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The Lakeville Journal

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Covering The News In Connecticut's Northwest Corner And Its Environs Since 1897

State agriculture grants for two Northwest Corner farms

By Debra A. Aleksinas

Two Northwest Corner farm operations, CowPots of East Canaan and Smokedown Farm in Sharon, have received Infrastructure Investment Grants from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. They were among 24 farms statewide to receive the 2021 agriculture awards, totaling \$497,382.

According to Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt, the grant program is intended to strengthen the economic viability of Connecticut farmers and agricultural cooperatives seeking to expand, diversify and improve their existing operation.

"The selected projects demonstrate the innovation and growth of agriculture to create sustainable job op-

"The selected projects demonstrate the innovation and growth of agriculture to create sustainable job opportunities while developing a diversified offering of farm products."

Bryan P. Hurlburt, Agriculture Commissioner

portunities while developing a diversified offering of farm products for consumers," said Hurlburt in making the announcement on June 1.

The \$6,000 grant to Cow-

See GRANTS, Page A6

HRC still seeking federal status to protect the Housatonic River

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Housatonic River Commission Chairman Bill Tingley gave an update on efforts to gain federal Wild and Scenic River status for the Housatonic River, at a meeting on Tuesday, May 25, of the Board of Selectmen in Sharon. The application effort was started a few years ago, Tingley said.

He explained that there are two ways to pursue the status. One is to go through the state governor's office and the other is to go through federal congressional offices. He said that first his commission tried pursuing the first option. But although the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) supported the application, no movement toward the designation resulted.

The past two years — heightened by the pandemic — have seen a huge increase in river usage and abuse, Tingley said.

In an effort to move the application ahead, Tingley is asking the support of selectmen in area towns for pursuing the application process through the congressional route. He said that if the application is

"The past two years — heightened by the pandemic — have seen a huge increase in river usage and abuse."

Bill Tingley, Housatonic River Commission Chair

successful, the river would still be under local control and administration in a sort of partnership structure.

Studies done in support of the application through the governor's office can be used in support of the Congressional application, so time will not be lost, Tingley reported.

Once Wild and Scenic status is granted, then the commission could receive an estimated \$150,000 annually — enough to hire a park ranger or two and provide for some needed signage, Tingley said.

He added that no firm decision has been made about how the funding would be spent. The main goal would be to keep river activity limited to allowable and safe locations.

The Housatonic attracts out-of-town visitors who swim

See WILD AND SCENIC, Page A6



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Despite a wet, slick track that kicked up spray, races were held Memorial Day weekend.

In spite of obstacles, Trans Am weekend at LRP was a winner

By Cynthia Hochswender

LIME ROCK PARK — Memorial Day weekend is traditionally the big-event season opener for the race track at Lime Rock Park. As anyone knows who lives in this part of the world, the weather is often unpredictable for the holiday weekend. Rain is tough when you're planning a picnic; it's even tougher for anyone trying to plan a large outdoor event — especially if that event features cars that sometimes have treadless tires, moving at high speed around a wet track made slick with engine oil.

Add in the complexities of trying to plan an event at this moment in COVID-19

history, when restrictions are changing fairly quickly. Most venues are now open to the public again, with masks required for anyone who isn't vaccinated. But it wasn't known, months ago, when planning began for Memorial Day racing at Lime Rock, who would be allowed to enter the park.

All these factors had an impact on planning and sales for the track's Memorial Day weekend Trans Am event, according to the track's chief commercial officer, Charley Delana.

"On the ticket sale front, we didn't have the normal timeframe to sell tickets that we would normally would have had pre-2020," he said in

an email, "so that condensed the timeline of availability for fans to decide to come out to the track this year.

"The weather was of course (as always) a significant factor and, unfortunately, it was not a picture-perfect weekend! But it was very encouraging to have the walk-up ticket sales that we did, with our heartier fans making the commitment to being out in the conditions and joining us for our first major event in ages."

The racing weekend was opened with a flag waved by state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64), who gave the signal for the drivers to start their engines for the first race.

See LIME ROCK, Page A6

466-acre Kaplan farm sold in North East; concerns about large-scale development

By Whitney Joseph

NORTH EAST — The property on Route 22 in North East/Millerton that was owned for many years by Sam Kaplan has been for sale for so many years that Linda Kaplan has lost track.

But however long it's been since her late husband's family farm was put up on the market, she said she's just thankful that it finally sold.

"Yes, I'm mostly relieved," she said on Friday morning, June 4, after word had spread around town that all three

parcels of the former Joseph Kaplan and Sons, Inc., Dairy Farm had been sold to NML LLC, which is registered in New York City. "Oh goodness, it's probably, I don't know, 10, 15, 20 years [that it's been for sale]."

Her husband, Sam, died in 2017.

The three parcels are south of the village of Millerton at 5681-5705 Route 22, near the Harney Tea factory and Silamar Farm.

The structures include a small concrete building, a small

See FARM SOLD, Page A6



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Author and educator Jane Fleishman spoke (in person) at an outdoor event at the D. M. Hunt Library on Saturday, June 5.

Honoring the memories of Stonewall and the progress of LGBTQ+ rights

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — In a sign of life returning to normal, author and researcher Jane Fleishman discussed her book "The Stonewall Generation" at the D.M. Hunt Library on Saturday, June 5.

About 20 people attended, sitting under a tent outside the library.

Fleishman said she was excited to deliver a live talk,

rather than another online event.

"The book's been out a year, and this is my first live book talk," she said cheerfully. "I mean, the whole reason an extrovert like me writes a book ..."

The book is a series of interviews of what Fleishman calls "LGBTQ elders" — people who came of age around the time of the famous Stonewall riot of 1969, and two

people who were there.

Stonewall is widely regarded as the flash point for gay rights in the United States.

Fleishman said she started the book after writing her dissertation, "which is the worst kind of writing, duller than dull."

The dissertation "was just numbers; I wanted to hear the stories."

See LGBTQ+, Page A6

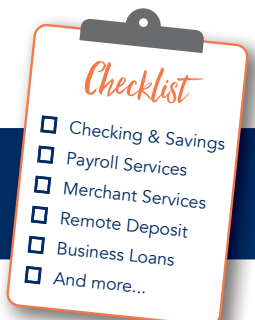


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In The Journal this week

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 OBITUARIES A5 LEGAL NOTICES B5
 COMPASS B1-2 CLASSIFIEDS B5
 OPINION B3 SPECIALIST B6

Three-day forecast

Friday Cloudy, high 68°/low 54°
 Saturday Cloudy, 73°/52°
 Sunday Cloudy, 81°/54°

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

The following information was provided by the Connecticut State Police at Troop B. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Struck a car jack

On May 27 at approximately 9:45 a.m. on Route 44 in North Canaan a 2016 Lexus IS 300 driven by William Stone, 66, of Wolcott, Conn., struck a car jack in the road causing damage to the underside of the Lexus. No police action was taken.

Struck a telephone pole

On May 27 at approximately 2 p.m. on Sand Road in North Canaan a 2012 Ford Focus driven by Sabrina Ernst, 56, of Sharon drove off the road and struck a wooden post and a telephone pole. Ernst was transported to Sharon Hospital for injuries to her arm. The accident is under investigation.

Garage alteration

On June 1 at approximately 2:30 p.m. Troop B responded to a report of an active disturbance involving two individuals refusing to leave Arnold's Garage in North Canaan. An

investigation led to the arrest of Kenneth Dupuy, 29, of Torrington who was charged with breach of peace in the second degree. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on June 15.

Found with shotgun

On June 1 at approximately 11:30 p.m. Troop B received a report regarding a male traveling in his vehicle on Route 44 in North Canaan following a verbal altercation at a residence in North Canaan in which he made present suicidal motives with the statement that he would shoot himself. Shawn Lucas, 44, of Millerton was found in possession of a shotgun. He was charged with disorderly conduct based on the incident at the residence. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on June 2.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Contact us by mail at P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or send an email, with "police blotter" in the subject line, to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com.

FAMILY & FRIENDS



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Birding enthusiast and Kent resident Brennan Wilkins received a scholarship for his senior year at Marvelwood.

Marvelwood scholarship for Kent student

KENT — Brennan Wilkins of Kent was named the 2021 Bodkin Scholar by the Marvelwood School. The Robert and Cornelia Bodkin Memorial Scholarship was established in 2007 by Anne "Nancy" Wood, co-founder of the Nancy and Andrew Wood Charitable Foundation.

Wood endowed this annual scholarship in honor and memory of her brother, Robert Bodkin, Marvelwood's founding headmaster and his

wife. The Bodkin Scholarship provides full financial assistance for one year to a rising senior who has achieved academic excellence and served as a student leader.

A graduate of Kent Center School, Brennan is an avid birder and environmentalist. He recently won second place in the 2021 CT Maps Competition for his map of local swallow and swift species, completed through a community partnership with Kent Land Trust.

