



A photograph showing three ducks swimming in a body of water. The ducks have dark heads and necks with a lighter, brownish-grey body. They are positioned in the foreground and middle ground, with their reflections visible in the water. The background is slightly blurred, showing more water and some distant land.



*Romance*  
**Special banner**  
 Page A2



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

**North East and Millerton road crews load remaining snow into dump trucks along Century Boulevard in the Village of Millerton, as cleanup continued following a storm that brought nearly 20 inches across the area. Local officials throughout northeast Dutchess County have praised highway departments for their swift and thorough response over the past week.**



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

By **ALY MORRISSEY**  
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Drago said the goal of the forum is to gather community feedback that can be shared with county and state stakeholders, as Dutchess County positions itself to benefit

"We are inviting people who have expressed concern about childcare in Northern Dutchess, along with local school and faith-based program leaders, nonprofit organizations, and elected offi-

In a signal of support, Assemblymember Didi Barrett — who represents a largely rural district

**See CHILDCARE, A6**

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

Emergency and fire crews from Millerton, Amenia and Lakeville, Connecticut, responded to the scene and evacuated residents from the building, located between the Harney Tea Room and the Mercantile Photo Gallery. Firefighters extinguished the

**"No matter what role people were in, it was comforting to see everyone come together to help."**  
*Town Councilman Chris Mayville*

Millerton Fire Chief Keith Roger said the fire was contained to the furnace before crews were able to extinguish it. The fire caused high amounts of carbon monoxide to spread through the building, he said.

**See FIRE, A6**

By **ALY MORRISSEY**  
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Following routine agenda items, community members used the public comment period to urge the board to publicly oppose Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity and affirm protections for local residents. It marked the fourth time in eight months that residents have appeared before the village board to urge action on immigration enforcement, with no action or

"I urge you to be public in showing our community your moral compass," Ramos said. "Please

**See ICE, A6**



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REGIONAL

Proposed ICE facility in Chester faces regional opposition

By NATHAN MILLER  
nathanm@millertonnews.com

A proposed deportation processing center in Chester, New York, has sparked widespread backlash from local residents and advocates across the Hudson Valley.

The Department of Homeland Security issued a public notice on Jan. 8 outlining the plan, which calls for Immigration and Customs Enforcement to purchase and convert a warehouse at 29 Elizabeth Drive in Chester “in support of ICE operations.” The facility, located in Orange County, is a former Pep Boys distribution warehouse that was previously used to store tires and auto parts.

More than 400 people appeared at the Chester Village Board meeting on Jan. 12, according to a public letter addressed to ICE on the Village of Chester’s website, villageofchesterny.gov.

Village officials issued the letter on Jan. 16, formally opposing the proposal. The letter cited concerns about strain on the village’s sewer system, incompatibility with local zoning laws and a restrictive covenant governing the site.

Millerton village trustee Katie Cariello is among the local voices of opposition to the facility, sharing in a statement that she condemns the proposed detention center.

Dutchess County Legislator Chris Drago, D-19, also opposes the plans. “We must stop the development of an ICE detention center right in our backyard,” he said, in a statement. “With the horrific news continuing to come out of Minneapolis, we need to continue to make our voices heard and protect our neighbors.”

New York Senator Michelle Hinchey also denounced the plans. “The ‘warehousing’ language used by your agency to describe the detainment of human beings, and the subsequent mission of this proposal, is dehumanizing, abhorrent, and signals clearly the way your administration views American citizens and immigrants alike,” Hinchey said in a statement directed at the President.

She called the proposed facility a threat to the safety, values, and economic stability of Chester and the broader Hudson Valley community.

More than 20,000 people have signed a petition opposing the proposed facility in Chester that is sponsored by U.S. Rep. Pat Ryan, whose district includes Dutchess County, according to a statement from his office issued Thursday, Jan. 29.

The Jan. 8 public notice was required by an executive order dating back to President Jimmy Carter’s administration pertaining to floodplain management. The plan includes changes to the building’s interior, installation of a guard building, an outdoor recreation area, utility and stormwater improvements, and fence line changes, according to the public notice.

The proposed facility in Chester is part of a larger plan to adapt warehouses and industrial sites across the country into facilities that would hold more than 80,000 people total in a hub and spoke model meant to improve the efficiency of ICE’s deportation system, according to an ongoing Washington Post investigation originally published in December citing internal DHS documents.

Additional reporting by Aly Morrissey.

Judge throws out zoning challenge tied to Wake Robin Inn expansion

By ALEC LINDEN  
alecl@lakevillejournal.com

LAKEVILLE, Conn. — A Connecticut Superior Court judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed against Salisbury’s Planning and Zoning Commission challenging a zoning amendment tied to the controversial expansion of the Wake Robin Inn.

The case focused on a 2024 zoning regulation adopted by the P&Z that allows hotel development in the Rural Residential 1 zone, where the historic Wake Robin Inn is located. That amendment provided the legal basis for the commission’s approval of the project in October 2025; had the lawsuit succeeded, the redevelopment would have been halted.

The decision, issued Jan. 29 by Judge Matthew Larock, rejected a claim brought by Wells Hill Road residents Angela and William Cruger seeking to nullify the amendment. The Crugers filed the lawsuit in March 2025, arguing the regulation was improperly adopted and amounted to illegal spot zoning intended to benefit the project’s developer, Aradev LLC.

The zoning amendment drew scrutiny when it was adopted, with opponents asserting it was crafted specifically to enable the Wake Robin Inn project. Town officials and land use staff, however, repeatedly said the change was years in the making and intended to address zoning nonconformities affecting historic inns throughout Salisbury.

In a memorandum of decision, the court found the plaintiffs failed to meet their burden of proof that proper notification was lacking. The judge wrote that “a close examination of the record” showed the Crugers did not demonstrate that public notice of the zoning change was procedurally deficient, unduly vague or untimely filed.

The dismissed case is the first of two legal challenges filed by the Crugers related to the Wake Robin Inn redevelopment. A second lawsuit — an appeal of the P&Z’s approval of Aradev’s application to redevelop and expand the inn — remains pending before the court.

Former Planning and Zoning Commission Chair Michael Klemens said that Thursday’s ruling brought vindication. In a Jan. 30 email to the P&Z and commission attorney Charles Andres, Klemens said the lawsuit was largely based on claims that he and Land Use Director Conroy had misled the public and the commission during the regulatory process.

“So not only are the regulations recognized by the Superior Court as legally adopted,” Klemens wrote, “but the aspersions cast upon the integrity of staff and your immediate past chair are hopefully finally put to rest.”

Andres informed the Land Use Office and current P&Z Chair Cathy Shyer that the Crugers have 20 days to challenge the court’s ruling.

Under the approved plan, Aradev would redevelop the Wake Robin Inn to include a new detached 2,000-square-foot cabin, event space, a sit-down restaurant and fast-casual counter, as well as a spa, library, lounge, gym and seasonal pool. If built, the project would increase the number of guest rooms from 38 to 54.

Water main break disrupts downtown Sharon

By RUTH EPSTEIN  
Special to the Millerton News

SHARON, Conn. — A geyser erupted on the town Green Friday afternoon, Jan. 30, signaling a water pipe break in the adjacent road. Crews were on the scene throughout the weekend working to repair the damaged line.

In order to fix the problem, the water supply of approximately 15 houses surrounding the Green had to be turned off on Friday. The water was turned back on Sunday afternoon. The system is under the auspices of the town’s sewer and water commission.

With temperatures dipping to single digits on Sunday afternoon, Williston Case of W.B. Case Plumbing & Heating of Sharon was heading the project. He explained there were two pipes side by side; one going back to 1941 and the other much older. After a search, it was determined the newer pipe was the one that cracked and caused the water to bubble out of the ground.

Case said they were out Friday night, but it wasn’t until Saturday when the leak was found. The road had to be dug down about four to five feet. His crew was out all day Saturday and on Sunday, Gallagher Construction of Brewster, New York, came to help. Owner Chuck Gallagher said his company deals primarily with water mains. Often other companies will help out a firm dealing with a difficult break.

