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LOCAL NEWS BRIEF

POLICE & FIRE
Retired Officer Nedoszytko Remembered
The Greenwich Police Department announced the death of retired Officer Richard Nedoszytko, who served from 1970 to 1998. He was also a U.S. Navy veteran from 1962 to 1968 and later served in the Naval Reserve until 1991, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer. He was 79.

Round Hill Fire Company Joins Trunk-or-Treat
The Round Hill Volunteer Fire Company participated in the Greenwich Boys and Girls Club trunk-or-treat event. They decorated their fire truck and included their four-legged mascot.
Photo Credit: Round Hill Volunteer Fire Company

Low-Cost Pet Microchipping Clinic Offered
On November 3, Greenwich Animal Control will hold a low-cost pet microchipping clinic at 393 North Street. The clinic will run from 10 a.m. to noon. For details, call 203-622-8299.

Silver Shield Walk Supports Fallen Heroes
The Silver Shield Foundation's fifth annual Greenwich Walk is scheduled for Saturday, November 9, 2024, at Tod's Point in Old Greenwich to raise funds for scholarships supporting families of fallen first responders. Registration opens at 9 a.m., followed by the opening ceremony at 10 a.m. and the walk at 10:30 a.m. Walkers are asked to contribute or raise a minimum of \$100, with details available on the Foundation's website.

Green Thoughts
By ANNE W. SEMMES
"To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival. Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do." American novelist and poet Wendel Berry, turned 90 in 2024.

Board of Selectmen to Board of Ed: You Can't Make Up Your Own Rules

By STEPHEN JANIS

The Greenwich Board of Selectmen (BOS) voted to file a Freedom of Information complaint over a controversial move by the Board of Education (BOE) to use an emergency meeting in order to select a new member with less than a quorum of BOE members present.

The impasse over the abrupt appointment which led to two members for one seat on Greenwich's Board of Education has stoked controversy. It also prompted the special session on Wednesday where the BOS had a heated debate over how to address the brewing crisis.

First Selectman Fred Camillo said the Board had to act to prevent other bodies from using emergency sessions to bypass transparency laws.

"If this board doesn't address this situation every board would, for political purposes, be able to call a meeting and declare an emergency," First Selectman Fred Camillo argued.

"We can't turn a blind eye to this."

But select-person Janet Stone McGuigan, a Democrat, pushed back. She argued the complaint would do little to defuse the conflict.

"Do we gain anything other than higher legal bills? It's a protracted process. It's probably not going to be resolved within a year," she said.

Benjamin D. Bianco, a lawyer representing the town said the complaint – which would be vetted by the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission – could be expedited.

"We will be asking the commission to rule before the next meeting of the Board of Education," he said.

The motion to file the complaint was approved by a 2-1 vote, with Fred Camillo and Lauren Rabin voting yes, and Janet Stone McGuigan voting no.

The conflict started last week when four Democratic members of the eight person body voted to hold an emergency meeting to fill a

"I am extremely disappointed that the board is in disarray." Former Board of Education Chair



vacant Republican seat. The complaint would challenge the designation of the meeting as an emergency.

Russel Blair, Director of Education and Communication for the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission, says his agency has the power to nullify the appointment if it deems the emergency meeting was in violation of state law.

"If someone were to bring a complaint, that would be a possible remedy."

The commission's ruling would hinge upon if the October 21st meeting met the requirements to designate it an emergency. Blair said based on the details it seems unlikely the session in question fits the definition.

"The law says it has to be unexpected and demands immediate action. If you break down the basics, I don't think that was an emergency."

Meanwhile, the town's Board of Selectmen has appointed a Board of Education member to fill the vacancy, who Democrats controlling the BOE have yet to allow to be seated or allow to vote. Now, the BOE has two appointees for one position—a legal standoff that shows no signs of abating.

A controversial meeting and its outcome
The dispute over the vacant seat stems from the controversial move by the Democrats on the BOE to nominate a new Republican member during what they deemed an emergency meeting on October 21st.

The evenly split eight-member board, composed of four members from each party, had been unable to agree on a nominee after Karen Kowalski, the former chair, resigned in July.

Last week, the four Democrats convened the alleged emergency meeting to nominate and confirm Jennifer Behette, a Republican. The following day, Camillo held a previously scheduled meeting with the Board of Selectmen. They subsequently appointed Paul Cappiali to the Board.

The Democrats' move was at the time strongly criticized by Camillo, who issued a statement last week characterizing it as a "power grab."

"A recent email sent out by the Greenwich Democratic Town Committee was so outrageous and misleading that I am compelled to put out a statement to set the record straight,"

Please turn to page 5

Greenwich Honored as Climate Leader



Recent Great Captain Island waterfront cleanup with L to R, Rebecca Poirier and Frankie Lofaro (Conservation staff). Contributed photo. See page 3.

GEMS Honored 'Career EMS Service of the Year' Award



Members of the Greenwich Emergency Medical Service pose with CT Dept. of Public Health Commissioner Manisha Juthani, M.D. Photo Credit: Joe Laucella.. See page 3.

Highway safety bigger priority than ever for Greenwich Fire Department and its community



An aerial view of the accident last June on i-95 (Photo courtesy of the Greenwich Fire Department)

By LIZ LEAMY

More than ever, highway safety is a growing concern for many due to the rising number of first responders and Department of Transportation (DOT) personnel who have been injured on the scene, with the Greenwich Fire Department (GFD) experiencing this first hand.

The night of June 26th had started off like any other shift for the dedicated GFD members.

At 1130pm, a 911 call then came in reporting a crash on Interstate 95 by exit 4 in which a tandem tractor-trailer had swerved on the wet highway and gone off the road causing it to overturn.

In turn, companies from multiple districts in town then responded, including Engines from Downtown Greenwich, Byram, Cos Cob and Old Greenwich stations.

SEE BACK PAGE

Housing Project Announced; Erroneous Eviction Report Addressed



Sam Romeo, Chair of the Greenwich Communities Board, at press conference.

By STEPHEN JANIS

There was some good news at a press conference last week highlighting Greenwich's progress toward meeting state requirements for affordable housing construction. First Selectman Fred Camillo and town housing officials announced plans to add 275 affordable housing units at Quarry Knolls, a senior housing complex.

Housing officials estimated the cost at roughly \$120 to \$130 million and said it would include a mix of

standalone units and possibly a low-rise apartment complex. The plan involves transferring current residents to Vinci Gardens, a 52-unit, all-one-bedroom senior housing facility, before planning and construction begin.

