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# The Lakeville Journal

12 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS VOLUME 124 NUMBER 39 © 2021 The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Lakeville (Town of Salisbury), Connecticut 06039 THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021 \$2.00

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

## Regional schools budget vote was May 4

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Residents of the six towns of the Region One School District voted on the regional school budget on Tuesday, May 4, at town halls in the six regional towns.

Results of the vote were not available at press time for this week's issue. They will be posted online at [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com) as soon as they become available and will be included in the May 13 issue of The Lakeville Journal.

## Affordable housing plan vote on May 17

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Planning and Zoning Commission will vote on a resolution approving an affordable housing application on Monday, May 17.

The commission met online Wednesday, April 28, to deliberate.

The commission concluded that the intervenors failed to meet their burden of showing that the Salisbury Housing Committee's affordable housing building at 11 Holley St. in Lakeville will unreasonably impair the historic resources of the state.

The commissioners then addressed a lengthy list of concerns that will be included as conditions in the resolution.

These included: A prohibition on working on cars in the parking lot; reducing the size of the chimneys; "softening" the support columns in the rear of the building with stone cladding or some other material; restrictions on window treatments; a "no loading" zone in the front of the building (on Millerton Road/Route 44); an enclosed area for garbage bins; approval from the State Historic Preservation Office; a recommendation that the town clarify the right of way near the site.

P&Z Chair Michael Klemens said he, Land Use Administrator Abby Conroy and attorney Charles Andres would prepare an affirmative resolution with conditions for the May 17 regular meeting of

See HOUSING, Page A6



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The ceremony honoring James Mars on Sunday, May 2, ended with drumming led by Angaza Mwando, at right.

## Paying tribute to the life of James Mars at a witness stone ceremony in Norfolk

By Patrick L. Sullivan

NORFOLK — The life of James Mars was celebrated at the Norfolk Congregational Church on Sunday, May 2, with a ceremony marking the unveiling of a witness stone honoring Mars, the last slave bought or sold in Norfolk.

Students from Salisbury School, under the guidance of history teacher Rhonan Mokriski, put the event together as part of a new course, "Searching for Slavery in Salisbury."

In a Zoom interview Monday, May 3, the students described the considerable logistical effort needed to bring together U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-5), state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64), state Sen. Kevin Witkos (R-8), Dennis Powell of the Berkshire County, Mass., branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Angaza Mwando of Our Culture is Beautiful of Torrington, and the Rev. Cleo Graham, pastor of Faith Congregational Church in Hartford.

The students' efforts were assisted by a

grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

The Rev. Erick Olsen of the Norfolk Congregational Church welcomed the crowd, which the Salisbury School students counted at 115.

Brendan Cassamajor, one of the students, said the May 2 event was the result of a school year's worth of planning.

The Norfolk church and the Norfolk Historical Society were particularly helpful.

See JAMES MARS, Page A6

## Farm market season is here!

By Cynthia Hochswender

CORNWALL — Strong winds that began late Friday continued into Saturday morning, the first day of May and also the first day of the Northwest Corner farm markets. The Cornwall Coop Market opened on the Green on Pine Street at 9 a.m. with herbs, baked goods from legendary Cornwall baker Susan Saccardi, maple syrup, honey, meats, dairy products, eggs — lots of eggs.

"Look at these beautiful big eggs, you can't find anything like that at a grocery store," said Gordon Ridgway, a farmer and also the town's first selectman.

Ridgway said there will be even more vendors this year, thanks to the recent influx of new residents in town; and thanks to a particularly good 2020 summer market season. He said some vendors at the market saw a 50% increase in sales last summer.

The Coop Market is open from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Saturday on the Green. In the afternoon, Ridgway said, anything that hasn't sold will go to The Local, at 415 Sha-

See MARKETS, Page A6



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Gordon Ridgway hefted a large farm-raised egg at the Cornwall Coop Market.

## String of car thefts and burglaries in the region

By Alexander Wilburn

FALLS VILLAGE — The State Police at Troop B are currently investigating a string of thefts from private residences just blocks from each other in Falls Village. Four different vehicles were stolen from their owners' driveways — all on a single night, in the early hours of Monday, April 26.

The four vehicles stolen were:

- A red 2017 Subaru Forester taken from a residence on Cobble Road between midnight and 2 a.m.
- A red Subaru Outback taken from a residence on Beebe Hill Road between 3 and 3:30 a.m.
- A gray 2017 Acura RDX taken from a residence on Bee-

be Hill between 3 and 3:30 a.m.

The first three stolen vehicles were left unlocked with the keys inside. The Jeep was locked but still had a set of the owner's keys inside the vehicle.

