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**Tri-Corner  
Real Estate  
Inside**

# The Lakeville Journal

24 PAGES IN 3 SECTIONS VOLUME 124 NUMBER 33 © 2021 The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Lakeville (Town of Salisbury), Connecticut 06039 THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021 \$2.00

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

## COVID-19 will once again have an impact on area garden centers

By Cynthia Hochswender

SHARON — There will still be snow, of course, but spring is officially here and with it comes the opening of area garden centers — many of whom opened for business on that first spring day, Saturday, March 20.

Some of the markets and garden centers, such as Freund's in East Canaan and McEnroe Organic in Miller-ton, stayed open through the winter.

Kent Greenhouse and Salisbury Garden Center opened March 20.

Paley's in Sharon on Amenia Road/Route 343, had planned to open March 27 but had an earlier "soft" opening because the weather was so nice.

The opening was particularly exciting, after an unusually rough 2020 for Sarah and Chris Coon (who begin their third year running the market this year; Sarah is the younger sister of founder Charlie Paley, and she's been working with him since they were both teens).

As much as we hate to look back at 2020, it's worth remembering the odd squeeze that all our garden centers experienced in the early months of COVID-19: There was an influx of new residents to the area; and everyone was nesting heavily and wanted not only to spruce up their interiors but also to plant a garden. Edibles were especially in demand, as there were concerns about the safety of the global food supply system.

Garden centers order their seeds in the prior autumn, and most were unprepared for the boom in their business. But too many customers can be a good problem — if it's possible to get supplies.

Which was not possible. Seed companies were also hit by unusually high demand at a time when they had to reduce production so their workers could safely social distance.

Sarah and Chris Coon were at their garden center on Thursday morning, March 18, to talk about the completion of their new greenhouses, and during the conversation they summarized some of the challenges that will be facing all Tri-state garden centers in the coming weeks.

Once again, there probably won't be enough seed packets for everyone who wants to grow at home. In addition to the expected increase in demand, many of the seed companies were working under



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

**Many Tri-state garden centers remained open through the winter, or opened for the 2021 season on March 20. Chris and Sarah Coon, in the photo above, opened Paley's Farm Market in Sharon earlier than expected, because of the warm weather last week.**

COVID-19 restrictions and didn't have enough workers to properly save and dry the seeds in large quantities.

"We put in our order with Burpee last November and when the packets arrived, we were like, 'Where is everything?'" Sarah Coon said. "They sent us 75% fewer seeds than we ordered. And we've been doing business with them for 38 years! There were hardly any cucumbers or tomato varieties in what they sent us. We got a lot of beans and peas."

Which are a little drab compared to tomatoes, of course. But those are the retail seed packets: Sarah Coon promised that she was able to secure a shipment of some particularly nice seeds from the Hudson

Valley for home gardeners.

Chris Coon said the companies seemed to be putting commercial growers at the head of the priority list. As a result, his wife and partner said, Paley's this year is planning to sell more vegetable "starts" (many of which are already growing in the new greenhouses).

**Plastic sacks,  
seedling pots**

It isn't only the seeds that are coming in limited quan-

ties, though. What happens in the rest of the world does still impact this little rural region. Deliveries of soil have been delayed, not because there isn't enough dirt on the planet but because there isn't enough plastic. The reason for that is open to speculation but Chris Coon has heard one theory that the sturdy plastic used for soil bags is made with a byproduct of airline fuel and

See GARDENING, Page A6



PHOTO BY HUNTER O. LYLE

**Wendy Miller, Audubon education program manager, explained how 40 gallons of sap is needed to produce 1 gallon of maple syrup. Maple sap season is peaking now.**

## Audubon slowly emerges from COVID for annual Maple Fest

By Hunter O. Lyle

SHARON — Sharon's Audubon Center opened to visitors for the first time in a year, for the annual Maple Fest.

The educational 45-minute tours were offered this year on Saturday, March 20, following COVID-19 protocols. Individuals and small groups had to register in advance for a time slot; the tours were completely booked up by Saturday.

Sample tastes of the sweet amber syrup weren't offered this year, although visitors could buy bottles of syrup after their tour.

For this year's syrup showcase, 81 participants in 12 groups walked along the trail lined with maple trees, most of which had old-fashioned metal buckets attached to their trunks, to collect the sweet, clear sap.

The visitors learned about sugar bushes (a cluster of sugar maple trees) and spiles (the tool

that lets sap drip from the maple tree into the bucket) along the way.

Audubon naturalist Bethany Sheffer showed how a Lazy Man's Balance can be used to cook the sap outdoors, evaporating out the water until the sap turns to syrup.

She explained how Native Americans first discovered that the sap boils down so deliciously.

The next stop was Audubon's own sugar house, where Education Program Manager Wendy Miller explained the modern technology used for turning 40 gallons of sap into a single gallon of syrup.

Miller said that most of the families that attended the event had never come to Maple Fest before. They had the good fortune to come on a warm, sunny first day of spring.

"They all seemed really happy and asked great questions, and we all had a lot of fun," she said.

## Unsettling insights into the future of the U.S.-China political relationship

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — If the United States and the People's Republic of China go to war, it will most likely be over Taiwan, according to China expert Bonnie S. Glaser, who spoke at a Zoom edition of the Salisbury Forum on Friday, March 19.

Glaser opened with some background, from the initial opening with China in 1972 by President Richard Nixon, through normalization of relations in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter, and China's economic transformation in the following four decades.

She said the 1989 crackdown on dissidents at Tiananmen Square came as a disappointment to Americans and started the beginning of

"a more realistic approach" to China.

As China's economy expanded, the Communist Party tightened its grip on power, a trend that has accelerated under current leader Xi Jinping.

Glaser noted that the internet is tightly controlled in China. She referred to the detention of two Canadian citizens for some 18 months after Canada detained a prominent Chinese technology executive and allowed her to be extradited to the U.S. She said some one million Uyghurs have been detained.

**100th anniversary  
of revolution**

Xi set out an ambitious set of goals to the Chinese Communist Party's 19th Congress in 2017.

Glaser said the goals for

2035 are: realize socialist modernization; become a global leader in innovation; boost Chinese soft power; complete modernization of the military.

For 2049, the 100th anniversary of the Communist takeover, the goals are: achieve national rejuvenation; have significant international influence; establish a "first-tier" military.

Glaser then polled the audience, asking whether the U.S. should view China as an enemy, a rival, a competitor or a partner.

"Enemy" got 6%, "rival" 43%, "competitor" 36% and "partner" 15%.

Glaser identified the problem areas in the U.S.-China relationship. She said Xi is widely expected to remain in power for the foreseeable future, so

significant political changes are unlikely.

**Threat of the theft  
of technology**

China is determined to "dominate" high tech, with the goal of supplanting the U.S. and other Western nations.

"This is seen as a huge threat to the U.S."

The Chinese want to be as self-sufficient as possible, especially in high tech. To that end they are busy buying up foreign companies, engaging in the theft of intellectual property, encouraging members of the Chinese diaspora to return, and linking the civil tech industry to the military.

Glaser quoted John C. Dammers, a national security offi-

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## In The Journal this week

WOMEN'S HISTORY ..A3 COMPASS.....B1-2  
 SPORTS .....A4 OPINION..... B3  
 OBITUARIES .....A4 VIEWPOINT..... B4  
 OUR TOWNS .....A5 CLASSIFIEDS.....B5-6

### SPECIAL BANNERS

Small Business Spotlight .....A6  
 Celebrate and Support Country Dining ..... B2

### Three-day forecast

Friday.....Rain, high 62°/low 40°  
 Saturday.....Cloudy, 52°/34°  
 Sunday.....Rain, 45°/35°

## 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.

### Reckless endangerment on motorcycle

On March 16 Christopher Hoyt, 20, of Falls Village turned himself in on a warrant stemming from a motorcycle accident that occurred on Sept. 22, 2020. Hoyt was charged with reckless endangerment in the second degree, reckless driving, tampering with the ignition interlock device, riding a motorcycle sidesaddle, operating an unregistered vehicle and following too closely resulting in an accident. Hoyt was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on March 26.

### Physical altercation

On March 17 at approximately 9:30 p.m. Troop B responded to a report of an assault that occurred around the property of State Line Pizza. Trystin Barbiere, 19, of North Canaan was involved in a physical altercation. He was charged with assault in the third degree, disorderly conduct and resisting with an officer. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on April 28.

### Hit a construction barrel

On March 18 at approximately 2 a.m. on Route 4 in Sharon an unknown vehicle struck an orange construction barrel that was set up on the shoulder of the road. The vehicle is suspected to have damage on the front passenger side. Anyone with information is asked to contact Troop B.

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).

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

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following applications were approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on March 15, 2021:

Special Permit #2021-0121 for a detached apartment on a single-family residential lot. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 63 as Lot 09 and is known as 292 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury, Connecticut. The owner of the property is Kimberly Gilman, Trustee.

Site Plan #2021-0122 to construct a field house and artificial turf athletic field. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 1 as Lot 20 and is known as 211 Indian Mountain Road, Lakeville, Connecticut. The owner of the property is Indian Mountain School Inc.

Site Plan #2021-0125 for site development activities in the Lake Protection Overlay District and restoration of non-conforming tennis courts. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 63 as Lot 02 and is known as 268 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury, Connecticut. The owner of the property is Twin Lakes Beach Club Inc.

Site Plan #2021-0126 to demolish and build new, a single-family dwelling and associated site improvements in the Lake Protection Overlay District. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 60 as Lot 22 and is known as 178 South Shore Road, Salisbury, Connecticut. The owner of the property is 178 South Shore LLC.

Any aggrieved person may appeal these decisions to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §8-8.

Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission  
 Martin Whalen, Secretary  
 03-25-21

### Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following actions were taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on March 15, 2021:

Approved with conditions - Application 2021-IW-004 to demolish existing single-family dwelling and build new including associated site improvements. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 60 as lot 22 and is known as 178 South Shore Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is 178 South Shore LLC.

Approved - Application 2021-IW-005 by the Town of Salisbury to construct a sidewalk and pedestrian bridge over Pettee Brook. The property is located within the CT DOT ROW on the north side of Route 44 between Lincoln City Road and Brook Street, Salisbury.

Approved with conditions - Application 2021-IW-006 for forest management activities. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 23 as lot 59-1 and is known as 215 Taconic Road, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Stephanie & Joshua Weismer.

Approved with conditions - Application 2021-IW-007 to replace a metal crosspipe in an existing driveway. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 8 as lot 71 and is known as 53 Falls Mountain Road, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Thomas Callahan & Luis Arroyo.

Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §22a-43(a) & §8-8.

03-25-21

## FAMILY & FRIENDS

# Honoring Sharon Audubon's Wendy Miller

SHARON — Wendy Miller, education program manager at the Sharon Audubon Center, was recently recognized as the COEEA (Connecticut Outdoor and Environmental Education Association) 2021 Environmental Educator of the Year.

This recognition is awarded to an environmental education (EE) professional or classroom

teacher who creates and implements successful EE activities; promotes individual and societal environmental responsibility; and inspires others to take action through individual or group projects at a school or within the local community. Miller was recognized at the virtual COEEA conference on Monday, March 15.