Quarry Knolls was originally built in 1961 as a multi-phase housing project for low-income seniors, with financing from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Camillo said the expansion would bring Greenwich closer to complying with a state law requiring at least 10 percent of a town's housing stock to meet affordability standards. He noted that 5.8 percent of Greenwich's housing currently meets the state's standards.

"When you see areas transformed, people know what Greenwich is doing," he said,

Please turn to page 5

COLUMN It Starts with Me



By ICY FRANTZ

Recently I wrote a letter in support of a political candidate, sharing in it his stand on three issues and a few values that are important to me. I did not speak poorly of his opponent and although I knew better of it – a few days after the letter was published, I opened up social media and read the comments.

Big mistake!

What followed was not constructive dialogue or thoughtful engagement - it was harsh, sharp, and, frankly, hurtful. The words were aimed not only at the candidate, but also at me, and they stung.

In that moment, I felt my defenses rise. I wanted to react. My fingers hovered over the keyboard, ready to deliver the response of a lifetime.

it was harsh, sharp, and, frankly, hurtful

There's something about feeling misunderstood or judged that pushes us to want to strike back, isn't there? It's a human impulse.

No good would come from feeding into the anger. So, I sat with the discomfort.

Because as tempting as it was - and it was - it starts with me.

The comments that I read were not just about my political views, they were about me as a

Please turn to page 5

COLUMN Good News



By FRED CAMILLO

With Election Day less than 96 hours away, people are understandably worried and fearful due to the constant barrage of news media and social media posts all predicting ominous happenings should the election go one way or another. History shows us that things tend to work themselves out, even if the outcome is not what we wanted nor expected. Nevertheless, I can report with full confidence that, locally, the state of the Town is bright and looking brighter by the day. Progress and achievement are attained when egos and personal

This progress, and these accomplishments are courtesy of you

agendas are checked at the door and the greater good is sought. Here in Greenwich, we are living that model.

PROTECTING BRUCE PARK
The recent affirmative vote by the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) to protect one of Greenwich's jewels, Bruce Park, is just one of several recent developments that will enhance our town now and for future generations to enjoy.

The effort to protect this beautiful park in Central Greenwich developed a few years ago when concerned residents of Bruce Park and

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Members of the Greenwich Emergency Medical Service pose with CT Dept. of Public Health Commissioner Manisha Juthani, M.D. Photo Credit: Joe Laucella.

GEMS Honored With ‘Career EMS Service of the Year’ Award

By KIA HEAVEY

Greenwich Emergency Medical Service (GEMS) was honored on Thursday, Oct. 24, with the Career EMS Agency of the Year Award. The prestigious honor was conferred at the Connecticut EMS Awards ceremony that took place during the 2024 EMS & Fire Pro Expo + Conference at Foxwoods Resort Casino.

“Every single day, they’re out there, racing against time, saving lives,” award presenter Michael Loiz, an EMS Educator for the Hartford Healthcare Center for Education, said of GEMS. “They cover about 47 square miles, thousands of emergency calls per year. But what’s really unique is how they have woven themselves deeply into the very fabric of the communities that they serve.”

Loiz, who also serves as Stratford’s Director of EMS /

911, elaborated: “They could be teaching life saving skills to students in their communities. They could be, you know, working with the local schools to provide training and health and safety programming, partnering with organizations ... to make real change in their community. And at the end of the day, that team just does kind of everything, and I don’t always hear a lot about it. So I’m really, really happy that we’re finally able to hear a little bit more about Greenwich EMS showing up at career days ... showing up to local events with their special ops team.”

“Cutting edge equipment and unshakable dedication is what these guys are delivering,” ascerted Loiz. “Additionally, they are one of the few EMS departments that are providing emergency management operations for their community. This is something that, you

And at the end of the day, that team just does kind of everything, and I don’t always hear a lot about it.

know, I’ve been saying for years. EMS doesn’t typically get looked at for stuff like that, and they’re going out and killing it every single day.”

Loiz noted that GEMS, founded in 1986, is a fairly young EMS service. He said that since then, “they have grown from a volunteer organization into a powerhouse professional [department], recognized nationwide for their high standards and quick response times.”

Loiz closed his remarks by pointing out that GEMS is one of the only two EMS organizations in Connecticut that is accredited

by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS).

Members of GEMS who were at the venue to attend the multi-day conference were present for the awards ceremony. They made their way to the front of the auditorium to accept the award in front of over 100 of their peers in various emergency service agencies nationwide.

Immediately after GEMS was honored, the neighboring town of New Canaan’s EMS received the award for Volunteer EMS Agency of the Year.

Greenwich Named Sustainable Climate Leader

By ANNE W. SEMMES

Sustainable CT, a statewide initiative that inspires and supports communities in becoming more efficient, resilient, and inclusive, has announced this year’s list of certified and Climate Leader communities. Greenwich has been recognized this year among the Connecticut municipalities, for achieving Sustainable CT Climate Leader Designation and Silver-level certification.

Greenwich achieved Sustainable CT Silver-level certification in 2018, 2021, and 2024, and now adds the prestigious Climate Leader designation to its accomplishments for exceptional leadership in addressing climate change and fostering resilience.

“My congratulations to everyone who played a role in Greenwich achieving this certification,” First Selectman Fred Camillo said. “My administration has made this a priority and we are going to continue our work. This designation shows Greenwich remains a climate leader and is validation of all the hard work that has happened to encourage sustainability and environmental stewardship.”

In its application for Sustainable CT Climate Leader designation, Greenwich demonstrated significant achievements in implementing strategies and initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance climate resilience, and promote sustainability. Their efforts encompass a broad spectrum of activities such as community engagement, green infrastructure development, clean energy adoption, and climate adaptation planning.

Specifically, Greenwich successfully completed actions from all thirteen categories, ranging from well-stewarded land and natural resources to resilient planning, energy, transportation systems, waste reduction and management, and health and wellness. Greenwich is one of the first eleven municipalities in Connecticut to earn designation as



Bob Stanton, Greenwich resident and volunteer at Great Captain Island waterfront cleanup. Contributed photo.

a Climate Leader.

“This achievement would not have been possible without the time, expertise and collaboration from a number Town departments, Town officials, and community organizations,” said Sarah Coccoaro, Assistant Director of Environmental Affairs. “This certification highlights our Town’s dedication to sustainable efforts both in the past and in the future.”

“Congratulations to our Climate Leaders,” said Jessica LeClair, executive director of Sustainable CT. “The decisions of local government – from zoning to transit systems, sidewalks, and building codes - play a huge role in determining the carbon footprint and resilience of residents and businesses. We are inspired by the leadership and commitment of these communities.”

