

# MAINstreet

MAGAZINE



# **CROWN** **ENERGY CORP.**



***We're on the move!***  
*Energy for your lifestyle*

## ***Pool season is here!***

***Is your pool ready? Has the pool's propane unit been serviced? Has the propane tank been filled?***

***It not, it is time to call your friendly propane service providers at Crown Energy!***

### ***SERVICES:***

Propane • Heating Oil • Diesel Fuel • Gasoline  
Kerosene • Heating Systems • Service  
Installations • 24 Hour Service

***1 John Street, Millerton, NY 12546  
(518) 789 3014 • (845) 635 2400  
[www.crownenergycorp.com](http://www.crownenergycorp.com)***

# Dutchess County, Columbia County and beyond, we're here to insure your world.

The Brad Peck Agency in Copake has long-standing ties to its community. It is one of the oldest hands-on agencies and in all of its years of operation it has provided a personalized approach to writing property, casualty, commercial, home, auto and above all, life insurance. The agency provides superior service regardless of where their customers lay their hats, the agency is registered in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico and Florida. They are ready today, as they have always been, to insure your world.



**Brad Peck, Inc.**

Brad Peck Inc.  
1676 Route 7A  
Copake, N.Y. 12516  
P. 518.329.3131

The Lofgren Agency  
6 Church Street  
Chatham, N.Y. 12037  
P. 518.392.9311

Hermon T. Huntley Agency Inc.  
Tilden Place  
New Lebanon, N.Y. 12125  
P. 518.794.8982

Auto • Home • Farm • Business & Commercial • Life, Health & Long Term Care



Heating Systems • Central A/C • Plumbing Services • Monitoring Systems • Generators

1-800-553-2234 • [www.GMTaylorOil.com](http://www.GMTaylorOil.com)



Outdoor units >

Control units >

Experience a breakthrough in **Pure Comfort Air Conditioning**. Have Taylor Oil Inc. install a space-saving, whisper-quiet, **Mitsubishi Electric** ductless Energy Star System today! Featuring Eco-comfort technology, dual and triple allergen filtration. Certified "Diamond Contractor"

Call for a **FREE** quote today: 1.800.553.2234 [www.GMTaylorOil.com](http://www.GMTaylorOil.com)  
The only Home Services Company your House will ever need.



1-800-553-2234 • [www.GMTaylorOil.com](http://www.GMTaylorOil.com) • "Like" us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TaylorOilinc](http://www.facebook.com/TaylorOilinc)

Taylor Oil Inc., is a family owned and operated local business, serving the local communities for the past 86 years. Offices in Dover Plains, Pawling, Millerton, Pine Plains, Millbrook. "We're here to serve you!"

## SUMMER HAS ARRIVED!

At last, at glorious last, summer has arrived! Even though we didn't have a terribly bad winter (at least not compared with the last two years!), it seemed that the weather couldn't make up its mind and finally let spring arrive. So with that being said, I am sure that each and every one of you is happy to see June finally arrive!

It seems that we get an extra boost of energy in the summer months. The days are longer and it is warmer, so we're all more active. I suppose we're a bit like bees; busy bustling around in the warm summer days, using up all that sunshine and energy in preparation of those colder days.

### In this issue

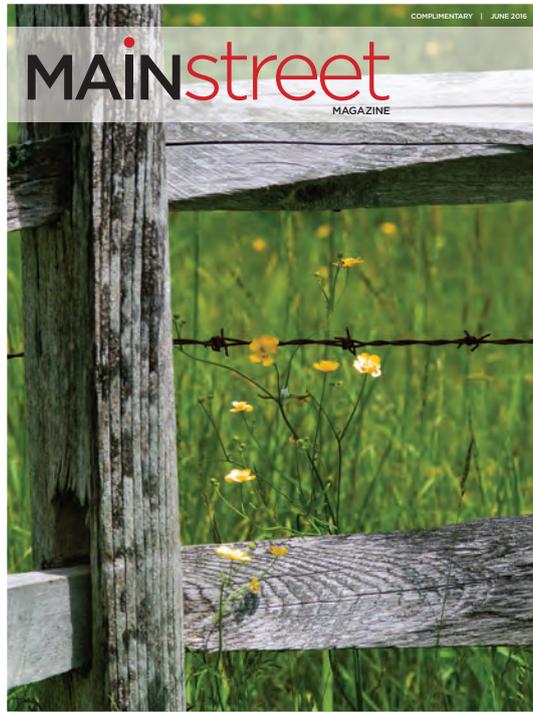
In this month's June issue, we actually don't have a theme. Yes, I know, we've been on a theme-bender for the last few months with a Wedding issue, then an Animal issue, which was followed by the Lakeville-Salisbury issue, and then the Transportation issue. Phew! That was quite theme-heavy. But I like it because it breaks things up, and it allows us to examine a specific niche market in our amazing communities. So with that being said, I hope that you enjoyed some of those issues as much as we did.

In this June issue we bring you a variation of stories. Our artist profile features a man who is known as "The Barber Authority" to both locals and celebrities alike. That's right, this guy does Eminem's hair and taught Pink how to give her husband a close-shave. Scratching your head about that one? You'll have to read the story.

Christine brings us an interesting story about a couple that started a company making ukuleles in Sheffield, MA, as well as examines the real estate market in Gallatin, NY. Meanwhile, Christine gave Claire a few garden tool tips for Claire's piece on garden tools. Not all tools are created equal!

Dominique went and visited with a Hillsdale-local who has bees and sells their sweet honey at the Hillsdale Farmer's Market. Meanwhile Allison went and visited Eastfield, where it's as if time has stopped. Howard Blue also shared a historically-based piece about a piece of land and one tree in Copake. Then bringing us back to the present day are CB's interview with Ira and Howard, who renovated and run a wonderful Inn in Kent. John also gives us a glimpse at a local piece of Postmodern architectural delight, as well as the status of local Lacrosse teams. We hope that you enjoy the issue.

- Thorunn Kristjansdottir



JUNE 2016

June has arrived in our fair countryside in all of its glory!

Cover photo by Lazlo Gyorsok

## CONTENTS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 6   THE BARBER AUTHORITY<br>artist profile                                | 35   IRA GOLDSPIEL & HOWARD SCHISSLER<br>couples' profile   |
| 9   FRIENDLY FACES  | 39   IT'S ALWAYS 1840 IN EASTFIELD  |
| 11   UKULELES IN THE BERKSHIRES<br>business profile                       | 43   LOCAL POSTMODERN DESIGN  |
| 15   MINDING YOUR HEALTH<br>maintaining a healthy lifestyle               | 47   A FIELD OF MANY DREAMS<br>tco's story as told to howard blue   |
| 17   TUSCANY IN COLUMBIA COUNTY<br>the real estate market in gallatin, ny | 51   CONFESSIONS OF A CLOSET TECHIE   |
| 21   THE MASTERFUL RUG HOOKING<br>OF LIZ MARINO                           | 53   THE WORLD OF LACROSSE  |
| 23   HIVE TALKIN' WITH BILL   | 57   BUSINESS SNAPSHOT<br>nashalla sailing<br>hollis gonerka bart llp<br>ks fitness and personal training<br>brothers landscaping |
| 27   SOME THOUGHTS ON GARDEN TOOLS  | 58   MONTHLY ADVICE COLUMNS   |
| 30   HIDDEN HOUSES OF WORSHIP   | 59   HOROSCOPES & MORE  |

### PUBLISHER, EDITOR, ADVERTISING, WRITING, PHOTOGRAPHY & OTHER DUTIES

**Thorunn Kristjansdottir** Publisher, Editor-in-Chief, Designer. **Pom Shillingford** Assistant proof-reader. **Ashley Kristjansson** and **Daniel Martucci** Directors of Advertising. Contributing Writers: **Allison Marchese** | **CB Wismar** | **Carol Ascher** | **Christine Bates** | **Claire Copley** | **Dominique De Vito** | **Ian Strever** | **John Torsiello** | **Mary B. O'Neill** | **Melissa Batchelor Warnke** | **Memo-ree Joelle** | **Sarah Ellen Rindsberg**. Contributing Photographers: **Lazlo Gyorsok** & **Olivia Markonic**

### ADVERTISING

**Ashley Kristjansson** and **Daniel Martucci** Call 518 592 1135 or email [info@mainstreetmag.com](mailto:info@mainstreetmag.com)

### CONTACT

**Office** 52 Main Street, Millerton, NY 12546 • **Mailing address** PO Box 165, Ancramdale, NY 12503  
**Phone** 518 592 1135 • **Email** [info@mainstreetmag.com](mailto:info@mainstreetmag.com) • **Website** [www.mainstreetmag.com](http://www.mainstreetmag.com)

### PRINT, LEGAL, ACCOUNTING & INSURANCE

Printed by **Snyder Printer, Inc.** • Legally represented by **Davis & Trotta Law Offices**  
Accounting services by **Pattison, Koskey, Howe & Buccì CPAS** • Insured by **Brad Peck, Inc.**

Main Street Magazine is a monthly publication, coming out on or around the 1st of the month. It is published by Main Street Magazine, LLC. Main Street Magazine is not responsible for advertising errors whereas all ads receive final approval by the advertiser. Advertisers are legally responsible for the content and claims that are made in their ads. Main Street Magazine reserves the right to refuse advertising for any reason. The entire contents of Main Street Magazine are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without permission. All rights reserved.

# Imagine the perfect real estate website...

**PAULA REDMOND JUST DID**



At Paula Redmond Real Estate, we believe that finding a home or land that fits your needs, lifestyle & budget is the key to happiness. Our amazing new website – **paularedmond.com** – makes searching for what you want easier than ever.

**PAULA  
REDMOND**  
REAL ESTATE INC



**paularedmond.com**  
Real Estate & Smart Ideas

**Millbrook Brokerage**  
10 Front St., Millbrook, NY • (845) 677-0505

**Rhinebeck Brokerage**  
51-3 East Market St., Rhinebeck, NY • (845) 876-6676

# HAMMERTOWN

PINE PLAINS • RHINEBECK • GREAT BARRINGTON | LIFESTYLE MARKETPLACE

FURNITURE  
LIGHTING & RUGS  
GIFTS & MORE

DESIGN  
CONSULTING  
FOR REAL  
LIVING

hammertown.com

PHOTOGRAPHY: LYNN KARLIN



# the barber authority

MASTER BARBER:  
STEVE VILOT



Above: Steve, conducting the ballet of phones and customers.

Photo at top from istock-photo.com contributor ekremguduk.

By *CB Wismar*  
*arts@mainstreetmag.com*

Steve Vilot is on the phone.

His timing is as tight as the choreography of a Broadway musical. One customer is leaving his barber chair while another readies himself to slide in and have the magic begin. Timing is everything, and Steve will finish his call just in time to greet the new customer by name, do a quick check of what the expectations are for this session, then proceed to demonstrate his artistry.

This ballet of phones and customers and conversation fills every day for the talented owner of three Sim's barbershops (two in Pittsfield, one in Great Barrington) – that's every day that he's in Western Massachusetts. Sim's has been a landmark for years, operated by the man who is known, in the business, as The Barber Authority. That reputation reaches far beyond this pleasant town in the Berkshires.

The particular phone call this afternoon was a quick confirmation that the logistics of Steve's upcoming trip were in place. Steve, as it happens, is not simply a local barber and business owner. He's also the barber to the "stars." Global superstar rapper

Eminem is going to appear at Lollapalooza in Rio de Janeiro. He wants Steve to be there to make sure his look is ... well, simply right.

## All the world is a ... shop

Along the way, Steve will spend time cutting the hair of Eminem's band, the record company executives who travel in support of the act, and the producers of what has become one of the largest, most successful concert franchises in the world. They are so impressed with the magician of scissors, clippers, and straight razors, that they will make sure that Steve is locked down to be in Chicago for the 25th Anniversary Lollapalooza at the end of July.

Between Rio and Chicago, there will be several more Rock n' Roll weekends for Steve Vilot, interspersed with the annual motorcycle rally in Sturgis, South Dakota, a concert date in Boston with Rihanna, a mini-tour sponsored by Harley-Davidson as they launch a new magazine with concerts by Yelawolf, and a few days with The Dave Matthews Band.

## Engineer to artist

Steve Vilot is a native of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where his father was a machinist. Steve was fascinated with motorcycles and, with access to the tools needed to build and repair those machines, he grew up around things mechanical. He built bicycles

for spending money and managed to cobble together more than a few motorcycles.

When it came time to focus on a career, engineering seemed like a good fit, so off he went to school. An accomplished draftsman, Steve rocketed through the engineering curriculum and landed a job with Berkshire Gas. The only roadblock standing in the way of his moving up through the ranks was a project in the eastern part of Massachusetts that drained state funds, cut back on staff levels, and forced Steve to change directions. The project was "The Big Dig" in Boston.

Searching for his "what's next," Steve was somewhat startled when a friend suggested he think about barbering. Strange as the transition may have appeared, there were many connections that seemed all too simple. Steve has great eye/hand coordination. He has an inherent sense of sculpting and design. He had mastered the tools of engineering – the pencils, pens, rulers, and compasses – so why not the scissors, combs, razors, and clippers?

He tore through barber school in the same fashion that he had become an engineer and, when taking his test to gain his license, was mistaken for someone testing for the Master Barber designation.

Master Barber? To reach that level, Steve had to master the straight razor and be able to deliver, with dexterity and grace, the perfect shave. He was off on his next challenge. And, master it, he did. In fact, Steve Vilot has proved himself so adept with a razor that when The Art of Shaving retail stores have one day demonstrations, the barber they call is Steve Vilot.

Which brings us back to the world of Rock n' Roll.

**It's only Rock n' Roll to Steve**

Clearly, Steve is an artist in an environment that offers some ready competition. The familiar swirling red, white, and blue barber pole can be found in most towns of any size. But, first by chance, then quickly by reputation, people are attracted to Sim's and to Steve, The Barber Authority.

The hills and back roads of Western Massachusetts, Northwest Connecticut, and the Hudson River Valley of New York are dotted with the retreat homes of celebrities, stars, authors, artists, and the titans of industry. There is a certain logic to the assumption that on any given weekend, a gentleman who didn't have time for a haircut in "the City" would find his way to Great Barrington and avail himself of the "seven days a week" operation known as Sim's.

Two such individuals are executives in the music industry ... most notably they are influencers in that amalgam of rock and rap and hip-hop that flows endlessly through audio buds

perched in the ears of what is now two successive generations.

Both men had become regular occupants of Steve's chair. When the opportunity presented itself, Steve, as he has so often done over the years, made the introductions. "Just fortunate," says Steve Vilot in an off-handed way that, at the same time, acknowledges that the marriage of good fortune and great talent can open doors.

Within months, the conversations begun in Steve's shop turned into requests for him to travel to venues across the country to be the trusted, even revered giant behind the barber chair. Steve is 6'3" and tips the scale at 300 pounds. He is both a figure to be reckoned with (for many years as his business grew, he freelanced as security at various New England bars) and an incredibly likable personality. Most importantly, he is a wizard with his shears and clippers.

With the music community relying on Steve to create an essential part of their on-stage appearance, and the esteemed Art of the Shave calling on him to attract crowds to their shops, it came as little surprise when a film production company came calling and asked Steve, not to demonstrate his sartorial talents, but to teach one of their stars how to use a straight razor. There was a scene in the script of *Thanks for Sharing* that called for actress Alecia Moore's character to shave someone on camera. Alecia Moore may be better known by her performance stage name: "Pink."



Above: Steve teaching Pink how to use a straight razor on her husband Carey Hart. Below, left: Steve with Dave Matthews. Photos courtesy of Steve Vilot.

Off Steve went to New York to coach Pink, but teaching her how to shave required a subject on whom to work. The logical choice turned out to be Pink's husband, motorcycle racer and X-Games champion, Carey Hart.

**The Barber Authority**

For Steve, one thing usually leads to another – and the results continue to amaze. Carey recognized Steve's artistry and invited him into the inner circle of the X-Games, where Steve has moved easily and decisively. To show his appreciation for opening up another world for him to conquer, Steve presented Carey with a customized barber chair of his own at the 2015 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally – a venue that celebrates Carey for the amazing athlete he is ... and flocks to Steve Vilot's Barber Authority tent to wait in line for hours for that magical cut.

Haircut done and customer delighted, Steve reaches for his phone. There's a new flagship Sim's to be created in Pittsfield. There's a continued discussion with Harley-Davidson about a sponsorship connection. There's talk of bringing The Barber Authority to NASCAR races – of-

fering Steve's incredible skill to both drivers and crew in the infield and to spectators in the fan area.

But, wide ranging phone conversations never blur Steve's focus on simply being the best. After all, the next occupant of the chair could be no less than former Governor Duval Patrick, a Sim's regular. Or, it could be a kid from down the block who has decided it's time to turn his appearance over to no less than The Barber Authority.

Either way, Steve Vilot is ready to perform his artistry. ●

*To reach Steve Vilot and to learn about his Sim's Barber shops, visit <http://www.simsbarbershops.com>.*

*Are you an artist and interested in being featured in Main Street Magazine? Send a brief bio, artist's statement, and a link to your work to [arts@mainstreetmag.com](mailto:arts@mainstreetmag.com).*



# HALDORA

clothing & home

COLLECTIONS MADE IN NY  
EXCLUSIVELY AT STORE & HALDORA.COM

E. MARKET ST, RHINEBECK, NY  
#HALDORARHINEBECK • FACEBOOK  
SIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTERS AT HALDORA@HVC.RR.COM



## Rhinebeck Equine, L.L.P.

*A Lifetime of Caring*

(845) 876-7085

26 LOSEE LANE  
RHINEBECK, NY 12572  
RHINEBECKEQUINE.COM

At your farm or at our hospital, we provide a full spectrum of care for your horse's needs. From our field veterinarians to our equine surgeons to our internal medicine specialist, we've got you covered!

*terston*

HOME ACCENTS & APPAREL



27 NORTH MAIN STREET • PO BOX 566 • KENT, CT  
TEL: 860.927.1255 • E-MAIL: INFO@TERSTON.COM  
WWW.TERSTON.COM



## Arch Table

high figure white oak

David Bowen  
Cabinetmaker

salisburyartisans.com

860 435 0344

# Wow.



There are two main roads in Pine Plains.  
We've moved to the other one. Route 199,  
two blocks west of the stoplight, going toward Rhinebeck.  
The drive is beautiful.



# STISSING HOUSE



**LUNCH • DINNER • EVENTS**

Available for on and off premises catering, large and small weddings

518.398.8800 • www.stissinghouse.com

7801 South Main Street, Pine Plains, New York 12567

Located on the corner of Route 199 and 82 at the light

Dinner hours: Thursday-Sunday • Lunch served on Sundays

## friendly faces: meet our neighbors, visitors and friends



**Caroline Parkinson** is the Development and Marketing Coordinator at The Hudson Opera House in Hudson, NY. She is new to the Opera House team, having just started this past March and says that her favorite aspect of the job are her passionate, hard-working, and friendly colleagues – and of course their passion for the arts. Caroline and her husband are thrilled to have joined this fantastic community at such an exciting time, both for the Opera House, the town, and the whole region. “There’s such a palpable sense of creative and entrepreneurial spirit here that rivals any of the big cities I have lived in, yet there’s also a wonderful sense of inclusiveness” she says. “Thanks to everyone who has made us feel so welcomed!”



While **Zig Osk** has been in construction for his entire life, he is the proprietor of Stone & Tile Services in Canaan, CT and has been in the stone and tile industry for over 37 years. “I enjoy working with my customers and love the ability of bringing stone back to life, restoring a tired and worn stone that most folks think should be replaced. It brings me real satisfaction to see owners reactions.” Outside of work, Zig spends most of his time with his wife, kids, and other family members. Zig and his wife Leigh grew up in southern Connecticut and relocated here around 1980. “The folks in the area are nice and easy-going with a sense of trust. We thought it would be a great place to raise kids and we were right, it was.”



**Joan Osofsky** is the owner and founder of Hammetown Barn. Joan says, “Our brand has obviously grown over the years, and with an amazing group of colleagues, Hammetown has achieved, dare I say this without sounding conceited, iconic status. I have my colleagues and the incredible people of the valley to thank, and I am humbled by the support we receive.” Joan loves the creative aspect and thinking forward to stay current. She always wants their costumers to be inspired from the minute they walk into one of her stores. Away from the store, Joan loves to go to Maine, she has great friends there that love relaxing and “chillin’!” She loves walking with her dog, going to museums, knitting, enjoying our great local restaurants and movie theatre. And, playing tennis. And don’t forget to “Love where you live.”



**Jim Archer** (pictured above with his daughters) owns and operates Elk Ravine Farm located in Amenia, NY, and Country Views, Inc. With a lot of hard work and dedication, he has been raising Scottish Highland Cattle, is an outdoor property service contractor, offers livestock grazing services, and is a farmer. Jim has been in business over 31 years and loves being outside. “I enjoy taking in the beautiful countryside!” Jim also drives horses and ponies with his family. He loves that he’s able to raise his family on their farm, which is located in the Smithfield/Shekomoko Valley area of Amenia. “I love the open countryside and farmland, it’s like living in the hidden gem of New York.” We couldn’t have said it better ourselves, Jim. We are truly lucky to live here!



Meet **Abbey Murphy**. She works at Wes’ Auto Body in Millbrook, NY as a secretary and she also helps to prep and clean the cars before returning them to their owners. Abbey also helps out in the shop when needed. She has been working at Wes’ Auto Body since 2010 when the business opened, and it seems that it is a match made in heaven because Abbey is fascinated by cars, so being part of the team is what she enjoys most working at Wes’. Outside of work Abbey loves to go fishing and camping with her family, and she likes to play with her new puppy Chester. When Abbey has time, she always enjoys taking a cruise and enjoying a nice day out on the road. Keep up the good work Abbey, and make sure those cars are shining!



**Ron Yaple** is an arborist, certified to care for different species of trees in NY, CT, and MA. He has been doing it for 39 years and chuckles as he says, “I like helping trees tolerate humans.” When Ron isn’t climbing trees, he enjoys kayaking, hiking, camping, and working in his woodlands. Ron’s roots are originally from Pennsylvania, but he moved here in 1975 and never looked back. He loves the rolling hills and the beauty of the land. Recently Ron was awarded the VISTA award by the Mass Arborists Association. The VISTA award was established by the MAA in 2000 to recognize truly outstanding tree care professionals whose acts and deeds serve as a guide and challenge for all members of their industry. “I am very proud and humbled to be the recipient of this award.” Congratulations Ron!

**Bankers. Neighbors.**  
*Friends*  
 We are all of the above. Always.  
**Litchfield Bancorp** 1850

EVERY CUSTOMER COUNTS<sup>SM</sup>  
 Visit our Lakeville office today!  
 860.435.9828  
 www.LitchfieldBancorp.com

MLO #510070 Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender



Hollis Gonerka Bart LLP

The law firm for businesses, entrepreneurs, executives and foundations.  
 Thorough • Tactical • Trusted

Pine Plains, NY | (518) 771-3031  
 New York, NY | (646) 398-0066  
**www.hgbllp.com**

John Goudreault  
 Cabinet work & fine furniture

845-705-5288  
 www.johngoudreault.com

High Quality Commercial Printing.

**SNYDER**  
  
**PRINTER**

- Digital & Offset
- Newsletters
- Brochures
- Catalogs
- Stationary Packages
- Pocket Folders
- Calendars
- Invitations
- Direct Mail

691 River Street  
 Troy, NY 12180  
 P 518.272.8881  
 F 518.272.8935  
 www.snyderprinter.com

**Steinbau Enterprises**

Complete Farm Facility Design & Construction

Stables, Indoor arenas, sheds, composting systems

Restoration of existing facilities and Post & Beam structures

837 Freedom Rd., Pleasant Valley, NY 12569 • www.SteinbauEnterprises.net  
 Office: 845-635-2265 • Email: SteinbauDJ@aol.com  
 Over 30 years of Equine Building Experience in the Hudson Valley

**= MADSEN =**  
**OVERHEAD DOORS**

Fast, friendly service since 1954

Mention this ad and receive

**\$50 off single door or \$100 off double door purchase & install**  
**\$25 off a new electric operator, too!**

valid now through July 31, 2016

Madsen Overhead Doors offers numerous door options to fit any budget!  
 Residential, Commercial & Industrial Doors, Electric Operators, Radio Controls, Sales & Service.

