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'A sad day'



Photography by Norm Cummings

A swift-moving thunderstorm featuring high winds struck down several trees in and near the village center of New Milford Monday afternoon. Above, a large section broke off from the left of two large maples fronting the New Milford Hospital property at the intersection of East and Elm streets with Park Lane (Route 202). When the tree split, much of it fell directly into its sister tree, causing sufficient damage that both trees needed to be taken down. By the next morning, many passersby no doubt rubber-necked as they drove by the scene. "It's a sad day," commented Carlos Caridad, a longtime CL&P official who specializes in arbor work.

The 'best foliage in New England'

Yankee Magazine bestows that honor on town of Kent

By Susan Tuz
Staff Writer

Kent First Selectman Bruce Adams is already coining phrases to express the honorific title of "No. 1 Best Foliage Town in New England" bestowed on his town by Yankee Magazine in its September/October issue.

"I'm thinking we might call ourselves the Foliage Capital of New England," Mr. Adams said Wednesday.

"It's great for the town, but not a total surprise," he reflected. "I've always thought our foliage was wonderful.

"And it's not just our foliage they rated us on," Mr. Adams noted. "It's cultural mix, things to do, covered bridges — we're the whole package."

The Yankee article, "Top 25 Foliage Towns in New England," is an overview of 25 New England towns ranked using 14 categories that comprise the attributes of a perfect foliage outing.

Scenery, color intensity, scenic drives, farmers' markets, covered bridges were all considered.

Yankee Magazine Editor Mel Allen noted Wednesday some people would be surprised that the magazine hadn't chosen a town in northern New England as No. 1. But all categories considered, the honor clearly went to Kent.

"We went looking for a total (foliage) experience," Mr. Allen said. "With scenic Route 7, the Housatonic River and walking the Appalachian Trail all part of visiting Kent, along with the town's array of galleries and shops — Kent showed that you could enjoy the best foliage experience right here."

The article's author, Michael Blanding, agrees.

See Magazine on S5

Agway set to bloom at old Mark Ford site

By Susan Tuz
Staff Writer

A new business deal is a win-win for New Milford and two longtime local business owners.

Agriventure Agway gar-

den center owners Dave O'Leary and Brian Leonard plan to lease 12,500 square feet of the former Mark Ford car dealership from property owner Mark Paladino.

The dealership, at 493

Danbury Road, closed in mid-April.

Mr. O'Leary and Mr. Leonard have lost their lease on the state-owned property at 376 Danbury Road, near New Milford High School.

Knowing they had to move by fall, they began working with New Milford Economic Development Supervisor Vin Nolan to find a new location in the south end of town.

They have a second

local garden center on Housatonic Avenue, near the downtown, plus one in Danbury and one in Torrington.

"It's a nice, clean property along Route 7," Mr. O'Leary said Tuesday

about the Mark Ford site.

"A lot of businesses are opening along this end of town, and we wanted to stay to the south," he explained. "We're taking the main back area (of the

See Agway on S5

Former New Milford civic leader dies at 84

By Susan Tuz
Staff Writer

The town of New Milford and especially the Canterbury School community are mourning the loss of 1943 Canterbury graduate and the devoted trustee of 30

years, Stephen N. Hume.

A longtime local civic leader, Mr. Hume, 84, died Aug. 11 at his home on Hilton Head Island, S.C.

He was the son of the late May Hume and Dr. Nelson Hume, founding headmaster of Canter-

bury, a private school located on Aspetuck Avenue on the hill above the Village Green.

"He was a real gentleman, a wonderful man," said J.P. Mandler, dean of the school, who has been at Canterbury since 1971.

Mr. Mandler recalled

what former Headmaster Rod Clark said when Mr. Hume was awarded the Canterbury Medal in 1997:

"Stephen Hume brought the purest view to the board of trustees by his long connection with the school... he never

blurred the present with the past... he brought a keen sensibility and judgment to the board," Mr. Mandler read Monday from the announcement of that day.

Mr. Hume held a law degree from Columbia

See Former on S5



Stephen N. Hume

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Unleashed proves a welcome alternative for canine pet lovers.
Home Front — S6

KINGS OF THE HILL

New Milford youths reign in New England baseball competition.
Sports — S10-11

BACK TO SCHOOL

Find out where the bus will stop for New Milford students.
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Magazine praises Kent's foliage

Continued from S1

"The profusion of crimson and gold that leaps off the Litchfield Hills to reflect in the winding course of the Housatonic River is at times nothing short of breathtaking," Mr. Blanding writes in the two pages devoted to Kent in his 58-page article comprised of photographs and paragraph descriptions of the other 24 towns.