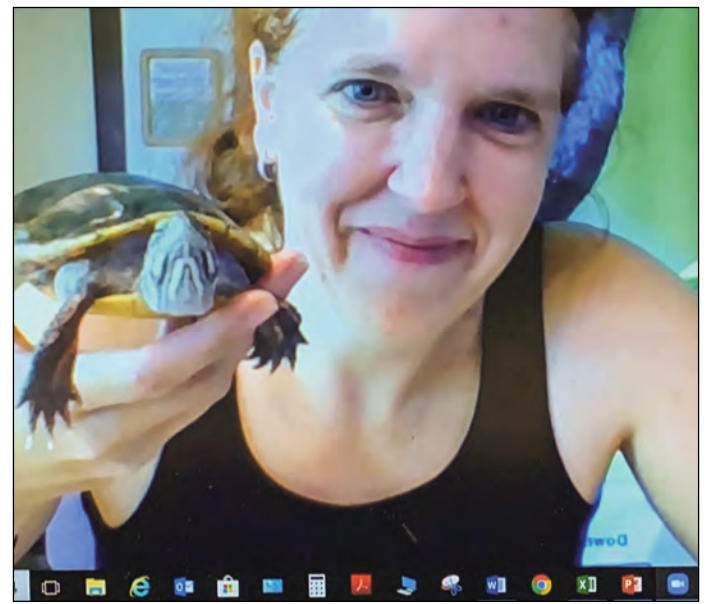


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Sharon Audubon Center's Education Program Manager Wendy Miller continues to bring informative wildlife demonstrations to residents, even online.

## HVRHS seniors to apply for \$500 scholarship

KENT — TrailHeads is launching a new scholarship for a local student from Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

TrailHeads is a Kent-based online retailer of hats, headbands, gloves and related accessories targeted toward the running and outdoor sports enthusiast markets.

Previously, TrailHeads has organized the annual Lake Waramaug Polar Bear Run which has raised more than \$11,000 for Guiding Eyes for the Blind; sponsors Steep Endurance's series of local trail races; and lends support to a variety of organizations including the Kent Land Trust and Appalachian Trail Con-

servancy.

The TrailHeads HVRHS Scholarship will be an annual program offering a one-time \$500 scholarship to an exceptional, local student. The award can be put toward any educational expense of the student's choosing, from tuition to books to room and board.

The scholarship is open to HVRHS seniors. To apply, students should fill out the HVRHS Common App and email it to [kristin@trailheads.com](mailto:kristin@trailheads.com) along with their response to a short-answer question. Contact [support@trailheads.com](mailto:support@trailheads.com) to receive further application requirement details. Applications must be submitted by May 1.

## Register for kindergarten

CORNWALL — Cornwall Consolidated School kindergarten registration for the 2021-22 school year will be held during the month of May.

All children 5 and over who reach age 5 on or before the first day of January 2022 are eligible.

A parent should call the school office at 860-672-6617 to schedule a time for their child/children to visit the school. Parents will need to bring their child's/children's

official immunization record, birth certificate and proof of residency on the day of registration.

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 10am Worship online

**Thursday, 1 April  
 Maundy Thursday  
 Tenebrae**  
 7pm Worship online

**Friday, 2 April  
 Meeting House Music  
 and Meditation**  
 12noon In-person

**Sunday, 4 April  
 Easter Sunday**  
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 Town Grove, Lakeville  
 9am Worship in-person  
 10am Worship online

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[salisburyucc.org](http://salisburyucc.org)

# Women's History

## Honoring women who have sparked positive change in our community and the world

In honor of Women's History Month in March, students at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville interviewed four remarkable Tri-state area women.

### Maria Horn, Salisbury

By Victoria Fertig

While working on Wall Street, in the U.S. Attorney's office and as a Connecticut state representative for the 64th District, Maria Horn has successfully navigated being a woman in predominantly male fields.

Her first job after college was at JP Morgan, where she was initially assigned to work on the trading floor, a field where few women worked.

In this first out-of-college work experience, she learned to laugh at jokes that she later realized were inappropriate, trying to make it seem like she could take it and also wanting to get along with her colleagues.

After four years working on Wall Street, she realized that she wasn't driven by finance and made the choice to go to law school, with the ultimate goal of working in the public sector.

Horn joined the U.S. Attorney's office in the same year many other women were hired. Due to the hierarchical structure of this job, these women all started together in the Criminal Division, where they were able to bond over their shared experiences and struggles.

Later, after her two children were born, she felt judged by her male colleagues because she prioritized getting home at a certain time and had to sacrifice some of the face-time and camaraderie in the office.

Horn's career in the legislature began in a similar way: She was elected in 2018, the same year as many other women. They shared similar experiences despite their different backgrounds.

After contemplating running for office at various times, Horn had decided she needed to take action after the 2016 presidential election. She went into her cam-

paign with a commitment to the idea that "government can be a force for the good."

She was elected to a second term last November. Her campaign and current work are focused on protecting the environment, economic fairness, income equality and public health, among many other important issues to our community.

She talked about how income inequality especially affects our community, where the wealthy accrue more wealth while for others, wages have been stagnant despite their productivity.

Now in her second term in office, she has a sense of what has worked for her as a legislator and what lessons she can share with the next group of women in these roles.

She wants to create more room for women of all backgrounds, to help pave the way for them, and get them into leadership positions.

### Jacqueline Rice, Salisbury

By Katie Farrington

When she was growing up here in Salisbury, Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service Chief of Service Jacquie Rice often saw her parents' interests in and devotion to helping their community.

Her father was a banker, and heavily involved with the FFA chapter at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Her mother was the town's tax collector. Both were members of different boards, and were involved at their church as well.

They had a clear love for helping those around them and were Jacquie's inspiration to get more involved in community service; they stressed the importance of giving back to the town and community that had helped to raise her.

Jacquie knew that she had to volunteer and contribute but she needed to find something of interest to her. At the time, many of her friends were Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and firefighters and they encouraged

Jacquie to join them, even inviting her along on calls.

Her involvement led to many achievements, as she became a vital member and leader of these community organizations. She has especially enjoyed the opportunity to help train and teach new EMTs.

She was also the first woman firefighter in the Lakeville Hose Company. Within a year of her arrival, other women were able to join. As a firefighter, she had to prove herself more than the men did and she had to be careful not to make mistakes. The more she proved herself the more they accepted her.

Jacquie never let the challenges of being a woman in traditionally male-dominated fields stop her. She teaches math and finds that there aren't many other female math teachers.

Jacquie Rice did not set out to be a role model but through her determined vision to serve and to make a difference, she has inspired countless young men and women to follow their dreams with conviction, purpose and consequence and to lead lives of resonating impact.

### Jennifer Dowley, Millerton

By Olivia Torchen

Jennifer Dowley is a woman determined to make a difference. A natural leader, her impact in our community as well as across the country has been profound. Through her leadership of nonprofit and philanthropic organizations, she has facilitated transformative innovations in our area, fostering positive change and progress specifically in the arts, education, environment and social services.

Dowley's dedication to community service stems from her love of the arts. From a very young age, the arts played a large role in Dowley's identity. She spent many years working with the federal arts agency in Washington, D.C., and has consulted with artist foundations across the country. This love for the arts and her dedication to

improving aspects of the world through art led Dowley into community service.

Following work in San Francisco and D.C., where she worked with the National Endowment for the Arts as the Director of Museums and Visual Arts, she pursued a friend's recommendation to apply for the director's position at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF), based in Sheffield, Mass.

Under Dowley's leadership for nearly 17 years, the growth of Berkshire Taconic spiked, as did its influence in the community; the foundation's assets increased from \$9.9 million to \$121 million, and the number of funds expanded from 161 to 550.

Dowley launched BTCF initiatives to address core community needs in education, housing and the arts that helped to improve quality of life in the four counties in the three states that BTCF serves.

One of Dowley's most consequential projects established education enrichment funds at public schools in the region. This program brought financial support to various school activities, projects and trips. Dowley's vision inspired dozens of community programs and the distribution of \$104.3 million in funding to support these initiatives.

Dowley retired from Berkshire Taconic in December 2015 and now works with foundations throughout the country. She also serves on the board of the nonprofit Wassaic Project in Wassaic, N.Y., which uses art and arts education to foster positive social change.

As a woman, Dowley has sometimes confronted challenges over the course of her career, particularly in leadership positions where she sometimes felt underestimated.

This was most pronounced at the beginning of her career, when she worked with a different generation with different gender assumptions.

This underestimation only pushed Dowley to continue to work hard and stay focused on her goals. Her dedication has stimulated positive and ongoing change in our community. Through her leadership, she not only helped transform the region but also created new possibilities and hope for the future.

### Dana Cowin, NYC & Amenia

By Kwaku Agyapong

Growing up in Manhattan, Dana Cowin describes a comfortable childhood that was marked by an early passion for supporting those in need. She first became involved with nonprofit organizations in high school, when she and a group of students raised about \$300 for Asphalt Green, an organization focused on providing high-quality sports, swim and fitness instruction to people living in the urban areas of New York. Cowin refers to this contribution as minor, but it marked the beginning of her life's dedication to service.

Later on in life, in 1995, Cowin started her 20-year tenure as editor-in-chief of Food and Wine magazine. In addition to an unusually long time as the head of a major magazine, she is also proud of having introduced and expanded the annual Best New Chefs Award and the Most Innovative Women in Food and Drink issue, which allowed her, she said, "to uncover what I would call food celebrities who are helping feed the world."

Cowin has also worked with City Harvest and Hot Bread Kitchen, both of which are organizations focused on providing aid for those suffering from food insecurity in the city.

She's on the board of the Food Education Fund, as well as on the advisory board of Women in Hospitality United and on the Food Council of City Harvest. City Harvest in particular approaches this problem by redistributing excess food from restaurants in the city, to food pantries and relief centers.

Being from the Bronx, N.Y.,

myself, I was familiar with the organization, and the various relief programs that were put in place around the city during the pandemic. Hundreds if not thousands of boxes of fresh produce, canned goods and other non-perishables were put in depots in the city and distributed by local community members, bringing communities even closer together in their time of struggle.

Neighbors looked out for each other; the at-risk elderly with no family members to take care of them were never forgotten.

During our interview, Cowin stated that there was no reason why citizens of one of the wealthiest countries in the world should be dying of starvation. The problem with our system did not stem from the lack of production, but a lack of access. Certain communities, whether urbanized or rural, do not get the attention they deserve and would benefit from infrastructure set in place to distribute extra goods.

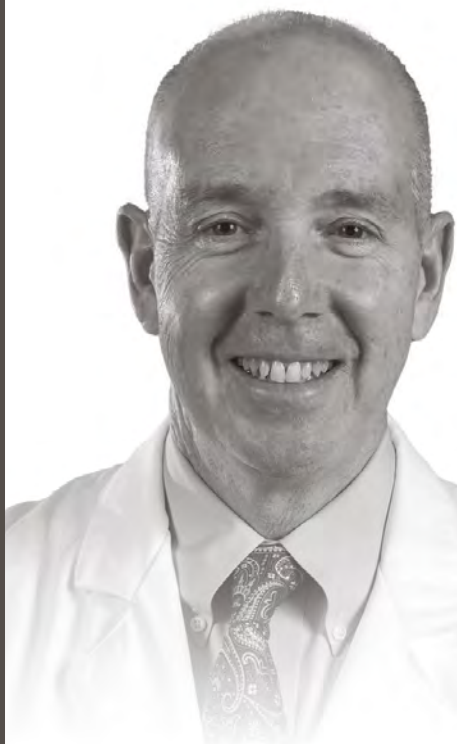
Following her retirement from Food and Wine, Cowin (who splits her time between New York City and Amenia), created Speaking Broadly, a podcast in which she "conducts intimate interviews with brilliant, powerful women in the food world about their lives and careers."