“This pipe is an odd size,” he explained, so the repair was a bit complicated. “There was a rock over the pipe that had to be blasted.”

The plan was to wrap a sleeve around the broken pipe, but because of the pipe size, that became problematic. The crews will be at the site until a fix is completed.

First Selectman Casey Flanagan said of the 15 dwellings, one is an apartment building with several units. On Upper Main, the affected houses stretched from the road between the Green down to Sharon Methodist Church. On Main Street, they went from near West Main Street to the cemetery.

He said water was delivered to all the affected households by Sharon Volunteer Fire Department members. Residents were able to refill jugs at the firehouse. They were also offered the use of the showers at the fire house, as well as at Sharon Hospital and a building owned by Sharon Playhouse.

Steve Szalewicz, chairman of the sewer and water commission, and an affected homeowner, said about 30 of the commission’s 380 customers were affected. Testing was done to ensure there was no contamination.

“The town came together,” he said, with gestures by various organizations offering help. “It’s a 150-year-old system, so some things break. But we haven’t had a major break in 15 years.”

On Sunday afternoon, when the water was turned back on, Flanagan expressed his appreciation to the plumbing companies, the fire department, sewer and water commission and Mark Sweeny of V.R.I. Environmental Services for braving the elements and “to the residents for their patience.”



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

The broken pipe on the town Green in Sharon.

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# Extreme cold exposes warming center gaps in northeast Dutchess

By ALY MORRISSEY  
alym@millertonnews.com

Much of New York state was pummeled with snow in late January, followed by a prolonged stretch of below-freezing temperatures and wind chills dipping as low as negative 15 degrees, prompting cold weather advisories urging people to stay indoors.

Despite the extreme cold, there are few clearly designated warming centers in the rural areas of northern or eastern Dutchess County, leaving residents in need with limited nearby options.

Rural communities like Millbrook and North East circulate information from the county's emergency winter protocol, known as Code Blue, which provides assistance with shelter placement when temperatures fall below freezing. Many of those services, however, are concentrated in more densely populated areas such as the City of Poughkeepsie.

For people experiencing homelessness in rural communities — where public transportation is limited or nonexistent — reaching those resources can be difficult.

Millbrook Police Chief Keith Dworkin said the village does not have a significant homeless population and that officers rarely encounter people in need of a place to stay. When they do, he said, it's typically during the summer and involves people passing through the area.

"If we came across someone who was homeless and needed access, we would bring them to the City of Poughkeepsie," Dworkin said. "We would certainly do everything in our power to ensure they can go somewhere warm where they are taken care of."

In Dover Plains, Supervisor Richard Yeno said there is no official process or procedure in the town, but they "handle it as it comes," responding to emergencies or power outages in real time.

In the past, Yeno said, the Dover Plains Library served as a warming and cooling center, but needs a new generator to continue providing the service. In the meantime, the Dover Town Hall serves as a stop-in center with its generator, allowing people to warm up, fill jugs of water and charge devices. The space is too small to be used as a shelter, Yeno said. "It is the way it is," he said. "It's been like that out here in the valley forever, but we're working on it."

### Millerton emergency highlights limits of rural warming options

Those gaps became tangible in Millerton last weekend, when a pre-dawn emergency forced residents out into dangerously cold conditions.

Last Saturday's carbon monoxide leak at 7-9 Main St. that displaced as many as 18 residents, including four children, led to a swift, community-wide response even in the absence of a formal emergency plan.

Millerton firefighters opened their doors to help families warm, community members stepped in to help on the scene and the American Red Cross assisted displaced residents with temporary housing. An overnight warming shelter, however, was not part of the response.

The incident has renewed local discussions about whether rural communities should formalize cold-weather shelter plans. North East officials say county funds may be available to support warming centers, raising questions

about who could step up locally to provide a location and staffing.

Town Councilwoman Meg Winkler raised the issue at a January Town Board meeting, saying she has been working with the Northeastern Dutchess Tri-town Coalition — a group focused on economic development and inclusive housing in Amenia, Pine Plains and North East — to better understand what options might be available for the region.

"I'd like to find a solution instead of this coming up every time we have a weather event and then not being able to help people," Winkler said. "There should be a go-to solution put in place."

Bob Jenks of Millerton's American Legion Post 178 said the Legion has an unofficial agreement with the village and town to serve as a warming or cooling center when needed. He said no formal protocol exists outlining when or how that process would be activated.

Jenks said the Legion is one of the few places in town with a generator that can support longer durations if there was a widespread power outage. Though there are no beds, it does have a number of cots in addition to kitchen facilities for limited overnight stays.

"If something happens, the village and town know that we're prepared to help, they just have to call up," Jenks said.

The last time the Legion opened its doors as a warming center was during a significant snow storm before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are a veterans service organization and we are there for the community," Jenks said. "One of our main pillars is community involvement and engagement."



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

A water main under Lake Amenia Road in Amenia sprays water after construction workers with C. Gallagher Contracting, of Brewster, New York, attempted to cut the pipe to replace a damaged section on Tuesday, Jan. 27.

## Cold snap triggers water main breaks in Amenia

By NATHAN MILLER  
nathanm@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Frigid temperatures caused two water main breaks in Amenia on Tuesday, Jan. 27 — one on Depot Hill Road and a second, more serious rupture beneath Lake Amenia Road — forcing crews to work through the day and into the night to restore service.

The Depot Hill Road leak was reported by resident David Intrieri at about 8:45 a.m. and was patched with a collar seal by midafternoon. Crews then shifted to the Lake Amenia Road break, where a section of pipe had to be removed and fully replaced.

C. Gallagher Contracting of Brewster, New York, provided excavation and pipe repair services for both breaks, with assistance from Pat Cusano of North Salem, New York.

The Depot Hill Road repair was completed around 2:30 p.m., but work at Lake Amenia Road was delayed when crews were unable to immediately locate a key valve. According to crew members, the first valve was not found until about 7:30 p.m.

Flow from the pipe had

still not slowed by 8:30 p.m., even after one valve was shut. Representatives from VRI Environmental Services — Amenia's contracted water system operator — located additional valves and fire hydrants to further reduce pressure shortly before 9 p.m.

The pipe replacement was completed by 9:30 p.m., and water service was restored to affected customers, crew members said.

Imprecisely marked valves on the town's water system map contributed to the delays, according to crew members. Water Committee Chair Bill Flood said VRI only recently assumed management of Ame-

nia's water system and is still becoming familiar with the district's layout. Large snowbanks also obscured valves and other infrastructure, Cusano said.

VRI representatives said another water main leak occurred in Millerton but was minor and repaired on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

The breaks were attributed to extreme cold, which can cause ground movement and added stress on aging pipes — some up to 30 years old — in Amenia.

"There'll be more tomorrow, and the next day, and the next day," Cusano said. "It's just that time of year."

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Legal Notice

John J. Contracting USA LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 12/29/2025. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 364 Pumpkin Lane Clinton Corners NY 12514

Purpose: The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any and all lawful activities for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of New York Section 203 of the Limited Liability Company Law.

01-08-26  
01-15-26  
01-22-26  
01-29-26  
02-05-26  
02-12-26

### Legal Notice

Notice of formation of Glynévian Gundogs LLC. Arts of Org filed with SSNY on 9/25/2025. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Business Name and Address. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

01-15-26  
01-22-26  
01-29-26  
02-05-26  
02-12-26  
02-19-26

### Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Cat Kin Willow LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 1/7/2026. Office Location: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: Cat Kin Willow LLC, 14

Poplar Ave, Pine Plains, NY, 12567. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

02-05-26  
02-12-26  
02-19-26  
02-26-26  
03-05-26  
03-12-26

### Legal Notice OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR TOWN HALL AMENIA, NY FILING FOR ALL REAL PROPERTY EXEMPTIONS

The Town of Amenia Assessor's office wishes to advise that the final day for filing ALL Real Property Tax Exemptions, is March 1st of each year.

Forms or additional information are available by contacting the Assessor's Office, Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, NY. (845) 373-8860 ex. 104.

Donna M. Dipippo  
Sole Assessor  
02-05-26

### Legal Notice

On-Center Contracting LLC filed an Application for Authority with the Secretary of State of NY on 11/14/2025.