Phone (518) 392 3883  
 info@madsenoverheaddoors.com  
 www.MadsenOverheadDoors.com  
 673 Route 203, Spencertown, NY 12165

Clopay  
 America's Favorite Doors<sup>SM</sup>

# Ukuleles in the Berkshires

THE MAGIC FLUKE COMPANY, SHEFFIELD, MA

By Christine Bates  
christine@mainstreetmag.com

*Like Morgan Motors in Copake (see our May transportation issue), the sign on Route 7 just south of Sheffield was intriguing – The Magic Fluke? What could that be? We found out when we visited Dale and Phyllis Webb in their musical instrument workroom and shop, where they produce and sell small stringed instruments, including ukuleles.*

## What is the Magic Fluke?

Dale: We design and manufacture high quality, durable, affordable musical instruments right here in Massachusetts. We sell wholesale all over the world and retail through the Internet and here at our shop. In addition to the ukuleles, we make banjos, violins, and recently we added an electric bass. An electric portable cello is in the works for release later this year.

Phyllis: We also sell books and accessories, including a line of laser-cut jewelry using our scrap tone wood.

## Dale how did a mechanical engineer start a ukulele company?

Dale: In the fall of 1998 I lost my job after the company where I had worked for 16 years was acquired. At the same time Phyllis' brother, Jim Beloff, an accomplished guitarist, had recently discovered the ukulele and started publishing ukulele songbooks. Back then the only ukes available were vintage finds at flea markets or very cheap imports. Jim had tried to convince the big US guitar makers like Martin and



Above: The Magic Fluke team in their Sheffield workroom. From left to right: Josh, his mom Phyllis, Nicole, DJ, Betsy, Matt, Mike, Beth, and Dale Webb. Photo courtesy of Dale and Phyllis Webb. Below, left: The Magic Fluke introduced violins in 2014. A cello is on the way. Photo courtesy of The Magic Fluke.

Ovation to start producing ukuleles, but they weren't interested – at least not yet. While pursuing alternative employment, I took on the challenge of creating a quality ukulele, at a competitive price that could be made locally.

## Did you know that there was a market for ukuleles?

Dale: Because of the success of Jim's books, we believed that there was growing interest. The uke has had multiple waves of popularity – in the 1920s, during the 1930s Depression, and again in the 1950s. Ukuleles have always been affordable, fun and easy to play – all the same reasons they became popular again starting in the late 1990s and continuing today.

## Were you immediately successful?

Dale: I went to the NAMM, the National Association of Musical Merchants, trade show in early 1999 with our prototypes and managed to come away with a number of store orders. We committed to the expensive tooling for the

injection molded body and started shipping early that year. Beginning that first year and to this day we continue to be the largest volume manufacturer of ukuleles in the continental United States.

We immediately developed a group of enthusiastic fans and it was all we could do keep up. Independent of us, an online Fluke and Flea Museum was created, which documents some of our designs, custom creations, and includes a few Fluke and Flea tattoos.

## Did the recession impact your business?

Dale: The recession was great for our business. Ukulele sales were rising and kept a lot of independent music stores in business. In 2011, our best year, we bought this building and moved our operations and our home to Sheffield.

## Where did you get the capital to start the business?

Dale: We have learned to be extremely resourceful and frugal, doing everything we possibly could ourselves, including harvesting some

hardwoods from our family property in Amenia. The biggest expense was the tooling for the injection-molded parts. We could not have done it without the relationships I had previously developed over the years with key local vendors. The first few years were difficult with long hours and working seven days a week out of our basement in New Hartford, CT. Now we work closely with two local banks that have been very supportive.

## How do you divide up responsibilities in this family business?

Phyllis: As business partners, I do all the bookkeeping, manage sales, marketing, and the countless other details required to keep our business going. We also rely on our oldest son Josh for help with the website and CAD designs as he pursues a Mechanical Engineering degree at UMASS. Six full-time employees have managed to keep busy over the

Continued on next page ...



years, and they have handled most all production.

**Do you have a business plan?**

Dale: Initially we did it by the book and I wrote a business plan. I'm proud to say that we hit our projected numbers for the first three years. But since then it has been pretty much by the seat of our pants. The past few years we have been trying to diversify by adding new products to the line and offering more custom options.

**What is your biggest challenge?**

Dale: Two years after we introduced the Fluke, the large US musical instrument companies saw our success in the growing market for ukuleles and started manufacturing in China. Our margins are constantly squeezed by the lower costs of imports and the higher costs of doing business here – especially the cost of health insurance for our employees. Almost all of the components of our instruments are sourced locally. The majority of molded and machined parts come from NY, CT, and MA.

Phyllis: We are passionate about making our product in America. We operate on a slim margin, but that's offset by our quality of life here in Sheffield.



**How do you compete with China?**

Dale: We distinguish ourselves by being made in the US, but, more importantly, by diversifying into a full range of stringed instruments with distinctive designs. We now have a banjo, a violin, bass guitar, and a prototype electric cello is in the works. Like our Fluke ukulele, all of these instruments are affordable, durable, and portable.

Customized instruments are another aspect, which sets us apart. One person even ordered a ukulele with a wedding proposal inside. We can customize soundboards with our laser printer. Bette Midler put her name on our ukuleles and sold them at her concerts. Other celebrity endorsers include William Macey, Dan Zanes, Tony Danza, Cybill Sheppard, Jack Johnson, and Beirut – the band.

Phyllis: Another new approach to increasing sales is our library program. We sell a special package of instruments and music to public libraries so people can check out an instrument and learn to play. This has been very successful as libraries move toward more diverse roles. Another growing market is music therapy in hospitals and rehab clinics, where there are a number of programs using our instruments.

**Are international customers important to you?**

Dale: Right from the start we have had a strong foreign component to our business, but it's not consistent. For example, South Korea was a big market when the ukulele was a K-Pop trend. Recently our international business has been hindered by a strong dollar, which makes our product more expensive outside the US. The TPP and other international trade agreements are not in our favor since they mostly benefit overseas manufacturers and we must compete with subsidized exports and import tariffs by most trading partners.

**How much do your instruments cost?**

Dale: We try to keep our prices affordable for everyone. Our base



Above, L-R: This durable, affordable banjo is one of The Magic Fluke's product extensions. The confetti fluke is very popular and sells for \$254. Photos courtesy of The Magic Fluke. Below, left: A supersized wooden ukulele stands at the entrance to The Magic Fluke in Sheffield, MA. Photo by Christine Bates.

retail price for a ukulele or banjo is around \$190, while a fully loaded or custom instrument could be as much as \$600.

**How was your corporate and engineering experience helpful in starting this business?**

Dale: With 16 years of experience as an engineer, managing production and overseeing product development, we were able to hit the ground running with this venture. Having very little familiarity or experience with the instruments, I was able to start with a clean slate and incorporate nontraditional materials and production methods. The use of injection-molded materials has allowed us to stay competitive with the flood of imported traditional wood instruments that rely mostly on low cost labor. Because plastics can be engineered to have properties close to wood, acoustics can be very similar, and, in some cases, enhanced.

Another big advantage is the ability to design complex assembly features and shapes into the molded parts, which typically require significant labor and energy-intensive processes to fabricate in traditional materials. If done properly, the end result can be a consistent, high quality, durable, and affordable instrument.

**Where did your The Magic Fluke name come from?**

Dale: When we started, we partnered with brother-in-law Jim, whose books were published under his company imprint Flea Market Music. Adding the Fl from Flea to uke gave us Fluke, which also describes the shape of a whale's tail – similar to the shape of our first instrument. Magic Fluke is also a little whimsical, and not too serious.

**What are you proudest of?**

Phyllis: The best part is knowing that we make a difference in peoples' lives. Our business is doing the right thing for our customers, the environment, the local economy, and our employees. We're proud of what we do – everyone needs music. Last week I went to the ukulele festival in Reno, Nevada and everyone thanked me for coming. I sold everything, but it was worth it just to receive the appreciative comments.

Dale: Despite the struggle of small business manufacturing here in the US, it's very satisfying to be able to provide employment in our community and bring business to our local circle of vendors and service providers. ●

*The Magic Fluke Company, 292 South Main Street, Sheffield, MA. Call (413) 229-8563 or visit [www.magicfluke.com](http://www.magicfluke.com).*

# CARRIE CHEN DESIGN GROUP

Carrie Chen  
Principle / Designer

ARCHITECTURAL . LANDSCAPE . PLANNING . INTERIOR

117 E 57th St #32F New York, NY 10022  
carriechendesign@gmail.com  
1-917-831-4333

NEW YORK • SEATTLE • SHANGHAI • TAIPEI



Japanese Zen Garden project in Copake, NY.



## Best & Cavallaro Real Estate



### CHIC CONTEMPORARY BARN

Immaculate, stylish barn-style contemporary located on the border of Millerton and Ancram, NY; 3 BRs, 3 baths, great light, high ceilings, open floor plan. Home has a chic industrial look with concrete floors, radiant heat, stainless steel kitchen cabinets; low maintenance, energy efficient. Lower level consists of a heated 2-3 car garage with workshop, exercise room/office, and private guest room with ensuite bath. Located across from a scenic corridor, a short drive to skiing at Catamount and Butternut, and close to area boarding schools. **\$495,000.**

**5 Academy Street • Salisbury, CT**  
**bestandcavallaro.com**  
**860.435.2888**



## UPCOUNTRY SERVICES OF SHARON

CELEBRATING  
30 YEARS OF  
EXCAVATION,  
LANDSCAPING,  
& GROUNDS  
MAINTENANCE

### GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:

Lawn care • Spring & fall clean up • Edging, mulching, bed maintenance • Lawn fertilizer, weed & disease control • Field mowing • Complete property management • Commercial snowplowing, sanding & magic salt

### LANDSCAPING:

Paver terraces / walkways • Retaining walls • Lawn renovation & Installation • Shrubbery & tree planting • Fencing • Landscape construction

### EXCAVATION:

Excavators, backhoes, dumptrucks • Drainage • Water & electric lines dug • Landclearing • Driveway construction & repair • Power stone rake

BBB • A+ • LICENSED/INSURED/BONDED • ALL CREDIT CARDS  
ACCEPTED • CT & NY PESTICIDE LICENSE • HOME IMPROVEMENT  
CONTRACTOR # 514325

860 364 0261 • 800 791 2916  
www.upcountryservices.com



## NORTHERN DUTCHESS | AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTING

If you have or are looking to purchase an overgrown farm or woodland, restoring it for agricultural use will benefit you.

- Save money on taxes & maintenance
- Create an agricultural assessment
- Enhance the natural beauty of your landscape

Field Restoration • Tree Work • Orchards • Custom Farming • Food Plots • Ponds • Woodland & Brush Clearing • Fencing • Drainage • Excavation • Earth Work

**845 532 2152 for a free consultation**  
or email: [ndagriculturalcontracting@gmail.com](mailto:ndagriculturalcontracting@gmail.com)

From the bottom of the well to the top of the glass...



*Drilled & Hydroflushed Wells  
Installation & Servicing of Pumps  
& Water Conditioning Systems  
IGSHPA Geothermal certified*

JOE FLOOD, OWNER

(518) 325-4679 • [ESWD@FAIRPOINT.NET](mailto:ESWD@FAIRPOINT.NET) • HILLSDALE, NY  
MASS. Lic. #101, 704 & 949 • NY. Lic. #10061 • CONN. Lic. #85 & 364

*Hussey Painting* 

**DECORATING & WALLPAPERING**

Interior & Exterior

Residential, Commercial & Industrial

State Licensed Home Improvement Contractors  
Insured & EPA Certified

Family Owned and Operated Since 1978

[www.husseypainting.com](http://www.husseypainting.com)  
[emmethussey@gmail.com](mailto:emmethussey@gmail.com)



Emmet Hussey

**860.435.8149**

**Services Include:** Lawn Mowing • Garden Maintenance & Rototilling • Mulching & Topsoil • Gutter Cleaning • Power Washing • Planting & Pruning • Spring & Fall Cleanups • Organic Vegetable Gardens • Deer Protection



**Mountain Valley Gardening**

Above the rest • Fine detail work guaranteed  
20 years experience serving Columbia County & beyond

**FREE ESTIMATES. CALL (518) 965-9982**



**Run with them,  
not after them!**

Solutions that  
work together for  
a happier home.

**Invisible Fence** Brand

brought to you by

**Boundaries  
For Pets**

**800-732-3181** [boundariesforpets.invisiblefence.com](http://boundariesforpets.invisiblefence.com)

©2016 Boundaries For Pets. ©2016 Invisible Fence® is a registered trademark of Invisible Fence, Inc. All rights reserved.



**COOK UP A STORM.  
DURING A STORM.**

When a bad storm or utility outage knocks out power, a reliable KOHLER generator keeps your lights on, your fridge cold and your house protected. And it can power your entire home.\* So turn up the heat. No matter the weather, we're with you.

**KOHLER Generators**  
[KohlerGenerators.com](http://KohlerGenerators.com)

\*Based on generator and load size

Your authorized Kohler dealer • Sales • Installation • Service • Repair  
(518) 398-0810 • 40 Myrtle Avenue, Pine Plains, NY • [Berlinghoffelectrical.com](http://Berlinghoffelectrical.com)



# Minding your health!

By Thorunn Kristjansdottir  
info@mainstreetmag.com

*As you may have noticed, we took a little hiatus from the healthy living column this winter, but it's time for it to return – and just in time for bikini season! I partially joke about bikini season because, as we have so often discussed in this very column, our health is not about a short-term goal nor about overnight weight loss, but rather it is about a way of life.*

As we find ourselves in the early days of June, I must begin by saying that it is exciting to think about all of the fresh fruits and vegetables that abound our region! Fresh strawberries, tomatoes, asparagus, and lettuce – yum!

We are fortunate that a lot of our local restaurants and eateries source their veggies from local farmers, which truly fuels the term “farm to plate!” But if you don't eat out much, don't worry! A lot of those same farmers have farm stands, or you can buy a CSA share from them. What is more healthy than a fresh vegetable, grown locally, by local people? You stay healthy while supporting your local community. It's a win-win!

In addition to the fresh eats, thanks to the warming weather, we have now become more active – or I hope you have become more active! There seem to be an ever-growing number of studies being published about how unhealthy sedentary lifestyles are. They even go so far as to compare it with smoking; stating that it might be healthier to have an office job where you sit all day than it is to smoke! Shocking, I know, because I too have an office job. It makes you think twice about what you thought you knew, right?

## Question everything?

During my winter break from this column, I actually spent part of that time sick and in bed. That illness afforded me the time to contemplate how easily our bodies can become



ill and how quick that downward spiral can be. In conjunction with that, I watched a number of food shows like *Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern*, as well as food documentaries by Michael Pollan. And I have to say that it is astonishing to learn how unhealthy a lot of our food is! Processed food, sugar, salt – it's all in abundance around us and it is so bad for us!

Even though Andrew Zimmern eats some pretty raunchy things, you know what I found to be a common thread? He focuses on freshness and pureness. Even though you can argue that some of the foods that he shows on his program, and consequently eats, could be questioned whether or not they count as “food” – well they are. They might just not be “fashionable” foods. But a lot of the foods that he eats belong to cultures who for centuries used every part of the animal that they could. But furthermore, the majority of the food, whether it was a main ingredient or not, was all fresh – processed foods

need not apply at Mr. Zimmern's table!

Interestingly enough, Michael Pollan spoke about much of the same things: focusing on freshness and pureness.

Pollan often questions the origins of our foods. So with Pollan as inspiration, ask yourself this: do you know where your food comes from? Further than that, do you know what type(s) of pesticides were used on your vegetables or what types of feed the cow/chicken/pig was fed? What is the quality of the water of the vegetables and the meats that we ultimately consume? Contemplate that for a minute.

## Be fearful

It is really scary to think about some of these things. And how many of our ailments are linked to these things? And while I lay there, sick in bed, I analyzed everything that I did manage to eat. I started thinking ahead – thinking about the origins of my food and how the food impacts my body.

We've often spoken about common sense in this column, and that we should use it when it comes to what we eat and how we exercise. But let's be honest with ourselves: convenience often takes over. Well, unless you make this ideology part of your lifestyle. Because honestly, I'm a little afraid of what I saw. Yes, Michael Pollan scared me. And that's OK! We are animals and within us we have an instinct of “fight or flight,” and that instinct helped our ancestors survive. Perhaps we now need to tweak our “fight or flight” instincts and aim them at how we eat and move.

Do yourself and your body a favor: question what you think you know about what you're putting past your lips. You'll be amazed at how your world view changes! Remember freshness counts.

Stay healthy my friends, and have a wonderful month of June! Oh, and don't forget to protect yourselves from the sun, put that sunblock on! ●

The  
**OAKHURST**  
 DINER  
 U.S.A.  
 MILLERTON • NEW YORK

Open 7 days a week, 7am-9pm • Call: 518-592-1313

# HOUSE

Plumbing 🔧 Heating 🔧 Cooling 🔧

Water treatment systems • Mini splits • IBC boilers • Triangle Tube boilers  
 Buderus boilers • Radiant installations • New construction, renovations & repairs

(518) 398-7888 • houseplumbing@yahoo.com

**SHELDON MASONRY & CONCRETE LLC**  
 "All phases of masonry construction"



Matt Sheldon  
 860.387.9417  
 sheldonmasonry.com

Stonework | Brickwork | Blockwork  
 Poured concrete foundations & slabs

Insured | Free estimates | Servicing western Connecticut, Massachusetts, & New York



**NORTH EAST MUFFLER INC.**

Custom Bending Up to 3 Inches

Open Mon.-Fri. 8 to 5; Sat. 8 to 1

Route 22, Millerton, NY

John Heck (518) 789-3669 Cindy Heck

IF IT CAN OUTLAST SEASONS OF WEATHER AND WEAR...

IS IT STILL STAIN?



**Benjamin Moore**  
 Paint like no other.

**HERRINGTON'S**  
 LUMBER • MILLWORK • BUILDING SUPPLIES  
 We share your passion.®

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 • OUR PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

**BROTHERS LANDSCAPING & CONTRACTING**



FORESTRY MOWING: BEFORE ▼ AFTER ▲



"Your comfort is our concern"

- Lawn Mowing • Brush Hogging • Mulch-Stone-Topsoil • Driveway Repair •
- Excavation • Land Clearing • Snowplowing • Firewood • Tree Work •
- Forestry Mowing • Landscape Design • 24 Hour Emergency Service •

James 518-339-1354 Tucker 518-339-1796

# TUSCANY IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

## THE REAL ESTATE MARKET IN GALLATIN, NY

By Christine Bates  
christine@mainstreetmag.com

*This month Main Street's real estate feature returns to examining the dynamics of the real estate market in a specific town in our region. We spoke to town officials, realtors, and residents in idyllic Gallatin, NY, in Columbia County and discovered an untouched, close-knit rural community.*

### Deliciously rural

There's no post office in Gallatin, no school, no place to buy a cup of coffee, no commercial zoning. Gallatin is a town without a center straddling the Taconic Parkway in Columbia County on the border with Dutchess County. A sign entering town modestly boasts "A good little town." And with only 1,656 human residents, sheep, cattle, horses, chickens, and goats greatly outnumber people. Gallatin home of Coach Farm goat cheese, Feather Ridge Eggs, Buckwheat Bridge Angoras, and numerous horse, and dairy operations, remains a rural, secret pocket whose residents value privacy and beautiful views.

The town, which includes the hamlets of Elizaville, Gallatinville, Jackson Corners, Mount Ross, Silvernails, Snyderville, and Spaulding Furnace as well as Lake Taghkanic State Park,



Above: Signal Rock, at 1,104 feet is the highest point in Gallatin. The property listing has over 1,100 acres in five tax parcels. Photo by Seeger Solutions courtesy of Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate office in Rhinebeck, NY.

was settled in the early 1700s by Palatine Germans, but was only formed in 1830 from part of next-door Ancram.

It was named after Albert Gallatin, the longest serving United States Secretary of the Treasury (1801-1813), although it's unclear that he had any connection whatsoever to Columbia County.

### Community spirit

The town's offices are located in an old one-room schoolhouse and meetings are held on Saturdays so everyone can attend. As many as 30 residents show up to participate – including city-based property owners. Gallatin is proud of its low town tax rate of 1.06 mils made possible by disciplined spending and over \$100,000 in traffic tickets

levied by the state police on the Taconic Parkway.

The town supervisor, John Reilly,

who describes Gallatin as Columbia County's Tuscany because of the vistas, valleys, and hills, is proud that the community gathers together. There's the annual town barbeque at the park beach, the spring plant and seed swap, and an every Saturday summer harvest swap where residents trade produce at the town hall and leave excess for anyone needing fresh food. "We're very sensitive to development and want to preserve our town as it is. Our asset is our land and viewshed. People come here because it's quiet."

Tim McHenry, head of the Gallatin Resident's Association, describes Gallatin as "deliciously rural." He credits John Reilly with making town government decisions and finances much more transparent to residents and weekenders. Unlike some rural towns with significant second home ownership, Gallatin embraces part-time newcomers who constitute about one in three buyers. "Gallatin is a quaint town with a closely knit community that is becoming increasingly

attractive to buyers who are seeking sophisticated country charm," confirmed Elyse Harney of Elyse Harney Real Estate. "Gallatin has all the best of both worlds – rural roots and great cultural influence from being in the heart of the Hudson Valley."

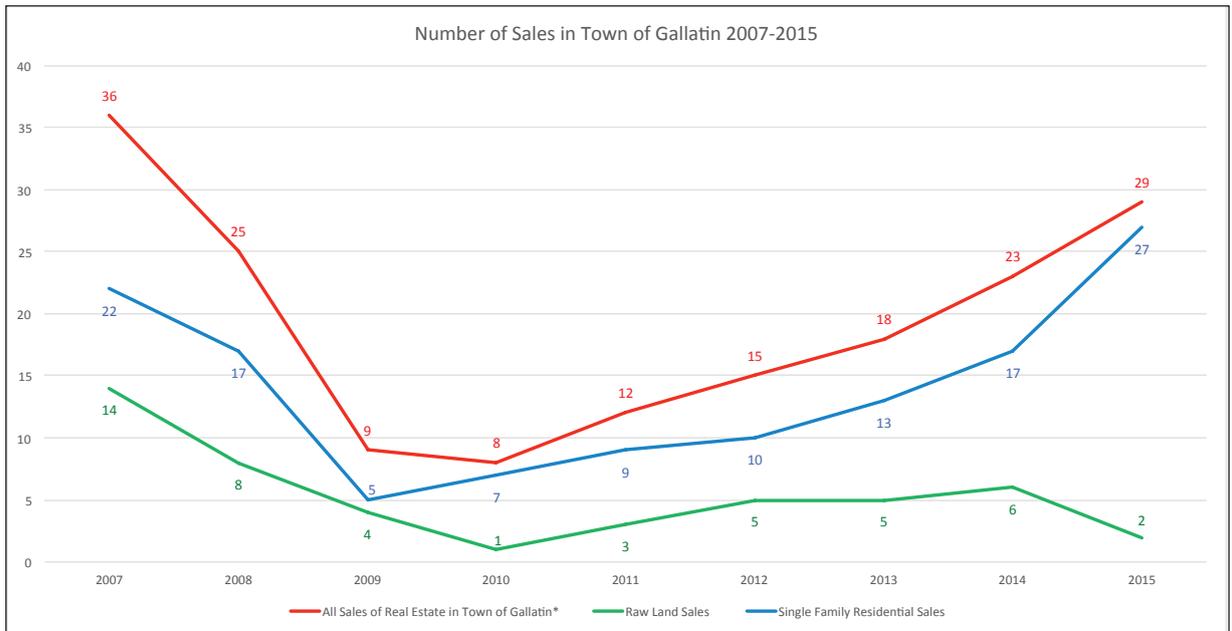
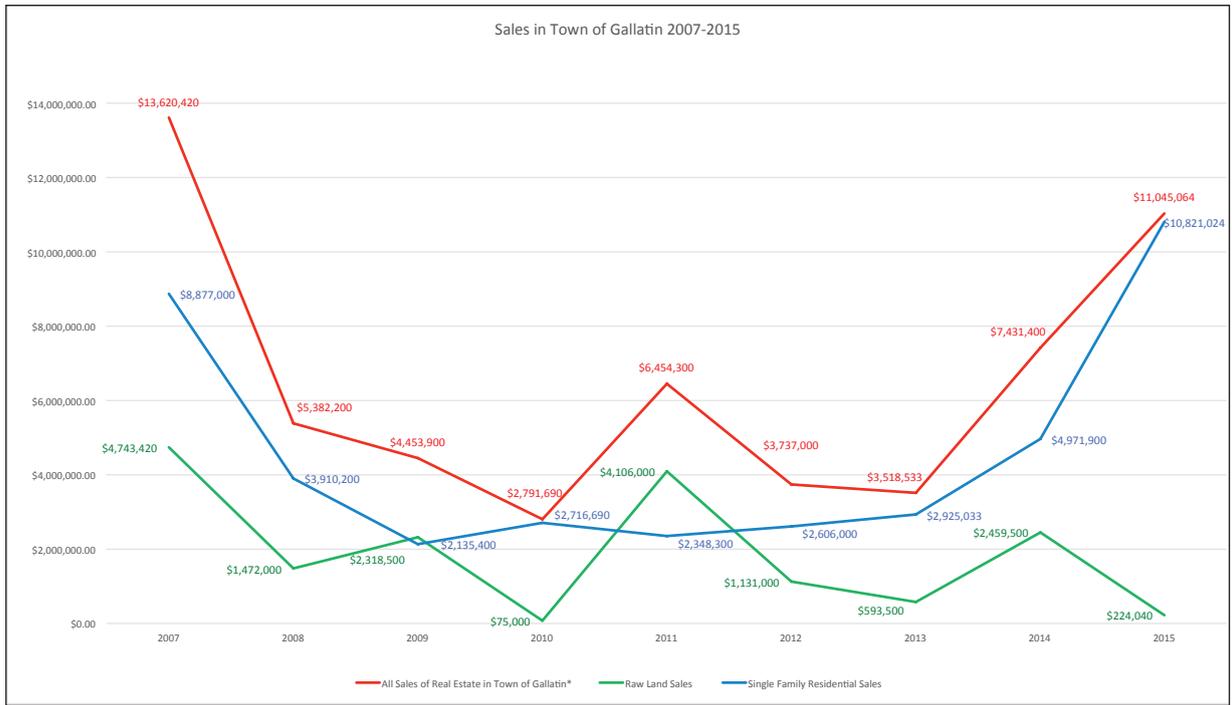
### Gallatin's real estate market is an anomaly

Gallatin's real estate market in 2015 approached the activity levels of 2007 (see chart) with 29 properties sold, both residential and vacant land, totaling over \$11 million in value. Between 2008 and 2013 total annual sales hovered around \$5,000,000 before turning up in 2014 and again in 2015. Part of this bounce in 2015 is attributable to the \$3,500,000 sale of Silvernails Farm – the highest sale in the last nine years. Residential sales in 2015 of \$10.8 million actually exceeded 2007 levels by 22%.



