



Oblong bookseller retires after 42 years on Main Street

See LISA WRIGHT, A6

Pine Plains surveillance controversy prompts questions in other communities

PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

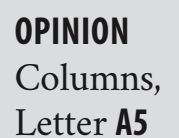
See SURVEILLANCE, A6

Cascade Creek subject to full impact study

See CASCADE CREEK, A6

Public debate on North East's zoning rewrite to continue March 20

See ZONING, A6



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OUR TOWNS

OBITUARIES

Ronald Ray Dirck

SHARON — Ronald Ray Dirck, affectionately known as Ron, passed away peacefully with his family at his side on Jan. 17, 2026, in Phoenix, Arizona, at the age of 85. Born on Jan. 31, 1940, in Sedalia, Missouri, Ron lived a life filled with warmth, laughter, and deep devotion to his family.

Ron shared an extraordinary 62-year marriage with his high school sweetheart and beloved wife, Jackie. Their enduring partnership was a shining example of living life to the fullest.

Ron served his country as a captain in the US Marine Corps, flying helicopters during the Vietnam War. He then flew commercially for TWA for 25 years, both domestically and internationally. He finished his flying career with Nippon Cargo Airlines. Ron enjoyed the outdoors and enjoyed taking care of their beloved Sharon, home for more than 50 years. He was also an avid builder and enjoyed his many projects over the years.

In retirement, Ron and Jackie split time between Sharon, and Phoenix, Arizona, before settling full-time in Phoenix two years ago. Ron loved his evening cocktails with Jackie and their many

friends, as well as a hand or two of gin rummy.

He was a devoted father to Melissa Dirck Appel and her husband, Jeff Appel, and Patrick Dirck and his wife, Lisa Dirck. He carried the memory of his son Kevin with enduring love throughout his life. His legacy continues through his cherished grandchildren; Alexandra, Caroline, Emma, Natalie, Evan, Cooper, Elle, and Tanner. Ron is also fondly remembered by his brother, Jim and wife Lena.

Ron had a tender heart for animals. The loyal companionship of his beloved dogs Mini and Mae brought him comfort and joy over the years.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jackie, and parents, Raymond and Gladys Dirck.

In honor of Ron’s love of animals, the family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to The Aussie and Friends Rescue, www.aussiefriendsrescue.com.

His light lives on in the hearts of all who knew him. May his memory continue to bring comfort and smiles to those he touched.

A private celebration of life for the family will be held at a later date.

Linda Lyles Goodyear

CANAAN — Linda Lyles Goodyear was born in Bronxville, New York, on June 17, 1936, to Molly Gayer Lyles and James Adam Lyles. She died peacefully in her sleep on Feb. 4, 2026, of complications from dementia. As a child she spent her summers with her parents and sister, Sally, in Canaan at the family’s home along the Blackberry River that was built in 1751 by her relative, Isaac Lawrence. Linda met the love of her life, Charles (Charlie) W. Goodyear, during her Bennett College years, and after graduating they married on Aug. 4, 1956.



very active throughout their lives, traveling the world and participating in many sports including alpine skiing, running, hiking, canoeing, biking and tennis.

In 1998, they built a vacation home in Hailey, Idaho, as a family gathering place for their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Linda loved the beauty of the mountains and the opportunity to be in nature every day, but she especially loved being the matriarch of her ever-growing family.

Linda was very outgoing, and made new friends all over the world - people were drawn to her lovely smile, generous spirit and witty sense of humor. She was an incredibly caring person with boundless energy, a heart for service and love for others. Even in her final days her nurses and caregivers noted how sweet she was and how much she made them smile.

She is survived by her husband of almost 70 years, Charlie; her children, Chip (Elizabeth) Goodyear, Jim (Mary) Goodyear and Molly! Goodyear; her eight grandchildren; Charlie (Ellen) Goodyear, Adelaide Goodyear & fiance Alastair Sharp, Will (Jenny) Goodyear, Robert (Kacie) Goodyear, Annie (Spencer) Gorham, John Goodyear, Peter Wolter and Ella Wolter; three great-grandchildren, and her nieces Deb (Jim) Edwards, Amy (Bob) Clark and Chris (Ruth) Rees. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Molly Lyles, and her sister, Sally Rees. She leaves behind many other relatives and friends who will miss her dearly.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society or a charity of your choice.

Charlie and Linda were



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

Webutuck’s varsity boys basketball team fights hard against Ellenville on Friday, Feb. 13, at Webutuck High School.



Senior James Singleton, center, goes up for a layup.

Webutuck varsity boys qualify for sectionals for the first time in a decade

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The Webutuck boys varsity basketball team qualified for the Section IX Invitational this year for the first time in over a decade.

Varsity head coach Shawn Howard said the school hasn’t been represented at the sectional tournament in the nine years he’s coached basketball at the school.

He and varsity starters Evan Bremmer, James Singleton and Zach Hood credited the team’s success this season to long relationships on the court.

“Most of the seniors this year, I started coaching them when they were in JV,” Howard said. “They’re used to my system and they put it together this year.”

Singleton, Bremmer and Hood have all played together since middle school when they competed on Webutuck’s

modified league team. They said they can communicate with each other without talking.

“You don’t even have to tell each other, you can just see on each other’s faces,” Bremmer said. “And it makes the game so much easier, when you know how teammates play and what they want to do.”

Howard said that cohesion steadily improved over the years and ultimately carried the team into sectionals.

The team maintained a 5-3 record within the Mid-Hudson Athletic League, with a 5-8 record overall for the season after a hard-fought game ended in a 60-48 loss to Ellenville High School on Friday, Feb. 13. Teams have to win at least half of their league games to qualify for the sectional tournaments at the end of the season.

“The biggest thing is playing as a team,” Howard said.



Senior Evan Bremmer, center, fights through defenders.



A group of junior varsity players practices layups on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

Kathleen Rosier

CANAAN — Kathleen Rosier, 92, of Ashley Falls Massachusetts, passed away peacefully with her children at her bedside on Feb. 5, at Fairview Commons Nursing Home in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

Kathleen was born on Oct. 31, 1933, in East Canaan to Carlton and Carrie Nott.

Kathleen retired from Housatonic Curtain Company where she was a machine operator for many years.

She was predeceased by her husband of 65 years, John A. Rosier Sr., her son John A. Rosier Jr., her son Frank H.

Rosier and her brother Jerome Nott.

Kathleen leaves behind her son, Brian Rosier and his wife JoEllen of East Canaan, her daughter, Theresa Morin of Ashley Falls, her daughter, Lisa Dawson of Great Barrington, a brother Henry Nott, her sister Ann Percy, 11 grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and friends.

There will be a celebration of life held in her honor on Feb. 21 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Bitterman Center in North Canaan. All are welcome to come.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
Notice of Formation of Glynavian 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
Notice of Formation of Your Mom’s Bush Native

& Medicinal Plant Nursery LLC. Arts. Of Org. file with SSNY on 1/20/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 3657 U.S. 44, Millbrook, NY, 12545. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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

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

For more obituaries, see Page A4

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Local filmmaker debuts indie horror film at Millerton’s Moviehouse

By ALY MORRISSEY
alym@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Local writer and filmmaker Keith Boynton premiered his indie slasher film “The Haunted Forest” on Friday the 13th at the Millerton Moviehouse in front of a hometown crowd, marking the movie’s first public screening — the same day it debuted on Amazon Prime Video and other platforms.

With a body of work spanning decades in drama and comedy — including “The Winter House,” starring Lily Taylor — this is Boynton’s first foray into the horror genre.

“As a filmmaker, I’m always thinking about what I can accomplish with the resources I have, what excites me, and what’s marketable to audiences,” Boynton, 44, said. “I go through phases where I think I’ve found ‘my genre,’ and then I move on.” He added that “The Haunted Forest” is his first horror film — an intentional choice because there is a market for it and enough overlap with his own interests.

Written and directed by Boynton, the film was primarily shot at a haunted attraction in Maryland in 2023 over a period of 18 days. The film follows a teen who takes a job as a scare actor at a haunted theme park — until “fake” scares turn deadly and bodies begin to pile up.

Boynton credits his brother Devin McEwan with the idea for the film. The pair worked on the outline together, and McEwan’s feedback shaped the story, Boynton said.

“I wrote a first draft that was just not ready for prime



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Keith Boynton

time because I didn’t understand the genre well enough,” he said. McEwan recommended a longer climax and more on-screen deaths to better fit the genre.

Although “The Haunted Forest” leans into familiar horror tropes, Boynton said he does not see the genre as the driving force behind his work. “I’ve been thinking a lot about genre, and I think the purest approach is not to care about genre at all,” he said. “I want to make movies that feel like movies.” He said some of the best movies change genres halfway through, including one of his favorites, Fight Club. “It changes genre and tone, but always feels like the same movie,” he said.

Boynton said his local upbringing and theater experience at Hotchkiss shaped his creative path and influenced his decision to shoot many of his projects in the Hudson Valley.

