



Tri-Corner
Real Estate
Inside



Ornament
safety
Page A7

Wreath making,
shopping, bubbly
music, and more
Compass, Pages B2-4



Property
Transfers
Page B7

The Lakeville Journal

Small Business Spotlight, Page A7

28 PAGES IN 3 SECTIONS VOLUME 124 NUMBER 20

© 2020 The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Lakeville (Town of Salisbury), Connecticut 06039

THURSDAY, DEC. 17, 2020 \$2.00

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

'Trepidation and excitement'

Vaccine heads to area nursing homes

By Debra A. Aleksinas

The first doses of the much-anticipated COVID-19 vaccine available to nursing home residents and staff in the Northwest Corner will be delivered in the days leading up to Christmas.

"The 23rd of December will start the process for us," said Bill Pond, administrator of the Noble Horizons Retirement Community in Salisbury. "After 10 months, what a historic time. We're excited, and there are all kinds of emotions to go with it."

Noble Horizons has partnered with CVS for the vaccination rollout. "We anticipate about 140 staff and close to 100 residents" will roll up their sleeves for the first dose, said Pond. A booster shot will then be administered during a second clinic on Jan.

13, he said.

At Geer Village Senior Community in North Canaan, CEO Kevin O'Connell said he expects coronavirus vaccinations to be given to about 300 staff and 160 residents "sometime in the end of December. We'll be getting word any time now," he said on Monday, Dec. 14. "It's the number-one answer to try to fight this virus, and get it behind us."

Drugstore chains help with roll-out

Long-term care facilities across Connecticut have agreements with either CVS or Walgreens for vaccine administration and distribution, and those facilities, along with their health-care workers, have been

See VACCINE, Page A8



PHOTO BY HUNTER O. LYLE

The season of many lights

The town Green in Sharon was alight on Sunday night, Dec. 13, with an array of seasonal observances, including a menorah celebrating Hanukkah; the colorful holiday tree (not in photo); and hundreds of luminaria placed around the perimeter. The luminaria were a fundraiser for the Sharon volunteer ambulance. Donors purchased one of the small candle-lit bags in honor of someone they love, miss and/or admire.



PHOTO BY HUNTER O. LYLE

The forest that Susan Kelsey and her husband, Berkley, bought in Falls Village in the 1980s will now be a memorial grove. Individuals select the trees where they will be laid to rest; loved ones can visit the forest and the tree.

Memorial tree forest takes root in Falls Village

By Debra A. Aleksinas

FALLS VILLAGE — A memorial tree forest, the first of its kind on the East Coast, has taken root on a 130-acre parcel off Music Mountain Road.

The site, formerly owned by forester and environmentalist Susan Kelsey, is now under the ownership of a California-based company offering a sustainable alternative to cemeteries for people who choose cremation.

The concept allows people to return their ashes to the earth beneath a personally selected memorial tree within the forest, which their family and friends can visit for years to come.

Sandy Gibson, co-founder and CEO of Better Place Forests, said the Falls Village project marks the company's fifth acquisition since its inception in 1995.

As part of its mission to protect iconic forests and invest in the community, Gibson said his firm will be hiring local forest stewards and arborists to manage and care for customers and the land.

Referring to the Falls Village site, he said, "We've chosen this specific location

not only for its accessibility, but also for its unique biodiversity and awe-inspiring natural beauty, all of which we're working to protect, maintain and conserve for generations to come."

He said considerable time was spent scouting properties on the East Coast

See MEMORIAL TREES, Page A5

Twin Lakes conservation

Keenan explains his plans and reasons for causeway

By Debra A. Aleksinas

Editor's note: Over the next several weeks, this topic will be presented in installments aimed at providing equal and unbiased coverage on all sides of the issue.

This week's article focuses on landowner Jeffrey Keenan's stewardship of and vision for property which he owns on Twin Lakes that is under a conservation restriction with The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut.

SALISBURY — Looking westward from his property on tranquil Lake Washinee in the Twin Lakes section of Salisbury, Jeffrey Keenan has a direct view of, and a vision for, a century-old railroad causeway which protrudes from Taconic Road well into the West Lake.

Keenan purchased the 20-acre

"Dr. White clearly contemplated that circumstances could change in the future and she included a provision [that would allow a change] if the change was consistent with the natural values being protected."

Jeffrey Keenan

parcel containing the abandoned structure about four years ago and is the successor in title to the land, which was placed under a Conservation Restriction Agreement in 1990 by the late Mary Alice White, a staunch Salisbury conservationist. Keenan has since transferred ownership of the property to an LLC of which he is the managing member.

In a phone interview on Dec. 9, the landowner explained that he and neighbors with homes on Salisbury's Twin Lakes believe that the old railroad causeway is a "man-

made disaster" and is detrimental to the West Lake by disturbing its natural flow.

"That was my sole purpose for buying the property," said Keenan, who noted that the causeway is causing problems similar to what prompted communities in the northern part of the country to remove dams on the Columbia River. His goal, he said, is to do what he can to help the lake, and its ecosystem, thrive.

See CAUSEWAY, Page A8

At Sharon Hospital, 2020 was mostly about COVID-19

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SHARON — Sharon Hospital President Dr. Mark K. Hirko described the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the hospital during a community forum (online) held Monday, Dec. 14.

The hospital took a number of precautionary measures in the spring, as the pandemic spread rapidly, Hirko said.

These included shutting down elective procedures; limiting the number of people entering the facility; and restrictions on visitation.

The visitation restrictions were eased somewhat by increased use of technology for virtual visits.

Staff had to undergo training

in proper use of personal protective equipment and how to care for COVID-19 patients.

Elective procedures were reinstated in July, Hirko said. An unfortunate effect of the temporary shutdown was that patients got sicker, he added.

The hospital has been working on contingency and surge planning, drawing on lessons learned during the spring.

Hirko said the community was very helpful, with meals and other donations, and expressions of support, such as letters and car parades.

The amount of support helped morale. "It really made us feel proud," he said.

Hirko said after a lull over the summer, the hospital is seeing a spike

Hirko said the community was very helpful, with meals and other donations, and expressions of support.

in COVID-19 cases, which started in mid-October.

He said the hospital currently has COVID-19 patients "in the low double digits," and within the Nuvance system, which has seven hospitals, four in Connecticut and three in New York, there are about 300 patients. The system has about 1,100 beds, Hirko said.

Moving ahead, Hirko said that employees were given time off during the summer lull in COVID-19 cases.

The hospital's "clinical playbook" for treating COVID-19 patient draws on "what worked and what didn't" during the initial spring surge.

As far as the COVID-19 vaccine goes, Hirko said the hospital is working with state and federal authorities on the priority groups for receiving the Pfizer vaccine, starting with high-risk health-care workers. He said he hopes to have the vaccine in hand by the end of the week.

Hirko also took time to thank the community for its response to a fundraising campaign, which has raised about \$900,000 with a goal of \$1 million by Dec. 31. If the hospital hits the \$1 million target, it will receive a matching grant of \$1 million for a total of \$2 million.



William Pitt | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Contact Diana today for a confidential discussion on today's Real Estate market.

Diana Waugh Bisselle

Specializing in Litchfield County, CT & Dutchess County, NY

917.519.5021 | dbisselle@williampitt.com
Salisbury Brokerage, 19 Main Street | williampitt.com

Each office is independently owned & operated.



Pawling, NY \$980,000 | Stunning restored 4 BR Classic Quaker Hill Colonial on 5.59 acres with spectacular views overlooking Audubon land. Beautiful craftsmanship & attention to detail. Separate garage & small barn with paddock.



Regional

In The Journal this week

OUR TOWNS	A3-5	OPINION.....	B5
OBITUARIES	A5-6	VIEWPOINT.....	B6
HEALTH.....	A7	PROPERTIES	B7
LAST MINUTE		LEGALS	B7
SHOPPING BANNER..	B1	CLASSIFIEDS.....	B7
COMPASS.....	B2-4	SPECIALIST.....	B8

Three-day forecast

Friday.....Cloudy, high 30°/low 7°
 Saturday.....Cloudy, 32°/23°
 Sunday.....Snow, 39°/28°

OWL WATCH



PHOTO BY OSCAR MARTINEZ

We think of owls as primarily nocturnal but this northern saw-whet was out on Friday morning, Dec. 4, in Sharon.

Whooo do you spot in the trees?

SHARON — Oscar Martinez in Sharon was clearing leaves on Dec. 4 when he “heard noise, looked up and he/she stared back.” By contacting a neighbor who is a birder and by then contacting Sharon Audubon, Martinez was able to identify this owl as a northern saw-whet.

Bird watchers, experienced and novice, are encouraged to take part in the Audubon national bird count on Sunday, Dec. 20, from 12:01 a.m. to midnight. This year’s count is completely online.

Audubon’s Zach Adams can help identify birds; contact him at za4250@hotmail.com for information, to receive a bird feeder count form (he can connect you with one of the area “captains”) and to get the Zoom link for the virtual post-birding count-up.

The regional count is known as the Trixie Strauss Christmas Bird Count in honor of a longtime area resident.

— Cynthia Hochswender

Clarification on easement

Environmentalist and former Lakeville Journal columnist Tim Abbott wrote in with concerns about an article in the Dec. 10 Lakeville Journal that he felt incorrectly conveyed the issue being discussed. Abbott is working as a consultant for the landowner (see story, Page A1, in this week’s issue).

“Last week’s story about the Salisbury Inland Wetlands Commission’s postponed ‘show cause’ hearing gave the impression to some of your readers that the conservation easement held by The Nature Conservancy over a Taconic Road property was being disregarded or ignored.”

Abbott felt that the photo outline and headline of the article gave the impression that property owner Jeffrey Keenan (who is interviewed at length in this week’s paper, to allow him to present his point of view) had taken liberties with the property in question and endangered or ignored the pro-

ductive easement put in place 30 years ago, in 1990, by Mary Alice White.

The article was written on the occasion of an Inland Wetlands Conservation Commission hearing about concerns that Keenan had cleared land on the causeway without getting the appropriate permits.

“The matter before the Commission concerns management activity undertaken within a jurisdictional area, but not whether such activity is permitted under the conservation easement,” Abbott clarified.

He also noted that The Nature Conservancy was not consulted about that article; however, The Nature Conservancy is not involved in the hearing or with Salisbury’s Inland Wetlands Commission. The Nature Conservancy was interviewed for this week’s article and conversation with Keenan.

— Cynthia Hochswender, Executive Editor

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Relief grant for Hunt Library

FALLS VILLAGE — The David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village recently received a grant of coronavirus relief funds from the Connecticut State Library Division of Library Development.

Holiday contest

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance and Salisbury Recreation Commission are sponsoring a virtual gingerbread house and a light-up Salisbury holiday house decorating/yard display contest.

For details and information, go to www.salisburyct.us, email recreationdirector@salisburyct.us or call 860-435-5186. The deadline to register is Dec. 18.

The funds are part of Gov. Ned Lamont’s Everybody Learns Initiative and are being used to replace carpeting on the library’s ground floor, and to purchase two new air purifiers and an automated paper towel dispenser.

The carpeting replacement will be done by Weigold Floor Covering in Torrington.

Don’t Miss This Week’s Special Inserts! Sales and more!

Check them out inside.

- CVS
- Ocean State Job Lot

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.

Fled scene of collision

On Dec. 5 at approximately 7:45 p.m. on Furnace Road in Cornwall, a 2005 Ford Freestyle driven by Ryan Joseph Berry, 26, of Cornwall exited the roadway on a bend and struck an Eversource utility pole. Berry was later found at his home having failed to contact the authorities about the collision. He was issued a misdemeanor summons for evading responsibility, failing to maintain the lane and traveling too fast for the conditions. Berry was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Jan. 13, 2021.

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.

Send obituaries to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com

Salisbury Association
Serving Our Community Since 1902.

presents

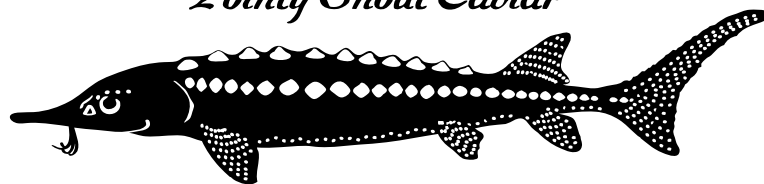
Annual Christmas Concert

Featuring “The Salisbury Four” quartet performing works from the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Periods

Judith Dansker, oboe and recorder
Alicia DePaolo, soprano
Christopher Morrongiello, lute
Marcia Young, soprano and Renaissance harp

Available on-line throughout the holiday season at www.salisburyassociation.org

Pointy Snout Caviar



AUTHENTIC



SUSTAINABLE



PROVOCATIVE

2.5% OF POINTY SNOOT CAVIAR SALES PROCEEDS BY AREA RESIDENTS WILL BE DONATED TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY.

USE CODE 2020. VALID THROUGH JANUARY 2, 2021

— • SINCE 2010 • —

www.pointysnout.com • [@pointysnout](https://twitter.com/pointysnout) • LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED • info@pointysnout.com • 800-910-1760

Our Towns

Debate on housing plan continues Dec. 14

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — At a special meeting of the Board of Selectman Thursday, Dec. 10 (held online), the board agreed to negotiate rental terms for the use of the town-owned building at 107 Main St.

Who the board will negotiate with remains an open question. First Selectman Henry Todd said he has discussed the possibility of opening a coffee shop with Mike Moriarty, one of the owners of J.P. Gifford's in Sharon and Kent.

He said Moriarty was not initially interested in the available space, but at the regular meetings of the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen on Monday, Dec. 14, Todd said Moriarty and his business partners were planning to come for another visit next week, and to continue discussion.

There was some back and forth with resident Daly Reville, whom Todd thanked for connecting him with Moriarty to begin with.

Reville asked why the selectmen were discussing negotiations without a proposal. Selectman Dave Barger said, "Nothing is set in stone," and Todd added, "It's our decision."

The selectmen approved a contract for Janell Mullen from the Northwest Hills Council of Governments to be the "Zoom proctor" for the online meet-

ings of the Planning and Zoning Commission, at the commission's request. The fee is \$70 per hour, up to \$5,000, and comes from the P&Z budget.

The selectmen discussed and ultimately tabled the question of releasing, to the Falls Village Housing Trust, the final \$20,000 of a \$80,000 state grant. The trust will use the funds for work on the site of the affordable housing complex on River Road.

Reville and Colter Rule objected to this, maintaining that the Incentive Housing Zone, where the River Road site is located, was not properly established and the town did not comply with state reporting requirements.

Todd pushed back on this, saying the state housing department has assured him that the town is in compliance and a letter to that effect was forthcoming. The discussion continued in a somewhat circular fashion until Selectman Greg Marlowe pointed out that the rules of a special meeting do not allow for open debate.

He then moved that the matter be tabled until the regular monthly meeting of the Board on Monday, Dec. 14. That motion was approved.

At the Dec. 14 regular selectmen's meeting, the release of the funds was approved. Marlowe noted that the money is a state grant, not town funds.

Reville and Rule reiterated their protests. Laura Wernitz said she thought the River Road site is a wetland and she could not find any indication that the Inland Wetlands Commission (IWC) had approved the site. That was enough for former First Selectman Pat Mechare, who was in office in 2014, when the zone was set up. She said IWC did approve the site, that the process of establishing the zone was done properly, and that opponents should stop "badgering" the selectmen. "This is getting rather tiresome and rather destructive," she said.



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Home for the holidays

Difficult times call for innovative solutions, such as the Lakeville Hose Company's clever plan for helping Santa hear holiday wishes from children in Salisbury. Parents dropped off wrapped gifts ahead of time to help Santa and the elves with this year's production; the hose company took Santa around town to visit children (such as Avery Clark in the photo at left) and deliver gifts.

Financial challenges for town services

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand announced that Town Hall will only conduct in-person business by appointment. Rand spoke at the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen Monday, Dec. 7 (online).

Rand said he was concerned about walkups — people coming to the foyer and requesting entry to Town Hall. (Town Hall has been mostly closed to the public since the spring. The foyer is set up with information and commonly used forms, and a telephone to call inside and speak to a particular department.)

Selectman Chris Williams reported that the two sidewalk projects — from the Scoville

Memorial Library to Salmon Kill Road, and from Lincoln City Road along Route 44 (Main Street) to Brook Street (and the firehouse) — are moving ahead.

Selectman Don Mayland said the new pump station on Salmon Kill Road is complete and functioning.

He also warned that the town's Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) is concerned about an increasing number of overdue bills. Mayland said there is some \$98,000 in unpaid bills.

Rand observed that municipal water and sewage bills are considered taxes under state law and as such are subject to an 18% interest charge.

Mayland asked that residents with unpaid bills get in

touch with him or the WPCA and make payment arrangements. "The WPCA needs cash flow," he said.

Mayland also made a proposal to regularize the fee charged for water and sewer hookups for additional dwellings, such as accessory apartments. He proposed a \$3,500 fee for new dwellings, with a bathroom, kitchen and possibly laundry room. The fee for a completely new building will stay at \$5,000.

Mayland also said the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service is experiencing financial woes, most recently in the form of communications technology upgrades.

"We're stretched," he said. He floated the ideas of hiring paramedics and of starting to bill

users. (From its inception the SVAS has never billed anyone for its services, and has relied on donations and volunteers.)