Above: This post and beam house on Elsohn Road listed at \$875,000 had an accepted offer within a week at close to the listing price. Photo by Christine Bates.

Continued on next page ...



RESIDENTIAL AND LAND SALES OVER \$500,000			
YEAR	# SALES	TOTAL VALUE > \$500,000	% OF TOTAL SALES
2007	8	\$7,800,300	57.3%
2008	3	\$1,805,000	33.5%
2009	3	\$3,560,000	79.9%
2010	1	\$1,500,000	53.7%
2011	3	\$5,165,000	80.0%
2012	3	\$1,602,000	42.9%
2013	0	\$0	0.0%
2014	4	\$4,330,000	58.3%
2015	3	\$5,967,420	54.0%

**TOWN OF GALLATIN PROPERTIES FOR SALE MULTIPLE LISTING APRIL 2016**

	HOUSES	RAW LAND	TOTAL
<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>46</b>
Total Value	\$16,242,300	\$13,386,800	\$29,629,100
Average Price	\$624,704	\$669,340	---
Median Price	\$375,000	\$150,000	---
Over \$500,000	\$11,151,800	\$10,820,000	\$21,971,800

Like the rest of Columbia and Dutchess Counties, the median (the midpoint) home price point in 2015 remains accessible at \$230,000. Typical of real estate transactions within two hours of New York, home and closing land sales of properties above \$500,000 constitute about half of the total market by sales volume.

The unusual trend in Gallatin is the construction of large, new country houses on large parcels of land. Every year town building permits are issued for four or five million dollar plus homes. And every year this new, high-end construction increases Gallatin's total assessed tax base of \$299 million.

**Few residential listings are below the median price point**

In April there were only 26 residences listed in all of Gallatin on www.realtor.com, fewer than closed in 2015. However, the median price of homes on the market is \$375,000, well above last year's median sale of \$230,000. And eight houses are listed at over \$500,000, compared to just three selling in 2015 in the \$500,000 category and three in 2014. There are only four homes listed at or below last year's median sale price. The current market is active at all price points, as evidenced by the sale of 130 Elsohn Road (photo page 15) at close to the full asking price of \$875,000 within a week of listing, according to Ann Simmons of Guernsey Real Estate.

**1,500 acres of raw land on the market now**

There are 26 parcels of land for sale in Gallatin ranging from a 2.9-acre site for \$24,900 to 1,128 acres for \$7,995,000 with spectacular views from Signal Rock, meadows, and groves of pines and maples. This single piece of land accounts for 75% of the acreage for sale in Gallatin and 60% of the asking price of all listed raw land. Average asking price per acre is around \$8,700 with a median land parcel-listing price of \$150,000. The \$13 million of raw land for sale totals more than the closed sales in the last eight years! ●

# ELYSE HARNEY REAL ESTATE

GLOBAL REACH • COMMUNITY CONNECTION • A TRADITION OF TRUST

The dog days of summer...  
are just ahead

Millerton, NY 518-789-8800 [www.HARNEYRE.com](http://www.HARNEYRE.com) Salisbury, CT 860-435-2200

## BRINGING YOU THE BEST LOCAL FOOD



### TO BUY THE BEST LOCAL FOOD IN THE HUDSON VALLEY – FROM THE HUDSON VALLEY – VISIT THESE LOCATIONS:

Millerton Agway in Millerton, NY • Bywater Bistro in Rosendale, NY • Boitson's Restaurant in Kingston, NY • Hudson Hill's in Coldspring, NY • Phoenicia Diner in Phoenicia, NY • Red Devon in Bangall, NY • Roundout Music Lounge in Kingston, NY • The Local in Rhinebeck, NY • Jack's Meats in New Paltz, NY • Adams Fairacre Farms in Poughkeepsie, NY • Adams Fairacre Farms in Wappinger, NY • Adams Fairacre Farms in Newburgh, NY • Associated in Rosendale, NY • Bistro-To-Go in Kingston, NY • Gigi's Market in Red Hook, NY • High Falls Food Co-Op in High Falls NY • Honest Weight Food Co-Op in Albany, NY • Nature's Pantry in Fishkill NY • Nature's Pantry in Newburgh, NY • Otto's Market in Germantown, NY • Sunflower Natural Foods in Woodstock, NY • The Cheese Plate in New Paltz, NY

If you'd like to carry our products and see a full list of our retail locations, please visit our website.

[www.hv-harvest.com](http://www.hv-harvest.com)





BAR • TAPAS • RESTAURANT

518.789.0252 • 52 Main Street, Millerton • 52main.com

# Lindell Fuels, Inc.

Fuel Oil • Propane • Heating  
Air Conditioning

CT Registration # HOD.0000095  
CT License # HTG.0690604-S1 | CT License # PLM.0281220-P1



P.O. Box 609 | 59 Church Street  
Canaan, CT 06018  
860 824 5444  
860 824 7829 fax

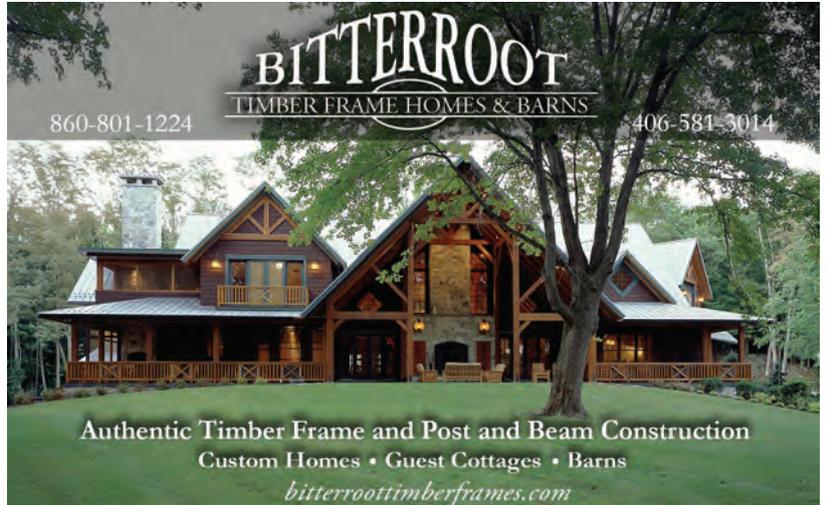
## — SHARON — AUTO BODY

Jim Young  
OWNER

jim@sharonautobody.com

28 Amenia Road | PO Box 686 | Sharon, CT 06069  
T: 860 364 0128 | F: 860 364 0041

sharonautobody.com



860-801-1224

**BITTERROOT**  
TIMBER FRAME HOMES & BARNs

406-581-3014

Authentic Timber Frame and Post and Beam Construction  
Custom Homes • Guest Cottages • Barns

bitterroottimberframes.com

## THE MOVIEHOUSE

Main Street, Millerton, NY



Your Portal to a World of Arts, Culture & Entertainment

YOUR TICKET IS AT [WWW.THEMOVIEHOUSE.NET](http://WWW.THEMOVIEHOUSE.NET)



5916 North Elm Avenue, Millerton, NY

**518-592-1700**

**518-592-1701**

### COZZY'S FAMILY SPECIALS:

- Large pizza, 2 order of wings & 2L soda \$28.00
- Large pizza, large salad & garlic knots \$ 19.50
- Large pizza, french fries, chicken fingers & 2L soda \$21.50
- Three large pizzas & 30 wings \$60

### TUES., WED., & THURS PICK-UP ONLY!

- Large pizza \$10.00
- Medium pizza \$8.00
- Personal pizza \$5.00
- Toppings extra.
- Taxes not included.

### HOURS:

- Tues-Fri: 11am-9pm
- Sat: 12pm-9pm
- Sun: 12pm-8pm



Pick up or dine in!

Like us on Facebook: [Cozy's Pizzeria!](#)

Tax not included in price. Toppings extra. Cannot be combined with other offers.  
Pick-up or delivery. Free delivery within 7 miles.

# The masterful rug hooking of Liz Marino

By Sarah Ellen Rindsberg  
info@mainstreetmag.com

The time has come to dispel the notion that rug hooking pieces consist solely of oval disks made to be trod upon. Envision, instead, a world of exquisite artistry of many forms and functionality. In crafter Liz Marino's dexterous hands, pieces of wool are woven together, forming stunning tapestries on several platforms: pillows, wall hangings, and even upholstery for a full-scale rocking chair.

In preparation for a demonstration, Marino places a frame on a stand, in front of a comfortable chair, all the while assuring a visitor that no previous knowledge is required and anyone can learn. She holds a strip of wool aloft, wrapping a section around the notch in her tool – a hook resembling those used for crochet, the main difference being the larger bulk in the stem. Then she inserts the strip from the back of the pattern through a space in the backing (a template similar to those used for needlepoint) pulling a small loop of blue wool to the front, producing the first scale of a fish. As blue loops multiply, a swimming organism surfaces. Different colors of wool are used as the artist moves from one section to another, adding a llama here, a duck there.

"It's easy," Marino says, describing her craft. And, indeed, there is a welcoming simplicity to the method, rendering it completely accessible. Unlike knitting which requires two needles and at times, various contorted positions (by no means a disparaging observation on this sister fiber craft, I happen to be a humble practitioner), the tools of the trade consist of one implement and skill is swiftly acquired.



Above: Martellotti Family Picnic circa 1928, adaptation from a sepia photo of Marino's husband's family, designed and hooked by Liz Marino. Photo: Jane McWhorter. Below: Liz working on her latest creation.

## Marino, the artist, and the teacher

Marino's passion for rug hooking is evident in her work and teaching. When imparting her knowledge in classes, it's the caring approach that shines through. Prospective students are invited to try their hand at the craft, prior to enrollment to ensure an enjoyable experience. "My job is to assess a student's ability and give them the best tools," she says, smiling.

Some come with a specific subject in mind for their first project. Among this season's group of students, one produced a photo of her granddaughter's dog. The patient teacher transferred the image to a pattern for the student to follow and provided the perfect woolen tones and textures.

Students at Marino's home studio in South Egremont hail from various backgrounds and all walks of life. Recipients of a rug hooking kit, baffled by instructions, come looking for light. Others are established artists in other media. A needle felted llama poses on a shelf, a gift from a student who came to learn rug hooking.

Many teachers use a printed color wheel to explain color theory. Not content with this pedestrian method, Marino pulls out one of her own creations, a vivid illustration of the principles of color theory.

Color is a key element in her practice. In the "dye kitchen," hues of bolts of wool are transformed; a mundane plaid blossoms into a vibrant shade of rose, channeling tie-dye in the background. "By dyeing your wool, you're breathing life into it," she says.

## Inspiration

Marino was introduced to the craft by a dear friend, Laura Ponkos, who happened upon a rug hooking show at Guido's in Great Barrington. She

urged Marino to come and see the magic. The friends were captivated by the medium and began learning under the tutelage of Ronnie Roisman.

Realism is Marino's preferred style. Pointing to a self-portrait with her dog, she describes the inspiration derived from extensive studies of the masters, seen here in an amalgamation of skin tones. In another piece a heron glides over a body of water, a multitude of colors depicting the glowing reflection below.

Additional guidance came from her mentor, Maggie McLay, during forays to rug hooking retreats. As she drove, McLay instructed Marino to focus on a mountain, asking her to list the colors seen therein. "She showed me how to see, how to analyze what I see," Marino says.

A folk art piece draws Marino temporarily from the world of realism. In this work-in-progress, she elaborates on an existing pattern, adding aspects of life at Ivory Pond Farm. The figure on the right sports brown overalls: her husband. Below, a mastodon's tusk protrudes from the water. Excavation for the pond produced several archaeological finds: a tusk, bones and tooth enamel, hence the name Ivory Pond.

Design and execution have garnered awards: People's Choice at the 2012 Shelburne Museum Rug Show and Celebrations in the 2014 contest sponsored by *Rug Hooking Magazine*. One of her pieces is currently touring in a show – participation by invitation only – entitled "Exploring the Tarot." ●

For further information and to reach Liz Marino, visit [www.lizmarinorughooking.com](http://www.lizmarinorughooking.com) or call (413) 528-9465.

VKLarsonCommunications is a full service public relations company based in New York and Pine Plains specializing in Writing, Positioning and Communicating messages and news to the right audience. We offer Newsletters, Press releases, Website copy, Media Outreach, Social Media Programs tailored for your company's needs.



Nominated in 2015 for the Sustainability & Green PR Award

Communicating Substance with Style  
 victoria@vklarsoncommunications.com  
 www.vklarsoncommunications.com  
 @victorialarson

# QUALITY WORK & AFFORDABLE PRICES

SPRING / FALL CLEAN-UPS • LAWN MOWING SERVICES  
 MULCHING • WEEDING • TREE TAKE-DOWN  
 Call for free onsite estimates • Licensed & insured • 30 years experience

CALL 845 518 0632

# Michael D. Lynch\*

ATTORNEY AT LAW

106 Upper Main Street • PO Box 1776 • Sharon, Connecticut 06069  
 (860) 364-5505 • MLynch@MichaelLynchLaw.com  
 www.MichaelLynchLaw.com

\* Also admitted in New York State

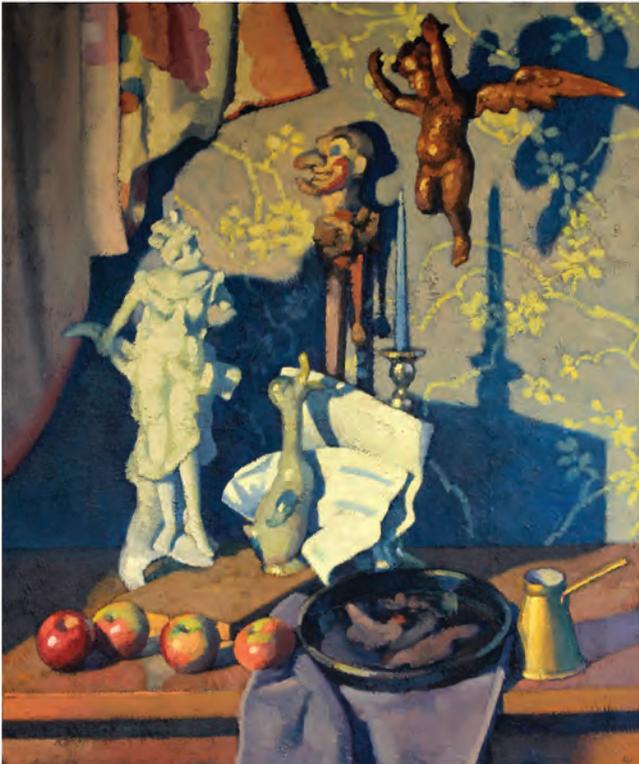


# tristate antique restoration

SPECIALIZING IN ANTIQUE FURNITURE RESTORATION



CONALL HALDANE | proprietor  
 191 wiltsie bridge road | ancramdale, ny 12503  
 518 329 0411 | www.tristateantiquerestoration.com



Rachael's Still Life, oil 49x40 © 2005

## Don Wynn July 9th - Sept. 11th

Opening reception: Saturday, July 9th, 5:30 pm

NEUMANN FINE ART Open Thurs. - Sun. 11 - 4

65 Cold Water St., Hillsdale, NY www.neumannfineart.com

Ready. Set. Save on Kubota's Standard L Series Compact Tractors.

GET SET TO SAVE

SALES EVENT



\$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. Financing for 60 Months\*

Offer ends 6/30/16.

### Columbia Tractor, Inc

841 Route 9H  
 Claverack, New York 12156  
 (518) 828-1781



\*\$0 down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 60 months on purchases of new Kubota L (excluding L390L49) Series Equipment is available to qualified purchasers from participating dealers' in-stock inventory through 6/30/2016. Example: A 60-month monthly installment payment term at 0% A.P.R. requires 60 payments of \$16.67 per \$1,000 financed. 0% A.P.R. interest is available to customers if no dealer documentation preparation fee is charged. Dealer charge for document preparation fee shall be in accordance with state laws. Inclusion of ineligible equipment may result in a higher blended A.P.R. 0% A.P.R. and low-rate financing may not be available with customer instant rebate offers. Financing is available through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A., 3401 Del Arco Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503, subject to credit approval. Some exceptions apply. Offer expires 6/30/2016. See us for details on these and other low-rate options or go to www.kubota.com for more information. Optional equipment may be shown.



© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2016

# Hive Talkin' with Bill

By Dominique De Vito  
info@mainstreetmag.com

There's a buzz about bees these days. Seems like everyone wants to take up beekeeping, and that's good for bees! News of bee populations dwindling and even disappearing has people around the world becoming more actively involved in their plight; at the same time, the health benefits of honey – especially local honey – are gaining favor daily.

No one knows more about bees and beekeeping in our area than Hillsdale's Bill Seymour. He himself has been keeping bees since the late 1950s, at which time he took over his father's hives. Beekeeping goes back in his family to the 1920s. Through his adult life, his bees have been with him from the farm in Carmel, NY, where he grew up to his home on Cape Cod for several years, to his current location in the town of Hillsdale, where he and his hives are settled.

That's where I went to chat with him on a picture-perfect May afternoon. Under a cloudless sky, with bees darting in and out of the dozen or so hives he has strategically positioned in his yard, I spent a magical time with him, "talking bees." Beyond what I learned about bees and beekeeping, I was enchanted by Bill himself, who celebrated his 90th birthday last September.

## Bill and his bees

There's a perpetual grin on Bill's elfin face, and his enthusiasm for the bees is as alive as anyone with new hobby-it is. "Oh, sure," punctuates his speech as he easily offers information and stories as I pepper him with questions. He tells me about the make-up of the hives – how the boxes that appear to be stacked on top of each other are called "souters," and that they come in three sizes: shallow, medium, and deep. Inside the soupers are frames, where the bees make the combs that contain honey, and where they lay eggs.



Above: Bill in front of his bee hives.

I ask about the effect of the mild winter on the hives. "It was good," he answers. "Bees don't like the cold, so they huddle together and stop moving and stop eating when it gets too cold," he explains, "and they can die." In preparation for winter, he typically loads his hives with 60 to 80 pounds of honey for them to feed on. This season he even "banked" his hives with hay bales on the sides that get coldest, in addition to putting insulation around the hives. But since it wasn't as cold, they were more active – and they also ate more. While he says he sometimes loses several hives in a cold winter, this season he only lost one. "And they're hungry now," he says. "They've been going through the sugar water I've been feeding them real fast."

A question everyone asks beekeepers is how often they get stung. Bill shared that it was a sting that caused his father to decide to stop working

with bees. It turns out that you can be stung at one time and have no reaction, yet at another time you can have a bad reaction. That's what happened to his father. One bad reaction "laid him out," he said, "and he didn't want to do it anymore."

Bill keeps Epipens in his house "just in case," and he has been stung, but he wears his beekeeping suit with the full hood when he's tending the hives, and he works with smoke, too, which temporarily disrupts the bees' alarm pheromones and confuses them. This takes their focus away from the beekeeper. Bill also knows that they are most active between 10am and 3pm, so that's the time he is, too, working on the hives while they are out collecting nectar.

"They get protective and possessive of their hives," he recounts. "If you even walk too close to them and you're in the line of entry to the hive, they may come after you. It hap-

pened to my son once." He is sure to steer me clear of getting too close as we walk around the field housing his hives.

## Appreciating bees

Knowing what to expect, and respecting the nature and behavior of the bees, will reduce the chances of being stung, and give you a greater appreciation for what the bees do. We talk about what the bees like and where they go. This year, he said, they went crazy for the maple tree blossoms. Apparently they love dandelions, crocuses, and apple blossoms, "but not daffodils," he says with surprise, "and not lilacs."

Bill thought the range for bees when out collecting nectar was about two to three miles, but he read a study

Continued on next page ...



Above: Bill's honey is picture-perfect!

in *Bee Culture Journal* that showed them traveling five miles from their hives for something they really love: buckwheat flowers. He was amazed, but in a way that a parent is amazed when their kid hits a home run – like they always knew they had it in them. It's so apparent that Bill just loves his bees. And he wants the best for them, just like a parent. "I'm looking to expand my hives," he says, "somewhere where there are locust trees. They love those."

As we chat, a car pulls into the driveway and a man gets out. He's a local who's just getting started with a hive, and he needs advice. I hear Bill tell him to put a two-by-four or something in the back of the hive to tilt it just a bit so that when it rains the water won't collect in the hive. I notice that his do all tilt just slightly forward, and downhill. The men trade other information about the bees, and he is off. "We beekeepers have to help each other out," Bill says.

Asked about the surge in interest in beekeeping, he tells me about a talk he was asked to give at the Roe Jan Library. Neither he nor the librarians knew what to expect. They were anticipating maybe 20 or so people. "Over 50 people showed up!" Bill exclaims, "and they were standing in the back!" I am not surprised. (See the sidebar for where to learn more).

### Health benefits of honey

Beekeepers reap the rewards of learning about the fascinating lives of their insect companions – and the ecosystems that both support and threaten them – and they also reap the liquid gold their bees produce: honey. "Honey is almost a perfect food," Bill comments with pride. According to the National Honey Board, a tablespoon of raw honey is roughly 80 percent carbohydrates, 18 percent water, and 2 percent vitamins, minerals, and amino acids, and contains 64

calories. Honey is fat-free, cholesterol-free, and sodium-free. It has been used as a healing agent for over 2,000 years, and is known to alleviate allergies, treat wounds and burns, suppress cough, help with dandruff and other skin conditions, boost energy, and even aid in memory and sleep. Of course its value as a sweetener is equally historic – it was the Spanish who first added honey to cacao to sweeten it, which led to the production and consumption of chocolate as a confection.

Bill appreciates people's love for honey – and around here, his honey. He's been selling his Busy Bees honey at the Hillsdale Farmer's Market for 10-12 years. He marvels at the regular customers he has from all over, who will even call him to place advance orders. He's a fixture – and a favorite – at the market, which is now the Copake Hillsdale Farmer's Market, and takes place Memorial Day through October in the open barn at Roe Jan Park on Route 22 in Hillsdale. Bill never misses a market, and he has a big smile, a ready handshake, and advice or stories for anyone who

asks. He'll tell you about his travels to Scotland, Ireland, Hawaii, and Alaska; about his distinguished family history; and about apitherapy and what beekeepers around the world are up to.