Office location: Dutchess County.

SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served.

SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served against the LLC to 183 Lake Rd, Warren, CT 06777.

The purpose of the LLC is contracting/carpentry. On-Center Contracting LLC can be reached at (860)-806-4934.

01-29-26  
02-05-26  
02-12-26  
02-19-26  
02-26-26  
03-05-26

## Millerton village board delays environmental review for Veterans Park upgrades

By ALY MORRISSEY  
alym@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Millerton's Board of Trustees postponed again an environmental review of planned upgrades to Veterans Park at a regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27.

The village is awaiting final designs from the engineer based on recent feedback from the county. Mayor Jenn Najdek said the project will be "ready to roll" after the revisions and can go out for bid.

Trustees spent a significant portion of the meeting discussing a proposed local

law that would formally establish a new tree committee and allow Millerton to pursue national recognition as a Tree City USA. Village legal counsel outlined the requirements of the program.

Under the proposal, the village would be required to take responsibility for all public trees, adopt a formal tree management plan, set aside at least \$2 per capita annually in the budget, and hold an annual Arbor Day observance.

The village board would appoint a five-person committee, with potential oversight from the town board or a town employee. Members

would likely be able to join from across Dutchess County, though the hope would be to limit members to the village and town. The village could then apply for various funding and grants.

The village is also expected to submit a letter of intent to

apply for this year's federal Community Development Block Grant funding prior to the March 3 deadline. Trustees said the most likely use of the funding would be to complete additional sidewalk work, possibly on North Center Street.



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OBITUARIES

Walter Earle DeMelle, Jr.

LAKEVILLE — Walter Earle DeMelle Jr., 82, of Lakeville, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Feb. 1, 2026.

He met his loving wife of 57 years, Susan Sullivan DeMelle, in middle school and they were married in Aug. 1968.



Born June 3, 1943, in Worcester, Massachusetts to Walter and Lucille DeMelle, he graduated from Natick High School in 1961 and Hobart & William Smith Colleges in 1965. He taught English at Hawaii Preparatory Academy on the Big Island in the 1960s and earned a Master's Degree in Library Science at Rutgers University.

He served as Director of the Edsel Ford Memorial Library at The Hotchkiss School from 1970 to 2012, where he vastly expanded the collection, welcomed the surrounding community, and led the school in technological advancement and information literacy. He oversaw a six-fold increase in the library's capacity, several major renovations, and the recovery from a devastating middle-of-the-night sprinkler system malfunction which had him running like never before (or since) to save as many books as possible. He purchased one of the first Apple computers in the Northwest corner in the early 1980s, and pioneered the expansion of the library's audiovisual collections, offering music, films and documentaries to the campus and local community.

Walter's kindness, encouragement and reassurance

helped countless students adapt to the rigors of life at Hotchkiss. He co-created the School's Human Relations and Sexuality program in the 1970s, and taught public speaking. He was an honorary member of the Class of 1976, which created the first endowed fund established

by a Hotchkiss class in order to support the development of the resources of the Edsel Ford Library. He was instrumental in developing the School's Archives, and led an Oral History Project in which he interviewed many of the School's prominent alumni from the 20th century.

Throughout his career, he served as a consultant to libraries across the United States and globally to guide their renovations and digital transitions from the Dewey Decimal system.

He loved to travel, both professionally and with family, visiting China, Turkey, Europe and the United Kingdom extensively.

Survived by his wife Susan, sons Jeffrey and Brendan, sister Susan Kerrissey, sisters-in-law Nancy Sullivan and Pamela DeMelle, daughter-in-law Christine Rose DeMelle, grandson Luca, best friend Ron Carlson, and extended family. Predeceased by his brother Arthur DeMelle, father Walter and mother Lucille DeMelle.

A Celebration of Life is planned for Summer 2026.

In honor of his life, please consider a donation to East Mountain House, the non-profit end-of-life care home in Lakeville. <https://eastmountainhouse.org/donate/>

Raymond Emanuel Wheeler

AMENIA — Raymond Emanuel Wheeler, Jr., 72, a lifelong area resident died Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, at Sharon Hospital in Sharon, Connecticut. Ray worked for the Town of Amenia Highway Department for twenty-three years and for the New York State Department of Transportation in Wassaic, for ten years prior to his retirement in 2010. Ray also assisted in running the family business in Wassaic for over thirty years.

Born Nov. 6, 1953, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Raymond E. and Helen C. (Chase) Wheeler, Sr. He was educated in Amenia, schools and served his community for decades as a member of the Wassaic Fire Company and The Sharon Fire Department in Connecticut. He was an avid turkey and deer hunter throughout his life and he enjoyed socializing with his many friends and taking car rides throughout the valley regularly. Ray also enjoyed spending time with his family and watching the races at Lebanon Valley Speedway. He will be deeply missed by his loving family and many friends.

Ray is survived by his companion of twenty years, Karen Ellis of Amenia; four sons, Raymond E. Wheeler of Spring Hill, Florida, Michael R. Wheeler and his wife Justine, also of Spring Hill,

Thomas E. Wheeler and his wife Alicia of Wassaic and Christopher Ellis; his grandchildren, Branden Wheeler, Zachary Wheeler, and his wife Katie, Kaden Wheeler, Michael Wheeler, Jr. and his wife Michele, Alyssa Wheeler, Thomas Wheeler and his girlfriend Kenzie Milton and Kaylee Wheeler and her boyfriend Nick; four great grandchildren, Mason, Layton, Michael III and Cole Wheeler; his siblings, Emily Tarbox and her husband Carl, Rachel Wheeler, Sharon McEathron and her husband Daryl and Helen Murphy and her husband William and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife, Ruth Ann (Ammerman) Wheeler, three sisters, Hattie Butts, Juanita Donaldson and Patricia Wilson and his grandson, Hunter Wheeler.

A Celebration of Life will take place on Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 1 p.m. at the Wassaic Fire House, 27 Firehouse Rd., Wassaic, New York 12592.

Burial will take place privately at Valley View Cemetery in Dover Plains. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Ray's memory, please visit [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com)



PHOTO BY MIA DIROCCO

Students wore black at Housatonic Valley Regional High School Friday, Jan. 30, while recognizing a day of silence to protest Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Students were also allowed to take a temporary vow of silence.

Housatonic students hold day of silence to protest ICE

By MIA DIROCCO, HANNAH JOHNSON and PETER AUSTIN  
Special to the Millerton News

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. — In the wake of two fatal shootings involving Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Minnesota, students across the country have organized demonstrations to protest the federal agency. While some teens have staged school walkouts or public protests, students at Housatonic Valley Regional High School chose a quieter approach.

On Friday, Jan. 30, a group of HVRHS students organized a voluntary "day of silence," encouraging participants to wear black as a form of peaceful protest without disrupting classes.

The idea was spearheaded by junior Sophia Fitz, who said she wanted a way for students to express their concerns while remaining in school.

"What really inspired me was that I was feeling very helpless with these issues," Fitz said. "Staying educated with what's going on in not only our country but globally can be very stressful as a teenager. Kids right now are feeling very hopeless and want to do something, but don't know how."

Teachers Peter Verymilyea and Damon Osora were on board with the idea early on, describing it as a peaceful and respectful way for students to express their beliefs.

Assistant Principal Steven Schibi also backed the effort, emphasizing the importance of student participation. "I think it's important for us to listen to students," he said. "And they have to learn how to have a voice in such a way that it's not disruptive."

After discussions with Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley and Principal Ian Strever, school administrators agreed that participation would be optional and that students could choose whether to wear black or not.

Schibi, along with several staff members, participated in the movement by wearing black themselves. Math department chair Kara Jones was among the participating teachers. "Everybody deserves their voice, so I'd rather do the day of silence than everybody stay home," she said.

Among HVRHS students who supported the protest, at least one cited concern for friends affected by immigration enforcement.

Sophomore Peyton Bushnell said he felt anxious, fearing for the safety of friends and acquaintances. "I think it's all really messed up," Bushnell said. "I have a lot of Hispanic friends, and I worry if there's ICE in Great Barrington, if

they came here [and] deported my friends. I can't even imagine."