See THEFTS, Page A6

## Sharon begins to explore owning its own cable network

By Rob Buccino

SHARON — The Sharon Connect Task Force updated residents about the town's ongoing efforts to improve local access to broadband internet service in a Zoom meeting on Thursday, April 29. Co-hosts of the meeting were Jill Drew and Meghan Flanagan.

Most of the call addressed progress toward potentially building a town-owned fiber

optic cable network to provide high-speed internet connections to businesses and residents situated along all town and state roads.

Fiber optic cable transmits data faster and farther than the coaxial cable currently connecting homes and businesses to internet providers such as Comcast and Frontier, and also lasts longer before needing replacement.

To explore this option rig-

orously, the Task Force has requested a \$30,000 grant from the town budget and has also applied for \$60,000 from federal funds earmarked for internet access enhancement.

These amounts would fund an engineering study to map town thoroughfares and utility pole locations, identify optimal locations for utility huts to house distribution technology,

See BROADBAND, Page A6



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## In The Journal this week

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### Three-day forecast

Friday.....Rain, high 57°/low 39°  
 Saturday.....Cloudy, 57°/37°  
 Sunday.....Cloudy, 55°/37°

## Vaccines for Salisbury residents

SALISBURY — The Salisbury School boys boarding school will host a Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic for Salisbury residents ages 16 and up on Saturday, May 8 (first dose), and Saturday, May 29 (second dose), between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Preregistration is required and information will be posted on the Town of Salisbury website at [www.salisburyct.us](http://www.salisburyct.us). For more information, contact Lisa McAuliffe at 860-435-5186 or [lmcauliffe@salisburyct.us](mailto:lmcauliffe@salisburyct.us).

## FAMILY & FRIENDS

### Salisbury Central honor roll

SALISBURY — Salisbury Central School released its list of honors for the second trimester of the 2020-21 school year.

Neve Kline, Saoirse O'Connell, Eloise Prinz, Rebecca Sadlon, Ava Segalla, Orla Shillingford

#### Honors

Stella Fenton, Carter Haab

#### Eighth grade

##### Highest honors

Tessie Connell, Tess Marks, Jassim Mohyidin, Mason O'Neil, Gabriela Titone, Elinor Wolgemuth

##### High honors

Kobe Brown, Lou Haemerle, Sara Huber, Olivia Robson, Dominik Valcin

#### Honors

Georgette Campagne, Briana Clark, Jayme Walsh

#### Sixth grade

##### Highest honors

Levi Houck, Marygrace Hussey, Robert Nellson, Charlie O'Connell, Ishaan Tantri

##### High honors

Asher Blake, Hadley Casey, Gianna Cordova-Fiori, Carmela Egan, Wiley Fails, Cooper Grace, Fae Hall, Makenzie Lidstone, Jackson McAvoy, Cole Metcalf, Michael Philipp, Christopher Race, Grafton Reilly, Adele Russell

#### Honors

Benjamin Fiorillo, Ryan Segalla

#### Seventh grade

##### Highest honors

Annabel Prinz, Ella Woodworth, Mirabelle Wright

##### High honors

Elizabeth Allyn, Ileana Carter, Kip Carter, Mabel Fenton, Anna Gillette, Nicolas Gonzalez, Chloe Hill, Sara Ireland,

## 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.

#### Two-car collision

On April 24 at approximately 9:45 p.m. a 2011 Toyota Camry driven by Olivia Rose Woods, 19, of Cornwall drove onto Route 41 from Low Road in Sharon without yielding the right of way and was struck by

a 2012 Chevrolet Silverado driven by Robert Barnett, 71, of New Milford, Conn. Upon impact the Toyota was pushed into a utility pole. Woods was transported to Sharon Hospital for injuries from the collision. She was issued a written warning for failure to yield the right of way.

#### Struck a utility pole

On April 24 at approximately 10:15 p.m. on Furnace Brook Road in Cornwall a 2010 Honda Civic LX driven by Mat-

thew Peterson, 24, of Plainville, Conn., lost control and struck an Eversource utility post. Peterson was issued an infraction for failure to maintain the lane and traveling too fast for the conditions.

#### Rear-ended

On April 26 at approximately 8:30 p.m. on Main Street in North Canaan a 2015 Ram 2500 driven by James Dawson, 39, of Southfield, Mass., stopped to turn left and was struck from behind by a 2017 Honda Civic LX driven by Kathryn Boughton, 73, of North Canaan. No injuries were reported. Boughton was issued a written warning for following too closely and a verbal warning for distracted driving while using a handheld electronic device.

#### Possession of cannabis

On April 28 at approximately 10:45 p.m. on East Main Street in North Canaan Troop B was dispatched to the XtraMart gas station following a report of an intoxicated male at the gas pumps. After failing a standardized field sobriety test,

Preston Shaffer, 25, of Sharon was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, use of drug paraphernalia and possession of less than a half ounce of cannabis. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on May 12.