Boynton said he has been writing since before he could actually write. Though he is too young to remember, his parents said he wrote a poem at age two and never stopped.

“I’ve always liked lan-

guage,” Boynton said. “I’ve always liked playing around with words, so I think I’ve been some kind of writer for, let’s call it, 40-something years now.”

By age 13, Boynton found himself bored at his grandfather’s house in the era before smartphones and the internet, when he stumbled upon a paperback compendium of film critic Roger Ebert’s movie reviews.

Captivated by Ebert’s passion for cinema, Boynton said he was hooked.

“At first I thought I wanted to be a critic, too,” he said. “But eventually I realized critics are outside the party looking in, and I wanted to be inside the party making the movies.”

The fascination grew into a decades-long tradition of attending the Sundance Film Festival, beginning at age 17 and continuing through this year’s final festival in Park City, Utah. Sundance organizers have announced the festival will move to Boulder, Colorado, beginning in 2027.

But for Boynton, who consumed as many films as possible at Sundance for nearly three decades, one memory will stay with him for the rest of his life. It was the moment he stood next to his idol Roger Ebert at a Park City urinal.

“I did not have the courage to talk to him,” Boynton laughed. “It’s not the right venue to tell someone, ‘You changed my life.’”

“The Haunted Forest” is available for purchase or rental on Amazon and other streaming platforms.

Former church building approved for multimedia academy

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The long-vacant Presbyterian church on Main Street is poised for a new life after the Millerton Planning Board granted approval to a new education business Wednesday, Feb. 11.

Caffeine Academy, founded by Alex That in West Babylon, New York, plans to transform the prominent building into a center for multimedia

production training, offering instruction in digital music, video production and related arts.

That sought site plan approval to renovate the building and bring it into compliance with current accessibility standards.

The next phase for That is to obtain building permits from Ken McLoughlin in the village’s building department and begin construction. That said he expects to make

changes over the course of 2026, with a targeted opening for the business in 2027.

That’s Caffeine Academy — which he runs with assistance from his sons — began in 2013 as a school for DJing and music production that grew to accommodate and cater to people with special needs and abilities. Now, Caffeine Academy offers classes for all abilities in video production and multimedia arts in addition to the digital mu-

sic classes.

The application passed with little discussion. That previously appeared in front of the Planning Board in December, but delayed the application to wait for a local law to go into effect that waived increased parking requirements for changes of use in Millerton’s commercial district. The law allowed the application to avoid seeking a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Be my valentine

Ashlyn Price, 7, designs a festive Valentine’s crown with sticky hearts and pipe cleaners during a craft session at Amenia Town Hall on Saturday, Feb. 14. Children and parents created red-and-pink heart headpieces and other holiday crafts at the event, organized by the Amenia Recreation Commission. Recreation Leader Cassidy Howard said she was pleased with both the turnout and the enthusiasm.



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OBITUARIES

Roberta Katherine Stevens

CANAAN — Roberta Katherine (Briggs) Stevens, 86, of 99 South Canaan Rd. died Feb. 11, 2026, at Sharon Hospital. Roberta was born on March 7, 1939, in Sharon, daughter of the late Frederick and Catherine (Penny) Briggs. Roberta has been a life-long area resident. She studied pediatric nursing at St. Margaret's in Albany, New York and worked as a pediatric nurse. After leaving nursing Roberta was a cook at the Maplebrook School in Amenia. Her love for children extended to Roberta establishing a daycare out of her own home for many years. She loved collecting and displaying her dolls for the community. She would take her dog on walks to listen to the church bell ringing. Roberta's greatest joy came as she helped take care of her grandchildren. That opportunity provided Roberta with some of her fondest and most precious memories. Roberta is

remembered as a person who always had a story to tell...and a helping hand to lend. Always one to stay active, Roberta became the President of the Resident's Council of The Geer Health and Rehabilitation Center in Canaan. Roberta is survived by her two children; Robert D. "Bob" Stevens of Millerton, and Donna M. Archer of Rockledge, Pennsylvania; her brother Frederick G. Briggs, and her sister Annette Shaffer. Roberta was predeceased by her sister June Briggs. Roberta is also survived by her two grandsons; Robert Stevens Jr. and his partner Elizabeth Gillett of Austin, Texas, and Josh Archer and his wife Ashley Archer Monteiro of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. There will be a small private service and celebration of Roberta's life in the future. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. Canaan, CT 06018.

Tilden W. Southack

SHARON — Tilden W. Southack Jr. a longtime resident of Sharon passed Feb. 13, 2026, peacefully, hand in hand with the person he cared about most, Karlee McGhee and a couple of his employees and friends. He was born May 25, 1950, the son of Jean (Bunny) Southack and Tilden Southack, and brother to Barbara (Bobby) Southack and Sally Southack. Tilden graduated high school from Wooster School of Danbury and earned a college degree in business and economics from Colorado State University. Tilden told stories of being the manager of a varsity football team and hockey team during his time at Wooster. After his immediate family had passed or moved on, Tilden continued to run his family farm, Whitetail Farm in Sharon. He poured his blood, sweat and tears into every last inch of soil there and cared for his Angus cattle and Percheron horses and a handful of cats with the help of Karlee McGhee, Wayne McGhee, Scott Ga-



ray, Charles Parmalee, and Prestyn Handlowich as well as some high school boys as Tilden called them. Tilden also enjoyed anything that could go fast, whether that was a motorcycle or a corvette that he had fixed up to make 10x more horsepower than it did before. Just as much he loved to tell stories about it to the people he held close. He was like a muscle car, he might yell and scream at you, but he would've given you all he had. He wasn't an easy perlege degree in business and economics from Colorado State University. Tilden told stories of being the manager of a varsity football team and hockey team during his time at Wooster. After his immediate family had passed or moved on, Tilden continued to run his family farm, Whitetail Farm in Sharon. He poured his blood, sweat and tears into every last inch of soil there and cared for his Angus cattle and Percheron horses and a handful of cats with the help of Karlee McGhee, Wayne McGhee, Scott Ga-

Carolyn G. McCarthy

LAKEVILLE — Carolyn G. McCarthy, 88, a long time resident of Indian Mountain Road, passed away peacefully at home on Feb. 7, 2026. She was born on Sept. 8, 1937, in Hollis, New York. She was the youngest daughter of the late William James and Ruth Anderson Gedge of Indian Mountain Road. Carolyn's first job out of high school was at the Time and Life building in Manhattan, New York. In 1956, she went on to work for Capital Airlines until they disbanded. She began banking in White Plains, New York, where she met her husband Edward James McCarthy. They started their family and relocated to Pleasant Valley, New York. She then returned to banking in Poughkeepsie, New York and later pursued real estate. Carolyn was very creative and enjoyed home making, gardening, sewing, knitting, cooking and baking. Her Christmas cookies were always remarkable. She had a pioneer spirit and embraced



the toil of yard chores. She was very independent and at 87 she still shoveled the driveway in the winter, mowed the grass, trimmed the bushes, raked the leaves and dragged the brush. She took pride in the manicure of the grounds where she resided. Carolyn was a wonderful mother who had an enormous heart. She loved all animals, wild or tame. She will be dearly missed by her family and the people that knew her. She is predeceased by her husband, Edward McCarthy Sr., her brother Dr. Stafford Gedge of Minnesota, nephews, William, James and Robert and niece Christine. She is survived by her son, Edward (Anne) McCarthy of Greenfield, Massachusetts and grandsons James and Theodore, son Sean McCarthy of Oak Hill, New York, sister Nancy Dougherty of South Carolina, nieces Lynn Warner and Debra Phillips. A private service will be held at a later date. The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