Rand suggested a line item in the town's municipal budget.

Mayland said, "We've always done it on our own."

Rand said "I think we can find a way to put something in the budget for public safety."

"I'm more concerned about hiring professionals," he added.

There was a lengthy discussion about the town website. Janet Graaff, in public comments, said she believed the town's website was not up to the standard of other town websites.

Emily Egan, the selectmen's secretary, said the website is scheduled for an upgrade this winter.

SWSA pot pies and jump camp

SALISBURY — The White Hart Inn Pot Pie Dinner to Go will be held Thursday, Dec. 17, at Provisions at the inn. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA).

The dinner includes a chicken pot pie, mashed potatoes and a sticky toffee pudding for dessert. The cost is \$25.

Because of the pandemic, the dine-in holiday dinner has adopted a takeout format instead.

To reserve a pot pie dinner either call Provisions at 860-435-0030, order online at www.whitehartinn.com or take your chances that there will be dinner availability when you arrive (the dinners have always sold out in past years).

Dinner pickup will be from 5 to 8 p.m. at Provisions. Either call from the parking lot for curbside pickup or come into Provisions.

Proceeds from the event will help fund SWSA's youth skiing programs. SWSA's 2021 Junior Jump Camp will be held on Friday, Jan. 1, and Saturday, Jan. 2, at Satre Hill in Salisbury.

The event is open to children ages 7 and up who already downhill ski.

Organizers have made pandemic-related changes to keep youngsters safe. To register or for more information, call Ken Barker at 860-806-0471



Just like Thanksgiving, we've got you covered from Christmas Eve dinner, Christmas breakfast, to cookie platters.

Stop in today to order

The Round III

5523 Route 22, Millerton, NY 12546

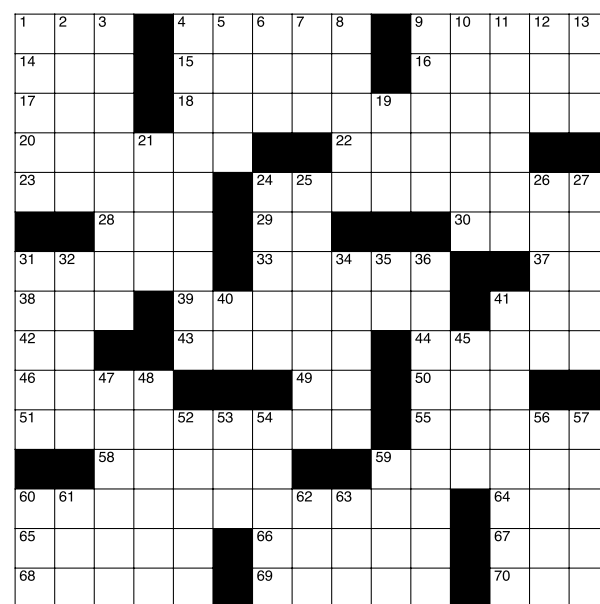
Or call 518-592-1240

Breakfast served all day

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular pickup truck
4. Profoundly wise men
9. Camera company
14. Folk singer DiFranco
15. Passerine birds
16. Plum-shaped fruit used for preserves
17. Popular kids channel
18. Dodgers' skipper
20. Removes
22. The Atlantic is one
23. Badgerlike mammal
24. Foulness
28. Luke's mentor — Wan
29. Commercial
30. A type of gin
31. Temptress
33. Shuts in an enclosed space
37. Milligram
38. Actress Adams
39. Strive to equal or match
41. Health insurance
42. A detective's source
43. Small American rails
44. Alfred __, Brit. poet
46. Crest of a hill
49. Atomic #52
50. __ Caesar, comedian
51. Breaks apart
55. Register formally (Brit. sp.)
58. Worker
59. Chemical compound
60. Disgraced newsman
64. Born of
65. Chemical substance
66. Supernatural powers
67. Clothes
68. Indy footballers
69. Moves forward
70. Midway between south and southeast



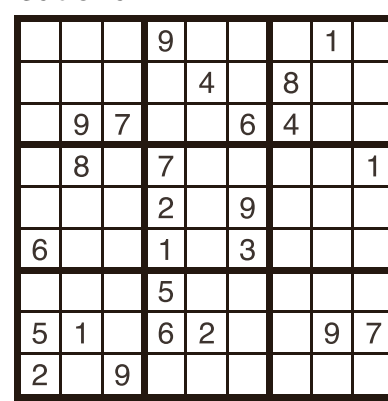
19. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
21. One point east of southeast
24. Belgian city
25. Praise excessively
26. River in France
27. Edible lily bulbs
31. Quarterbacks take them
32. Organic compound
34. Tears down (Brit.)
35. Beloved Hollywood alien
36. Unconscious
40. Missouri
41. Firemen use them
45. Pig noise
47. Greatly dismay
48. Imitator
52. Moves by turning over
53. Boxing's GOAT
54. Swarms with
56. Margarines
57. Feudal superior
59. As fast as can be done
60. Reciprocal of a sine
61. Chinese city
62. Tell on
63. United

Dec. 10 Solution

```

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

Sudoku



Dec. 10 Solution

```

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

Give the gift of ... News!

A gift subscription to your community newspapers, whether in print, digital or web, is the perfect gift for anyone on your gift list ... a friend or relative who is away from the Tri-State area but would like to keep up with the local news ... a student away at school or college... or anyone who wants to know what's going on in the Tri-State area!

Give a gift subscription!

SAVE 25%

IN PRINT (includes website)

Applicable one year rate You pay only
 \$82 (in county) \$62
 \$98 (outside county) \$74

ONLINE

One year Website Only \$82
 Digital Edition \$82

Contact Sandra Lang, or send in the form below.

Phone: 860-435-9873 ext. 301

Email: circulation@lakevillejournal.com

Or go to www.tricornenews.com/subscriptions

SEND A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION FOR:

- The Lakeville Journal The Millerton News
 Print Website Digital Edition

From: Your Name _____ Address _____ Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone Number _____ Email _____

To: Name _____ Address _____ Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone Number _____ Email _____

Your recipient will receive access to the best regional news site with their print subscription gift. Be sure to include their email address.

Mail this form to: The Lakeville Journal, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Your Independent, Locally Owned, Community Newspapers & Regional News Website



Senior living • Rehabilitation • Nursing • Memory Care

A nonprofit organization
 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, CT 06068
 (860) 435-9851 • www.noblehorizons.org



Our Towns

Kent business is concerned about food trucks in town

By Leila Hawken

KENT — Responding to residents' concerns about allowing food truck vendors in town, the selectmen discussed the issue at their regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 8. The meeting was held on Zoom.

The selectmen agreed that no food trucks will be allowed until a governing policy is developed. No action is anticipated on the matter until the pandemic quarantine is lifted. Exceptions are food trucks at private parties and existing vendor permits.

Correspondence had been received expressing concern about food trucks in competition with the town's restaurants, who are struggling with the effects of COVID-19 on their businesses. Speaking at the meeting was Elissa Potts, owner of the Fife 'n' Drum.

One of the emails read by First Selectman Jean Speck urged that the question of food trucks be referred to the town's Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z). Selectman Ed Matson expressed his opinion that the Planning and Zoning Commission should set the rules and that the selectmen's role is to uphold those rules.

"We really need to straighten this out," Matson said.

Selectman Christopher Garrity said he believes that P&Z "abdicated its role" in the matter, claiming that it is not their responsibility. He said he was not foreseeing an avalanche of food

trucks, but he would have concerns about traffic patterns. He envisioned a potential "traffic nightmare."

"I'm fine with competition," Potts told the selectmen, speaking as owner of one of the 16 or so restaurants in town. But she felt that food trucks do not represent fair competition to existing restaurants, who deal with overhead expenses brought by their permanence.

Most agreed that food trucks hired for a private party are acceptable.

Stating that an ordinance may not be the right solution, Garrity felt that the conversation should be tabled until the pandemic subsides. He did not feel it is appropriate to invite outside vendors to town while the pandemic remains a threat to public health.

"I've talked with many residents, heard lots of different opinions and lots of good ideas," Garrity said.

Potts added that all the local businesses work so hard, it does not seem right to see someone just coming in.

"We all try to play by the rules," Potts added.

"The goal is for everyone to win in this," Garrity said, adding that some sort of outright control by policy is necessary. He suggested bringing "a bunch of people together and figuring it out."

The outcome is that no food trucks or new peddlers' licenses will be issued until the state declares the end of the pandemic emergency.

Sharon business wants to open a food truck

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — A business owner's suggestion that the town draft an ordinance to allow food trucks was heard by the Board of Selectmen at their regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 8. The selectmen held the meeting at Town Hall, with the public participating by Zoom.

Discussion of allowing regulated food trucks led off with First Selectman Brent Colley saying the town is trying to help local businesses struggling with the impacts of COVID-19. There are also business owners who may want to expand their business model.

With the Sharon Valley Tavern closed since the pandemic began in March, owner Jessica Kain told the selectmen that state regulations stipulate that her business cannot serve alcohol without food being available for customers. She said that a food truck is a viable option for her.

"If I offer the best hot dog in town, then people would come to Sharon," she said. Kain also noted the potential for increased revenue and job creation, to staff the truck.

Selectman Dale Jones suggested that North Canaan's recently drafted Food Truck Ordinance might serve as a starting template to be con-

sidered. And Selectman Casey Flanagan cautioned that the town would need to be certain that all health codes were being met.

Kain pointed out that owning a food truck would be more cost effective for her than remodeling the tavern's kitchen. She said that she would be willing to pay any fees that might be required for the truck.

Jones praised the idea of Kain having a food truck as a "great and innovative idea." He added that welcoming food trucks to town would help to build events.

"I'm excited to see it happening here," Jones said. "We have the natural resources to be able to attract food truck vendors."

"I'm all about expanding opportunities," Kain said.

The selectmen unanimously agreed to pursue the creation of an ordinance to allow food trucks to do business in town. The drafted ordinance would need to be considered by the selectmen and then go through the public hearing process.

Speeding along Hilltop Road continues. Sharon Center School is on the road, which is also a shortcut to Route 4.

Colley announced that he had received a petition signed by 12 of the 14 residents who live along the street, asking that speed bumps be installed.

He said that a review process is needed to examine the details of the proposal, to be followed by a public hearing. The selectmen agreed that a hearing would need to be postponed until the pandemic subsides.

Town Hall parking upgrade can now begin

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Voters agreed unanimously to accept a grant from the state Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) at a special town meeting held at the Sharon Congregational Church on Friday, Dec. 4. The meeting drew sparse attendance for its in-person voting participation and only two residents as Zoom observers.

Actions approved at the town meeting were to accept the \$125,000 STEAP grant and to appropriate \$60,000 from the capital non-recurring fund to provide the balance of required town matching funds.

The STEAP grant will fund improvements to be made to the Town Hall parking lot, including drainage and expansion within the space between the Town Hall and the radio station (which is in a town-

owned building) next door. Neighboring residents asked that the town be mindful of an abutting area on their property that suffers the effects on vegetation of melting snowplow piles containing salt.

First Selectman Brent Colley responded that landscaping work would be included in a subsequent phase, not this initial parking lot project.

"Landscaping is totally open for discussion," Colley said. "We want to have discussions with all the neighbors."

In a third action that drew no comment, voters approved an appropriation for a \$70,000 supplemental expense stemming from settlement of a personnel case decided by the state Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

All of the actions approved by the town meeting had prior consideration and approval by the Board of Finance.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Dreamy sweets in downtown Kent

Gingerbread creations can be seen through the end of December at retail locations in Kent and at the Gingerbread Station on Main Street. Learn more at www.kentct.com, www.kentctgingerbreadfest.com or on Facebook at Kent CT Gingerbread Fest.

THE WOODLAND
A Country Restaurant
Lakeville, Connecticut • 860-435-0578

St. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE
5:00 P.M. | FESTIVAL EUCHARIST
The Reverend Paul Christopherson, *Celebrant*

CHRISTMAS DAY
10:00 A.M. | HOLY EUCHARIST WITH HYMNS
The Reverend Lance Beizer, *Celebrant*

RESERVATIONS ONLY FOR BOTH SERVICES

Seating Limited, Maximum of 4 per group
Must adhere to CT COVID & quarantine regulations

Email sjepiscopal@gmail.com to attend

12 Main Street, Salisbury
860-435-9290 | stjohnssalisbury.org
Praising God, Serving Neighbor

POWERFUL GIFT IDEAS

NEW TOOLS THEY'LL LOVE

Sale prices valid: November 19 - December 31, 2020. While supplies last.

GIFT IDEAS UNDER \$200		GIFT IDEAS UNDER \$400	
\$51⁹⁹ DREMEL DREMEL Versa PC10-01 Power Cleaner Kit, Black/Gray 7347941	\$124⁹⁹ Milwaukee Sawzall 6509-31 Reciprocating Saw Kit, 120 V 4201455	\$219⁰⁰ Makita MAC700 Big Bore 2.0 HP Air Compressor MAC700	\$299⁹⁹ DEWALT 20V MAX Cordless Brushless XR® Hammerdrill & Impact Driver Combo Kit (5.0Ah) DCK299P2
\$59⁰⁰ 3M Worktunes 90543-4DC Ear Muff, AM/FM Radio Band, AA Battery, Black/Yellow 5852553	\$134⁹⁹ MAKITA 7 1/4" 5007MG Circular Saw Magnesium, Corded 5007MG	\$279⁹⁹ STABILA 72" Plate Extension Level Extends 7' To 12', Steel 106t Item 35712 7281587	\$329⁰⁰ Makita 18V X2 (36V) LXT® Lithium-Ion Brushless Cordless Blower Kit with 4 Batteries (5.0Ah) X3U02PT1
\$84⁹⁹ CAMO LEVER Board Bender Works On Wood and Synthetic Decking CAMOLEVER	\$149⁹⁹ MAKITA 3-1/4" Planer, with Tool Case KP0800K	\$279⁹⁹ Makita 18V LXT® Lithium-Ion Brushless Cordless 2-Pc. Combo Kit 4.0Ah XT2865M1	\$389⁹⁹ 18V X2 (36V) LXT® Lithium-Ion Brushless Cordless 14" Chain Saw Kit with 4 Batteries (5.0Ah) XCU03PT1
\$114⁹⁹ DeWALT 12.0 AMP RECIPROCATING SAW DWE305	\$199⁰⁰ BOSTITCH Bostitch F28WW Framing Nailer, 1/4 in Air Inlet, 100 Magazine, 0.113 to 0.131 in Dia x 2 to 3-1/2 in L Fastener 7566698	Happy Holidays from everyone at HERRINGTON'S LUMBER • MILLWORK • BUILDING SUPPLIES We share your passion.®	

Herrington's Gift Cards make the perfect gift!

Ed Herrington, Inc. is not responsible for typographical errors and may withdraw any offer containing such errors. Sale items may not be stocked in all store locations. Quantities are limited to stock on hand. We reserve the right to limit quantities and make product substitutions.

Hillsdale, NY: 518.325.3131 • Lakeville, CT: 860.435.2561 • Millerton, NY: 518.789.3611
Hudson, NY: 518.828.9431 • Chatham, NY: 518.392.9201 • Sheffield, MA: 413.229.8777

www.herringtons.com • 800.453.1311 • WE OFFER TOOL REPAIR SERVICE

GIVE THE GIFT OF YETI
Herrington's is an authorized YETI dealer. So, whether you're looking for gifts for the fishing fanatic or the coffee lover, an aspiring alpinist or a campsite regular, you'll find YETI Christmas gifts perfect for this season, and every season after.

MEMORIAL TREES

Continued from Page A1

before connecting with Kelsey. "We were lucky to find her," said Gibson.

Decision was 'bittersweet'

On Monday, Nov. 16, the day the property transfer to Better Place Forests became official, Kelsey, who has served on the Falls Village Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission for four decades, said she views the protection of the wooded acreage, which she purchased with her husband in the early 1980s, as her legacy. "It's bittersweet. I love the land, but it was time to sell."

The forestland, now known as Better Place Forests Litchfield Hills, offers expansive views more than 30 miles to the south and views to the northwest as far as the Catskills in New York. The land abuts state forests on three sides.

"This is my greatest gift to the town," said Kelsey. She noted that conservation restrictions will be placed on the land as insurance against future development. "I'm inspired knowing that this forest will continue to be conserved while offering such a peaceful way for families and friends of our community to memorialize one's life."

Already, said Kelsey, she has been out scouting the forest for her own ideal memorial tree. She is leaning toward a stately white oak, "where someday my ashes will be spread and of which I will eventually become a part — a place that once again I can call 'home.'"

Site tours to start in 2021

Better Place Forests Litchfield Hills will open for online and in-person forest tours in 2021, said Gibson. The entrepreneur said his company's goal is to transform the negative experience around death, burial and remembrance. "We want to give families and their loved ones the gift of protecting iconic outdoor spaces as part of their lasting legacy."

Usually, he said, a burial, plot and headstone can cost \$15,000; ash-spreading services through his company cost less than half that price. The base price for tree packages starts at around \$4,900.

The process goes like this: Clients can experience the sights and sounds of the forest and learn what makes each section geographically unique by touring online from the comfort of their home, or in-person with one of the company's forest stewards. When it's time, the individual's ashes are mixed with native soil and returned to the base of their tree during a personalized ceremony. The trees are marked with a bronze emblem engraved with the person's name.