Bushnell said Fitz's initiative encouraged him to speak more openly about the issue.

Senior Molly Ford echoed that sentiment. "I think it's a peaceful way to protest and I think it's the best way to do so," Ford said.

Many students wore black to show support, and senior Victoria Brooks shared her thoughts on what it meant to her. "It means following along in a form of advocacy alongside other students," Brooks said.

Some students declined to comment when asked about the protest. Others said they were unaware the protest was taking place. Three seniors interviewed during lunch said they would have participated had they known, calling it a "neat idea."

Not all students were convinced of the protest's impact. A group of juniors questioned whether it would make a difference.

"I think that it is good that we're trying to do something," one student said. "But I'm not sure how much the silence aspect of it will help, but I think that it's good that we're trying."

Some students questioned the efficacy of the protests, including a group of seniors who offered their opinions. They expressed the belief that the protests were "pointless," and that President Donald Trump probably didn't even know that HVRHS existed.

"I just don't think it's the best way to go about it. Like, what is us being silent and wearing black gonna do," one of the seniors said.

Senior Cohen Cecchinato voiced his opposition to the protests in another interview.

"The staying silent, I think, is for the lives that were lost, which I agree with," Cecchinato said. "But I think that wearing black, like the movement that it's behind, the people that are putting it into place in our school are doing it because it's like the 'F ICE' movement or the abolish ICE movement, which I think is just wrong."

Other students said they believed political protests don't belong in school.


"I just don't think we should bring politics into school," one senior said. Another added, "I think it's causing ... a really big divide and people are using it to be advantageous to themselves and their own beliefs."

However, one senior expressed a sharply critical view of the protest. Senior Ashton Osborne dismissed students who chose to wear black or participate in the demonstration and criticized organizer Sophia Fitz. He also said he strongly supported the fed-

eral immigration agency and added that if he were old enough, he would want to work for ICE.

The comments reflected a minority viewpoint among students.

Mia DiRocco, Hannah Johnson and Peter Austin are seniors at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and participants in The Lakeville Journal's student journalism program, which produces HVRHS Today.



### Worship Services

Week of February 8, 2026

**Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon**  
9 South Main, Sharon CT  
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.  
Transitioning through prayer  
All welcome to join us  
860-364-5260  
[www.christchurchsharon.org](http://www.christchurchsharon.org)

**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville  
Offering companionship along the Way  
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.  
Livestream at 10:30 found at [www.trinitylimerock.org](http://www.trinitylimerock.org)  
[trinity@trinitylimerock.org](mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org)  
(860) 435-2627

**North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC**  
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people  
172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT  
Worship services Sundays at 10 am  
[www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational](http://www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational)  
860-824-7252

**FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH**  
is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan  
Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm  
[www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org](http://www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org)

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

**The Lakeville United Methodist Church**  
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039  
9:15 a.m. Worship Service  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"  
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse  
860-435-9496  
[Lakevillemethodist@snet.net](http://Lakevillemethodist@snet.net)

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

**The Sharon United Methodist Church**  
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green  
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care  
No Sunday School in Summer  
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse  
860-364-5634  
[sharonumc5634@att.net](mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net)

**The Smithfield Presbyterian Church**  
656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY  
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[www.thesmithfieldchurch.org](http://www.thesmithfieldchurch.org)  
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Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.  
Special Services Online  
Rev. John Kreta  
860-824-1340 | [allsaintsofamerica.us](mailto:allsaintsofamerica.us)

**Sharon Congregational**  
25 Main Street, Sharon, CT  
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
Visit our website [sharoncongregationalchurch.org](http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org) for Sunday services  
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or [info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org](mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org)

**The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.**  
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(860) 435-2442

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT  
**SUNDAY SERVICE**  
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)  
Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge  
In-Person and on You-Tube  
[www.stjohnssalisbury.org](http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org)

**Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT**  
Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons  
Sunday, February 8 at 10:30 a.m.  
**SCIENCE and RELIGION: Is there a connection?**  
For information, contact Jo Loi at [jokialoi@gmail.com](mailto:jokialoi@gmail.com)  
All are Welcome

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St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan  
St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville  
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Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary  
Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church  
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St. Joseph Chapel or Church  
Thursday 8am  
Immaculate Conception Church  
Friday 8am  
Church of St. Mary  
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Trinity Retreat Center Chapel  
Lower River Road, West Cornwall  
in person and on zoom  
Warm Fellowship following service  
All Are Welcome!  
[www.allsaintscornwall.org](http://www.allsaintscornwall.org)  
Rev. Mary Gates!

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40 Leedsville Road  
Amenia Union, NY  
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Visit our website for links  
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[www.stthomasamenia.com](http://www.stthomasamenia.com)  
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8:00AM - Worship Service  
2nd & 4th Sunday  
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"  
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse  
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THE MILLERTON NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE A5 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026

We the people ...

“We the People” signifies that the government exists to serve its citizens, affirming that ultimate power rests with the people.” — U.S. Senate

OPEN SPACE

Kathy Herald-Marlowe

Minnesota is a land of 10,000 lakes, nestled atop the western arm of Lake Superior assuring its severe winter cold and deep white snows. Minnesota is the land of the Guthrie Theatre, the largest population of Norwegians and Swedes outside of Scandinavia, the Vikings, the Twins, and of course “polite-to-a-fault” Minnesota Nice. Sourced at Lake Itasca, the Mississippi River runs 2,350 miles from Minnesota to Louisiana. Minnesota is 5.7 million strong and has the powerful heritage of Paul Bunyan and The Blue Ox.

The Twin Cities, Minneapolis and St Paul, are currently occupied by ICE, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, with an intense emphasis on enforcement: a force, of 3,000 agents in a geographical sector housing but 500 local police. Masked agents in unmarked cars with military-grade weapons and tear gas use brutal behaviors to stop cars, bust windows, drag out their occupants. Numbers, always huge numbers of agents, invade schools, churches, restaurants, Home Depot — to accost and arrest forcefully. Always strongly armed, these agents drag out persons not identified with careful, stealthy research from key data sources but just those who happen to be in the path of unbridled force. Included are US citizens, legitimate persons with visas, persons applying for asylum, persons working, paying taxes and providing labor for health care, hotels, farms, restaurants

The stated mission of ICE, as it invades cities and states (primarily blue), is to rout out the worst of the worst — violent, immigrant criminals, such as, one well-publicized 5-year-old Liam Ramos and his father taken from Minnesota to a Texas detention facility. Liam’s mother is in Minneapolis, his beloved Spiderman backpack and bunny hat were confiscated by the facility. The horror of Trump’s first term “Children in Cages” for family separations is being reinstated to terrorize by Trump’s Rasputin, Deputy Chief of Staff Steven Miller.

The people of Minnesota are 5.7 million strong. We the People strong standing, as they did for George Floyd in 2020, organized to help city, state residents – their neighbors- to be spared the victimization of a federal agency gone rogue. Minnesotans provide alert systems against marauding, masked agents conducting unprofessional, unproductive street sweeps. They provide food to those fearful of leaving their home, they chaperone kids to school. Minnesota Nice is Minnesota Might, Americans

as we recognize Americans — respectful, tenaciously bound to law and order, decent. Two American citizens, Rene Goode and Alex Pretti, were killed on Minneapolis streets, peacefully protesting, shot at point blank range, in cold blood, by ICE agents with no indication of follow-on accountability or official investigation.

Trump continues to uphold the brutality of his ICE agency toward Alex Pretti who unbeknownst to them weeks earlier kicked an ICE unmarked vehicle. For this Trump believes Pretti deserved 9 shots in the back, lying face-down, hands out, surrounded by a half dozen ICE agents.

Trump be on alert. Minnesota is 5.7 million strong. Minnesotans are garnering the support of a nation – 69% and rising. We The People protests are out in severe subzero weather, in small towns, in massive population centers peacefully protesting, peacefully proclaiming their rights.

