deputies responded to 73 Castagna Drive in the Town of Pawling for the report of a male subject causing a disturbance. Situation mediated by patrol without further police intervention.

Dec. 10 — Deputies responded to the area of 1 Railroad Plaza in the Village of Millerton for a report of a potential crime being committed in that area. Deputies located one Patrick Piljar, age 31, who was reported to be a fugitive from justice out of the State of Pennsylvania. Subject taken into custody without incident and will be extradited to the State of Pennsylvania.

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

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned criminal cases, or any other suspected criminal activity please contact the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office tip line at 845 605 CLUE (2583) or email [dcso-tips@gmail.com](mailto:dcso-tips@gmail.com). All information will be kept confidential.

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