During the pandemic, Dana and a partner founded Roar.NY (Relief Opportunities for All Restaurants). They have raised more than \$3,000,000 to assist more than 5,000 laid-off NYC restaurant workers.

Her years of work have given Cowin invaluable insight and wisdom and demonstrated her passion and capacity to improve life for others. She said she is grateful to those she has worked with who understand her mission and dedication enough to support and empower her work as one of the first and most prominent women in her field.

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# OBITUARIES

## Marvin W. Jarrett

MILLERTON — Marvin W. Jarrett, 84, a 54-year resident of Millerton, died unexpectedly on Sunday, March 21, 2021, at his home in Millerton.



The beloved husband of Penny D. Jarrett and loving father of Juan, Renee, Kedrick and Geri and a devoted grandfather and great-grandfather.

A memorial service and inurnment will take place at

the Community Mausoleum at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

A full obituary will appear in the April 1 edition of The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News, which will include the date and time of the service.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. To send an online condolence, go to [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com).

## Becoming a more humane society through peaceable means

By Leila Hawken

SALISBURY — Having combated violence with intentional nonviolence for a professional lifetime, civil rights activist Bernard LaFayette offered moving stories of struggles and victories during a talk on Thursday, March 18, conducted on Zoom.

Aptly titled “The Kingian Legacy of Non-Violence from Selma to 2021,” the event was sponsored by five area libraries and the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence.

An audience of 86 participants heard stories of 60 years of LaFayette’s devotion to teaching about and practicing nonviolent strategies in dealing with society’s man-made divides. Inequalities continue to challenge social progress to this day.

Having worked in close association with the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., LaFayette carried the baton forward in civil rights activism by teaching, writing and practicing nonviolent approaches throughout the world.

Life in a segregated South “Compelled to act” was how LaFayette characterized his early years, having spent his childhood in racially segregated, multi-cultural Tampa, Fla. He recalled that children of all races would play together as young children until they were separated by adults at a certain age.

“When I get grown, I’m going to do something about this,” he recalled thinking as a youngster.

One of his earliest solidifying experiences arose when riding buses with his grandmother or mother, who would pay the fare at the front of the bus but were never permitted to walk to the back of the bus using the center aisle. Instead, he would run outside to the back-entry door and hold it open while being chastised by the driver for doing so, so that his grandmother or mother could complete their rapid walk outside of the bus to the back-entry door. Not always in good weather, either.

During his undergraduate collegiate studies, he was the late John Lewis’ roommate at American Southern Baptist University in Nashville, Tenn., and became instrumental in the Nashville sit-ins to desegregate lunch counters, a process that took three months. In that process, LaFayette recalled that he learned how to develop leadership and strategy to bring change.

“It was no coincidence that John Lewis emerged as a leader; he had the ability to build confidence and support,” LaFayette said.

By the 1960s, the movement had spread to desegregating movie theaters where Blacks were seated in the balcony only.

During Christmas vacation in 1960, Lewis and Lafayette decided to sit together toward the front of a Greyhound bus. The driver tried to direct them to the back, to no avail. The police were called, but the police refused to intervene. Thus, the

Nashville bus terminal became integrated.

### Lessons on how to bring about change

“When you focus on a specific issue to change, don’t neglect the impact it might have. You can have an effect, but you can’t do everything at one time,” LaFayette observed.

“Using nonviolence, we won over the masses of white people who had the power to make the change,” LaFayette recalled.

In any movement for change, LaFayette said, one has to identify where the power is, and then discover what is needed to withdraw that power or supply that power.

He said that during the civil rights era — and the struggle goes on today — it was the white people who decided that they wanted to live in a better country and a better world.

### Finding hope where it seemed hopeless

Before LaFayette traveled to Selma, Ala., to work on voter registration, he said that no one wanted to try there. It seemed hopeless to all who considered it.

“Why not a voter registration program? Because the white people are too mean, and the Black people are too scared,” he was told in advance.

It was through nonviolence, LaFayette said of the practical approach, that one uses one’s life, because it’s valuable. All lives are valuable. One’s life can serve to help others.

Above all, LaFayette remains optimistic even as voting rights continue to be an issue 50 years later. We are remnants of the past, LaFayette observed. Things don’t just happen; they are brought to bear.

“Here, in our country, we still represent the model for what we can become. People came together and supported what was right,” he said.

Today’s divides need to be bridged by learning to communicate. The lessons of nonviolence need to find their way into educational institutions and all places where people communicate with one another.

Co-sponsoring the event were the Cornwall Library, Bushnell-Sage Library, Hotchkiss Library, Norfolk Library and the Scoville Memorial Library, the latter serving as the meeting host.

# Fishing season sneaks up on us once again

I cleaned out the Fish Closet the other day.

This is no simple matter. The Fish Closet sits beneath a staircase, so the ceiling is sloped. The shelving is at the rear, which means it’s best to put things back there that won’t be needed any time soon. If ever.

Standing tall in front of the shelves are fly rods in tubes. Lots of them. About 70, at least count, and I have a couple new ones coming today.

As I cleaned and rearranged I was reacquainted with rods I had forgotten about, or rods that just don’t get used much.

And the rods that fit into the category “Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time.”

I’m looking at you, L.L. Bean Streamlight five and a half foot, three weight. I thought this would be a decent stick for crawling around the little blue lines. It turned out to be a glorified tomato stake.

But it was on sale!

Come on down, Temple Fork Outfitters eight foot, two weight, three piece. This rod was enormously popular when it came out back around 2003, and I succumbed to the mania. It’s graphite with a slow action, a combo you don’t see often. In theory, it is a great dry fly rod.

In practice, it is a great dry fly rod as long as there’s no wind. The light line weight just

## TANGLED LINES

PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

doesn’t cut through anything more substantial than a light breeze. Because the action is forgiving, I have had moderate success overlining it a bit, with a weight forward three line. But when I tried a double taper four weight the rod protested.

How’s it going, gigantic old Shakespeare bamboo rod? Here’s a tip: Just because a fly rod is made of bamboo, that doesn’t make it a) good and b) valuable.

This nine-footer, in three hefty sections, is a blunt instrument. I have fished it with a variety of lines, finally settling on a weight forward eight as the least lousy option.

But at least I didn’t pay anything for it. Someone gave it to me.

### Opening Day is a mystery

Looking ahead, Gov. Ned Lamont signed an executive order on March 4 opening trout season on ... March 4. (Normally opening day is the second Saturday in April.)

Of course he announced it late in the afternoon, so we couldn’t all charge out to the stream or pond and start casting away, but still.

That means that streams like the Blackberry River, Furnace



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Early fishing season often means prowling brook trout streams, searching for these elusive wild fish. And putting them back in the water unharmed, of course.

Brook and Macedonia Brook are fair game, conditions permitting.

For the early going I’m thinking rigs with a combination of eggs, sucker spawn, smallish Woolly Buggers (tied with a jig hook and/or tungsten bead), Bread and Butter jig nymphs, smallish black stonefly nymphs, and so on.

I’m also thinking specks (tiny weighted nymphs) on 18 inches to three feet of light tippet, attached directly to the bend of the hook of a bass popper. You might even get something to hit the popper in the Housatonic.

I’m also thinking cold feet. Do yourself a favor and get an extra set of boots one size larger for cold weather purposes. (The extra space allows the warm air — generated by the excellent socks you also bought — to circulate.)

Normally the pre-season Tangled Lines column is a lazy rehashing of the last 10 such pieces, with an emphasis on what I call “tackle fondling.”

But in these plague times I have fondled my tackle so often I’m growing hair on my palms.

And if that doesn’t get me censored I don’t know what will.



## Worship Services

Week of March 28, 2021

Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.

**The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.**  
30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT  
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!  
Online worship, Sundays at 10am  
[www.salisburyucc.org](http://www.salisburyucc.org)  
Sharing God’s shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!  
(860) 435-2442

**Falls Village Congregational Church**  
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village  
10:00 a.m. Family Worship  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour  
A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!  
860-824-0194

**St. John’s Episcopal Church**  
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT  
Rev. Paul Christopherson  
SUNDAY SERVICE  
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)  
In-Person and on You-Tube  
[www.stjohnssalisbury.org](http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org)  
860-435-9290

**Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon**  
9 South Main, Sharon CT  
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM  
Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker  
All welcome to join us  
860-364-5260  
[www.christchurchsharon.org](http://www.christchurchsharon.org)

**North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC**  
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God’s people  
Pastor Savage Frieze  
172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT  
Worship services Sundays at 10 am  
AT THE PILGRIM HOUSE  
30 GRANITE AVE, CANAAN:  
FISHES & LOAVES Food Pantry and CLOSETS for clothing  
Tuesdays from 5 to 7 and Thursdays from noon to 2  
[www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational](http://www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational)

**Greenwoods Community Church**  
355 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, MA  
Sunday Service 10:30 AM  
Kidz Konnection  
K-6th grade (during Sun. Service)  
Nursery Care All Services  
Pastor Trip Weiler  
413-229-8560  
[www.greenwoodschurch.com](http://www.greenwoodschurch.com)

**The Sharon United Methodist Church**  
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green  
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care  
No Sunday School in Summer  
The Rev. Margaret Laemmel  
860-364-5634  
[sharonumc5634@att.net](mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net)

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
40 Leedsville Road  
Amenia Union, NY  
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 ONLINE  
Visit our website for links  
Rev. AJ Stack  
845-373-9161  
[www.stthomasamenia.com](http://www.stthomasamenia.com)  
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**Promised Land Baptist Church**  
29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT  
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Sunday Worship - 11am  
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM  
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[www.promisedlandbaptist.org](http://www.promisedlandbaptist.org)

**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock  
Virtual Sunday service 10:30 AM  
Trinity Lime Rock Facebook page  
Virtual Coffee Hour & Bible Study  
Rev. Heidi Truax  
[trinity@trinitylimerock.org](mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org)  
(860) 435-2627  
[www.trinitylimerock.org](http://www.trinitylimerock.org)

**The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall**  
Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9am  
Email Rev. Mary Gates at: [mngates125@gmail.com](mailto:mngates125@gmail.com)  
for an invitation to the Zoom service  
If you don’t have a computer you can participate via phone.  
We hope you will join us!

**Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT**  
Join our virtual service on Sunday, April 11 at 10:30 a.m.  
For information, contact Jo Loi at [joikiuloi@gmail.com](mailto:joikiuloi@gmail.com)  
All are Welcome

**The Smithfield Presbyterian Church**  
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Route 83, Amenia, NY  
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.  
[www.thesmithfieldchurch.org](http://www.thesmithfieldchurch.org)  
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**The Lakeville United Methodist Church**  
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Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
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The Rev. Margaret Laemmel  
860-435-9496  
[Lakevillemethodist@snet.net](mailto:Lakevillemethodist@snet.net)

**Sharon Congregational Church**  
25 Main Street, Sharon, CT  
Visit our website [sharoncongregationalchurch.org](http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org) for current online sermons.  
Bible Study Guides also available by request: [info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org](mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org)  
Or contact us at 860-364-5002

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Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk  
St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan  
St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville  
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Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church  
Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary  
Sunday 11 am, Immaculate Conception Church  
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE  
Wednesday 6pm  
St. Joseph Chapel or Church  
Thursday 8am  
Immaculate Conception Church  
Friday 8am  
Church of St. Mary  
ALL ARE WELCOME!  
For information, please call 860-824-7078

**SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH**  
860-927-3003  
The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent  
St. Bernard, Sharon  
St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge  
MASS SCHEDULE  
SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget  
SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard  
10 AM - Sacred Heart  
WEEKDAY MASSES Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & First Friday  
9 AM - Sacred Heart  
Face masks required

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**Sharon Congregational Church**  
25 Main Street, Sharon, CT  
Visit our website [sharoncongregationalchurch.org](http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org) for current online sermons.  
Bible Study Guides also available by request: [info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org](mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org)  
Or contact us at 860-364-5002

**Canaan United Methodist Church**  
2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT  
11 a.m. Worship Service  
“Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors”  
Rev. Lee Gangaware  
860-824-5534  
[canaanct-umc.com](mailto:canaanct-umc.com)  
[canaanctumc@gmail.com](mailto:canaanctumc@gmail.com)



IMAGE COURTESY HOTCHKISS LIBRARY OF SHARON

## Library close to getting OK for restoration plans

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon has received Historic District Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals approval for what Executive Director Gretchen Hachmeister calls “a modest expansion and a comprehensive restoration of our historic interior. The project, most importantly, will make the library handicapped accessible.” After clearing these two significant hurdles, the library will present plans to the Planning and Zoning Commission in April.