POETS CORNER

Once again, The Lakeville Journal will provide space to poets who feel inspired to share their thoughts with our readers. It's been a while since we did this, but June seems like the perfect month to start again. The topics can be varied, but political opinion will remain under Letters to the Editor. Send poems to Janet Manko at publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

TINY BULLY

She stands with her hands full of rain
 Fallen from still, cold, black stars
 Watching from afar
 Hoping, "This is where we are"
 As the clouds move in in vain

She holds his hands full of rain
 In a light night
 In a lost fight
 His virtue a simple, muted white
 They are not all the same

They soil her hands full of reign,
 "My soul for your flag"
 Her depth in a bag
 Tied neat with a tag
 A spark with no flame

Their tiny little bully
 Standing on the side of the road
 In Lacrosse, Corona and Delacroix
 Ghastly, savage wreckage
 If they have one at all
 It must be a very tiny bully

Rob Funkhouser
 Canaan

Arts students apply by June 30

The Tabor Foundation Fund, a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, supports residents of northwest Litchfield, northeast Dutchess and southeast Columbia counties who plan to undertake education or training in a health care or medical field and to seek employment in their community afterwards. Nonresidents working in the area may also apply. Applications are due June 30 at www.berkshiretaconic.org/tabor.

Summer shred days at Salisbury Bank branches

Salisbury Bank announces its 2021 Community Shred "Drive-thru" Days Schedule.

Community Shred "Drive-thru" Days will include a Free Shred Day as part of the bank's commitment to help in the fight against identity theft, and a Food Drive to support local food pantries in the area.

The Community Days will take place until October at select branches throughout the Tri-state area, and are open to all local residents and businesses.

Community Shred "Drive-thru" Days are open to anyone at the locations listed below from 9 a.m. to noon.

- Saturday, June 19, and Saturday, Aug. 21, and Saturday, Oct. 16, Lakeville Branch, 5 Bissell St.
- Saturday, Sept. 18, Millerton Branch, 87 Main St.
- Saturday, Oct. 2, Sheffield Branch, 640 North Main St.

For the safety of all participants and volunteers the Bank has changed its Shred Days format to "Drive-thru", and established the following guidelines:

- Limit four bags / boxes per car (paper only; no binders)
- If you are vaccinated face mask is optional, if you are not vaccinated, wear mask when within 6 feet of another person.
- You will be guided to drop-off your boxes at the designated area to be shredded by bank staff
- Stay in your car until you reach the drop-off point
- If you feel unwell, please stay home.

Consider bringing a non-perishable food donation as well; local pantries need donations including canned goods, cereals, macaroni and cheese, cake mix, peanut butter, mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard and tomato sauce. Household necessities such as paper towels, diapers, shampoo and soap are also appreciated.

For more information on protecting yourself against identity theft, go to www.salisburybank.com/protectid.

Concerns about privacy via Amazon

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong warned consumers in a press release on Monday, June 7, that Amazon will automatically connect its smart home devices and products to a new shared network called Amazon Sidewalk on June 8 — raising concerns about consumer privacy and protections.

Amazon is launching a new feature called Amazon Sidewalk that will link smart home devices such as Alexa, Echo and Ring to a shared networking system that will enable them to connect beyond the range of a standard home wi-fi network. Starting on Tuesday, June 8, these devices will be automatically opted-in to contribute a portion of their internet bandwidth to create a

shared network with neighboring smart devices. While Amazon Sidewalk will help devices stay online and up to date while outside the home, consumers may have reservations about sharing their network connection with neighbors. Tile—a Bluetooth tracker that helps users locate misplaced items such as car keys and wallets—will be the first third-party device enabled to connect to Sidewalk starting on Monday, June 14.

"Wireless networks are already notoriously vulnerable to hacks and breaches, and families need better information and more time before giving away a portion of their bandwidth to this new system," Tong warned.

Amazon has a page that will

disable the links; go to www.amazon.com/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=GZ-4VSNFMBDHLRJUK.

Send Family & Friends announcements to editor@lakevillejournal.com

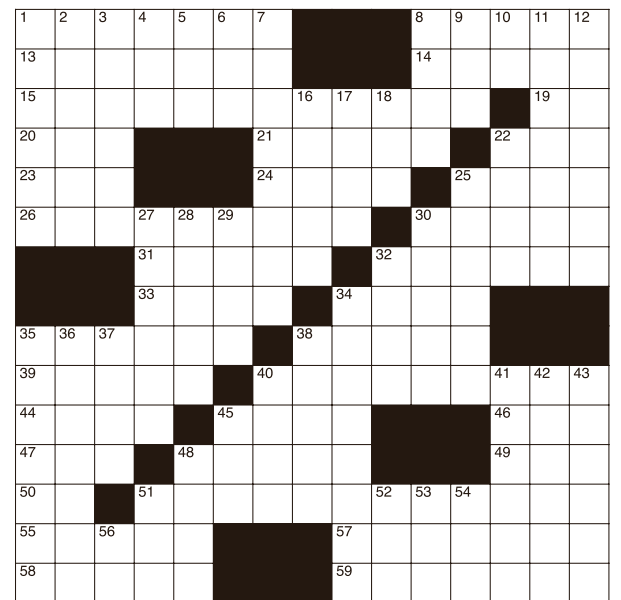
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Most courageous
- Insurance giant
- Small trace left behind
- In a way, signals
- The same letter or sound at the beginning
- The Great Lakes State
- Engage in a contest
- Drinks served to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
- Manpower
- Undivided
- Strong, magnetic metal
- People of Tanzania
- Sorts
- Cop car accessory
- Trade
- Sullen and ill-tempered
- Distinctive practices
- Motor vehicles
- Electrodes
- Polish river
- Human feet
- Make very hot
- Toppin and Kenobi are two
- Blackbird
- One point west of due south
- Large beer
- Third stomachs
- Rare Korean family name
- Hectoliter
- Aquatic invertebrate
- Where we live
- Poked holes in
- Partner to ways
- Ann

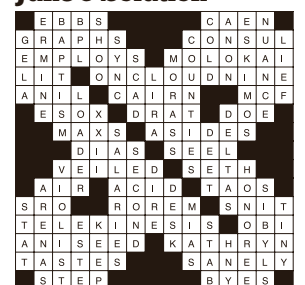
CLUES DOWN

- Expressions of approval
- Replace the interior of
- Not awake
- Roman numeral 7
- Sun up in New York
- Institute legal proceedings against
- Bugs homeowners don't want
- Maltese-Italian composer
- Very long period of time
- Touchdown
- Agents of downfall
- Complacently or inanely foolish
- Argentina capital Buenos
- County in New Mexico
- An electrically charged atom
- New Zealand conifer
- Type of brandy

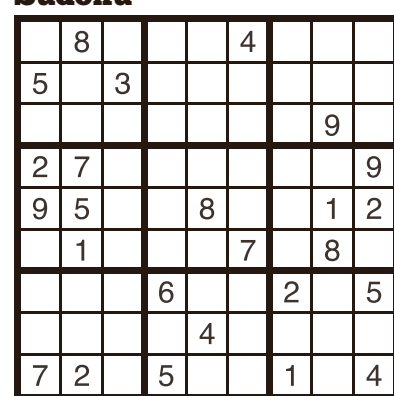


- Comments to the audience
- Tears down
- Gifts for the poor
- More painful
- Good friend
- Lying in the same plane
- Line in a polygon
- Clouds of gas and dust
- Norse god
- Health care pro
- Close tightly
- One's holdings
- Became less intense
- Wilco frontman
- Woman (French)
- Expresses delight
- TV channel (abbr.)
- Beverage
- Unit of work or energy
- Cleaning accessory
- Dorm worker

June 3 Solution

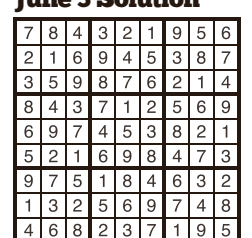


Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

June 3 Solution



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Our Towns

Planning and Zoning finalizes new Cornwall work-from-home regulations

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — The Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) has reached a decision regarding proposed changes to regulations governing home businesses at a special meeting on Thursday, June 3.

Conducted on Zoom, the meeting drew an audience of 50 residents allowed to observe, but not to comment. Comments were made and concerns raised at two prior public hearings.

Residents' comments and concerns had been heard at the public hearings, received in written form at Town Hall and posted on the town's website in advance of the P&Z meeting.

Discussion determined that many of the concerns raised by residents were accommodated by other existing policies, pro-

cedures and provisions within the regulations, including the discretion and the authority of the zoning enforcement officer (ZEO).

The only change made to the draft of the changes to the home business regulations will be to broaden the definition of an "employee," where it is written that a single employee may be engaged to serve a home business. The employee term will now be defined as "employee or contractor or volunteer."

Several residents had urged more P&Z discretion and control during the permit process, an issue raised by P&Z Chairman Anna Timell.

Current ZEO Karen Nelson explained that the permit application process has many aspects that need to be addressed by the applicant. She said that she would as a matter

of course consult with the P&Z if a consultation seemed necessary and await the P&Z ruling. Nelson said that throughout her many years of service, she has brought issues to the P&Z when she had doubts.

Early in the review process, several P&Z members favored continuing their discussions and delaying a decision until a future meeting, but as the meeting progressed and considered residents' concerns, all agreed that those concerns had been responded to adequately. The way was cleared for a decision.

"We can't know every potential type of home business configuration, but we can assess effect on the neighborhood," Timell said.