### Threats to bees

He knows about Colony Collapse Disorder, and he has opened up his own hives to find all his bees dead, which he attributes to not knowing someone was going to spray near where the hive was located. He's delighted that French beekeepers rallied to get their government to ban the growing of genetically modified corn produced by Monsanto – something several countries in Europe are committed to – and he worries about the plight of bees and crops around the world. But he hasn't personally lost bees in great numbers, and he's grateful for that.

What does he love best about beekeeping? "Oh," he reflects, grinning all the while, "it gives me something to do." Ha! Is that an understatement! At 90 ½ years young, Bill has his hives, his garden, his home to care for, a regular farmer's market, and no sign of slowing down. He doesn't miss a beat. Does he eat honey every day? "At least a spoonful," he says. Of course I can't leave his place without a

jar for myself, and I was eager to try it when I got home. In a word: Fabulous. Smooth yet rich, bursting with sunshine, true liquid gold. I had to have two teaspoons. Large teaspoons. Yum. •

*Learn More About Local Beekeeping Catskill Mountain Beekeepers Club – Formed in 1996, the club now has over 130 members. The club meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm at the Agroforestry Resource Center, 6055 NYS Route 23, Acra, NY 12405. The website is extremely useful, and includes a Bee Yard Calendar outlining tasks and conditions particular to beekeeping by month. [www.catskillbees.org](http://www.catskillbees.org)*

*Columbia County is putting together a club. Its first meeting was on May 25 at the Roe Jan Library, and Bill was a featured speaker. They are currently sharing news through their Facebook page: Columbia County Beekeepers Club.*

*Also on Facebook: Hudson Valley Natural Beekeepers.*

*And catch Bill Seymour every Saturday at the Copake Hillsdale Farmer's Market (late May through October).*

# CARLSON

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.

**Complete Design,  
Installation & Service**



An Independent **LENNOX** Dealer

- Specializing in:**
- Gas Warm Air Systems
  - Centrail Air Conditioning

**800-542-2422**  
www.carlsonpropane.com

**Serving Northwest Corner Since 1979**  
CT Lic. 302776 • CT Lic. 278010 • CT Lic. 1113  
CT HOD #1002  
MA Lic. 023709 • MA Lic. 30167 • MA Lic. 912  
**79 Pike Rd., Sheffield, MA**

# CARLSON PROPANE

- Sales • Service • Installation**  
Residential • Commercial  
Competitive Pricing  
Automatic Route Deliveries  
Forklifts • Construction  
Heat • Hot Water • Cooking  
Budget Payment Plan



**Prompt Professional Service**  
Carlson ... for Customers  
who insist on Safety & Quality

**800-542-2422**  
www.carlsonpropane.com

**Division Of Carlson Heating  
& Air Conditioning, Inc.**  
**Serving Northwest Corner Since 1979**  
CT HOD #1002



# Valentine Monument Works & Sandblast

SINCE 1875



- Cemetery Monuments • On-Site Lettering • Bronze Veterans' Plaques  
Pet Markers • Cleaning & Repairs • Sand Blasting Service

Bruce Valentine, *owner* • Tel: 518-789-9497  
ValentineMonument@hotmail.com • Park Avenue & Main Street, Millerton

# Pettersson Excavation Inc

*Working in harmony with the environment*

**Our full range of services include:**

- General excavation • Driveways & roadways •
- Septic installations & upgrades • Land clearing
- & site preparation • Ponds • Stone work,
- retaining walls, headwalls • Riding arenas •
- Trucking • Gravel, soil, sand delivered •
- Drainage



*Michael Pettersson, owner*  
T: 845 373 8155 • F: 845 677 4750  
E: petterssonexcavation@gmail.com • www.petterssonexcavation.com

## MARY MULLANE

REAL ESTATE LLC



Hudson



\$925,000



Hudson



\$1,300,000



Hudson



\$3,500,000



Hudson



\$435,000



Hillsdale



\$785,000



Claverack



\$795,000

marymullane.com

345 WARREN STREET | HUDSON NY 12534  
TEL 518.828.2041 | MARYMULLANE.COM

◆ Church Street ◆  
**DELI & PIZZERIA**

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER  
 SALADS • SANDWICHES • SUBS •  
 WRAPS • BURGERS & DOGS •  
 PIZZA • & MORE!

**(518) 329-4551**  
 1677 COUNTY RT. 7A, COPAKE



# Landscaping & Excavating

Domenick Lopane Jr.

SPRING / FALL CLEAN-UPS • EDGING • MULCHING • WEEDING  
 TREE REMOVAL & INSTALLATION • LANDSCAPING  
 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE • SPECIALIZED STONE WORK

Call for free onsite estimates • Licensed & insured • 30 years experience

(845) 518-0632 • DLOpaneJr@gmail.com  
 700 McGhee Hill Road, Millerton, NY



**CUSTOM GLASSWORK •  
 FRAMELESS SHOWER DOORS •  
 SCREENING • PHANTOM  
 RETRACTABLE SCREENS**

## Hobson Window, Inc.

Replacement Windows & Doors of all types

**845-758-0930**  
 51 Elizabeth St., Red Hook, NY 12571  
[www.hobsonwindow.com](http://www.hobsonwindow.com)  
[www.retractablescreenshudsonvalley.com](http://www.retractablescreenshudsonvalley.com)



**860-824-7276 Fax 860-824-7759**

337 Ashley Falls Rd (Route 7) – Canaan Ct 06018  
 sales – service - parts



Sales: Rich Crane  
[richie@cranesope.com](mailto:richie@cranesope.com)  
 Sale: Brian Cavanaugh  
[brian@cranesope.com](mailto:brian@cranesope.com)  
 Service: Todd MacNeil  
[todd@cranesope.com](mailto:todd@cranesope.com)

**Outdoor Power Equipment**



[WWW.CRANESOPE.COM](http://WWW.CRANESOPE.COM)



# COPAKE LAKE REALTY CORP.



Copake Lake House with Waterfront. 3 BR, 3 BA home on 1+ acre. Private path to your exclusive dock and deck. Great set up for a vacation or retirement home with just about everything you need on the main level: Open living/dining/kitchen area, master suite with jet tub, second bedroom, another full bathroom and laundry facilities. The upper level has a bedroom, bathroom and sitting area. Full basement with garage. Offers a nice blend of privacy, views and exceptional water access. Walk to Copake Country Club. We are nestled between the Berkshires and the Catskills in Southern Columbia County, NY. Equal distance to Great Barrington, MA or Hudson, NY. Asking \$745,000.

Lindsay LeBrecht, Real Estate Broker 285 Lakeview Road (518) 325-9741  
 Copake Lake Realty Corp. Craryville, NY 12521 [www.copakelakerealty.com](http://www.copakelakerealty.com)

**MCENROE**



**ORGANIC FARM**

*One of New York's Oldest &  
 Largest Certified Organic Farms*

Visit our Strawberry Festival on June 18!  
 Celebrate strawberry season by learning how to create  
 and preserve home-made jams

FRESH MEATS • FRESH VEGETABLES  
 DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS • BAKERY • PREPARED FOODS

5409 Route 22, Millerton, NY 12546  
 Visit [McEnroeOrganicFarm.com](http://McEnroeOrganicFarm.com) or  
 Call 518-789-4191 for hours & directions.

# Some thoughts on garden tools

By Claire Copley  
info@mainstreetmag.com

Early humans invented tools to do things they could not do using their hands alone. The tools used by gardeners today grew out of the earliest agricultural implements which were designed according to the job that had to be done. Gardeners need tools that can do both heavy and delicate work. They need their tools to be reliable but flexible, sturdy but not cumbersome, and above all, comfortable to use. A look at any history of garden tools demonstrates an ingenuity beyond imagination to create a means of accomplishing a given task efficiently and easily. But the basics have endured, and we continue to use them.

## Tools of the trade

Tools such as the hoe, pitchfork, fork, rake, hand cultivator, spade, shovel, and hand trowel all grew out of agricultural needs. They have evolved over hundreds of years and become extremely specialized and



Above: While a good sun hat is an essential gardening tool, it can take some time to find the right one. The one on the right is super lightweight and ventilated, while the arguably more attractive one on the left is hotter and heavier.



Above: Clogs are ideal for many situations but gardening is definitely not one of them. Dirt and mud creep in the backs and sides and stones are constantly in your shoes. Stick to the tried-and-true high rubber boots and your feet will emerge clean, dry and pain-free.

ever more efficient (or not). It is somewhat surprising how little they have changed, even as variation after variation are invented. New technologies have made stronger, lighter tools possible and given us power tools. Even so, the search for the best tool for the job is eternal, and usually involves trial and error. Which is why so many of us end up with a shed full of tools though we actually use relatively few.

What makes a good garden tool is a complicated subject. We all have our own ideas that include qualities like balance, weight, fit and finish, material quality, value, availability, general utility, and design. We want tools that will last and make a tiring job easier. Modern tool designers are increasingly concerned with the interaction between the tool and the person using it, (ergonomics) and producing less stress on the human body. This has produced lighter, stronger tools but has not fulfilled the promise one might fantasize that it could.

We have all experienced bad tools – forks whose tines snap eas-

ily, trowels and spades that bend instead of lift, handles that break or joints that loosen. It's frustrating and a waste of money! Companies are constantly coming out with new designs that claim to make old jobs easier – especially weeding. There must be three or four dozen completely different types of “weeders” on the market at any given time. We never know if a product works for us until we buy it and use it, and if it isn't all it is cracked up to be we hang it in the shed and forget it (unless it turns out to be useful for something else). Of course, we are human, and are always looking for the better mousetrap.

I recently saw, in a catalog, a weed “burner” that shot heat through a wand and fried the weedy victim. While this might be a good idea, I somehow can't see myself hefting this tank around my yard going after dandelions. Price tag? A mere \$249.99. There's one I won't fall for.

Continued on next page ...

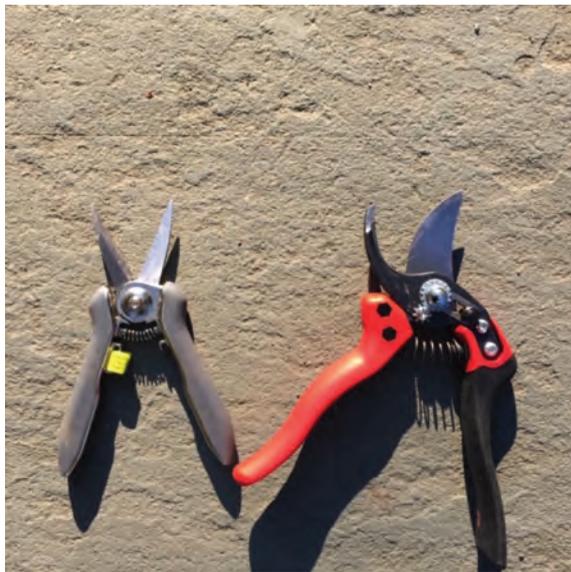


Above: These trowels look similar, yet they function very differently. The trowel on the left is not pointed but has a rounded tip which makes working in tougher soils very difficult. The blade is joined closely to the handle which makes it hard to maneuver. The blade is rusted and the handle un-sculpted. The trowel on the right is made of forged steel as you can see by the sharp edges and lack of rust. There is a one-inch-or-so joiner which is part of the blade and which attaches the blade to the handle. Also, the handle is ergonomically shaped to fit the hand.

### A tool for every job

While it would be nice if there was a standard list of the best tools for the garden the truth is our tools should be specific to our needs. Are you short or tall? Right or left handed? Do you work with back or knee pain? Do you garden in raised beds or in the ground? All of these factors will help determine the right tools for you, but it takes thought, and experience.

Every once in a while a tool is added to the sacred canon of garden tools. For me, the recently discovered digging knife (aka the “Hori Hori knife”) is a new, yet indispensable tool. It looks something like a hunting knife. It has a thick, stainless steel blade with a slight curve. One side of the blade is sharp while the other is serrated, and it has a comfortable hardwood handle. It has become my go-to friend for just about anything, but it cannot be beat for large weeds or for planting bulbs and seedlings. I even found one recently that has a small notch in the tip for better weed gripping.



Above: These two are very different pruners. The one on the left is more of a snipper, with its smaller size and needle nose blades. This works well for cutting flowers, blooms and herbs. The by-pass pruner on the right is a good all-purpose pruner for branches up to .75 inches in diameter.



Above: While these gloves are both sold as “work gloves,” the pair on the left is fairly useless for work. The fit is loose, and the material an absorbent cotton. Unless you are working in bone dry soils, these gloves quickly get wet, muddy, and very uncomfortable. The pair on the right has rubberized palms and fingers which keep hands dry. They fit snugly yet are lightweight and flexible.

It is an amazing addition to my garden tool box.

### Heirloom tools

The decision to buy “heirloom” tools at their considerably higher price points, as opposed to buying the more disposable kinds found at every garden store, is a very personal one. If you are like me, tools get lost or left in the garden and when this happens to an heirloom tool the loss is much greater. Heirloom tools require a good deal of care in order to last as they were intended. Cheaper tools

can be replaced when they rust or split, which they will.

An “heirloom” tool, is made out of high quality materials and is intended for generations of use. It should come with a lifetime guarantee. If you are inclined in this direction look into the Garden Tool Co, DeWit tools, or Orchard Equipment Supply. These companies and a handful of others sell the ultimate in gardening tools. In general, look for tried-and-true materials such as thick carbon or stainless steel for the tool bodies and hardwood handles from managed forests.

### The proof is in the pruners

Don't forget the pruners as well. Pruners are usually classified into three categories: By-pass, Anvil, or Double cutting. The By-pass pruners are generally the all-purpose pruners of choice. They make sharp precise cuts in green wood without crushing the branch or bark. They have to be maintained, cleaned, oiled and kept sharp, and they come in many shapes and sizes. Look for one that fits your hand well, is made for either righties or lefties, and is as lightweight as possible without sacrificing strength.

Anvil pruners are designed for cutting through dead or tougher wood. Again, keeping them sharp

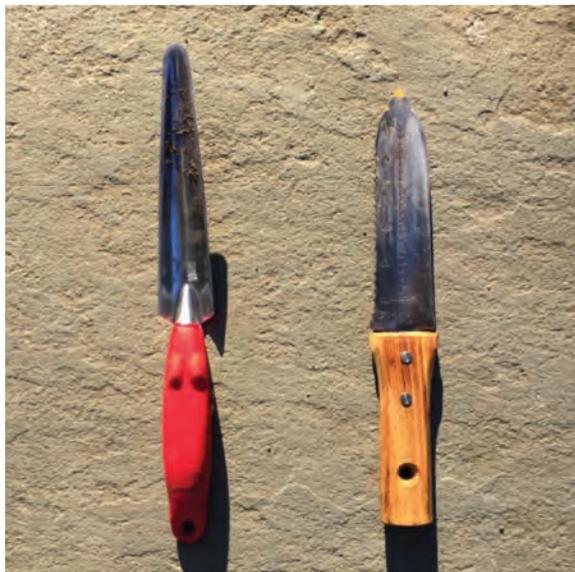
and oiled is key to their performance but a good Anvil pruner can be shockingly efficient. They too come in a variety of models and the curved anvil is said to require less cutting effort.

The Double cutting pruner is a specialty pruner that is a common tool for grafting.

Most sources recommend the Felco 2 Classic Manual Hand Pruner as the best all-purpose pruner. Other good brands to look at are: ARS, Bahco, Fiskars, and Corona.

### Helpful tips

We have all made garden tool mistakes. Or maybe these are just signs of our growth as gardeners. Learning what works for us, given our own personal garden style, is key. Here under each photo, in the photo captions, are some tool lessons learned by my fellow gardener and friend, Christine Bates Greenough. •



Above: While the garden knife on the left looks like it might be useful, in fact it is quite useless. The blade is too narrow to accomplish anything at all, but in the loosest of soils. The knife on the right is the esteemed “Hori Hori” knife. It has one serrated edge and one sharp cutting edge. It is perfect for weeding, planting bulbs or seedlings, and digging out smaller transplants.



# Charlotte Taylor

home accessories • gifts • the nursery

32 Main Street, Millerton, NY [www.CharlotteTaylor.net](http://www.CharlotteTaylor.net)

t: 518-592-1800 [info@CharlotteTaylor.net](mailto:info@CharlotteTaylor.net)

# Hylton Hundt

518.789.9390

Route 44 East | Millerton

[hyltonhundtsalon.com](http://hyltonhundtsalon.com)

I WANTED A DRIFT BOAT built THE WAY I WANTED.  
Couldn't find it ... so I built it myself.

## SIMMONS FABRICATIONS

845 635 3755

1558 MAIN STREET  
PLEASANT VALLEY, NY 12569  
[simfabs@verizon.net](mailto:simfabs@verizon.net)



Bob LaLonde

## GORDON R. KEELER APPLIANCES

Appliance sales & service since 1930

SUB ZERO • MONOGRAM • WOLF  
SPEED QUEEN • GE CAFÉ • GE PROFILE



3 Century Blvd., Millerton, NY 12546  
518-789-4961 • 518-789-4813 • 518-789-4252 fax

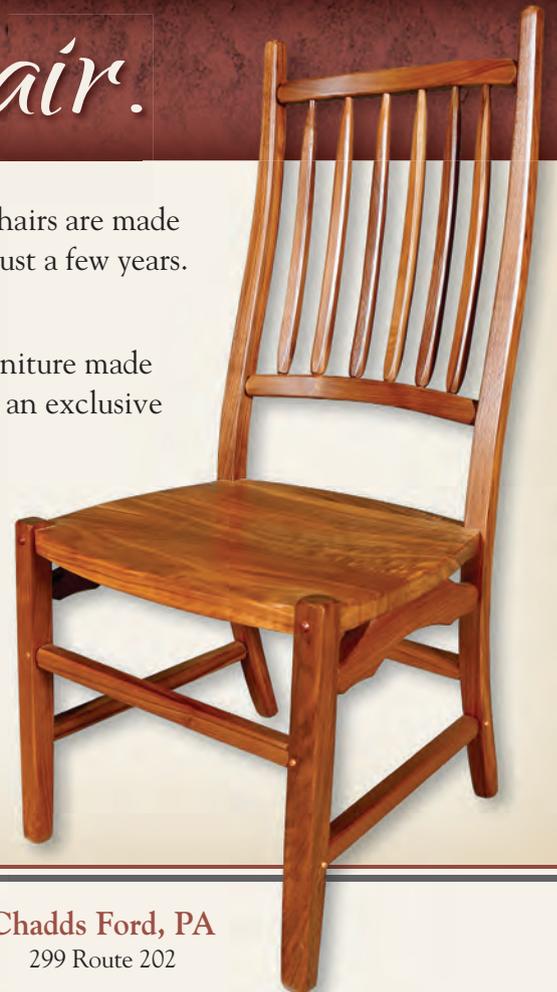
# This is not just a chair.

**Sure, it looks like a chair... until you look closer.** These days, most chairs are made overseas with staples and screws. Chairs start to wobble and squeak after just a few years. Chairs are disposable, and you can buy a chair practically anywhere.

**This is different.** This is art. This is an heirloom. This is handcrafted furniture made the right way using centuries-old woodworking techniques and backed by an exclusive ten year craftsmanship warranty.

Since 1926, this has been our calling card: furniture with the timeless style and impeccable workmanship of a fine antique, but brand new. It's just a small difference in price that makes all the difference between furniture that ends up in a will or as landfill... and it's only at Hunt Country Furniture.

*They don't make furniture like they used to. We do!*



## HUNT COUNTRY FURNITURE

HANDCRAFTED  
EXCELLENCE  
SINCE 1926



[huntcountryfurniture.com](http://huntcountryfurniture.com)

Wingdale, NY  
16 Dog Tail Corners Rd.

Dover Plains, NY  
2549 Rt. 22 (Factory Store)

Chadds Ford, PA  
299 Route 202

# HIDDEN HOUSES *of worship*



Photos this page: The Won Dharma Center

By Carol Ascher  
[info@mainstreetmag.com](mailto:info@mainstreetmag.com)

*Photos of the Won Dharma Center by Olivia Markonic, all other photos by Carol Ascher or provided by the house of worship.*

Most of us easily recognize our New England countryside by the traditional white or brick Protestant churches that anchor the villages, their white spires often visible from a distance. Yet these days most New England communities are also home to Catholic churches, as well as smaller Protestant denominations that may not be housed in traditional churches. As for our mosques, temples, and other houses of worship, it's easy to miss them as we drive by. Not only are they often tucked in unexpected areas, away from the road, but we may not recognize their buildings as houses of worship.

**Won Dharma Center, Claverack, New York**

A lovely place to visit if you are

in the Hillsdale area is the Korean Buddhist Won Dharma Center in Claverack, New York. Three miles west of the Taconic on State Route 23, we turned at an unobtrusive sign for the Won Dharma Center and drove half a mile up a private road. Reaching the parking lot, five architecturally-spare rectangular buildings of weathered natural wood and glass spread before us on the crest of a hill, with over four hundred acres of rolling pasture and woodlands on every side.

A large circle, Won Buddhism's only religious symbol representing the quest for timelessness and enlightenment, decorates the front wall of the large airy meditation hall, whose vast windows look onto western hills. Most participants sit on pillows for meditation and Sunday Dharma services, and the heated floor made us long to take a yoga class.

Two natural-wood buildings for retreat guests offer warm but spare accommodations in single, double, and dormitory-style rooms. There is an acupuncture center and an administration building with a cafeteria, as well as housing for the eleven ministers in residence. Although ten of the ministers are Korean, all services are conducted in English.

Won Buddhism, a modern and simplified form of Buddhism, was founded in Korea in 1916. Directed to those who live in a secular world, there are now over twenty Won Buddhism centers throughout the US, including a Won Institute outside Philadelphia offering graduate programs in acupuncture studies, applied meditation studies, Chinese medicine, Won Buddhist studies, Buddhist pastoral care, and contemplative psychotherapy.

In addition to individual and group retreats directed to helping guests quiet their minds "one breath at a time," Claverack's Won Dharma Center offers: Meditation – daily: 6-7am, Sunday: 10-11:30am, Wednesday: 7-8:30pm. Yoga – Thursday: 6-7:15pm, Friday: 10-11:15am. Walks – Anytime, dawn to dusk, on the Center trails. Shoes are removed inside all buildings.

For more information, visit [www.wondharmacenter.org](http://www.wondharmacenter.org) or email them at [info@wondharmacenter.org](mailto:info@wondharmacenter.org).



### All Saints of America, Orthodox Christian Church, Taconic, Connecticut

Turning off Route 41 north of Salisbury, Twin Lakes is a narrow wooded road of sparsely set houses. Taking a turn, we came upon a pretty white wood church with green trim. All Saints of America, an Orthodox Christian Church, sits on a spit of grass, with scarce room for parking, though as the congregation filled cars parked wherever they could, and there was a lively and welcoming atmosphere.

The Orthodox Church was brought to America by Russians who came across the Bering Strait to Alaska in 1700s. Today, most Eastern Orthodox Christians in America are of Russia, Greek, Eastern European, and Arab descent, though a growing minority are converts of Western European, African, and Latin American backgrounds. At All Saints of America, where the congregation is multi-ethnic, we were told that “scripture is read in Russian, Greek, and Arabic, as well as English at Easter to proclaim to the whole world the good news of Christ’s Resurrection.”

The architecture and iconography of Orthodox churches are deeply symbolic. The inside of All Saints is divided into three parts, following Orthodox tradition: we entered the Narthex, which represents the outside world. Although traditionally all visitors not baptized or not Orthodox are required to stand there, we were welcomed into the Nave.

The Nave is where heaven and earth meet, in Christ. Thus a huge Icon of Christ in the center on the ceiling represents the unity of all in Christ, both in this world and in the next world. Passing into the Nave, the main body of the church, we stood throughout most of the service. Traditional Orthodox churches have no seats or pews; instead, stacidia, arm rests high enough to be used for support while standing, are usually found along the walls. However, since All Saints



was formerly a Catholic church, only some of the pews have been removed, allowing congregants, who find standing difficult, to sit.

The iconostasis is a screen between the Nave and the Sanctuary covered with icons. As is traditional, the iconostasis at All Saints has three doors, one in the middle called the Royal Doors, which are used only by the arch priest and closed at times during the service, and one on either side, called the Deacons’ Doors or Angel Doors, as they often have the Archangels Michael and Gabriel depicted on them and are used by deacons and servers to enter the sanctuary.