*33 Year Memory of  
Lynn and Gregg Lamay*

— March 26, 1988 —

So much time, it just does not seem real.  
Has it been this long since we said goodbye?  
Since we looked for answers to the why?  
Then realized there was no point to try,  
And figure out why you left so young.  
Days and weeks, now months and years gone by.  
We cried until we had no tears to cry.  
The answer, I guess, didn’t really matter,  
You had left and time continued on.  
It didn’t stop because you guys were gone.  
Even though it felt like time stood still,  
And interfered with our sense of will,  
We learned to do our best without you here,  
And know within our hearts that you are near.

We Love you Lynn,  
We Love you Gregg,  
Your sister and aunt Ruth,  
Your niece and cousin Bobbie-Jo

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# Our Towns

## Sharon's annual town budget hearing will be held April 30

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Having scrutinized spending during a series of budget workshops and arriving at their best versions of projections for 2021-22, the Boards of Education and Selectmen each presented their resulting budget proposals to the Board of Finance at a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, March 16. Showing a total of \$4,513,781, the proposed education budget would increase by \$170,468, a rise of 3.92%. Doug Cahill, chairman of the Board of Education, said that a goal was reasonableness while being proactive in terms of responsibilities, including building repairs and maintenance.

Cahill explained that enrolling nine fewer students in the regional high school in the coming year created some anticipated savings.

Sharon's total anticipated Region One costs are estimated at \$2,066,112, down by \$146,411 (6.6%).

In addition to routine maintenance, planned improvement projects include upgrade of school security cameras (\$9,702) and air conditioning on the lower-floor level at \$200,000. A project to air condition the gym would be in a future budget year, Cahill said.

The budget proposed by the Board of Selectmen totals \$4,217,597 an increase of \$112,477 over the current year,

a 2.74% increase. First Selectman Brent Colley reviewed the budget that had been the result of five workshop meetings.

"We kept it honest and true to needs," Colley said, terming the percent of increase "a pretty good number." He said that the selectmen looked at salaries first and felt that a 2% increase was fair for the current economy.

Repairs to the town garage are anticipated, including all the buildings at the garage site. The coming year will also see an expenditure of \$35,000 for guard rails along town roads.

"Guardrails are sorely needed," Tom Bartram, acting chairman of the Board of Finance, agreed.

### Planned library expansion

The selectmen withheld support for a request from the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon in connection with their building project to make the library ADA accessible.

To Bartram's inquiry about the selectmen's reasoning, Selectman Casey Flanagan replied that initially he had supported the request, but because the library has significant funding in hand for the project, "they will get to their goal." He added that if the library should fail to reach the goal, then perhaps the town could consider helping.

"I'd rather see the town concentrate on projects that

are coming up," Flanagan said, referring to the Town Hall parking lot and the sidewalk project.

Selectman Dale Jones explained that the town already contributes to library operations, and he felt that the \$35,000 requested would pay for aesthetic aspects that are not critical to the construction of the planned addition.

"That project will not be done by next year," Jones said, adding that the selectmen could consider any additional portion for the following year's budget.

"We are the cultural center of this town," Gretchen Hachmeister, library executive director, pointed out, promis-

ing that the library will revisit its request during the coming year. She said that at that point, the library will have an actual project budget, enabling the town "to pick something you would like to support."

The Board of Finance scheduled a special meeting for Tuesday, April 6, beginning at 6 p.m. to consider the budget proposals.

To obtain additional input on some requests, they plan to invite presentations, including the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Historical Society, the Inland Wetlands Commission and Sharon Playhouse.

The annual town budget hearing is scheduled for Friday, April 30.

## Weighing finances of fire department, library in Kent

By Leila Hawken

KENT — With a stated intent of keeping town spending level into the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Board of Selectmen presented a proposed town budget to the Board of Finance

### Eliminating food waste from town waste stream

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — This spring the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station will start a pilot program to encourage removing food waste from the municipal solid waste stream. The program was discussed during the Wednesday, March 17, meeting of the Transfer Station Recycling Advisory Committee (TRAC, on Zoom).

There are several details to be ironed out. TRAC Chair Barbara Bettigole suggested crowdfunding and matching grants as two ways to pay for such a program. Home collection is also a possibility.

Bettigole and transfer station Manager Brian Bartram suggested that 100 households would be a good size for the pilot program. Anyone interested can email foodwastepilot@gmail.com.

The transfer station will soon have a new website, and signs with a "message of the week" will be displayed at LaBonne's supermarket in Salisbury and at the Sharon Farm Market grocery store.

There was a discussion of caretakers who bring in trash from several households, and how to ensure that those householders know they are required to purchase a transfer station sticker.

Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand noted that tipping fees are increasing, and advised an increase from the current \$100 per year to either \$110 or \$120 (plus a smaller fee for each additional vehicle). No decision was reached.

at the regular meeting of the finance board on Wednesday, March 17. The meeting was held on Zoom.

The fiscal year begins July 1. Recalling a defining moment from just one year ago on March 17, First Selectman Jean Speck said that it was on St. Patrick's Day of 2020 that she declared a public health emergency in the town.

The town budget submitted by the selectmen shows total proposed expenditures of \$4,088,696, an increase of \$183,546 (4.7%) over the current year. The selectmen's budget represents a 31% share of the total town budget.

The larger portion of the town budget (54%) is represented by the Board of Education budget, slated for presentation to the Board of Finance the following week. Following that presentation, the Board of Finance will set its schedule for review and eventual public hearing on the proposed budgets.

Considerable discussion centered on the selectmen's move to equalize the amounts earmarked for the Kent Library Association and the volunteer fire department at \$100,000 each. The amount would mean an increase for the fire department from its current level of \$86,500, but less than the requested amount of \$106,500.

And, the library's apportionment would be a decrease of \$10,000 from the current level, and less than the \$125,000 requested.

Agreeing that both organizations are critical to the community, praising what the library has done with programming during the pandemic, Speck noted that 45,000 people came through the library in a year.

"This is a year that they need funding," Speck said, referencing the pandemic's effects.

Board of Finance member Ed Epstein said that he saw no need to equalize funding between the two entities and he favored funding to the originally requested amounts.

Speaking of the library, finance board member Rufus de Rham concurred, noting that the library is not only a draw, but book sale revenue is down this year. He argued that library events bring all aspects of the community together. He saw no reason to flat fund the two separate organizations.

Library Director Sarah Marshall reported that the town's library is the top library in the state for program attendance. Although the past year has seen fewer volunteer hours, she said that in 2019, volunteers contributed 5,330 hours.

Marshall also said that the library contributes about

\$70,000 toward its own budget by fundraising.

Providing insight into reasoning that led to the equalizing of the line items, Selectman Chris Garrity said that the intent was not to equalize two important and necessary groups. Rather, the selectmen are responsible for providing a fire department in town. The flat funding, he said, was designed to have a yearly stable amount, suggesting that there be a budgeting tool to create a hard and fast amount.

"We want to keep the budget level," Garrity said, calling for further conversation on the issue.

"The \$100,000 was supported by the selectmen in the interest of due diligence to keep the mill rate flat," he added.

### Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

## Costs rising in some areas for 2021-22 budget

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting Wednesday, March 17, to work on a municipal budget proposal for 2021-22.

First Selectman Henry Todd said one unresolved issue is the cost of insurance through the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA). He said he asked CIRMA for a quote in two parts, one dealing with the remainder of the current fiscal year (ending June 30) and one for FY 2021-22.

The selectmen, on Todd's recommendation, added \$2,000 to a Town Hall technology line, bringing that total to \$9,400.

The selectmen discussed adding money to the recreation

director's salary to bring it in line with those of other town officials.

Todd said increased tipping fees mean there will likely be an increase in transfer station permit fees.

The selectmen held a meeting on March 23 in lieu of a town meeting to take care of largely administrative matters. Todd said he had received communications from residents concerned about the process.

He said, "It has always been our intention" to hold budget hearings and the annual town budget meeting in person if possible, given the increased numbers of residents receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Todd said using the Lee H. Kellogg School's multipurpose room will allow for appropriate social distancing.



**Re-opening on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> for our 39<sup>th</sup> SEASON**

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## Brain Teasers

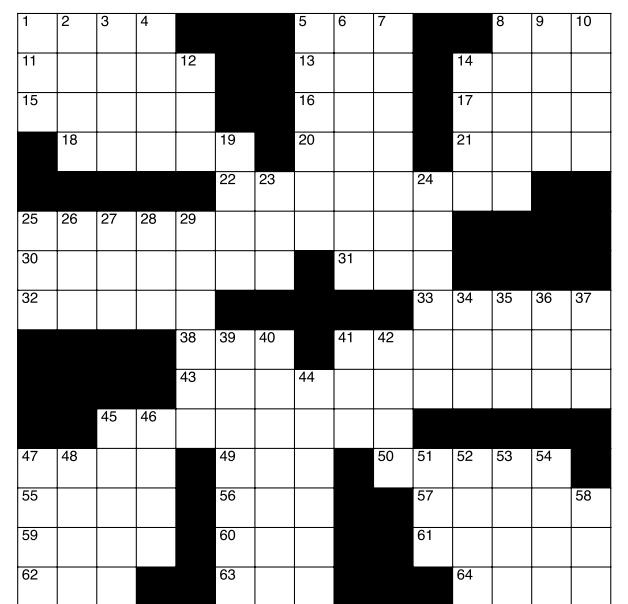
### CLUES ACROSS

- As soon as possible
- Gateway (Arabic)
- Doctors' group
- Madder genus of plants
- A team's best pitcher
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Go up
- Neither
- Bolivian river
- Manila hemp
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- British School
- Human reproductive organs
- Surrenders
- Dog with long, silky coat and drooping ears
- Sun up in New York
- Lead alloy
- Eastern Asian plant
- Rapid deployment force (abbr.)