'A beautiful soul': Kent mourns Robbie Kennedy

By RUTH EPSTEIN
Special to The Millerton News

KENT, Conn. — A sense of sadness pervaded the town this week as news of the death of Robert (Robbie) Kennedy spread. Kennedy died Monday, Feb. 9, at the age of 71. Kennedy was a beacon of light, known by legions of citizens, if not personally, but as the guy who could be seen riding his bicycle in all kinds of weather, determined to get to his destination; yet always taking the time for a wave. Kennedy faced challenges, but there were no barriers when it came to making an impact on all who knew him. Remembrances of him abounded in conversations throughout town and on the hundreds of messages posted on social media. His sister-in-law, Apple Kennedy, summed up what everyone was saying — "a beautiful soul." The son of the late John and Olga Kennedy, Kennedy was born in Guam. His father, a physician, worked for the World Health Organization and was chief of public health for USAID. The family, which consisted of eight children, lived on and off overseas and would come back to Kent during leaves. Kennedy attended the Devereux School before entering Housatonic Valley Regional High School, graduating in 1974. His sister Gretchen Kennedy said in their early days in Kent, her brother would walk her infant son in his stroller and visit all the businesses. That was his introduction to townspeople and how he became an integral part of the community. Joe Bianchi kept his cows in the Kennedys' barn, she said, which sparked Kennedy's deep love of animals. "He worshipped the ground Joe walked on, and would so look forward to him coming every afternoon to feed the animals and bring him candy." His sister said the family was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support and kind words about her brother. "He loved life to the fullest. His sudden death spared him so

much pain and loss of independence. It was very much a blessing." Gary Davis, former owner of the local IGA supermarket, recalled how his mother, the late Anne Davis, hired Kennedy 31 years ago. He worked until Covid hit. He was assigned specific tasks, such as unloading trucks, cleaning the store or cardboard compaction. Davis said he took his responsibilities seriously, was always courteous with the customers and was a joy to be around. "Robbie was never in a bad mood," said Davis. "It worked out for us and for him. He was considered part of the IGA family. Recently I got together with him a lot. It's tough to lose a buddy. I miss him so much." Davis echoed what many were saying about Kennedy. "Everybody knew him and he knew everybody. He was a real town character." His sister said some dubbed him, "The mayor of Kent." Always eager to be involved and yearning companionship, Kennedy wanted very much to be part of the Kent Volunteer Fire Department. Member Ed Matson said he was honored to be named an active emergency member. He would ride his bike from his then-home in north Kent to the firehouse for meetings. "When his bike failed him, we all chipped in to buy him a new one that even had a flashing light to ensure his safety." The department put out a statement about his death, saying "His smile, his wave and his spirit will be missed greatly, not just by his KVFD family, but so many in our community." Matson spoke about Kennedy never uttering a bad word about anyone. "He was a simple, caring person who tried to help everyone. Many people didn't know the things he did for others." But those who were neighbors of Kennedy when he moved to Templeton Farms senior



apartments, knew first-hand how he would always give assistance. Ruth Woodard described his kind acts, including shoveling snow off cars or bringing residents their mail. "He had such a big heart," she said. Ben Martin met Kennedy when they both attended youth park and recreation games: Martin as a dad and Kennedy as a spectator. Martin is the football coach at Kent School and just before the season started two years ago, he invited Kennedy to be his volunteer assistant coach. It was a deep honor and a responsibility he took seriously. He would do all the tasks asked of him, along with encouraging accountability from the players. "He was my right-hand man," said Martin. "Often he and I were the first at practice and the last to leave. The kids really loved him. He was my best buddy. We'd sometimes go out for lunch or to a movie. I valued my relationship with him." Martin and the team pre-

sented Kennedy with a varsity letter and Kennedy was so pleased to have him come to his apartment to see it framed and on the wall. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church became an important part of Kennedy's life in the last few years. The former pastor, the Rev. Douglas Worthington, welcomed him and "helped him along in the spirit of growth and acceptance," said current pastor, the Rev. Richard Clark. He became a crucifer, carrying the cross and leading the procession in his white robe during services. "He wanted to do it right, so we practiced," said Clark. "The church was a special place for him." Resident Melissa Cherniske said when she was a Boy Scout mother, Kennedy would come to meetings to learn how to tie knots or participate in whatever the lesson was. Even more recently he organized drum circles outside Foreign Cargo, the store owned by his brother Jeff Kennedy on Main Street. The family will hold a celebration of life on May 9, which will include a service at St. Andrew's followed by a reception at the fire house.

Robert Sommer Kennedy

KENT — Robert "Rob" Kennedy (71), of Kent, devoted son of Dr. John E. Kennedy and Olga Sommer Kennedy, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Feb. 9, 2026, at the home of his brother and sister-in-law in Kent. Rob was a long-time, well-loved member of the Kent community. Born in Guam, Rob's early years were spent traveling the globe with his family for his dad's work as an MD in Micronesia, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Thailand, and Zaire. In 1962 the family of 9 settled in Kent, Rob attended the Devereux School and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Rob worked at South Kent School, where he was known for his good humor, and kindness toward students and staff. For most of his working life he could be found at Davis IGA in Kent, greeting customers with the warmth and familiarity that made him a recognizable and welcoming face in town. Known to many in town as "Coach Rob," he spent countless hours volunteering with Kent Park & Recreation and at Kent School. His patience, enthusiasm, and genuine care



for young people made him a beloved friend to generations of local kids. Rob was also deeply connected to the community through his involvement with the Kent Volunteer Fire Department and St. Andrew's Church, both of which were important parts of his life. Rob loved caring for animals. For many years he kept sheep and a donkey at the family homestead in North Kent. Neighborhood pets got daily walks while Rob lived in-town at Templeton Farms. Rob is predeceased by his parents and infant brother, Michael. He is survived by 6 siblings; Kathleen Kennedy Enger (Filmore), John Kennedy (Kathleen), Karen Kennedy Wilson (Robert), Gretchen Kennedy, Clytie Kennedy, Jeffery Kennedy (Apple), 17 nieces and nephews, Uncle Donald Sommer, Nancy Sommer, and many friends who will miss him dearly. A service is planned for May 9 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Kent followed by a celebration of life at the Kent Fire House. In lieu of flowers, donations in Rob's memory may be sent to the Kent Volunteer Fire Department or St. Andrew's Church.

 <h2>Worship Services</h2> <p>Week of February 22, 2026</p>	
Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. <i>Transitioning through prayer</i> All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org	The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville <i>Offering companionship along the Way</i> Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 455-2627	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
North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC <i>joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people</i> 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232 FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org	Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, March 8 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialloi@gmail.com All are Welcome ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078
Congregation Beth David <i>A reform Jewish Synagogue</i> 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org	UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community
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	The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates!
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	St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality
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 860-364-5654 sharonumc5634@att.net	Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting — 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org
The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd & 4th Sunday "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!
All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us	
Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org	

For more obituaries, see Page A2

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks from Fire Co.

On Sunday, February 15, the Amenia Fire Company sponsored our monthly Pancake Breakfast. We were pleased to have a nice crowd of 180 people in attendance for our monthly meal. We rely on the breakfasts to raise needed money for general operations and we always appreciate the support of the community. We thank everyone who attends our events and hope you will join us at our next breakfast on March 15 at the firehouse.

Andy Murphy,
on behalf of the Breakfast Committee, Amenia Fire Co. & Auxiliary
Amenia

Ozempic, GLP-1
the money shifter

The current best guess is that about one in ten Americans are now using Ozempic or a competitor weight-loss drug. It costs money and the injections are a pain (literally). So soon there's a pill... and it still costs money, meaning usually only those with the means and not necessarily the medical reason are in that ten percent.

Some facts: The GLP-1 hormone derived from Anglerfish and the Gila monster venom (I am not kidding), this drug masks your ability to feel hungry. It stops craving. It does not stop your body's need for protein, fats, vitamins, and minerals. If you eat less you lose weight like any starvation diet. If you eat less you get less of the necessary protein, fats, vitamins, and minerals to remain healthy. To deal with this, your body consumes stored goodness in your fat cells and, eventually, digesting that extra skin you no longer need. Of course, if the stored fat was crap from genetically modified corn (liposuction is often yellow corn sugar stored as fat), that's what your body will consume and process once again to stay viable. Toxicity is an issue here. What is also an issue is muscle tone and the body's difficulty in dealing with sudden drastic weight change. Doctor's advice is always, currently, needed along with a prescription and weight training to rebuild muscles.

But already generic GLP-1 hormone versions are on the market, available without prescription globally. It is likely that the 10% under treatment may quickly become more like 90% of the population desperate to look what the media says is "good" (this parallels Viagra's track record of resetting sexual norms even for teens). And GLP-1's effectiveness to reshape norms will upend the entire medical, pharmaceutical, and food industries.

Think I'm kidding? Weightwatchers is already doomed (and they are selling GLP-1 now too). Two CEOs have quit, taking their funding out (Oprah is one of them). Restaurants are already offering menus with "exotic bites," "mindful experience meals," and "GLP-Wonderful Menus." The fast food industry has, for decades, claimed that snack food is nutritious

A VIEW FROM
THE EDGE

Peter Riva

based on a per-ounce calorie calculation. A bag of potato chips is 150 calories. But if you only eat two or three chips the small bag they sold you is salt and very few calories, hardly "healthy" anymore.

As GLP-1 goes global and generic, there is huge money to be made keeping the prices as high as possible. That money has to come from somewhere... that's why the investors are switching from the traditional food industry to the drug companies. To keep profit share, companies like Coke are planning ½ sized cans, MacDonalds is planning tasters maybe called "McBites." Will those reduced sized products cost the buyer less? A bit, but the profit margins built-in will have to be the same as before to keep the food industry viable, to keep the cattle association thriving, to keep dairy and produce farmers in business.

So, what started out as a medicinally beneficial drug for diabetes and grossly overweight patients, has quickly become the drug of choice for personal beauty and physical perfection ideals. And in that vanity-unleashed world, industries will change, adapt, and create a new norm of visual perfection, dealing with dietary imperfections, malnutrition, as well as increased medical (physical and mental) treatments. Look for money sprinting from the dietary programs, leveraging profit margins within food industries, growing the entire medical and pharmacy industries and, in the end, reshaping the ideals of beauty, so-called health, and cultural visuals of what humans are naturally supposed to look like.