#### Two-car collision

On April 30 at approximately 5:30 p.m. on Main Street in Salisbury a 1996 Ford F350 driven by Barrie Richardson, 29, of Sharon attempted to make a left turn at the intersection and struck a 2016 Ford Focus driven by Mackenzie Dunlavy, 19, of Millerton. No injuries were reported. Richardson was found at fault and issued an infraction for failure to grant the right of way at an intersection.

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](mailto:cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com).

## Trial tower balloon now scheduled for Friday, May 7

SALISBURY — First Selectman Curtis Rand said on Tuesday, May 4, that the test balloon related to an application for a 94-foot cell tower at 106 Sharon Road (the Wake Robin Inn) will go up on Friday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.. The rain date is Sunday, May 9.

The test had originally been scheduled for Monday, May 3, but was postponed because of weather.

The application for the tower may be viewed at [portal.ct.gov/CSC/1\\_Applications-and-Other-Pending-Matters/Pending-Matters](http://portal.ct.gov/CSC/1_Applications-and-Other-Pending-Matters/Pending-Matters). The docket number is 501.

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 SPEAKER  
 City of Hudson



**Meg Sher**  
 SPEAKER  
 David M. Hunt Library



**Frances Jones-Sneed**  
 SPEAKER  
 Clinton Church Restoration



**Suzette Brooks Masters**  
 MODERATOR  
 Immigration expert & BTCF board member

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# Our Towns



PHOTO BY TOM ZETTERSTROM

Stanley Morby, the newest member of the town crew, planted two trees at North Canaan Elementary School last week in advance of an April 30 Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration.

## Honoring beloved staff at Earth/Arbor Day celebration

By Leila Hawken

NORTH CANAAN — Arbor Day and Earth Day were combined for a day at North Canaan Elementary School (NCES) last week, as students, staff and community members gathered to dedicate two newly planted flowering dogwood trees in memory of two beloved staff members lost in 2021.

Now in its 31st year as an annual observance, the ceremony was held on Friday, April 30, the official date of Arbor Day in 2021, as NCES Principal Alicia Roy guided the program of appreciation for the contributions of two staff members, each remembered with their own memorial tree.

The pink dogwood was dedicated to the memory of Katy Sherwood, a paraprofessional at the school for the past three years. She was the mother of two NCES students: Jake in the eighth grade and Abby in the seventh grade. A third child, Carter, will soon enroll

at NCES.

The white dogwood is in memory of Leila Wood, who had served as school counselor since 1986. She was an unfailing source of comfort, courage and strength for NCES students over the years. (Her obituary is in this week's Lakeville Journal, on Page A5.)

Sixth grade students recited poetry that they had written for the occasion.

Many volunteers contributed to the event. Roy thanked The Canaan Foundation for its general support of the school's arboretum project, and she added thanks to the North Canaan selectmen and the town crew, including Chris Toomey, Bryon Carlson and Stanley Morby, for help with the planting work and seeing that the young trees got off to a good start.

Laurel Brook Natural Resources contributed three cubic yards of rich garden soil, and additional thanks went to Christian Allyn and Tom

Zetterstrom for their continued attention to the arboretum.

While the observance of Arbor Day dates back to its beginnings as the idea of a Nebraska newspaperman in the early 1870s, the idea had spread steadily when President Richard Nixon named it a national holiday in 1970. Earth Day (celebrated on April 22 each year) also got its start in 1970, generally recognized as the start of the environmental movement. That movement is now in its 51st year.

## Sharon budget vote will be May 14

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Gathering in person at Sharon Center School or remotely on Zoom, about 45 residents attended the public hearing on Friday, April 30, to hear details of the 2021-22 proposed budgets.

The budgets had been approved for presentation by the Board of Finance after submission by the boards of selectmen and education.

Some questions were asked by residents seeking clarification on proposed expenditures.

Immediately following the hearing, the Board of Finance met to review the comments that were voiced. Having heard

no call for substantive changes, they decided unanimously to make no changes to the budgets as presented and to move the budgets on for consideration at the annual town meeting scheduled for Friday, May 14, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The town meeting will be held at Sharon Center School.

### Education spending

Reviewing the education side of the town budget, Board of Education Chairman Doug Cahill outlined the expenditures showing a total of \$4,513,781 for Sharon Center School, an increase of \$170,468 over the current year, or 3.92%.

Sharon's share of the Region One School District is esti-

mated at \$2,066,112, down by \$146,411, or 6.6%.

Maintenance projects foreseen for the coming year at the school include a security upgrade (\$9,702) and air conditioning for the lower floor level, estimated at \$200,000. Air conditioning in the gymnasium would come along in a future year's budget.