- Japanese warrior
- Festivity
- Interruptions
- Nonsense (slang)
- Data mining methodology (abbr.)
- Calvary sword
- French river
- Global business conference (abbr.)
- Afflicted
- Con man's game
- No (Scottish)
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Fish
- Camera term (abbr.)
- Impudence

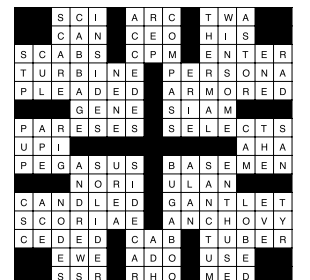
### CLUES DOWN

- A continuous portion of a circle
- Genus of seabirds
- Infant's dining accessory
- Native Americans from Arizona
- Popular fruit
- Poisonous plant
- Scolded
- Assists
- Hand (Spanish)
- Amazon product identifying system (abbr.)
- Basics
- Cain and \_\_\_
- Malaria
- Indicates particular shape
- Respiratory disease
- Central Standard Time

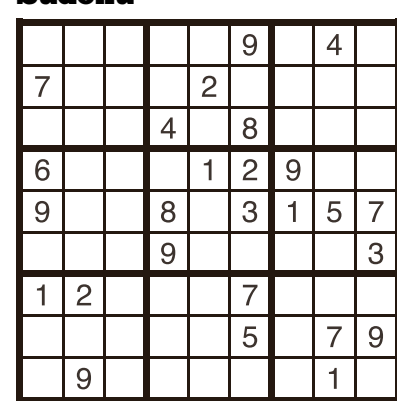


- Imitate
- Golf score
- A place to lay your head
- Three cards of the same suit
- Not in
- Human gene
- Ancient Chinese philosophic concept
- French river
- Thinks up
- Type of geological deposit
- Helps little firms
- Area units
- A device to remove
- Secret political clique
- Polite interruption sound
- Foundation
- Clare Boothe \_\_, American writer
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- Resistance fighters
- Speak disrespectfully of

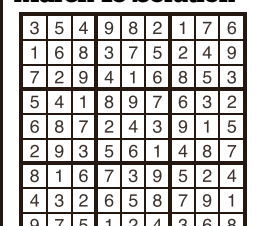
### March 18 Solution



### Sudoku



### March 18 Solution



## With Thanks, the Kirby Family

The Kirby Family would like to express our gratitude to the greater community for the incredible outpouring of support during Ed Kirby's brief illness and following his death in February.

We thank Ed's doctors, the EMT's of Sharon Fire Department, the staff at Sharon Hospital, the Foothills VNA and Litchfield County Home Assistance teams and the Kenny Funeral Homes for their exceptional compassion and care. Thank you also to the editor in chief and the executive editor of The Lakeville Journal for their outstanding tributes to Ed.

Thank you to all who nourished us through "Meal Train" or otherwise; to those who called, to the abundance of cards and letters, and for the In-Memoriam contributions, we are deeply grateful for those many acts of kindness. In this pandemic time, if this is even possible, the thoughtfulness and generosity of so many has meant so much more to us all.

In reflecting upon Ed's rich life, we are reminded that the goal of life is to have a mission and to create a legacy that is a lasting one, for which we are ever so grateful.

— Mary Kirby



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## GARDENING

Continued from Page A1

people are flying less so there's less fuel ... It all eventually comes back to COVID-19.

A similar problem is holding up the production of plastic plant pots.

Some solutions are available in the region. McEnroe Organic, for example, makes its own soils and composts. Even if there aren't enough bags to sell them in at retail, it's possible there and at some other garden centers to purchase soil and compost by the truckload.

At Freund's in East Canaan, it's possible to buy the farm's famous CowPots plant starting containers, made from the manure of the dairy cows on the farm.

And of course Freund's and McEnroe's also will have their famous tomato starts, as well as herbs, vegetables and fruits.

### Business is very good (and busy)

And back to the flip side of the supply problem, the Coons at Paley's anticipate that most of their employees from last year will return. Farm markets and orchards have traditionally been a popular spot for young people to get first jobs.

Those who started last year certainly got a taste of what it means to work very, very hard.

"We normally have a lull in the middle of the week," Sarah Coon said.

"We didn't get that last year, which made it hard to keep up. But we met a lot of nice new people, too. Overall, 2020 was very good for us, although it was stressful and exhausting."

### The tornado

Most stressful, of course, was the tornado that hit the Northwest Corner in August, with winds that toppled the weather vane on the Paley's farm and took down three of the six greenhouses.

As with everything else farm related last year, there was a delay in getting parts for the rebuild of the greenhouses. The Coons were full of praise for their greenhouse builder, Paul Harrison of Cheshire, Conn. — who was also overwhelmed with orders and new customers last year.

While they were waiting for Harrison to custom bend the metal supports needed to rebuild the greenhouses, the Coons made lemonade from lemons by adding a concrete center strip in the greenhouses and widening the aisles.

The parts finally arrived around Thanksgiving last year, but Harrison was unable to come and install them, to his chagrin. But he offered detailed instructions and the

Coons (with help from family and friends, including farm founder Charlie Paley) were able to build the structures themselves.

"We got the poles back in place and then put the plastic up with almost no problems," Sarah Coon said. "We got lucky, there wasn't any wind; because, as we know, this is a windy spot."

In addition to the six "grow" greenhouses the retail greenhouse is also up and filled with plant products for shoppers,

## POLITICS

Continued from Page A1

cial in the Trump administration, on the Chinese approach: "Rob the American company of its intellectual property, replicate the technology, and replace the American company in the Chinese market and, one day, the global market."

"The U.S. has woken up to this problem," Glaser said. "But we're still debating" how best to respond.

Should China be cut off from technology that has national security uses only? Should the U.S. take more drastic measures? Glaser reminded the audience that U.S.-China trade amounts to some \$600 billion yearly, adding that a complete embargo was very unlikely.

### Territorial expansion ambitions

China has been using its military in an aggressive manner, building artificial islands in the South China Sea (and causing considerable environmental damage in the process).

The Chinese harass neighboring small countries over the latter's territorial waters, and generally ignore international law regarding the sea.

Glaser said that, from the Chinese point of view, they look eastward and see two chains of islands running roughly north to south, with significant U.S. military presence in each.

"The military dynamic is very zero sum," Glaser said.

### Taiwan as a crux of future disputes

Which brings up Taiwan (officially known as the Republic of China).

Glaser said that Taiwan's international status is murky, and U.S. policy has deliberately left it that way.

The U.S. and Taiwan do not have formal diplomatic relations, and Taiwan was removed from the United Nations in

who will have to wait a few more weeks for the grocery items to arrive.

"We are now open seven days a week from 9 to 5 through April," Sarah Coon said, "and then we'll be open from 8 to 6 starting in May."

There is always a crush of customers waiting to shop here and at other area garden shops.

"It's still early in the season," Sarah Coon said, "but everyone is ready. They're champing at the bit."

1971, when that body recognized the People's Republic of China.

Glaser said she was a young college student in Taiwan in 1979, arriving a few weeks after the U.S. broke off diplomatic relations and instead recognized the People's Republic.

"It was quite a situation," Glaser said. "People were surprised and scared."

Taiwan had an authoritarian government until the late 1980s, when it made a successful transition to parliamentary democracy.

Despite having no formal relations, many countries, including the U.S., maintain less formal relations.

And the U.S. has an agreement to sell defensive weapons to Taiwan.

"This is the issue we go to war over," said Glaser. "Not little islands in the South China Sea."

She took another poll, this time asking, "If China attacked Taiwan, should the U.S. use its military to defend Taiwan?"

Poll result: Yes 67%, no 33%.

Glaser reiterated that the U.S. does not have a treaty obligation to defend Taiwan — just an "obligation" to sell military equipment.

She called this "strategic ambiguity."

"We don't say in advance what we're going to do."

The policy attempts to thread the needle between provoking an attack on Taiwan by China, and promoting Taiwan's independence.

Glaser wrapped things up on a hopeful note. She observed that the U.S. and China have a history of cooperating on issues such as climate change and North Korea.

"So we do have a history of working together. It's possible and doable."

# Finding ways to counter disinformation, thought control

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — Peter Kaufman, of Lakeville and of Cambridge, Mass., told a Scoville Memorial Library online audience that it is the responsibility of individuals to take advantage of modern technology "to make real knowledge as viral as lies."

Kaufman, author of "The New Enlightenment and the Fight to Free Knowledge," said confusion and controversy over the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment and "our unhinged politics" is the result of an "information disorder."

He said this is not a new phenomenon. He said the Soviet Union "really hit it out of the park" when it comes to information disorder.

The Soviets created a system in which information was completely controlled, to the point where nobody took Soviet or Eastern bloc media seriously "They put the 'total' in totalitarianism."

People dealt with it by staying silent or by leaving (if they could).

Or they did something about it — notably, creating the do-it-yourself underground publishing networks that produced "samizdat."

Against daunting odds, and facing severe punishment if caught, the underground succeeded. "They knew the truth would eventually destroy the system."

Reaching back to 1536, he noted the case of William Tyndale, who translated the Bible into English and was executed for heresy.

At the time, attending church once a week was the lone media experience for the average person.

To make his point, Kaufman asked the audience to imagine that his Scoville talk was the only external event available for the entire week.

Today people have innumerable options for communicating ideas.

"But if you go on about the wrong things, there are forces that will come for you."

"It wasn't meant to be this way," he continued, citing the French "Encyclopedie," first published in 1750 and evolving into a massive work in 28 volumes.

The editors (Denis Diderot and Jean le Rond d'Alembert) established an Enlightenment benchmark: "No proposition can be accepted as divine revelation if it contradicts what is known to us, either by imme-

diated intuition, as in the case of self-evident propositions, or by obvious deductions of reason, as in demonstrations."

Kaufman said the "Encyclopedie" was, from the start, "fact-based" and represented "a commitment to verification of all source materials."

"This was revolutionary," Kaufman said. "No accepted truths except for those that could be verified."

Kaufman said the current situation is bleak. He noted the measures taken against whistleblowers such as Edward Snowden, Julian Assange and Chelsea Manning; the increasing ability of Big Tech to monitor people's lives; and the ubiquitous examples of lies widely accepted as truth.

"But there are opportunities in publishing and networking that are unprecedented," he continued.

Ultimately, it is up to individuals to explore and if necessary reestablish their right to freedom of thought and expression "into a new social contract."

"We have to do all that so we don't feel like a Polish dissident reading the paper every morning, full of rage."

"And while we're reading the paper, it is reading us."



## SMALL BUSINESS

### Spotlight

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## The Lakeville Journal Company

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

### Can you imagine a world without your Lakeville Journal or Millerton News?

Dear Reader,  
Late in 2019, we came to you, hat in hand, to share with you our story within the world of vanishing local journalism. You generously supported us, to date, in the amount of \$164,975 in what was known as the "Community Membership" model and will now be known as the "Community Contributor" model.

- Your generosity made up a deeply appreciated 39% of annual General Expenses from September of 2019.
- We are happy to have qualified for a PPP loan (which we will convert to a 'grant', having met the necessary criteria), in the amount of \$146,643, contributing 35% of General Expenses during this same period.
- As they experienced their own COVID-19 cash needs, our steadfast advertisers needed to scale back their commitments to us. Our advertising revenue has dropped over 30%.
- Effective October 15, 2020, we have raised the cost of the newspaper to two dollars, the first increase since 2003.

COVID-19 has awakened an awareness of the significance of our papers, as we seek information about our world. Thanks to our Community's generosity and the unwavering dedication of our fine Team, we were able to remain fully functional through this pandemic. We love our Community partnership. We will continue our work, with your kind respect and support.

— The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC

Support your local, independent voice in journalism by making a contribution at [www.tricornernews.com/contribute](http://www.tricornernews.com/contribute) or by mailing a check with your contact information to **The Lakeville Journal, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039.**

In return for your Community Contribution, we regret that we cannot offer a tax deduction at this time.

# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

March 25-31, 2020

BOOKS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## Feeling Safe To Step Into the Unknown — and Maybe Find Joy

In case we didn't already know it, COVID-19 most certainly taught or reminded us that life is uncertain and that the best way to make God laugh is to have plans.

Victoria Labalme figured this out years ago, but sees the positive in it. There's no need to lock in to one path, or to make a commitment to a choice because it seems like *The Right Thing To Do* (to you or the people around you).

Her own life started on the track familiar to so many young people in this region, with high expectations of what one is supposed to do after school. That continued into young adult life, as she traveled the world and studied the dramatic arts — while her friends settled into careers and marriages.

She felt somewhat adrift, a little alienated. And then two life-altering events took place within days of each other: Her mother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and Victoria watched the World Trade Center crumble from her bedroom window following the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Everything changed. When Labalme finally emerged from it all, she had become a successful keynote speaker and performance coach, finding the right gig for herself at a moment when finding direction had become the least important thing on her mind.

### 'AT THE EDGE OF NOT KNOWING...'

She took that as a lesson and began to do keynote speeches on, among other topics, something she calls Risk Forward. As she likes to say about this concept, and her new "Risk Forward" book:



PHOTO BY JUSTIN HOCH

**Victoria Labalme's new book, "Risk Forward," offers comfort, inspiration and a big dose of fun, for facing a world full of uncertainty and hard choices.**

"Some people in life know exactly what they want to achieve. Risk Forward is for the rest of us."

"Risk Forward" the book was started before the COVID-19 pandemic. But, Labalme said in a phone interview last week, "The message turned out to be so timely. The world is really ready for this book." That's what happens when you don't over think: Things fall into place in unexpected ways, ways that wouldn't have been possible if you'd tried to map them out.

"Risk Forward is about the value of not knowing," she said. "It's in that little window of not knowing that we need to pay attention — because once we've made a commitment, then ... we're in it."

"So the question is: How do we evaluate the choices in front of us? We all have choices, whether it's what you make for dinner or what book you pull

off the shelf or what movie you watch. With Risk Forward I want to give people permission to explore an idea — even if they don't have a plan behind it.

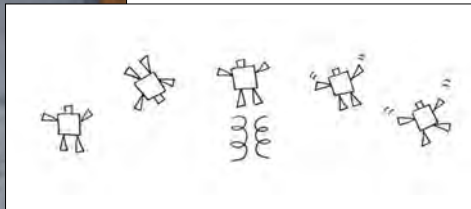
"Because at the edge of not knowing is the beginning of the extraordinary."

### A CREATIVE LIFE IN CORNWALL

One path that Labalme herself followed in an unplanned serendipitous way: Rediscovering her love of drawing, doodling, sketching.

"I was at a store in Kent [Conn.] years ago and saw something that delighted my imagination. I came home and started drawing again and that evolved over the years into the signature character I use in the book."

Labalme has spent much of her life in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut. Her father had gone to school here and fallen in love with the area. After he married,



**A springy illustration, above, helps Victoria Labalme convey her message about leaning into risk, in her new book "Risk Forward."**

George Labalme Jr. and his wife, Patsy, bought a house in Cornwall, where they raised their four children as part-time residents.

Victoria's brother, Henry Labalme, is still here in Cornwall. The family home was sold a few years ago, after George's death in 2016. But Victoria returns to the area often, visiting from her home in New York City.

Visits to Connecticut can be a perfect antidote to a life spent in Manhattan and on the road (when there isn't a pandemic).

"I think the mindset of the Northwest Corner is a very pure one," she said. "There's not a lot that I've seen up here that's about showmanship. It's about sincerity and integrity. There's a lot of creativity here, too."

Labalme was part of the creative community herself while in high school: She spent the summer when she was 17 working as the Inquiring Photographer for *The Lakeville Journal*, a job that was formative for her in some ways.

"The editor used to call me 'Victoria 17 Going on 30,'" she recalled with a laugh. "But to be taken seriously at that age ..."

On her next visit to the area, Labalme will stop by Oblong Books and Music in Millerton, N.Y., and House of Books in Kent to sign copies of "Risk Forward," which is \$24.99 and which is designed to be eminently gift-able. It's fun and easy to read and populated with the lively illustrations that have become her trademark.

To find out more, go to [www.RiskForward.com/](http://www.RiskForward.com/) Book. There are bonuses there for anyone who pre-orders the book; the bonuses disappear from the site after March 30.

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PHOTO BY MIGUEL FLORES-VIANNA

**Bunny Williams, one of America's most celebrated interior designers, will invite viewers into the home she shares with her husband, antiques dealer John Rosselli, in a Zoom fundraiser on Sunday, April 11.**

## INSIDE THE HOME OF BUNNY WILLIAMS AND JOHN ROSSELLI

Bunny Williams and her husband, John Rosselli, are more than just the most famous designer/antiques dealer partners in this part of Litchfield County, Conn.

They are also an integral part of life in the Northwest Corner, beautifying life in their home town of Falls Village with the design shop 100 Main and with Williams' contributions to the beautification of the Falls Village Inn; and the creation of the immensely successful Trade Secrets Rare Plant and Garden Antique Sale to benefit Women's Support Services, in Sharon, Conn.

Williams was the founder of Trade Secrets and remains its honorary chair. She and Rosselli also open their property each spring as one of the four featured Trade Secrets garden tours. Meanwhile, Wil-

liams and Rosselli continue with their own work in the design and furnishings fields, and continue to publish gorgeous books.

They have now extended their generosity to the town of Cornwall, Conn., where they will be interviewed in a Zoom talk fundraiser for the Cornwall Library on Sunday, April 11, at 3 p.m.

Their interviewer will be Cornwall's own nationally famous and locally generous Roxanna Robinson, a well-known and respected author and teacher, who has shared her talents with the community during the COVID quarantine by hosting workshops and online literature classes.

Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased at [www.CornwallLibrary.org](http://www.CornwallLibrary.org). — Cynthia Hochswender

## THELONIOUS MONK FROM LITCHFIELD JAZZ, ONLINE

Jazz guitarists Peter Bernstein and Steve Cardenas, with Vincente Archer on bass and Bill Stewart on drums, perform the music of Thelonious Monk in a free online concert hosted by Litchfield Jazzfest on Friday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m.

A co-author of "The Thelonious Monk Fakebook," Cardenas was a martial arts expert and actor featured in the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers franchise in the early part of his life. In his second

act as a jazz musician he's worked with Paul McCandless, Marc Johnson, Madeleine Peyroux and Norah Jones. He's on the faculty at the New School in New York City.

Bernstein has played with Sonny Rollins, Bobby Hutcherson, George Coleman, Lou Donaldson, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Joshua Redman, Brad Mehldau, Diana Krall and others on 200 recordings.

For more information and to register, go to [www.litchfieldjazzfest.com](http://www.litchfieldjazzfest.com).

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PHOTOGRAPHY: ALEXANDER WILBURN

# Up Close and Personal With the Residents of Falls Village, Conn.

Of all the things that have disappeared from country life during the pandemic — the movie theaters, the clamorous, packed restaurants on a Friday night, the summer season of garden party fundraisers — perhaps most noticeable is the absence of the people in your daily routine.

A pivotal draw of small-town living is the sense of comforting familiarity that comes from knowing not just your neighbors, but your librarian, your barista, your dentist's receptionist, the staff at your post office ... And of course, knowing you could run into someone who knows you at any time, with all kinds of things to tell you. The smallest of errands can suddenly turn into a

half hour standing in the pharmacy as you take in an epic tale involving two properties for sale, an intergenerational feud and some pesky knotwood.

The catch-ups, the idle chatter, the fevered gossip and those winding but fascinating conversations color New England as much as the fall foliage.

"Small Town Big Talk," a civic art project now on display at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., was born both out of the spirit of that continuous community conversation and its notable absence during the pandemic. Combining interviews by Adam Sher and portraits by photographer Rebecca Bloomfield, the project provides a window into a small town

both steeped in safety-induced isolation while also connected by a sense of thoughtfulness.

In the text portion of their "Small Town" portraits, Falls Village residents like Judy Jacobs of Jacobs Garage, Ann Bidou of the former Toymakers Cafe and Housatonic Valley Regional High School teacher Vance Canon consider topics like the fear of being misunderstood, the difficulty of courteous conversation when the issues feel too big or too personal, their ecological hopes for the future and the noise of the digital age of information.

Supported by a grant from Bridging Divides, Healing Communities, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community

Foundation, Sher and Bloomfield's interviews are an optimistic demonstration that life continues on despite the strangest of situations.

Even in the most miniature of rural towns, residents are thinking of their neighbors, of the world at large, and contemplating how best to navigate the future.

With their subjects draped in fresh snow (the photographs were taken through the end of 2020 and the start of 2021), the photos by Bloomfield have a regal, solemn quality — these are New England residents not on the go, but standing quietly in nature with their own thoughts.

Rebecca Bloomfield and Adam Sher, along with Hunt Library assistant Meg Sher, will be led in an online conversation by Amy Wynn on Saturday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. To register for this presentation go to [www.huntlibrary.org](http://www.huntlibrary.org) or call 860-824-7424.

"Small Town Big Talk" is on display at the Hunt Library through May 28. To see the project online go to [www.huntlibrary.org/art-wall](http://www.huntlibrary.org/art-wall). In-person visiting hours are Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday 3 to 7 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Small Town Big Talk" the hardcover photo book is available for purchase at the library for \$60.

## SHOWING HOW YOUNG PEOPLE SEE THE WORLD

The Art Effect in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., will host the Reel Exposure International Teen Film and Photography Festival from April 7 to 9.

It includes an in-person (or virtual) photography exhibition opening on April 7 at 5 p.m. at the Trolley Barn Gallery in Poughkeepsie followed by a two-day virtual event at 7 p.m. on April 8 and 9, showcasing short films made by creative young artists around the world.

Tickets to the festival are free. Pre-registration is required; go to [www.thearteffect.org/reel-exposure](http://www.thearteffect.org/reel-exposure) for more information and to access a viewer choice poll, virtual photo exhibition and live screenings.



Abigail Horace, photographed by Rebecca Bloomfield for her "Small Town Big Talk" exhibit, which documented residents of Falls Village, Conn., during the pandemic. Bloomfield will discuss her show, currently at the Hunt Library, in an online talk on Saturday, April 10.

PHOTO BY REBECCA BLOOMFIELD

FASHION: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## Back When We Were Mad for Plaid

We've recently had hundreds of our old Lakeville Journal photo negatives digitized for us by two wonderful volunteers: Perry Gardner and Kathy Phillips.

It's been immensely fun to look at the old photos, and often surprising.

There are beautiful images of people and the landscape, and there are historic events like the time the plane crashed into Lake Wononscopomuc in Lakeville, Conn.

A sort of added bonus is the fun look at Northwest Corner fashion trends. This is New England, so of course most of the outfits range wildly in color from khaki to navy with some occasional bits of black.

Sturdy crewneck sweaters are popular. The ladies usually have had their hair permed and coiffed, the gentlemen are usually in suits or at least slacks and a collared shirt.

Sometimes you see stripes, when someone is



PHOTO FROM LAKEVILLE JOURNAL ARCHIVE

While digitizing photos from the 1970s in our photo archive, we came across an explosion of normally staid New Englanders suddenly opting to wear plaid.

feeling frisky.