GLP-1 is the harbinger of a whole new world driven first by real medical need, taken over by perhaps false ideals of beauty and health. Once set, it becomes impossible to undo such cultural norms. Like plastic surgery fads, we may never again enjoy the diversity and origin of the species as nature intended.

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



“How many times I gotta tell you, Roomba? I got this!”

Millerton, rails, traffic safety, NECC

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

**Feb. 21, 1935
Oliver W. Valentines
Parents of 8
1¼-Pound Boy**

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver W. Valentine are the parents of a son born Monday at Vassar Hospital, Poughkeepsie. The baby, weighing 8 1/4 pounds, has been named Richard. Both mother and son are getting along nicely, it was reported at the hospital. Mr. Valentine is chief of the Millerton Fire Department.

About Millerton
William Pulver, who has been a patient in the infirmary at Hotchkiss School, has recovered from his illness.

Bill Vogt, noted fly fisherman, is visiting Arthur Terni. Kenneth Brusie has resumed his duties as gate tender at the New York Central Railroad crossing after a week lay off because of illness. John Brusie is ill at his home. Mr. and Mrs. Wesley MacMaster attended the funeral of Mrs. Elia Nodine MacMaster on Monday at Amenia Union.

**February 19, 1976
Penn Central Delays
Rail Abandonment**

Penn Central has postponed abandoning freight service on the Harlem Division north of Millerton to Chatham in its State Rail Plan released last December. This means that the Harlem Line will become a stub line ending at Millerton once the Penn Central-ConRail transfer is complete. The line is presently a through line that connects with the Boston and Albany line at Chatham.

FROM THE
ARCHIVES
The Millerton News

The State plans to maintain the Harlem's right-of-way north of Millerton until a connection is built at Dykeman's in Putnam County, Jim Cartin, DOT principal rail specialist, said this, week. Dykeman's marks the Harlem's connection with the Maybrook Line. Freight service, the DOT has said, could be rerouted to or from the Hudson Line via the Maybrook Line. This, the State contended, would eliminate the need for the upper section of the Harlem Division north of Millerton.

**State Nixes Light at
Checkerboard**
Because most accidents there occur in the daytime and most victims are out-of-towners, the State Transportation Department has refused to install a flashing beacon at the infamous checkerboard curve south of the village.

In a Jan. 9 letter to the North East Town Clerk, R.M. Gardeski, regional traffic engineer for the State, said: "A review of the accidents supplied by you shows that (1) they are all out-of-town drivers, (2) the accidents occurred during daylight hours. Therefore, we feel that the installation of a flashing beacon is not appropriate."

Gardeski did admit in his letter, "your point that cars do not observe this curve far enough in advance is well taken."

North East Town Clerk Barbara Wickwire read Gardeski's letter to the Town Board at its Thursday, Feb. 12 meeting.

Gardeski explained that the State has raised the warning arrow already at the curve, added another arrow to the sign, and proposed the addition of yet another set of warning arrows.

Gardeski told The News this week that flashing beacons are usually placed in school speed zones, and in areas to warn motorists of approaching signals. Gardeski said, "If you use the beacons too often, drivers become conditioned to them and they lose their effect."

Gardeski then got into some bureaucratic lingo. He said the checkerboard is what traffic experts call a "geometric change." Before we could ask him what, exactly, a geometric change was, he said flashing beacons aren't usu-

ally placed there. Oh.

Next, we wondered why the beacon request was turned down just because most of the people who get creamed on the curve are passing through from out-of-state during the day (We hazard a guess that after getting racked [sick] up on the curve, people are not likely to be too anxious to make a return visit to our Village).

**February 15, 2001
New Director Wants
to Make NECC 'A Place
For Everybody'**

MILLERTON — "What I'd like to do is just throw open the doors," said Jenny Hansell, the new director of the North East Community Center (NECC), referring to her desire to "reach out to the community and make the NECC a place for everybody." Ms. Hansell said her first priority is to support and enrich the programs already in place at the center, and then "start from scratch" on new projects. And she is not without experience in program development.

A graduate of Yale University, Ms. Hansell has a long history of work in volunteer and philanthropic organizations.

Her focus has always been to educate children and teens while encouraging social activism. Ms. Hansell described several of her past assignments for an organization called Heaven, at which Ms. Hansell attempted to "make volunteering and philan-

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confirmation.**

thropy hip for young adults," while at another job she "developed curriculum for teens to learn technology while volunteering."

However, Ms. Hansell welcomes the change from working on-line to hands-on.

"Working on-line for three years has caused me to become a couple of steps removed," said the new director. "I could reach millions of faceless people before, but it's worth it if I can reach 10, face-to-face, now."

One of the first steps Ms. Hansell plans to take is to revive teen involvement at the center, including developing and/or reinstating programs geared towards youth enrichment and environmental awareness. Also, she hopes to help the center to further incorporate the growing Hispanic community.

**Riley's Opens Online
Showroom**

MILLERTON - Riley's Furniture has opened its on-line showroom on FurnitureFan.com.

Furniture shoppers may browse Riley's Internet showroom 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

FurnitureFan.com is the largest-of-its-kind furniture search engine in the country, according to its sponsors. Its concept allows consumers to narrow their search for furniture online and then "see, feel and buy" it at a local store such as Riley's Furniture.

Riley's Furniture is located at 135 Main St., Millerton.

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LISA WRIGHT *Continued from Page A1*

she plans to continue writing her signature “shelf-talkers” — handwritten notes taped to the shelves to help browsers discover new books.

Wright’s relationship with Oblong began, fittingly, as a customer. She spent hours perusing the shelves and listening to music when the store was still located across the street from its current Main Street home. As business picked up and founders Holly Nelson and Dick Hermans decided to open on Sundays, Wright was offered a job.

“It started very haphazardly,” she recalled. “Needless to say, it was a lot smaller back then.”

Over the decades, Wright helped shepherd Oblong Books through many changes — including its physical move across the street. She remembers everyone pitching in to help, including a handful of their regular customers.

“It was fun, actually,” Wright said. “Hard work, but fun.”

In those early days, records were more popular than the books, and music was always playing in the store. Asked who chose the records, Wright didn’t skip a beat. “Dick,” she said with a smile.

Hermans, a longtime music aficionado, even hosted a radio show during those years — and he continues to share his love of music on the airwaves today.

Back then, most of the customers were regulars, Wright said, and tourism in Millerton hadn’t yet picked up. “We knew everybody,” she said, noting that times have changed. Now, some longtime customers steer clear of weekends to avoid the influx of visitors.

Through it all, Wright’s love for books stems from their ability to transport her to other worlds. She was first drawn to the fantasy genre, but her taste has evolved over the years to include nonfiction — especially narrative nonfiction because she loves a good story — and science. Ultimately, she said, the subject doesn’t matter as long as the author is excited about the topic.

“Those are always the best books,” she said. “If you can find one where the author is really excited about their subject, it’s wonderful, because you get caught up.”

While Wright said she couldn’t possibly name all

of her favorite books, some recent recommendations include “Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus, “The Correspondent” by Virginia Evans and “Someone You Can Build a Nest In” by John Wiswell — all debut authors. The latter, she said, was particularly appealing because of its unique premise.

“It’s the strangest love story between a person and a monster,” she said.

She also always recommends “The Murderbot Diaries,” a series by Martha Wells.

“They are so funny and so touching, and the main character, who is a construct, is a little bit human, but not very much,” said Wright. “But he has overridden his governor module, so he doesn’t have to take orders from anyone anymore. And he’s having trouble understanding human beings.”

Wright estimates she reads about 100 books a year and believes the more you read,

the faster you read. She also holds a firm — and often polarizing — rule.

“If you’re not in love with a book, stop reading it,” Wright said. “Reading should be fun and it should transport you. Don’t waste your time reading something you don’t like.”

She’s also a believer in the cognitive benefits of reading. “Your brain is imagining what you’re reading,” Wright said. “There’s nothing else that has that same effect.”

What she loves most, though, is sharing books with other people.

“It’s such a good feeling when they come back and say, ‘Oh, that book you recommended was so good.’”

For the foreseeable future, shoppers can still expect to find Wright’s legendary shelf-talkers at Oblong Books, guiding readers to their next story.

In a letter to the community, Oblong Books co-owner Suzanna Hermans said, “Lisa has been such an important part of my life, and of the lives of our booksellers over all these years - it’s hard to imagine our store without her.”

“Lisa has been such an important part of my life, and of the lives of our booksellers over all these years - it’s hard to imagine our store without her.”
Suzanna Hermans, Oblong Books co-owner

CASCADE CREEK *Continued from Page A1*

all concerns from the January meeting had been considered and responded to in reports to the planning board. Changes had been incorporated into the plans based on comments voiced, he said.