### An AC alternative

During the hearing, a representative of the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission did not question the need for air conditioning, but rather urged attention to today's high-efficiency options such as heat pumps that could be powered by solar energy. Newer systems are energy efficient and would provide lower utility costs, while reducing the town's carbon footprint substantially.

### Municipal spending

The budget proposed by the Board of Selectmen totals \$4,852,223, an increase of \$181,956 over the current year, a 3.89% increase. First Selectman Brent Colley reviewed the anticipated expenditures.

Residents asked for clarification of salaries, and the wisdom of combining the duties into one employee, such as the merging of the fire marshal and the enforcement officer in the building department.

Another focus was on how support for local organizations is apportioned each year.

## Town spending plan presented to FV finance board

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — First Selectman Henry Todd presented the 2021-22 municipal spending plan to the Board of Finance on Monday, April 26.

The bottom line is \$2,031,057, an increase of \$168,812 (9.06%).

Town Hall employees receive a 3% increase in salary. The town's insurance is up by \$6,000 to \$23,060.

The salary for the Economic Development Coordinator is up quite a bit, from \$2,000 to \$10,695, and the Recreation Director's salary is bumped up from \$9,300 to \$10,691.

### Mount Riga Guest Beach Pass 2021

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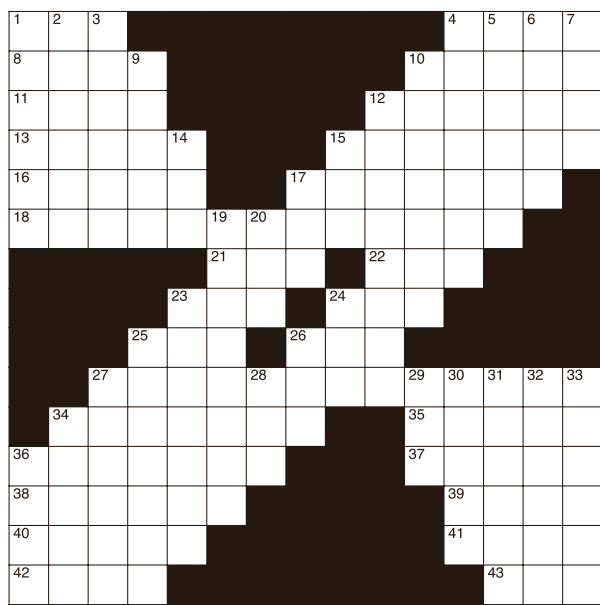
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Engine additive
4. A hearty laugh
8. Restrain
10. Dried coconut kernels
11. Nefarious
12. Elderly
13. Central part of a church building
15. Throw into confusion
16. Intestinal
17. Qualities of being religious
18. Live up to a standard
21. Seize
22. Go quickly
23. Automated teller machine
24. Bowling necessity
25. One point east of due south
26. Japanese honorific
27. A way to induce sleep
34. Makes cash register rolls
35. A city in S Louisiana
36. Make more cheerful
37. Manicurist
38. Consents
39. Network of nerves
40. Mocking smile
41. It covers the body
42. Partner to pans
43. Perform in a play

### CLUES DOWN

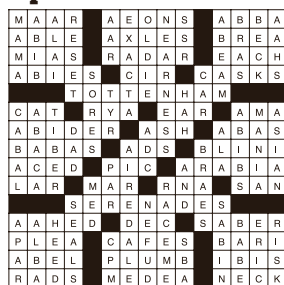
1. Beautiful
2. Polynesian island country
3. Shrub of the olive family
4. Self-governing Netherlands territory
5. Shared one's view
6. Tailless amphibians
7. Charge passengers must pay
9. Sound sheep make
10. Known for sure
12. Filled with unexpressed anger
14. Student (abbr.)
15. Criticize
17. Gathering place
19. Informal alliances
20. One's mother (British)
23. Landholder
24. Peter's last name



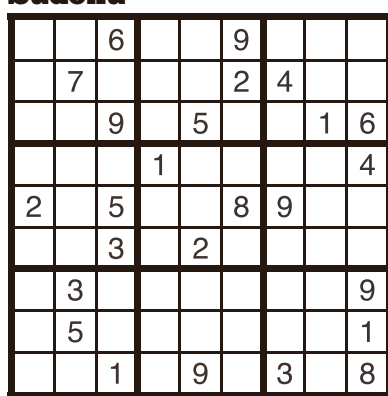
25. Parties
26. Title of respect
27. Red wine
28. Pearl Jam's debut
29. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
30. Frosts
31. Cry of joy
32. Induces vomiting
33. Mother or father
34. Dal \_\_\_: Musical navigation marker
36. Door fastener part

Look for the solution in next week's issue.