SustainableCT is independently funded, with strong multi-year support from the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, Hampshire Foundation, Connecticut Green Bank, Common Sense Fund, and the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. For more information contact Sarah Coccoaro, Assistant Director of Environmental Affairs, (203) 622-6461, or visit www.greenwichct.gov/286/Conservation



Michael Karellas, MD
Urology

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YaleNewHavenHealth
Greenwich Hospital

GCDS Homecoming and Walk-a-thon Success

By CATE AUERSWALD

The Greenwich Country Day School donned their orange and black to celebrate homecoming this weekend with their annual “Walkathon” event, raising over \$55,000 to combat food insecurity. The funds raised will be donated to 13 different charities to help others on a local and global scale. GCDS students, teachers, families,

and alums all came together to build community and raise funds by walking laps around the school, baking and volunteering at the bakesales, and selling GCDS merchandise. Seven GCDS teams played games on Friday and Saturday and all came out victorious, with Varsity Soccer beating Stony Brook 8-0, J.V. Soccer beating Kung 3-2, Varsity

Football beating Austin Prep 35-6, Varsity Volleyball beating Austin Prep 3-0, Varsity Field Hockey beating Porter’s Academy 4-1, Varsity Girls Soccer beating Stony Brook 10-0, and Varsity Water Polo beat Riverdale 14-3.

Editor’s note: In other GCDS news: the Cross Country team (at right) placed second at FCIAC finals on Monday!



Students of all ages bake treats to join in fundraising efforts.



GCDS students, teachers, families, and alums walk laps around the school in support of the fundraising



Headmaster Adam Rohdie leads the charge on walking laps around the school to raise money to combat food insecurity.



GCDS Highschool Jazz Band members play for the duration of the Walkathon.



GCDS Cross Country placed second overall for the boys team. The FAA Cross Country Championships on October 28, at New Canaan’s Waveny Park saw fierce competition across both the varsity boys’ and girls’ categories. Greenwich Country Day School came in second place with a team score of 54, led by Jeffrey Piper and Zafraan Kocyba.



GCDS Soccer players on their way to a victory over Kung Academy.



Everyone is decked out in orange and black to show their Tiger Pride!



GCDS dancers of all ages show off their skills in their annual homecoming performance.



Student-body President Walker Laitala, Class of 2025, kicks off the Walkathon by introducing the charities benefitting from the event.

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BOARD OF SELECTMAN TO BOE

Continued from Page 1

Camillo wrote.

Camillo explained that, since the board was unable to agree on a new Republican member within 30 days, he was legally empowered to appoint one. However, he opted to allow the BOE to decide.

“I expressly told members of both parties on the BOE that I preferred they resolve it themselves and still held out hope, three months later, that there would be a compromise. Sadly, that did not happen.”

A fellow board member concurred that the BOE had plenty of time to compromise.

Republican Michael-Joseph Mercanti-Anthony said the board had options to pick a new member prior to the emergency meeting.

“No, it wasn’t an emergency, there was still time to compromise before the Board of Selectman acted on Tuesday.”

He said the conflict arose after Democrats picked a candidate that Republicans opposed. “We were happy to work with any five of the six candidates. They picked the one we didn’t want,” he said adding, “She (Jennifer Behette) would not commit to caucusing with us and supporting a Republican for chair.”

Behette could not be reached for comment.

The Democrat caucus pushed back, issuing a statement alleging the Board of Selectmen’s appointment violates the town’s charter.

“The board has not been contacted by anyone from the Board of Selectman seeking resolution” the statement says.

“We continue to be surprised that to our knowledge, the BOS, for the first time in town history has attempted to appoint someone to an elected body seemingly in violation of the town charter.”

A legal battle with dueling theories

The conflict has also spurred legal wrangling.

Emails obtained by The *Sentinel* reveal a pointed back and forth between a lawyer hired by the Democratic board members and legal counsel for the town.

Michelle Laubin, an attorney representing the Democrats, stipulated that the appointment of Behette on October 21st was legal. “Given that the vacancy has been filled by the action of the Board of Education taken at their meeting on October 21, 2024, there is currently no vacancy on the Board of Education for you to fill through an appointment made by the Board of Selectmen,” she wrote.

However, Bianco, who represents the town, argued that engaging Laubin to represent the BOE was not within the board’s purview, and was thus illegitimate. “You purport to have been engaged by the Greenwich Board of Education, but no authority exists for any such unilateral, case-specific retention of counsel. The Town, therefore, considers your representation of the BOE, as an entity, to be null and void,” Bianco wrote.

A former board member offers to intervene

Behind the scenes a former board member says he has been working to resolve the stand-off. Joe Kelly argues the conflict consuming the eight-member body must end.

Kelly, who served as Chair for four years, told The *Sentinel* he is offering himself as a peacemaker to serve as an interim member, and possibly chair, until the dispute can be settled. “I put my name forward because I thought this disagreement might take place, and I gave them an easy, obvious choice—me—as someone who would negotiate and compromise,” Kelly said. Former chair Kelly said his offer was based on concerns that, if the dispute continues, it will impede the board’s ability to function. He also pointed to his track record of working effectively with both parties as justification for his appointment.

“When I got elected to the board five years ago, the BOE was known as one of the most dysfunctional boards in Greenwich,” he said. “After four years of hard work, the BOE was recognized as the most functional and collegial.”

“I am extremely disappointed that the board is in disarray.”

COMMUNITIES/ERRONEOUS EVICTION

Continued from Page 1

adding, “Greenwich is doing the right thing.”

However, the gathering on the steps of town hall quickly turned to questions about a reported threat to evict a family from an existing affordable housing facility—a claim town officials argued had been inaccurately reported.

The controversy stemmed from an email sent earlier this month to the RTM by a resident at Wilber Peck Court, an affordable housing project owned by Greenwich Communities, the nonprofit managing most of the town’s affordable housing. The tenant requested assistance with a cockroach infestation in their apartment.

“I am messaging to let you guys know and to ask for help. In Wilber Peck, there are multiple cockroaches throughout the complex,” the tenant wrote. “It has affected my living situation, my happiness, and my ability to get rid of them.”

Anthony Johnson, the Executive Director of Greenwich Communities, responded in a follow-up message to the RTM, stating that an exterminator had visited the home in question. Johnson noted that a dog on the premises complicated the treatment and mentioned concerns that an inspection found the unit was not properly maintained by the tenants.

“Immediately upon notice, Greenwich Communities visited the apartment with an exterminator and maintenance staff,” Johnson wrote to the RTM. “However, the housekeeping of the unit was not acceptable.”