"... (F)armstands and covered bridges, the waterfalls and antiques stores... framed by the colors of our most glorious season

... All of these things Kent has in abundance," Mr. Blanding continues.

Kent photographer Randy O'Rourke shot the photo to spread that accompanies Mr. Blanding's article. "There are a lot of beautiful sights in town," Mr. O'Rourke said. "Kent Falls' foliage is a spectacular mix of pines and deciduous trees that create a nice mix of dark green with brilliant oranges and reds."

A Kent resident for 21 years, Mr. O'Rourke doubts there is a locale in town he's missed.

"There are certain areas on The Appalachian Trail where you can look down at the Housatonic River winding through the valley with its fantastic, sunlit mix of reds, yellows and oranges," he observed.

Kent Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors member John Casey said he was "pleased" when he got the news of Yankee Magazine's pick.

"This will be a great thing for the merchants in town," said Mr. Casey, who owns The Green, a cluster of 20 shops and

businesses in the town.

"This will give us a recognition we welcome and that our town deserves," he said. "It will bring visitors who we will welcome with open arms."

Three other Connecticut towns were listed in Yankee's ranking: East Haddam, The Cornwalls, and Litchfield.

The September/October issue of Yankee Magazine was scheduled to arrive subscribers' mail Thursday, Aug. 19. It will be on newsstands starting Aug. 24.

Agway coming to old Mark Ford site

Continued from S1

Mark Ford building) that was the repair shop."

The new location, to open in mid-September, will have an 8,000-square-foot showroom and outdoor display. The focus will be on pet care, home and garden prod-

ucts and other Agway merchandise.

Agventure Agway will continue to offer nursery plants and indoor plants, as well as landscaping service. A pet-grooming service will be added.

"I call this a 'two-for,'" said Mr. Nolan. "We've

got a major property that will stay active, and we retain a very good, upstanding business that does a lot for the community."

Mr. Paladino said Agventure Agway will be a "great tenant for the location," and he plans to find a second tenant to share

the 26,000-square-foot building.

"This is a very good match," Mr. Paladino said. "I think the exposure will be great for Dave and Brian, and they will... benefit another business locating here with the traffic they will generate."

Former New Milford civic leader dies at 84

Continued from S1

University and, after eight years in practice in New York City, he opened an office in his hometown of New Milford as a member of the firm Cramer, Blick, Fitzgerald and Hume, which by merger became Cramer & Anderson in 1962.

Hank Anderson, a founding partner in the firm, remembered Mr. Hume on Monday as "a very capable lawyer, extremely businesslike."

"He was an excellent partner," Mr. Anderson observed. "He stood for no foolishness. One of his major accomplishments was in education in New Milford."

Mr. Hume served on the town's Board of Education from 1960 to 1971, as chair-

man from 1963 to 1971.

Stanley Setear, onetime principal at John Pettibone School and later the assistant superintendent of schools, was an admirer of Mr. Hume.

"When the history of the New Milford public schools is written about Board of Education members who have profoundly shaped its growth and quality," said Mr. Setear, "the name of Steve Hume must stand among the best."

Paul Bourdeau, now retired, was assistant principal at New Milford High School in 1962, was principal of John Pettibone School and became the first principal of Schaghticoke Middle School when it opened in 1972.

"Stephen felt strongly

about the importance of public education," Mr. Bourdeau said Monday. "He was a real gentleman, stable in his department and ability to speak. He was a great example for children."

Mr. Bourdeau found Mr. Hume to be an "outstanding" member of the town school board. A devoted family man who "embraced Christian values," Mr. Hume's actions on the board were always in the "best interest of the children," Mr. Bourdeau said.

Richard Pugh, former CEO of New Milford Hospital, was hired by Mr. Hume, who served on the hospital's board of directors from 1962 to 1987 and was chairman of the board from 1977 to 1987.

"It always amazes me when I see people who devote so much of their time to the betterment of the community, and Stephen Hume was such a person," Mr. Pugh said.

Mr. Pugh said Mr. Hume presided over the board allowing all points of view to be aired while knowing when to end the discussion and reach a decision.

"I was a very young CEO at the time, and he allowed me to grow in my position," Mr. Pugh recalled. "He brought a great deal of wisdom to the decision-making that took place. They were good years for the hospital under his leadership."

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