

# TAB K

## SAT Participation High in State, But Educator Thinks Test Scores Could be Better

By TIM FITZMAURICE  
Staff Reporter

FALLS VILLAGE—A new state Department of Education study reports that Connecticut had the highest student participation rate in the nation on this year's Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), but the state's education commissioner said average test scores should be higher.

admission standard. Dr. Theodore S. Sergi, acting state commissioner of education, reported this week that the DOE study indicates significant test participation gains as well as average SAT score declines. Connecticut's 80.8% student participation rate was first in the nation with 25,569 of the state's high school seniors taking the 1994 SAT, an impressive increase from only 68.7% in 1985 and nearly twice the 42% national average this year.

Female students, who historically post lower average SAT scores than male students, equaled the 426 male average state score this year on the verbal portion of the test and exceeded the national average score for women by five points (see chart). The 454 average female score on the SAT math section this year, however, was far below the average male score of 492.

Racial disparity is evident in SAT results with the DOE reporting that a "persistent gap between minority and non-minority student scores continues to illustrate the inequities of the 'Two Connecticut' state.

While SAT participation was up this year, the average test scores were down with Connecticut's average score on the verbal section of the test dropping four points to 426 and the state's average score on the SAT math portion falling two points to 472 after a four-point gain in 1993, that brought the state's average math score to a seven-year high.

## Average SAT Participation and Scores for Connecticut, Region 1 Students

Year	Statewide		Region 1		
	% Verbal	% Math	% Verbal	% Math	NA
1994	80.8	426	426	454	492
1993	79.6	431	428	454	475
1992	79.2	435	426	491	471
1991	78.9	431	427	489	461
1990	73.4	433	427	490	471
1989	74.3	444	427	496	451
1988	67.7	443	430	447	462

\* 1994 figures are not available from NYSATS, which does not break out scores by gender. SOURCE: "The College Board, the state Department of Education and Housatonic Valley Regional High School guidance office. —The Lakeville Journal, Sept. 8, 1994

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## 20 Year Old Land Trust Instrumental In Protecting 6000 Scenic Town Acres

By GEORGE BOOKMAN  
Special to The Lakeville Journal



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT A. HATCH

Among the founders of the Salisbury Land Trust are Doris Walker and Gus Pope, seated, and Mich Finlay and Bill Morrill, standing. They and others in town have protected 3000 acres under permanent conservation easements to the trust, preserving the land from future development.

With more than 3000 acres of scenic land under permanent protection, The Salisbury Land Trust, a committee of the Salisbury Association, is marking its 20th anniversary this year.

In that time, a number of town residents has given acreage and conservation easements of property to the trust, thus saving the land from future development.

With the help and encouragement of the land trust, another 3000 acres have been conveyed to the National Park Service to protect the Appalachian Trail, and other important properties have been given as parkland to the town.

Today a total of 16% of the town's acreage — some 12,000 acres — is under some form of protection. This includes another 6000 acres under the wing of private conservation groups, government agencies and institutional owners such as the town's several prep schools, its churches, the Mt. Riga Association, and the watershed of the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company.

With 20 years of successful history behind it, the Salisbury Land Trust continues as a leader in this community program for preserving natural beauty and open space for future generations.

remarked, "You know, in California that ridge would be covered by houses now."

"That got me to thinking of what could happen under permanent protection, this town," Mr. Pope recalls. He began looking into the possibilities of establishing a non-profit land trust that could be an instrument for preserving the area's scenic beauty.

At about the same time Bill Morrill, a young IBM lawyer, had moved to the area and, at the invitation of the Berkshire-Litchfield Environmental Council, he began to organize opposition to a power development in Canaan planned by Northeast Utilities that would have flooded thousands of scenic areas in the adjoining town.

Morrill soon joined Pope in making preliminary plans for a land trust. Mich Finlay, then president of the Salisbury Association, offered to set up the trust as a branch of the association, thereby simplifying the necessary legalities involved.

One of the first steps was to contact The Open Space Institute in New York City for background information. Next, an invitation was issued to a speaker from the Greenwich Land Trust in Southern Connecticut, one of the first and most successful of the land preservation organizations in the nation.

The speaker explained how the Greenwich Land Trust had acted to preserve the Mianus Gorge, standing off as a branch of the Greenwich Audubon Society, which already had an established tax exemption. Later, the Greenwich Land Trust affiliated with The Nature Conservancy, which works nationwide to preserve important natural sites.

The Salisbury Land Trust followed a similar path, using The Nature Conservancy to receive its earliest gifts until the land trust became part of The Salisbury Association, and could qualify for tax exemption in its own right.

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## Salisbury Town Meeting Adopts Tax and Foreclosure Ordinances

By TIM FITZMAURICE  
Staff Reporter

SALISBURY — New property tax abatement and foreclosure ordinances were enacted at a special town meeting Tuesday that also approved nearly \$170,000 in transfers from the general fund to cover budget deficits.

at the meeting allowing the town to auction off foreclosure properties to recoup back taxes.

Trotta said the foreclosure ordinance was enacted on the advice of Town Counsel Ralph Elliot "to protect town interests."

The town's initial auction offer may not exceed taxes owed on the foreclosed property plus related costs. Surplus funds generated were also approved at the Tuesday evening town

meeting to cover cost overruns on three budget line items.

A property tax refund deficit of \$22,444 involved the resolution of property revaluation disputes, principally a settlement pursued by landowner Adolph Mueller.