“We the people” are the first three words of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution. We the people don’t cotton to the tyranny of despots, don’t tolerate the banal silence of persons in elected office, don’t vote for those who condone murder of citizens for exhibiting their rights of free speech. We the people do not tolerate the abuse of children – taken, caged, terrorized.

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” — The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.



“You know, maybe how much I chuck or don’t chuck is none of your damn business.”

From the archives headline

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

January 3, 1935

Bixby Favors Rebuilding Of State Route 22

The movement launched several weeks ago by Harlem Valley residents for reconstruction of the portion of State Route 22 which lies in Dutchess County has been endorsed by James S. Bixby, divisional superintendent of the State Highway Department. Had it not been for the curtailment of funds as a result of the depression the road would have been reconstructed by this time, Mr. Bixby explained, adding that rebuilding of the road depends entirely on the funds available in the future. He said that it was impossible to say at this time whether any part of the route will be included in the 1935 road program now in formation.

Mr. Bixby said that he knew sections of the highway are old fashioned and not suitable for present day traffic, and that the department has been aware for several years that it should be improved. Reconstruction was recommended two years ago and surveys were made of the Dover Plains-Wingdale section.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Millerton News

January 1, 1976

The 13c Letter Has Arrived

The 13-cent letter is here after all, just in time to make you remember the Old Year. The new postage rate of 13 cents an ounce instead of 10 went into effect Wednesday. Letters without full postage at the new rate may be returned to the sender.

Photo caption:

YES. SKATING — Leonard Foley, caretaker of the Taconic State Park at Rudd Pond, covers over the “No” on the sign to invite skaters to enjoy their sport last Sunday afternoon. The ice on the pond must be at least 3 inches thick, said Foley, for safe skating. He tests the ice daily.

Telephone Books To Be Delivered

Telephone directories for 1976 will be delivered this week to about 4750 customers of Taconic Telephone in Hillsdale, Copake, Millerton and Pine Plains, John B. Ackley, company president reported.

The new directory cover commemorates the 100th anniversary of the invention of the telephone with a painting by John Schreck of Rochester

of Alexander Graham Bell and depicts major events in the development of the telephone in the past 100 years.

January 4, 2001  
Millerton Business Climate Improves

MILLERTON - Everyone agrees the Millerton business climate has improved dramatically in the past year.

“We’re not the county’s poor cousin anymore. We can’t be ignored any longer,” said John Gilmor, co-president of the Greater Millerton Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Gilmor has found that people as far as New York City and Lancaster, Pa., have heard of Millerton; some have actually been here. Not only has Gilmor Glassworks drawn attention to the town and village, but other additions such as the opening of the Millerton leg of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail have brought both publicity and visitors to the village.

Fledgling proprietors can enter the Millerton business world with confidence; the village has proven its stability through the examples of Saperstein’s, The Moviehouse, and Oblong Books. Mr. Gilmor commented that businesses in Millerton tend to have greater stamina than in other towns, such as Rhinebeck, where there is a frequent turnover of storefronts.

New businesses have been piling up all around Millerton, taking advantage of the influx of out-of-towners who are at-

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tracted by the village’s scenic and commercial offerings, as well. Established merchants have been making efforts to fill visible spaces, particularly those on Main Street.

Joanne Scasso, owner of Country Gardeners, attributed the positive changes to the increased interaction between businesses and the community, not only in a volunteering capacity, but also through open involvement of the Chamber of Commerce with the town and village boards.

Mr. Gilmor observed that the current level of community and business interaction hadn’t been realized in years. With just a small amount of cooperation, the village was graced with a beautiful array of decorations this past holiday season.

Dick Hermans, owner of Oblong Books, has called it a “gaping hole” that needs to be filled; however, Mayor Cawley has assured the Millerton News he is “making efforts to find a merchant to utilize that space.”

Mr. Hermans feels that what the town needs is a “little bit of luck” for that particular building.

Most merchants feel confident other empty stores, such as the sites that previously housed Visions Café and Millerton Appliances, will fill quickly this year. Mr. Gilmor feels those spaces will be taken by summertime. Mr. Hermans shared his recipe for success in Millerton: “Businesses with staying power and enthusiasm will experience positive results.”

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PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Frozen flows

The Wassaic Creek under Route 44 just west of Delavergne Hill in Amenia slowly thaws as temperatures remain well below freezing.

YOUR NEWS

Stay informed  
millertonnews.com



FIRE *Continued from Page A1*

Roger said he observed the basement filling with smoke after forcing entry. Following the evacuation, crews worked to ventilate the building.

“Everyone worked great together,” Roger said, adding that he is proud of his department and grateful for the support from surrounding communities.

The Town of North East Medic 1 and Northern Dutchess Paramedics also responded to the scene to provide any necessary emergency medical services.

The American Red Cross responded later in the day and is supporting two of the families with temporary housing and additional assistance.

The building did not sustain structural damage, though it is unlikely residents will be able to return in the near future. Mayor Jenn Najdek said the village’s code enforcement officer is in contact with the building’s owner, but there is no timeline for reentry.

“I want to acknowledge the Millerton Fire Department for opening up the doors all day for the displaced residents, and all of the volunteers involved,” Najdek said.

Assisted by the Millerton Fire Department, residents



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

were allowed to enter the building for five minutes at a time to retrieve essential items, a measure intended to prevent additional exposure. Roger said that while the building is currently uninhabitable, residents will be permitted to return to retrieve

belongings as conditions allow.

Roger said he was relieved that no one was seriously injured but expressed concern for the families who were forced to leave their homes.

“It’s unfortunate with some of these types of buildings that

don’t get the proper attention they need,” he said.

**Community jumps in to help**

A community-wide effort to support the displaced families began Saturday morning, bringing together the fire department, village and

**The front door to the apartment building at 7-9 Main St. in downtown Millerton hosts a sign bearing the words “Unsafe Structure. Stay out.” A fire in the basement that started in the furnace filled the building with carbon monoxide, prompting emergency responders to evacuate the building.**

town officials, staff from the NorthEast-Millerton Library and the North East Community Center (NECC), among others.

Village Deputy Mayor Matt Hartzog said he arrived on the scene at about 10 a.m. to provide hands-on assistance. Along with the Red Cross and NECC, he helped supply families with essential items, including blankets, towels, toothbrushes and a debit card loaded with funds for basic necessities.

“This is really an example of the community coming together,” Hartzog said. He added that community members who wish to help can donate to NECC, which provides critical resources to local families and residents.

Town Councilman Chris

Mayville spent most of the day Saturday working alongside the fire department and elected officials to support the displaced residents.

“You appreciate living in communities like ours in times like these when you really see people coming together,” Mayville said. “No matter what role people were in, it was comforting to see everyone come together to help.”

Mayville said he was particularly grateful for the Millerton Fire Department, which received four additional calls on Saturday. “They would respond to another call and come back and pick right back up where they left off.”

Two displaced residents required accessible transportation assistance that could accommodate a wheelchair. Library Director Rhianon Leo-Jameson and Town Councilwoman Meg Winkler worked to identify possible options and made calls for help.

“It is heartening that our community can just react on a moment’s notice and work together to try to resolve obstacles,” Winkler said.

Leo-Jameson agreed.

“Millerton has always been a community that steps up,” she said. “It’s heartwarming to see public officials coming together to help.”

ICE *Continued from Page A1*

show us that we have elected people who really do care.”

During the meeting, Trustee Katie Cariello — who is several months into her first term on the board — said she hopes to keep ICE out of Millerton. Other trustees, including Deputy Mayor Matthew Hartzog, Matt Soleau and David Sherman, did not share their views during the meeting and did not respond to requests for comment at the time of publication.

Meanwhile, Mayor Jenn Najdek declined to comment following the meeting and would not say whether the board plans further discussions or next steps.

The village is not required to respond to public comments during their board meetings, but Cariello, Police Chief Joseph Olenik and village attorney Victoria Polidoro engaged in a conversation with attendees and answered several questions about hypothetical scenarios that could play out in Millerton.

“If our police officers are present and another officer — whether federal, state, or sheriff’s department — was breaking the law and abusing somebody against the law, we would have to take action,” Olenik said, though it was unclear whether that action would be through force in the moment or through a report and investigation.