This prompted Greenwich Communities to send a “notice to cure,” giving the tenant time to address the issues. Officials would not provide details on the apartment’s condition.

At the press conference, housing officials said the notice to cure had been inaccurately portrayed as an eviction notice. Sam Romeo, Chairman of the Board overseeing Greenwich Communities, claimed some RTM members mischaracterized it as retaliation for bringing the complaint to the RTM, which he described as inaccurate.

“I’m upset with those who said we are bullying,” he told the Sentinel. “They are politicians trying to score political points. I take it personally because I care and would never do that. I care deeply about the residents.”

Romeo—a volunteer in his position—emphasized that the letter was a standard and legally required step when housing officials find unsanitary conditions or other issues that don’t meet Greenwich Community standards.

The process allows tenants time to meet with housing officials and address any outstanding issues. Johnson noted that a notice to cure is one step in a process with numerous safeguards.

“There is plenty of time to respond, sit down with us, and try to fix the problem,” he said. “We bring in other services to help the tenant.”

Johnson confirmed that a “notice to quit”—which would initiate eviction proceedings—had not been sent to the family and expressed confidence that the issues would be resolved.

Ashley Manick, a resident of Armstrong Court, another project managed by Greenwich Communities, defended Romeo, stating that he shares his cell phone number with tenants and frequently plans activities for residents.

“I know from my experience it’s hard to believe they received an eviction notice,” she said, adding, “I actually think they’re too lenient with the residents.”

Some RTM members were similarly perplexed by the controversy. Frederick Lee, an RTM representative from the town’s first district, said he received the tenant’s email, alerted housing officials, and noted that they responded promptly by inspecting the premises.

“After I brought it to everyone’s attention, Romeo went there the same day to personally inspect it,” he said. “I had notified the sender and told her someone was coming. How it escalated beyond that, I’m not sure.”

Before the back-and-forth over the notice to cure, Camillo praised the town’s swift efforts to comply with state laws requiring affordable housing development.

Known as 8-30g, or the Connecticut Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Act, the law allows developers to bypass local zoning restrictions to build affordable housing in communities where less than 10 percent of housing stock is deemed affordable. Enacted 30 years ago, the law aims to address the statewide shortage of affordable housing.

But interest has been low. According to the town’s website, roughly 10 developers have applied for an 8-30g exemption in the past decade, with five applications approved and four denied.

Camillo noted that Greenwich Communities has been the primary driver in the town’s push for more affordable housing. The Quarry Knolls development would add to the town’s existing supply of 1,245 affordable units managed or owned by the organization, which provides housing for over 2,500 residents.

ICY FRANTZ COLUMN

Continued from Page 1

person. That’s the part that cuts the deepest. When people forget that there’s a human being behind the screen—someone with feelings, with hopes, with a desire to connect, talk can get ugly.

I was hurt.

And here’s the thing about being hurt - it makes you feel small. It makes you question, for a moment, why you ever stepped into the arena at all.

But then I remembered something that I often write about. Being vulnerable isn’t a weakness. It’s a strength.

It’s in those moments when we feel hurt, when we feel exposed, that we can grow the most. Vulnerability is what connects us as human beings. It’s how we relate to one another. And in this space of discomfort, there’s an opportunity to heal—not just ourselves, but maybe even our communities.

So, I stepped back and attempted to consider how my letter might have offended readers, why my views caused such a visceral reaction.

And ultimately, I thought about the bigger picture.

This isn’t just about me, or the comments, or the candidate I support. This is about all of us.

We’ve built these walls, these echo chambers, where we surround ourselves only with people who think like us, act like us, vote like us.

And while that feels safe, it’s not helping us understand each other. It’s not helping us bridge the divide.

I realized, in that moment, I had a choice. Because it starts with me.

What happened to the days when we could disagree but still sit down and share a meal together? When did it become a win at all costs? When did we stop listening to one another?

A friend of mine pointed to Donald Trump. And she is not wrong, he has stoked the fire. And yet, research shows that our lack of civility started way before Trump swapped careers from The Apprentice to politics.

Back In 1800, Thomas Jefferson ran against John Adams for president, and it got ugly. Jefferson’s team called Adams “a hideous hermaphroditical character.” Adams retaliated calling Jefferson an atheist and seized on racist attitudes, dubbing him the “son of a half-breed Indian squaw.” Name calling is not novel, but we have gotten better at amplifying it.

Another friend blamed social media and she’s not wrong, either. In a survey conducted by the American Bar Association in 2023 regarding civility in the United States – 29% said social media is primarily responsible for eroding civility. Another 24% blamed

FRED CAMILLO COLUMN

Continued from Page 1

Mead’s Point visited me at Town Hall. They made a great case to protect the Mosquito Barn that is located in the park. I agreed and suggested they go one step further and seek to protect the whole park with an historic venue designation. What followed was a total team effort that included Stephen Bishop and Andrew Melillo of the Historic District Commission, the neighbors, and finally, the RTM.

GREENWICH CROSSING

Last week, we broke ground on Greenwich Crossing, a project that will transform Railroad Avenue and connect it to our vibrant Greenwich Avenue. Modern, light, and beautiful buildings with outdoor dining options will be just part of this renaissance of that transportation hub area. Governor Lamont attending the ground-breaking ceremony and said he was happy with what Greenwich is doing on the Avenue and with this project .

VETERANS PARK PLAZA

A few blocks up the Avenue, we will begin the rededication of Veterans Plaza Park, first dedicated in 1927. What is more, we will propose to light up the flagpole, obelisk, take the old drinking water fountain that is not in use and repurpose it to a beautiful water fountain with a light feature, and finally, we will present to the Town a gift in the form of a lifelike statue of Greenwich’s own and America’s 41st President, George H.W. Bush. President Bush spent his first 18 years here in town before enlisting in the military at age 18 and became the youngest fighter pilot in World War II, flying 58 combat missions, and was shot down on one of those missions. He then went on to serve our nation in some of the most important and impactful roles before ascending to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

HAVEMEYER BUILDING

Across the street from Veterans Plaza Park is the Havemeyer Building, current home of the Board of Education (BOE). The 1892 Richardson Romanesque building, which sits on 2.7 acres in the middle of our main business district, has an estimated value of between \$74 and \$100 million. It has over 53,000 square feet, less than 20,000 of which is used by the BOE. Moreover, the building has deteriorating infrastructure and outdated/inefficient electrical—not optimal for use by the BOE administration. Right now it is not even close to the highest and best use of the space. It could be so much more, and to that end, endless possibilities await the future of this beautiful property.