Cascade Creek is classified as a conservation subdivision. Sander said 59% of the acreage would be set aside for open space.

Sander said that since November, he has submitted additional data on construction phasing and timelines, completed a second traffic study in addition to one conducted in September 2025, and met with fire officials to incorporate their suggestions, including increased spacing between homes and the use of fire-retardant materials.

“We feel we have provided sufficient information,” Sander said, asking that steps be taken to complete requirements for the conservation analysis phase, allowing the project to reach the design process when actual plans can be presented.

Sander projected that an estimated seven to 15 students might be added to the Webutuck School District as a result of the development, noting that he had difficulty in receiving a response to questions about Webutuck

School District’s capacity for students.

Board members discussed how best to estimate potential enrollment increases and the difficulty of predicting how many school-age children might live in the homes.

“We are not school district predictors,” said Mary Linge, HRH vice-president for Real Estate Development, reasoning that other sources should be able to provide reliable data.

Adequacy of water supply to combat a home fire was a focus of board discussion, particularly a suggestion from local fire officials that a 180,000-gallon water tank would be needed for the purpose. Planning Board members debated how the matter could be resolved through compromise and the difficulty of reaching a decision without expertise in water supply standards.

“We’re just here for SE-QRA impact now,” Sander said. “We’ve responded to fire department and citizen input. We’re going to work with you. We need your guidance.”

Planning Board member Nina Peek said the board should continue the process and move toward a public hearing once the impact statement is prepared.

SURVEILLANCE *Continued from Page A1*

potential surveillance efforts. Board members and Village Mayor Jenn Najdek said neither county officials nor representatives from Flock Safety have contacted the village about installing cameras.

License plate readers manufactured by Flock Safety started proliferating across Dutchess County after District Attorney Anthony Parisi and the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office secured funding for a unified surveillance system known as the Analysis and Real Time Crime Intelligence Center at the end of 2024.

The network comprises 371 cameras across the county, according to transparency.flocksafety.com/dutchess-county-ny-so, which serves as the county’s “transparency portal” for the Flock network. That network includes a camera in the Town of North East on Route 22 across from Silamar Farms and several temporary cameras in a neighborhood in the village of Millbrook.



Two license plate reader cameras on a light pole on Maple Avenue in the Village of Millbrook.

saying most of the traffic in the area is churchgoers, children and residents.

Village Mayor Peter Doro said he became aware of the cameras after Millbrook residents began asking questions, at which point Parisi told Doro the cameras were related to a covert, targeted surveillance operation and asked him not to share the information publicly.

In an email, Parisi said four cameras were installed in Millbrook after threats were made against a judge who lives in the village. He described the operation as temporary and said the cam-

eras are set to be removed.

However, Parisi said the village had been notified before installation. “Prior to installation, the Village of Millbrook was advised,” he wrote.

The camera in North East, Parisi said, is permanent and part of a decade-old perimeter surveillance strategy that

places license plate readers on major roads entering and leaving the county.

He said the camera is located on private property and is part of a broader effort to link private and public systems into a “professionally staffed, centralized intelligence center.”

ZONING *Continued from Page A1*

Just two people — North East residents Rob Cooper and Kathy Chow — offered comments at the third public hearing on the zoning overhaul since the Town Board opened debate on the draft on Jan. 8.

Cooper requested more permitted uses in the west Boulevard District, but he didn’t specify what additional uses should be included. The Boulevard Districts comprise parcels along Route 44 between the eastern border of the Village of Millerton and the Connecticut state line, and was a central focus of the current re-zoning effort.

Cooper said his property — the historic Mobil gas station on Route 44 across from CVS — is divided by the village border. “It divides the building in half,” Cooper said, explaining that Millerton land use regulations are more permissive than the Town of North East.

“Part of the property is in the village, and I’m allowed to do a tremendous amount of things over there,” Cooper said. “It wouldn’t look too uniform if I did everything on the left side of the property and we couldn’t do anything on the right side.”

Chow suggested the Town Board include purpose statements for each of the al-

tered sections of the code. “Especially the Irondale district,” Chow said. “It’s a very different character than the boulevard and I’d like to see that explained.” She said some narratives explaining the changes and the purpose of the new code would be helpful for residents and developers seeking a deeper understanding of the process and how it benefits the community, echoing North East resident Ed Downey’s comments at a prior hearing.

In other business, Town Clerk Tilly Strauss read a complaint about gunfire noise at the Millerton Gun Club. Millerton resident David Decker submitted the complaint and asked to have it read into the public record, Strauss said.

The newly-formed Communications Committee provided an update following its first-ever meeting.

Councilwomen Rachele Grieco-Cole and Meg Winkler said the committee has set its sights on improving the town’s website, laying out short- and longer-term goals including basic readability and organization on the site’s homepage, revitalizing the town’s FaceBook page, and starting a regular digital newsletter to aid in proactive communication efforts.

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PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

*Bobby Graham
and Matthew Marden*

Bobby Graham and Matthew Marden

The story behind Dugazon

By Jennifer Almquist

Bobby Graham and his husband, Matthew Marden, opened their home and life-style shop, Dugazon, in a clapboard house in Sharon six months ago. Word spread quickly that their shop is filled with objects of beauty, utility and elegance. Graham and Marden tell a story of family, tradition, joy, food, community and welcome.

Jennifer Almquist sat down with the couple for a conversation about design, storytelling and building a life — and business — together.

Jennifer Almquist: When did this dream begin?

Bobby Graham: This truly is a dream come true. I wanted to open this shop for more than 30 years, to

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

BUSINESS

Geary Gallery relocates from Millerton to Salisbury

By Sally Haver

Geary, a contemporary art gallery with roots on New York City's Lower East Side, is opening a new chapter in Salisbury, relocating to a restored 1840 building at 14 Main St. after five years in Millerton. Owned by Jack and Dolly Bross Geary, it was at 34 Main St. in Millerton and is reopening in the handsome teal-colored, two-story building built in 1840 and until recently owned by the interior design and architecture studio of Hendricks Churchill. Geary's first show in the new building is scheduled for Feb. 21 and will feature the work of one of the gallery's five artists, Alan Prazniak.

"Our lease on the gallery space in Millerton was coming up in March, and we questioned whether or not to renew," Jack Geary said. "We were interested in owning our next space, and fortuitously, the Salisbury building came on the market." The new building offered more space than the Millerton

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

INSIDE

REAL ESTATE

Amenia median price rises 11% as home sales climb

AMENIA

Amenia moving forward with \$1.6M in water district improvements



ART

Taha Clayton's 'Historic Presence' opens at Tremaine Gallery

By Natalia Zukerman

For Brooklyn-based artist Taha Clayton, history isn't something sealed behind glass. It breathes, moves and stands before us in the bodies of everyday people. His upcoming solo exhibition, "Historic Presence" at the Tremaine Gallery at Hotchkiss, takes its philosophical cue from James Baldwin's declaration that "History is not the past. It is the present."

Clayton's luminous portraits center on elders, friends and acquaintances whose quiet dignity embodies what he calls "the common everyday story" often missing from official narratives. "The historical is talking about something from the past," Clayton said, "but these are men and women that are living in this day, walking with the ancestors, creating the stories."

Clayton describes the series as rooted in a search for these overlooked narratives. "It started with Baldwin and John Coltrane... and then it blossomed to the people of the times, the stories that get overlooked." His subjects are people he knows or meets through everyday encounters. "It's the models, it's their lives. It's us collaborating, as opposed to me putting a costume on someone," he said.

Born in Houston, raised in Toronto and now based in Brooklyn, Clayton brings a cross-cultural sensibility to classical realism. His figures frequently appear in clothing inspired by mid-20th-century style, echoing the visual language of the 1930s through '50s. But rather than nostalgia, he's after something more layered,



PHOTO PROVIDED

'Stoned Soul Picnic' by Taha Clayton.

a kind of collapsing of timelines. "I'm documenting this moment," he explains, "but I'm also challenging myths and creating new ones."

The use of fabric is a striking element in Clayton's work, operating on both aesthetic and symbolic levels. "I'm playing on ideas like 'being cut from the cloth,' 'the thread' of an idea," he explained. The act of painting on cotton alone carries layered historical meaning, but he deliberately reframes it as a site of empowerment. For him, cloth/cotton signals ceremony, resilience and transformation.

Clayton has an evolving and deepening relationship with this area. As an artist-in-residence at the Wassaic Project in Amenia, he said, "We were the first residency out of the pandemic, and I brought my wife and daughters. It was a two-week residency that ended up being the whole summer. It just kind of evolved and that's how my relationship upstate has been." His series "The Cloth" was presented at Troutbeck in Amenia in 2022 and he has returned as a featured speaker and educator for the Troutbeck Symposium, the multi-day gathering

at Troutbeck where middle and high-school students present year-long research projects on under-told local and national histories. "It's been four years I've been with them, so I'm like artist/mentor now," said Clayton.