Olenik and Polidoro said it is highly unlikely that ICE would notify the Millerton Police Department of its plans — or ask for assistance — given its part-time status and lack of involvement in immigration enforcement.

Although Olenik previously stated his department

was legally obligated to support federal agents — and said in an August 2025 conversation with The News that he would not ask to see a judicial warrant prior to assisting ICE with an arrest — he offered a more conditional response during Tuesday’s meeting, saying he would ask to see documentation and provide support if it was lawful.

“We treat all our people in this community with dignity, respect, and compassion,” Olenik added. “I won’t accept anything less than that from my officers.”

After the meeting, Cariello said she appreciated the group for holding local leaders accountable.

“I heard our Police Chief say that he will uphold the law, and I believe that to be true,” she said. “And I heard all of us say that we care about our neighbors and want everyone to feel safe.”

To date, Millerton has not entered into any voluntary agreements with ICE, as some cities and towns have done in states like Florida and Texas. During the meeting, Cariello said she would vote to oppose any such partnership in the future. Najdek and other board members did not state their position when asked.

Other residents put pressure on the board to weigh in.

Laura O’Loughlin also read prepared remarks that were co-written by what she described as a large group of Millerton and North East residents.

“We just want to keep naming that immigrants are not outsiders in our village,” O’Loughlin read, adding that they are coworkers, neighbors, business owners and friends who contribute

to the strength of the community. “When they are targeted with fear, intimidation, or violence, it harms us all.”

O’Loughlin went on to express concerns about the national pushback on protesters by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). “Peaceful protest is a cornerstone of our democracy,” she read. “Responding to it with force, especially against communities that already face disproportionate scrutiny and harm, is unacceptable.”

North East resident Bill Kish spoke to the importance of civic responsibility.

“I feel that if there’s one thing I can do — and that others can do — at this point in time, it’s to speak to power at every level, starting with the people who are here in this room,” Kish said, gesturing toward the board.

He urged trustees to recognize that “people are sad and angry and scared,” asking them to carry those concerns up the chain of command.

Kish concluded the final 30 seconds of his allotted time with a moment of silence for the lives that have been lost at the hands of federal officials.

**Gov. Kathy Hochul proposes Local Cops, Local Crimes bill**  
Three days after the vil-

lage board meeting, Gov. Kathy Hochul proposed a bill that would limit local police departments like Millerton from providing support to ICE. The legislation would prohibit state and local police from assisting in federal civil immigration enforcement or using taxpayer-funded resources for that purpose. It would also restrict federal agents from using local detention facilities for civil enforcement activities.



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

*Lingering ice*

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MUSIC: ROBIN RORABACK

# The color of music: Sarah Davis Hughes’ ‘The Colorways and the Circle of Fifths’

Artist Sarah Davis Hughes had always loved music, but after winning an accordion from the New England Accordion Connection and Museum in Canaan, that love became a musical journey, ultimately leading to her book “The Colorways and the Circle of Fifths.”

Hughes explained that the idea for the book came after studying with Paul Ramunni of the Accordion Connection for a year. “He introduced a piece of music that I knew well by ear but had never seen written down.” Upon seeing the music, Hughes described a sense of blindness. “The chords looked like thorny blueberry bushes on the page,” she said.

Determined to figure it out, Hughes said, “I knew color systems, design and theory, so it was simply a matter of organization. If



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO  
**Sarah Davis Hughes demonstrates Colorways, a visualization tool she developed that maps musical notes to colors by aligning the circle of fifths with the color wheel.**

I could assign a color to each note and color that black-and-white score, I would instantly recognize

the notes.” She set out to create a system. “The colors that I assign to each

note should make sense together like the notes make sense together,” she said.

She recalled the color wheel, which illustrates the harmonic structure of color, and the Circle of Fifths, which shows the harmonic structure of music. Both serve as foundational systems — one for color, the other for music. “What if I simply superimposed a classic color wheel onto the Circle of Fifths?”

She began by placing the primary colors — red, yellow and blue — then set the note C at the top. The next primary color, yellow, aligned with E, followed by blue at A-flat/G-sharp.

“I was very surprised to see that all of the hot colors — blood red, vermilion, orange, gold, hot yellow, chartreuse — fell on the white notes C, G, D, A and B,” Hughes

said. “The cool colors — green, teal, blue, lavender and purple — are black notes.”

Once the colors were mapped onto a miniature keyboard, Hughes saw clear correlations. “For instance, there are two oranges: G, vermilion, and D, orange,” she said. “The notes are diatonic partners” and harmonize with one another. She found similar relation-

ships between the two yellows — hot yellow and gold, corresponding to E and A — as well as chartreuse and green, B and F-sharp.

She also observed that the triangular relationships among primary, secondary and tertiary colors mirrored musical thirds, or counterbass notes. Mixing all three

*Continued on next page*

## ...Olana *Continued from previous page*

winter.

Inside the home, the sense of awe deepens. Olana’s interior is rich with color, pattern and texture — warm reds, stenciled walls, intricate woodwork — a striking counterpoint to the monochrome world outside. Light pours through tall windows, framing the Hudson Valley like living paintings. Every corner of the house pays tribute to the far-flung places Church visited throughout his career. From architectural details to the objects he collected and displayed, visitors are transported to another world. Walking from room to room feels less like touring a house museum and more like stepping into the mind of an artist transfixed by the staggering beauty of the world around him.

As I made my way back down the hill, the winter light fading fast, I felt refreshed in a way that only comes from seeing something anew. Olana is not just a monument to one artist, but



PHOTOS BY BRIAN GERSTEN  
**Olana State Historic Site, the hilltop home created by 19th-century Hudson River School painter Frederic Edwin Church, rises above the Hudson River on a clear winter afternoon.**

a testament to a way of viewing the world — one that values observation, patience and reverence for the natural environment. For those looking to venture out during the colder months and to be reminded why this region has inspired generations of artists and dreamers, there may be no better place to start than Olana.



**The dining room at Olana.**

Olana State Historic Site is located at 5720 State Route 9G, Hudson, New York. For more information and to purchase tours, visit: [olana.org](http://olana.org)



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

### Open studios

Artists welcomed visitors into their studios at the Wassaic Project’s first open studio day of 2026 on Saturday, Jan. 31. Below, Tilly Strauss of North East visits Ernesto Cabral’s studio where he has been a part of the art organization’s January 2026 residency program.



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# The case for tenkara

I have been fishing with tenkara rods for about 10 years now, ever since my cousin's husband, Gilligan, sent me a weird rod that telescoped out and had no reel, or even a place to put one. That was in February, so I had to wait until summer for my little buddy to show me how it worked.

I was extremely skeptical until I caught a decent Housatonic rainbow on the thing.

It was not an exceptional fish, but the fight was a lot of fun, more than it would have been with a regular fly rod.

Tenkara is a Japanese word that does a lot of lifting in translation. "Fixed-line rod" is probably better, but it doesn't sound as cool.

Your basic tenkara rod is about 12 feet long, weighs almost nothing and is two feet long or less when collapsed.

At the tip of the rod is a piece of cord or string called a lillian. I don't know why it's called that.

What most people do is tie an overhand knot near the end of the lillian to act as a stopper. Then they attach a line with a girth hitch and add tippet material and a fly to the other end of the line.

A good rule of thumb is to start out with a line that is as long as the rod, give or take a couple of feet, depending on whether you're in a wide-open river or a squirrely stream.

The casting motion is very similar to that of a fly rod, but because you've only got the fixed length of line plus the length of the rod to work with, you've got to fish with your feet.

This is the critical distinction.

As I got better at using the tenkara rod, I realized



PHOTO BY GARY DODSON

The author wrestles a Housatonic trout with a reel-less Tenkara rod.



TANGLED LINES  
PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

how lazy I had become with the Western fly rod. Rather than considering a section of stream and mapping out my moves like a golfer assessing an approach, I had gotten into the habit of chucking a longer line or adding a tricky mend.

These are legitimate tactics, but smarter wading often eliminates the need for a longer cast.

It's also better exercise and keeps the pores open.