Planning Consultant Janell Mullen of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments spoke about concerns about noise

generated by home businesses and how that noise might impact neighboring properties. Some residents had asked for establishing unacceptable decibel levels, rather than using the imprecise descriptor "excessive."

The use of the word "excessive" is intentional, Mullen explained, adding that people who determine that there is excessive noise or any other negative output emanating from a business can contact the ZEO to express their complaint. If the ZEO is unsure about the situation, Mullen said, there are state rules in effect that could be applied.

Mullen also indicated that noise can be controlled by a town ordinance, rather than a P&Z regulation, if the selectmen determine that a noise ordinance is needed.

Summer road repair plan for Salisbury

By Patrick L. Sullivan

Brinton Hill Road, Selleck Hill, Twin Lakes and Cooper Hill.

SALISBURY — First Selectman Curtis Rand told the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on Zoom on Monday, June 7, that Salisbury will receive about \$1 million in federal funds (in two installments) from the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion package passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden in March.

Rand said the details on what the funds can be used for have not been worked out yet.

Rand read out a list of roads and areas the town crew will be working on this summer; Salisbury village, the Grove, Echo Street, Chatfield Drive, Dugway Road, Salmon Kill Road from Farnam Road to

The crew will be working on drainage, and Rand wondered aloud if the federal funds could be used in that instance.

Rand said the firm handling flashing beacons for three sites — the White Hart, the center of Salisbury on Main Street, and the crosswalk on Salmon Kill Road — has received numerous proposals and is working through them.

The selectmen spoke briefly about the next steps for the Pope property. Rand said "I think it's in our court for a while," and Mayland suggested that representatives from the town recreation department and affordable housing groups get together and discuss how they could work together.

Town meeting June 17 for Sharon Center project

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Approval of an expenditure of \$1.1 million for installation of air conditioning at Sharon Center School will be the subject of a special town meeting following action by the Board of Selectmen at their special meeting on Thursday, June 3.

Following brief discussion, the selectmen voted to set the town meeting date for Thursday, June 17. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m., held in person at the school and remotely on Zoom.

In previous action, at their May meeting, the Board of Fi-

nance had approved moving the requested expense on to consideration at town meeting. The air conditioning project has been in the planning stages since 2015.

As it stands now, the total cost of the project is \$1,094,000. Anticipated funding sources include \$250,000 in unexpended funds from the 2020-21 Board of Education budget, \$220,000 approved for the project as part of the 2021-22 budget, \$190,462 in federal funding that has been applied for, and up to \$515,913 from the Board of Education portion of the town's Capital Non-recurring Fund.

FV budget passes, mill rate stays the same

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The 2021-22 spending plans for education and town government passed easily at a live, in-person town meeting Friday, June 4. The Board of Finance met immediately afterward and voted to keep the mill rate at 25.7.

The town meeting approved municipal spending at \$2,033,943 and total education spending (including Region One) at \$3,519,558 (with \$2,036,723 of that for Lee H. Kellogg School).

The town meeting also approved an item increasing Planning and Zoning Commission fees for certain actions, and a routine approval of banks

used by the town.

The two meetings were held at the Emergency Services Center. Masks were worn, except when people were speaking, and the chairs set up to allow for social distance. Combined, the two meetings took about half an hour.

The mill rate determines property taxes in Connecticut towns. A mill represents \$1 in tax for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. A 15-mill tax rate would translate into a tax bill of \$1,500 for the owner of a home assessed at \$100,000.

The grand list is the total assessed value of all taxable property in a town.

Properties are assessed at 70 percent of their total value.

Seeking ways to reduce strain on transfer station

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — Planned renovations to the town's transfer station were discussed at the May 18 meeting of the selectmen.

Transfer Station Coordinator Ted Larson reported on traffic flow, and said the traffic is too heavy on Sundays between 10:30 and 11 a.m., the final 30 minutes before the station closes. He recommended that people try to get there during the week when traffic is manageable.

"Try to have patience," he said. "I'm trying to move people along as fast as I can."

Two new recycling bins will be added soon, replacing two that had developed leakage problems. The bins will cost

\$3,200 each.

Will Berry, transfer station attendant, reported that the new bins will be shorter and wider, more convenient and easier to work with.

Selectman Priscilla Pavel praised the transfer station staff and their hard work, finding them always efficient, courteous and helpful.

Looking ahead to the annual influx of summer residents, all of whom use the transfer station frequently, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway suggested that rather than going multiple times a week, it might be helpful if people plan on going just once each week.

Because of the renovations, the swap shop will remain closed until at least the fall.

Infrastructure repair projects planned for summer in Cornwall

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — Repairs to two of the four little bridges scheduled for this summer will proceed, following discussion and action by the Board of Selectmen at their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 1. The meeting was held on Zoom.

"The four bridges are down to two," reported Roger Kane, the selectmen's consultant on bridge maintenance. Plans for summer repair of the two remaining bridges need a little more time due to the details of what will be required — specifically the laying of a protective membrane, a specialized process.

Kane estimated that the first two bridges could be repaired for a total of \$15,000, the work to be done by Hammonasset Construction of Clinton, Conn. An estimated \$11,600 will cover labor and equipment, but the town will need to provide materials.

Kane noted that the rates quoted by the company are identical to the numbers quoted seven years ago.

The little bridge near the end of Popple Swamp Road, across from Foote Field, will be one of the first two to be repaired. Kane reported that three of its four wing walls have fallen in.

Repairs to the West Road bridge will entail relocating three large stones back toward the bridge footings and installing a scour wall, two feet deep and one foot wide. Both elements provide for erosion control, the large stones used for protective armor and the scour wall to channel the sediment.

The Cogswell Road bridge was briefly discussed with First Selectman Gordon Ridgway's report that the upper beam rail had been damaged recently. Rather than replacing the damaged beam, the town is considering replacing it with a piece of galvanized tubing, a sort of small handrail. Ideas for permanent aesthetic solutions are still being developed.

Improvements to the transfer station are being sketched out by Cornwall resident Lisa Keskinen, Ridgway announced. When plans are complete, bids will be sought for the work to include replacement of the office and other upgrades such as a better heating system.

Initially plans included an addition to the Swap Shop, where discarded tires would be collected, but upon reflection, the better solution will be to acquire another metal bin to be used for the purpose, Ridgway said.

Books & Blooms is June 18 to 20

CORNWALL — Books & Blooms to Benefit The Cornwall Library will be held this year on Friday, June 18, and Sunday, June 20.

On Friday at 5 p.m. there will be a Zoom talk with George Schoellkopf about Hollister House Garden in Washington Depot (a tour of the garden will be offered from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 20).

On Saturday, from 10 a.m.

to 4 p.m. there will be a tour of the Cornwall gardens of John and Juliet Hubbard, Bart and Debby Jones, Roxana Laughlin and Michael Trapp.

There will also be a sale at the Cornwall Library of new and out-of-print gardening books; tea towels with the Books & Blooms signature design; and cut flowers arranged and donated by members of the Cornwall Garden Club.

Local volunteer opportunities

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Association has available a handy new "Resource Guide for Volunteer Opportunities in Our Community, available free at the Academy Building at 24 Main St. in Salisbury.

The booklet is also posted online at the association's website and the town website (www.salisburyassociation.org and www.salisburyct.us).


It covers the following areas: affordable housing, arts and culture, children and youth services, civic organizations, environmental programs, health services, pets, recreational programs, senior services and social services.

Each entry gives a concise description of the organization and contact information.

— Patrick L. Sullivan



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Salisbury School boys were hard at work removing litter from the Rail Trail and took a break, right, to wade in the stream near Walton Street.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Spring clean!

Community Field in Lakeville got a thorough spring cleaning last month by volunteers from two local schools.

In preparation for warmer weather and relaxed COVID-19 restrictions, Salisbury School boys under the direction of Rita Delgado, Director of Community Service at the school, removed litter at the field and along the Rail Trail.

Housatonic Valley Regional High School junior Griffin Tomaino, also pitched in to pick up trash in March, as part of his National Honor Society service requirement.

Community Field was restored in 2019 by the Lakeville Community Conservancy, which also oversees maintenance and beautification of Cannon and Bauer Parks as well as other green spaces in town.

What the well-dressed angler is wearing

Two weeks ago, after a long, chilly, wet “spring,” it suddenly turned into summer. I dutifully folded and stored the flannels and Viyellas and big old Filson wool shirts, and dug out and hung the madras, seersucker, aloha and summery shirts.

Then the temps dropped like a tungsten head nymph tied on a jig hook. Of course.

This is why we have sweat-shirts and cotton sweaters.

I have amassed a large collection of what eBay-ers refer to as “safari” shirts. I use them for fishing when it’s not super-hot. My old ones have split collars and years’ worth of fishing-related grime baked in.

So I scoured eBay, discount sites and the usual suspects and came up with a dozen or so mostly tan or beige shirts from Filson, Orvis, Cabela’s, Australian Outback and Eddie Bauer (which still exists, sort of). Some have epaulets and some don’t. I prefer to go without, the field promotion contingency being somewhat remote.

Plus there is the danger of being mistaken for Stewart Granger in “The Last Safari.”