A dreaded cemetery visit

Pre-planning, said Gibson, can "remove a lot of pain" for family members. He speaks

from experience, having lost both parents at a young age. His father died of a stroke when he was 10; 13 months later, his mother lost a hard-fought battle with cancer.

"I spent most of my life going back to their graves, and for me it was never a place I looked forward to returning to," said Gibson of the dreary Toronto cemetery. "It was a black tombstone in a busy cemetery about 15 feet from a noisy bus stop. It's not how I want to remember them."

He recalled imagining, after one of his many visits, that "there has to be a better place than this," and in 2015 he founded Better Place Forests with his two best friends "to help families write better endings to their stories."

Founders Circle members

The Falls Village memorial tree forest will include a small visitor's center. The company is welcoming people to join its Founders Circle with a \$95 fully refundable deposit. As a member, individuals are recognized for being one of the first to be part of the Better Place Forests Litchfield Hills community, and qualify for discounts.

Town resident Elizabeth Scranton Rhoades had this to say about Falls Village's new memorial tree forest: "For those of us who have reached the age where thoughts about our final resting place have assumed some level of importance in our minds, this provides a wonderful alternative to a traditional burial. We had already planned to have our ashes scattered, and we'd love to have them in a place where our family can visit and know that we really are a part of the cycle of life."

OBITUARIES

Vivian Claire Sullivan

SHARON — Vivian Claire Sullivan died peacefully on Dec. 12, 2020, surrounded by loved ones.

The daughter of William and Isabel Graham, Vivian was born July 23, 1919.

She married Richard Sullivan on Aug. 27, 1939. While vacationing in Connecticut in 1969, they decided to buy property for a retirement home. They built a lovely house in Sharon on picturesque Ford Pond, adjacent to the Sharon Audubon, which they called "A Wild Goose Chase" because of all the wildlife they appreciated seeing each day. They were weekenders until 1973, when Vivian decided to retire. Vivian worked for New York Telephone Company for 35 years and retired from a management position at the main office in Manhattan.

Vivian will be remembered for her commitment to her community. She served as a volunteer and treasurer of the Sharon Hospital Auxiliary and the Bargain Barn. In 1973, she joined the Sharon Woman's Club and served as treasurer for many years. As a member of St. Bernard's R.C. Church, she acted as a volunteer book-keeper for 30 years and was awarded the St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation by Archbishop Cronin for her years of service to the church.

Vivian was a passionate traveler. She went to Italy on her first trip to Europe. In 1975, with her sister, they took their mother to Scotland, England

and Ireland to celebrate her 75th birthday. Her mother had been born in Scotland and came to the U.S. in 1909 with family and never went back.

When Richard retired, they made 11 trips to their favorite location, the beautiful country of Ireland, until he died in 1993. With a friend, she made seven trips to many other countries in Europe.

In 2013, Vivian sold her home in Sharon and moved to a cottage at Noble Horizons in Salisbury. She raved about the excellent care she received there from the staff. Vivian was an avid reader and bridge player. She was a member of the Sharon Duplicate Bridge Club.

Friends will always remember Vivian as uniquely smart, lovable, wise, caring and irreplaceable. Her positive attitude was legendary. She faced life with courage and determination.

Vivian is survived by her sisters, Gloria White of Charlotte, N.C., and Madeline Parsons of Winston-Salem, N.C.; and three nieces and four nephews.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held Saturday, Dec. 19, at 11 a.m. in St. Bernard's R.C. Church in Sharon. Burial will follow in St. Bernard's Cemetery in Sharon.

Memorial donations may be sent to either St. Bernard's R.C. Church or the Sharon Woman's Club, P.O. Box 283, Sharon, CT 06069. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.



For more obituaries, see page A6

Anita J. (Beltran) Gil

NORTH CANAAN — Anita J. (Beltran) Gil, 104, of Quinn Street in Wangum Village, died Dec. 10, 2020, at the Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in North Canaan. She was the widow of Raymond Gil.

Anita was born May 13, 1916, in Brooklyn, N.Y., daughter of the late Anna (Cox) and Henry Beltran.

Anita was employed by the New York Telephone Company as an operator until her retirement.

She was a vibrant independent lady who was still living at her apartment in Wangum Village up to her time at Geer.

Anita was the devoted mother of Peter Gil of Brooklyn and the late George Gil; grandmother of Michael, Kevin and Mary; and great-grandmother of Pierce. She is also survived by her sister, Josephine Galvin.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 11 a.m. in Church of St. Patrick in Huntington, N.Y. Burial will follow in Pine Lawn Cemetery in Farmingdale, N.Y.

Memorial donations may be sent to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Research.

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.

Grant for Kent housing

By Leila Hawken

KENT — Kent Affordable Housing (KAH) has been awarded a state Small Cities Grant of \$800,000 to make improvements at South Common. The grant was announced through the office of Gov. Ned Lamont on Friday, Dec. 4.

Kent is one of 12 municipalities awarded a total of \$13.3 million as part of the Small Cities program, which is intended to fund capital expenses for upkeep of housing that serves low- or moderate-income individuals and families.

The town's commitment to providing affordable housing began in 2000, when the idea of South Common was developed. The successful project of 24 units is now more than 15 years old.

Commenting on the grant award, KAH President Virginia Suttman said that the organization, in partnership with the town, must continue to administer South Common as affordable housing under the state Department of Housing for 20 more years.

The grant is expected to fund repairs and improvements

OUR TOWNS

to all of the units, including new sump pumps, boiler replacement, new hot water heaters where needed, new bathroom lighting fixtures and new kitchen flooring. The extent of the work will be driven by the available funds.

The Small Cities grant, Suttman observed, will bring needed repairs and upgrades so that the next 20 years will not start with deferred maintenance projects.

Instrumental to the realization of the South Common project at its inception, its subsequent opening in 2003, and up to the present, KAH Secretary William Bachrach celebrated the news of the grant.

Reached for comment on Saturday, Dec. 12, Bachrach said, "We are fortunate that the residents and grounds at South Common will benefit from this very competitive grant."

Bachrach added that KAH remains committed to keeping South Common attractive for both its current and future inhabitants.

EARLY DEADLINE

Advertising deadline including legal notices, for the Jan. 7TH issues will be **THURSDAY, DEC. 24TH, at NOON**

Classified line deadline will be **MONDAY, JAN. 4TH, at NOON**

NO NEWSPAPERS PRINTED THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Office closed Dec. 25-Jan. 1, 2020

The Lakeville Journal
860-435-9873 • 64 Route 7 North, Falls Village, CT 06031
Mailing: PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

The MILLERTON NEWS
PO Box 625, Millerton, NY 12546 • 860-435-9873 x608

TriCornerNews.com

The Lakeville Journal Company

The Lakeville Journal • The Millerton News • TriCornerNews.com

Fostering Democracy and an Atmosphere of Open Communication Since 1897

❧

This letter has been enclosed in print editions of The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News and on www.tricornernews.com for several weeks. 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 unswerving 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 or by clipping the form below and mailing a check

The Lakeville Journal
PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Tele. _____ Email _____

In Support of our local Paper, enclosed please find my check/money order in the amount of \$_____ made payable to The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC.

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

Escape the Winter Safe & Covid FREE

Noble LIVING

Amenities include:

- Free Transportation to Appointments
- Onsite Medical Clinic & Nursing Staff
- Private Rooms with Housekeeping
- Delicious Dining Options
- Workout Facility, Recreation & Events

Short-term Rentals Now Available in The Cobble

SENIOR LIVING
REHABILITATION

SKILLED NURSING
MEMORY CARE

17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, CT
(860) 435-9851 • www.noblehorizons.org
Non-profit Organization

Linda Sue (Farley) Decker

SHARON — Linda Sue Farley Decker, 73, of Sharon died with her family by her side on Dec. 5, 2020, at Vassar Brothers Hospital.

Linda was born Aug. 6, 1947, in Sharon, the daughter of Barbara Riley Farley and the late James Joseph Farley.

Linda spent her formative years in the Amenia Union section of Sharon, utilizing the Ten Mile River, various open fields and buildings as her playground with her five sisters.

Linda graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1965. Shortly after high school, Linda married her high school sweetheart, John Decker, on April 22, 1967, and they moved to Fort Hood, Texas, before his deployment to Vietnam. They returned to Sharon following his discharge from the Army.

Linda spent the early part of her career at Multi-Service as an account manager and later joined Salisbury Bank & Trust Company. It was through her work at the bank where Linda — also known as “Linda F” — truly became a pillar of the community. Known for her affable personality and willingness to help, she embodied the “customer is always right” mantra and went above and beyond to deliver personalized attention and care to her community members. Customers often reported feeling a sense of comfort seeing Linda on the platform, knowing she would solve any of their concerns; and the employees she supervised drew inspiration from her patience and support of them.

Linda retired from the bank after serving as a Customer Service Representative, Assistant Branch Manager, Branch Manager and Assistant Vice President.

After her retirement, Linda took enormous pride in car-

ing for her grandchildren and attended every performance, game and important event.

Linda loved the ocean and spent many years traveling to Plum Island, Virginia Beach, and Rhode Island. She often remarked there was nothing more comforting than going to sleep hearing the waves crash. Perhaps more than her own love of the ocean, she took great pleasure watching her grandkids frolic in the small waves and build sandy structures around her.

Linda was loved by all for her positive attitude, generous spirit, and unflappable devotion to her family.

Linda is survived by her mother, Barbara; her son, Thomas and his wife, Linda; her daughter, Tammy and her life partner, Dylan; her three grandchildren, Nathan John, Tyler John and Chloe Mae; her step-grandchild, Christopher; her five sisters, Diane Robertson and her husband, Jim, Jill Hill and her husband, Joe, Jackie Marston and her husband, Richard, Sue Hafford and her husband, Ken, and JoAnn Brazee; her nieces and nephews, George Jr., Wendy, James, Michael, Aaron, Nadia, Bryce, Stacey, Jessica, Shannon, Adam and William; and many more great-nieces and -nephews.

For her many family and friends to be able to celebrate Linda, the family will hold a memorial service in the late spring of 2021.

For her love of Christmas and her belief that every child should have their Christmas wish come true, memorial contributions can be sent to the Salisbury Family Services Holiday Program. Checks can be mailed to Salisbury Family Services, P.O. Box 379, Salisbury, CT 06068.

Arrangements are under the care of the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon.

Barbara E. McGhee

MILLERTON — Barbara E. McGhee, 84, a 55-year resident of Millerton and most recently of Salisbury, since 2008, died peacefully on Dec. 8, 2020, at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in North Canaan. Barbara worked for Delson's Dept. Store in Millerton for 12 years prior to becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant at Noble Horizons in Salisbury, Conn. where she retired with 17 years of dedicated service.

Born July 19, 1936 in Sharon, Conn., she was the daughter of the late Burnis and Catherine (Murphy) Cole. She attended Immaculate Conception School in Amenia, N.Y. and married James D. McGhee on August 22, 1954 at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia. Mr. McGhee died May 26, 2010.

Barbara volunteered at Sharon Hospital for many years and was a hospice volunteer at Sharon for over seven years.

She was an avid gardener and enjoyed listening to Big Band and Swing music in her spare time.

For many years she participated in the Berkshire Women's

Bowling League and she also loved animals. Her kindness and thoughtfulness will be remembered by all those who knew and loved her.

Barbara is survived by her sister-in-law, Carol Cole of Clifton Park, N.Y.; and several nieces and nephews and many friends.

In addition to her parents and her beloved husband, Jim, she was predeceased by her sister, Margaret Burgoon of Voorheesville, N.Y.; and two brothers, Burnis Cole of Clifton Park and Robert Cole of Anramdale.

Private graveside services and burial took place Dec. 10 at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton, the Rev. Robert K. Wilson officiating.

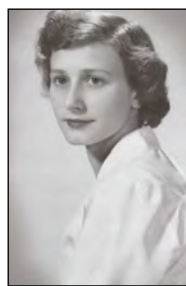
A memorial Mass in Barbara's honor will be held in the future at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Corner Food Pantry, P.O. Box 705, Lakeville, CT 06039.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. To send an online condolence to the family, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

Mary Anna Booth

MILLERTON — Mary Anna Booth, 90, an 87-year resident of Millerton, and most recently of Rhinebeck, N.Y.,



died peacefully on Dec. 7, 2020, at The Thompson House where she had resided in comfort for the past three years. She was surrounded by her loving caregivers at the time of her passing.

Born June 3, 1930, in Sharon, she was the daughter of the late Henrietta (Perotti) and Henry W. Shaffer. She graduated from Millerton High School in 1947 and married Donald T. Booth on Aug. 16, 1952, at the Smithfield Presbyterian Church in Amenia. Together for more than 65 years, Mary and Don operated the Booth Farm on McGhee Hill Road in Millerton, a very successful dairy farm that had ties with the Town of North East for several generations.

Mary was an avid gardener and had a great fondness and concern for all animals.

Mary and Don were well known for their devotion to family and friends throughout their lives. They semi-retired from dairy farming in 1990 but continued to care for their vast property with great pride and much love in their later years. Mr. Booth died on Dec. 9, 2017.

Mary was a decades-long member of the Faith Bible Chapel of Shekomoko on Silver Mountain Road in Millerton.

Though small in stature she was at times larger than life with her “can do” spirit and boisterous personality. Fearless in making her perspective known, she was an iconic personality to the church fellow-

ship. Mary and Don donated the land on which Faith Bible Chapel now stands and they were both personally involved

in the construction phase of the ministry in 1998 and 1999 as well as many other ongoing activities. Mary worked diligently and could be found at every Work Day; she was a living example of one of the Chapel family's purpose statements: Service Is Love in Working Clothes!

Mary is survived by her sister, Elinor Duprey of Copake, N.Y., and her husband, Robert; several loving nieces and nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews and cousins; and many dear friends.

In addition to her parents and her beloved husband, Mary was also predeceased by her dear brother, Henry J. Shaffer; and her loving sister, Elizabeth McGhee.

The family would like to thank all her friends who visited her while at The Thompson House and extend a special thank you to all Mary's caregivers while she was in residence.

Graveside services and burial were held Dec. 12 at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton, the Rev. William Mayhew officiating.

Memorial donations may be made to the North East Community Center Fresh Food Pantry, P.O. Box 35, Millerton, NY 12546; or Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. To send an online condolence, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

Patricia A. Preston

WEST CORNWALL — Patricia “Patty” Preston, 81, of West Cornwall, devoted and loving wife of Jack Preston, passed away on Dec. 7, 2020. Patty was preceded in death by her parents, Corinne and John White; and her brother Jack White and his wife, Gerri, of Torrington.

Patty was born April 14, 1939. She graduated from Torrington High School and attended Bay Path Junior College in Longmeadow, Mass.

She enjoyed working as a secretary at Sanford & Sons in Brunswick, Mass., and most of all at Cornwall Consolidated School, where she had many friends and loved seeing the children.

Patty was active in Cornwall organizations, St. Bridget's Church, Cornwall Civic Club and Girl Scouts.

Most of all, Patty loved spending time with her sweetheart, Jack.

They enjoyed several years vacationing together at their home in Falmouth, Mass.

Patty is survived by her loving husband, Jack, of 60 years; her three daughters, Robin, Debbie and

Kim and her husband, Norm Dube; her three grandchildren, Kyle, Katherine and Ryan; and a great-grandson.

Due to COVID-19, the immediate family will gather for a graveside service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

Jack would like to thank the staff at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for their care and support. Arrangements are under the care of the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon.

OBITUARIES

David R. Chase

SHARON — David R. Chase Jr., 69, of Amenia Union Road, passed peacefully Dec. 4, 2020, at home, surrounded by his family.

David was born July 18, 1951, in Sharon, the son of Alice (Cookingham) and David Chase Sr.

David graduated from Oliver Wolcott Technical School. He was born and raised on the family farm, which he continued working on after graduation. Farming was David's passion in life.

He spent many years working at Lime Rock Park and Sharon Hospital.

He enjoyed many years volunteering on the Sharon Fire Department and Ambulance Squad.

Dave shared great times at NASCAR races, and was the founding father of Camp Chase. Growing up a farmer, he enjoyed working the Chase Farm land his whole life. This

past summer, David became the Dahlia Dad, tending the field in his backyard.

He is survived by his daughters, Stephanie Chase of North Canaan and Allison Chase of Dover Plains; his brother, Wallace Chase and his wife, Sheila, of Sharon; and his companion, Colleen Hurst, of Sharon. He leaves behind a niece and nephews, whom he adored.

He was predeceased by a sister, Sandra Pilares.

A graveside service was celebrated Dec. 9 at the Boland Cemetery next to the Chase Farm. Arrangements are under the care of the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon.

The family would like to thank the Smilow Cancer Center, especially Dr. Talsania, and all the nurses for their caring support.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon Volunteer Ambulance, P.O. Box 357, Sharon, CT 06069.