The area behind the iconostasis is the Sanctuary. Within this area is the holy table or throne; the Apse containing the high place at the center back with a throne for the bishop and the seats for the priests on either side.

We visited All Saints on April 9th, Memorial Saturday for the 5pm Saturday Vesper Service, which was the Panikhida, a service “for those fallen asleep.” As we entered, we were allowed to add the names of our dear ones who had died to the list compiled by congregants. Chanting by the arch-priest, Father John Kreta, alternated with



Gregorian-style music sung by four voices, and the list of those departed was chanted by the arch-priest on several occasions, creating a stirring service.

For a schedule of services and additional information, visit [www.allsaintsofamerica.us](http://www.allsaintsofamerica.us)

### Beth David Temple, Amenia, New York

Driving east from Amenia’s modest business section on Route 341, you can easily pass the tiny brick synagogue wedged between a Dollar Store and a modest private house. A pocket-sized garden leads to the front door to Congregation Beth David, which was built in 1929 by

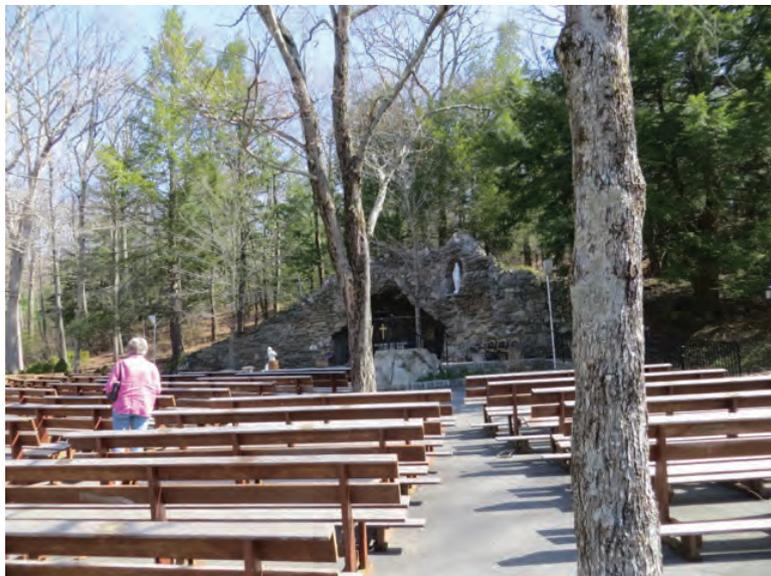
Above, top row: All Saints of America exterior and interior. Above, bottom row: Beth David Temple interior and exterior.

Continued on next page ...

Russian Jewish immigrants. Having tried dairy farming in the stony hills above Sharon, Connecticut, they were beginning to run the small hotels and businesses that would turn Amenia into a bustling Jewish resort until the end of World War II.

Though Beth David began as an Orthodox congregation, with services offered in Hebrew and Yiddish, these days the Reform services are held in English and Hebrew, and the community is divided among weekenders from New York City, Jewish students attending area boarding schools, and full-time residents, many of whom are retirees. Several non-Jews are also regular congregants.

Inside, the sanctuary is intimate, light and airy. The alter leads to an ark covered by navy blue velvet embroidered in gold, which holds several Torah scrolls. (The Torah, consisting of the five books of Moses, is referred to as “the Old Testament” by Christians). The names of those who paid for the building are memorialized on the sanctuary’s stained-glass windows



Photos this page: Lourdes in Litchfield.

and sixty-six upholstered seats, many of them still recognizable, as their descendents still reside in nearby New York and Connecticut. Behind the sanctuary lie a kitchen and an ample community room, which holds the Oneg Shabbat (an informal coffee hour to celebrate the Sabbath), study groups, holiday festivities, and a range of other activities.

Rabbi Jon Haddon, who trained as a cantor before becoming a rabbi, has long been a strong voice for

inter-faith understanding. With his guitar at the ready, Rabbi Hadden enlivens his bi-weekly services with solo and congregant singing of old and new melodies.

For more information and schedule for services, Hebrew classes, and other events, visit [congbethdavid.org](http://congbethdavid.org), or email [info@congbethdavid.org](mailto:info@congbethdavid.org).

**Lourdes in Litchfield Shrine, Litchfield, Connecticut**

The understated turnout to the Shrine of Lourdes is barely half a mile beyond Litchfield’s main intersection at 50 Montford Road. This expansive park-like Catholic shrine, a ministry of the Montfort Missionaries, is an outdoor experience, so wear sturdy shoes and choose a nice day.

The stone Grotto of Lourdes is modeled after the place in France where, in 1858, a young peasant girl, Bernadette Soubirous, experienced the Mother of God appearing to her with a message of hope and encouragement. Like Lourdes

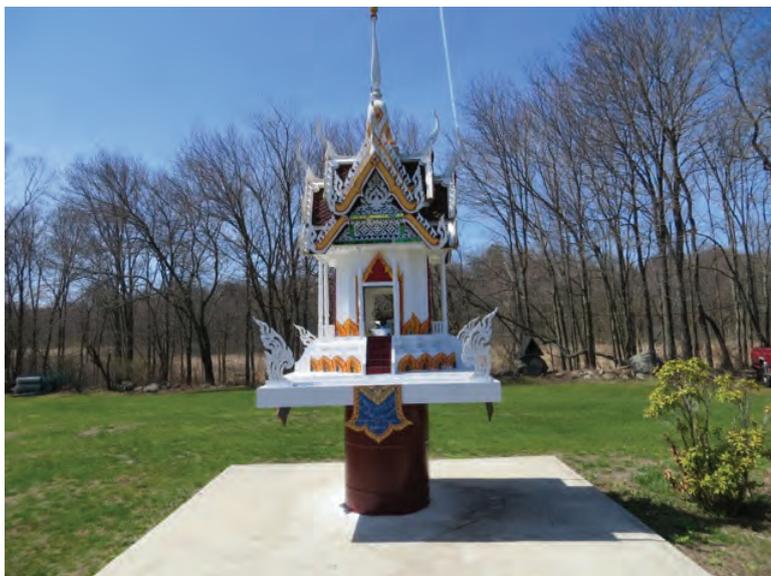
in France, over the years, Lourdes in Litchfield has become a place where each year thousands come for pilgrimage and prayer.

In addition to the grotto chapel, where mass is regularly held during the pilgrimage season, between May and October, the shrine offers a long up-hill walk along the Stations of the Cross, a gift shop, café, picnic area, and restrooms.

Set off slightly at the top of its own hill, Lourdes in Litchfield also includes a lovely stone building that houses both the priests’ residence and a retreat center with rooms for guests. Mass is held regularly during the winter months and in inclement weather in the little chapel on the first floor.

Although we explored the lovely grounds comfortably on our own, those wanting to make a formal pilgrimage as a family or with a group to Lourdes in Litchfield (the pilgrimage usually runs from 10:30am-4:00pm), should contact the Shrine Office (860) 567-1041 or [Lourdeshrinect@gmail.com](mailto:Lourdeshrinect@gmail.com) at least one month in advance.

For a schedule of mass and other services and events, as well as general information, visit [www.shrinect.org](http://www.shrinect.org).



### Wat Lao Buddha Ariyamettaram Temple, Morris, Connecticut

Traveling south on Route 63, shortly after White Flower Farms, turn off onto Route 109, or East Street. Coming upon the Wat Lao Buddha Ariyamettaram Temple at 140 East Street, we glimpsed a dazzling pagoda through the leafing trees. Though located in conservative Morris, the well-manicured temple complex comprised of pagodas, meditation halls, and even a monastery housing several resident monks, is built in the Laotian style, richly carved and painted in gold and reds, that made us feel we'd been transported to Southeast Asia.

Laotians, like Cambodians, Vietnamese, and other Southeast Asians, are Theravada Buddhists and rely on the teachings of the Pali Canon,

a collection of the oldest recorded Buddhist texts. But their Buddhism also includes a rich diversity of traditions and practices that have developed over a long history of interactions with other cultures and communities.

The Lao Buddha Ariyamettaram Temple was built in 2002 by Laotian Buddhist immigrants, who come to worship from Danbury, Torrington, and other towns of central Connecticut, as well as New Jersey and southern Massachusetts. Displaced when the US conducted its secret air war on Laos as a part of strategy against communist revolutions in Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia in the 1960s and 1970s (Laos holds distinction as the most heavily bombed country in world), the Laotian-Americans we talked to had spent several years in refugee camps in Thailand before being admitted to the US as refugees. Nev-

ertheless, they speak with gratitude for the lives they have managed to rebuild in America and are proud of the educational and professional accomplishments of their children. A plaque in the dining area of their meditation hall commemorates the Temple's active help in conducting the 2010 census of Laotian-Americans.

There is no official website for this wonderful addition to Connecticut's houses of worship. While the temple complex is open to everyone, please remember to take off your shoes before entering any of the meditation halls. Feet should never be pointed toward a Buddha image, member of the clergy, or your elders. You can call the temple at (860) 567-5030. •

*Having explored these local national treasures, I suspect that there may be many more in our area still to be uncovered. If you know of other houses of worship that deserve to be recognized, please contact me, Carol Ascher, at Main Street.*

Photos this page:  
Wat Lao Buddha  
Ariyamettaram  
Temple.



"For Propane There Is No Better Name"®

## Three Great Ways to Kick Off the Summer Pool Season

1. A **warm** pool at a **great price**
2. Never run out of propane gas with our **Tank Butler®**
3. Keep your system **running efficiently** with our Annual Service Package

800.647.4427 • [www.ParacoGas.com](http://www.ParacoGas.com)

RECOGNIZED BY WHO'S WHO IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE



### STANFORD

Bulls Head Farm, built in 1830, commands its surroundings with old growth trees, protected views and gorgeous landscaping. Elegant formal rooms, numerous bedrooms, many fireplaces and pool make this an ideal home for weekend house parties and family gatherings. \$1,500,000. Call Candy Anderson 845-677-5311.



### BLUEBERRY HILL

Built in 1780, this true Center Hall Colonial has had additions in 1830 and 1970 plus a massive renovation/restoration in 2014/15. Numerous updates include high end kitchen and baths, new roof, internal systems and more. Situated on 98.7 acres in a beautiful rural setting of fields, large pond and forest. Close to Millbrook & Metro North. \$4,100,000. Call Marie-Laure Collins (845) 677-5311.



### TAMARACK

Lovely 1850's Colonial off a scenic country road on 27.9 acres. Loaded with antique charm, this classic home features a center hallway, beautiful wide board floors, period moldings, exposed beams and original hardware. There is a guest house and a barn/garage with storage above. The property includes a stream, pond and two large meadows. \$1,150,000. Call H.W. Guernsey Realtors (845) 677-5311.

**H W GUERNSEY**

REALTORS, INC.

SINCE 1908

[hwguernsey.com](http://hwguernsey.com)

A Heritage of Fine Homes and Property

Millbrook 845-677-5311

So. Columbia County 518-398-5344

# Ira Goldspiel & Howard Schissler

By CB Wismar  
info@mainstreetmag.com

Real Estate is easy. It's all about "location, location, location," right?

Well, sort of right. And, sort of not.

There is always a danger when complicated, sensitive, and intensely personal pursuits are cast as being so simple. A flip answer, a deprecating definition, an attitude that minimizes the discipline or the process can often lead to more unhappiness than we think we deserve.

Perhaps the most telling omission from that breezy "location" bromide is personality. And, there's hospitality. And, there's knowledge ... and patience ... and timing ... and sensitivity ... and dedication on the part of the people who make real estate transactions work.

Ira Goldspiel and Howard Schissler understand the fundamentals of real estate, just as they are immersed in the world of hospitality and personal achievement, and they bring incredible measures of those things that make real estate transactions an experience that is both positive and fulfilling. Truth be told, one can learn a great deal about themselves while searching for a home ... and both Howard and Ira understand that patience,

support and understanding are as much a part of the process as "location, location ..." Well, you get it.

Ira has been selling real estate in the region (would someone please come up with a blanket name for the Duchess County, Litchfield County, Berkshire County mash-up that we can be proud of?) for 14 years. After a successful career in fashion merchandising and product development, he took the dramatic impact of 9/11 to heart and followed his muse to Kent, Connecticut to find a "weekend place" and felt the unmistakable tug of the region.

## From the city to the country

His transplanted from New York

to Kent had several components. He needed a place to live. He needed to have an income. He needed to be able to translate his estimable skills as a marketer and his exquisite personal taste into something that would keep him energized and engaged.

When, under the watchful eye of a local realtor, Ira discovered the building that is now The Inn at Kent Falls, the process began.

The building needed serious help, and like so many older homes and buildings that have withstood years of use, huge swings of wind and weather, and the hidden foibles of builders who worked hundreds of years ago without the benefit of laser measuring and razor sharp power saws, the ceilings and walls were full of surprises. Ira calls it "A gut job ..." complete with bats. For the first months of the renovation, he lived in the Inn, sleeping on a blowup mattress. Slowly, with great care, the Inn took shape and was ready to welcome guests.

The "make a living" portion of the formula came in the form of a real estate license, first hung on the wall at Bain Real Estate in Kent,

and, more recently at William Pitt Sotheby's where he rose quickly to become a Platinum Award Recipient. The intricate work of becoming an award-winning salesperson began, and Ira took to it, immediately. He scoured the area, learning every back road, hollow, and nuance. He ate at every restaurant, shopped at every shop, and became completely immersed in what life both is and can be "up in the country."

## How Ira met Howard

After four years of working non-stop, Ira awoke one day to the fact that although his life had a jammed calendar and his real estate career was soaring, there was something truly missing. He was lonely.

So, in recognition of his birthday, Ira invited close friends from the area and from New York City to help him celebrate. The group converged on the Inn at Kent Falls and among those on the invitation list was one of those people suggested by a mutual friend for the invitation



Above, L-R: Ira Goldspiel and Howard Schissler. Below left: The living room at the Inn. Photos by Randy O'Rourke.



Continued on next page ...

list ... someone "you just have to meet."

Howard Schissler had gone through transitions of his own in life. Trained as a dancer in New York's competitive theatre world and displaying his athletic talent on stages worldwide, he had suffered the inevitable dancing injuries that began to limit a career and made the decision to broaden his talents, and his prospects by studying to be a personal trainer.

As a personal trainer in New York City, he began to amass a clientele of those who understood the importance of the discipline and guidance that thoughtful training can bring. The addition of skills in Pilates, a discipline he, himself had used to keep in dancing shape led him to open his own New York studio – One Body Pilates. The response to his efforts reflected the care he put into both the location and the instruction. Satisfied clients were eager to place comments on his website. "The studio is immaculate and conveniently located in the heart of Union Square." "He does all this with patience, kindness, and humor!"

Howard was a success ... and now he had met Ira, a success in his own right. The challenge was the distance. Ira was in Kent. Howard was in New York. The weekend commutes and extended periods of time apart ensued ... for years. That was until Howard and Ira made a decision. It was time to join forces and work not only as a couple, but as a team.



#### Formation of "The Group"

With the support and encouragement of the William Pitt Sotheby's global organization, the Goldspiel Group emerged ... and Ira and Howard became partners in business as well as in life.

There should be no confusion when visiting the award-winning Inn at Kent Falls with its elegantly decorated rooms, its inviting pool and its setting so close to the town, yet removed enough to be a peaceful retreat. This Inn illuminates the fusion of Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts. This is a very special place in an incredibly unique part of the country. If you are serious about living here – as a second home to draw you from the rigors of the city or a primary residence that is just close enough, and just far away enough to be supremely livable, Ira and Howard will match their elegant hospitality at the Inn with their encyclopedic knowledge – it's what makes them such a formidable couple.

Looking for that perfect home? Come stay at the Inn. *Country Home, Traveler, and Connecticut Magazine* have all spent time at the Inn, and awarded it very high marks. Need tips on where to eat, where to shop, where to explore? Simply ask Ira and Howard, and the entire region is opened up with

an enthusiastic repartee that makes visitors feel immediately at home.

As Ira and Howard's real estate endeavors grow and the Inn at Kent Falls welcomes guests – many returning for visit after visit – Howard continues to maintain contact with his Pilates practice. He will quickly assert that it is "only for a few select clients," but One Body Pilates lives on in the Connecticut countryside.

On his biographical page, Ira Goldspiel makes a commitment to the business that reflects not only his successful past, but heralds the future. "I learned that distinctive service is the key to success. Distinctive service means listening to the customer and working passionately and tirelessly to ensure that all angles are covered, not simply reacting to, but anticipating the customer's needs."

Whether the pursuit is real estate, or hospitality, or Pilates instruction ... or most any pursuit, those are keenly focused words that reflect well on the ambitions and pursuits of Ira Goldspiel and Howard Schissler. ●

*To learn more about Ira and Howard and their Inn, the Inn is located at 107 Kent Cornwall Rd, Kent, CT, call them at (860) 927-3197 or visit them online at [www.theinnatkentfalls.com](http://www.theinnatkentfalls.com).*



Above top: The sitting room at the Inn. Above: The Inn's fireplace is inviting. Photos by Randy O'Rourke, courtesy of Ira and Howard.

# QUATTRO'S POULTRY FARM & MARKET

FRESH FROM OUR FARM

Chickens, Pheasants, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys & Venison

## A UNIQUE SHOP FOR OUR CUSTOM-CUT PRIME MEATS

Steaks • Chops • Ribs • Fresh Ground Beef • Bacon Burgers • Fresh Sausages  
Fire up the grill! • **QUATTRO'S ICE CREAM BAR IS OPEN!**



Our own Smokehouse Specialty Meats & Sausages  
Wide variety of CRAFT BEER & BEER ON TAP!  
ITALIAN SPECIALTIES: Cheeses, Pastas, Olive Oil, Vinegars  
Also LOCAL Breads, Vegetables, Honey, Jams, Grains & more!

## VISIT OUR FARM STORE

RT. 44, PLEASANT VALLEY NY 12569

(845) 635-2018



POULTRY FARM & GOURMET MARKET



*Casana*

info@casanadesigns.com  
1.855.922.7262

Premium Cashmere CasanaDesigns.com



SUTTER ANTIQUES

www.sutterantiques.com

*Specializing in full mechanical restoration, repair  
& maintenance of all classic cars*

**CLASSIC AMERICAN CARS**  
*Sales & Service*

---

**NORTHWEST CORNER**  
**CLASSIC CARS, LLC**

---

860-596-4272 • OPPOSITE LIME ROCK PARK  
438 LIME ROCK ROAD, LIME ROCK, CT 06039  
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NORTHWESTCORNERCLASSICCARS

## Reason #1 to go into banking

Andrew became a banker for one reason: he likes to help people. He always has, from his youth when he traveled with his father to pick up donations for the local food pantry, to now when he takes the next generation of youth from his church to visit colleges so they can understand their own potential.

"It's amazing when you can touch someone's life for the better," he says.

The Bank of Millbrook makes sure Andrew has the resources to do just that – to help you finance your business, buy a home, or maybe plan for starting your family. Oh, and you can ask him about any of that. He has plenty of recent experience.



Andrew Oliver  
Assistant Vice President  
Millbrook Branch Manager



3263 FRANKLIN AVENUE MILLBROOK  
5094 ROUTE 22 AMENIA  
2971 CHURCH STREET PINE PLAINS  
11 HUNNS LAKE ROAD STANFORDVILLE

BANKOFMILLBROOK.COM

(845) 677-5321

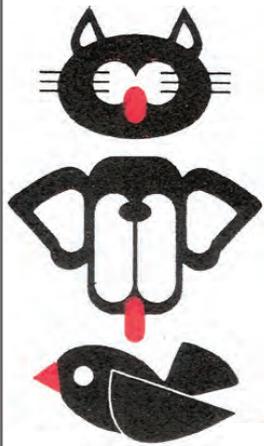
MEMBER FDIC

**CHURCHILL**  
BUILDING COMPANY, LLC

332 MAIN STREET | PO BOX 1749  
LAKEVILLE, CT 06039

t: 860.596.4063 | f: 860.596.4091

www.churchillbuildingcompany.com



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

**Petpourri**

*We love your pets.*

SUPER PREMIUM PET FOODS • RAW DIETS • QUALITY TOYS, TREATS & ACCESSORIES FOR YOUR DOG & CAT – MANY MADE IN USA

Hours: Monday-Friday 9-5:30, Saturday 9-5:00  
333 Main Street, Lakeville, CT • Phone: 860-435-8833

ROARING OAKS



**FLORIST**

*unique designs created with personal attention*

[www.roaringoaksflorist.com](http://www.roaringoaksflorist.com)

## OVER MOUNTAIN BUILDERS, LLC.

*30 years and still passionate! Quality craftsmanship delivered on time & within budget.*

John Crawford

P: 518-789-6173 | C: 860-671-0054  
[john@overmountainbuilders.com](mailto:john@overmountainbuilders.com)  
[www.overmountainbuilders.com](http://www.overmountainbuilders.com)

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1983 BY CARL MARSHALL.

HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY 9-5, FRIDAY 9-6 & SATURDAY 9-12

FEATURING: LAFONT, SILHOUETTE, RAY-BAN

860 364 0878

26 HOSPITAL HILL ROAD  
SHARON, CONNECTICUT  
[SHARONOPTICAL@ATT.NET](mailto:SHARONOPTICAL@ATT.NET)  
[WWW.SHARONOPTICALCT.COM](http://WWW.SHARONOPTICALCT.COM)

SHARON OPTICAL

eyeglasses  
sunglasses  
contact lenses

# LET'S TALK SIDING:

Choose from rough cut, board and batten, beveled, novelty, channel rustic, ship lap, log cabin, or Adirondack / wavy edge. All in Eastern white pine, locally harvested and produced.



*Ghent*  
WOOD PRODUCTS

(518) 828-5684 • 1262 RTE 66, GHENT, NY • [WWW.GHENTWOODPRODUCTS.COM](http://WWW.GHENTWOODPRODUCTS.COM)

# it's always 1840 in eastfield

By Allison Guertin Marchese  
info@mainstreetmag.com

As Martha Stewart said when her crew visited Eastfield Village in Nassau, New York, and made a video, “It’s always 1840 in Eastfield,” the unbelievable and authentically recreated early American 19th century village built by Don Carpentier.

Don, a professional potter, teacher, historian, and preservationist passed away, sadly, at his home at Eastfield in August of 2014, at age 62. Self-taught, Don began collecting and reconstructing history from the years 1787-1840 since the mid-1950s when he was in his teens.

In 1971, Don’s father gave him eight acres of mostly wooded land near the “east field” of the family farm. His first recreation was a blacksmith’s shop, formerly a salvaged pigpen that Don dismantled and trucked to the site.

Eastfield Village has now been on the map for over 45 years and has some 20 buildings surrounding a charming village green. Following its founder’s passing, the Village was taken over by a group of volunteers who run the Historic Eastfield Foundation, a non-profit established to ensure that Don’s vision is carried on. The group’s central work surrounds education and the programs and workshops they

offer have gained national recognition. This is important and there’s more to say about this aspect of the Foundation’s mission, but I want to get back to telling you about my visit to Eastfield Village.

## Visiting Eastfield

I’m a writer of history, and I’m fortunate that my partner, (and soon-to-be husband), is an antique collector. He’s the person that first told me about Eastfield, having known of Don’s work through his travels. And, I’m embarrassed to say, the Village is only ten minutes from where we live in Columbia County. Once he mentioned it, and I scanned the website, I knew I had to go.

We took a drive over on a day that the Village wasn’t normally open to the public. It was late fall and the place was closed up tight, but magical all the same.

On the way in, you drive off the smoothly paved route and curve around a bumpy back road with the kind of holes that can swallow up an entire compact car. This was not a deterrent and actually added to the mystique of entering a fully recreated Early American Village. Old maple trees loomed along the edges



Above: Brown’s General Store. Below, left: The interior of Gorton School House.



of ancient woods, and a broken barn greets you just before you turn into the unpaved driveway.

Mind you, I’d been to Sturbridge Village when I was a kid growing up in Connecticut, and yes, I’ve visited Old Austerlitz (in Austerlitz, NY), the site where historic buildings have been moved to a lovely Colonial enclave on Route 22 bordering the Berkshires, but believe me, Eastfield is extraordinarily different.

Eastfield Village has a definite vibe. Because it was closed, it was desolate, as if someone had mysteriously swiped all of the inhabitants of the village, an alien takeover. Being completely alone there, in perfectly preserved woodlands, with historic buildings all around, the peace and quiet were mystical, and because there was absolutely no sign of modern life, it was like we had truly flipped a switch and time traveled.