### April 29 Solution

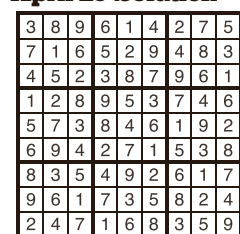


### Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

### April 29 Solution



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# Our Towns

## What a lovely way to say 'thank you'



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

### Now it's called Wheeler Wine and Spirits Merchant

Dave Wheeler is moving slowly forward with the change of name for his business from Rick's Wine and Spirits in Sharon at the shopping plaza, to Wheeler Wine and Spirits Merchant. The new outdoor sign was installed on Wednesday, April 28. The small Rick's Wine and Spirits sign, for now, is still on the outside of the building; Wheeler is looking for an appropriate work of art for that part of the entry area.



PHOTO BY CAROLINE BURCHFIELD

Students from The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville expressed their gratitude to community emergency responders by filling the planters in front of the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service and the Lakeville Hose Company with spring pansies on Tuesday, April 27. Among the students was Kiki Henry, left.

### Kent budget set for public hearing May 7

By Leila Hawken

KENT — After restoring funds to three accounts, the Board of Finance voted to approve the amended proposed 2021-22 town budget at their meeting on Tuesday, April 28. The meeting was conducted on Zoom.

The action cleared the way for the town budget and the

Board of Education budget to be considered at a public hearing to be held on Friday, May 7, beginning at 7 p.m., on Zoom.

Indicating that the selectmen had taken no action at their April meeting to resolve the budget requests from the Kent Memorial Library (\$125,000) and the Kent Volunteer Fire Department (\$106,000), finance board member Ed Epstein urged funding the two organizations at their originally requested levels. The finance board acted accordingly.

The Emergency Medical Services line was raised to its requested level of \$31,797.

By those actions, the new funding total for the town budget proposal stands at \$13,363,029. To keep the mill rate steady, that total will require that \$486,250 be withdrawn from the town's unassigned General Fund.

Finance board member Rufus de Rham commented that he understood the selectmen's intent had been to hold the mill rate steady for the coming year.

Copies of the town budget proposals are available at Town Hall in printed form, and the budget is also posted on the town website at [www.townofkentct.org](http://www.townofkentct.org); click on the announcement of the May 7 public hearing.

## Hilltop Road residents in Sharon ask for a stop to speeding

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Concerned about continued speeding along Hilltop Road, residents approached the Board of Selectmen at their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 27, asking that the town demonstrate progress on the issue.

"We just want to know that things are moving," one resident said, asking for a timeline for progress on the request for control of speeding cars on Hilltop Road (where the entry is to Sharon Center School).

Residents have complained that their road is used by many motorists as a convenient town center bypass connecting Routes 41 and 4, and that excessive speed is endangering both their safety and the students' safety at Sharon Center School.

Selectman Dale Jones said that the budget process has consumed attention for the past two months.

First Selectman Brent Colley said that he would be participating in a speed management seminar the next day. He had registered for the

three-hour virtual meeting to learn about what data should be gathered and analyzed and to be informed about speed mitigation programs in use throughout the state.

Once the issue is fully understood, then a public meeting will be scheduled to allow residents to express opinions and to hear from a road engineer, Colley explained. Jones described that public meeting as "an informational hearing," a valuable part of the process.

"If we go in with the idea of initializing speed mitigation on one road, what is to stop people from wanting it for their own streets?" Jones asked.

Colley indicated that the se-

lectmen need to consider the town as a whole when enacting new programs.

The Hilltop Road residents expressed their opinion that their problem is singular.

Nearing completion on the process for adopting a Food Truck Ordinance for the town, the selectmen approved the final draft. The vote was unanimous to include the new ordinance on the agenda of the next town meeting, scheduled for Friday, May 14, to be voted on by residents.

The selectmen also agreed to hire Mary O'Reilly as the town's new Social Services Agent. She will fill the position previously served by Miriam Jones.

The Hotchkiss School is seeking house rentals for new faculty hires.

We are seeking rentals that are/have:

- Year round
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- 2-3BR, 4BR on occasion
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Montgomery Lodge No.13 in Lakeville

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

## Falls Village's Former Town Hall Is Born Again as a Gallery

After repeated winter walks down the quiet Main Street of her countryside town, Kathleen Kucka had an idea.

A former downtown New York City artist and curator, Kucka has made a home in Falls Village, Conn. — fittingly, on the property of another artist, the late American muralist Ezra Winter.

In the long stretch of the winding, displaced time of the pandemic, it's easy to forget that it was fairly recently, in that let's-throw-a-party summer of 2019, that celebrated interior designer Bunny Williams unveiled her home decorating store in Falls Village, at (and called) 100 Main Street.