Worship Services

Week of December 20, 2020

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
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

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

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

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
A Community of Radical Hospitality

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
(860) 435-2627
www.trinitylimerock.org

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
Join our virtual service on Sunday, January 10 at 10:30 a.m.
For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialo1@gmail.com
All are Welcome

The Lakeville United Methodist Church
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
“Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors”
The Rev. Margaret Laemmel
860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH
Immaculate Conception,
4 North Street, Norfolk
St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan
St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville
MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil 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

UCC in CORNWALL
Congregational
Worship Sunday, 10 am
Cornwall Village Meeting House
8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall
Outstanding Church School (10 am)
Mission Opportunities
Warm Fellowship following Worship
860-672-6840
FB - UCC in Cornwall
Rev. Lee Gangaware
Welcoming all - including the
LGBTQ Community

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
canaanctumc@gmail.com

Millerton United Methodist Church
6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812
Millerton, NY 12546
Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of
each month at 9:30 A.M.
518-789-3138

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
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & First Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart
Face masks required

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



Sanitation Service

*Quality Service For Refuse Removal
Recycling For The Future*

Amenia, New York
1-800-522-7235 | 845-877-9354

For more obituaries, see page A5

Do you have a family member or friend in the military who would be interested in the news from home?

Remember

The Lakeville Journal Company offers free online subscriptions to our website, tricornetnews.com, for active duty military personnel from the Tri-state region. For more information or to set up a subscription, contact Sandra Lang at circulation@lakevillejournal.com or 860-435-9873, ext. 301.

With thanks to those who serve.

A Good Mechanic Is Not Hard to Find!

Ask for a proven pro
An ASE Certified Technician



(518) 789-3462

52 S. Center Street
Millerton, NY

MILLERTON SERVICE CENTER

Quality Used Cars
Maintenance - Repairs
MICHAEL D. LYMAN
ADAM LYMAN
MASTER TECHNICIANS

Days (860) 824-5802
Night (413) 229-3308

ARNOLD'S GARAGE

24 HOUR TOWING/YOUR ONE-STOP GARAGE
ASE CERTIFIED QUALITY SERVICE & REPAIRS
HEAVY DUTY TRUCK REPAIR

Your Local Certified Emission Testing Station

Arnold Agar Jr.
Master Automotive &
Heavy Duty Truck Technician

2 North Elm Street
N. Canaan, CT 06018

Health

The mRNA vaccine, and what we know and don't know yet

By Cynthia Hochswender

Development and distribution of the vaccine to protect against COVID-19 has moved very quickly, leaving many people with questions about what's happening.

What is a vaccine?

The website at www.vaccines.gov/basics explains that, "A vaccine is made from very

small amounts of weak or dead germs that can cause diseases — for example, viruses, bacteria or toxins."

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) website breaks it down further, explaining that there are three basic types of vaccines. The most common type are whole pathogen vaccines that "consist of entire pathogens that have been killed

or weakened so that they cannot cause disease.... Many of the vaccines in clinical use today fall into this category."

Less common are subunit vaccines, which "include only the components, or antigens, that best stimulate the immune system." These vaccines need to be boosted with adjuvants to trigger an immune response.

The NIH website describes nucleic acid vaccines as an "investigational approach" that "involves introducing genetic material encoding the antigen or antigens against which an immune response is sought."

The mRNA vaccine

The new COVID-19 vaccines are a type of nucleic acid vaccine, using what is known as mRNA or "messenger RNA." The mRNA vaccines had been considered unstable and difficult to deliver to cells, but have become more reliable.

COVID-19 tests in Kent weekly

KENT — Kent has been selected as a weekly drive-through COVID-19 test site sponsored by the State of Connecticut. Tests are now conducted weekly from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Kent transfer station, 46 Maple St. Testing is free of charge and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. No insurance or documentation is needed. Testing is available for both adults and those under 18. Testing vendor Sema4 provides test results through an online portal in approximately 48 hours, depending on lab capacity.

There will be a separate first-responder lane. Access to this lane will be through the town highway department driveway at 38 Maple St.

More information and forms can be found on the Town of Kent's website, www.townofkentct.org.

New protocol at hospital for COVID-19 tests

SHARON — Testing for COVID-19 has moved to an appointment-only basis at Sharon Hospital until further notice, effective Thursday, Dec. 10. All specimen collections at the hospital are completed in an isolated area at the facility's rear Wound Care entrance.

Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, call 845-790-8855, Option 1.

"This change is part of our adaptive strategy to streamline access and address challenges posed by winter weather," said Dr. Mark Hirko, president of the hospital. "This location offers increased separation from patient care areas and is easily accessible by car, so you can drive up, park and await instructions to enter the testing area."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website goes into more detail, explaining that to trigger an immune response, "many vaccines put a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies. Not mRNA vaccines. Instead, they teach our cells how to make a protein — or even just a piece of a protein — that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies."

The COVID-19 mRNA vaccine will "give instructions for our cells to make a harmless piece of what is called the 'spike protein.' The spike protein is found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19."

Although there are not yet any licensed mRNA vaccines in use, "researchers have been studying and working with them for decades," according to the CDC. "Interest has grown in these vaccines because they can be developed in a laboratory using readily available materials. This means the process can be standardized and scaled up, making vaccine development faster than traditional methods of making vaccines."

The CDC offers this reassurance: "mRNA vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19" and they "cannot give someone COVID-19."

Also, "They do not affect or interact with our DNA in any way. mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA (genetic material) is kept.

"The cell breaks down and gets rid of the mRNA soon after it is finished using the instructions."

What is an EUA

The new COVID-19 mRNA vaccine was developed by Pfizer, a U.S. company with ties to the Northwest Corner, and a Germany company called BioNTech.

It has not been approved by

the Food and Drug Administration but it is being used because of an EUA or Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA. Another vaccine, by a company called Moderna, could be released very soon; the FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee was expected to meet Dec. 17 to discuss and possibly approve it.

Pfizer-BioNTech have done clinical trials on "approximately 20,000 individuals 16 years of age and older," who "have received at least one dose of the vaccine," according to Pfizer's website.

In the trials, Pfizer said, the "vaccine has been shown to prevent COVID-19 following two doses given three weeks apart. The duration of protection against COVID-19 is currently unknown."

Continued vigilance

Among the many things not known yet about the new COVID-19 vaccines is how they will work in the real world, as opposed to a closed lab setting. It remains to be seen what will happen when someone is vaccinated and then goes out among people who have not yet been vaccinated and perhaps are infected but don't know it.

Even for those who are observing a fairly strict quarantine, it's possible that within one household or family unit there will be some people who have been immunized and others who have not.

For these and other reasons, the CDC recommends continuing to follow social distancing protocols: Wear a face mask, avoid crowds and indoor gatherings and stand 6 feet apart or more. Wash your hands often and thoroughly.

Even people who have already been infected and have recovered should continue to practice safety protocols. The jury is still out, according to the CDC, on post-infection immunity and how long it lasts.

"Since this virus is new, we

don't know how long natural immunity might last," according to the CDC website. "Some early evidence — based on some people — seems to suggest that natural immunity may not last very long."

It is also not yet known whether mass vaccination will protect the community at large through what is known as "herd immunity."

The CDC warns that, "Experts do not know what percentage of people would need to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19."

"Herd immunity is a term used to describe when enough people have protection — either from previous infection or vaccination — that it is unlikely a virus or bacteria can spread and cause disease.

"As a result, everyone within the community is protected even if some people don't have any protection themselves.

"The percentage of people who need to have protection in order to achieve herd immunity varies by disease."

It is also not known yet how long the immunity provided by the new vaccines will last.

Where to learn more

Most of the information in this article was collected from various Centers for Disease Control (CDC) information pages; the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); the National Institutes of Health; and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Those websites are frequently updated and are the best places to get definitively correct and detailed information.

There is also specific information on the new vaccines at the websites of Pfizer and Moderna.

Specific information on Connecticut's plans can be found at the state of Connecticut's COVID-19 portal at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>; and in this week's article on Page A1 by Debra A. Aleksinas.



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Avoid holiday-season fires

By Cynthia Hochswender

We received an email this week from a reader who had sent a natural holiday tree to a relative at Noble Horizons in Salisbury, with lights and decorations on it. The administration decided that to have such a tree in the senior facility was unsafe.

At this time of year, especially during the quarantine when so many elders are alone and deprived of visits from friends and family, this does seem like a hard blow on top of the many hard blows already meted out in 2020.

But in a facility full of elderly residents, it seems prudent to take precautions that might prevent the spread of a fire that could harm dozens of people who are already at risk.

Statistically, Christmas tree fires are not all that common. But they are also not uncommon; they do occur, especially when trees are not watered and maintained. This is a good time of year to remember that there are some basic recommendations for keeping trees healthy and safe.

The National Fire Protection Association says at its website that there are about 160 fires each year that are started by Christmas trees and holiday

decorations.

In about 45% of those cases, it was electric lights that started the blaze. Twenty percent of holiday season fires start because a tree is too close to a heat source such as a radiator (which is especially likely to occur in a small room).

Travelers Insurance has a page on its website explaining the dangers of holiday decorations and dry trees.

John Machnicki, a Travelers Risk Control fire safety professional, says, "Christmas trees are powerful fuel sources, especially when dry. The tree becomes a fuel that burns very rapidly and gives off a lot of heat energy."

How much heat? Travelers estimates it as the equivalent of 40,000 100-watt light bulbs.

The fire from a tree burns hot and fast, Machnicki warns, and quickly spreads to anything else flammable in the room, such as bedding or upholstered furniture.

Mixed with the flames is a thick layer of hot smoke. The combination makes it unlikely anyone in the room will survive. Again, these kinds of fires are not common — but they can happen, and it makes sense to exercise a little caution. Water your tree daily. Unplug the lights before you go to bed.



HONEYCHURCH HOME
Home Decor | Tabletop | Flowers

10 Academy Street
Salisbury, CT
T: 860.596.4381
honeychurchhome.com



SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight

<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Grab n' Go Soups Salads Entrees Quiche Ready to go dinners</p> <p>10 Gay Street Sharon, CT 860-364-2004 jamfoodshop@gmail.com</p> <p>Open 7 days a week 9 - 4 pm</p> </div>	 <p>PALLONE KARCHESKI CONTRACTING Serving the Tri-State Area Fully Licensed & Insured BUILDING • REMODELING PAINTING • RESTORATION 860-485-4696 info@pkcontractingct.com www.pkcontractingct.com</p>
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>14 CHURCH STREET, CANAAN, CT 06018 860-824-0209 DANIELLE@BERKSHIREHILLSDESIGN.COM</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> </div>	 <p>845-605-1099</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 Hour Towing • Aluminum & Steel Welding • Insurance Claims • Complete Auto Body Repair • 4x4 Truck Accessories  <p>Environmentally Friendly 3718 Route 44, Millbrook, NY 12545 www.WesAutobodyWorks.com</p>
 <p>Propane • Heating Oil • Kerosene • Diesel Fuel • Gasoline</p> <p>Full Service Department</p> <p>1 John Street PO Box 656 Millerton, NY 12546 (518) 789-3014 www.crownenergycorp.com</p>	<p>HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS! SHOES, BOOTS, SLIPPERS, HANDBAGS, WALLETS & MITTENS</p>  <p>Merrell, Keen, Dansk, Naot, Birkenstock, Ecco, Clarks, Born, Soffy, Vionic, Aetrex, Taos, Arcopecico, Wolky and Many More</p>  <p>25 North Main St, Kent, CT Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5 860-927-0009 sundogshoe@aol.com</p>

CAUSEWAY

Continued from Page A1

Keenan said that a conservation easement on the land allows for modifications and he believes that White contemplated possible amendments when she signed the agreement three decades ago. "She left an explicit provision to permit appropriate changes in use," said Keenan.

He referred to paragraph 8 of the Conservation Restriction: "Prior to undertaking any changes in the use of the property the Grantor [in this case, Keenan] shall consult with the Grantee [The Nature Conservancy] regarding the proposed changes to determine the effect ... on the property." The agreement further states that the Conservancy, as grantee, "shall have the right to approve such changes in use, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld."

"Dr. White clearly contemplated that circumstances could change in the future and she included a provision in the Conservation Restriction agreement that would enable The Nature Conservancy to approve a change in use — in my case, removal of the causeway, if the change was consistent with the natural values being protected in the agreement," said Keenan.

A controversy over interpretation

In recent weeks Keenan has found himself at the center of controversy. A group of petitioners, headed by John Harney Jr. (whose parents, Elyse Harney and the late John Harney Sr., were friends with White), fear that an amendment to the easement would erode White's intent to protect the site in its natural state, in perpetuity.

Also, the Salisbury Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission recently issued Keenan a Cease and Correct order for "cutting and removal of vegetation in the upland review area along the railroad causeway without the benefit of permits." A show cause hearing on Dec. 7 was tabled to Jan. 4, to allow Keenan to participate.

"I think what we have here is a diagnosis of premature objectionitis," said Keenan, who expressed disappointment that his project and intentions have been prematurely and unfairly judged.

Keenan is no stranger to conservation easements. "I owned property on Nantucket for 40 years, and gave quite a bit of land to UMass." He acknowledged that the easement expressly prohibits removal of the causeway without prior approval of The Nature Conservancy as grantee under the agreement. "I am bound by the agreement, I respect it, and I fully understood it before I purchased the land," he said.

Responding to the town's Cease and Correct order, Keenan said he was legally maintaining the property by removing only dead ash trees from the property, some of which had blocked access to the causeway; mowing grass; and weed-whacking. He also hauled away "big trash containers" of old, rotted railroad ties, broken fence posts, bottles, beer cans and other debris.



AERIAL PHOTO BY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

This photo from the Mass GIS gives a sense of what the property at 145 Taconic Road — and the causeway that is at the heart of a dispute in Salisbury — looks like from the air.

"I have every right to make sure I can drive out to the causeway" and the gazebo at its far end, he said. "Everything I have done to maintain the causeway is clearly permitted under the terms of the conservation restriction and under all laws and regulations. The Inland Wetlands Commission is a good group of people. I am absolutely confident we will have a civil and polite dialogue over this," at the hearing next month.

Conservancy is 'aware' of project

According to Keenan, his causeway proposal is at a very preliminary stage. Although he has been in contact with representatives from The Nature Conservancy, he said he has not sought approval, nor has he applied for permits.

"I have been talking to The Nature Conservancy for a long time," and representatives have visited the site, said Keenan. He said that preliminary feedback from the conservation agency is expected before the end of this year.

According to Sarah Pellegrino, Land Protection and Strategies Manager with The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut, her agency "has a responsibility to monitor its conservation easements and we have recently been on site and met with the landowner's representative. If the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission determines there has been violation of town regulations, we are available to be of assistance as needed."

Again, the Inland Wetlands concerns do not relate to possible removal of the causeway; they only relate to the possibility that the clearing on the causeway was done without the required permits.

Pellegrino said the Conservancy is also aware that Keenan "is considering a project on this property, but we have not received a formal request from him to which to respond. Without that," said Pellegrino, "it is too early for us to evaluate our position or offer additional comment. That said, we look forward to talking with the landowner in due course and are happy to cooperate with the community and listen to local concerns at the appropriate time."

In August, Keenan retained well-known conservationist, Timothy Abbott, in his capacity as a private consultant, and in no way connected with his position at the Housatonic Valley Association, to facilitate

discussions with The Nature Conservancy as holder of the easement granted by White. Those talks, said Keenan, are currently underway.

At HVA, Abbott is Regional Land Conservation and Greenprint Director. He is passionate about land conservation and has spearheaded the Greenprint project, which maps out protected lands in the region.

Abbott was also a longtime Lakeville Journal columnist, writing the Nature's Notebook column.

"I told Mr. Keenan at the outset that if I felt that the proposal would harm the ecology of the lake or compromise the conservation values of the easement, I will have to disassociate," Abbott said in an interview last week.

Keenan said he has also hired multiple consultants to produce reports on the ecological and biological impact of removing a portion of the causeway, and is willing to share that information with town and regulatory officials.

At one point, said Keenan, he had offered to make a charitable donation to the Salisbury Land Trust of approximately 12 acres of land that are under the conservation easement, contingent on that organization's support for the causeway project. "They said, 'We'd love to have the land but it's not in our DNA to agree to reduce the amount of land subject to an easement,'" said Keenan.

Keenan said he and his consultant have also met with representatives of the Twin Lakes Association, which he described as "wildly open-minded and direct. A pleasure to deal with. We are not asking for their approval. We are just asking them to continue to stay apprised of our work and to withhold judgment ... and to give everybody a chance to present their findings."

The Salisbury community, he noted, "is sadly divided between people who live on the lake and those that do not."

'One big idea on the table'

Washing and Washinee Lakes and their associated wetland habitats are beloved places with a complex biology, said Abbott. "It is right and appropriate to ask what can be done to improve their health and address conditions that are causing them stress. That is a big question and requires the best science and data and creative ideas that we collectively can bring to bear," he said.

Keenan, said Abbott, "has

put one big idea on the table that deserves consideration, but neither he nor I nor anyone else knows yet whether that would be a helpful remedy and what other affects it might have. That is precisely why it won't be allowed to go forward without thoroughly testing that hypothesis, without satisfying The Nature Conservancy, without complying with the permanent protections afforded by the conservation easement, without complete regulatory review at every applicable level from local to federal, and without strong support from the community.

"This is a process that will take years," Abbott explained, "and it begins with TNC, but it does not end there. I believe it is worth considering and that is why I agreed to help. I hope that provides a level of reassurance for people who care deeply, as I do, about conservation and about the conservation easement that protects this property."