We have had two task forces in the past two years look closely at what is needed, what is possible, and what alternatives could be. To that end, the most recent task force,

the media generally. News sources are available 24/7 and we can effortlessly find the outlets with the voices that validate our way of thinking.

And still another friend spoke about the extreme polarization in our country and how our habits perpetuate this. She is right too. In a 2023 Pew Research Center survey, the majority of conservatives and liberals answered that most of their close friends share their political views. They even said that they would be distraught if an immediate family member married someone from an opposing party.

We have fallen into a black and white way of thinking where some of us even deem the opposing party as a threat to the nation’s well-being. It’s no wonder we can’t seem to find common ground.

But here’s the thing—I miss the common ground. Don’t you?

I miss the days when we could disagree and still find reasons to be together. Think about President Reagan and Speaker of the House Tip O’Neill. They couldn’t have been more different politically, but they had a friendship built on respect. At the end of the day, they could sit down, share a drink, and recognize each other’s humanity.

We want that time back - or at least I do.

And that is where vulnerability comes in. Being vulnerable is about being open- to other people and different points of view. It’s about acknowledging that we may not have all the answers and that another person’s experience, another person’s voice has value. That is how we build bridges. That is how we move forward.

Utah Governor Spencer Cox, a Republican, and Chair of the National Governors Association is leading an effort he calls “Disagree Better”. We are going to disagree. That is human. We just need to learn how to disagree without being disagreeable.

Because at the end of the day, and at the end of this election, we are more than our political affiliations. We are more than red and blue.

We are neighbors.

We are teammates.

We are Americans.

We walk the same streets and share the same sidelines.

And we are accountable.

And if we want to create a community where we can enjoy a meal or a beer after the debate is over, we need to listen - even when it’s uncomfortable, “Disagree Better”, be respectful, and truly see the humanness in all of us.

And it starts with me.

Icy Frantz at [icyfrantz.net](#)

which dealt with getting a Request For Proposal (RFP) out to interested parties, offers the latest, most far reaching, and best opportunity yet to engage in a public-private partnership to return a once beautiful asset to the people, and to help transform this area of Greenwich Avenue. This is truly the art of the possible.

TREES

This week, we will meet to begin planting hundreds of trees along the Post Road, an effort that began four years ago and entailed state permits and approvals. The endeavor promises to make the Boston Post Road a beautiful tree lined boulevard going right through our town, providing both an aesthetically pleasing welcome to all who visit Greenwich and the many, many environmental benefits trees offer.

BYRAM RIVER GREENWAY

Last week, the Board of Selectmen endorsed the Byram River Greenway, a Greenwich Land Trust accomplishment that will connect already acquired green spaces in the northwest section of town. This acquisition comes on the heels of the Aquarion Water land purchase a few years ago, which was another public-private partnership.

EASTERN GREENWICH CIVIC CENTER

In just a few weeks, we will be cutting the ribbon on the long awaited Cohen Eastern Greenwich Civic Center. This unveiling will showcase a beautiful new civic center that was talked about as far back as the 1980s.

A NEW RINK

A brand new, and much needed, Dorothy Hamill Rink and showcase baseball field has been planned, presented to Planning & Zoning, and private donors sought and found, with just an approval needed from Zoning to proceed. The rink, first opened in 1972, is well below the area standards and almost at the end of its useful life. Strazza Field, named after our beloved Sal Strazza, would have features such as a home run fence, scoreboard, and dugouts, making it the first designed field done the right way from the beginning, and only the second such field in town to have them.

So, when the doomsday scenarios, negative campaigning, and position distorting ads clutter your mind in the next several days, remember that you live in a Town that is firing on all cylinders and continuing to marry our wonderful past with a bright, bold future.

This progress, and these accomplishments are courtesy of you, the Greenwich resident, volunteer, employee, and public servant.

Let us endeavor to remember these and other wonderful attributes and be grateful to God that we live in a town that most other municipalities in the world aspire to become.

Fred Camillo is a former State Representative and the current First Selectman of Greenwich. His opinions are his own.



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Special Editorial Pages

LETTER

House Bill 5390’s Opt-In Provision: A Costly Choice for Connecticut’s Less Affluent Small Towns

To the Editor:

Connecticut towns like Greenwich may be able to weather a storm that drains their coffers, but let’s not ignore the consequences for smaller, less fortunate communities across our state. In negotiating the opt-in provision of House Bill 5390, our state Representatives Arzeno, Khanna, and Meskers may have intended to preserve local control by offering a path to opt into high-density development within a mile of public transit. However, what they’ve done instead is built a policy that could devastate those who lack the resources of towns like ours.

Greenwich could likely bear the loss of state revenue if we chose to forgo the “as-of-right” developments that promise financial incentives at the expense of local zoning power. But what happens to the towns that can’t afford to say no? Under this bill, they will face a stark choice: surrender local planning and see the character of their neighborhoods reshaped—or turn down vital funds they depend on to keep their communities whole.

When we push one-size-fits-all policies onto towns without the ability to sustain the consequences, we’re asking them to make impossible choices. State

representatives have handed down a policy that may work well on paper but fails where it matters—in the towns that need support the most. Tying essential funding to a town’s willingness to embrace zoning it may not be able to sustain is, frankly, cruel. It’s a policy that threatens to dismantle the careful planning that residents of these towns have put in place for generations.

In the spirit of the community we cherish, we must call upon our leaders to take a broader view. Connecticut’s strength lies in the diversity of its towns, each with unique histories, challenges, and

aspirations. State policy should protect, not punish, the individuality and autonomy of our smaller communities. HB 5390 will be back next session and our local state Reps will vote for it. We may not have Ryan Fazio to stop it again (although I hope we do). If HB5390 passes, we abandon towns less fortunate than Greenwich to the whim of those who, though well-meaning, are out of touch with the needs of small-town Connecticut.

Our state leaders should remember that good policy uplifts all, especially those who need a hand—not a fist.

Andrew Maple

OPINION

Public Benefits Charge will Hurt Town and School Budgets Too - Another “Unintended Consequence”

By HARRY FISHER

Thanks to Senator Ryan Fazio Eversource now itemizes its monthly bills, breaking down costs—which is why we can now see the “public benefits” charges (a hidden tax).

That consumer transparency is the first step to repealing the “public benefits” tax from our electricity bills entirely, which Senator Fazio has been advocating for two years.

These mandated charges go unchecked in state budgets, yet households and municipalities alike are required to shoulder them without prior notice or budgeting.

Yes, that’s right, the Town of Greenwich and the Board of Educaton also will have to pay the “public benefits” charge. That includes every single school and building that the Town owns. It is a huge hit to our local budgets as well as yours at home.