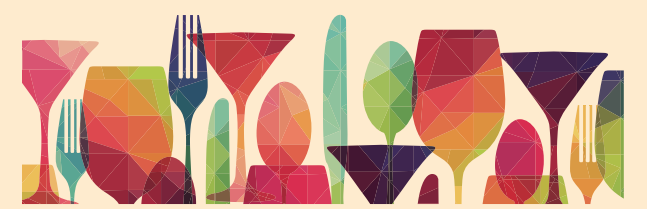
And then sometime in the 1970s there was an eruption of wild plaids; some stripes too but more plaids than stripes.

Enjoy these mad plaids,

and the chance to look back at how our world looked half a century ago (yes, it's incredible: 1970 was 50 years ago).

And if you can, help us identify some of the people

in this photo by sending an email to [cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com); we will post some additional photos online at [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com) (search for Mad Plaids).



## Country Dining

Don't be fooled by our "remote" location. Here in the Tri-Corner region of the Northwest Hills of Connecticut, the Southern Berkshires of Massachusetts and the Upper Hudson Valley of New York, there is an unexpected variety of fabulous restaurants whose cuisine covers all corners of the world.

The restaurants below want you to know they are open and will continue to safely serve you. When you visit, let them know how much you appreciate them and that you saw their ad in *your* Lakeville Journal or Millerton News.

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### EDITORIAL

## Now is the time to pass federal gun reform legislation

Connecticut is fortunate to have moral and unbending representation in the U.S. Senate, and Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal both have strong presences in making bipartisan and meaningful legislation happen. Murphy is now key, as he has been for years since the Sandy Hook school shooting, working on gun legislation. He is pushing for universal background checks, a ban on assault weapons and limited sizes of magazines for all ammunition. The bill passed the House in the middle of March, and awaits a vote in the Senate.

The bill's time has come; but we've said that before on gun control. Such legislation has seemed the rational approach to keeping outsized high-power weapons only in responsible hands. But the pushback from those who have had backing from the NRA and waved the Second Amendment as cover for their arguments has kept needed reform at bay.

Take a look on Facebook, for instance, and do a search for "Petitions on gun control." You will find that the majority of those that pop up are against any legislation ensuring universal background checks or limiting access to assault weapons or an inordinate amount of ammunition. So those who feel their right to bear arms is being threatened, worrying more about that than the right to vote, have louder voices on social media. This is a powerful platform that gathers large groups, as we saw on Jan. 6 with the storming of the U.S. Capitol. Is this the direction the majority of U.S. citizens want to see this country go?

The 2020 election would say otherwise. Those in power now need to act and implement gun reform, as they have received the mandate of the majority of Americans who want to know that those without morals or self control will have less chance of accessing the most dangerous weapons available to them.

Now is finally the time for legislation on gun control to pass at the federal level of government. There are already too many guns, too powerful for hunting and more given to human tragedy like the ones we saw in Atlanta and Boulder this month, and so many others. Leaving the floodgates open will not improve the situation, but rather only make it worse.

Things must change now. Without the effort in the right direction, they never will. And that would be tragic for the entire nation, for all of us.

## Good reasons to keep Holley Place on track

I am a member of the Salisbury Housing Committee. These are my personal thoughts.

I believe Holley Place will be a great addition to Lakeville and to the Town's affordable housing stock. Affordable rental housing is needed now more than ever. Here are replies to the opponents of the project.

On Parking: Holley Place has the required parking spaces for its zoning application plus a few extra.

Planning and Zoning sometimes approves applications with insufficient parking on their premises if it seems there is adequate parking in the neighborhood, Satellite Parking.

Several neighbors have relied on parking in the Bicentennial lot, and the lot has been referenced as an example of available Satellite Parking. But I don't believe anyone has been given specific rights to any parking place or any parking lot. Therefore, I don't believe any reduction in parking spaces here will make any approved use non-conforming. Let's see how more parking can be developed.

Anxiety about parking is not a reason to deny a vital project for an important town need where the applicant satisfies the zoning parking requirements on the premises.

On Historic District Concerns: Any required historic district approvals will be obtained.

But let's take a look at what exactly is here of historical importance. There is a parking lot. There are trees, a strip of grass, a bench, and a stone wall, all dating from the 1960's and called Bicentennial Park. That's it!

Interestingly, it is the parking lot that seems to be held in higher esteem than the unused

grassy strip, trees and bench.

The stone wall is not a memorial to Holley Block, a building whose design the supporters of Federal architecture loathed.

Many opponents of Holley Place celebrate the demolition of the Holley Block, yet somehow a wall built from the rubble is sacred.

This Historic Emperor has no clothes.

On Finance: Mr. Muecke, owner of Lakeville Manor, has taken a full page ad in the Journal, to trumpet his claim of the financial futility of Holley Place. I believe this presentation on the finances of Holley Place is both mistaken and misguided.

One glaring mistake is that his numbers are based on a loan at the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority rate of 4% costing interest of \$150,000+ a year, whereas the anticipated funding for Holley Place is a grant from Connecticut's Department of Housing.

Secondly, it is misguided as he is addressing the Planning and Zoning Commission that makes no judgment on the financial viability of a project. These financial concerns for construction and long-term viability will be closely studied by the Connecticut Department of Housing before they pay for the construction. They are well versed on these issues. The Department of Housing and the Salisbury Housing Committee have a successful record of cooperation.

Town support by donation of the site, and state grants for construction are very much needed to launch a sustainable affordable rental housing like Holley Place. Let's keep this project on track.

George Massey

Salisbury



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

### Spring: Orange crocuses in Salisbury

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Holley Block is essential for the community, and all who live in it

During the extended process of applying for approval of the Holley Block project, legitimate concerns have been raised about the proposal; the Salisbury Housing Committee has responded, notably by reducing the square footage and the number of units in the building. The façade was also redesigned to align with Lakeville's historical aesthetic.

The question of the financial feasibility of the project is a false flag. Financing is neither within the realm of the P&Z commission, nor is it in any other respect a legitimate concern. As is the practice with other affordable housing projects in Connecticut and throughout the United States, funding will be provided by grants (federal, state and other). The town of Salisbury is neither providing financing nor extending its credit to support the project. The project will have no impact on the credit rating of the town because the town has no financial responsibility toward the project.

To question the viability

of any of the town's affordable housing projects by comparing them to commercial ventures is spurious. These projects are not commercial ventures. They do not need a positive return on capital to be feasible. Grants are intended to provide funds for affordable housing projects that would not otherwise be commercially viable.

Rent covers operating and ongoing capital expenses. The Salisbury Housing Committee (SHC) has successfully managed affordable housing at Sarum Village and elsewhere for more than 40 years. Connecticut Real Estate Management (CREM) is their agent. SHC has audited financials and their 990 tax forms are available for public inspection. Financing for affordable housing for our town is not a new or novel proposition.

The goal of affordable housing is not to make a profit, rather it is to create safe and stable homes for the many people who have grown up in Salisbury, work in Salisbury, or would like to build a life in

Salisbury but can't afford to live here. Affordable housing is for the public good, not for personal enrichment.

Despite the hard and persistent work of the various organizations in our town that endeavor to develop affordable housing, we taxpayers have neglected the legal mandate and the moral imperative to provide for our community in this way. Our town voted to use the Holley Block site for affordable housing and our town should go forward with the mandate from its citizens. Let's work together to develop Holley Block, the Pope property, the Dresser land and other available sites into homes for the teachers, the town crews, the hospital staff and all the essential workers who are invaluable.

Let's offer the security of a decent, affordable home to the essential workers that make Lakeville/Salisbury such a wonderful place to live.

Kathleen Voldstad  
Michael Voldstad

Salisbury

### Shout out to HVRHS administrators

For Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) faculty and staff, Friday mornings begin with an email from Vice Principal Steven Schibi announcing the "Friday Sing Along" song selections. Recently, the email has announced the two Staff "Shout Out" Recipients who won that week's Mountainside gift certificates from the 21st Century Fund. These are just a few examples of the practices Principal Ian Strever and Steve have taken to bolster the staff's morale during this extremely unpredictable, constantly changing year.

On behalf of the 21st Century Fund for HVRHS Board of Directors, who are happy to support these efforts, we wish to acknowledge them as well as the Superintendent's Office for all they have done to protect and educate our students. Their focus on the students' and staff's emotional and physical wellbeing has been exemplary, and we applaud them for their efforts and steady guidance. We also appreciate the grace with which they have born the heavy responsibility and challenges this year has presented them.

David Bayersdorfer  
21st Century Fund Board Chair

Lakeville

### Supporting Holley Block

We write in support of the proposed Holley Block affordable housing. Concerns about financial viability are irrelevant and distracting. The town of Salisbury will have no responsibility for revenue short falls. Simply put, proceeding with this project is essential to the vitality of our community.

As has been previously discussed in these pages, Salisbury desperately needs affordable housing. Holley Block is just one step toward that goal. The Pope property should be another and should be a priority.

Judith McGuire  
Raymond McGuire

Salisbury

Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m. Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com. No more than 500 words.

### TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

**100 years ago — March 1921**  
SALISBURY — Paul Cleaveland has gone to Brookfield to assume his duties on a large farm there. The family will go to Brookfield later on.

LAKEVILLE — William Stanton will open a lunch room in the Bates place early in April.

SALISBURY — James Melvin is having moved a section of the barn from the Bushnell place to a lot which he recently purchased of Miss Agnes Mead.

The auction at C.H. Osborn's second hand store on Wednesday drew a considerable number and proved generally satisfactory to seller and buyers.

The last of the ice disappeared from the lake on Thursday March 17th, a much earlier date than usual.

**50 years ago — March 1971**

CORNWALL — A rare bird, a snowy egret, was found dead near the state highway garage at Cornwall Bridge one day last week by William Clarke and Theodore Johnson, State Highway employees. At first they thought it was the pet duck of Mrs. Mabel Engisch until they saw the duck following her where she was working out in her yard. They picked up the white feathered bird, and saw it resembled a heron but had yellow feet. Never having seen such a bird before, they took it to the Sharon Audubon Center where it was identified as a "snowy egret."

KENT — A small group of local youngsters, of an age to complain that "there's nothing

*Continued on next page*

### Gratitude and giving

Lord a Merci it is cold  
Into a blanket I should fold  
Instead I am out and about  
But it's not all for naught  
Shopping's done, gas tank full

Into the garage I pull  
Upstairs into the living room I go

The fire's lit all aglow  
I'm reminded how lucky we are

Our life is really up to par  
Others are not so blessed  
To be warmly dressed  
So let's go out and aid  
Someone who is afraid  
And by doing a good deed  
You will have sowed a seed.

Michael Kahler

Lakeville

### Holley Place so needed

As a resident of Lakeville since 2005, I strongly support Holley Place.

We were fortunate enough to raise our two boys here on the weekends and give them such a rich experience filled with soccer, baseball, skating, skiing, swimming, hiking and so much more.

I wish much the same for the future Holley Place families.

Sincere thanks and awe to the volunteers who have stepped up to make this a reality.

Julie Mallin

Lakeville

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# 'Normalcy' returns as a real word after a century

For the second time in exactly a century, an elected president is promising a "return to normalcy" for his beleaguered people. But there's a difference. Nobody's poking fun about using the malapropism "normalcy" this time, as they did to Warren G. Harding a hundred years ago. In fact, most of the leading newspapers have been reporting on Biden's "return to normalcy," with nary a reference to the once preferred word, "normality," or the simpler word, normal. It seems "normalcy" has made it after all these years. Just check your dictionary.

I first encountered the return to normalcy as a senior in college, when I was allowed to take two independent study courses of my own design — one on American presidents in the 1920s and the other on American writers in the same decade.