Keenan has invited community leaders and petitioning residents to tour the property and to engage in an "open, honest, direct, polite and respectful dialogue," either at the site or remotely. The landowner said if, in the end, he is unable to garner community support and regulatory approvals for removal of the causeway, "I will simply drop the project and move on."

"If anything good comes from all of this," said Keenan, it will be that it forced people "to realize how bad the situation is on this lake."

VACCINE

Continued from Page A1

put at the top of the priority list for receiving Pfizer's and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines.

O'Connell said Geer is working with the national drugstore chain Walgreens. "When Walgreens gets the vaccine in, representatives will come to Geer at a certain day and time."

In the meantime, O'Connell said his goal is to share information about the importance of receiving the coronavirus vaccine. "We are communicating with staff, residents and families to help them understand why it is so important that we take it. A lot of people around the country are fearful and don't know whether to trust it or not."

Reassurance is needed

In response, Geer is offering Powerpoint presentations, town hall-style meetings with staff to share information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state Department of Public Health (DPH).

"If we can't get 60 to 70 percent of people to get the vaccine, that's going to make it difficult for us all to build up immunity and get through this," said O'Connell.

Noble Horizons' Pond is hoping to serve as a positive example to his staff by rolling up his sleeve and taking the first shot. "I have volunteered myself to go first. We'll see if that helps anybody" who might be hesitant, he said, noting that there is a "certain amount of trepidation as well as excitement."

At Sharon Health Care Center, residents and staff are expected to start the new year off with a shot. Jan. 2 is when CVS will distribute the first round of vaccinations to the Sharon nursing home, according to spokesman Tim Brown. "We are partnering with CVS, who will be taking care of distribution to all Athena [Health Care] buildings. Their team, working with building administration, will go room to room administering vaccines to residents," he explained. "The residents get their shots bedside."

A separate clinic-like area will also be set up at Sharon Health Care Center so that employees can receive their vaccinations throughout the day,

said Brown. "CVS will return 21 to 28 days later for round two," booster shots, he said, and a third visit in the following weeks.

All nursing home administrators said they are breathing a sigh of relief. "I think everybody sees the light at the end of the tunnel ... getting to the other side of this pandemic sooner, rather than later," noted Brown.

Long-term facilities are a priority

Over the weekend, Gov. Ned Lamont ordered the state Department of Public Health to make all necessary preparations for the vaccine to be received as early as Monday, Dec. 14, and distributed and allocated shortly thereafter to health-care institutions and long-term care facilities statewide.

"This is a significant moment for our state and our country," Lamont said in a press release. "Here in Connecticut we are incredibly proud to be able to say that the Pfizer team in Groton, Conn., helped to develop this first vaccine to fight the coronavirus, which we know will help to get our communities back to normal."

Connecticut placed its first order for 31,200 vaccines on Friday, Dec. 4, with anticipated delivery to hospitals on Monday, Dec. 14.

According to Sharon Hospital spokeswoman Marina Ballantine, the distribution dates and allocation amounts for hospitals in the NuVance Health system will be different based on Connecticut and New York state government guidelines. Information is evolving daily, she said on Monday. "We will offer vaccines to patients following federal and state distribution guidelines."

Senior government officials held a briefing of Operation Warp Speed on Monday regarding the national COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Health & Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar estimated that "by the end of first quarter of 2021, 100 million individuals will have had at least a first dose of the vaccine."

For an explanation of some COVID-19 vaccine basics, turn to Health, Page A7.

Geer Nursing & Rehab patients consistently have great outcomes and recover faster.

We specialize in treating people with complex diagnosis and create custom care plans for everyone.



Our outstanding discharge planning provides links to services that ensure continued success:

- Geer Pharmacy follows you home and helps with medication management.
- Geer Out-patient Physical Therapy continues the great progress you made while in-house.
- Geer transportation brings you to all your appointments, ensuring great follow up.

To learn more:
Contact Emily at (860) 824-3800
99 South Canaan Road, North Canaan, CT




MERRY & BRIGHT

SALISBURY FRIDAY NIGHT HOLIDAY SHOPPING



Enjoy after hours shopping on Fridays, December 4th, 11th and 18th 'til 7:00pm at the following stores.

- Bristow Proffitt
- Honeychurch Home
- Joie Maison
- Johnnycake Books
- Passports Antiques
- Salisbury General Store
- Salisbury Wines
- Sweethaven Farm

TRINITY CHURCH

LIME ROCK

All services currently online on YouTube on our Trinity Church channel

Dec. 20—10:30 AM Creche Sunday


Dec. 24—Christmas Eve

3:00 PM Christmas Concert features J. S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Colonial Villancicos plus musicians from three continents join choir and Crescendo chorus, soloists and instrumentalists.


3:30 PM Spiritual Eucharist & Hymns with festive descants, M. Praetorius' double choir motet "In Dulci Jubilo," Cresendo singers, C. Belluschio, trumpet. Collaborative "Joy to the World" w/ choir from Salisbury Congregational.

Dec. 27—10:30 AM Morning Prayer with Carols

Jan. 3—10:30 AM Christmas Lessons and Carols



A portion of our newly refurbished altar window.



THE REV. HEIDI TRUAX, RECTOR CHRISTINE GEVERT, MUSIC DIRECTOR
THE REV. JOHN CARTER, MISSIONER

484 LIME ROCK RD. LAKEVILLE, CT 06039
WWW.TRINITYLIMEROCK.ORG 860-435-2627



Last Minute Holiday Shopping

Shop locally! Find the perfect gift for your loved ones and support your friends, neighbors and community.



T-SHIRT FARM

Rock & Roll Apparel & Accessories • Hoodies & Crews
Hats & Gloves • Stickers • Patches • Pins • Funko Pop!
Toys • Puzzles • Mugs • Carhartt Apparel • Fleece
Custom Screen Printing and Embroidery
Gift Certificates Available

22 Main Street Millerton, NY 12546
518-592-1777 • sal.tshirtfarm@gmail.com • www.TshirtFarmNY.com

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS!

SHOES, BOOTS, SLIPPERS, HANDBAGS, WALLET & MITTENS



Merrell, Keen, Dansko, Naot, Birkenstock, Ecco, Clarks, Born, Sofft, Vionic, Aetrex, Taos, Arcopedico, Wolky and Many More

25 North Main St, Kent, CT
Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5
860-927-0009
sundogshoe@aol.com

Yellow Submarine

Used Books and More! Great gifts!

Thurs, Fri | Saturday | Sunday
4pm-8pm | 10am-6pm | 12pm-5pm

3306 E Main St. Amenia NY 12501 • 845-789-1888

Rolling River Antiques And Gifts

27 North Main Street Unit 3, Kent, CT
(860) 592-0085 Shop
(860) 318-6410 Cell
www.rollingriverantiques.com

Open Daily Through Christmas Eve

YOGA online!



with Sarah Getz, director & founder of Yoga at Space
www.yogaatspace.com



THE GIFTED CHILD

Clothing • Outdoor Toys
Baby Gifts • Baby Gear
Toys • Puzzles • Games

Personal Shopping
Lenox 637-1191
Great Barrington 528-1395

Shop Online
www.TheGiftedChild.net
ReaGifted@yahoo.com

Happy Holidays! Laigle

FLOOR COVERING & DESIGN

TILE • LINOLEUM • LAMINATES • CARPET & WOOD

PHONE: 860.824.7325 • FAX: 860.824.1081
210 East Canaan Road, Rt. 44, East Canaan, CT in the Rose Hill Plaza



Everything you need to make your pet's holiday a happy one!

Catering to the needs of the well-loved pet since 1993

Monday - Friday: 9 to 5:30; Saturday: 9 to 4
333 Main Street, Lakeville CT (860) 435-8833

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

William J. Cole Agency, Inc.

GENERAL INSURANCE

Home • Auto • Farm • Renters • Commercial

VICKI BENJAMIN, AGENT/OWNER

1 JOHN STREET MILLERTON, NY 12546 518-789-4657
FAX 518-789-3576

Millerton Service Center

Maintenance • Repairs • Quality Used Cars

Gift Certificates for Service
We Sell & Install Remote Car Starters (makes a great Christmas gift!)

ADAM M. LYMAN & MICHAEL D. LYMAN
MASTER TECHNICIANS
52 S. Center St., Millerton, NY
518-789-3462



NORTHEAST MUFFLER

Custom Bending Up to 3 Inches

Tires • Brakes • Mufflers • New York State Inspections
Open Monday - Friday 8 to 5; Saturday 8 to 1
Route 22, Millerton, NY
John Heck (518) 789-3669 Cindy Heck



ASSOCIATED LIGHTNING

Rod Company, Inc
www.alrci.com

Happy Holidays!

MOORE & MORE PRINTING

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

STACEY L. MOORE

17 DUTCHESS AVENUE + P.O. BOX 880
MILLERTON, NEW YORK 12546
TEL: 518.789.4508 + FAX: 518.789.4509
EMAIL: MOOREANDMORE@TACONIC.NET

DRURY, PATZ & CITRIN, LLP

Attorneys at Law
Linda M. Patz Michael P. Citrin
Admitted in CT & RI Admitted in CT, MA & NY

• Real Estate - Residential & Commercial •
• Wills, Trusts & Estate Planning • Corporations, LLC's, LLP's •
• Probate & Estate Administration • Civil Litigation •

(860) 824-7777
Fax: (860) 824-7622
Email: lpatz@drurypatz.com • mcitrin@drurypatz.com

Diana S. Paruta, Probate Paralegal | Becky Cahill, Paralegal
Nicole Sharpley, Paralegal | Lynn C. Nania, Office Manager
7 Church Street, Canaan, CT 06018



Millerton Veterinary Practice

Carolyn Cannon, DVM

- Integrative Medicine & Surgery
- Diagnostic / Laboratory
- Dental
- Acupuncture / Traditional Chinese Medicine
- Chiropractic
- Therapeutic Laser

Gift Certificates Available

199 Route 44, Millerton, NY 518-789-3440
www.millertonvet.com
www.MVPonlineRx.com
facebook.com/millertonvet

give the gift of NEWS!

A gift subscription to your community newspapers, whether in print, digital or web, is the perfect gift for anyone on your gift list ... a friend or relative who is away from the Tri-State area but would like to keep up with the local news ... a student away at school or college... or anyone who wants to know what's going on in the Tri-State area!

CONTACT SANDRA LANG
Phone: 860-435-9873 ext. 301
Email: circulation@lakevillejournal.com
Or go to
www.tricornernews.com/subscriptions

The Lakeville Journal
The MILLERTON NEWS
TriCornerNews.com

Your Independent, Locally Owned, Community Newspapers & Regional News Website



Rick's Wine & Spirits

Dave Wheeler
Wine Merchant

david.rickswine@gmail.com
(860) 364-5768
12 Gay Street Sharon CT 06069

9-7 Mon-Wed • 9-8 Thu-Sat • 10-4 Sun
Curbside and Home Delivery available

TIME TO GET BUBBLY

ONLY AT THE SHARON PACKAGE STORE

~~\$64.99~~
CELEBRATE MEDIA GROUP
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE

\$43.99

NOV-DEC ONLY!!!
10% BELOW STATE MINIMUM

WWW.THESHARONPACKAGESTORE.COM
1 GAY ST. SHARON, CT
(860) 364-5760



COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

December 17-23, 2020

HOLIDAY SHOPPING: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Shopping Local, Through the Holidays and All Winter Long

In spite of the pandemic, it is still possible to shop local for the holidays, although it might entail waiting in line at the door of some shops. Dress warmly and bring a book — and remember that in some of our busier metropolises you can find several shops to visit. They won't all have lines at the same time. Cast a discerning eye and go to the store with the shortest line at any given moment.

Towns that have a variety of retail choices include Millerton, N.Y.; Kent, Conn.; Salisbury, Conn.; and even little Sharon, Conn., where the B. Johnstone & Co. vintage fashion shop is steps away from the Sharon Farm Market grocery store, which recently got a nice sprucing up; and the little gem of a wine and spirits shop called Rick's Wine and Spirits (run now by Dave, not Rick).

And then there's small and extremely charming West Cornwall, Conn., which is home not only to the historic and iconic red Covered Bridge — it also has Ian Ingersoll's world-renowned Shaker furniture shop; and the wonderful Wish House, which is a few small rooms that are overflowing with perfect small gifts for all ages (including a room dedicated just to infant and toddler clothes and toys).

And now there is an added attraction in the form of a winter indoor farm market that is a proj-



The Local: A Cornwall Collective is now open in West Cornwall, Conn., on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The volunteer-run indoor market has everything from fresh eggs to beautiful woven goods made by Undermountain Weavers using "Sam's Wool" from Birdseye and Tanner Brooks Farm in Cornwall.

ect of the town's Hughes Memorial Library. The library is temporarily closed while the town makes a decision on how and when to upgrade the village's septic system.

So the library volunteers decided to open the indoor winter farm market to offer someplace for shoppers to find not only fresh winter farm foods but also wonderful artisan-made gifts, many of them from Birdseye and Tanner Brooks farm, which is owned by a well-



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

The Wish House in West Cornwall, Conn., is a lifesaver for those who suddenly discovered (perhaps a little too late for the postal service) that they hadn't bought enough holiday gifts.

known actor and is ably run by farm manager Mark Orth.

Although the farm sells livestock, you won't find any cows or lambs at the new market, which was beautifully designed by Dee Salomon and is going by the name The Local, A Cornwall Collective.

You will, however, find cuts of fresh meats from the farm as well as shelves full of gorgeous shearing rugs, and blankets and

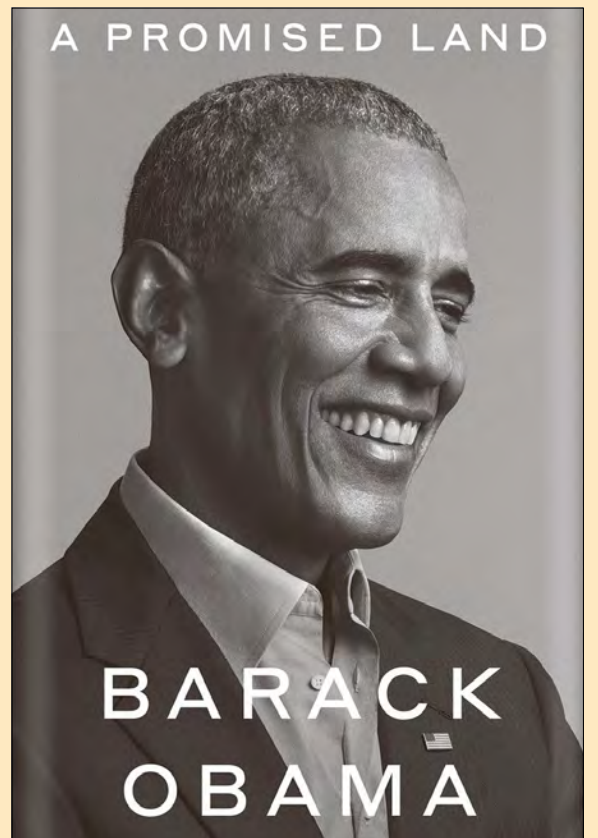
scarves and hats and yarn all made from the farm's sheep, under the label "Sam's Wool." The woven goods are mostly made for the farm by Salisbury's very respected Under Mountain Weavers.

Meats are also for sale from Hurlburt Farm and Ridgway Farm.

You can find arrangements of flowers and greens. If you don't have anything to put them in you can certainly find a handcrafted vase in the shop, which represents potters Jane Herold, Sanah Peterson and Susan Fox. And James Fox offers soups, including classics such as lentil and clam chowder as well as the enticingly named Kentucky Mushroom.

Calf and Clover farm on Route 7 heading south from town has a cooler full of dairy products, including lusciously thick creams. They sell baskets of fresh eggs as well, but you'd better get there early if you want to buy some.

Baking of course is best with fresh eggs and dairy products, but for those who'd rather let someone else do the heavy kitchen lifting there are baked goods from Cornwall's famous small-scale baker,



BOOKS: ROBERT LEHRMAN

A Washington Insider, on Obama's Book

This review was written by Robert Lehrman, who was Chief Speechwriter for Vice President Al Gore. He is the author of several award-winning novels as well as "The Political Speechwriter's Companion." He is also the cousin of editor Cynthia Hochswender.

This is an excerpt. The full review can be found at www.prorhetoric.com/a-promised-land-a-speechwriters-perspective.

In the days when former House Speaker Newt Gingrich was churning out books under his name just about every year, some people wondered how he could write so fast.

"Ha. Gingrich," one Washington writer said. "He hasn't read half the books he's written."

Whether for books or speeches, politicians often insist on keeping writers anonymous. So it's not surprising that reporters asked whether Barack Obama actually wrote "A Promised Land," the 700-page first installment of his presidential memoir released last month.

He did. Do I have any inside knowledge? No. But if he didn't, he wouldn't dare tweak Michelle Obama for her ghosted memoir, "Becoming." "I'm writing mine myself," he's let reporters hear several times, an invitation for fury from her and leaks from the writer if that was a lie.

Besides, once you start reading the book, you find chapter after chapter is so filled with intimate detail, description of Obama's often irreverent thoughts, arguments with Michelle, and ridicule of the absurdities of political life. No president would hand those off to a ghost.