Town Hall window frame damage not covered by insurance and the installation of electric heaters in the

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## You'll Dial 203 for In-State Phone Calls After Sept. 24

By ROBERT B. LONGLEY  
Staff Reporter

LAKEVILLE — Starting Sept. 24, Connecticut residents making long distance telephone calls or sending faxes within the state will have to dial 203 before the seven digit number. The new system will set the stage for the advent of the state's second area code — to be introduced within the next five years.

And automatic dialers in computer modems and faxes will all have to be adjusted if the call is outside the immediate dialing area.

Only customer convenience is affected. The cost for in-state long distance calls will not be affected by the new procedure, according to Southern New England Telephone (SNET) spokesman Bill Sockamp.

But the additional dialing will undoubtedly prove frustrating to callers who are used to dialing 1 plus the number to reach a number elsewhere in the state. The always annoying computer-generated voice informing one that their "call can't go through" will greet those who forget the 203 addition.

Under the new plan, callers from Salisbury dialing Winsted or Kent, for instance, will have to punch 1-203 before the number they're calling. Instead of the current 1 plus the number.

A new ordinance was also enacted

## Village Center Adds 20 New Parking Spots

By TIM FITZMAURICE  
Staff Reporter

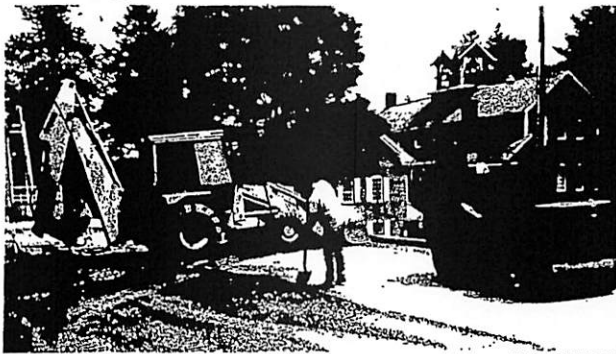


PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE REID

A town crew worker puts finishing touches on the newly created parking area in Lakeville which became available this month. Some 20 new parking spaces have been carved out of Centennial Park, the biggest increase in parking spots in recent memory.

## Life in China Is Sobering to Farmers

By CHARLOTTE REID  
Staff Reporter

LAKEVILLE — In the normal course of events, Malcolm MacLaren is happily occupied tending 75 sheep, 100 cows and 50 pigs on his Lakeville farm. For several years he and his wife, Linda have been purchasing each week with a Saturday trip to Manhattan's farmers' markets to sell meat from the farm.

But last month he went a lot farther than just from Lakeville to Manhattan. On August 12, he flew to China with a delegation of 11 other farmers to spend the better part of two weeks talking to Chinese farm leaders about a subject very dear to his heart: "sustainable" agriculture whereby farmers use minute amounts of fertilizer and as few other artificial, man-made ingredients as possible.

"China has 21% of the world population, but only 7% of the world's arable land," MacLaren said. "Erosion is a major problem for them. They face tremendous pressure from their grow-

ing population and consumer demands. Their population is going up 1.6% a year. Their gross national product is increasing 12% a year. If they keep using their water and gas and other resources to force food production to artificially high levels, they will be spoiling the land for future generations and doing it at the expense of the environment."

So, MacLaren talked to Chinese farmers about rotational grazing, about using minimal spraying directed at actual rows of corn rather than spraying a whole field, about using natural products like rock phosphate rather than artificially made urea that takes tremendous amounts of gas and oil and water to manufacture.

He came away with some very distinct impressions from his brief visit. First, the smog in Beijing, which is a

major problem. MacLaren said, "The coal they use has 8 to 10% sulfur content which is coming out of the chimneys as sulfur dioxide. It was very hot in Beijing and the smog made us uncomfortable."

He came back still coughing. "I have never felt more crowded in my life than I did in the railroad station in Beijing. The crowds were huge but very orderly," he said. "You had your own space even in the crowds. Perhaps part of it is because they don't look you in the eye or push you."

He was impressed with the booming economy they saw wherever they went — the busy markets and the new buildings going up everywhere. "We saw lots of small brick factories with clay piled on one side of the building — and finished bricks coming out the other side."

The strength of the work ethic in China compared to Russian attitudes impressed MacLaren. "You would see these heavily loaded vehicles built like tricycles except the back wheel was behind a big box full of heavy cables and sometimes the wife and children would have to be behind pushing."

LAKEVILLE — The long-standing village parking shortage was resolved in part last week with the completed renovation of space in Bicentennial Park.

A stone wall fronting the park has been removed to expand a narrow lane behind the commercial Factory Building into a flat rectangular space yielding about 20 additional free parking spaces. Existing parking near the new site is also available toward the rear of The Factory business complex where the Lakeville Fitness Center and other shops are located.

"No Parking" signs have been posted on both sides of nearby Holley Street to discourage congestion, but the prohibition was rarely enforced except during snowstorms when the narrow street must be cleared for town snowplow access.

The town owns and maintains the new public parking lot, which will be paved in the near future.

Peter Oliver, owner of The Factory See PARKING, Page A14



PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLOTTE REID MALCOLM MAC LAREN Seeing China's Problems First Hand

**THIS WEEK**  
inside this journal for September 8-1994  
see what you will find these features and special sections

- A5-NORFOLK**  
Landfill Bill May Go to Public Vote
- A7-CORNWALL**  
Selectmen Propose \$100,000 Renovation
- A7-CANAAN**  
School Board Denies AHA Sanctions

**NOTE TO READERS:** The newspapers are contained in a single section this week.

**A6-SPORTS**  
Team Predicts Assess Housatonic Strengths

**TACONIC WEEK**  
Ed Felle's Interests Are Unfolding

**TV-GOLF PULL-OUT**  
TACONIC WEEK CENTER READ