It was the village's single retail offering — not just on Main Street, but in the entirety of what's known as "Connecticut's second smallest town" (for the record, the smallest town is Union, with a population of 854; Falls Village has a population of 1,050).

Yet just across the street from 100 Main Street, were two small, adjoining commercial properties, like unanswered questions, recently vacant and full of potential.

A town committee had been formed, to search for business ideas that could build off Williams' success. At the start of the year, Kucka went to work, and on May 1 she successfully celebrated the opening of her new gallery.

Furnace: Art on Paper Archive is a contemporary setting exhibiting a single-artist collection on paper — bold, graphic and thoroughly high-end.

To conceive of the gallery, and open it in only a matter of months, is an ambitious timeline in any year. But for some, there's



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

**Artist Stephen Maine attended the opening of his solo exhibit, which was the debut show for Furnace: Art on Paper Archive on Saturday, May 1. Gallery-owner Kathleen Kucka, right, has turned the former town hall in Falls Village, Conn., into a stylish space to view contemporary works on paper.**

been a particular energy harvested from the emptiness of the pandemic — it has been a space for renewal, for taking the unexpected turn, and seizing an opportunity that might have otherwise gone by.

For Kucka, despite productivity in her own artist studio, the time away from the downtown clamor, buzz and chatter of the art scene only clarified the importance of public viewing and conversation around the unveiling of new work.

"Not seeing artwork in person, I was really craving it, and craving that art community. I realized just being in the void of my own studio for one hundred percent of my time isn't enough. I really need that yin and yang, that dialogue with artists and their work."

### MAINE TO FALLS VILLAGE

With newly mounted large-scale gallery walls that mostly obscure the building's original old-fashioned wainscoting, Furnace has been reimagined as a sleek, crisp white canvas — all the better to draw focus to the hyper-pigmented abstracts of artist Stephen Maine.

Browsing the debut show at Furnace the week before its unveiling, Kucka admired the work of Maine, a printmaker based in Cornwall, Conn., who has shown his optical color explosions internationally.

"There's something almost geological about the paintings. He uses these self-created plates that he carves from Styrofoam," Kucka explained. "It's a very physical process, and in a way a very sculptural process as he carves out these shapes, and then applies paint to them and makes these impressions that get layered and layered over time. When I say over time, I mean years. When he works it's always a surprise. The work is always revealing itself."

### PAPER AS A POINT OF ENTRY

Kucka is the only gallery owner in the town (although the local library puts on popular art shows). "I really like that it becomes a cloistered

experience instead of art hopping," she said.

As if that weren't differentiated enough, Furnace has a niche specialty: paper. It's an often-utilized medium that provides an intimate connection with an artist's methods as well as an inviting scale of price variation.

"Artists make so much work on paper as a process, when developing paintings. It's a way of working quickly, and it's not that expensive as an outlay. But these works often aren't shown. There's so much available work, why not show it?"

Kucka acknowledged another advantage. With the ease of shipping paper, Furnace is looking beyond Litchfield County — "even artists from Berlin," she said — for contemporary talent to showcase.

Through the back door of Furnace, Kucka wove her way through a little labyrinth of construction (the second part of the shared building will soon open as a café) and stepped into an actual walk-in safe from the days when this was the Town Hall. It's a turn-of-the-century vault, massive and heavy, not like the shiny Swiss-style ones you might see in a heist film. The unexpectedly large safe, with sectioned-off interior spaces, offered a surprising shift in tone from the airy front of the gallery — industrial, brutal and underground.

Unconventional art spaces are nothing new in New York City, where a pop-up guerrilla fashion show can make a splash at the grimmest of warehouses. In this second space, away from the central gallery, you can examine works on paper by Marilla Palmer, Georgia McGovern, Amanda Konishi. It's clear there's depth to the collection Kucka is developing in Falls Village. Despite a small space in a small town, there is the sense that she's ready to offer a big statement.

Furnace: Art on Paper Archive is at 107 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. The show of work by Stephen Maine called, "Cupcake Uptake and the Cloud of Unknowing," can be seen Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information go to [www.furnace-artonpaperarchive.com](http://www.furnace-artonpaperarchive.com) or follow @furnace\_artonpaper on Instagram.

ART: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

## Saltz Sifts Through the Good, Bad & Ugly

Jerry Saltz, the art critic for New York magazine, told an online audience for the Salisbury Forum that the "art world is an all-volunteer army" and that there will be "a lot of new uniforms" available as pandemic restrictions are eased.

Saltz spoke online from his home in Manhattan at the Salisbury, Conn., Forum on Friday, April 23.