Obama has never been reluctant to acknowledge his writers. In this time when less than a third of U.S. Senators even list their speechwriters on their staff directories, he not only praises Jon Favreau

("inspired") and Ben Rhodes ("immense talents"); they become characters in the book.

Obama's openness is one signal that his account will be unlike any presidential—or political—memoir we've ever read. "I wanted to offer readers a sense of what it's like to be President of the United States," he writes in the preface, and "to pull the curtain back a bit."

Which he does. Sometimes dramatic, sometimes reflective, sometimes anecdotal with scenes using dialogue, swearing included — he clearly kept a journal — we see him worried, self-critical, jubilant and reflective, confident and insecure, and revealing.

Does he reveal anything speechwriters can learn? A few things. The prose echoes stylistic devices that have been Obama signatures.

But paragraph for paragraph, this book is better than his speeches. I don't just mean that it offers the nuance and richness of detail possible only in a 700-page book. Of course that's true.

It's also better because there are sides of Obama we have never seen before, which he describes with excruciating candor.

In part, he's free to be candid because he is no longer president. But plenty of presidents have written memoirs. We don't see the glimpses of family life, or the microscopic

Continued on Page B4

UPCOMING EVENTS

With the rise again of concerns about COVID-19, many cultural venues are canceling events at the last minute to protect staff and patrons. It's always a good idea to check websites before you go to an event.



LOCAL
INDEPENDENT
LISTENER SUPPORTED

THE SMALLEST NPR STATION
IN THE NATION.

PLEASE FEED THE COW.

THANK YOU!

www.robinhoodradio.com



ROBIN HOOD RADIO

WHDD AM 1020 Sharon CT
WHDD FM 91.9 Sharon CT
WBSL FM 91.7 Sheffield MA
WLHV FM 88.1 Annandale-on-Hudson NY
WHDD FM 97.5 Kent CT/Dover NY

Continued on Page B4



The key to making a nice tight wreath, explained Wayne Jenkins in a how-to workshop last week, is to keep the frame and greens flat on the table as you wrap them (tightly) with florist wire, top left. You can add in greens such as holly, center photo. Jenkins leaves a piece of ribbon at the starting/ending point of his wreaths.

HOLIDAY GREENS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

From a Master, Lessons on How To Make a Wreath

The popular holiday shop at the regional high school in Falls Village, Conn., is already pretty much sold out of wreaths and trees, a week earlier than normal. We will leave it to the sociologists to figure out why.

There are of course other places to buy trees and excellent handmade wreaths (including the Sweethaven Farm pop up shop in Salisbury, Conn., behind the pharmacy).

But those who traditionally shop at Housatonic Valley Regional High School treasure the beautiful handmade wreaths created during two "production nights," when students and alumni gather in the agricultural education department and create a giant wreath (and roping) assembly line.

Pine sap is everywhere. The smell is incredibly delicious.

For anyone who has ever wanted to make their own wreath, production night is the way to learn from the masters.

And who are those masters?

The reigning champions right now are Cricket Jacquier and Wayne Jenkins, both of whom have decades of experience.

Look for the video online

Because there was no production night this year due to COVID-19, Jenkins generously offered to share his expertise with our readers — and with students in the agricultural education department, who watched the workshop on a live video feed.

The instructions in this article are very abbreviated and give the general information only. To get the full benefit of Jenkins' wisdom, watch the hour-long video on our website at www.tricornernews.com. Aged teacher David Moran oversaw and organized the workshop and video feed.

The first thing you need to make a wreath is a frame. Jenkins is from the old school and says a sturdy wire clothes hanger can be twisted into a circle, with the hook used to hang the wreath up.

For the wreaths sold at the high school, the frame

is a crimped metal form that can be purchased from Kelco (www.kelco-maine.com) or Alders Wholesale Florist (www.alderswholesaleflorist.com). You can also purchase forms at craft shops such as Michael's but they usually sell less sturdy metal forms that have two concentric circles, not a single circle, which makes it a little harder to tie the greens in tightly.

If you want to make a 2-foot wreath, buy a 1-foot wreath form.

Firs last the longest

For the greens, Jenkins and Moran said the best are the firs, because they don't drop their needles as quickly as, for example, the long-needled white pines.

Moran particularly loves a green that is relatively rare in this part of the world called the concolor fir; it has needles that are both long and strong. Other good varieties are balsam, fraser and noble. Eastern red cedar can work well too.

"Firs hold their needles the best," explained Jenkins, who worked for decades at the Great Mountain Forest, a teaching forest that is in both Norfolk and Falls Village, Conn.

For the 2-foot wreath Jenkins made in this workshop, he used about 8 pounds of evergreen sprigs. The greens had been pre-cut into 6-to-8-inch lengths and they filled a very large plastic tub. Very little was left over at the end.

To tie the greens onto the wreath form, Jenkins used a sturdy 22-gauge florist wire, which you can find at any craft store.

The wires definitely can cut your hands (and the sap can get sticky) so even though Jenkins' hands were bare, it's a good idea to wear gardening gloves that are sturdy enough to protect you but flexible enough for you to grab and tie the wire as you go.

Start with a loop

Jenkins likes to tie a metal loop at his starting point, which not only reminds him where he started, but also creates a hook for hanging the wreath. It also gives you something



PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Master wreath maker Wayne Jenkins explains how to make a tightly constructed wreath using greens, pine cones and winterberry that can be found in the area.

to tie your wire to as you start and end your wreath.

The key to making a stable and sturdy wreath, Jenkins says, is to tie the wire very tightly around the base of your handful of greens. To do this, you want the wreath lying flat on the table as you tie.

If you hold the wreath in the air as you're tying it, he warns, you'll get wobble.

A heavy wreath

Jenkins started with a big handful of six to eight sprigs of fir (and each sprig was about 6 to 8 inches long).

"I like a heavy wreath" he said of the amount of greens he was using. And indeed, when it was done, this was a thick, luxuriant wreath.

"But everyone is different," he said.

He likes to mix several kinds of greens in each bundle. He used the concolor in every handful but mixed it up with some of the other types of fir.

Lay the first bundle

down on the wreath frame up near the top, where you put your wire loop.

Then, for this first grouping, lay an additional two bundles down, not exactly on top of each other but "descending" down the frame. They should all face the same direction — the cut end of the branches should be at the bottom, the leafy tips should be at the top. The leafy tips for these three bundles should face out at slightly different angles from each other.

If you want to be certain the wire has something to

hold onto as you get started, knot it onto the base of the wire loop at the top of your wreath.

Then spool the wire out to the bottom of the first bundle, and wrap it around three times, as tightly as humanly possible. Do the same with the second and succeeding bundles. Keep layering new handfuls of bundles on top as you go along and keep tying them in (tightly).

"You want it so tight you can almost hear the wire snap as you wrap it

around," he said.

And at that moment, the wire did indeed snap.

Unfazed, Jenkins just knotted the broken end back onto the wire coming off the spool and kept on going.

Adding cones, berries

If you want to add cones, it's a good idea to do it ahead of time: Cut about 12 inches of wire and wrap the wire a few times around the base of the pine cone, looping it inside the cone's bottom few "flaps." There should be about 8 inches of wire left, hanging loose. Use that to wire the cone into the greens as you go, layering another handful of greens on top of the cones.

The heavier cones should be at the top of the wreath, so they can hang down.

You can similarly lay sprigs of winterberry on top of the greens and wire them in. If you're tying the wire tightly enough around the greens, the berries will stay safe and snug in between.

When you get to the end of the wreath, wrap your wire tightly around the last bunch of greens about five times. You can then knot it onto the loop that you left at the beginning.

Again, this explanation (while lengthy) only gives a tiny bit of the information that Jenkins provides in the how-to video.

To watch master wreath maker Wayne Jenkins explain how to make a holiday wreath, go to our website at www.tricornernews.com.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

At The Movies

CITIZON CAFE & CINEMA
 Now Showing 12/18 & 12/19
 "WILD MOUNTAIN THYME" PG-13 7PM
 Starting Jan. 1, by popular demand, we will be showing afternoon movies at 3PM
 We will also be open daily for GIFT CARD sales
 Tuesday-Sunday 11:30AM-8PM
 354 Main St. Winsted, CT 06098
 1-860-379-5108 • www.gilsoncafeandcinema.com
 Doors open at 6 p.m. • 21 Years & Older

Rustling Wind Creamery
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
 November 21 - December 24
 Open 9:00 - 5:00 daily

Custom Gift Baskets
 Raw Milk Cheeses
 Jams • Chutneys • Relishes
 Pickles • Maple Products
 Pancake Mixes • Honey
 Hand Knits • Goat Soaps
 AND MUCH MORE!

WE SHIP ANYWHERE IN THE USA

148 Canaan Mountain Road
 Falls Village, CT 06031
 860-824-7084
www.rustlingwind.com

LITERATURE:
CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

A Class in Tolstoy To Help You Sled Through the Winter Months

The winter hasn't been that bad yet (even though it is 2020 and one might have expected this to be the worst early winter in decades). But soon it will be very cold and snowy and we will be quarantined and the conditions will be just perfect for reading the work of Leo Tolstoy.

For anyone who is intimidated by the lengthy works of the Russian novelist (and all those complicated Russian names), help is at hand in the form of well-known American novelist Roxanna Robinson, a Cornwall, Conn., resident who has donated her time and talent during the quarantine to leading literature workshops online for the Cornwall Library.

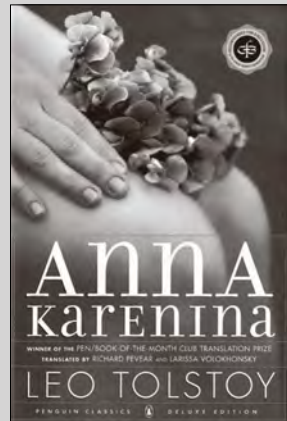
Some of the authors and titles discussed in the Cornwall Reads Great Fiction series over the summer were Honor Moore ("Our Revolution: A Mother and Daughter at Midcentury") and Tessa Hadley ("Bad Dreams and Other Stories"). Those were single sessions; Robinson did a deeper dive on Gustave Flaubert's "Madame Bovary."

Starting on Jan. 12 and continuing until March 2, Robinson will dig into Tolstoy's tragic love story, "Anna Karenina."

"We'll talk about vital, electrifying Anna and her handsome and mysterious lover, Vronsky," Robinson said. "We'll talk about Tolstoy, who he was and what he represented in 19th-century Russia, what Russia was like at that time, what the novel was doing, how Tolstoy prefigured modernism, what his intentions were in writing the book, what its factual origins were, how his family played into it, and anything else that comes in to my head."

"It is a fabulous, moving, fast-paced novel, not at all ponderous or weighty, and it is one of the greatest novels ever written, so this is the chance for everyone who's been meaning to do so to read it, and the chance to re-read and savor it for those who already have done so."

Robinson, a novelist with 10 books to her credit (including "Dawson's Fall," which came out in 2019), is also a teacher and has



taught "Anna Karenina" for nearly 15 years in the MFA Program at Hunter College in New York City.

Locally, she is a member of one of Cornwall's oldest families, descended from the Scoville clan, who first settled in Cornwall in the 18th century.

"My great-grandfather, Samuel Scoville, married the daughter of Henry Ward Beecher and his family — Harriet Beecher Stowe among them — lived in Litchfield," she said.

"The Scovilles have been ministers, farmers and lawyers, and have taken care of the North Cornwall church since it was built in 1812. I live in the house my grandparents built — Samuel Scoville Jr., who was a lawyer and writer."

Scoville's unexpectedly amusing writing was read aloud by Robinson in the library's Cornwall Reads Cornwall over Thanksgiving weekend.

Participation in the eight-week "Anna Karenina" class is open to everyone at no cost (donations to the library are appreciated, however). The class will meet by Zoom on Tuesdays at 4 p.m., beginning Jan. 12 and ending March 2.

The edition to get for the class is the paperback version of the acclaimed translation by Richard Pevar and Larissa Volokhonsky (a photo of the cover is above, on this page) from Penguin Classics.

Participants should plan to read 100 pages every week — however, there is no requirement that you come to class having read the material, Robinson promises. "I hope you'll come to the discussion anyway, so as you finally finish the book you'll have thoughts from the class in your mind."

To register, go to the "events/programs" page on the Cornwall Library website at www.CornwallLibrary.org.



PHOTO COURTESY PINK MARTINI

Pink Martini will present two glamorous, big band-style "virtual" shows for the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass., on Dec. 17 and 31.

CELEBRATION: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Enjoy a Bubbly Pink Martini This Year on New Year's Eve

One thing we know for sure is that a majority of us will spend this New Year's Eve at home.

But there's no reason why that can't be festive and fun. No doubt in the weeks to come there will be any number of "virtual" concerts announced for the night of Dec. 31.

I've already chosen my concert, though.

In this dull year of staying home too much and listening to the same music over and over, the one musical group I haven't become bored with is Pink Martini, a band from Portland, Ore.

Pink Martini was created by pianist/bandleader Thomas Lauderdale but it's probably most associated with its lead singer, China Forbes, and frequent guest singer Storm Large (and no, I don't know if those are their birth names or their stage names).

The envelope of this group is extremely flexible and incorporates big band music, peppy little bal-

lads, songs in the English language, songs in French, Portuguese, Italian and Japanese. In that sense it's like one of those Putumayo collections from the 1990s, with diverse music from far corners of the world; but while those compilations always felt a little bit "improving," the music of Pink Martini always feels like a smooth, fun and almost guilty pleasure.

It's hard to choose a genre to put their music into, but if I had to I would say it's a mix of light jazz and show tunes. They're kind of campy but not quite; if you like the Austin Powers movies, you will probably like Pink Martini.

And anyway, what could be more appropriate for a New Year's Eve concert than a band named after a cocktail?

As much fun as Pink Martini is to simply listen to, they are phenomenally fun to see live. This is a put-on-a-show kind of band, with glamorous 1960s eveningwear outfits and a rotating cast of musicians

and singers who wander in and out of frame.

I saw Pink Martini several years ago at the Mahaiwe in Great Barrington, Mass., where they have performed several times.

This year, the band is doing two "virtual" concerts as fundraisers for the Mahaiwe. One will be tonight, Dec. 17, and the next will be on Dec. 31; both shows begin at 9 p.m. (a perfect time for those who plan to creep off to bed before the ball drops at midnight). They are two separate performances, but both are filmed in a studio in Portland in front of a 35-foot holiday tree.

Onstage for one or both concerts, at various points, will be Thomas Lauderdale and China Forbes as well as Storm Large, Ari Shapiro from NPR (yes, I'm surprised by that, too) and guest vocalists Edna Vazquez and Jimmie Herrod, Sofia von Trapp (from the famous "Sound of Music" von Trapps) and Cantor Ida Rae Cahana.

Tickets for individuals are \$15 for each performance, or \$20 for the package of both. Tickets for families are \$20 for each performance, or \$30 for the package of both. For tickets and more information, go to www.mahaiwe.org.

... A Promised Land

Continued from Page B2

accounts of policy disputes we see in "A Promised Land."

Incredibly, some reviewers saw such detail as a fault. They were impatient with his description of how to approach meetings or offer background, or give us a sense of the infinite steps you take before moving a bill to the floor.

Obama shows us what he was thinking at the time, the interplay of his beliefs with his personality, the ways principle must give way to reality—and

the mistakes he made.

As someone who was once a White House staffer, I thought the way he captured the flavor of staff meetings, and the painfully slow steps you need to pass a bill were the best portraits I've ever read of political life as it really is.

He makes drama from the tedious business of solving an economy teetering on the edge of bankruptcy, or winning agreement on a health care bill for a hundred million Americans.

... Shopping Local

Continued from Page B2

Susan Saccardi.

There is of course no shortage of farm markets (in normal times) in our area towns, but farmers and artisans seem to especially like the model being used for The Local.

For one thing, they don't have to be on the premises to sell their wares. The library volunteers are on hand, and transfer the cash for each sale to the artisan/farmers, sometimes by modern means such as Venmo.

Perhaps even more enticing is that there is no fee for them to sell at the market.

"It is a collective market where all profits flow back to the farmers, artists, cooks and craftspeople who work and thrive in Cornwall," said Libby Mitchell, one of the organizers.

The market is expected

to remain open through the winter on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is in the building that for years was home to Todd Piker's pottery shop.

And in the event that there is a wait to enter The Local or The Wish House, you can take a walk and look at the Twelve Days of Christmas holiday display, with works of art depicting the days in the holiday song, at locations throughout West Cornwall village.

The display will remain up, day and night, until Jan. 3.

The Local is at 415 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike in West Cornwall, Conn., just steps away on one side from the Covered Bridge (and Robert Ensign's electric bicycle shop) and Ian Ingersoll Cabinetmakers; and steps away on the other side from The Wish House, 413 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike.

TriCornerNews.com
NEWLY RELAUNCHED

As we navigate these difficult times, we at The Lakeville Journal Company are committed to bringing you the news and information that is important to you, your family and your community.

STAY INFORMED AND CONNECTED
Never miss any of the news from The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News, Compass A&E and more with a subscription at www.tricornernews.com.

The Lakeville Journal THE **MILLERTON NEWS**
FOSTERING DEMOCRACY and an
ATMOSPHERE OF OPEN COMMUNICATION
860-435-9873 • circulation@lakevillejournal.com

EDITORIAL

Anti-maskers are fighting science

Now that vaccines for COVID-19 are beginning to be distributed across the country, including Connecticut (See story by Debra Aleksinas on page A1 this week), yet certainly not in the quantities to cover the wider population, there remains urgency to the question: To mask or not to mask?