So naturally, I started amassing tenkara rods and now have several in different lengths and actions.

What I really like to do is carry both a Western fly rod and a tenkara rod, and with some of these things, that's easy to do. I have one 10-footer that, when collapsed, is about a foot long. It literally fits in my pocket or in the waist pack I use these days.

When I get bored with one method, I switch to the other.

One question I get a

lot, other than "what the heck is that thing" is, "What happens when the fish bolts?"

Same thing that happens with a Western rig. Either the fish stops or the fish breaks off.

The hardest part of fixed-line fishing is landing the fish. For those of us who do not have five-foot Extend Arms (as seen in "Master of the Flying Guillotine"), getting the fish into scooping distance of the net requires dexterity, exquisite cunning and, inevitably, grabbing the line by hand.

This is where bad things happen, because once you give up the leverage of the rod, the dynamic changes completely, and the fish — no fools — sense this immediately.

If this intrigues you, I recommend starting out with Dragontail Tenkara in Idaho. The proprietor, Brent Auger, runs a tight ship and responds quickly to emails.

I also advise starting out with a furred line, which feels more like a fly line. Once you're comfortable with that, you can move into level lines and other esoterica.

## ...Colorways

Continued from previous page



An illustration from "Colorways and the Circle of Fifths" by Sarah Davis Hughes.

primary colors produces "mud," she said, just as playing all the notes in the triangle creates dissonance. But pairing two colors, such as yellow and blue, produces green, while their corresponding notes — E and A-flat — form part of a major chord. "Add B, chartreuse, as the fifth — E, A-flat, B — and you get a beautiful chord," she said.

In songs that move upward by thirds — from C to E to A-flat, as in "The Impossible Dream" — she said the effect is a vertiginous sense of ascent. Compositions built on the three primary colors, she added, are similarly bold and striking, citing Mondrian's circus paintings as examples.

"Everything was about setting it up so that I could look at a color and immediately know what to play," Hughes said. "I

practiced chords and scales on the keyboard, fixing my eye on each color as I played it. It worked."

"At that point, Paul and I started to plan how we could share it with people and wondered if it might help others enter music," Hughes said.

The result is "The Colorways and the Circle of Fifths," a guide for students, teachers and musicians of all levels to help them understand, play and compose music. The book includes worksheets to support learning.

"The Colorways and the Circle of Fifths" is available at Oblong Books and Music in Millerton. Hughes is artist in residence at the Accordion Connection and Museum, where her pastels, prints and original artwork from the book are on view upstairs.

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RUTH HARLOW, MILLERTON

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JENNIFER DOWLEY, NORTH EAST

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SARAH RIGANO, MILLERTON

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PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

### Stissing Center opens its 2026 season

Rosanne Cash and John Leventhal performed to a sold-out crowd Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Stissing Center in Pine Plains for the Spark! gala, marking the opening of the center's 2026 season. For upcoming shows in the main room and the center's new venue, The Grace Note, visit [stissingcenter.org](https://stissingcenter.org).



COMPASS

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

FEBRUARY 5

**Project SAGE Online Safety Workshop**  
Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org

At 6:30 p.m., this interactive, 90-minute workshop designed for parents and caregivers of teens and tweens provides a foundation for talking with youth about online safety, including online “stranger danger,” cyberbullying, artificial intelligence and more.

No-Cost Home Energy Solutions Assessment

Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main St., Sharon, Conn.  
Free public information session from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. to learn how to save money and energy on your home energy bills.

Essential Skills for Sustainable Landscape Care

Online.  
Feb. 5 through March 12

This intensive six-part virtual series through Innisfree is designed for gardeners and landscape stewards who want to go beyond surface-level advice and build durable skills for creating healthier, more resilient landscapes. Led by horticulturist Brad Roeller, each session combines structured teaching with generous time for Q&A—so participants can bring real site challenges, plant problems, and design questions into the conversation.

Pick and choose the sessions you'd like to attend—or sign up for the complete series at a discounted price. Register: [www.innisfreegarden.org/essential-skills-for-sustainable-landscapes](http://www.innisfreegarden.org/essential-skills-for-sustainable-landscapes)

FEBRUARY 6

**Illusory Magic: A Personal History of the Craft in Pictures, Words, and Trickery**  
The Salisbury School, 251 Canaan Road, Salisbury, Conn.  
7:30 p.m. at The Salisbury School

Join us for an evening with Jon Brunelle as we delve into magic history, witness sleight of hand demonstrations, and examine the relationship between the psychological ploys of magic and today’s attention economy. Jon Brunelle is a sleight-of-hand expert and performance artist who has plied his trade on stages from Hollywood’s Magic Castle to New York’s Dixon Place and PS122. Register for this free event at: [bit.ly/49RbDIS](http://bit.ly/49RbDIS)

First Friday Music

Congregational Church of Salisbury, 30 Main St., Salisbury, Conn.  
The Congregational Church of Salisbury will present its monthly First Friday Music program on Friday, Feb. 6, at 12 p.m. The Meeting House will open at 11:30 a.m. This month’s performance will be Mozart’s “Requiem.” There will be a 15-voice chorus of professional soloists accompanied on piano by music director, David Baranowski.

FEBRUARY 7

**Celestial Ball: A Dewey Hall Fundraiser**  
Dewey Hall, 91 Main St., Sheffield, Mass.  
DJ, astrological readings, cosmic cocktails, wine, beer and more. From 7 to 10 p.m. More info: [deweyhall.org](http://deweyhall.org)

Art Show Closing Reception

The Souterraine Gallery, 413 Sharon Goshen Tnpk., West Cornwall, Conn.  
The Souterraine Gallery of The Wish House will be hosting a Closing Party for Moon Unit Zappa and Friends next Saturday Feb. 7 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Sports Equipment Exchange

Cornwall Town Hall, 24 Pine St. Cornwall, Conn.  
Sports equipment exchange at Town Hall from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Check out various sizes of cleats or ice skates or drop off good used items to swap.

Take Your Child to the Library Day

Douglas Library, 108 Main St., North Canaan, Conn. [douglaslibrarycanaan.org](http://douglaslibrarycanaan.org)  
On Feb. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., families are invited to stop by Douglas Library for a variety of fun activities, including giveaways, a raffle, our monthly scavenger hunt and a hands-on craft table. Join Miss Anna at 10:30 a.m. for a story hour. At 11 a.m., we'll also be offering a special dot-painting activity for children and their accompanying adult. Registration is required for this session, as space is limited.

Stand-Up Comedy

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.  
Headliner Ophira Eisenberg (NPR, The Moth, Comedy Central) brings her sharp, fast, relatable wit, joined by Jenny Rubin, Shawn Hollenbach, and Will Purpura. Expect big laughs, punchlines that sneak up on you when you least expect them, and the kind of comedy night that reminds you why laughing together matters. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at: [thestissingcenter.org](http://thestissingcenter.org)

FEBRUARY 8

**Valentine's Cake Decorating**  
Grasslands Dessert Cafe, Lakeville, Conn.  
All day decorating. Bring friends and family and join in for a day full of fun. Sign up sheets will be in the store.

Last week's WotW

L	U	N	C	H
H	E	A	V	Y
E	I	G	H	T
T	H	I	E	F
W	H	I	T	E

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. Sound a duck makes
2. Opposite of before
3. Where a belt might tighten
4. Yummy, delicious
5. Brine covers roads, sidewalks

All About Postage Stamps with Antonio Alcalá

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. [norfolklibrary.org](http://norfolklibrary.org)  
Find out more about the process of bringing a stamp to life with Antonio Alcalá, art director for the USPS. He will speak about the history of stamp making, the design elements involved, and his own journey that brought him to this work. Register at [norfolklibrary.org/events](http://norfolklibrary.org/events)

FEBRUARY 11

**Bouquets & Bordeaux Workshop**  
Le Jardin Flower Farm, 3300 Route 343, Amenia, N.Y.  
Hands-on floral design workshop with Romane Recalde plus a curated wine tasting led by Erika of Ten Mile Table. 5:30–7 p.m. Limited spots; must be 21+. Purchase: [lejardinflowerfarm.com/shop/p/bouquets-bordeaux-workshop-0212](http://lejardinflowerfarm.com/shop/p/bouquets-bordeaux-workshop-0212)

FEBRUARY 12

**Suzan Scott: This Beautiful Place**  
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)  
Feb. 12 through March 13  
Paintings by Torrington artist Suzan Scott inspired by the Litchfield

Hills. Reception: Saturday, Feb. 21, 5 to 7 p.m. Artist Talk: Thursday, March 12, 5:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Learn Libby With Anna

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)  
Drop-in help from 1 to 3 p.m. setting up Libby for ebooks and audiobooks. Bring your device and library card. No registration required.