He covered a lot of ground in his breezy, informal remarks, briefly interrupted by a technical problem.

He said that from his youth in Chicago to his current status as art critic, he has always been around art in one way or another.

But it hasn't been an easy journey. Saltz said that he tried to be an artist because he noticed that "the people who were having sex were in theater, music or art."

But "then the demons started to speak to me."

Plagued by self-doubt, "I self-exiled from the art world."

Now living in New York, lacking skills or education, and nursing the notion that "the world owed me a living," he became a long-haul truck driver, driving rigs from New York to Texas or Florida and back.

Even then he couldn't quite cut his ties with the art world. His cargo? Works of art.

He described this 10-year period as an unhappy, rage-filled time.

But he stayed connected to the art world, going to shows and galleries and spending time with other art people.

Saltz said to break into the art world, the first rule is to show up.

Then he corrected himself, saying the first rule is "work, work, work."

He dismissed the idea of creative blocks. "There is only one solution for not working: Working."

He also championed the habit of staying up late and sharing ideas about art "with your fellow vampires."

Asked about online art sales, Saltz said "all the walls are down."

"Anyone can rent a crappy little storefront now."

As for the online world, Saltz said there are an increasing number of platforms for artists to get their work to the public.

However, he added, "I want to stand up for art in the flesh."

Saltz said he likes to post pictures of art that catch his eye.

It doesn't have to be good. He doesn't even have to like it.

His criteria: that the work is "credible, that it captures the urgency of the moment."

Asked if he would identify any up and coming artists, he demurred.

He said the art world has become much larger and more international in the digital age, and thus harder to keep up with.

He advised people to visit the small galleries of the Lower East Side in Manhattan.

"There's a lot of good work," he said.

But "85% of it is crap."

This is nothing new, he added. "Eighty-five percent of the art in the Renaissance was crap too. You just have to sort it out for yourself."

*The next speaker for the Salisbury Forum will be Steven Johnson on Wednesday, May 26, at 7:30 pm. Johnson is the author of New York Times bestsellers including "How We Got To Now," "Unexpected Life" and "Where Good Ideas Come From."*

## ART THAT HONORS THE WORKERS, AT AMP

In a Zoom event presented by the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., on Wednesday, May 12, at 7 p.m., Amy Wynn, executive director of the American Mural Project (AMP), will share the story of AMP, with slides, video and a question and answer.

The American Mural Project (AMP), founded by Artistic Director Ellen Griesedieck in 2001, began as an art project to pay tribute to the American worker. AMP is also the name of the museum in which the mural and other

exhibits will be housed in two historic mill buildings in the former factory town of Winsted, Conn.

AMP is completing the renovation of the first of its two mill buildings. The museum's full complex ultimately will house the mural gallery, exhibit spaces, and program, workshop and event spaces.

To register for this event, go to [www.HuntLibrary.org](http://www.HuntLibrary.org) or the David M. Hunt Facebook page, or call the library at 860-824-7424. For more information on AMP, go to [www.AmericanMuralProject.org](http://www.AmericanMuralProject.org).

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HISTORY: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

# Remembering the Flood of 1955

In August 1955 a massive flood swept through Litchfield County, Conn., caused by what an article in The Lakeville Journal at that time described as “great rattling curtains of rain.” The fast-moving torrents of water impacted nearly every town in this largely rural county. It was the more developed towns that were hardest hit. The impact of the rushing waters was bad enough in the country towns, which still had, largely, unpaved roads and smaller-scale residential and commercial buildings. But in the more developed towns such as Torrington and the once-thriving Winsted (which has a river running through its downtown area), the destruction was deeper and more complete.

and storefronts were completely crushed. Rebuilding would require a Herculean effort and a great deal of money. Town residents pulled together. Torrington eventually came back to life. But in Winsted, it was harder. There are people who say that this factory town never quite recovered, spiritually or economically, from the flood of '55. The Torrington Historical Society will host an online program about the flood on Wednesday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. The talk is free to the public and is sponsored by Connecticut Humanities. Torrington Historical Society Executive Director Mark McEachern will focus on the impact the flood had on Torrington in his talk, “Black Friday: The Flood of 1955.” According to the pre-

view information on the show, in the flood of 1955, “Torrington sustained its worst disaster on record. Seven lives were lost, 20 homes and 28 firms were destroyed and there was extensive damage to homes, businesses and industries. “But, in a spirit not seen before or since, people came together, helped their neighbors and with the aid of state and federal services, rebuilt their city.” To illustrate his talk, McEachern will share photos from the historical society’s extensive collection of images of the flood and its aftermath, including many taken by professional photographer James Miller, a Torrington resident. The photos on this page are not from Torrington; they are from Winsted. They were in the files for The Lakeville Journal issue

of Aug. 25, 1955. That issue can be seen in our online archive <http://scoville.advantage-preservation.com>. Although you won't see all these Winsted photos, you can read about and learn how our small area towns weathered the storm. To register, go to the Torrington Historical Society home page at [www.torringtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.torringtonhistoricalsociety.org).