Even with the hope of vaccines immunizing the public, 10 months after COVID-19 hit our shores, it's hard to believe that people in the U.S. are still debating whether donning a face mask can help slow the spread of the deadly respiratory virus — and if it's worth the simple act of placing a small piece of material securely across one's mouth and nose to prevent viral particles from going airborne and possibly infecting others with a disease that could easily kill them.

Science has proven it is. Medical experts the world over have supported that science. There is clearly evidence to demonstrate that wearing a mask is the responsible thing for all to do, every day, to protect those around us — family, friend or stranger.

Yet still, there are those among us who don't believe it, who seem to think the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) — nonpolitical medical organizations — are lying when they say wearing masks saves lives — and are politically motivated in their messaging rather than being based in fact.

Now, after taking in the message from all sides of the media, you may believe those "anti-maskers" live in places far removed, perhaps in Wyoming, where that state's Republican governor, Mark Gordon, resisted mandating masks until he himself became infected with COVID-19 at the end of November. Or perhaps you think those naysayers live in Kansas City, Mo., where the CDC tracked trends of counties with and without a mask mandate.

According to the CDC study: "Wearing face masks in public spaces reduces the spread of SARS-CoV-2."

Science doesn't lie.

But no, the anti-maskers in question do not live in the far reaches of the U.S., they live right next door in the Harlem Valley of New York. Last week, Millerton News Editor Whitney Joseph spoke to people who reside and do business locally in Millerton and its surrounds who fall on both sides of the mask debate; you can find that article on our front page last week, Dec. 10. Please, take the time to read it.

So, you may be trying to keep yourself and your loved ones safe, cocooned securely in your home as much as possible, only going out for necessities, wearing a mask and keeping socially distanced, yet there are others, perhaps your friends and neighbors, who are not following our governor's safety guidelines, our health department's guidelines or the CDC's guidelines. They believe they know better. We're not saying they're acting out of ill-will or spite, that they're intentionally trying to make others sick or to kill anyone. Of course not. But the fact is that is exactly what their actions could lead to — intentional or not.

And then there are those who do act belligerently when they are asked to put on a mask — as they are required to do in the states of New York and Connecticut when in a public place — by people who are justly concerned about catching the virus. To those acting out, please just stop the hostility. We are in the midst of a deadly global pandemic, and it is affecting all those around you just as it's affecting you. Some have had the disease and some have loved ones who died from it. Think about that.

Is it really so hard to wear a mask in public to try to make the spread of COVID-19 even a little less? Isn't that mild inconvenience worth it if it saves someone, you or another, from becoming ill? Responding by coughing on a person, yelling at a person, cursing at a person, intimidating a person, threatening a person, physically assaulting a person — such behavior is unacceptable, even criminal.

The bottom line here is that the issue of wearing a face mask — a simple step that can save lives — should not have been politicized. But it was. Today, as we face this ever-growing pandemic, which is a grave danger despite the hope of vaccine distribution, putting on a face mask should be as routine as putting on a jacket before heading out for a cold day. It's a protective measure, not just for yourself, but for others as well. It's long past time for all of America to willingly mask up.

Shop locally this year

Please take note of the Last Minute Shopping special banner in this week's newspaper. It's a reminder that shopping locally is more important this year than ever to support area merchants. Use the last days before the holidays to shop right in your own town or one close by. You won't have to wait for a possibly late delivery, and you will enjoy seeing the lights and festivity all around us.

Mask up, wash and sanitize your hands and socially distance, but please, find a way to shop locally. It will make all the difference to area businesses going into the new year.

Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m.
Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com.
More letters on page B6.



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

A late autumn day at Beckley Furnace

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Article was wrong on easement

The article ("A threat to a protected property," Dec. 10) suggests that I have ignored the conservation easement on my land on Taconic Road. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Please paste or type the following link into your internet browser to read my response.

Alternatively, you can email me at jjkpcsc@gmail.com and I will email a copy to you.

<https://bit.ly/rrcauseway>

We all are deeply concerned about the health of the West Lake and surrounding environment. My hope is that we can restore it to its natural con-

dition, as it was 100 years ago before the railroad cut through.

Jeffrey J. Keenan

Salisbury

Concerns about protected lands

I heard that a new buyer of my mother's land on Taconic Road that has lake frontage wants to get rid of the conservation easement. My mother, Mary Alice White, was a committed environmentalist and that easement is part of her legacy — the land is an extraordinary asset for the town and leaving it as natural as possible would clearly be her determined wish. I can only imagine if she were still alive! She would be raising hell over this attempt to destroy what Lakeville and your part of Connecticut has in abundance: natural beauty not yet destroyed by overbuilding, unlike Fairfield County.

Years ago, when my kids were young, we used to walk out on the old road to the gazebo at Easter; it was brisk and windy but the lake was very much alive. It felt like going back in time, with few houses on the water and an extraordinary view across to the far-off mountains. It reminded me of a Chinese brush painting.

I do hope that this wonderful piece of nature is preserved for future generations. Once the easements go, once the trophy houses multiply, Lakeville will have lost its claim on our collective imagination.

My mother lived in a house that, at its core, was built in the late 1700s. It was a bit run-down I guess but very much part of a landscape that had not changed for centuries. Today, that old house has been spruced up and turned into yet another example of wealth on display.

Connecticut Yankees knew better — they were modest and lived in tune with nature. I hope that Lakeville is able to stay true to its roots, to the enduring and heartfelt appreciation for its geography and values that make it so special.

Christopher Kimball
 Cambridge, Mass.

Talk of the Towne should reverse policy

Unappetizing servings of alternative facts and misguided opinions were dished out by Millerton's Talk of the Towne's management in a provocative interview in last week's Lakeville Journal, offering both food for thought and heart burn.

The deli's owner says she does not believe face masks can protect the public from being infected with coronavirus, stating it is no different than flu. A good reminder that our beliefs/opinions aren't automatically the truth. Fortunately, science doesn't care what we believe! Health experts unanimously agree that wearing a mask is one of the most effective means of protection. To dispute this is unbelievable. (Conversely, I'd prefer an experienced deli chef prepare my sandwich rather than a Surgeon General.)

Another indigestible deli delight: "More people die of flu than they do of this Covid."

A speedy web search reveals otherwise. Unless information from Johns Hopkins Medicine is deemed "fake news," we find:

COVID-19: There have been approximately 1,584,788 deaths reported worldwide.

Flu: The World Health Organization estimates that 290,000 to 650,000 people die of flu-related causes every year worldwide.

Whether coming from a place of willful ignorance or simply being misinformed, I encourage Talk of the Towne to reconsider its policy and begin asking customers to mask-up for the sake of the community, which it proudly serves.

Look forward to sampling your food and humor when you do. Respectfully,

Jonathan Doster

Sharon

Journal should have noted importance of mask wearing

Whitney Joseph's article profiling Mary Hosier's feelings about masks has a serious and possibly deadly flaw.

The very first line should read, "Despite scientific evidence and near 100% consensus that masks prevent the spread of COVID, Mary Hosier..."

It is irresponsible to not point out clearly that Mary is unequivocally incorrect in her belief about masks.

Alex Ely

Kent

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

(USPS 303280)

An Independent Connecticut Newspaper
 Published Weekly by The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC
 64 Route 7 North, Falls Village, CT 06031
 P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039-9989
 Tel. (860) 435-9873
www.tricornnews.com • editor@lakevillejournal.com

Volume 124, Number 20 Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mission Statement

The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, Publishers of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News
 Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

Cynthia Hochswender
Executive Editor
 Janet Manko
Publisher and Editor-In-Chief
 Libby Hall-Abeel
Advertising Manager
 James H. Clark
Production Coordinator

In Memoriam
 A. Whitney Ellsworth
 1936-2011
Managing Partner
 Robert H. Estabrook
 1918-2011
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

EDITORIAL STAFF: Alexander Wilburn, senior associate editor; Patrick L. Sullivan, senior reporter; Leila Hawken, reporter.

ADVERTISING SALES: Mary Wilbur, display sales; Lyndee Stalter, classified advertising.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION: Sandra L. Lang, controller; Michelle Eisenman, financial assistant.

COMPOSING DEPARTMENT: Caitlin Hanlon, graphic designer; Olivia Montoya, graphic designer.

DRIVERS: Elias Bloxom Baker; Chris Palmer.

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL COMPANY, LLC: Dale McDonald, chairman; William E. Little, Jr., chairman emeritus.

Subscription Rates - One Year: \$82.00 in Litchfield County, \$98.00 outside county
 Known Office of Publication: Lakeville, CT 06039-1688. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Lakeville, CT 06039. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688.

Keenan generous to offer removing causeway

We should be grateful to John Harney for opening a discussion, albeit in a negative way, around Jeffrey Keenan's noble attempt to remediate the ongoing damage to Lake Washinee caused by the incursion of the former railroad causeway that projects about three-quarters of the way across it. Keenan says that any cutting and clearing he has done on the causeway is allowable under the terms of the conservation easement put in place by the former owner, Mary Alice White, and administered by The Nature Conservancy. One might conceivably argue that Mr. Keenan is misinterpreting the terms of the easement, which appear to be far less simplistic than Harney implies, but the claim that it is being "ignored" is untrue. Yet The Lakeville Journal accepts this statement at face value and publishes it as fact. So much for the spirit of journalistic inquiry. In addition, neither Harney nor The Journal mentions that two acres of the property, where much of the most visible clearing has been done, was always reserved as a building site and is not under easement at all.

What puzzles me, however, is how a manmade structure like a railroad causeway, a violent incursion onto the natural landscape, could ever have qualified for a conservation Easement in the first place. It is true that various hardy plants manage to grow in its inhospitable mixture of gravel, cinders, cement and railroad ties impregnated with toxic creosote, and no doubt birds do nest there. But this seems a very poor exchange for the damage the causeway is doing to the lake itself — silting it up in fact. To my mind, Mr. Keenan's generous proposal to demolish about half the bizarre 800-foot-long "dam" does not go far enough — logically the whole thing should be removed and the lake restored to its natural contours. But don't take my word for it. Let's listen to the environmental scientists.

Nathan Kernan

Salisbury

'Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do.'

— Mark Twain

Such a critical need for volunteers

In the course of last week's Salisbury Selectmen's Meeting, the need for volunteers by both the Fire Company and the Ambulance Service was discussed. With the influx of full-time residents, it occurred to me this might be a silver lining from the COVID-19 nightmare we are experiencing. Every crisis has the benefit of the strength needed to survive and the good which can come out of it.

The Ambulance Service just had their 45th Anniversary. However, there is a story beyond that. In the old days, as Rees Harris used to put it: "You call; we haul!" days, my mother needed emergency help. Izzy, the party telephone operator, informed me that Dr. Smith was taking his daughter to the train and that I should try the fire department. That experience plus two fatal auto accidents encouraged Rees Harris to start the Salisbury Ambulance Service. This was the first volunteer ambulance service in the state of Connecticut; one of Salisbury's many firsts! My husband, John, worked with Rees and was there from the beginning with Rosemary Fudali and Ted Davis to just name two. John slept with his clothes nearby prepared for that nighttime call as I am sure the current volunteers do as well.

Based on that, Rees was asked to chair the commission to write ambulance regulations for the state of Connecticut. This endeavor took over two years, required travel throughout the state and great patience and tact to gather a consensus. Our Ambulance Service prides itself in being totally supported by the residents of Salisbury.

Since that time the advancement in training and equipment has improved tremendously but nothing can equal the dedication of these volunteers. With precautions for COVID, volunteers are tested and the recommendation was made to also have testing available for their families.

I urge anyone able to consider either organization, to jump in now. The Fire Department always had a quick response to the chimney fires during our years at the White Hart and personally I cannot possibly thank the Ambulance service enough for their kind assistance through our family emergencies: son, father-in-law, husband.

We are fortunate to have our neighbors as our volunteers for both Fire Company and Ambulance but the old guard needs replacements. Salisbury has never turned down assistance for a good cause.

Elyse Harney

Salisbury

Hartford's abandoned newsrooms

In the spring of 1955, as I was about to graduate from college with a degree in journalism and history, I went looking for an entry level job as a copyboy at one of the big New York newspapers.

There were several to try back then—the Times, Herald-Tribune, Daily News, Mirror, Post, Journal-American and World Telegram—but I started at the top, visiting the Times, the Trib and the Daily News, the latter because my high school yearbook predicted I would someday be “bylined in the Daily News.”

But at each paper, I was told they were only interviewing people from the Brooklyn Eagle. Walt Whitman's old newspaper had just folded after 114 years, causing me to alter my career plans and that June, I gratefully began my news career in a slightly smaller market, as a reporter at the Wheeling (West Virginia) Intelligencer. A few years later, New York would have only one more daily than Wheeling's two.

After a year in Wheeling and two years as an Army draftee, I answered a classified ad — remember them? — in the Times and took a public relations job at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. But I missed reporting and in 1959, I was on the state desk of the Hartford Courant.

Although I would spend most of my life in broadcast journalism, I remember my two years in the Courant newsroom as a joyful learning experience, a place where you'd work hard, enjoy every minute of it and make some life-time friends.

Two memories — one solemn, the other, silly — stand out. There was the night in the spring of 1961 when I watched a grim Gerry Demeusy, the paper's court reporter, sit at his typewriter on deadline to describe how Joseph Taborsky, “the mad dog killer,” had a banana split and cherry coke before he was strapped into the electric chair and 2000 volts of electricity snapped hard against his restraints.

Then there were the days the publisher, Col. John Reitmeyer, conducted his early version of a focus group, starting in the front of the newsroom with the city staff. One day, as the colonel was moving from desk to desk, word came back to answer, “Steve Canyon,” when he asked you to name your favorite Courant comic strip. After several Steve Canyons in a row, the colonel shouted, “Dammit, Steve Canyon's in the Hartford Times.”

The Courant building was then as now in a renovated car dealership on Broad Street, west of downtown, and the more popular afternoon Times was on Prospect Street near the center of the city. The Times had a more majestic building with a portico lined with pillars taken from Manhattan's Madison Square Presbyterian Church. The church had been demolished to make way for an insurance company only a dozen years after it had been designed by the renowned architect, Stanford White.

Presidents Truman, Eisenhower and Johnson spoke from the Times Portico and candidate John F. Kennedy made the final speech of his successful 1960 campaign there. Imagine a 21st century presidential campaign ending in Hartford, Connecticut.

The morning Courant passed the afternoon Times in circulation in the 1960s and the Times presses stopped rolling for good in 1976. The building first became an annex to the Hartford City Hall

IF YOU ASK ME
DICK AHLES

and is now part of the University of Connecticut's Hartford campus with only the pillared portico left as a reminder of the days when Hartford was more than a one paper town.

And now, a couple of months since it stopped printing the Courant in Hartford after 256 years, the hedge fund controlling the paper's parent, Tribune Publishing, has decided to close the newsroom and require the surviving news staff to report and edit the paper from home. That staff, numbering more than 400 in the 1990s, is now around 135.

The Courant, like many news organizations, has been working remotely since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the newspaper-killing hedge fund owner at the Tribune has apparently concluded it is now possible to put out a paper without having a place for its staff to work and interact. Courant editor and publisher Andrew Julien said the decision was a response to “real estate needs.” Since the building had been sold in 2018, these real estate needs must be about not paying the rent.

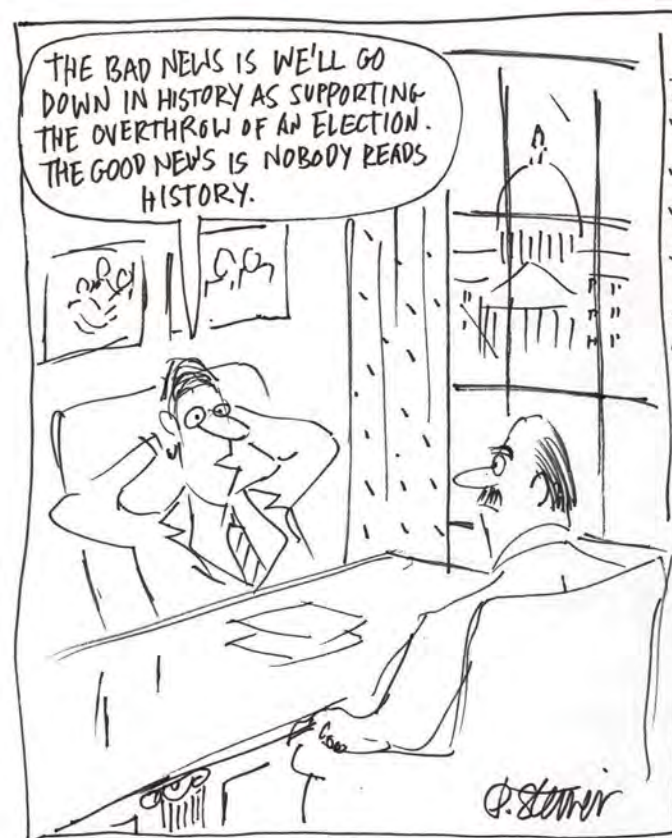
Whatever the rationale, the decision is further evidence that the bottom line is not the top priority, but the only priority of Alden Global Capital, described by the Washington Post media columnist Margaret Sullivan as “one of the most ruthless of the corporate strip miners seemingly intent on destroying local journalism.”