In the history course, I studied the decade's four presidencies: the seriously ill Woodrow Wilson's final year; Warren G. Harding to his death in office and its scandalous aftermath; Calvin Coolidge's elevation from Harding's vice president and the single term he served on his own and Herbert Hoover's four years of prosperity and depression.

The course on writers included the usual suspects — novelists Sinclair Lewis, Ernest Hemingway, Theodore Dreiser and others. I liked them all but my favorite writer of the decade and the decades to follow wasn't a novelist. He was the journalist, essayist and critic H.L. Mencken, who proved to be a main character in both the history and literature courses.

Mencken's remembered today — if at all — for "The American Language," his brilliant study of English as it was

## IF YOU ASK ME DICK AHLES

written and spoken by Americans up to his time. And as both a linguist and an editor, Mencken reveled in criticizing return to normalcy's Warren Gamaliel Harding.

As editor of the two leading literary magazines of the decade, *The Smart Set* and *The American Mercury*, Mencken introduced, encouraged and published Fitzgerald, Lewis, Dreiser and James Joyce but also lesser literary lights, who often gave him the opportunity to "translate the bad English of a multitude of authors into measurably better English."

And so, except for an occasional college professor and "half a dozen dipsomaniacal newspaper reporters," Mencken singled out Harding's near-unique talent: "He writes the worst English I have ever encountered."

And this brings us back to "normalcy," a word that did appear in a 19th mathematical dictionary before it was revived, if not coined, in a campaign promise by candidate Harding.

After the World War and a flu pandemic that took 675,000 American lives, Harding, in an alliterative flourish, campaigned for "not heroic, but healing; not nostrums, but normalcy; not revolution but restoration," and on and on to "not experiment, but equipoise" and in a final rhetorical outburst, "not submergence in internationality but sustainment in triumphant nationality."

Mencken noticed and af-

ter Harding was elected by a landslide, wrote that Harding's writing reminded him of "a string of wet sponges, of tattered washing on the line, of stale bean soup"... "so bad that a sort of grandeur creeps in."

"It is flap and doodle. It is balder and dash."

The Sage of Baltimore, as some admirers called him, had his own way with words.

And now, exactly a century later, we have a new president promising a "return to normalcy," although Joe Biden, to the best of my research, has never uttered those words, even as he has made the promise of better days ahead and life as it was following the fearsome COVID-19 pandemic and the divisions of Trumpism.

Those three little words, "return to normalcy," appear to have been given to him by the media. Headline after headline, from *The New York Times* to *The Washington Post*, from *Mother Jones* to *US News*, tell us "Biden Promises a Return to Normalcy" or "Biden to Offer Help for a Return to Normalcy," as the *Post* predicted in a preview of the president's first prime-time speech March 11. I carefully went over the transcript of that speech and couldn't find a reference to normalcy, normality or normal even though the return was broadly envisioned by Biden.

But that doesn't mean we can't celebrate the timing of two returns to normalcy a century apart and note the coincidence of having had one of our two worst presidencies begin in March of 1921 and the other end in January of 2021.

*Simsbury resident Dick Ahles is a retired journalist. Email him at rahles1@outlook.com.*



## The problems of living with coruscating racism

An article in the *NY Times* was titled *The Power Brokers of Beverly Hills*. I've already forgotten the names of this couple, but the paragraph below struck me.

"At the time, they were charged

with selling \$300,000 condominiums, and they still dabble in the middle-class market — whatever that means in Los Angeles. 'I just found a \$900,000 house in Van Nuys for my hairdresser,' Mrs. Williams said. 'Really beautiful. I never want to be so jaded that all of this takes away my moral compass.'"

Yes, those pesky old moral compasses can really be a drag. Especially at 900K.

The day I write this, the Prez and the VP are headed to our southern border to see what can be done about the unaccompanied immigrant children who have been living for ten days and more in quarters that were supposed to house them for no more than three. If only they had Mrs. Williams to secure them some pied a terres in Van Nuys, we could all sleep a bit better after having bad days during which we decided to go murder some Asian women.

At the end of his rope, was this 21-year-old, now on suicide watch in an Atlanta prison while the police try to decide whether this was a hate crime. The Asian community is not at all undecided. What else could it be, they cry. A fit of pique? Maybe he was having a bad goatee day? Or, I got it. A love crime, because he's addicted to sex. Aren't we all? Let's go kamikaze some geishas. Arrigato!

I recall as a youngster going door-to-door in Chicago to solicit money for some school charity that had something to do with World War II. One man started screaming about the "dirty Japs" and slammed the door in my face. A kid does not forget these things, but I do recall there were no Asians in my 'hood of houses that went for about 9K.

I've read that Randy Andy Cuomo, the original cuomo-sexual, doesn't have a house or an apartment in New York. Just the Governor's mansion, which don't sound like bad digs to me. If you can keep them.

Something about the end justifying the means is rising here. If I had seen that bare back at that wedding, I might

have been tempted to touch it. No "might have been." Would have been. But I would have

abstained for two reasons, the first being a violation of the woman's privacy. The second, not as importantly, is that I would have been

afraid that she would turn around and kolkock me. Or at least throw a drink in my face. Then I'd have to go back to my mansion and change out of my silks.

In fact, any woman I can think of would have done that. Kolkocked or thrown. Maybe I know the wrong, or right, women.

My friend and colleague, Lizzie Wong, has written a play called "Kimchee and Chitlins," which I had a hand in getting produced in Chicago even before I knew that a main character was the Reverend Lonnie Carter, a Black preacher who brokers a ceasefire between Korean merchants and their Black neighbors. It was based on a real event in Brooklyn in which Black citizens picketed a Korean deli that was accused of discriminating against Black customers. The large Korean family, of course, live over the store. (We should recall that the Cuomo family when Father Mario was a little boy, lived over the store. Not a mansion in sight. Storekeeper. Could be Andrew's next career.)

I, it should be noted, claim no such brokerage power. In Beverly Hills or anywhere.

My friend and colleague, Lori Tan Chin, who had a featured role in "Orange is the New Black" for several years, and who played Bloody Mary in a worldwide tour of "South Pacific," tells me of the lingering, coruscating racism in the "bidness" of film and television.

My friend and colleague, Randall Duk Kim, who played in my "Smoky Links," a character named Ty Wun On, an alcoholic, rhetorically militant championship golfer in a sea of white plaid-trousered duffers (before the Cablinasian Eldrick Woods), tells me the same.

I grieve with my Asian friends, not the least of which my Filipino/a "kaibigans," more than brothers and sisters, that, and true friends. (Have you noticed that Pinoys/Pinays are some of the best caregivers before and during the pandemic? And will continue to be after.) Those who live over the stores

and are not all "crazy and rich," but make the best adobo, pancit and maya blanca mais and will share it with you anytime.

I am trying not to have a bad day and will resist violating anyone. And murder? Can't say — been there, done that. Nope. Won't go there.

*Lonnie Carter is a writer who lives in Falls Village. Email him at lonniety@comcast.net.*

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

*Continued from previous page*

to do in Kent," entertained themselves Sunday afternoon by vandalizing Kent Center School. Finding a door open at the school, four eight- and nine-year-olds embarked on a program of malicious mischief that might have caused irreparable damage had they not been caught in the act. Principal Robert Keene, notified by a nearby resident that children were at the school unattended, arrived to find water rushing down the stairs from the upper level. His offices, a conference room, and the health room were awash. Racing upstairs to turn off the taps and open the drains in the girls' lavatory, he discovered the culprits on the scene.

Police and parents were called to the school. One mother fainted when she saw the damage, and Dr. Donald Peters was summoned to revive her. Children and parents cooperated with custodian James Woodard, who arrived with members of his family to direct cleanup operations. They worked several hours to return the building to reasonable order for classes on Monday. The youngsters' parents have assumed responsibility for the damage.

SHARON — Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Goldberg of the Sharon Water Company said they would consider selling the water company to the Town of Sharon at a meeting of the Water and Sewage Study Committee Tuesday night, but would not state a price at that time. The Goldbergs said they would try to have an answer by the time of its next meeting April 6.

CANAAN — Bicon Electronics Company of Canaan is building a 12,500 square foot building adjacent to its Barlow Street manufacturing, design and office facilities.

**25 years ago — March 1996**

Doris Alexander, formerly of Salisbury, has just learned she is one of nine second-place winners in a national contest that drew more than 8,000 entries. A former teacher of English at Salisbury Central School, she has always had a love of words. Entrants were to send in their favorite simile. Hers, entered in the category that used the phrase "as quiet as," was "they became as quiet as sand sifting through an hourglass."

CANAAN — The results of tests performed on a suspected rabid raccoon, shot and killed near the center of town March 7, came back positive late last week. North Canaan animal control officer Richard Gustafson had been called after a Foote Avenue resident called state police. Mr. Gustafson described the raccoon as "acting strangely" and "generally sick-looking."

LAKEVILLE — Rod Aller continues to amaze and impress the sports world with his continuing athletic feats as he becomes an octogenarian. His most recent exploits have brought him championships in the Eastern Sise Cup Series as well as the National and International Alpine Masters Championships.

**Note from Norma** — There's a cool story in *The Lakeville Journal*, March 25, 1971, page 2, about a Salisbury School class ring that traveled to different places looking for its owner. To find it, and much more local history, go to the Scoville Library Community History Archive at [www.scoville.advantage-preservation.com/](http://www.scoville.advantage-preservation.com/)

*These items were taken from The Lakeville Journal archives at Salisbury's Scoville Memorial Library, keeping the original wording intact as possible.*

## EARTHTALK

Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss

**Dear EarthTalk: Is there scientific basis to the assertion that global warming is affecting our ability to make decisions and lowering our collective intelligence?**

— P.D., Sacramento, Calif.

As we continue to pump carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and the climate warms around the world, it's not only our health and the environment that we have to worry about. A handful of recent studies conclude that a warmer world with higher CO2 concentrations in the air we breathe is likely to make us less intelligent.

To wit, a recent study on "Heat and Learning" from the American Economic Association assessing test scores of some 12,000 school-age kids across the U.S. over a seven-year timespan found that in years with more hot days than normal, average test scores declined across the board, signaling a correlation between hot weather and the ability to concentrate and learn.

Meanwhile, a 2018 study by researchers from the Yale School of Public Health found that air pollution itself has a hugely negative effect on human cognition. Yet another recent study found


that humans exposed to high concentrations of atmospheric CO2 (1,000 parts per million) exhibit a 21% reduction in overall cognitive abilities.

At our current rate of output, atmosphere carbon levels will likely surpass 1,000 ppm by the end of the century. The upshot of such atmospheric conditions, as reported by James Bridle in his book *New Dark Age*, could be a 25% reduction in human decision-making ability as well as a 50% drop in more complex human strategic thinking abilities by 2100.

Rather than letting society fall into a downward spiral, we must step into our critical roles as deciders of both our environment's and our civilization's fate. Scientists have found clear connections between heat and political unrest, so turn these new warmths into an opportunity to get out and make a change.


Whether through protesting or striking, we need to speak our voice and stand together for a brighter future — both metaphorically and literally.

*EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).*



## Realtor® at Large

Until recently, having public access to digital maps was difficult, usually requiring memberships and subscriptions. With the interactive map offered by the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative, this has changed. The public now is able to view the different layers offered by Greenprint such as ownership parcels, wetlands, protected lands, soil types and more. This is a wonderful site to explore and can be found at [litchfieldgreenprint.org](http://litchfieldgreenprint.org).



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