With colder weather and less daylight hours ahead, electric usage will climb, and, as usage

raises, “Public Benefits” costs tied to metered consumption will also increase.

You will essentially be paying this twice. Once at home and once in your local taxes to cover the significant increase forced onto Greenwich and its schools by the state, without a word from our state Representatives Khanna, Arzeno, and Meskers to stop it from happening.

To protect consumers, Senator Fazio has urged, cajoled, asked, held press conferences, and all but begged his fellow legislators to convene a special legislative session to rein in utility rates while there were still American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds available; before the state signed expensive contracts for energy that were 400% over market rates; and before we entered the more expensive winter months.

Unfortunately, our local representatives did not back Fazio’s call for a special session. The right move would have been to deploy

available ARPA funds to offset this burden. Instead, those funds will now be spent elsewhere and the financial strain has been placed on residents, small businesses, and municipalities—without transparency or the opportunity to plan for it within our budgets.

At a recent town hall on electricity, Fazio attracted a crowd across party lines—residents concerned with rising bills and transparency. There’s clear support for responsible governance here, regardless of affiliation, and there’s every reason to believe those attending are ready to lend their voices to advocate for balanced, transparent policies.

More can be said, but it’s clear that thoughtful energy policy and fiscal responsibility go hand-in-hand, and Ryan Fazio has demonstrated his commitment to both.

Harry Fisher is the Chairman of the Greenwich Board of Estimate and Taxation. His opinions are his own.

OPINION

Scott Frantz: Why I’m Proud to Serve as Campaign Chair for Ryan Fazio



By SCOTT FRANTZ

I am incredibly proud to serve as Campaign Chairman for Senator Ryan Fazio – here’s why:

Ryan has maintained a disciplined, positive tone in his campaign and stays focused on the issues that matter to all Connecticut residents. His optimism, steadfast principles, and focus on bipartisan solutions are refreshing qualities in these contentious times.

Ryan has also safeguarded our fiscal stability by fighting to keep Connecticut’s fiscal guardrails intact, something critical to the future of our state. In a time when excessive spending once again threatens to weaken our state’s future, Ryan’s commitment to responsible governance and budgetary discipline ensures that Connecticut remains on sound financial footing and prevents us from heading right back to the fiscal cliff we faced before for decades.

Ryan has done what few legislators can accomplish in Hartford. In just two years, he’s successfully written,

championed, and passed six impactful, bipartisan laws that make Connecticut a better, more affordable place to live. Passing meaningful legislation is never easy, but passing great legislation that has real, bipartisan support? That is almost impossible in today’s political climate. Ryan has been a star and has many allies across the aisle in the process.

His landmark Senate Bill 7 (2023), has brought much-needed transparency and accountability to Connecticut’s utility companies to keep your electricity bills as low as possible. Another major win is Ryan’s House Bill 6768, which expanded access to birth control by allowing pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives. This commonsense reform empowers women across Connecticut, helping reduce barriers to essential healthcare. It passed with overwhelming support from both Democrats and Republicans. Ryan’s commitment to preserving local control is where he truly shines. With SB 333, he championed a return of zoning authority to our communities, protecting towns from overreach by Hartford and large developers who have little regard for the character and vision of our local communities. Ryan understands that local governance is best handled by those who live and work within the community, not by far-off decision-makers. This

legislation defends the autonomy of our municipalities to shape their futures, a value that Ryan and I know you hold dear.

Let’s remember the battles he’s fought and won in preventing harmful legislation. When HB 5390 threatened to allow dense, transit-oriented development near rail stations without local input, Ryan led the charge to block it, recognizing that this type of development could have reshaped our towns for the worse. And in a bold move for municipal autonomy, he successfully repealed a provision tucked into an omnibus bill that restricted towns from making critical land-use and zoning changes to their own charters.

Ryan Fazio’s record is proof of his tireless commitment to Connecticut. He doesn’t just pass laws; he defends the values and priorities of the communities he represents. His efforts to bring people together, to protect local governance, and to uphold fiscal discipline speak volumes about his character and dedication. Connecticut needs leaders like Ryan—disciplined, dedicated, and focused on positive change.

It’s a true honor to support him in this campaign. Let’s keep Ryan Fazio fighting for our communities and for the future of Connecticut.

Scott Frantz is a former State Senator.

OPINION

It is Our Turn to Support Ryan Fazio



By BILL NICKERSON

State Senator Ryan Fazio has done a superb job in representing us in Greenwich, Stamford and New Canaan – now it is our turn to support him.

· He forcefully pushed back against those who would allow

Hartford to take away our local control for land planning and replace our vision with Hartford’s vision.

· He has led the fight against unconscionable electric bill increases, directly attributable to Hartford’s failed policies.

· Ryan has rejected Hartford’s proposals to weaken financial guardrails which are key to reining in government overspending.

· Many in Hartford look forward to gaining a 75%

legislative super majority, allowing them to override the Governor’s veto and move even further to the left.

· He has shown that he can work effectively across the aisle to pass legislation when there is room for agreement.

Let’s not give another oar to someone who is rowing the boat in the wrong direction.

William H. Nickerson is a former State Senator for the 36th District.

LETTER

Dear Editors:
Ms. Khanna and the other Democrats who currently represent Greenwich in Hartford say they should be re-elected because of the state funding they claim to have obtained for Greenwich. What they do not talk about is how much in the way of taxes Greenwich residents pay to the State and how little of those tax dollars our Greenwich Democrats have actually gotten back for our town.
Greenwich already contributes over \$1 billion per year in income tax payments alone. When sales, real estate conveyance, gift and estate, and pass through / corporate taxes, paid by

Greenwich residents are included, the data imply that Greenwich residents pay over \$1.5 billion per year in total taxes to the state.

In the fiscal year 2024 state budget that Ms. Khanna says she “helped craft”, Greenwich was allocated slightly less than \$2.8 million of over \$3 BILLION in total “statutory formula” municipal aid distributed or budgeted by the state to towns and cities. And for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2025, Greenwich is slated to receive slightly more than \$2.8 million out of a state municipal aid budget of almost \$3.1 billion. Greenwich thus receives less than 1/10th of 1 percent of the municipal

assistance money dispensed by the state – which represents only 2% of the taxes Greenwich pays to Hartford!

The numbers tell the truth – Greenwich sends vast sums to Hartford each year, yet Ms. Khanna and her fellow Democrats bring back a tiny fraction of it.

I am voting for Republicans Tina Courpas (149th District Rep) and Ryan Fazio (36th District Senator) and encourage all Greenwich and North Stamford residents to do the same.