LAKEVILLE JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. All entries can be found in our full calendar at [www.TriCornerNews.com](http://www.TriCornerNews.com).

- ART**
- Berkshire Botanical Garden.** 5 West Stockbridge Road, Stockbridge, Mass. [www.berkshirebotanical.org](http://www.berkshirebotanical.org) Flights of Fancy: The Botanical and Bejeweled Universe of Mindy Lam, May 1 to June 6.
  - D. M. Hunt Library.** 63 Main Street, Falls Village, Conn. [www.huntlibrary.org](http://www.huntlibrary.org) Small Town, Big Talk, through May 28.
  - Eckert Fine Art.** 1315 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, Mass. [www.eckertfineart.com](http://www.eckertfineart.com) Eric Forstmann – 21, May 29 through June 30.
  - Scoville Memorial Library.** 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [www.scovillelibrary.org](http://www.scovillelibrary.org) David Hockney at the Morgan, May 13, 2 to 3 p.m. (online).
  - Sharon Historical Society.** 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn. [www.sharonhist.org](http://www.sharonhist.org) Renewal, Rhythm, and Repetition, May 8 through July 9.
  - BOOKS**
  - The Cornwall Library.** 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. [www.cornwalllibrary.org](http://www.cornwalllibrary.org) Under the Tent Book Sale, May 29 and 31 and June 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 30 and June 6, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
  - D. M. Hunt Library.** 63 Main Street, Falls Village, Conn. [www.huntlibrary.org](http://www.huntlibrary.org) Book Talk: The Stonewall Generation: LGBTQ Elders on Sex, Activism, and

- Aging with Author Jane Fleishman, June 5, 4 to 5 p.m.
- Hotchkiss Library of Sharon.** 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [www.hotchkisslibrary.org](http://www.hotchkisslibrary.org) HLS Book Group: On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous by Ocean Vuong, May 4, 7 to 8:30 p.m. (online).
- Merritt Bookstore.** 57 Front St., Millbrook, N.Y. [www.merrittbookstore.com](http://www.merrittbookstore.com) Merritt Bookstore Presents Barbara Becker and Joanna Rakoff, May 11, 7:30 to 9 p.m. (online).
- Millbrook Free Library.** 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. [www.millbrooklibrary.org](http://www.millbrooklibrary.org) MillBook Club - On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous, May 28, 6 p.m. (online).
- Scoville Memorial Library.** 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [www.scovillelibrary.org](http://www.scovillelibrary.org) SML Book Club “A Burning” by Megha Majumdar Led by Claudia Cayne, May 16, 2 to 3 p.m. (online).
- DANCE**
- The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck.** 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, N.Y. [www.centerforperformingarts.org](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org) Celtic Heels Irish Dance, May 15, 11 a.m.
- KIDS**
- American Mural Project.** 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. [www.americanmuralproject.org](http://www.americanmuralproject.org) Draw @AMP (virtual program), May 6, 13, 20, and 27, 5 to 5:45 p.m. (online).

- Kent Memorial Library.** 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. [www.kentmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.kentmemoriallibrary.org) Mother's Day Storytime and Flower Planting, May 8, 11 a.m.; Family Outdoor Movie Night - "Over the Hedge" (2006), May 14, 7 p.m.
- Warner Theatre.** 68 Main Street, Torrington, Conn. [www.warnertheatre.org](http://www.warnertheatre.org) Summer Arts Program; see website for details.
- TALKS**
- The Cornwall Library.** 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. [www.cornwalllibrary.org](http://www.cornwalllibrary.org) Farming in the Northwest Corner: Education, Economics and Ecology, May 8, 5:30 p.m. (online). The Beautiful Birds and Beasts of Cornwall: An Illustrated Talk by Larry Master, May 14, 5 p.m. (online).
- Kent Memorial Library.** 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. [www.kentmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.kentmemoriallibrary.org) Morris Lecture Series: Robert E. Lee & Me, May 13, 7 p.m. (online).
- Millbrook Free Library.** 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. [www.millbrooklibrary.org](http://www.millbrooklibrary.org) North Korea's Changing State and Society, May 10, 7 to 8 p.m. (online).
- The Salisbury Forum.** Salisbury, Conn. [www.salisburyforum.org](http://www.salisburyforum.org) STEVEN JOHNSON: "Extra Life: A Short History of Living Longer," A Zoom Webinar, May 26, 7:30 p.m. (online).

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