The fact that Eastfield is recreated from abandoned buildings that were hauled to this out-of-the-way place seems nearly impossible, just based on the sheer scale of the structures. They

are huge, and there are many.

## The savior of buildings

Don Carpentier said in a video interview (marthastewart.com) that as a kid he saw old buildings just like the ones he saved and preserved in his historic village, but they were being torn down or modernized, and few were left. Like a boy at the puppy pound, Don had a deeply emotional reaction and desire to rescue history and use his land to create the small enclave to preserve the buildings in their original condition. Getting 20 buildings to the site was no small feat.

He recounted how he would go out and find buildings (and often collect their contents) that were in tact and threatened, and “bring them home.” To do this, each building needed to be disassembled, and pieces carefully marked so that after transport they could be put back together exactly

Continued on next page ...

the way they were without changing them. Buildings like the church had more than 6,000 pieces, that had to be put back, like a massive jigsaw puzzle. And what's even more remarkable is that for Don to be able to rebuild 19th century buildings, he had to teach himself 19th century crafts.

The Tavern is the oldest building in the Village inasmuch as it's the very first that Carpentier reconstructed and where he acquired the skills he needed to do restoration work. In the process, he learned how to make and plane wooden moldings, make plaster walls, paint, and stencil. He learned how to forge metal parts in his blacksmith's shop, build fireplaces and construct masonry walls and foundations, as well as cutting stone for the headstones in the graveyard.

**A lifetime preservation project**

With so much to see in Eastfield, I began circling each building to get a look at each side, to see the Village from every angle. I wandered around trying hard not to disturb even one stone or fallen branch and started taking pictures. During my brief visit, I knew I needed to write about Eastfield because I was certain no one would believe that the site was not original. And, quite frankly, I wasn't sure how I or anyone could explain why someone would devote their entire life to such an enormous preservation project.

Because the doors were locked, I was disappointed at first that I couldn't tour the interiors. With the exteriors presenting such an inviting scene, I was rather desperate to get a sense of what it must be like walking the isles of Brown's 1811 General Store, or touring the Clapper Tin Shop. I wanted to see if I could get the scent of old books in the 1847 Gorton School House or hear the voices of people gathered, downing warm ale at Williams Briggs 1793 Tavern. In that I'm not easily deterred, I settled for taking photos both of buildings as they sat so neatly situated and gathering images by gently pressing my iPhone up against the wavy glass of a few choice locations.

In truth, Eastfield Village is not a museum, but a living laboratory where those who take a workshop have the opportunity to intensely study and use tools typical of the late 18th to early 19th century.

**Historic Eastfield Foundation**

On its campus, the Historic Eastfield Foundation offers a series of hands-on Early American trades and historic preservation classes, workshops, lectures and symposia, annually conducted by experts from around the country. The Foundation makes its mission to encourage crafts persons and train them in a variety of preservation skills. The group also produces publications and materi-



Above: William Briggs Tavern. Above, right: Tavern interior.

als for the public and professionals. Learning is uniquely experiential in that participants practically live in the Village and can use the actual artifacts to get a feel for how people worked in days gone by.

The upcoming workshops include a five-day brick fireplace and oven building from 1770-1840 running June 6-10, Baking in Early America, a three-day workshop runs June 10-12, a slate roof and repair session that runs for two days from June 14-15, as well as a celebration of ceramics, June 24-26. There are many more quality workshops appealing to a range of students at all different skill levels listed on the foundation's website.

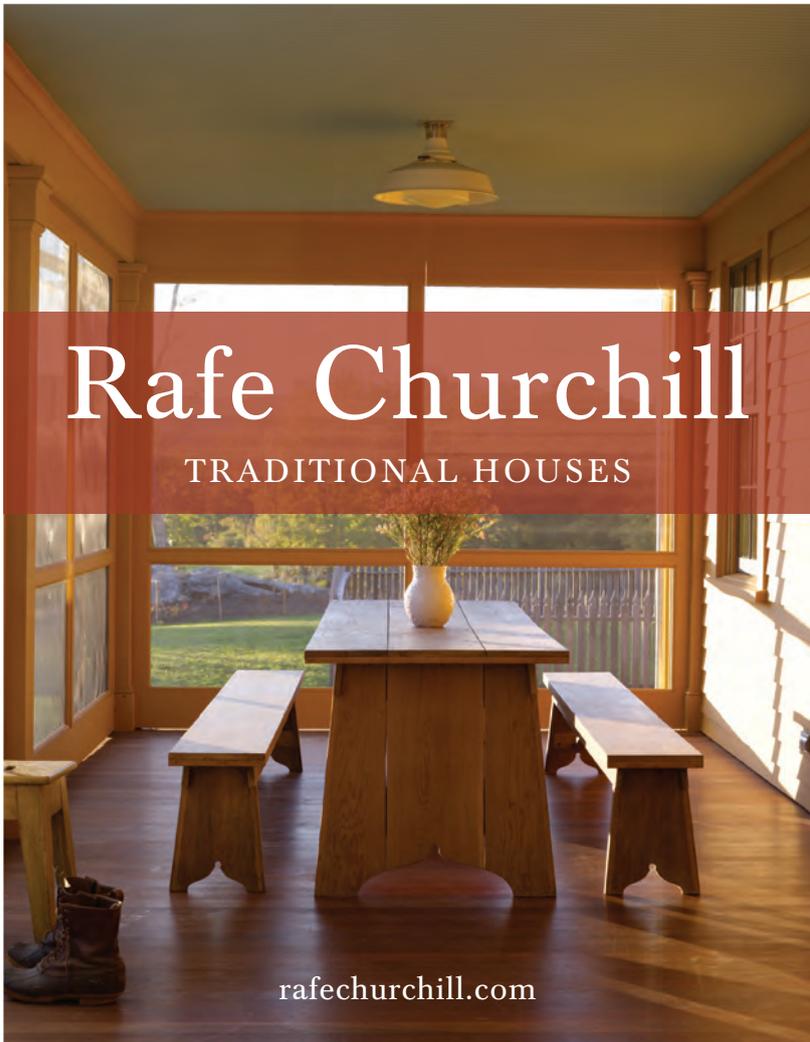
**Devotion defined**

Don Carpentier loved his project so much, he would forgo the modern conveniences of running water, heat and electric lights just so he could live in his reconstructed buildings. In the video interview I watched of this immensely devoted man, I heard him say he thought it might be "crazy to drag 20 buildings to your backyard and reconstruct them." And maybe to some, it does appear a bit unusual, but standing there in the middle of Eastfield looking around me it didn't seem crazy at all. Perhaps the first layer of allure of Eastfield is the history within the post and beams, the slate roofs, and stone foundations, the

creaky oak floorboards. Yet beneath the structures is that palpable longing for things we have lost, or might have, had it not been for a guy like Don. I could feel the roots of our region wrap around me, walking on the cobble stones, how magnificent it all looked and felt and I was grateful for Mr. Carpentier's wild idea.

Ultimately I didn't want to leave so soon because it was so fun to play in such a wide open museum that had no ropes around the exhibits, but the weather was whipping up some cold wind and we retreated to the car. I drove out slowly, making notes in my head to find out when the site opened to the public. ●

*Founders Day, October 1, 2016, is really the only day the Village is open to the visitors besides workshops. The Village is open from 10am-4pm, for craft demonstrations, snacks in the Tavern, local recreation, and many more activities. The all-day entrance fee is \$20 with a reduced fee for children and tickets can be purchased in advance by calling or emailing through their website, www.historiceastfield.org.*



# Rafe Churchill

TRADITIONAL HOUSES

[rafechurchill.com](http://rafechurchill.com)

# WALBRIDGE FARM MARKET

## 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FARM FESTIVAL



*Please join us for some good old fashioned fun on the farm*

**SATURDAY, JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>  
FROM 12 - 5 P.M.**

Hay rides, face painting, games, music, free raffle, mechanical bull, vendors, food demonstrations, **JUNIOR CATTLE SHOW** and more!

*New store hours*

**MONDAY/FRIDAY 10 - 6 PM  
SATURDAY 9 - 6 PM**

538 Route 343, Millbrook 12545 / 845.677.6221  
Please visit [walbridgefarm.com](http://walbridgefarm.com)



William Pitt

Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



### UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR A PRIVATE ESTATE

on 24.7 acres in Sharon, featuring a large chef's kitchen with French doors opening onto an extensive stone patio, a formal dining room, a wood paneled library, media room, gracious archways leading into the living room and adjoining sun room. The master bedroom is on the second floor with a deck overlooking long views to the north as well as the pool and pool house. The protected views to the east are part of Housatonic State Forest. \$2,595,000.



#### JOHN HARNEY

p: 860.435.4600 e: [jharney@wpsir.com](mailto:jharney@wpsir.com)  
[www.williamspitt.com/agents/johnharney/](http://www.williamspitt.com/agents/johnharney/)  
Lakeville Brokerage  
346 Main Street, Lakeville, CT

Each Office Is Independently Owned and Operated. 🏠



Millerton Agway ... a full line dealer for Husqvarna and Stihl power equipment. From riding mowers to string trimmers, push mowers to blowers. We have it all and service what we sell and stock parts. Available only in our Millerton, N.Y. location.



#### VISIT YOUR LOCAL AGWAY:

**Route 22 in Millerton, NY • Route 23 in Great Barrington, MA • Route 9H in Claverack, NY • Route 66 in Chatham, NY**

#### HOURS:

Monday–Saturday: 8:00 AM–5:00 PM  
Sunday: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

#### For more savings & information:

**(518) 789-4471 or [www.agwayny.com](http://www.agwayny.com)**



Fresh burgers, twice-fried frites, hot dogs and milkshakes, Croque-monsieur, Crème brûlée, and Escargot. We spin our own ice cream in small batches and unique flavors.

A FAST-CASUAL AMERICAN DRIVE-IN WITH FRENCH FLAIR!

Open daily!

860-596-4112  
227 Main Street, Lakeville, CT

## Olivia Valentine Markonic Photography



(914) 475 4831  
omarkonic@hotmail.com  
Like me on Facebook!

**WES**  
845-605-1099  
**AUTOBODY**

- 24 Hour Towing
- Aluminum and Steel Welding
- Insurance Claims
- Complete Auto Body Repair
- 4x4 Truck Accessories
- Environmentally Friendly

3718 Route 44, Millbrook, NY 12545 [www.WesAutobodyWorks.com](http://www.WesAutobodyWorks.com)

**Herrington Fuels**  
It's all about comfort.

Heating Oil  
Propane  
Heat/AC Systems  
Diesel  
Kerosene  
Service/Repair  
24/7 Emergency

9018 State Route 22 • Hillsdale • Servicing Taconic Hills Area  
(518) 325-6700 [www.herringtonfuels.com](http://www.herringtonfuels.com)



Complete site construction • Homes, pole barns & sheds • Specialty work: tiling, flooring, stairs & railings, kitchens & baths • Refinishing • Woodworking • Carpentry • Ice & snow damage • Fully insured

**NAILED IT**  
*Building & Construction*

518.929.7482  
[WWW.NAILEDITBUILDING.COM](http://WWW.NAILEDITBUILDING.COM)

**north elm home**  
furnishing | accents | antiques

**SPRING SALE**  
GOING ON NOW

unique new & used furniture – reclaimed – original hand crafted artisan pieces – one of a kind finds – mattresses – rugs – gifts – home accents – accessories

5938 North Elm Ave., Millerton, NY 12546  
t: 518.789.3848 • f: 518.789.0234 • [www.northelmhome.com](http://www.northelmhome.com)

# local postmodern design

By John Torsiello  
info@mainstreetmag.com

Yvette Nugent and her husband Giles wanted a special place to locate their weekend getaway from a hectic lifestyle in Manhattan. When they saw a hillside off Ballymount Drive, a few miles outside of Millerton center, they knew they had found their special spot.

The site afford stunning views to the east, southeast, and northeast of the Taconic and Berkshire hills, and was set amid open fields that were freshly plowed on a warm May afternoon when a visitor stopped by. Yvette Nugent, armed with a degree in architecture from the City College of New York, then set about planning her home, one that would ultimately mesh perfectly with the natural landscape and not stand apart from it in some garish fashion.



## Masterful inspiration

Taking a cue from the master Frank Lloyd Wright, who believed in designing structures that were in harmony with the environment, a philosophy he called “organic architecture” and that is best exemplified by the home “Fallingwater,” which has been called “the best all-time work of American architecture,” Nugent wanted her dwelling to flow easily with the gently sloping land atop her and her husband’s 53-acre property.

“I wanted a low design because it is on a hill and I did not want it to stand out too much,” says Nugent, who worked with Michael Sloan on the home’s design. “We couldn’t locate the house on the very top of the hill because of restrictions, and as it turned out that was fine because the winter winds would have made the home too cold. I wanted

the home to look natural, to fit into the hillside, be built with natural materials and not stick out like a sore thumb. I also wanted to take advantage of the amazing views.” Mission accomplished. The home is what Nugent calls Contemporary style and others Postmodern.

## What’s Postmodern?

Postmodern architecture began as an international style in the 1950s, but did not become what would be recognized as a “movement” until the late 1970s. It continues to influence present-day architecture. In Postmodern architecture, whether it be in homes, office buildings, shopping malls, or cultural venues, as opposed to Modernism with its formal shapes and spaces, stresses diverse aesthetic elements. Styles often collide, form is designed into structures merely for their own sakes, and new ways of viewing familiar styles and how space should be used are encouraged.

The Postmodernist movement is

often seen (especially in the US) as an American movement, and then spreading to Europe and the rest of the world, and remains in vogue. Most importantly as it pertains to home design, Postmodernism strives to produce dwellings that are sensitive to the context, i.e. the natural environment within which they are sited and built.

One of the most influential early Postmodern architects is Robert Venturi. His book, *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture*, published in 1966, encouraged new ways of thinking about buildings. It drew from the full history of architecture, high-style and vernacular, historic and modern, and attacked what Venturi saw as overly simplistic functional Modernism.



Continued on next page ...

### Incomparable views

The Nugent home offers sweeping 180-degree views from the eastern Hudson Valley and Berkshire Mountains to the Northwest Connecticut hills and beyond. “I would say you can see at least 40 miles from the home,” says associate real estate broker Andrew Gates of Houlihan Lawrence, “and you have views to three states.”

The striking sleek western red cedar-clad and glass home is equally impressive on the inside, with high ceilings and streamlined rooms that create light and space through the use of tall glass panels and windows that not only showcase the mountain vistas but also bring the outside in. Nugent imbued the interior of the two-level home with a clean, tasteful sensibility. A great room features red birch floors, 24-foot ceilings, an open-style kitchen with top appliances, a soaring fieldstone fireplace, and built-in media cabinetry.

“We entertain quite a bit and usually people congregate in or near the kitchen, so I wanted the kitchen to have open access to the

living room and dining areas,” says Nugent. “Again, even from the kitchen, you have the views to the fields and hills in the distance. There are seating areas built in on the perimeter of the living room. Because the sun comes up across the fields below, there is ample ambient light throughout the morning and even into the afternoon, again enhanced by the fact that the house has a multitude of windows in every room.”

### The interior attributes

Additional highlights of the home include a first-floor master suite that features a stunning pinkish rosa verona marble floor in the master bath; a three-season porch that has a corner fieldstone fireplace with sitting hearth that allows one to, of course, drink in the magnificent vistas, and a gallery-style hallway with storage, powder room, laundry, and a somewhat ethereal floating maple and stainless-steel staircase that leads to the second level.

Upstairs, a library/sitting area with its own balcony overlooks the great room. An additional three bedrooms and two full baths, all with views to the countryside, complete the interior. Outside, a wide length-of-the-house deck steps down to a geometric-shape pool and a pergola that is ideal for large-scale entertaining.

“The homes that have been built in this area have all been done so tastefully,” says Gates, “with their designs blending into the surrounding land. This certainly is one of them.”

Yvette Nugent says she and Sloan worked closely on the home, with the latter “tweaking” a few of her ideas and concepts and staying atop during the construction stages. The 3,515-square-foot home, which also has a two-car garage, stone walkways, and a large basement, was completed in 2006.

“We started with three options for the home’s design,” says Nugent. “First was mine, the second was mine with tweaks by Michael, and the third was Michael’s alone. I decided to go with the second option and I believe it all worked out very well, pretty much as I had imagined. It is so exciting to see a project reach fruition and we really enjoyed the home immensely.” ●

*Photos by Tim Lee, courtesy of Andrew Gates.*



The ideal venue & location for your perfect day

# CATSKILL VIEW

WEDDINGS & EVENTS



CALL 518 592 1135 • INFO@CATSKILLVIEWWEDDINGS.COM • CATSKILLVIEWWEDDINGS.COM



William Pitt

Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Stockbridge, MA \$1,695,000 | Mountain Views  
6 BR, 4.1 BA | 9,477 SF | 3.2 Ac | Pool | Barn  
MLS 215125 | Marc Bachman 646.637.6304



Salisbury \$1,295,000 | Antique with Mtn Views  
4 BR, 2/1 BA | 2,930 SF | 10 Ac | Outbuildings  
MLS L10130916 | Susan Rand 860.435.5936



Falls Village \$389,000 | C. 1780 Antique  
3 BR, 1/2 BA | 1,592 SF | Restored | Barn  
MLS L10083275 | Ira Goldspiel 860.927.7724



Salisbury \$1,750,000 | Strikingly Unique Home  
3 BR, 3 BA | 3,021 SF | 16.8 Ac | Elevator | Views  
MLS L10130033 | Tom Metzger 860.435.5926



Stockbridge, MA \$724,000 | Modernist Design  
3 BR, 2 BA | 2,100 SF | 1.77 Ac | Stone Fireplace  
MLS 212504 | G. Montgomery 413.822.0929



Sharon \$1,200,000 | Absolute Privacy  
4 BR, 3/1 BA | 3,788 SF | 7.85 Ac | Views | Barn  
MLS L10120356 | D. MacRitchie 860. 248.5752

williampitt.com

Kent 860.927.1141 • Lakeville 860.435.2400 • Litchfield 860.567.0806 • Washington Depot 860.868.6600 • Berkshires 413.528.4192

Each Office Is Independently Owned and Operated. Equal Housing Opportunity.



**CORNWAL CONTEMPORARY CRAFTSMAN**

On a hilltop with distant views a former mid-twentieth century dwelling has been transformed by a master builder into a spacious charming hand-crafted lodge. The grounds now include patios, fruit trees, perennial plantings and trails through the 60 acres of woods with picnic settings beside running waters. A small pond is viewed from the house and the Housatonic is at the foot of the driveway. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Just listed and very special. \$2,100,000



860-927-4646 • 860-364-4646 • 860-672-2626 • [www.bainrealestate.com](http://www.bainrealestate.com)



**LAKEVILLE**  
INTERIORS

Design Consultation . Inhouse Workroom . Retail Shop

7 Holley Street, Lakeville, CT [LakevilleInteriors.com](http://LakevilleInteriors.com)

860.435.9397

**CLASSIC BEAUTY**



**AMBER CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN**

**General Contractors**

- Architectural Design & Build
- New Home Construction • Remodeling
- Millwork • Furniture • Cabinetry

Registered AIA Architectural Services

[amberconstruction.net](http://amberconstruction.net) | 860 693 0040

***Yikes!***

*Ash trees need prophylactic treatment to assure their survival. Untreated they will not survive.*

[www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)



RON YAPLE  
LICENSED/CERTIFIED ARBORIST  
TRI-STATE REGION

(413) 229.2728

[WWW.RACEMTTREE.COM](http://WWW.RACEMTTREE.COM)

TCO'S STORY AS TOLD  
TO HOWARD BLUE

# A field of many dreams



By Howard Blue  
info@mainstreetmag.com

If you happen to be in Copake, in Columbia County, heading on Mountain View Road to the Town Hall, just before you get to the old Mountain View Inn, you'll see a large oak tree standing at the edge of the field by itself.

I am that tree.

I am a witness tree. I have seen many things over the years. My name is TCO – which stands for The Copake Oak. It's not what I was called when I was small. In those years, like most trees I was just called "that tree." But some years back, my closest friends started calling me by my current name.

For years after I reached my current height, I've had some great views of the surrounding area: of the Taconic Hills, the church at the end of the field, and of flocks of geese and other birds coming in for a landing or departing from Robinson Pond. During the 1980s my life almost ended. What happened was that the town's insurance company told then Town

Supervisor, Butch Near, that I was a liability. They said that if one of my branches fell on a car or a person, the town could be sued, so they should cut me down.

"No way," Butch replied, "we'd move the road before we'd cut down that tree." And that in fact is what the town did!

Being stationery, I depend on hearing about what's going on in town from people who walk by. And you wouldn't believe all the news and gossip that I hear.

People don't lower their voices to a whisper when they walk by me. Why would they? So I know and have known about almost anybody who is or was worth talking about. I've known about engagements, pregnancies, and divorces before they're announced, about who got what job or was leaving town for one reason or another. All sorts of things.

## The history of the field

My field has a long and interesting history and I want to tell you about it. Before a lightning bolt sadly felled my father, he stood in another field

a quarter of a mile away. When the wind was right, I used to hear him talking to me. He told me that long ago, Native Americans lived in this area. Arrowheads that I heard were found in the field testify to that. Then, so my father said, for at least a couple of centuries, the descendents of European immigrants farmed this field. For many of those years, one of those families, the Langdons, owned and farmed it.

I'm 113 years old or somewhere thereabouts. In 1856, before I sprouted up from a seed, a one-mile trotting course was established on the field. Periodically so I was told, a large bell was rung on days when races were held. That bell still exists, and you can see it in a cabinet in the Courtroom in Town Hall. But you have to look hard; the cabinet is not well lit.

## The Silver Streak

One day in 1929, a small group of men drove up near me in a couple of trucks. At the time William Harrigan owned the field. I heard them say something about "Cairn aircraft" and "Connecticut." They soon erected what looked like a sort of big tent. Then they carried large white pieces of metal into it. The next day they began putting the pieces together. I kept hearing "airplane" and "Silver Streak." On the third day it appeared that they were finished. "I hope the Navy buys this thing," one man said, referring to the bulky looking, front-heavy contraption. I figured out that that was what they were referring to when they used the word, "airplane."

One of the men got into it. Then

a second one stood in front of it and twice pulled on a large blade that was attached to the front. All of a sudden I heard a loud sound. The man inside of the contraption then drove it to the end of the field. He stopped, turned the thing around and then starting up again, raced back along the field until, miracle of miracles, it flew up into the air. I've seen plenty of birds do that, but until that moment I'd never seen a man go up in the air. A little while later, the other man dismantled the tent thing and they all drove away.

One day the following year, two men who were walking on the road stopped at the base of my trunk and sat down. They started talking. "Did you hear that Fred Link flew a plane from Connecticut and landed on Dean's farm?" one man said. The other man didn't know anything about it. So the first one explained. "Link and Harvey Roberts are starting an airport here." I knew who the two were. Link had worked for the phone company, and I'd heard that Roberts had been a chauffeur for the Bash Bish Inn in Copake Falls.

The man went on. "Last December, Roberts and Link took a flying course in Hartford and got their pilot's licenses. They then bought a plane. It's a Model B-4 three passenger Kitty Hawk biplane. They're calling it the Kittimunk."

The next thing I knew, just a week later Roberts and Link set up an airstrip on the same location that that Silver Streak had flown from. One

Continued on next page ...



Above top: The Copake Oak. Above: Arrowheads that were found in the field. Photos courtesy of Howard Blue.