Combined with some new LL Beanflex plain open collar sport shirts in beige and olive, I am set for the fishing/camp season.

I also got some new Space Age fabric fishing shirts for the really hot weather, the old ones having become even more appalling than the cotton safari shirts. Those I picked up during the winter when the purveyors of fly-fishing clothing, who make ordinary fashion vultures seem benign by comparison, unveil the latest gimmickry and unload last year’s at fire sale prices.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

An old-school bucket hat protects the neck as well as the face on a sweltering day.

Everything gets treated with permethrin. I dislike ticks.

A note on grime:

There is a difference between well-worn and disgusting. The late Marty Keane, an expert on antique fishing tackle, used to call signs of wear and tear on rods “honorable use.”

Honorable use on a shirt is a small bloodstain that won’t come out. Depending on the audience, the stain may be attributed to a) a gigantic brown trout that bit the angler or b) the time the angler rescued a small child who had just been bitten by a giant brown trout.

Grime is a dark ring around the collar that yields to no known solvent — similar in effect to the combination of dust and grease that always settles on top of the refrigerator.

Grime is also a smell — an odor that invokes, in no particular order, memories of high school locker rooms, stale Fritos, mothballs, kerosene and that strange uncle from childhood, the one with the murky

TANGLED LINES

PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

past who collected stuffed owls.

Hats: Ball caps keep the sun out of the eyes. They do nothing for the neck and ears. So I prefer something with a 360 degree brim.

The peril that lurks here is, once again, of the Stewart Granger variety. Or Indiana Jones.

The bucket hat, usually cotton or a cotton blend, is a shapeless item with a decent brim and a grosgrain band. They start out looking disreputable and steadily disimprove with age.

Mine is from Dorfman Pacific, is 75% cotton and 25% Space Age, and comes in XXL for those of us with enormous noggins. The 2-inch brim keeps out most of the sun, and it blends nicely with the other detritus of everyday life on the so-called kitchen table.

Details on HVRHS graduation and the 2021-22 Region One school year

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Plans for the Thursday, June 17, graduation at Housatonic Valley Regional High School have been finalized, Principal Ian Strevler told the Region One Board of Education Monday, June 7, at the regular monthly meeting (on Zoom).

The ceremony will be held outside, in front of the school, under a tent, at 6:30 p.m.

Strevler said that after consulting with health officials, the seniors will be seated as a class, with appropriate social distancing. Each senior will be given three tickets. The tent will accommodate about 250 spectators. The general public is not allowed in. However, the seniors have purchased a live stream, which is available to anyone. The link is: <http://livestream.rossmedia.com/graduation2021/>

Region One School District Superintendent Lisa Carter discussed the reopening plan for schools in the fall. The plan takes into account three factors: A decreasing COVID-19 positivity rate in the state, especially in the Northwest Cor-

ner; the increasing number of fully vaccinated people; and the “extremely low probability” of in-school transmission of COVID-19.

The plan is preliminary, and can be changed if circumstances warrant. However, the plan “assumes the continuation of current COVID-19 patterns and therefore provides for the opportunity to return to more normal school operations in late August.”

Schools will continue to take mitigation measures, including: mandatory wearing of masks for all students and staff; students and staff will maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet, with 6 feet being maintained when possible; hand sanitization will continue to be prac-

ticed throughout the day.

There will be greater flexibility with respect to cohorting in the pre-k to grade eight schools, meal service for all students, and after-school activities.

Carter told the board that the biggest change is that all students will be expected to attend school in person. There will be no distance learning option.

She said “we feel confident” about not offering distance learning because of the low case rate in Region One, the effective mitigation measures taken in Region One throughout the pandemic, and the increasing number of vaccinated people.

Carter added that this is also the position of the state education department.



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This letter has been enclosed in print editions of The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News and on www.tricornernews.com. We invite all our readers to continue to keep track of our progress and we will keep you updated regularly.

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GRANTS

Continued from Page A1

Pots, a division of the Freund family farm operation, was awarded for equipment to modernize cow pot manufacturing to increase production.

Smokedown Farm's grant is targeted for equipment for hop harvesting and storage. The proprietors of the two local farms said their respective operations will benefit greatly from the competitive matching grant program.

"This gives us a shot in the arm," said Matt Freund, president of Freund Family Farm, Inc. The farm's CowPots division creates biodegradable planting pots made from a manure byproduct.

"We are working on some automation that we use to make the products. Some of the machinery is pretty complicated," he explained. Much of it was installed several years ago and is in need of modernization.

"We are always improving our operation," said Freund, and the state grant will help the farm update its equipment, increase production and lower prices for customers.

"It will help us reach a bigger market," noted the second-generation farmer. "Anytime you lower your process you improve your sales. We are hoping that as we progress and get this business viable, we will be able to license the technology."

James Shepherd, who six years ago transformed 9 acres at his 170-acre Smokedown Farm into a hopyard, said the state grant, the first for his

family-owned business, will be put to good use.

Smokedown, which Shepherd said is the main commercial grower of hops in the state, produces pelletized hops for Connecticut's craft beer brewers.

"It is going to expand our processing capabilities," said Shepherd during a June 5 tour of the facility, which is managed by Ally Hughes, a fourth generation farmer and transplant from Nebraska.

"The grant we were awarded is a 50% matching grant to invest in our infrastructure. We are adding another dryer as well as a walk-in cooler to the hops operation," said Hughes.

She noted that the total cost of the project was estimated at \$12,250, 50% of which will be covered by the state.

"The cost was based off of a collection of estimates provided by vendors and local businesses and is subjective until the final costs are added and reported to the state for reimbursement."

Shepherd explained that the grant will be used to increase the drying capacity of harvested hops as well as enhance harvesting and storage.

Grant funds are reimbursed to the awardees after the project is successfully completed, a final financial and written report outlining all expenses and tasks associated with the project have been received and approved, and site inspection by agency staff is conducted.

FARM SOLD

Continued from Page A1

residence, a red barn with fading paint and a similarly aged white Victorian-style residence, whose white paint has largely turned black.

In total, according to the website for real estate agency Douglas Elliman, the property is 466 acres.

Kaplan said she sold the farm as two separate parcels, to two separate buyers in two separate transactions: 148 acres on McGhee Hill Road sold in April and the larger more visible property on Route 22 sold in November.

Both buyers were from New York City, Kaplan said. "I never got to meet them. In these days of COVID-19, the closings were done by the attorneys, and the papers were signed ahead of time by both parties."

While she didn't want to disclose the selling price, Kaplan did say she got what she asked for on one of the sales, and close to what she asked for on the other.

The real estate website Trulia says the larger property, which dates to 1888, sold in November 2020 for \$2,375,000.

When asked if she was satisfied with the way things turned out, Kaplan said absolutely.

"Yes, I was surprised to so quickly have one offer after another. I had hoped for that, because so much was selling around here," she said, adding she thinks the COVID-19 pandemic was a motivating factor in hastening the pace of the sales.

Fears of development
Not everyone is as happy as



PHOTOS FROM DOUGLAS ELLIMAN

Concerns are circulating about plans for the former Kaplan farm, on Route 22 and McGhee Hill Road in North East/Millerton.



Linda Kaplan about the sale, which has led to concerns that a large-scale residential development is being planned for the property.

North East Town Supervisor Chris Kennan said he had heard rumors surrounding the farm's sale and future but could only confirm the sale itself, as he "didn't want to traffic in rumors."

He did verify an LLC purchased the Kaplan farm, which he said troubles him.

"The problem with an LLC

is that people's identities are not known," Kennan said. "I have a real problem with this. I have no problem with people having an LLC; it's not having the LLC, it's just that I hate that people should be anonymous."

Linda Kaplan appeared before the North East Planning Board in October 2020 after submitting a minor subdivision application that July.

That application was described as "no big deal" by Planning Board Chairman Dale Culver, who said at the time that "the land is cleaved by two different roads already ... there isn't even a line to draw really, in some sense, because the road is the line delineation."

As for what the plans of the new owners are for the properties may be, Kaplan again said she doesn't have any first-hand information from the buyers. She has heard that one buyer may pursue "organic farming on the tillable land on the main farm and 49 acres" and another

may build some homes on the McGhee Hill Road parcel.

When asked how many homes, Kaplan said she heard from neighbors around three or four.

"I think it would make Sam very happy to see the land remain in farming, and me, too," she said.

Yet there is talk in the community that one of the buyers may develop one of the parcels into a housing development, with as many as 43 homes. When Kaplan was asked if she heard any talk of such plans, she scoffed at the idea.

"Oh, no, absolutely not," she said.

Kennan, meanwhile, confirmed there are currently "no applications in front of the Planning Board; that I can tell you. I think it would be long time" before any type of large housing development could be planned or executed, he added.

The land is zoned for agricultural and residential use.

LIME ROCK

Continued from Page A1

"Our pre-race ceremonies also included an invocation by the Rev. Heidi Truax of Trinity Lime Rock Episcopal Church, as well as an outstanding rendition of the National Anthem by the Casey Sisters," Delana said.

The track now has a new ownership team, working in partnership with longtime owner Skip Barber.