Dine Out for History

Various locations  
Jan. 18 to March 23, 2026

Seven Millerton restaurants will host Dine Out for History evenings benefiting the North East Historical Society, with 10% of proceeds donated on designated nights. Participating restaurants include The Millerton Inn (Jan. 18), Taro’s (Jan. 29), Willa (Feb. 12), Oakhurst Diner (Feb. 22), Pasture Kitchen (March 5), Golden Wok (March 15, takeout only) and Round III (March 23). Diners are encouraged to mention Dine Out for History when ordering.

I Love a Rainy Night: The Rhythm of Forest Amphibians with Laura Heady

In-person at Cary’s Lovejoy Auditorium or virtual  
Feb. 12 @ 7 p.m.  
Join us for a lecture on amphibian migrations, featuring Laura Heady,

a biologist with the New York State Department of Conservation’s Hudson River Estuary Program and Cornell University. Registration required at [caryinstitute.org](http://caryinstitute.org)

FEBRUARY 13

**Grace Note opening: Natalia Zukerman**  
The Grace Note at The Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains  
Celebrating the opening night of The Grace Note, the new intimate performance space downstairs at Stissing Center with a performance by Natalia Zukerman—a longtime friend of the Center whose storytelling, musicianship, and warmth make her the perfect artist to open this new room. Doors open at 6 p.m., performance begins at 7:30 p.m., and the \$20 cover keeps it easy to drop in, settle in, and start the weekend together. Tickets at [stissingcenter.org](http://stissingcenter.org)

Frankenstein

Walker Auditorium, The Hotchkiss School, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn.  
Feb. 13 through 15

A bold new staging of Nick Dear’s Olivier Award–winning adaptation of Mary Shelley’s classic, placing the Creature at the center of the story. Fri. & Sat. 7:30 p.m.; Sun. 2 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Native American group of N. California
5. Geological times (Brit. sp.)
10. Tool to remove
12. Rods
14. One who renews
16. They precede C
18. Chatter incessantly
19. \_\_ King Cole, musician
20. Insect parts
22. One from Utah
23. The world of the dead
25. Singer Redding
26. NBA legend Nelson
27. Indicates wrongly
28. Unhappy
30. Anger
31. Dark brown
33. Some are in kitchens
35. Made a mistake
37. Damp
38. Type of fuel
40. Actor Damon
41. What thespians do
42. One’s mother
44. Disallow
45. Swiss river
48. A banana has one
50. Philippines lake and volcano are two
52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
53. Agave
55. Journalist Tarbell
56. One-time tech giant
57. Indicates upon
58. Intestinal bacteria
63. Loose sheaths around the spinal cord
65. It goes with nook
66. A fashion
67. Very eager to hear or see

		1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	
	10	11						12				13
	14						15					16
18						19			20		21	
22					23			24		25		
26					27			28		29		30
		31	32						33		34	
35	36								37			
38						39			40			
41			42		43		44			45	46	47
48		49		50		51					52	
53			54		55						56	
57			58		59				60	61	62	
	63	64						65				
		66						67				

10. Muse of lyric and love poetry
11. Animates anew
13. Humorous criticisms
15. Cool!
17. Worst
18. Wet dirt
21. Designed to be useful
23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
24. High schoolers’ test
27. Computer device
29. Indian territory \_\_ and
- Diu
32. A place to sleep
34. AI tool
35. Pass or go by
36. Indicates a purchase
39. A digital tape recording of sound
40. More (Spanish)
43. Disfigured
44. White (Spanish)

46. Church building
47. Georgia rockers
49. Type of surgery
51. Much \_\_ about nothing
54. Make by braiding
59. Local area network
60. Unit of work or energy
61. Member of indigenous people of Thailand
62. Liquefied natural gas
64. Distance to top

January 29 Solution

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

January 29 Solution

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



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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Closing at \$410,000, 174 Horseshoe Lane was one of three houses whose transfer was recorded in December for under \$500,000 in the Town of Washington.

Washington median home prices down 6.7% at year’s end

By CHRISTINE BATES  
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — The Town of Washington’s median price for a single-family home fell 6.7% in 2025, dropping to \$664,435 by the end of December, down from \$712,000 a year earlier.

Sales activity, however, increased over the year, with 44 single-family homes sold in 2025, compared with 29 in 2024.

All three home sales recorded in December 2025 closed below \$500,000. Unlike November, none of the

transfers occurred within the Village of Millbrook.

Inventory at the high end remains tight: 18 homes were on the market at the end of January, all priced above \$850,000, with 12 listed at more than \$1 million.

174 Horseshoe Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath raised ranch built in 1970 sold to Mosharraf Niaz for \$400,000.

3889 Route 82 — 3 bedroom/2 bath brick ranch on 1 acre sold to Edison Xavier P. Illescas for \$415,000.

11 Sutton Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath home on 1.55 acres sold to Ivaylo V. Ninov

Trustee for \$147,563.

Bangall Road — 6.18 acres of land adjacent to 59 Bangall Road sold to Aaron McPeck for \$350,000.

North Tower Hill Road — 7.75 acres of land sold to Stay Maison LLC for \$288,000.

\* Town of Washington recorded real estate transfers. Current listings from One Key MLS. Market information from 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 Jan. 22 to Jan. 28.

Jan. 25 — Deputies responded to the area of Route 55 and Little Pond Road in the Town of Pawling to investigate a report of a vehicle off the roadway in that area. Investigation resulted in Lettisha Harvey, 30, being cited

for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. Harvey is scheduled to appear in the Town of Pawling Court at a later date.

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 dcsotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.

Eight dead geese found in Millerton pond

By NATHAN MILLER  
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Environmental investigators recovered eight dead Canada geese from a pond in Millerton on Jan. 22, prompting testing for highly pathogenic avian influenza, commonly known as bird flu.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation confirmed in a statement that the birds are undergoing testing, though results were not available at press time.

Employees at Millerton Veterinary Practice reported finding the geese in a pond behind the business at 199 Route 44.

Bird flu remains widespread among wild bird populations in New York, according to information published by the DEC. The agency notes that there is no effective way to contain highly pathogenic avian in-

fluenza in wild birds.

Infected birds may be asymptomatic or may show signs of illness, including discharge from the nostrils or beak, lethargy, seizures, weakness or sudden death, according to the DEC.

DEC officials urge New York residents to avoid contact with birds that show signs of infection.

Residents who discover multiple dead birds are encouraged to report their findings to the agency. After a report is made, DEC staff determine whether retrieval and testing are necessary. The agency does not collect dead birds in every case.

Property owners should exercise extreme caution when handling carcasses that must be removed. DEC officials said they should wear gloves, masks and goggles, and avoid direct contact with the carcasses by using a shovel or other tools rather than hands. Clothing

and skin should be washed with soap and warm water immediately after handling any bird carcasses.

Carcasses may be disposed of in outdoor trash cans, but they must be triple-bagged in either trash bags or contractor’s bags.

According to the DEC, the current outbreak of bird flu among wild birds poses a low risk to the general public. In humans, bird flu infections are rare but can cause symptoms ranging from mild flu-like illness to severe respiratory disease.

Human cases are more commonly linked to exposure to domesticated birds or livestock, though transmission from wild birds remains possible.

Northeast Dutchess County residents are encouraged to report suspected bird flu deaths to the DEC through the NYSDC Avian Influenza Reporting Form. For the form, visit bit.ly/4caEsMG.

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Classifieds Real Estate

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REAL ESTATE

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