I'm sure students entering the old Times building rarely, if ever, pause to read the inscription over the door:

“News is an immortal bubble (vagrant but outlasting those who make it), and the press endures within.”

No more, not there or across town.

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



The best Instagram feeds for green activism?

Dear EarthTalk: What are the best Instagram feeds to follow lately if I'm into environmental activism and fighting climate change?

— Bill S., New Orleans, La.

It's amazing how dominant Instagram has become in the world of social media. Eco-advocates would be remiss to not make use of it to raise awareness and spur action on behalf of the planet. Given Instagram's limited functionality, activists and groups have to be creative to make the most of the photo-dominant platform to stand out from the crowd.

Indigenous Climate Action uses its @indigenousclimateaction account to motivate and empower both youth and adults on climate activism by reminding them of the human connections to land, water, community, culture and the sense of responsibility toward future generations exemplified in Indigenous communities.

Another timely account to follow is @sunrisevmvt, the Instagram outlet for the Sunrise Movement. Organizers have used

Instagram to spread their message to millions of young people who have in turn showed up at rallies, marches, sit-ins, Congressional visits and other direct-action events designed to lever those in power to make smart decisions.

Finally, @climemchange uses humor to lighten the mood within the climate movement. After all, laughter has been proven to boost antibody-producing cells, reduce stress and increase blood flow, all important to make sure we keep ourselves healthy while fighting the good fight. Following this account is a good way to fight the eco-depression and climate anxiety we all suffer from, even if just a little.

One way to be an eco-activist on Instagram is to share these accounts' posts on your own stories, an easy way to spread awareness.

EarthTalk is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at www.emagazine.com. Send questions to question@earthtalk.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Searching for meaning in the stars and planets

Looking at the big picture in the sky could be a helpful way for humanity to work for the greater good, not miss out on external and esoteric influences on people, events and the Galaxy (for starters.) Carol Allen writes about Vedic astrology online. She shared that Dec. 14 is the start of a few minutes of “a total eclipse of the sun” that will affect the Earth (and earthlings and whoever else may be visiting and nature) for the next six months.

The corona of the sun is pictured during the total eclipse just as the vaccine is being rolled out, Carol Allen noted.

That may mean different things to people. This eclipse and the alignment of Jupiter and Saturn on Dec. 20 is explored by many, including jaidevsingh.com with free online yoga sessions at times to create unity.

Let US All glow brighter and flow lighter as we welcome the rest of December and appreciate the values of harmony and connection with healing forces on many levels near and far and we time. We're headed for times if fullness and love many share. May that be so into the next year and critical decades.

Catherine Palmer Paton
Falls Village

An appeal: fair housing

In a bizarre world of COVID, fake news, other oddities and extremely difficult uncertain times, we don't know if you missed us or even remember the little zoning kerfuffle in Falls Village called “River Road Houses.” It's Lime Rock Station: scene of a housing mess the town is handling poorly and, coincidentally, an F1 tornado on the evening of Sunday, August 2nd.

OK. We'll go over the basic details: Application by a local housing trust (FVHT) costing anywhere from \$3.5 to 5.5 million (nobody knows) for a housing development of 29 bedrooms on a bucolic road nowhere near town, not following any of the guidelines the state mandates and adjudicated on surreal Zoom meetings. The Connecticut Dept. of Housing has stated to us that it is still “under review.” Oh, who ARE we?

Well, 72 citizens signed a petition back in October asking the town to do a referendum putting the whole thing up for a vote. Basically, “Should the thing be permitted or not?” The

First Selectman's lawyer (yea, he lawyered up, what we are trying hard to avoid) said the referendum was the job of the Planning and Zoning Commission who said it was the First Selectman's job, not theirs.

Not knowing where to turn, we recently asked our dear Town Clerk to hold the referendum. It's been almost two months now and hot potato has become musical chairs or vice versa, dunno. Perhaps we're being a bit insouciant here, but we'll do anything for a little action. We're not out here to disparage our fellow townspeople. We can't afford to “lawyer up” like people in the wealthy towns and would prefer not to anyway.

We're the second smallest town in Connecticut and would really like a Falls Village-scaled solution, which serves people in a welcoming way. We've been asking and asking. Nada. We're not burying our heads in the sand. We're all eyes. We don't like what we see. Let's get Real. PLEASE.

Colter Rule
Falls Village

USA elections need to be conducted as years ago

Indiscriminate mail-in ballots suborn fraud. The only mail-in ballots that should be allowed would be absentee ballots, wherein the applicant is a registered voter, produces identification, signs their name with a signature that matches the registration signature, and acts to assure that the ballot is received by the voting jurisdiction before Election Day.

The use of programmable and hackable voting computer systems must be stopped to prevent voting fraud. The solution would be a return to mechanical voting machines that have no electronics at all. We used to do it that way. Moderators from both political parties are to verify that the totals are zeroed at the beginning of the voting day. At the end of the voting hours, the moderators agree as to what votes were accumulated on each voting machine for each candidate. The moderators then agree as to the vote sums that include all the machines of a voting precinct. The machines are then impounded, pending certification of the vote totals. If a recount is deemed necessary, the impounded machines are available for inspection. That is how it used to be done and that is what we should go back to.

J. Thomas Light

Lakeville

Rules of the country road

Life is different in the Northwest Corner, where there are few sidewalks, few streetlights, narrow or non-existent shoulders on narrow, curvy, hilly roads. Our population now is the usual population we have in the summer. Here are some pointers to keep you and your loved ones safe.

Walkers and Joggers: 1) Walk or jog AGAINST the traffic. When on narrow roads, be aware of cars and walk single-file if necessary. 2) Bring a FLASHLIGHT at dusk or if jogging, wear reflective clothing. Most people wear dark clothing and you are hard to see on the road. A flashlight will alert drivers there is someone walking on the side of the road. 3) Use the crosswalk and walk button in town when available.

Cyclists: 1) Cycle WITH the traffic. Avoid cycling on the sidewalks. Wear a HELMET. 2) If cycling when light is dim, make sure you have lights on your bike or wear reflective clothing so drivers can see you.

Cars: 1) STOP for all school buses. Yellow lights mean slow down. Red light means STOP. Children will be crossing in front of the bus. When all lights are turned off, you may proceed. You may have to travel

slowly as the buses do stop intermittently, making it unsafe to pass. 2) Turn your HEADLIGHTS ON about 3:30 pm and on. Hills cast long shadows darkening a road making it difficult for others to see you, especially if you have a black, silver, white, gray or dark colored car. 3) The Connecticut law is that your HEADLIGHTS MUST BE ON when you are using your WINDSHIELD WIPERS. 4) In foggy, gray and misty days, use your HEADLIGHTS. 5) STOP for pedestrians in the crosswalk. 6) In wintry weather, be aware of snow, sleet and black ice. Stay home if you can. 7) LOOK OUT for animals especially at dawn or dusk. If you see a deer, chances are there is more than one. SLOW down. Swerving to avoid an animal can lead you to hit a tree, a guardrail, a pedestrian or another car. This is country.

Be safe! Remember to share the roads with every living thing so we can all enter the New Year in good health. This is in addition to wearing a mask, social distancing and hunkering down at home. Stay well!

Jo Loi

Lakeville

Journal should be clear on mask wearing

On Thursday, Dec. 10th, you published on your front page, with the headline “An Anti-mask Debate Brews”, one of the most irresponsible pieces of reporting we've read during the COVID-19 crisis. There is no “debate” about masks stopping the spread of COVID-19 — there are only people who believe in science and people who choose to ignore the science. In a debate between people who believe scientific facts and those who choose to ignore them, the only winner is COVID-19.

Your newspaper landed in our mailbox on a Thursday on which, in a single day, COVID-19 killed over 3,000 people in the United States. This front page feature article, which went on to run roughly 35 column inches describing outrageous and horrifying behavior, amplified completely unfounded and dangerous claims about staying safe from COVID-19. Every single one of the mask “objections” cited in this column are refuted, with factual scientific evidence, by every public health and infectious disease specialist in this nation.

For example, COVID-19 has proven to be five times more deadly than the flu as noted by the Journal of the American Medical Association. In the average year in the United States, according to the CDC, between 12,000 to 60,000 people die from the flu, but COVID-19 is far easier to catch and in the 10 months that COVID-19 has ravaged our country over 290,000 people have died. Ms. Hosier did not cite any scientific evidence to support any of her claims.

Why did you let someone with no expertise or scientific authority expound at such length to your readers? A responsible reporter and editor would have followed every single one of the specious and untrue claims made by Ms. Hosier with a disclaimer that provided the scientific facts. We have always thought that The Lakeville Journal provided an important public service. The most important public service that you could have provided was a banner headline that simply read, “WEAR A MASK!”

Roxann and Warren
Whitaker
Falls Village

Realtor® at Large

November continues to be strong with regards to real estate sales in Litchfield County, with 171 single family home sales recorded for the month. All towns have registered an increase in property transfers over 2019. Many towns, such as Salisbury and Warren are seeing over twice the levels of sales. This activity is also apparent in the increase of students enrolled in our public schools, so this may be an indicator of a more permanent move than part time use. The chief indicator for the future is the number of pending sales, which remains high. Usually activity drops off for the holiday season, but that does not seem to be the case this year. If you would like to review the data for November, please send an email and I will be happy to send the information.



JOHN HARNEY
Associate Broker with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Office: 19 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068
Email: jharney@wpsir.com
Cell: 860-921-7910
Instagram: @johnharneyjr

ADVERTISEMENT

More letters previous page.

To Have Your Service Listed and reach 30,000 Potential Customers Call 860-435-9873

Specialist Directory

DEADLINE
Friday at 4 p.m. for the following
Thursday's publication date.

Full color available.
Call your advertising
representative today!

The Lakeville Journal • The Millerton News • Compass • www.tricornernews.com

Animal Care

Millerton Veterinary Practice
INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE AND SURGERY
Additional Services
Diagnostic • Dentistry
Acupuncture • Chiropractic
Traditional Chinese Medicine
Certified Fear Free® Veterinarian and Staff Members
www.millertonvet.com • 518-789-3440

Auto Repair

NORTH EAST MUFFLER INC.
Custom Bending Up to 3 Inches
Tires • Brakes • Mufflers • New York State Inspections
Open Monday - Friday 8 to 5; Saturday 8 to 1
Route 22, Millerton, NY
John Heck (518) 789-3669 Cindy Heck

CHARLIE'S REPAIR SHOP
Complete Automotive Service
Brakes • Tires • Trailer Sales & Service
We Buy and Sell Used Cars
ROUTE 22 • MILLERTON, NY 12546
518-789-6636 Charles J. Flint, Jr.

Blinds

BUDGET BLINDS
Style and service for every budget!
FREE In-Home Consultation
Shades, Blinds, Shutters,
Home Automation and more
www.budgetblinds.com
An Independently Owned
and Operated Franchise

JOHN & JUNE KINSKY
BUDGET BLINDS OF LITCHFIELD COUNTY
860.619.2811
jjkinsky@budgetblinds.com
budgetblinds.com/litchfieldcounty
HIC#0648748

Computer Services

Visionary Computer



AirPods Pro Magic like you've never heard.
29 Bissell St. • Lakeville
(860) 435-2211 • visionarycomputer.net Apple Premier Partner

Floor Refinishing

THE FLOOR SPECIALIST
"When You Want The Best"
Old/new resurfaced to perfection.
FRANK MONDA
(800) 671-4505 (413) 229-3434 (413) 229-8432

Heating Oil & Propane

Serving Greater Litchfield County Since 1989

Klebe FUEL COMPANY
Heating oil & Propane
(860) 738-1114



Follow us!

Landscaping

VADNEY'S LANDSCAPING
CANAAN, CT
(860) 248-9442
Lawn Mowing • Gardening • Brush Hogging
Excavation • Tree Work • Land Clearing • Driveways
Free Estimates • Fully Insured E-mail: DylanVadney@yahoo.com

Lightning Rods

Lightning Protection!
ASSOCIATED LIGHTNING
Rod Company, Inc
Free Estimates / Inspections!
845-373-8309 / 518-789-4603
www.alrci.com info@alrci.com

Maintenance

SHARON LAWN & LANDSCAPE

Winter Months Are Perfect For:
Land Clearing • Brush Clearing
Vista Clearing • Tree Takedowns

**Commercial Snowplowing,
Sanding & Salting
of Parking Lots**

- EXCAVATORS • BACKHOES •
- BULLDOZER • CHIPPER •
- DUMP TRUCKS •
- GROUNDS MAINTENANCE •
- LANDSCAPING •

INQUIRE ABOUT OUR OFF-SEASON DISCOUNTS
LICENSED / INSURED
Commercial/Residential Credit Cards Accepted
(860) 672-5260
Sharonlawnandlandscape@yahoo.com

Moving

KARL ON WHEELS
Let us move your stuff
Prompt, Safe Delivery • Fully Insured
(860) 499-0406 karlonwheels.com

Overhead Doors

Madsen Overhead Doors offers numerous door options to fit any budget! Residential, commercial & industrial doors, electric operators, radio controls, sales & service.

Celebrating over **65** Years

MADSEN OVERHEAD DOORS
Fast, friendly service since 1954
(518) 392-3883
673 Route 203, Spencertown, NY
www.MadsenOverheadDoors.com

Painting

Hussey Painting

Decorating & Wallpapering
Interior & Exterior
Residential, Commercial & Industrial

State Licensed Home Improvement Contractors
Insured & EPA Certified

Now accepting most major credit cards
Family Owned and operated Since 1978
Emmet Hussey www.husseypainting.com
860.435.8149 emmethussey@gmail.com

Plumbing & Heating

Dave Kowalski LLC
Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning
Established 1998, Fully Licensed & Insured
northwestradianheat@yahoo.com
Falls Village, CT 06031 | 860-671-1662 • 860-824-0113

Roofing/Siding

ALL SEASON ROOFING
ROOFING & SIDING SPECIALISTS
New Construction and Repairs
Roofs: Asphalt, Cedar, Slate, Metal
Siding: Wood, Masonry, Metal, Fiber Cement
Seamless Gutters, Chimney Repair, Pressure Washing
www.SilverMountainBuilders.com | T: 845-518-3504
Email: Kevin@SilverMountainBuilders.com

Storage

GLOBAL SELF STORAGE
Security Is Our First Priority™
ALL CLIMATE CONTROLLED

- All Climate-Controlled Units
- Climate-Controlled Wine Storage
- 24-Hour Video Recording
- 24/7 Keypad Access
- 24/7 Rental & Payment Kiosk
- Professional On-Site Manager

845-677-2700
millbrook@globalselfstorage.us
3814 Route 44, Millbrook, NY 12545

Tree Service

Applewood Tree Care
Tree Care • Tick Spraying

Jason Bresson applewoodtree@yahoo.com
860-733-2020 License # 62658 B2580

Tree Service

PEROTTI TREE SURGEONS LLC

Shade Tree Preservation • Home Orchard Care
Landscape Renovation • Hazard Tree Removal
Tick Control • Organic Options
Native Arborist since 1997
Jeff Perotti • 860-824-5051
perottitreesurgeons.com
CT Pest Registration #B-2341
CT Lic. Arborist #54607 MA Cert. Arborist #2136

TriCornerNews.com

The Best Regional News Site
When you need to know what's
happening in your area, we're there.

Tree Service

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL
JOHN'S TREE SERVICE
Tree removal • Chipping • View Cutting • Land Clearing • Logging • Firewood
860-824-8149
PO Box 414 East Canaan, CT 06024
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED



Christopher Toomey 860-824-4956
Licensed Arborist Telephone & Fax

TOOMEY TREE CARE

25 Years Exp. Free Estimates
6 Barracks Road Canaan, CT 06018
CT Arborist Lic. #S-4207

Pruning-Bracing-Clearing
Ornamental & Hedge Trimming
Removals-Vistas
Tree Fertilization

Well Drilling

LOUIS E. ALLYN & SONS
Well Drilling
Water Systems Installed & Serviced
Established 1917
Canaan, CT (860) 824-5600

Window Treatments

window wares

ART INSTALLS
CLOSETS & STORAGE
WINDOW SHADES

184 Main St. Lakeville CT 860 364 9824
By appointment

Do you have a family member
or friend in the military who
would be interested in the
news from home?

Remember
The Lakeville Journal Company
offers free online subscriptions to
our website, tricornernews.com,
for active duty military personnel
from the Tri-state region. For
more information or to set up a
subscription, contact Sandra Lang
at circulation@lakevillejournal.
com or 860-435-9873, ext. 301.

With thanks to those who serve.

your news
your community
your life!

Not sure who to turn to when you need a service?
Every week we bring you this directory of Specialists in print and online
at www.tricornernews.com. From Automobiles to Windows,
the Specialist you need is at your fingertips.

We'll keep you connected.

And, when you find the Specialist you're looking for,
let them know you found them in your independent,
locally owned, community newspapers.

The Lakeville Journal
THE MILLERTON NEWS
TriCornerNews.com

We've made it even easier to
Stay Informed.
Visit www.tricornernews.com
to purchase a print or online subscription.
Or call 800-339-9873 ext. 303