"Operationally it was a very smooth event," Delana said, "and with this one under the collective belts of the new ownership group, we are all gathering our notes on what we learned last weekend to put to use when the IMSA WeatherTech championship visits July 16-17."



PHOTO BY TOM BROWN

Dedicated fans of auto sports weren't deterred by rain over Memorial Day weekend.

LGBTQ+

Continued from Page A1

She said she initially thought the interviews would be confined to people who were at the Stonewall Tavern when it was raided by New York City police on June 20, 1969.

"It turned out to be more than that."

She said she approached the interviews as would an oral historian, and sent edited transcripts to the subjects for suggestions.

The themes that came up from the interviews included: invisibility, police brutal-

ity, violence, racism, sexism, homophobia, religion, loss of children and/or families, allies, and activism.

One of the subjects, whom Fleishman described as a "multiracial bisexual activist woman," spoke of the hostility she received from her lesbian friends when she came out as bisexual.

A gay man from Dallas remembered the strategies gay people had to use to avoid arrest.

And a black lesbian woman from Washington, D.C., said she was "tired of peaceful protests" because "nothing happens."

The woman went on to say that she finds racism and sexism to be bigger problems than homophobia.

Fleishman said she felt it important to get the stories of this aging cohort of people, and to get a sense of the

history of gay people in the United States.

She noted the activism of young people today, which is slightly different than that of prior generations, and said, "My feeling is it's time for me to take a step back."

True tales of baseball salaries

FALLS VILLAGE — Eugene Orza, Chief Operating Officer at Major League Baseball Players Association, will talk about labor relations in Major League Baseball in a Zoom talk on Thursday, June 17, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The talk is hosted by the D. M. Hunt Library.

Orza has been involved in all significant labor negotiations with Major League Baseball for over 25 years, including the major work stoppage of 1995-1996. His knowledge of the sport and the intricacies of the labor issues that have arisen is profound.

To register, go to www.HuntLibrary.org or call 860-824-7424.

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WILD AND SCENIC

Continued from Page A1

in areas that are not designated for public use. There have been several drownings in the river over the years; the first Housatonic River fatality this year was at the Great Falls in Salisbury on May 15.

The selectmen agreed to provide a letter of support on

behalf of the town for the Congressional application.

"Local management of the funding is a key advantage," Tingley noted, adding that the funding would come through the U.S. National Park Service if Wild and Scenic status is granted.

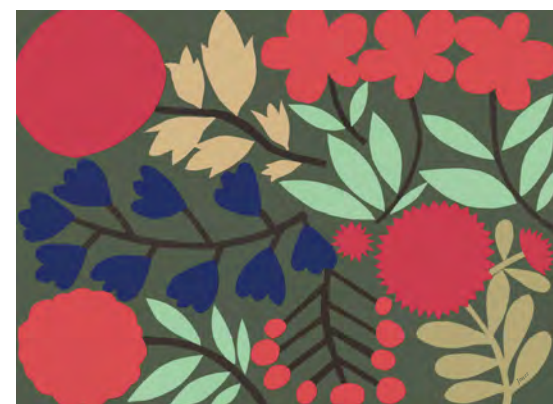


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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

New Work by Terre Lefferts Embraces Life and Beauty

Paintings by Terre Lefferts are on display at the Douglas Library in North Canaan, Conn., until the end of June. A painter and dancer, Lefferts also does therapeutic massage and physical therapy.

Having worked on the front lines with COVID-19 patients for more than a year, helping them to breathe, stand and walk again has given her a deep appreciation for beauty in all life.

She continually shows her artwork, takes commissions and strives to paint beauty as much as possible.

A Lakeville, Conn., resident, Lefferts has exhibited all over New England. There will be an opening reception at the library on June 18 from 4 to 6 p.m.

For information on library hours, go to www.douglaslibrarycanaan.org.

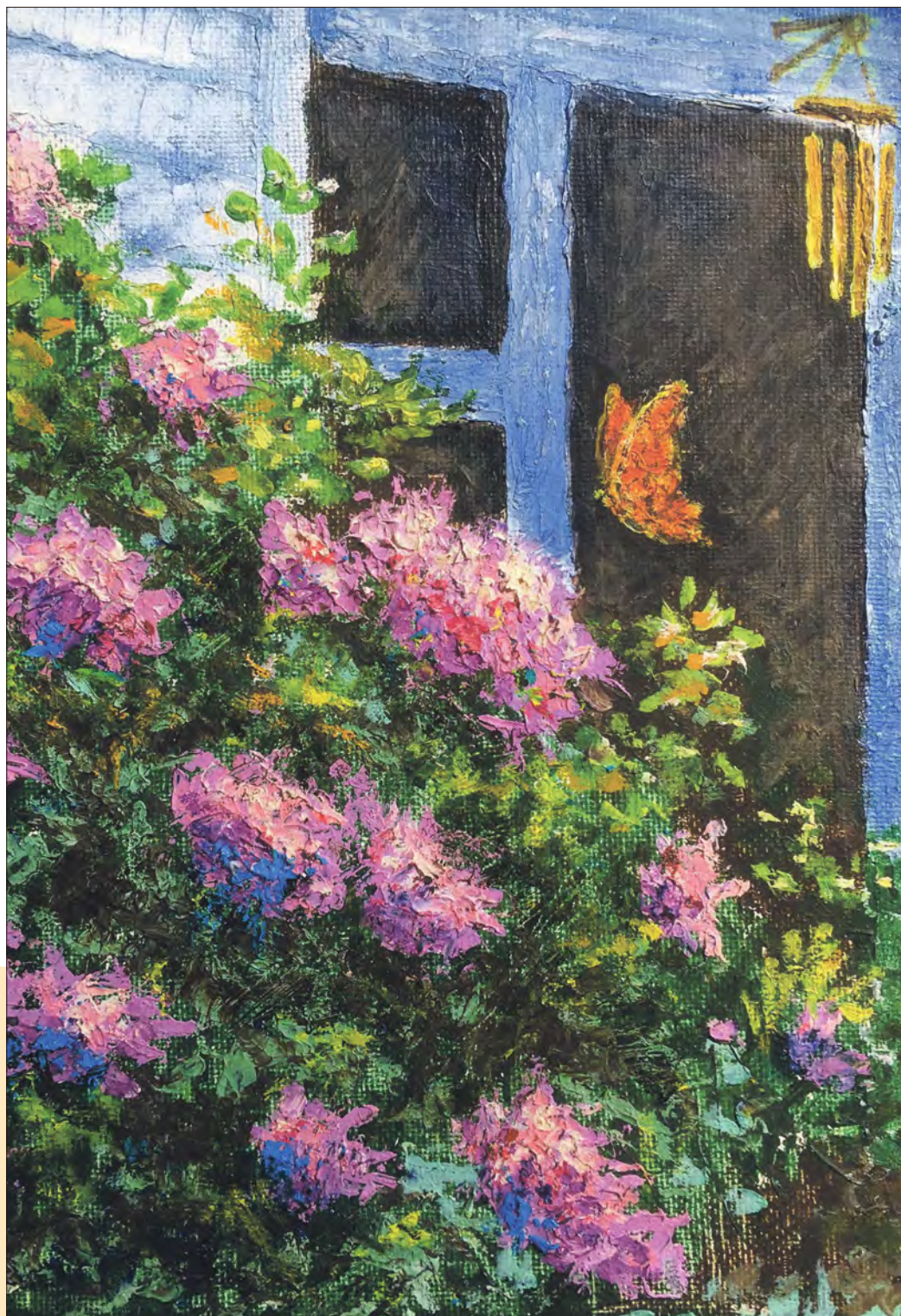


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Paintings by Terre Lefferts of Lakeville, Conn., inspired by her therapeutic work with COVID-19 patients, are on display this month at the Douglas Library in North Canaan, Conn.

THE BARD:
CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in an Outdoor Setting

What more perfect setting for a performance of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" than a bucolic property tucked into the woods in Sharon, Conn.?

In one of the Bard's most popular and universally appealing comedies, the woods become a place where, magically, anything can happen — and many things certainly do happen, with fairies and fools and love potions and, in the end, a trio of weddings.

It was for these multiple nuptials that Felix Mendelssohn wrote the triumphant (and now traditional) "Wedding March" that follows the vows and kiss of bliss in most Western-nation weddings.

This summer, in the spirit of "I've got a backyard, let's put on a show!" a troupe of theater folk has formed Shakespeare in Sharon. Their first production is "A Midsummer Night's Dream," directed by Jane Farnol and starring a cast of actors from the region and from New York City.

Farnol is one of the founding members of Shakespeare in Sharon, along with Katherine and David Almquist and John Taylor.

The Almquists (veterans of many local theater productions) are hosting the show on their property, with woods, a pond and a willow tree.

Taylor shares his talents and training as an actor, with a career that began in England with classic repertoire.

Part of the inspiration for Shakespeare in Sharon, Taylor said, is that, "I wanted to get back to theater's roots: Actors tumbling out of wagons onto village greens, performing, passing the hat and then passing on to the next town."

There won't be any hat passing; tickets are \$25 per car (cash or check). The audience is asked to bring lawn chairs and/or blankets. The property will be open an hour before showtime and picnics are encouraged.

The play has been edited lightly to a length of 90 minutes.