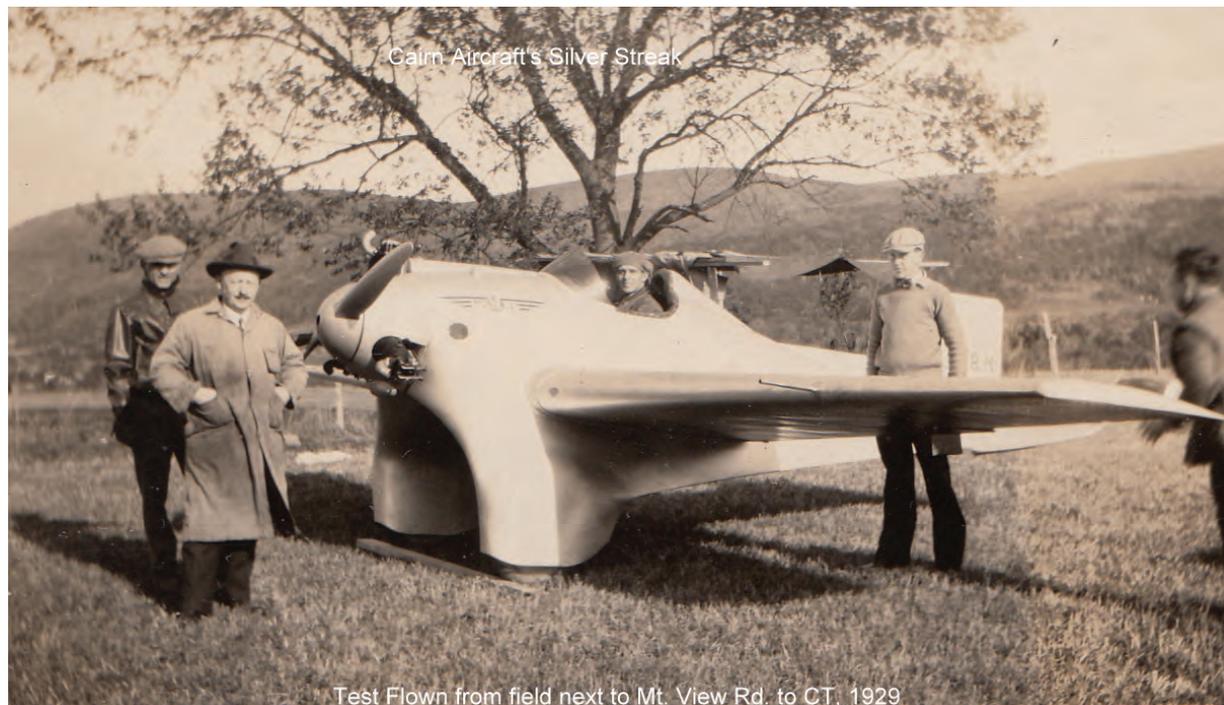
day, I saw another man that I recognized, Jesse Head, the Town Highway Supervisor. Jesse was walking toward Link's and Roberts' plane. He had something on his back that was held with straps. He got into the plane with another man and a few minutes later, it raced along the field and rose in the air. Then, somebody jumped out of the plane and a few seconds later I saw a white thing jerked into the air and spread out like a huge balloon. "He should have jumped earlier," I heard someone shout.

A few minutes later, I saw the jumper floating down with the big white thing over his head, and land on top of the Bristol's house which was on Main Street. I later learned that it was Jesse. The rest of the story in part involved Mr. Bristol's wife, Gladys. As I heard someone say, from her kitchen, where she was pasteurizing milk for her daughter through her window she suddenly saw a crowd running through the cemetery toward her house. She then heard a thud on her roof and spotted Jesse's legs hanging in front of her window. His chute had caught on the chimney. He was soon safely brought down to ground.

In 1933, the airport also came into conflict with Ernest Brown. Mr. Brown owned the mansion on Robinson Pond and all the land that makes up today what's called Taconic Shores. Word was that apparently, several times Roberts clipped the tops of some trees on Brown's estate. Brown started a lawsuit, but died before the case was resolved.

### The lookout tower

A dozen years later, I noticed a group of people starting work on what they called a "lookout tower," a little two story construction. It was in the middle of the field, a couple hundred yards away from me. Again, from people passing by I heard what it was about. They kept referring to "the war" and sometimes "Germany" and "Japan." It seems that people



Above: The Silver Streak experimental airplane. Photo courtesy of Howard Blue.

were going to use the spotting tower to keep an eye out for German and Japanese airplanes. One man said, "I'm not sure why the enemy might send planes up this way." Then for several years I observed pairs of people coming day and night to the little building. Each pair would come for a three-hour shift. One person would stand or sit outside the building while the other one stayed inside of it.

One day after the war ended, in about 1947, I heard a familiar sound. Looking from my top branches, I saw an airplane taking off. Once again, the field became an airstrip – for a while at least. I saw a familiar face among the people who were piloting planes. It was Doc Bowerhan. Apparently he had his own plane. Then after a couple of years, the planes disappeared from the field and for several decades it was farmed again.

### An old friend

In 2005 two notable things occurred near and on the field. One day, a man in his forties pulled up in a car with a second man who seemed to be in his 90s, in the driver's seat. They both got out. The old man looked vaguely familiar. "It couldn't be," I said to myself. Then I heard him say, "I can't believe it. It looks almost exactly like it looked in 1929 when we put the Silver Streak together here." Then, looking at me, the old man said. "That's the tree. That's the same tree next to which we put up the little hanger. Boy, did he get big. And I think he's older than I am." I shivered

at his words and even involuntarily shed some drops from my leaves. I recognized the man as having been one of the team that came in 1929.

We oaks are like elephants. We remember things. In a minute, two other people pulled up in a second car and parked at the side of the road. I recognized Town Supervisor Angelo Valentino and Town Historian Gloria Lyons as they got out and talked with the old man about his memories of the flight of the Silver Streak. "Unfortunately," said the old man, "although the company wanted to sell the plane to the Navy, that never happened."

A month later, two women walked by me, talking about a plan to turn the field into a housing development. "We don't need that in Copake," one of them replied. Suddenly a few months later, again, so I heard, signs started popping up around the town. "Stop the housing project in the heart of Copake," they said. Year after year I watched for signs of construction. Nothing happened. Finally one day, I heard a passerby comment, "Well, that housing project idea is dead. Dead." That's how I found out.

Suddenly last year, again from a passersby, I heard of a new plan. In one of the cheeriest tones of voices that I'd heard in a long time, she spoke of something called Northeast Farm Access, which was starting "the Copake Agricultural Center." She said it would provide diversified farming and some jobs for local people. I was delighted to hear the news. I heard the words "increasing local consump-

tion of locally grown foods." I wasn't totally sure what that meant, but it had a good ring to it and the woman sounded so enthusiastic.

Months later, attracted by the Agricultural Center's affordable 30 year leases for the land, and affordable houses, people from three separate farm families came to Copake. They quickly moved in and started their operations. Luke Franco and Jenny Elliott, moved their cut flower (and dried and hanging) business here from Westchester where they had been. MX Morningstar, owned by Max Morningstar, a 62-acre vegetable outfit also came and soon put up a greenhouse on the field, a fence around it and a farm stand right near me. The third group is Matthew and Heather Linehan's Sparrow Arc, which markets vegetables to restaurants and NYC, and offers vegetable shares to local residents.

So, hail the Copake Agricultural Center. And know that you occupy a piece of land that is special to our town, land that has a proud history. ●

*Historian and author, Howard Blue, directs the Copake History Photo Project, edits a Copake History Facebook page, and occasionally presents slide presentations on Copake History in the town. He's also a former member of the Roe Jan Historical Society's Board of Directors for which he chaired a committee which put up the society's museum's current exhibit in Copake Falls on camps. Blue can be reached at Memrevs@gmail.com.*



SETH CHURCHILL FURNITURE

sethchurchillfurniture.com | 860 596 4063



## Rent your very own Scottish Highland cattle “herd” without any hassle!



**James Archer of Country Views, Inc. offers the unique service of renting you a “herd” of Scottish Highland cattle to enjoy on your property.**

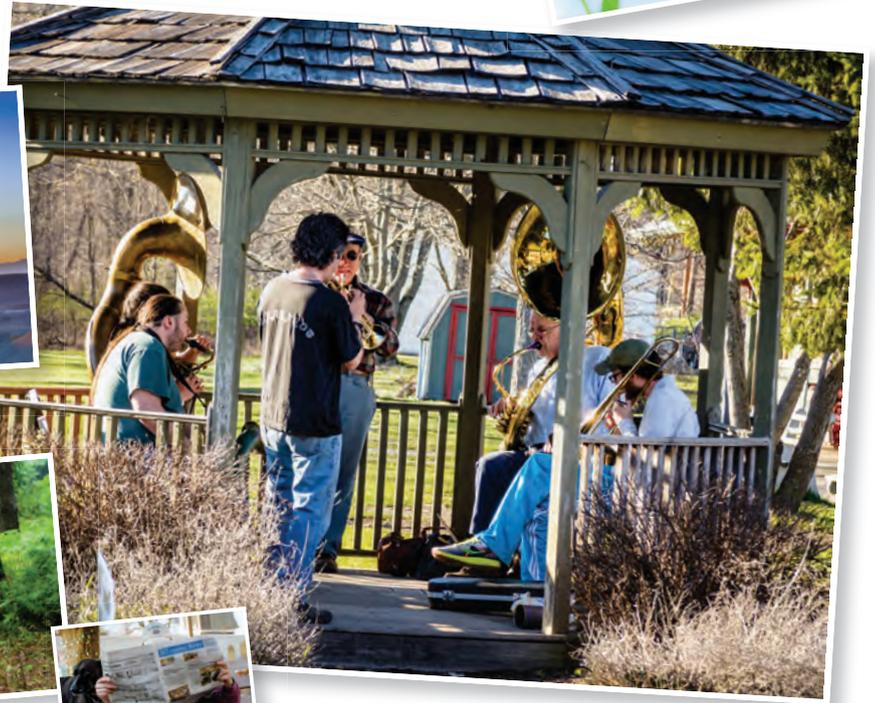
### Country Views Inc.

914-262-4737 • Amenia, NY  
www.countryviewsinc.com

The cattle can be a nice visual for you and your family to enjoy, they can provide the landowner with an Agricultural Tax Exemption, they will keep your fields maintained – or all of the above! You can choose from two to 50 cattle to roam your property. The only thing that the landowner needs to supply is a fenced-in area with water access, and James takes care of the rest, including taking care of the cattle! Country Views also provides new fencing services or repairs to existing fencing. Servicing Dutchess County and the surrounding areas. To learn more, please visit Country Views website or call James.

# Summer fun-time!

Love, Millerton



## In Millerton you can eat, drink, shop, & be entertained!

*Come to Millerton: we have it all! Visit one of these businesses to shop to your heart's content, be entertained for hours, dine and drink!*

*By shopping locally you support not only the local economy but specifically you support the local businesses that provide our services, feed our stomachs, quench our thirsts, entertain us, clothe us, and are the fabric of the communities that we live in.*

*Millerton's businesses welcome you!*



### **Eat & Drink**

**52 MAIN**  
518-789-0252  
52main.com  
**HARNEY & SONS TEA**  
518-789-2121  
harney.com

**IRVING FARM COFFEE HOUSE**  
518-789-2020  
irvingfarm.com

**LITTLE GATES & CO. WINE MERCHANTS**  
518-789-3899  
littlegateswine.com  
**OAKHURST DINER**  
518-592-1313

### **Entertainment**

**THE MOVIEHOUSE**  
518-789-3408  
themoviehouse.net

### **Shopping**

**BW'S EAGLE EYE**  
518-789-4109  
bwseagleeye.com

**DAVE'S TV**  
518-789-3881  
davestv.net

**GILDED MOON FRAMING & GALLERY**  
518-789-3428  
gmframing.com

**HUNTER BEE**  
518-789-2127  
hunterbee.com

**JENNINGS ROHN MONTAGE**  
860-485-3887

**MILLERTON'S NAPA AUTO & TRUCK SUPPLY**  
518-789-4474  
napaonline.com

**NORTH ELM HOME**  
518-789-3848  
northelmhome.com

**OBLONG BOOKS & MUSIC**  
518-789-3797  
oblongbooks.com

**TERNI'S STORE**  
518-789-3474

### **Services & much more**

**AMORE NAIL SPA**  
518-592-1133  
amorenailspamilerton.com

**ASSOCIATED LIGHTNING ROD**  
518-789-4603  
alrci.com

**CHAD'S HAIR STUDIO**  
518-789-6007

**CROWN ENERGY CORP.**  
518-789-3014  
crownenergycorp.com

**HYLTON HUNDT SALON**  
518-789-9390  
hyltonhundtsalon.com

**LESLIE HOSS FLOOD INTERIORS, INC.**  
518-789-0640  
lestiefloodinteriors.com

**MAIN STREET MAGAZINE**  
518-592-1135  
mainstreetmag.com

**MARTINA GATES FOTOWORKS**  
631-662-7755  
martinagatesfotoworks.com

**MILLERTON VETERINARY**  
518-789-3440  
millertonvet.com

**OVERMOUNTAIN BUILDERS**  
518-789-6173  
overmountainbuilders.com

**SALISBURY BANK & TRUST CO.**  
518-789-9802  
salisburybank.com

**TAYLOR OIL INC.**  
518-789-4600  
gmtayloroil.com

**THORUNN DESIGNS**  
518-592-1135  
thorunndesigns.com

# Confessions of a closet techie

By Ian Strever  
info@mainstreetmag.com

Four years ago, I wrote a column for another periodical that began, “I hate GPS trackers.” With all of the technology in our quotidian existence, we need nature to be the one place where we can unplug and recharge, because we lose something when we can no longer get lost. Why do we always have to know exactly – geographically, existentially – where we are?

But it's time for confession: I am a closet technophile. As a cyclist, it comes with the territory; anyone who has gone from an aluminum bike frame to a carbon one will know what I'm talking about. I've discovered an inverse supply/demand relationship between the amount of time I have to ride and the amount of technology I employ. High-powered lighting systems allow me to dodge porcupines after evening meetings. Aerodynamic wheels make up for a lack of fitness. And I have to admit – various GPS-enabled devices make riding both safer and more informative.

## Advantages of wearable fitness

Since I bad-mouthed them, the market for wearable fitness technology has evolved and exploded. I have spotted all kinds of sedentary office-dwellers sporting Fitbits, and the Apple watch apparently comes free with every purchase of a head-to-toe Lululemon outfit. There is a fine line, however, between allowing technology to enhance the outdoors experience and allowing it to overtake your experience of nature. Phoning in a helicopter for a back country extraction represents the worst of technology's self-centered potential, but being able to use your iPhone's built-in flashlight sure is handy if your head lamp dies.

If you leave home with nothing else, it should be a smartphone. Over the past few years, I have been surprised by the number of ways it has

enhanced my experience of the outdoors, and every time I turn around, there is a new app that does what another device does for a fraction of the cost. Altimeter, compass, and navigation apps saved me from purchasing a \$600 Garmin, although I am at the mercy of cell coverage, which can be an issue in more remote locations. I would still never go into the back country without an old-fashioned compass and map, but these apps are good backups and sometimes easier to use. Altimeters are notoriously inaccurate, but if you can check it against posted altitude signs near peaks, it can be helpful. I used one to great effect this April while hiking Mt. Marcy in the Adirondacks, where snow depth and quality shifted with the elevation, and I have used altitude alongside a traditional map to pinpoint location.

The more frivolous apps, however, are the most compelling. Although I have a solid SLR camera, I can never justify the weight on a backpacking or cycling trip, and with Apple using actual iPhone shots to advertise the quality of its photos, well, that's probably good enough for me, too. Add Google Photos to the mix and the whole endeavour goes one step further: now you have an indexed, geo-located, and instantly searchable visual database of your experiences. It takes some giving over to their Orwellian capabilities, but Google Photos uses GPS tags to organize your photos by location, and it employs visual recognition technologies to group shots of mountains, flowers, beaches, or wherever your adventures take you.

## The app: Strava

The line between helpful app and dangerous obsession gets blurred somewhere around Strava, a cycling app with a social component. Strava works either as a stand-alone app or in concert with linked GPS-enabled devices to track the distance, speed,



Above top: The ability to capture a panoramic view of the sunset from Sharon is just one reason why a smartphone is a helpful addition to any outdoor adventure. Above: Wearable, portable technology can enhance and complicate our experience of the outdoors.

and intensity of bike rides (it also works for runs, hikes, water- and snowsports). After each ride, the app displays your route and ride information, but – and here's the obsessive part – it also displays “segments” of your ride and your performance on them, along with the performance of other local riders. Be the fastest rider up Bash Bish Road, and you will earn “King of the Mountain” honors until a faster, younger upstart comes along. I know one rider who would go out twice a day if he discovered that someone had taken a segment from him, and I have a few coveted segments of my own that I will turn myself inside out to regain.

Part of the appeal of these apps is the additional data they supply that can both inform and overwhelm. Strava provides the usual analytics (speed, distance, time), but thanks to GPS, and with a separate heart rate monitor and power meter, it can tell users how much elevation they gained, how many calories they burned, and their average heart rate and wattage output for the ride. Why is this valuable? Well, to many of us,

it's just more information. But for time-pressed cyclists, information about how hard we are working can tell us when we are taking it too easy, when we are fatigued, and exactly how far we need to push ourselves to get faster. In short, it can make us more efficient in our training.

But therein lies a conundrum. Start with that new carbon fiber bike, and before you wear down the tires, you're dropping a grand on a graphical cardiovascular transponder. I just made that up, but if I thought it would make me faster, someone could probably talk me into buying one. When I dream of cycling – and I do dream about cycling – it's not about lactate thresholds, functional power, or VO2 max. It's about banking through an S-turn or weaving through single track in a pine forest. It's about the way moonlight cuts through the trees on a night ride, and how my hands become one with the drop bars on my road bike. It's about how cycling is closer to flying than any other activity on the face of the earth. And no amount of technology will substitute for that. ●

Lightning Protection!



# ASSOCIATED LIGHTNING

Rod Company, Inc

[www.alrci.com](http://www.alrci.com)

518-789-4603  
845-373-8309

## George Lagonia Jr, Inc.

FINE HOME BUILDERS & CUSTOM CABINETRY



[WWW.LAGONIACONSTRUCTION.COM](http://WWW.LAGONIACONSTRUCTION.COM)

E-MAIL: [GEORGE@LAGONIACONSTRUCTION.COM](mailto:GEORGE@LAGONIACONSTRUCTION.COM)

PHONE (518) 672-7712 • FAX (518) 672-7578 • P.O. BOX 201 • SPENCERTOWN, NY

## pieces

unique furnishings, lighting, jewelry  
and objects of interest!

Hours: Friday-Sunday 10-4  
2816 West Church Street (Rt.199), Pine Plains, NY  
914 388 0105 • [piecespineplains@gmail.com](mailto:piecespineplains@gmail.com)  
Like us on Facebook



(860) 435-1414 • [www.salisburywines.com](http://www.salisburywines.com) • [wine@salisburywines.com](mailto:wine@salisburywines.com)  
19 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068

# SALISBURY WINES

Wine, Spirits, Beer • Tastings/Classes

Open Monday - Saturday 10 to 7 and Sundays 11 to 5

# PALEY'S MARKET and GARDEN CENTER



We have everything you need for your container gardens!

Annuals • Perennials • Herbs • Nursery Stock  
Gorgeous Hanging Baskets & Planters ready to go  
Garden Pottery & Decor • Gifts for Garden & Home  
Gardening Tools, Supplies & Accessories

Our food market is now open for the season with  
fresh produce, specialty foods & baked goods.

**JUNE IS STRAWBERRY TIME!**

230 Amenia Rd. (Rt. 343) • Sharon, CT • 860-364-0674 • Open 7 days, 8-6

[www.PaleysMarket.com](http://www.PaleysMarket.com)

THE GOOD EARTH FARM ~ ESTABLISHED 1982



Zig's Stone & Tile Services  
Polishing & Restoration Specialists

Stone • Tile • Grout • Concrete • Marble • Granite • Limestone  
and more

*High Pressure - Steam Cleaning*  
Sanitizes ♦ Disinfects ♦ Kills Bacteria



*Clean it  
Polish it  
Seal it*

Fall in love with it again 

CALL ZIG 860-913-4473

[ZIGS.STS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ZIGS.STS@GMAIL.COM)

[WWW.STONEPOLISHINGCT.COM](http://WWW.STONEPOLISHINGCT.COM)

# The world of Lacrosse

By John Torsiello  
info@mainstreetmag.com

Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing sports in the US, whether it is played at the junior, high school, college, or professional level. It's an intense, action-packed, physical game that is attracting both boys and girls, men and women, to join in on the fun. And, despite its physicality, lacrosse is a relatively safe sport because of ample padding and helmets and strict rules.

US Lacrosse says it has 62 regional lacrosse and local lacrosse chapters located in 39 states. Among those chapters, there are approximately 400,000 players, coaches, officials, and fans. According to the group's website, youth participation has grown a whopping 138 percent since 2001, to nearly 300,000 with an estimated 228,000 high school players. By 2009, 557 collegiate teams were playing at the NCAA level.

According to the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, in 2010, a total of 1.6 million Americans played lacrosse, resulting in a 37.3 percent increase from 2009. And in 2001, Major League Lacrosse made its debut. It currently has eight teams participating; cities include Boston (Massachusetts), Charlotte (North Carolina), Chesapeake (Maryland), Denver (Colorado), Hamilton (Ontario), Long Island (New York), Columbus (Ohio), and Rochester (New York).

## Lacrosse-what?

For the uninitiated, lacrosse is played using a small rubber ball and a long-handled stick called a crosse or lacrosse stick. Offensively, the objective of the game is to score by shooting the ball into an opponent's goal past a goalie, using the lacrosse stick to catch, cradle, and pass the ball. Defensively, the objective is to keep the other team from scoring and to gain the ball through the use of stick checking and body contact or positioning. The sport consists



Above: The Millbrook girls team. Photo courtesy of Jillian Barnes.

of four position basics: midfield, attack, defense, and goalie. In field lacrosse, attackmen are only offensive players (except on the "ride," when the opposition tries to bring the ball upfield and attackmen must stop them), defensemen or defenders are defensive players (except when bringing up the ball, which is called a "clear"), the goalie is the last line of defense, and midfielders can go anywhere on the field and play offense and defense, although at higher levels of lacrosse there are specialized offensive and defensive mids. Long stick mids only play defense and come off on the field on offense.

It is said the game had its origins with Native American tribes, where dozens of warriors would literally battle over long distances, with the game often resulting in bloodshed. Of course, lacrosse is much more refined in these days, but it remains a contact sport and tests a player's strength and stamina.

## The lacrosse hotbed

The East Coast has typically been a hotbed of lacrosse. US Lacrosse is headquartered in Baltimore, MD, where the state proclaimed lacrosse to be its official team sport in 2004.

"Lacrosse has become very popular in the years it has been here," says Robert Gehlhoff, coach of the Millbrook High School boys team. "It is a quick moving game that involves a lot of athleticism, so things like those attract good athletes. It also helps when players have younger siblings, because most of the time they pass it down to them (we have two sets of siblings on this year's team). They practice at home frequently and make each other better that way."

Gehlhoff observes, "It's hard to say what the best aspects of the game are, but I have always found it the best sport to express your athleticism. It has elements of soccer, basketball, hockey, and even football. So many skills of those sports transfer easily to lacrosse, although it is a sport like no other at the same time"

Millbrook's boys team, which has two student-athletes from Webutuck High School on its team (Webutuck does not have a lacrosse program and is allowed to send students to play for Millbrook if they so desire), became a varsity

Continued on next page ...

program in 2011 after three years as a club team. “We have always had big teams despite being the smallest school with lacrosse in Section 9. This year, we have 29 players on the team.”

The team won six of its first 14 games this spring and was set to compete in the state sectionals. Millbrook has made sectionals every year of the program history.

**Millbrook’s girls team**

“Lacrosse is growing everywhere, which is a really great thing to see,” says Jillian Barnes, coach of the Millbrook girls squad. “By having a varsity team and having another sport option in the spring more young players are getting interested and more and more towns are creating recreation lacrosse leagues. As the younger ones see the success of the varsity program they get interested and work hard to one day be on that team. My hope is that we continue to grow and will take on a junior varsity and modified team in the future. Millbrook’s youth program has been very strong over the years with dedicated coaches, and that has led to our success as a varsity program.”

Barnes believes one of the attractions of lacrosse is that it can be easy to learn and pick up. “If girls have experience with basketball a lot of the same defensive concepts cross over. I grew up as a hockey player and was told to try lacrosse. Having good hand-eye coordination helps players pick up the throwing and catching pretty quickly. Some of the cutting and off-ball movement can be comparable to soccer, so athletes from other sports can pick the game up fairly quickly.” Another one of the big draws of the game is that it is very fast paced. Girls that enjoy a competitive, fast game are drawn to lacrosse, says Barnes.

As lacrosse started to grow in the Millbrook area, a lacrosse boys and girls club team was created. Lacrosse officially became a varsity sport for boys and girls at Millbrook in the 2010-11 school year. Says Barnes, “We started out with lots of new players, as many programs do, and we only won one game that first



Above: Members of the Millbrook boys team during a practice. Photo courtesy of Marcia Tanzman.

year. Our second year we started improving but only won two games. In our third year, we really broke out, the girls had now played with one another for many years, they worked hard, and the league also grew. That year we won 10 games and made it into the sectional playoffs for the first time. Since then we have been steadily growing and improving each year.”