Clayton will be in residence again at Hotchkiss for the week leading up to the opening, offering students multiple ways to engage with the artist and providing a rich, hands-on experience of his practice as well as his guidance. "Taha is a re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

FOOD

Bold flavors with a side of punk attitude at No Comply Foods

By Jennifer Almquist

At No Comply Foods in Great Barrington, skate culture, punk music and globally inspired comfort food collide in a pink frame house on Stockbridge Road where community matters as much as what's on the plate. Opened in 2024 and named for a skateboarding trick, the restaurant hums with eclectic music while its walls double as a gallery of patron-gifted art — brightly colored skateboard cartoons, portraits of the owners' pug, Honeybun, and offbeat collages.

High school sweethearts Julie and chef Steve Browning both loved skateboarding and punk music, especially the 90s California ska-punk band, Skankin' Pickle. They also share a love for good food and a strong sense of community and fairness. After stints at Lutèce and the 21 Club in New York City, Steve helped open Prairie Whale in Great Barrington as the inaugural chef and worked there for 10 years. His partner, Julie, is a full-time special ed-

ucation teacher at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village.

They opened No Comply Foods with their unique vision. "It's a place that we did on our own terms," said Julie. "Despite people trying to tell us things that we needed to do to be a successful restaurant, we do the things that we want to do." Those things include no alcohol, no tips and no reservations. "It's a place that anybody can come

into, just sit down, eat and feel welcome. A complete reflection on who Steve and I are, and who we have been. That's what this place is."

Clearly, their formula is working. In its August 2025 issue, Bon Appétit Magazine named No Comply Foods one of the 14 best new breakfast spots in the U.S.

Brunch on the first warm Saturday this winter offered Turkish eggs with labneh; two

sunny-side-up eggs on a Japanese sweet potato topped with chili crisp; tender soft-boiled eggs resting on steamed spinach with silky béarnaise sauce, rye toast and smoked bacon; a plate piled with buttermilk pancakes with a dollop of maple butter and circles of powdered sugar; and mugs of strong coffee. The place stayed packed for hours, every seat filled as families fresh

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3



We here at Robin Hood Radio are on-air and on-line keeping you informed and updated 24 hours a day on the following stations of the Robin Hood Radio Network.

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WBSL FM 91.7

Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA

...Bobby Graham and Matthew Marden

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

create something containing all the things I've loved that have inspired me.

Matthew Marden: Dugazon has exceeded our expectations. Having our own business, no longer part of a large corporate structure, allows us to tell our stories and work together.

JA: What is your earliest memory that set you on your journey?

BG: My earliest memories include going to flea markets and antique shops with my mom. I still have my vast collection of wooden animals that my mom started when I was a little boy.

JA: What are your earliest memories that drew you to beauty, design and fashion?

MM: I've always been a visual person. I was fascinated with The Muppet Show and Sesame Street. I loved their imaginative worlds. It was the late '70s, and I remember being oddly interested in pop culture, loving the colors and textures of the different puppets, their crazy hair or colorful fur.

JA: What were your favorite stories growing up?

MM: I grew up in Hopkinton, a small town in New Hampshire. I loved "Goodnight Moon." I remember C.S. Lewis' Narnia books and their combination of fantasy and reality. I was a voracious reader, drawn to the more macabre world of Stephen King. My dad read me "Watership Down." I remember the "Madeline" books. I was terrified by the nuns.

BG: I loved books that were visual, especially a pop-up book called "The Great Menagerie," published by the Metropolitan Museum in the '70s. I



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Matt and Bobby with customers at Dugazon.

"This truly is a dream come true... to create something containing all the things I've loved."

BOBBY GRAHAM

loved "Danny the Dinosaur" and "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs."

JA: What roles do family and tradition play in your lives?

BG: My mom was a home-maker in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where I grew up, but she was from Baton Rouge. I

spent three weeks every summer with my grandparents in New Orleans. It was all about food and family. In our home, Matt and I keep those traditions alive.

MM: We have been married almost two years, but we've been together 20 years. When we first started dating, we discovered that despite being from different parts of the country, we had much in common. Family is important to us both.

JA: Are your families supportive of your new venture?

BG: They're so proud of us. My dad calls every day.

JA: Matt, what drew you to

fashion as a career?

MM: I studied art history in college. For five years, I worked at a New York fashion photography gallery, Staley-Wise. I worked at Town & Country, was a fashion director at Interview, then fashion director at Details magazine, where I stayed most of my career. I became style director at Esquire.

JA: Bobby, what was your experience in advertising and publishing?

BG: I worked in banking for a couple of years using my business degree, but it just wasn't right. I went to work at Condé Nast as a sales executive for Vogue, GQ, Vanity Fair, AD and The New Yorker.

JA: How did you meet? When did you marry?

MM: It was my first morning at Details. I noticed Bobby in the elevator. We were married in August 2024.

JA: What is your business philosophy?

BG: My business philosophy is that you work hard, you have integrity, you have fun and the money will come. There are no shortcuts in life.

MM: At Dugazon, we sell what we love.

JA: What is your most beautiful, most favorite item in Dugazon?

MM: A photograph by our friend Matt Albiani called "Lost," shot under a pier in the summer. We had a copy in our house on Fire Island for years.

BG: My favorite item is our candle wall. I just love the way it presents visually. I love the colors.

Dugazon is located at 19 West Main Street, Sharon. For more information and shop hours, visit: dugazonshop.com.

... Geary

CONTINUED FROM B1



PHOTO BY BOB ELLWOOD

Jack and Dolly Geary outside the new location in Salisbury.

location — 5,000 square feet on two floors in turnkey condition. "In addition to three exhibition rooms, there's even a bedroom with an en suite bathroom for a visiting artist to stay," said Jack.

The Gearys founded their gallery in 2013 on the Lower East Side in New York City, then moved to Varick Street in SoHo before landing at their final New York City location on the Bowery in 2020. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the Gearys found themselves living primarily in their Lakeville home, they discovered the Millerton space on Main Street. With its white walls and track lighting, they determined it would be the perfect spot for a gallery. As it turned out, having two geographically disparate spaces proved cumbersome to program and maintain, so they consolidated their efforts in Millerton which they will transfer to Salisbury.

The Gearys are already planning events for the new space, including art classes, lectures, readings and parties. During the gallery's time in Millerton, from 2020 to the present, Geary hosted 28 exhibitions, as well as performance art events, poetry readings and dinners celebrating exhibitions. Most recently, they hosted a dinner for artist Dana Sherwood in conjunction with her exhibition. Ever the creative artist, Sherwood made all the plates, candlesticks and serving bowls used at the dinner.

The gallery currently represents five contemporary artists: Will Corwin, Tura Oliveira, Alan Prazniak, Reeve Schley and Sun You. Most are painters, though some also work in sculpture and installation. "We are focused on showing our represented artists," Dolly said, "but we also enjoy showing other artists with whom we have relationships." The Gearys have exhibited at art fairs in Miami, Chicago and San Francisco and have placed works in museum collections and exhibitions, raising artists' profiles and building momentum for the gallery's future.

Alan Prazniak, whose work will be featured in the opening exhibition, describes the show, "Earth Tones," as "a collection of work that chronicles the time after moving my studio to the Catskills from Brooklyn in 2024. 'Tones' refers to the colors, but also — maybe more importantly — to the frequencies of the mountains. There's a music to them; it can be overwhelming if you let it in. Staring at a giant hill in the distance, listening to it hum, falling under the spell of whatever's out there. But finally turning your back to it to go into the studio, trying to make something of it."

Geary is open Friday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Information is available at info@geary.nyc

...No Comply Foods

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

from skiing — suspenders hanging, boots clomping — came in for warming meals. One couple marked a post-Valentine's moment by sharing a chocolate heart doughnut by Pastries by Hanna, a baker in Canaan, Connecticut.

Browning cooks globally influenced food with chef Dimitri Koufis, and the dinner menu changes daily. Recent offerings have included French fries with black pepper aioli; fried cauliflower with couscous, olive tapenade, orange and fenugreek yogurt; hot dogs and fries with jalapeño cheddar and special sauce; leek and mushroom pot pie with oyster mushrooms, spinach, cream and mascarpone; and rigatoni Bolognese with Grana Padano, onion soubise and herbed breadcrumbs. If you still have room for dessert, you might try an apple crostada with caramel sauce and ice cream or chocolate mascarpone mousse.

Prices are reasonable. The menu emphasizes fresh food to reduce waste, and produce is seasonally sourced from local farms. Guests can plan a party in the brightly lit upstairs space, enjoy special evening events



PHOTO BY SARA S. WALLACH

Steve and Julie Browning, co-owners of No Comply Foods in Great Barrington, have built a restaurant that reflects their skate-punk spirit and love of globally inspired comfort food.

that might include live music or comedy, or attend themed menus such as Greek Night. No Comply Foods is dog-friendly.

For hours and more information, visit: nocomplyfoods.com



Wedge salad.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Jena Battaglia at No Comply Foods in Great Barrington, serving tomato garlic cream soup and artichoke grilled cheese sandwiches during Sunday brunch.