The show opens June 11 and will be performed Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until June 26. Shows on Fridays are at 5:30 p.m.; on Saturdays they are at 2 and 5:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. The venue is 71 Keeler Road in Sharon. To learn more, go to www.shakespeareinsharon.org.

SEEING RED, IN SHOW OF WORK AT JAMES BARRON ART

Philip Guston's "Garden — Roma" (in the photo at right) is on display at James Barron Art in Kent, Conn., on loan from the Estate of Philip Guston, until mid July in a show called "Red."

Guston's work is included in a show of diverse pieces in a variety of media that explore the

impact and use of the color red in art.

One of the most difficult colors to create, the use of red has historically signaled that a piece has special importance. The show at James Barron Art also includes works by Sol Lewitt, Robert Motherwell, Julian Lethbridge, Milton Avery and many

others. It will remain on display until July 17 at the gallery. Visits are by

appointment only, Monday through Saturday. For information, go to www.jamesbarronart.com.



PHOTO COURTESY JAMES BARRON ART

Philip Guston's "Garden — Roma," from 1971 (an oil on paper mounted on panel, 19 3/4 by 27 1/4 inches) is on display until mid July at James Barron Art.

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MAKE MUSIC DAY IN NW CORNER IS JUNE 21

It can be a musical scavenger hunt, or an opportunity to see beloved bands in familiar settings. The Northwest Connecticut Arts Council hosts the fourth annual Make Music Northwest Connecticut on Monday, June 21, with performances in 10 locations by a dozen musical acts.

Catch five shows at four locations in Torrington, Conn., between 3:30 and 7 p.m.

At Sunset Meadows Vineyard in Goshen, Conn., there will be two different performances, between 1 and 4:45 p.m.

In Kent, Conn., a high-

light of the day will be the 7:15 p.m. show by locally beloved The Joint Chiefs at the gazebo on the town Green. Earlier in the day at the gazebo, come see Country Jam at 4:15 p.m., madlnw at 5 p.m. and the Open Borders Trio at 5:30 p.m.

Also in Kent will be shows at the Covered Wagon Country Store at 3:30 p.m. and at the Kent Land Trust field on Main Street at 4 p.m.

For specific information on performers, times and locations, go to www.makemusicday.org/nwct.

— Cynthia Hochswender



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THEATER: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

New Play by Mamet in Summer Season at GBPT

Just a few scant days after Father's Day, Great Barrington Public Theater reopens with a fully staged production of "Dad," a comedy by award-winning Berkshire County-based playwright Mark St. Germain.

St. Germain is best known for his plays that explore the lives and impact of famous figures ("Freud's Last Session," for example, and "Becoming Dr. Ruth" about Dr. Ruth Westheimer).

This is his first autobiographical play, about the joys and the complexities of living with parents and siblings. The cast includes Mark H. Dold and Peggy Pharr Wilson, Broadway veteran Larry Bryggman and David Smilow. "Dad" opens on Thursday, June 24, and closes Saturday, July 3.

At the other end of the theater's six-week summer schedule, from July 29 to Aug. 8, is the East Coast premiere of David Mamet's new play, "The Christopher Boy's Communion."

Mamet (who lives in Los Angeles) is a longtime friend of Great Barrington Public Theater Artistic



Berkshire County-based graphic designer Ben Hillman designed posters for this season's productions of "Dad" and "The Christopher Boy's Communion" at Great Barrington Public Theater. Hillman also designed the theater company's logo.

Director Jim Frangione. In April, the theater was the exclusive venue for a "virtual" play written by Mamet and shot at his California home, starring his wife, the actress Rebecca Pidgeon, and exploring the life of journalist Doro-

thy Kilgallen.

"The Christopher Boy's Communion," set in present day New York City, is described as a "tense thriller," about a (Catholic) mother's efforts to free her son from prison after he murders and possibly



DESIGN BY BEN HILLMAN

rapes and mutilates a young (Jewish) woman who lives in their neighborhood. At its heart is the question of how far a parent will go to save a child.

The cast includes Kiera Naughton, David Adkins, Will LeBow, Diane Prusha

and Kevin O'Rourke.

Both plays will be fully staged at the McConnell Theater mainstage in the Daniel Arts Center at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, Mass.

Between the two parentally themed shows is "Mr.

Fullerton," a new play by Berkshire County-based actor/playwright Anne Undeland. The show is directed by Judy Braha and is a flirty, even steamy, reimagining of a love affair between Berkshire County's own Edith Wharton and a young dandy named Morton Fullerton.

"Mr. Fullerton" will be performed between July 21 and Aug. 1 in the Liebowitz Black Box Theater at the Daniel Arts Center.

Tickets for all three shows are priced at \$20 to \$40.

"We welcome everyone in the Berkshires and beyond to come out, come back, be safe, comfortable, and join us for an exhilarating and lively summer," said Deann Simmons Halper, executive director of Great Barrington Public Theater. "We're presenting top-tier new plays and excellent artists to all audiences and looking forward to a rejuvenating season of fantastic theater on two stages."

For more information and to order tickets, go to www.greatbarringtonpublictheater.org.

ARTS AND CULTURE: KAITLIN LYLE

Music, Theater and Shared Experiences For an Undaunted Stissing Center

Video presentations of live performances were "a godsend" for the Stissing Center during the COVID-19 quarantine, according to Executive Director Brian Keeler.

The pandemic hit at a crucial moment in the years-long evolution of the large stone building in the center of the village from a town-owned building in search of a good use, to what it has become: a beautifully renovated center for the arts, music and culture in the center of Pine Plains, N.Y.

After years of fundraising, meetings with town residents, and then renovations to add stages and classrooms, the center was just beginning to blossom — and then had to, largely, shut down.

The challenge for the center was to keep the momentum going, and to maintain people's interest in arts and music during quarantine.

Turning to technology as an ally in the "new normal," the nonprofit found a way to connect with the community by launching The Chair Series, a weekly program in which The Stissing Center invites an artist to come into the building on Church Street, sit in a chair and perform. From music and monologues to dance and poetry, the series was a success with its weekly releases and accumulated quite the viewership, according to Keeler.

Also popular was the Video of the Week series with videos of perform-

ances at, for or about The Stissing Center.

The video innovations were a silver lining from the pandemic. Stissing Center had to learn "how to capitalize on video and sound," Keeler said. "Our plan is to continue videotaping and releasing all the concerts that we have in the building so people can enjoy them live and for years after on our YouTube channel."

The future of live gatherings is still somewhat uncertain, so Keeler said the Stissing Center will take it slow, and take advantage of lessons learned about video programming and "incorporating that into our programming, so we can slowly open our doors safely and people can get together and enjoy music and a sense of shared experience.

"That's our challenge and that's the one we hope to meet" Keeler said.

For now, the plan is for the center to host its first chamber music concert on about the third week of June, with a limited audience and all COVID-19 standards.

After that, the plan is to have a chamber music concert once each month, in July, August and September.

If all goes well, there is likely to be a community-wide celebration at the

center, in late summer or early fall.

Meanwhile, renovation work continues that will eventually allow the center to open its doors year-round. Now that the building's been equipped with heat and air conditioning, Keeler said they'll be working on other plans, including creation of a second performance space called The Cellar. This more intimate performance space will have seating for 60 to 80 people and will have a cabaret feel.

The center also plans to get a liquor license that will allow for serving beer and wine.

"Everything we do has a caveat," Keeler mused, "which makes it very difficult to write anything in stone; we could wake up tomorrow and the world could change."

To keep up to date on what's happening, and to get a link to the video series, go to www.thestissingcenter.org.

ADVERTISE IN COMPASS

To advertise your event under the Arts & Entertainment banner, call 860-435-9873 or email advertising@lakevillejournal.com

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Look for a new calendar of events at our website, www.tricornernews.com/events-calendar. We will also include the calendar in our print edition as space allows.



PHOTO BY PAUL CLEMENCE

The handsome Stissing Center in Pine Plains has made amazing progress toward becoming a regional center for the arts. Work continues. Plans remain unsure at this moment whether this summer will bring live shows.



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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EDITORIAL

Support your local volunteer organizations

This is the time when traditionally many of the area nonprofit organizations have held their annual fundraisers, some high-profile and highly profitable, some low-profile and only moderately so. For each of these organizations, the money that would have been made during the short and busy spring season helped them provide services that are essential to the lives of our communities all four seasons of the year. COVID has had a chilling effect on those fundraisers, of course, and yet the nonprofit organizations, from child care centers to ambulance corps and fire departments, have missions that are just as critical within their communities as ever. This is the time to support them, choosing those closest to our hearts or of most relevance to the largest proportion of our area population.

But it's not always easy to know what will be most relevant to our lives or those of our families and friends until the need arises. One may not need the services of the local town child care center right now, for instance, but a pregnancy, personal or in one's circle, can mean an urgent need to find a warm and welcoming place that provides high-quality care. It's at this time that one notices the excellent and vibrant child care centers and after-school programs that are part of the services in each of the Region One towns. Remember that for young families trying to make their homes in the Northwest Corner, this is one of the services that is most critical for them.