Regards, Jane Sprung, voter in the 149th District

LETTER

Greenwich Democrats’ Board of Education Coup is an Attempt to Get Around Voters

To the Editor:

The Democratic members’ recent “emergency” appointment to the Greenwich Board of Education appears as a coup attempt to sidestep the will of voters from the last election. It also erodes the long-standing structure of the Board of Education which is a shared, bi-partisan board by law.

By appointing a board member without bipartisan consensus, these four Democrats bypassed

both proper procedure and the need for transparency, eroding trust by the public.

First Selectman Fred Camillo’s decision to seek action through the Board of Selectmen to challenge the appointment’s legality highlights the seriousness of this violation. Under Connecticut law, emergency meetings must address urgent, unexpected matters. The fact that Democrats pushed through this decision with

no immediate cause is another attempt to have complete control over everything. Please just stop doing that.

This move threatens to reduce the BOE to partisan gridlock and pushes aside legitimate concerns from both voters and public officials. Greenwich deserves leaders who respect due process and uphold the values of bipartisanship essential to our community.

J. Gleason

LETTER

Political Parties Should Stay Out of Local Boards

To the Editor:

Why is the Democratic Town Committee, a partisan organization, inserting itself in the functions of bodies meant to serve the entire community, such as the Board of Education, the Finance Board, and even the Town Meeting? Recently, the DTC distributed emails openly attacking First Selectman Fred Camillo, seemingly on behalf of the Board of Education’s Democratic members. I thought the Board of Education was established

as a bipartisan board, tasked with working collaboratively for the benefit of all students in our district. Stepping in with partisan squabbles undermines the nonpartisan nature of our educational board and complicates efforts to address the needs of our students and parents and makes people generally more angry than they need to be.

Recently, Republicans cleaned house in the local Republican Party, removing those who would insert partisan politics into local

boards at every level. I applaud their efforts which must have been gut wrenching. Still, I suggest the Democrats do the same.

My oldest daughter just started kindergarten and I hope that this kind of thing stops before my middle child enters in two years. We have watched as partisan actions erode the collaborative atmosphere once upheld across these boards.

- A local parent of three children

LETTER

Debates Confirmed for Me That We Need Courpas and Fazio

Dear Editors and Voters in the 149th District:

Over the past week, I have attended or viewed two debates between Republican candidate Tina Courpas and Democrat Rachel Khanna, one sponsored by the Round Hill Association and a second by the Greenwich League of Women Voters. My biggest takeaway was this:

Our Democratic incumbent representatives—Khanna, Meskers and Arzeno—demonstrate little knowledge of Connecticut’s fiscal situation, its sources and uses of funds, the budgeting process, the composition of our labor force, or the private sector in general. Perhaps this is not surprising given that 90% of our state’s job growth has been in government, education and health services, sectors that are mostly taxpayer funded—hardly the type of track record these incumbents want to talk about.

Ms. Khanna repeatedly defends her vote for last May’s special “budget stabilization bill”, which allocated the remaining \$370 million in Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds outside of the formal state budget process. She says she voted for it because these Federal funds were “use or lose”. That last part is accurate, but the \$370 million in additional spending should have been offset by spending cuts in other areas. It was a flagrant violation of the bi-partisan fiscal guardrails which Ms. Khanna professes to “protect”, and which limit growth in state spending to the higher of either inflation or personal income growth.

There’s also the matter of where Ms. Khanna voted to spend those dollars. She claims they went to local non-profits. Actually, the bulk of the stabilization bill’s funding—\$200 million (\$160 million now and \$40 million in any other ARPA funds identified)—went to cover ongoing operating costs at Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) and UConn, where total enrollment is down 20% since 2018.

A proper—and far better—use of ARPA funds would have been paying electric utilities Eversource and United Illuminating \$200 million for COVID related customer payment moratoriums. Or just returning ARPA funds to overburdened Connecticut taxpayers, a practice successfully

defended in 21 other states.

On top of \$370 million in ARPA spending, this year’s budget is already more than \$300 million short on contributions to retirement benefits and state-funded Medicaid. According to The Connecticut Mirror, next year’s budget has a billion dollar plus budget hole—actual state spending is tracking \$1 billion over “guardrail” spending. Maybe this is why only five of the 53 Republican state representatives supported the budget stabilization bill. If this is Ms. Khanna’s idea of bipartisan fiscal responsibility, the 149th district is in deep trouble.

Our Democrat delegation was not asked about next year’s budget deficit in either debate, and offered no commentary about it. Expect Democrats to try to blow through the fiscal guardrails, or raise taxes, or both next year. The Democrat Senate President has pledged to renew the legislature’s push for a statewide property tax on “expensive homes” this January. Other Democrat-proposed bills would mandate higher marginal tax rates on personal income and corporations, and a capital gains tax surcharge. All of these are bad for the state and our Democratic delegation’s constituents. And are likely to pass if Democrats gain 3 more seats in the State House.

Ms. Khanna and our Democratic representatives also demonstrate little understanding of Connecticut’s balance sheet and our massive debt load. At the LWV debate, Steve Meskers claimed that “we paid down \$11 billion of unfunded pension liability”. Wrong. Connecticut has made \$7.7 billion of supplemental pension payments since 2017 (inflows), but it also made \$13.8 billion in pension payments to retirees over that period (outflows). Even after several years of strong investment returns, our pension assets are still barely half of our liabilities, the 4th worst “funded ratio” of all 50 states. Connecticut still has almost \$40 billion in unfunded pension liabilities (and almost \$90 billion when retiree healthcare benefits are added). Meanwhile, our pension payments to public retirees are growing over 7% a year and we have the second highest public wages of any state, which means those benefit payments are likely to keep rising.

Tina Courpas knows that maintaining the fiscal guardrails

has tangible benefits for regular citizens. It’s like paying down a big credit card bill. As the state’s Comptroller recently pointed out, recent tax cuts were only made possible because, rather than going to interest payments, money had been freed up by “adhering to the guardrails.”

Governor Lamont has also argued AGAINST scaling back the guardrail savings programs. As he said in January: “I think we’ve gone from a state of permanent fiscal crisis to a lot more stability. Because we’ve done this, we’re saving the taxpayers \$500-\$600 million a year, for the rest of my lifetime. ... Tell me what that would have done to our social services if that [excess borrowing] continued.” Again, all of Governor Lamont’s moderate impulses will be powerless against a veto-proof supermajority of Democrats.