HISTORIC PRESENCE
TAHA CLAYTON

FEB 14 - APR 5, 2026
Reception: Sat, Feb 21, 4 – 6 p.m.

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GARDENING

A taste of spring at the annual bulb show

By Robin Roraback

The Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge is offering the perfect solution to the winter doldrums with its annual Bulb Show, beginning Feb. 20. Depending on how long the bulbs bloom, the show is estimated to run until about March 20.

Inside the Fitzpatrick Conservatory, hundreds of tulips, daffodils and grape hyacinths will be waiting to give visitors a welcome taste of spring.

Some rarer blooms to look for are the “Hoop Petticoat Daffodil” (*Narcissus bulbocodium*) and three from South Africa: “African Corn Flag” (*Chasmanthe bicolor*), “Fairy Bells” (*Melaspheerula ramosa*) and “Forest Lily” (*Veltheimia bracteata*).

Preparation for the bulb show begins in summer, when bulbs are chosen and ordered. They are planted in fall and then spend about 15 weeks at temperatures simulating winter.

Eric Ruquist, direc-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BERKSHIRE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Spring arrives early at Berkshire Botanical Garden.

tor of horticulture at BBG, explained. “We have two small, air-conditioned rooms, or CoolBots, in the basement. We pull out our spots of bulbs in three stages. The first pull was Feb. 7, and since we didn’t get too much sun last week, they are off to a bit of a slow start, but they

are all budded up and I’m sure we will have blooming bulbs for our opening day.”

A point of interest besides the blooms is the display of succulents. Ruquist said to look for “hens and chicks, aloes, agave and sedum.”

“The Bulb Show is BBG’s

gift to the community,” Ruquist said. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Multiple visits are encouraged to enjoy a range of blooms.

Berkshire Botanical Garden is located at 5 W. Stockbridge Road, Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

GARDENING

Garden Matters

The Millbrook Garden Club and Millbrook Library are launching a “Garden Matters” series, a free lineup of talks, walks and workshops on eco-friendly gardening presented with Stonewood Farm. Beginning Feb. 21 and running through July, the program highlights local experts sharing practical tips on soil health, regenerative growing, native plants and pollinator habitats.

Sessions include a

soil-building workshop with farm managers, a creative seed-starting class led by Jessica Williams of Odd Duck Farm, a pollinator garden walkthrough with designer Andrew J. Durbridge, and a native meadow tour at the Cary Institute guided by president Joshua Ginsberg. All programs are free and open to the public at the library unless noted. Details and schedule updates: millbrooklibrary.org.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Kristen Essig of Stonewood Farm.

COMMUNITY

Winter Weekend in Norfolk

The Ninth Annual Winter Weekend Festival returns to Norfolk, Feb. 21–22, offering a full slate of seasonal activities for all ages. The community celebration features outdoor adventures such as hiking, skiing and wildlife walks, alongside concerts, art shows, workshops, open studios, historic exhibits and family events. Highlights include live music, artist meet-and-greets, a pickleball tournament, stained-glass tours, craft demonstrations and a “Blizzard of Fun” kids program. Many activities are free, with select ticketed workshops. Early-bird events begin Friday evening with a pop-up gallery reception and documentary screening. Visitors can also enjoy special café and bakery offerings throughout the weekend. Organizers encourage guests to check the festival schedule at week-endinnorfolk.org for updates and return this summer for the three-day Weekend in Norfolk celebration July 31–Aug. 2.

Advertise in Compass

Advertising in Compass reaches readers on both sides of the state line — effectively. Call 860-435-9873 or email advertising@lakevillejournal.com today!



PHOTO PROVIDED

Artist Cheryl Heller, who makes eight-foot-tall paintings of song birds will have an open studio from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21.

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... Taha Clayton

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

‘Sunkiss’ by Taha Clayton.



PHOTO PROVIDED

‘Crown Maker’ by Taha Clayton.

markable artist to work with because he meets students where they are,” said Tremaine Gallery director, Terri Moore. “He listens deeply, treats their ideas with real respect and shows them that their own stories are worthy subjects. That combination of humility, rigor and generosity is rare — and it’s why students respond to him so strongly.”

Clayton’s career has garnered international — even interstellar — recognition, including exhibitions in cities from New York to Barcelona. One of his works was selected for the Lunar Codex’s “Nova Collection” in 2024, part of an ambitious global archive designed to preserve creative works on the Moon as a time capsule of human culture. Clayton recalled the moment the capsule landed with characteristic understatement: “I’m just on the computer watching with a beer thinking, ‘Ok, this is cool.’ But, like the next day, I still had to get up and take the kids to school.”

Interspersed throughout the gallery are ceramic shields that add to the war-

rior-like quality of some of the subjects. The repetition of a water fountain is particularly evocative, another reclamation that amplifies history without obscuring the truth that shaped it.

Clayton describes his practice as a form of meditation, saying he feels time dissolve while working. “It’s like past and future is all happening,” he said. That sense of temporal layering resonates with the exhibition’s central idea that personal memory and collective history are inseparable. Clayton’s portraits are about recognizing and celebrating the magnitude and multitudes contained in ordinary lives, the reclamation and attention to historical detail and the carrying of history forward with incredible beauty and unwavering dignity.

“Historic Presence” will be on view Feb. 14–April 5 at the Tremaine Gallery at Hotchkiss, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville. An artists’ talk is scheduled Thursday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m., followed by an opening reception Saturday, Feb. 21, from 4 to 6 p.m.

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PHOTO PROVIDED

“This Beautiful Place,” paintings by Torrington artist Suzan Scott exploring the Litchfield Hills and surrounding landscapes will be on view Feb. 12-March 13 at the David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village. Opening reception: Saturday, Feb. 21, 5 to 7 p.m. Art talk: Thursday, March 12, 5:30 p.m. Free and open to all.

MUSIC

The Grace Note speakeasy

By Aly Morrissey

The Stissing Center officially opened The Grace Note on Friday, Feb. 13, a new speakeasy-style venue aimed at turning Friday nights into a weekly home for local and regional talent. Hidden in the basement of The Stissing Center, The Grace Note certainly has the feel of a speakeasy, with its brick walls, dim lights and fully stocked bar. Executive Director Patrick Trettenero welcomed the first sold-out crowd and said the inspiration for the reimagined venue came

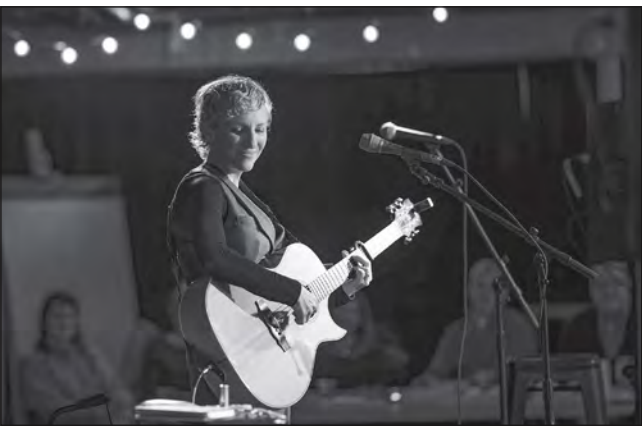


PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Natalia Zukerman opens Stissing Center's new speakeasy, The Grace Note.

from a desire to offer performances that connect audiences with artists in an intimate setting.

The debut performance featured Natalia Zukerman, Compass Arts & Entertainment editor and Stissing Center advisory board member, who will also co-manage booking for the space as it rolls out weekly programming. From the moment she stepped onto the stage, Zukerman held the audience in the palm of her hand, leaving concert-goers hanging on her every word. There were moments of raucous laugh-

ter and moments when you could hear a pin drop.

A storyteller at heart, Zukerman wove an introspective thread throughout the night, exploring how connection, art and beauty can exist even amid injustice and a relentless news cycle. Between songs, she offered commentary and her personal reflections, while her lyrics echoed many of the same themes.

The Grace Note will be open every Friday night. For a schedule of upcoming performances and to purchase tickets, visit thestissingcenter.org

Tri-Corner Calendar

FEBRUARY 19

Creativity for Adult Beginners

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org 2 to 3 p.m. Supportive one-hour art class on Thursdays through March 12 for adult beginners led by artist Paul Bacsik. Explore creativity, try new techniques and build confidence—no experience needed; supplies provided. Registration required at hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com.

FEBRUARY 20

LEGO Club

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org From 5 to 6 p.m., Join us in the community room for a monthly LEGO club meeting. Ages 5 and up. Registration required at cornwalllibrary.org/events/

Poetry Workshop with Sally Van Doren

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org Sally Van Doren's workshop from 2 to 4 p.m. is an immersive experience of writing, reading, and listening. Registration is required at www.scovillelibrary.org

Duo Al Rouh

The Grace Note at The Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains Join Palestinian master musician Zafer Tawil and Rabbi Zach Asher for a magical evening of old and new Arabic sounds, transportive trances and prayers and Sufi melodies to whirl us into enchantment. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at stissingcenter.org

FEBRUARY 21

Personaman

Five Points Annex, 15 Water St., Torrington, Conn. 2 p.m.