Or, an elderly friend or relative may have been doing fine up to now, but a fall or a diagnosis leads to a need for the ambulance service, the hospital, then daytime care or nursing care at home. When that happens, the towns' volunteer EMTs and Sharon, Fairview or Charlotte Hungerford hospitals become the most important immediate priorities. Then, the Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association, now part of Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County, is suddenly of great support. And if full-time care is needed, Noble Horizons, Sharon Health Care and Geer Nursing are among those in our backyard.

We may not like to think about it, but there is always the possibility of a fire breaking out in one's home or a traffic accident out on the road. The first responders of the local volunteer fire and ambulance companies are then the most welcome sight of our lives, though we have likely seen most of them before at the food store or the transfer station. Those familiar faces, calm and efficient in times of crisis, can be what pull us through.

There are also those needs in life that are not as reactive but rather are preventive, giving joy and respite from day-to-day life when one is in need of some relaxation and rejuvenation: the arts, music, theater, sports and outdoor recreation. These may not be necessities in order to survive, but they are to live well and fully. And many of those organizations are now finally opening more widely, a comfort to those in the region who love their work.

All of these needs are met by organizations in the Northwest Corner, both large and small, and all of them need financial support to be available to our rural area's residents. Consider those that make a difference for the region, and donate to them, support their fundraisers (many of which you will see covered in this newspaper) whether virtual or once again in person, and think about volunteering for them. Even a few hours a month of volunteering can help a nonprofit fulfill its mission, and help you understand your neighbors better, getting to know them on a whole new level.

The Salisbury Association has available a new "Resource Guide for Volunteer Opportunities in Our Community," available free at the Academy Building at 24 Main St. in Salisbury, or online at www.salisburyassociation.org and www.salisburyct.us. Use it and volunteer!



PHOTO BY DEBRA ALEKSINAS

Burst of clematis color

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A crisis of climate and conscience

Since 1913 one third of forests depleted by fires in the Rockies have failed to regenerate — changes of climate in this western U.S. region increased temperatures and reduced moisture both conditions hostile to tree regrowth. Forests across the globe are failing to grow back after fires — rather than seedlings, brush and flowers are filling land once thick with forests. Until recently, forests were natural mitigators for man's toxic carbon waste. Climate change and man's aggressive clear cutting of forests is drastically reducing these protective benefits.

Today trees fail to grow, the Arctic's ice shelf crumbles, communities sink beneath swelling seas, weather disasters escalate yet persistent denial of climate change pummels truth along with the notion that man is a thinking being. Man, perhaps the only creature aggressively poisoning his own habitat.

As for poisoning, U.S. lawmakers at the state and federal levels attack life as we know it, as was fought for over centuries by Americans — the fabric of our socio/political climate.

With lies, anti-voting legislation, calls for insurrection — Flynn's Burmese coup chants, Former 45's promise of an August return — a mob of fearful, perhaps unelectable-by-democratic-means legislators stoke authoritarian policies and practice. This assault on American democracy, including legislators authorizing themselves to override voters' votes, is trivialized by McConnell, is cheered by McCarthy and is juiced by federal legislators hauling in contributions made by the persons they dupe.

The degree of current democratic conscience is hard to grasp as 70% of Republicans, now 25% of the electorate, disbelieve the 2020 Presidential election — so that's 17.5% of Americans.

Yet President Biden's approval ratings are in the high 50's to the 60's, at day 135, Former 45's approval was 40%.

So I read, listen, watch, discuss, opine and can be disheartened by things going on. I hope for a nation of neighbors, of tenders of our vast lands and resources, a nation brimming joyous for hockey Olympic gold, Americans with differ-

ences tolerant and enabling others to vaccinate.

Across the U.S. electorate are differing beliefs regarding government's size and role, family life, religious precepts, and rights of the individual. Voters vote for like-minded or at least like-speaking candidates which is their right and privilege. If they are the majority vote, in fair and legal elections, then their candidate represents them in the democracy and shapes the nation.

Let's let trees grow and democracy ring.

The story of America is...one of slow, often unsteady steps forward. If we expect the trumpets of a given era to sound unwavering notes, we will be disappointed, for the past tells us that politics is an uneven symphony.

— Jon Meacham

Our system is not only based on rules, but a series of self-restraints that we won't be as barbaric as we could be in competing for power because we know if we're all barbaric as we could be, the whole country and the whole society falls apart.

— David Brooks

Kathy Herald-Marlowe
Sharon

The joys of summer, undeniable

Summer is here in all its splendor

To the sun, I surrender
People swimming in the lake

All is fun, nothing fake
Fishing dinghies on the water

I am boating with my daughter
Could life be any better

No it can't, to the letter
In conclusion all is well
And that is that, I do tell.

Michael Kahler
Lakeville

Still no tax refund

Can anyone explain why, after filing tax returns back in February, some of us have still not received our federal refunds?

Calling the 1-800 number is useless.

We can check online but still no help.

I just want to know what the issues are and if anything is being done to get us our money? We are getting no answers.

Eleanor O'Toole
Sharon

Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m. Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com. Letters will be no longer than 500 words.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — June 1921

SALISBURY — Selectman W.B. Rand was quite badly bitten in his right hand and the calf of his right leg by a dog last Friday. Mr. Rand was endeavoring to prevent a fight between his and another dog and had his hand on the collar of his ayrdale when the other dog grabbed him, inflicting several bad wounds which necessitated the services of a physician.

ORE HILL — John Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sherman and family motored to Gt. Barrington on Saturday.

William Barnett, and the Misses Inez Peabody and Lila Senior who form the graduating Class of Lakeville High School, accompanied by Miss Pendleton, start June 18th for a trip to Washington and other places.

50 years ago — June 1971

The May 20 fire which destroyed the Interlaken Inn in Lakeville was definitely of "suspicious origin," but no precise cause has been found by the Connecticut State Fire Marshal's office. From photographs and from reports of witnesses, State Trooper George Zuraitis said, the \$500,000 fire seems to have started on the front porch.

Ambassador and Mrs. Jamil M. Baroody of Lakeville had three graduations in the family this past weekend, each taking place in a different state. Robert, the eldest of the Baroody children, received his bachelor's degree Friday, June 4, from Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.; Lloyd was graduated Saturday from the Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, N.J. and Leila Baroody was graduated from the Ethel Walker School in Simsbury on Sunday. The Baroodys make their home on Wells Hill Road.

Ambassador Baroody is the deputy permanent representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations.

An unusual feature of the graduation ceremonies of Northwest Connecticut Community College in Winsted on June 5 was the presentation of Associate in Science degrees to both George H. Meach of Canaan and to his son, Christopher A. Meach. The Meaches thus became the first father and son to graduate from the school on the same day.

The Emporium, that redoubtable institution in West Cornwall, has officially changed hands. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Gold have sold both the luncheonette and package store near the old covered bridge to Mr. and Mrs. Chester Sheets, formerly of New London.

25 years ago — June 1996

FALLS VILLAGE — For the third time in little over a year, the \$845,000 school renovation plan was defeated Friday, this time by a decisive 83 votes out of 493 cast. Final figures including absentee ballots was 288 against the initiative, 205 for it.

The Salisbury Swim Team will have new docks this season thanks to the efforts of many in the community who raised more than \$8,000 for the project and received the help of untold numbers of volunteers. The new docks will serve the entire community throughout summer vacations and will be of help with the various swimming programs, both instructional and competitive.

These items were taken from The Lakeville Journal archives at Salisbury's Scoville Memorial Library, keeping the original wording intact as possible. Go to www.scovillelibrary.org to find more archives of The Lakeville Journal and other area newspapers.

political correctness. Proponents emphasize that their free speech is threatened. All well and good. Yes, you are free to say whatever you like, wear whatever you like, and fly whatever banner you choose.

But that flag is about the ad- vocation of slavery, plain and simple. Let's not be deliberately obtuse. Just because you are free to act a certain way, doesn't mean you should.

Karl Saliter
Cornwall Bridge

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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Focusing in further on the Cesar family history

Editor's note: This guest commentary came into The Lakeville Journal from Katherine Overton following the publication of a story by Senior Reporter Patrick Sullivan on the Cesar family history. It is correcting a couple of small points, and offering further information. We appreciate her reading the paper so carefully and sharing her thoughts with our readers, as follows:

GUEST COMMENTARY
CATHERINE OVERTON

Dear Mr. Sullivan, I would like to personally thank you on behalf of myself and the descendants of the Cesar family for your recent article about our family's contributions to the Salisbury/Sharon community during the early 19th and 20th centuries that was published on June 3, 2021. It is a huge honor to have our family narrative highlighted by a newspaper which has played such a large role in providing the community with facts and ideas that are important to the intellectual and social commentary that we are accustomed to reading in this publication for as far back as when my early Cesar family members were living here. I believe that featuring our history continues to uphold those early standards.

It has truly been a blessing and a privilege to have worked with the gentleman scholars at the Salisbury School and their dedicated history teacher Mr. Rhonan Mokriski, as they began the challenge of discovering previously hidden histories of African American families who were a part of our local communities, and whom they are focused on researching and commemorating. And, especially that they chose to focus on our Cesar family story which they created a documentary about: "Coloring Our Past" on YouTube.