This year, there are 21 girls on the Millbrook varsity, which includes all grades in high school and also eighth graders that pass physical fitness tests to “test up” to varsity. “We have become more and more successful as the years have passed,” says Barnes. “For the last two years we have made it to the Section 9 (Class C) championship game. Both years we have lost to Red Hook by one goal. This year we have played Red Hook twice and have beaten them both times.”

Millbrook won nine of its first 11 games, with its only two losses coming to Class A schools. Says the coach, “This year is shaping up to be our best yet and we will be chasing that Sectional title.”

**Housatonic’s team**

At Housatonic Regional High School in Falls Village, CT, they have been playing boys lacrosse since the mid-1990s when a small

group of students started a club team. “Initially, the program played anyone it could find in and around the area,” says head coach Steve Penner. “Over time, more teams locally have popped up and we play teams like Wamogo, Lewis Mills, and Watertown, which are part of the rather new Western Connecticut Lacrosse Conference. Club teams at Nonnewaug, Litchfield, and even Shepaug have also developed. So yes, the sport is growing in the area.”

Penner took over the Housy program four years ago. He’s a graduate of the school and played on some of the earliest teams. “Being a small school we struggle with numbers, but luckily we have been able to field a competitive team each year. This year we have about 18 guys playing and we are looking to go to our third straight state tournament.”

Penner believes lacrosse has become popular because it is fast and mixes elements of other sports, i.e., the stick handling of hockey, set offense and defense of basketball, the running and open field of soccer. “I think it can be appealing to kids for different reasons. Youth programs, such as Litchfield Lax and a yearly clinic put together by Salisbury Park and Recreation in coordination with the Hotchkiss School (Lakeville)

have been instrumental in growing the game among youngsters. They’re the best way for kids to start at a younger age. For the sport really to grow it needs to start there.”

Housatonic has also had a girls lacrosse team for 15 years. The first year the Mountaineers had 13 players, this year that number has grown to 24. “Every year we have improved,” says coach Spike Magyar. “Five years ago we founded the current league we are in, the Western Connecticut Lacrosse Conference.” Housy has finished second in three of the last four years, and two years ago the team won 13 games. The team won six of its first 11 games this season and was looking to make another run at a state tournament berth.

“Lacrosse has grown at our school through the success we have had as a team,” says Magyar. “But also the success our players have had at the college level has helped. We currently have two players playing Division II lacrosse at Southern Connecticut State University. We have had several players play on college teams or at the club level, and we have several that are currently being recruited. We also have alumni who come back and support the current team, and great parents. All of this has helped grow our program.” ●

# Jack's AUTO SERVICE INC.

4228 Route 22 Wassaic, New York 12592

[www.jacksautoservice.com](http://www.jacksautoservice.com)

845-373-9757

24/7 Towing & Road Side Assistance

M-F 8:00am-5:00pm Sat. 8:00am-12:00pm

## HUGS & KISSES FLORIST

(518) 398-0063

HUGSANDKISSES0063@YAHOO.COM

2957 CHURCH ST., PINE PLAINS, NY



Fine Wines & Spirits • Custom Engraving  
Gift Cards & Custom Gift Baskets

Tel: 845.373.8232 • Fax: 845.789.1234

5058 Route 22, Amenia, NY 12501

Open 7 Days: Mon-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 12-5pm

## W.B. CASE

PLUMBING HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

LLC.

15 years in business • Oil, Propane, Solar Thermal, Geothermal and Biomass heating systems • HVAC system design and installation • HS Tarm and Froling wood boiler dealer and installer • New construction, renovations and service of all Heating, Air Conditioning, Plumbing systems and well services

Williston B. Case III, Owner

SHARON, CT 860 364-2169

Fully Insured / License # P1 0280455 SI 0390683 STC 0000179 HIC 0634668



## Welcome Home SUMMER!

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A DRIVE.  
JOIN US FOR TEA & LUNCH.



HARNEY & SONS, 1 RAILROAD PLAZA, MILLERTON, NY | 518.789.2121  
ALWAYS ONLINE AT HARNEY.COM | 1.800.TEA.TIME  
SHOP OUR SELECTION OF FINE TEAS, TEAWARE & GIFTS

## JENNINGS & ROHN MONTAGE



NEVER A DULL MOMENT  
AT MONTAGE!

ANTIQUES – ARTS – EVENTS

860-485-3887 • 25 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY  
[www.jenningsandrohnantiques.com](http://www.jenningsandrohnantiques.com)



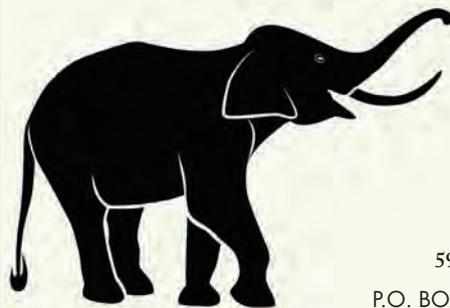
## Factory Lane Auto Repair

Dominick Calabro - owner  
(518) 398-5360 | 3 Factory Lane, Pine Plains, NY 12567

845.868.7085 C  
845.756.5009 H

# BOWEN BARN

ANTIQUES & MORE



"A  
CHAIR FOR  
EVERY  
ASS"

Sat. & Sun 11:00 to 5:00

5911 Route 82 Stanfordville NY

P.O. BOX 363 STANFORDVILLE NY 12581



## Horse Leap, LLC

A specialty tack shop

3314 ROUTE 343, AMENIA, NEW YORK 12501 • (845) 789-1177  
WWW.HORSELEAP.COM • OPEN 10-5, SUN 12-4, CLOSED TUES & WED



Ruge's has 2 locations in Rhinebeck & also in Copake • New & Used Subaru, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, RAM, GMC & other fine vehicles • Personal & Commercial • Sales, Service, Parts • Family operated since 1935 • [www.rugesauto.com](http://www.rugesauto.com)

Prevention, wellness and  
healing in partnership  
with caregivers



Millerton  
Veterinary  
Practice

CAROLYN CANNON, DVM | KATIE VAGLIANO, DVM | JACY CYR, DVM

Integrative medicine & surgery | Therapeutic Laser  
Acupuncture | Chiropractic

518-789-3440 | millertonvet.com | MVPonlineRX.com

Featuring

## Ken Musselman

in the gallery from June 1st through the 30th



Ken Musselman, Beach Party Bovine Triptych, 18x36" each, acrylic on canvas



GILDED MOON FRAMING  
& GALLERY

17 John Street • Millerton, NY • 518.789.3428 • [www.gmframing.com](http://www.gmframing.com)



## Nashalla Sailing

Sailing charters and lessons for grown-ups on Twin Lakes. (888) 217-7233. nashallasailing.com

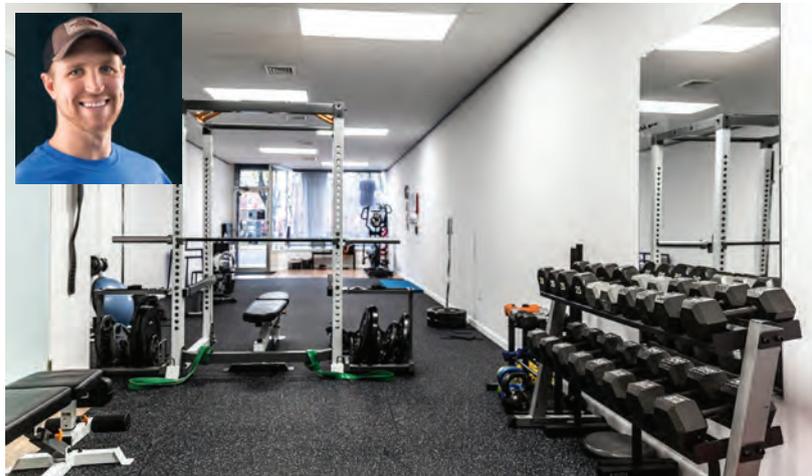
Nina Anderson, owner of Nashalla Sailing, is a retired commercial pilot who has been a competitive sailboat racer for over 50 years, including winning two national championships. She now wants to encourage others to explore the sport of sailing and has been offering lessons and charters on Twin Lakes in Salisbury for three years. People from all walks of life have come from the Tri-state area to enjoy a sail on one of Northwest Connecticut's largest lakes with beautiful views of the mountains. She chose an Aquarius 21 as her mini "yacht" because it has a large comfortable cockpit, a roomy cabin, and a foredeck large enough for sun bathing. The shoreline of Twin Lakes is populated with many residences, Isola Bella camp, and a wildlife area. O'Hara's Landing, complete with a great restaurant, is the only public launching area for trailer boats. Nina chose Twin Lakes because it is not over-populated with power boats and provides a delightful area to sail with a good supply of wind. After a long relaxing day of being out on the lake, continue to let your body relax at The Interlaken Inn. They offer deals that includes a two night stay and a sailing charter on Nashalla. Nina works with other area inns as well to provide a unique activity for their guests. Happy sailing!



## Hollis Gonerka Bart LLP

Legal services for businesses, entrepreneurs, and executives. (518) 771-3031 or (646) 398-0066. hgbllp.com

The law firm of Hollis Gonerka Bart LLP provides legal services for businesses, executives, entrepreneurs, and charitable organizations needing assistance with business, contractual, employment, litigation, and intellectual property matters. The firm is known for its thorough yet tactical approach. "We take pride in tackling challenging issues and bringing them to a swift resolution that is practical and achieves the client's objectives," says founding partner, Hollis Bart, celebrating 30 years in practice. With offices in Pine Plains and New York City, lawyers licensed in NY and CT, and an established referral network throughout the US, the firm supports an interesting and diverse clientele for whom efficiency, confidentiality, superior client service, and results are paramount, making it the boutique law firm clients have come to trust. Among the firm's clients are advertising, media and public relations firms, a leading executive search firm, a local landscape design firm, a world-renowned entertainer, family offices, and top flight executives from the financial services, retail, consumer, media, health care, art, and fine wine industries. The firm serves as general outside counsel to privately-owned businesses, and is proud to serve as *pro-bono* counsel to Pine Plains Memorial Hall, a non-profit organization dedicated to transforming a historic site into a cultural arts and community center.



## KS Fitness and Personal Training

Classes, training, and more! 6 Park Place, Hudson, NY. (518) 937-4802. ksfitness.fit

KS Fitness and Personal Training started in 2013 as a private in-home training business run by Kent Sammons. After achieving his Personal Trainer Certification, Kent finally found a home for KS Fitness in Hudson in late 2015. At the studio you will find private personal training sessions, bike classes, Bike-Abs classes, station classes, and much more. He also offers online custom workout plans like a 90-Day Reset Academy Do-It-Yourself Plan that gives clients a framework for 90 days to work out on their own (it is modifiable to each person). When clients have one-on-one classes they get the whole studio to themselves. Workout routines are written solely based on the client and the goals they want to achieve, and continue to evolve as the client proceeds on their path to fitness and health – keeping it exciting and new, never boring or monotonous. Kent sees the business continuing to grow and would love to bring in more trainers to help build a community. "I love seeing my clients' faces when they start to see the change happening. It is so humbling to hear these stories, and to be thanked for helping a person get on the path to health and wellness. I will never stop being excited every time they walk through the front door!"



## Brothers Landscaping

Professional landscaping and contracting services. Craryville, NY. (518) 339-1796 or (518) 339-1354. Like us on Facebook!

Brothers Landscaping is owned and operated by James and Tucker McNamee. They started out at the young ages of ten and 11. Their parents taught them strong work ethics and they learned the value of a dollar growing up – good job Mom and Dad! They are a family-owned and operated full-service landscaping company that provides lawn mowing, snow plowing, spring/fall clean up, land clearing, excavation, tree work, driveway rebuild/repair, forestry mowing/land reclamation, site/building prep, brush hogging, stone walkways, contracting, gardening, lawn installs, and landscape design. Brothers Landscaping services Columbia and Dutchess Counties, Western MA, Northwestern CT, and the surrounding areas. The most rewarding part of the job for the brothers is the ability to wake up each morning with smiles on their faces because they truly enjoy what they do. They take pride in their work and that is the reason they are still growing today! Going forward they hope to continue down the path that they are going by providing all of their customers with top-notch quality work. Brothers Landscaping likes to say, "Your comfort is our concern."

## INSURING YOUR WORLD

BUMBERSHOOT ANYONE!!! I bet I have at least 90% of the readers perplexed by this term? I'll give you a hint, it comes from Olde English heritage and has to do with a type of insurance policy that we all should have or at the very least, consider. Back in the 1600s when the shipping magnates got together in the Lloyds tea houses to discuss insuring cargo among other things, liability was also an issue. What would happen if someone was sued for more than they had liability coverage for? You would need to purchase an UMBRELLA or BUMBERSHOOT POLICY which derives from the definition of bumper or umbrella and shoot which is parachute! So take this as your opportunity to call your insurance agent and ask if you have sufficient bumbershoot limits – or perhaps that you would like such a policy of protection, they will be surprised at your newly found insurance acumen. But seriously, please do consider a liability umbrella policy. They can be as inexpensive as \$200 per \$1 million of coverage for your personal exposures and \$400 for a commercial policy. You'll be happy you did, should you be sued for more than your underlying limits!

Kirk Kneller  
Phone 518.329.3131  
1676 Route 7A, Copake, N.Y.



Brad Peck, Inc.

## House layout problems?

**Are you unhappy with the layout of your house? Is the living room wall in the way, or is the kitchen opening too small? Do you find yourself tempted to knock down the wall to get your much-desired layout?**

If your answer is yes – WAIT! Before you begin demolition, you need to make sure that the wall is not load-bearing. If it is, you have two options: 1. either call in a qualified professional to do the work for you, or 2. if you are thinking about tackling this project yourself, it is still highly advisable that you consult a professional to help avoid a catastrophic failure to the structure of your home.

A load-bearing wall is essentially the backbone of your house's structure. You have multiple load bearing walls in your house, which hold the floor load, roof load, or a combination of the two. These walls are designed to transfer the weight across/down to your concrete wall or concrete footing. If you want to remove such a wall, the load still needs to be carried and it is highly advised that you consult an engineer about how to proceed. The engineer can then map out the best way to open up the wall and re-distribute the weight safely and correctly.

If your dream is to remove a certain wall in your home and it is a load-bearing wall, don't be discouraged! Everything is do-able with the right amount of knowledge and safety.

Fridrik Kristjansson  
518.929.7482  
fridrik006@hotmail.com  
www.naileditbuilding.com

**NAILED IT**  
*Building & Construction*

## Dollars & sense

"A home is the largest single investment most people will make in their lifetime," says David Fountain, Vice President, Lending Officer at Bank of Millbrook. "The best place to start is by assessing your financial situation and determining what you can afford."

**Review your finances.** A good guideline is that your current monthly expenses plus your potential mortgage payment, homeowner's insurance, taxes, condo fees, and home maintenance fall in a range of no more than 36 to 43 percent of your monthly income. Shop for homes that fall within this range.

**Check your credit score.** Many lenders rely on the Fair Isaac Corporation (FICO) credit score. To learn more about improving your credit score, visit [www.myfico.com](http://www.myfico.com).

**Organize your finances before you go to the bank.** Your loan officer will want to see pay stubs, tax returns, and financial statements that are less than 60 days old, as well as copies of additional monthly payments such as car loans, credit cards, and student loans. You should bring any additional information you think will help your banker evaluate your financial situation.

**Factor in closing costs.** There are costs associated with closing the sale of a home. They can vary and will depend on the purchase price and whether a real estate attorney or title/escrow company is in the transaction. By law, lenders are required to give you a written estimate of closing costs within three days of accepting your loan application.

Stacey M. Langenthal  
Executive Vice President  
(845) 677-5321 x102

 **BANK OF MILLBROOK**  
*The Strength of Relationships*

## DOES ADVERTISING *really* WORK?

Many business owners out there may be sceptical about the effectiveness of advertising and marketing – and rightfully so. The simple truth is that not all advertising nor marketing works. As a result, business owners might believe that it can be both a waste of time, and even worse, a waste of money to advertise. But not so fast! Keep an open mind.

If you are of the mind that advertising and marketing your business are a waste of time, let me ask you a few questions: 1. Do your vehicles and or office have your logo on them? 2. Do you have a website? 3. Does your business have a social media presence? 4. When you Google your business, does it show up at the top and with favorable results? 5. In your last advertising campaign, was your ad eye-catching, to the point, did it attract your specified target clientele, and was it placed in a media (magazine, TV, radio) where your target audience was likely to see it?

If you answered "yes" to at least one of these questions, you're already ahead of the game. If you answered "yes" to a number of them – congratulations, you're already marketing your business!

Consider this: your vehicles, with your logo and website listed, are rolling billboards! Your website is an information-source about- and for your business for the entire world to see and learn about you. Being on social media allows you to connect with people who you might not normally connect with. These are all outlets to market your business.

But how successful your marketing efforts might be is a totally different story. You might be doing all of these things and not getting any calls. Then it is time to take a hard look at your brand, messaging, and marketing. No one said marketing was easy, nor is there one approach. But it can be fun, and more importantly, advertising can work!

**thorunn** *Designs*

518.592.1135 | [thorunn@thorunn designs.com](mailto:thorunn@thorunn designs.com)  
[www.thorunn designs.com](http://www.thorunn designs.com) | 52 Main Street, Millerton, NY

# WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?

## ARIES (March 21–April 19)

You're feeling strong and it's not advisable for others to question you right now. Try to gain the upper hand, you'll feel better.

## TAURUS (April 20–May 20)

Changes are coming and they'll enable you to show your inner strength.

## GEMINI (May 21–June 20)

You're following your eccentric ideas. Those ideas also allow you to see all the wonderful things around you.

## CANCER (June 21–July 22)

Don't let your opponent win! Search with full force within yourself for what you want. Happiness comes from within your heart, not your head.

## LEO (July 23–Aug. 22)

Give yourself time to take care of your family. Pat yourself on the back for having the courage to do things.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22)

You have a desire to reach others, and you should apply yourself to do just that. News from the outside world are throwing you off balance.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22)

A lot of things can bring you joy, and they don't have to cost lot. Share your feelings with those that deserve to be let into your inner circle.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21)

It's your turn to organize the next friendly get-together, but don't worry about it! Life is smiling at you.

## SAGITTARIUS

### (Nov. 22–Dec. 21)

Someone is trying to impress you with their initiative, either in personal relations or business. But don't let anyone force you into something.

## CAPRICORN

### (Dec. 22–Jan. 19)

Controlling other people is an art form. You're going to get blamed for something you didn't do. And someone is going to flail around when you demand answers.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18)

It's dangerous to take life literally. Don't lower your head in shame even if you did wrong, everyone is human.

## PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20)

It's as if everything is going your way, and you should take advantage of it! Good company will raise you up, join the group and achieve a victory.

# SPRING FOR SOUND 2016

**SIX YEARS RUNNING-MILLERTON'S HIGHLY REGARDED 'DIY' INDIE MUSIC FESTIVAL THAT INCITES "DANCING IN THE STREETS" CONTINUES TO FILL THE VILLAGE WITH LIVE MUSIC FOR AN ENTIRE DAY TO BENEFIT THE NECC**

This summer marks the sixth year for what has become one of the most highly attended and anticipated events in the Hudson Valley's music festival circuit. SPRING FOR SOUND 2016 takes over the Village of Millerton in Dutchess County on **Saturday, June 11th from 10am to midnight.**

SPRING FOR SOUND is an all-day, rain-or-shine event that takes place in the middle of the beautiful walking village of Millerton, NY. Proceeds from tickets sales will be donated to support the vital programming of the North East Community Center in Millerton, now celebrating 26 years of service. Spring for Sound is co-produced by local residents Mimi Ramos and Kristen Panzer, in partnership with the North East Community Center.

Festival goers are always treated to a family-friendly event with a unique variety of indie-band music for people of all ages. This year's festival is no exception and will feature; The Nice Ones who made their debut performance five years ago at Spring for Sound; the crowd-pleasing hip hop artist Buddha Da Great; Take One Car (intelligent, experimental indie-rockers from Poughkeepsie) and Spring For Sound's founding band, The Kyles, who have brand new songs and a new guitarist.

Opening the festival on Saturday morning with a new twist is a special "Oldtone Roots" line-up featuring The Hayrollers, Bash Bish Blue Grass Band and The Lucky Five. This festive "hootenanny" will kick off at 10:00 am during the Millerton Farmers Market on the Village Green, which will be transformed into Spring for Sound's NXNE Venue, with music all day on relay stages at opposite ends of the green.

Team SFS 2016 is excited to welcome back CT's death-funk trio, Lespecial, (aggressive dance music to turn heads before the Apocalypse!) and last year's SFS addition, The Big Takeover, a reggae party band out of New Paltz featuring a killer horn section and the dynamic vocals of front woman NeeNee Rushie.

This year will feature new stages/venues along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail corridor and an actual street takeover with a block party vibe. Details on that are t.b.a.

Food trucks, kid fun, hula hoop party with DJ Doctor – it's Millerton's homegrown music festival.

More bands continue to sign on. Visit [Springforsound.com](http://Springforsound.com) for details, tickets and band updates. In the last five years, SPRING FOR SOUND has donated over \$22,000 to the NECC and they are looking to increase that number substantially in 2016.

ABOUT NECC: The North East Community Center brings vital programming to local residents of all ages and means, from Growing Together and Mom's Morning Out groups, to Teen Team, after-school programming, income tax preparation assistance, the Care Car, The Millerton Farmers Market, and much more.



# MEN IN WHITE

To those unfamiliar with the sport, **Cricket** bears a passing resemblance to baseball – just seemingly played in slow motion so games last for days with batsmen running a mere 66ft between two sets of two-foot sticks rather than around the bases to score a roar-inducing home run. To those in the know however cricket is a game of skill, cunning and speed unrivalled by any other sport. There is a reason why the millions upon millions of residents of the Indian subcontinent treat their countries' players as demi-Gods!

Rumored to have begun in 12th century England, **June 25th starting at 11am**, sees Lakeville welcoming players for its inaugural cricket match at the Community Field. This wide green area, more habitually used as a soccer field or dog running venue, will have been carefully groomed into the traditional 500' plus "Oval" pitch that cricket requires. Two teams of eleven men in white will take to the pitch alternating between the position of Batsmen, Bowler, and Fielders.

Organized by local resident David Shillingford, this one-day game is being played as a fundraiser for the local Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service. Shillingford is somewhat of an old-hand at gathering together veterans of a Commonwealth upbringing – most of whom it has to be said have not been in close proximity to a cricket bat since their schooldays, let alone have a leather-covered stone ball whistle pass their temples at 60 mph – having organized a similar event on Shelter Island for the last five summers. "For all those ex-pats who dream about playing cricket again, this is your 'money where your mouth is' opportunity to get out there on the pitch," says Shillingford. "And the chance for all of us – locals, part-timers, and visitors alike – to give something back to this community. The one thing you can be sure of with the Ambulance Service is you never know when you are going to need it, so best plan ahead!"

Entrance to the event is free. And for those who might need a break from the Wickets, Overs, and "Howzats!", there will be a traditional English fête with children's games, food, and drink.

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/salisburycricket](http://www.facebook.com/salisburycricket). For anyone interested in playing, email [djs002@gmail.com](mailto:djs002@gmail.com).





what's your relationship status?

## discover the benefits of relationship checking!

- ✓ **FREE** Mobile Banking with Mobile e-Deposit<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ **FREE** Check Printing for Special Relationship Checks
- ✓ **FREE** Money Orders and Official Checks (Treasurer's Checks)
- ✓ Receive many exclusive benefits<sup>2</sup> like this and more ...

learn more at [salisburybank.com/relationship](https://salisburybank.com/relationship)



Connecticut | Massachusetts | New York  
860.435.9801 | 413.528.1201 | 845.877.9850

[salisburybank.com](https://salisburybank.com)

<sup>1</sup>Eligibility requirements apply for Mobile e-Deposit service. Must be a Salisbury Bank customer 18 years of age or older, with a Relationship Checking account, e-Banking, a mobile device and the Salisbury Bank Mobile App.

<sup>2</sup>You must maintain an aggregate minimum daily balance of \$15,000 in any linked Checking, Savings, Premier Money Market account or Certificate of Deposit, including IRAs to avoid the \$15 monthly service charge. Your linked account(s) must have the same owners. Fees may reduce earnings. Available for personal accounts only. Certain restrictions may apply, please contact a Customer Associate at 860.435.9801. Please see our separate Fee Schedule for other fees that may apply to this account.