Images, objects, animations, performances and interactions by Stewart Wilson, aka “Personaman”

Dorodango—A Meditative Craft Workshop at Shop BES, 50 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. 12 p.m.

A traditional Japanese pastime used to teach mindfulness to children becomes a relaxing activity for adults. Shape and polish a simple ball of mud to a mirror-like shine. Pre-registration required at www.shop-bes.com/classes

Deadgrass at The Stissing Center

The Stissing Center 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Deadgrass is a high-energy string band reimagining the music of Jerry Garcia. Blending bluegrass, Americana, and improvisation, the band explores songs from Old & In the Way, the Jerry Garcia Band, and the Grateful Dead with warmth and virtuosity. Tickets at www.thestissingcenter.org

Earth Tones

Geary, 14 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. Geary presents Earth Tones, a solo exhibition by Alan Prazniak, at its new location. Opening reception Saturday, Feb. 21, 4 to 6 p.m.

Imagined Realities: Pulse and Pattern

Tyte Gallery, 3280 Franklin Ave. (2nd Floor), Millbrook, N.Y. Feb. 21 through April 12, Tyte Gallery presents a three-artist exhibition featuring works by Sabri Sundos, Shannon Carroll and Sophie Kitching. Opening reception Saturday, Feb. 21, 3 to 6 p.m. Gallery hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Tuesdays.

Fred Stein: Icons of the 20th Century

Mad Rose Gallery, 3 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. On view Feb. 7 to April 30, Mad Rose Gallery presents “Fred Stein: Icons of the 20th Century,” a landmark exhibition bringing together 50 legendary portraits by master photographer Fred Stein. Dual opening reception: Feb. 21, 4 to 6 p.m. Refreshments served.

Villains in Your Backyard: Managing Invasive Plants

Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main St., Sharon, Conn. Learn practical strategies for controlling invasive plants and supporting native species from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Led by Michael Nadeau and Tom Zetterstrom. Free; open to all. Pre-registration required. bit.ly/4qV1E69

The Hotchkiss Philharmonic Orchestra Katherine M. Elfers Hall, The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn. Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano Magdalena Kulig joins the orchestra, conducted by Fabio Witkowski, in a program featuring Handel, Gluck, Mahler and

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

Saint-Saëns, plus selections from John Williams and Arturo Márquez. Free and open to the public.

Chrissi Poland performs Forever Muscle Shoals

Indigo Room at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, 20 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. 8 p.m. The show celebrates classic Muscle Shoals recordings from the late 1960s and early '70s. Tickets are \$40, general admission with café table seating; on sale Jan. 7 at noon at mahaiwe.org or through the box office, 413-528-0100.

FEBRUARY 22

Resilience: Measuring Your Strength

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org Transformational coach and educator Caroline Phipps leads an empowering program on cultivating personal resilience, with practical tools to navigate uncertainty, reduce stress and strengthen emotional well-being. 4 p.m. Free; registration required at hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com.

Cartooning Workshop with Natalia Zukerman

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org Join this hands-on class at 11 a.m., and explore cartooning as an outlet for observation, humor and storytelling with Millerton News cartoonist and arts editor Natalia Zukerman. Registration required at www.scovillelibrary.org

FEBRUARY 25

Knitting with Bruce Weinstein: Entrelac & Reversible Cables

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org Join best-selling author and knitting expert Bruce Weinstein and learn two new stitches to add texture and variety to scarves, sweat-

Last week's WoTW				
C	H	E	E	R
A	N	G	L	E
E	M	A	I	L
M	E	T	A	L
M	E	D	A	L

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. No. of Snow White's dwarves
- 2. “Ctrl + V” command
- 3. ... but no cigar
- 4. A standalone home
- 5. Chinese New Year animal

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cut quickly
- 5. A way to state clearly
- 11. River in NE Scotland
- 14. Expansive
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Toadstools
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Experimented with
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Acquisitive
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. Everyone has one
- 35. Kalahari Desert lake
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. People 65 and over
- 41. Small amount
- 42. Daughter of Acrisius
- 44. Ornamental box
- 45. Government agents
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Treeless plains
- 55. One's sense of self-importance
- 56. Consumer advocate
- 60. Type of lounge
- 61. Body part
- 62. Can be persuaded
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught
- 66. Arab ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually went away
- 69. Able to think clearly

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16		
17				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				68					69			

- 13. Pages can be dog- __
- 18. Ukrainian city
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Month
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Group of chemicals
- 30. Rider of Rohan
- 31. Wet dirt
- 32. Southwestern Russia city
- 33. Observed
- 36. Angry
- 37. Drivers' licenses
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. They __
- 45. Women
- 47. Be filled with love for
- 48. Thick-soled sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The leading performer
- 53. Protein

- 54. “Gunga Din” script writer
- 57. Art __, around 1920
- 58. __ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest

February 12 Solution

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

February 12 Solution

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



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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Amenia's pump house on Lavelle Road is a central part of proposed capital improvements to the town's drinking water system.

Amenia moving forward with millions in drinking water improvements

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The town's Water Committee made progress at its first meeting of 2026 in planning a three-phase project to repair and modernize the water system that supplies drinking water to the Amenia hamlet.

Committee Chair Bill Flood, who was re-elected to the post at the Wednesday, Feb. 4, meeting, said representatives from Albany-based civil engineering firm Delaware Engineering are overseeing project planning and grant applications.

The Town Board has earmarked \$1.6 million for the first phase of the project, which includes replacing the Lavelle Road pump house and repairing the two wells that serve the municipal water district.

The existing pump house

will be replaced with a new prefabricated structure.

Engineers are expected to provide a Phase One project timeline and payment schedule ahead of the Water Committee's March meeting.

State grant funding has been approved for all three phases of the project, including a \$2,731,995 Water Infrastructure Improvement Grant and a \$118,000 Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability grant.

Flood said the grant funds will not be available until the town meets state compliance requirements in the coming months.

The committee also discussed the possible creation of a Water District reserve fund. Establishing such a fund would require Town Board approval and could include a schedule for future maintenance costs.

Amenia median price rises 11% as home sales climb in December

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — Home prices in Amenia reached their highest level of the year in December, capping off a 2025 market that saw both rising values and increased sales activity.

The median sale price for a single-family home in Amenia was \$389,000 in 2025, up 11% from \$351,000 in 2024. The number of house sales also increased to 29, up from 25 the year before.

December's trailing 12-month median marked the high point of the year, with every recorded residential transfer that month closing above the \$389,000 annual median. Three single-family homes sold in December.

Despite rising prices, Amenia remains more affordable than much of northeastern Dutchess County. In 2025, the median single-family house price was \$529,000 in Pine Plains, \$661,000 in Washington, \$662,500 in Stanford and \$427,000 in North East.

Inventory in Amenia remains limited. In mid-February, 12 single-family homes were listed for sale — roughly a five-month supply — including five priced under \$400,000 and three listed above \$2 million. Among them was a publicly listed 6,500-square-foot lakeside home in Silo Ridge offered at \$8.9 million.

December transfers
3343 Route 343 — 3 bedroom/2 bath home on 0.5 acres sold to Shauna Henschel for \$405,000.

174 Perry Corners Road — 3 bedroom/3 bath home on 1.93 acres sold to Emily Kate Higgins for \$513,000.

18 Furnace Bank Road — 4 bedroom/2 bath two family house on 0.2 acres in Wasaie sold to Trent Morey for \$450,000.

4848 Route 44 — 3 bedroom/2 bath house on 102.36 acres to Buck Ripley LLC for \$2.08 million.

Old North Road (#356987) — 0.19 acres of rural vacant land at the intersection with Route 44 sold to Frederick Lattrell for \$7,500.

*Town of Amenia property transfers in December are sourced from Dutchess County Real Property Office monthly reports. Details on all parcels from Dutchess Parcel Access. Only arm's length transactions with compensation are included. Recorded transfers typically lag closed sales. Market data from Smart MLS Info Sparks does not include private transactions or Silo Ridge sales. The Dutchess County parcel number is indicated when no specific street address is included. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Located in the center of Amenia on Route 343, this house built in 1790 was renovated and sold as a turn key property for \$405,000.

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This winter has been tough on homeowners with regards to energy costs and the shortage of propane has not helped matters. This spot shortage is blamed on the frigid weather we have endured that has also impacted the delivery logistical networks. As a quick aside, we had a house whose propane furnace stopped working and Carlson Propane saved the day over the weekend, so kudos to Carlson!!! If you have propane as your primary heat source and it is proving challenging, here is a link to the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program which may prove to be helpful: uwc.211ct.org/connecticut-energy-assistance-program-2023-2024/

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