Their enthusiasm and dedication to what they are doing is obvious to anyone who comes into contact with them or their work, and I am looking forward to reading much more about their future successful endeavors as they continue on their journey of discovery and honoring those lives who have previously been ignored or unknown.

However, I would be remiss if I did not emphasize two important points mentioned in the article in the interest of clarification:

1st: The Cesar family were FREE Black people, not FREED Black people, because they had never been enslaved in the first place as I spoke about in the documentary during the Q&A session which followed (Director's Discussion - Coloring Our Past) on YouTube.

2nd: The variations in the spelling of the names of both people and places was quite common due to not yet having mandated standards for the verification of names as there are now (i.e. No driver's licenses etc...)

However, the name on the deed to the Cesar

So, I hope to have cleared up a couple of long-standing myths about the property name and the legal status of its owners.

property that I pulled and the exact location of its whereabouts was documented at least 100 years prior to the acquisition of land by the AT which I believe started to be discussed in the early to mid-1950's. I found at least one newspaper article that was printed about this in the Hartford Courant in 1956 at the time when the property was first donated to the CT Dept of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) that mentions the phrase: "This farm gets its name from Caesar...who at one time owned it". I choose to leave out the part of about his being "a freed slave" which is inaccurate as I stated before.

So, I hope to have cleared up a couple of long-standing myths about the property name and the legal status of its owners. And I want to again say thank you to everyone who joined in our ZOOM session sponsored by the Noble Horizons website last week, or even those who have taken the time to read this wonderful article about our story in The Lakeville Journal community newspaper.

God bless!

Katherine Overton, Cesar Family Griot ("One who tells the story"), lives in Ellicott City, Md.



Empty oceans: time for a red alert

Oceans cover more than two-thirds of the earth's surface. For centuries, these bodies of water have supplied us with a bountiful harvest of ocean wildlife and millions of well-paying jobs. Unless something changes, however, the future of fisheries is in serious jeopardy.

The demand for fish is growing with aquaculture trends reaching a growth rate of 527% from 1990 to today. At the same time, fish consumption has doubled as well.

Declining fisheries, the destruction of the marine habitat, and the near-depression-like economic conditions of more and more coastal fishing communities, is no surprise to most of us. It has been going on for decades. And yet, the appetite for fish, especially among developing nations, keeps growing by more than 3% per year. Fish consumption accounts for one sixth of the global population's intake of animal protein, and more than half in many emerging markets has doubled as well.

Since the 1980s, the global seafood catch has been falling. This is despite better fishing boats and improved underwater technology, such as GPS, fish finders, echo-sounders, and acoustic cameras. This has led to an annual 2%-per-year increase in a boat's capacity to capture fish. Thanks to this "technological creep," the 10-boat fishing fleet of a generation ago has the power of 20 vessels today.

At least a billion people, if not more, rely on fish as their primary protein source and tens of millions of people around the world depend on the sea for their livelihood. As such, sev-

eral foreign governments have traditionally provided massive subsidies (\$35-40 billion/year) to their fishing fleets in order to increase their ability to compete and catch more of the world's fish. The top five nations include China, The European Union, the U.S., Korea and Japan.

Global fishing fleets are taking too much wildlife from the sea and the laws and regulations that are meant to manage and conserve fisheries are either ignored or only selectively enforced. The fact that wild-capture fish prices continue to increase and are projected to rise by 23% over this decade makes flouting the law an easy excuse. There is not a day that goes by without some new violation of existing fishing regulations somewhere, and those illegal activities are increasing.

We all know this, but few realize how bad the problem has become. Most scientists expect that if the present situation continues, by 2050 there will be a complete collapse of all wild seafood that is fished today. Ninety percent of all tuna, marlin and sharks will be gone. Of the top 10 species that account for 30% of all fisheries production, six of them (anchoveta, mackerel, pollock, Japanese anchovy, blue whiting and Atlantic herring) are fully exploited or overexploited today.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is where government leaders meet to negotiate the dos and don'ts of commercial fishing. Six years ago, negotiations began on eliminating

THE RETIRED INVESTOR
BILL SCHMICK

government subsidies that are behind the excessive and illegal depletion of the world's fisheries. It has been a game of good intentions, but broken promises. Deadlines come and go, but like so many things at the WTO, nothing has changed.

China, India, and other

Asian nations account for 85% of the world's commercial fishing employment. Those governments have only been interested in gaining exemptions, rather than enforcing more discipline among their fishing fleets. But there may be hope yet.

For one thing, there is a new Director-General at the WTO, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. She has moved a successful fishery deal to the top of her agenda for 2021. She is pushing member trade ministers to agree and sign a deal by July.

At the same time, President Biden has placed environmental concerns at the top of his agenda. His U.S. Trade Representative, Katherine Tai, seems focused on the problem of overfishing and is backing the WTO's efforts to finally get members to take some actions. Let's hope, for all our sakes, that the world can finally come to its senses before our oceans end up depleted.

Bill Schmick is registered as an investment advisor representative of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. Bill's forecasts and opinions are purely his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Onota Partners, Inc. (OPI). Email him at bill@schmickretiredinvestor.com.

White space and tiny type; balance needed for reading

Each month my wife and I receive a dozen or so magazines of various kinds, most of them interesting looking and very professionally designed. But for me, many of them have a characteristic flaw: however handsome they may be, some are often difficult to read.

In graphic design, white space is the space found inside and surrounding the other design elements. Despite its name, white space needn't be white; it might be any color, pattern, texture, or even a background image.

We tend to associate a large amount of white space with luxury and sophistication. At a fancy restaurant, food is arranged very neatly and carefully, sometimes on several plates, with plenty of "white space" whereas, at a family diner the food is piled up on one plate with little room for even the

plate to show. The same search for elegance applies to graphic design: too many objects detract from the overall look. White space lets the food look its best. The elements left out, the white spaces, are just as important as those the chef creates.

Designers refer to "micro" and "macro" white spaces, the former being, for example, the small areas between letters and words and the latter being the larger volumes of space, say between columns, paragraphs, and graphic elements, the background. Both are important in most any graphic design.

For decades, the more avant garde graphic designers have been exceedingly enamored of white space, probably because a generous use of it allows a designer to be more creative and expressive. Inevitably, designing a page of text and graphic components such as mar-

gins, sidebars, photos, pull quotes, charts and other elements involves tension between squeezing in verbal information and presenting everything in an appealing and uncluttered way. And an unsatisfactory resolution of these conflicting demands causes a reader's attention to wander.

In addition to graphic design, the associated discipline of typography has a major influence on how one appreciates printed matter. Nowadays, thanks to computers, there are thousands of typefaces although only a few dozen are used frequently for text (as opposed to those employed just for headlines or special effects), these being usually easier than most others to read. The more popular typefaces usually have a family of variations (regular, light, bold, italic, etc.) thus allowing a rich variety within an overall discipline.

Typefaces are classified as serif or sans serif, the former having a small line or stroke at the ends of its letters (Times, Baskerville, Palatino), the latter (Helvetica, Futura, Gill Sans) not. A few, such as Optima, are somewhere in between. Traditionalists have argued that serifs make blocks of text easier

OCCASIONAL OBSERVER
MAC GORDON

to read. Others disagree and say that sans serifs are more modern, more appropriate for our times, and no more difficult to read.

Unlike with a book, in a poster or advertisement text is normally secondary to white space, thus giving the overall picture more artistic possibilities. With only a small amount of text, readability is second to creating a powerful and alluring image. And even if the text is distorted, it is usually readable because there is not much of it and it's surrounded by ample white space.

Most people over 35 need glasses to read type smaller than 12 point, the most common size for a letter (the typical point size for newspaper or magazine copy is 9 or 10 point). Typefaces for periodicals' texts are usually selected for exceptional readability and are generally in black, with backgrounds normally white or off white. Text over a photograph is more difficult to read as is text in colored type.

White text on a dark background is much harder to read than the reverse. Tiny type with point sizes less than 10 are challenging even for those with 20/20 vision. Type is defi-

nately too small If one needs a magnifying glass in addition to spectacles in order to read a word.

Graphic designers sometimes go too far in their search for greater artistry. Often the additional white space gained by shrinking the type is trivial and hardly worth burdening the reader for. What can be particularly infuriating is to encounter a substantial amount of text in tiny type on a page that also has an excessive amount of white space composed mostly of margins (the edges of the page). Similarly annoying are

other elements such as very small pictures surrounded by voluminous white space. As always, proportion is key.

Such unnecessary difficulties for the eye challenge a reader's determination to read the entire article and seem particularly unwarranted since today most readers of newspapers, magazines and other printed matter are more often than not middle-aged and, to read, need all the help they can get.

Architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon lives in Lakeville (and needs glasses for reading.)




PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

A reflective time of day

Realtor® at Large

With the increase in development in the NW corner of Connecticut, it is only a matter of time until some landowners encounter another long established inhabitant... the beaver. The State reintroduced them in the early 1900's and they have successfully repopulated Connecticut. They are protected animals and CT DEEP has written an excellent pamphlet on their history, benefits and how to live in harmony with them. This can be found on the State website at: portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/wildlife/pdf_files/habitat/beavertct.pdf. Also, I am happy to email a copy to you!



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