Tina Courpas understands the burdens we place on small businesses—high occupational license fees and expensive credentialing, inability to access health insurance pools, high energy costs and high corporate and passthrough entity taxes—and has plans to reduce them. Think about the Courpas signs you have seen at small businesses here in town, which grant express permission to post them—the Cos Cobber, all the Glenville gas stations, the Pemberwick Deli, Connecticut Wine & Liquor, to name but a few. They all know Tina is better for small business.

Tina Courpas also understands that we cannot keep going back to our high earners for more tax dollars, as Democrats in Hartford would have you believe. 20,000 highly mobile tax filers pay 40% of the state’s entire income tax (or 18% of all tax receipts). Real estate conveyance and gift and estate taxes are another \$600 million per year, disproportionately borne by high earners. These people can leave the state, and have a big incentive to do so. Connecticut has the second highest state and local tax burden in the country (New York is highest), and that burden has increased faster than any other state over the past 3 years.

My family is voting for Tina Courpas for State Rep in the 149th, and we encourage you to do the same.

Best regards, Virginia Genereux, resident .

LETTER

Nick Simmons is the Best Leader

Nick Simmons is the best leader to represent us in the state senate. He has the energy and charisma to enact real change, and the policies he's proposing will improve all of our lives. Nick wants to cut taxes, lower our cost of living, secure more funding for the district, protect local control over zoning and housing, and invest in education. Nick's always lived up to his word and lived by his principles. After graduating college, he left a lucrative finance job to teach 7th grade math at a school in Harlem, NY made up of mostly low-income families. He eventually became acting principle at age 26—the youngest in the state. Nick's core values include investing in our children and improving our collective future. His platform transcends party lines, and he's the only candidate for a state senate seat ever to be endorsed by the Independent party. He's strongly endorsed by Governor Ned Lamont, Sen. Chris Murphy, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, and Rep. Jim Himes. It's not just individuals—important organizations like Planned Parenthood, Reproductive Equity Now, The Sierra Club, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, and the Stamford Firefighters have voiced their support for Nick, too. Connecticut is a bastion of reproductive freedom and common sense gun laws, and Nick Simmons is the candidate with the record to reflect those values. A vote for Nick Simmons is a vote for all of us.

Avery Forrey

LETTER

Ryan Fazio Consistently Embraces the Power of “And”

To the Editor:
I am writing to express my strong support for the re-election of Ryan Fazio as our State Senator for the 36th District. In a political landscape where division often dominates, Ryan stands out as a true bridge builder, committed to uniting people for the good of our community. That's how Ryan wrote and passed six new laws, despite being a member of the minority party in Hartford.

Ryan is not driven by ideology; he is driven by a sincere commitment to do what is best for Greenwich. In a time when we frequently see leaders entrenched in “either/or” thinking,

Ryan consistently embraces the power of “and.” He brings people together, rolling up his sleeves to work tirelessly on the issues that directly impact our lives.

One of the many reasons I support Ryan is his dedication to preserving local control. Not only was the only town legislator to vote against House Bill 5390, which included penalties for municipalities that did not comply with state zoning and housing requirements, but he killed the bill entirely by threatening a filibuster. The bill specifically threatened communities like ours with the loss of priority funding for infrastructure and grants if

they failed to comply. By stopping this legislation, Ryan protected Greenwich from potential financial burdens and ensured we maintain control over our local zoning decisions.

As someone who cares deeply about the future of our community, I trust Ryan Fazio to continue representing us with integrity, pragmatism, and an unwavering commitment to making Greenwich a better place for everyone. Let's ensure our community continues to thrive by supporting a leader who prioritizes us. Please join me in voting to re-elect Ryan Fazio as our State Senator.

Frederick Lee

LETTER

Steve Walko: Bothered By False Negative Attacks on Ryan

I am writing to express my strong support for Ryan Fazio in his bid for re-election as our State Senator. Ryan is not only a dedicated public servant but also a compassionate and thoughtful individual who truly understands the needs of Greenwich. Over the years, I have seen many politicians come and go, but Ryan stands out for his unwavering commitment to representing the people he serves, not boilerplate political slogans meant to excite us but lack substance.

Ryan constantly fights to maintain local control, ensuring

that the unique needs of Greenwich are not lost in the broader political landscape. Ryan prioritizes people ahead of propaganda, and that makes all the difference. His thoughtful approach and deep understanding of our State's challenges and opportunities have made him an effective advocate for Greenwich.

I am bothered by the negative and false attacks leveled against Ryan. The spreading of falsehoods to scare the people of Greenwich serves only to undermine the democratic process and reflects poorly on those making the

attacks. Such fear mongering is exactly the opposite of the quintessential attributes of Ryan; compassion, thoughtfulness and candor.

In Ryan, we have a first-class representative who not only listens to his constituents but works tirelessly on their behalf. I strongly encourage my fellow residents to support Ryan Fazio to remain our State Senator—he is exactly the kind of leader we need at this crucial time. From and for Greenwich, vote Fazio!

Stephen Walko

LETTER

Khanna Quick to Claim Undeserved Credit

Rachel Khanna has been quick to claim credit for a range of achievements that she played little to no role in. In her statements, she touts her involvement in Connecticut's fiscal success, such as “adhering to fiscal guardrails,” which she notes is currently saving taxpayers nearly \$700 million per year. However, these fiscal guardrails were enacted in 2017 through the hard work of legislators like Scott Frantz and his colleagues, not by Khanna, who wasn't even in office at the time.

Khanna also claims

responsibility for delivering the “largest income tax cut in Connecticut's history,” passing a “balanced budget,” and bringing home “\$100 million for her district.” While she may have cast votes, the fiscal health that allowed these measures to pass is a direct result of the structural reforms made by previous legislators, not her recent contributions.

Additionally, she emphasizes her support for the rainy day fund and the reduction of the state's pension debt—work that was critical in restoring Connecticut's financial stability. Again, these

initiatives were established long before Khanna took office, and the difficult decisions were made by others who put the state back on track.

Khanna's tenure, while recent, benefits from the groundwork laid by previous leaders. Her failure to acknowledge their efforts diminishes the legacy of those who did the hard work to ensure Connecticut's fiscal recovery. She would do well to give credit where it's due instead of taking credit for reforms she did not initiate.

Laura Boutelle

LETTER

Simmons Work at Harlem School Not Unusual

To the Editor,
I'm troubled by Nick Simmons' campaign rhetoric about his time in a Harlem school. He often touts this experience, saying he was an acting principal at just 26. But most people know that well-educated individuals frequently use these roles to build a resume, not necessarily to make a lasting impact. Simmons served as acting principal for only a year and wasn't hired permanently. He

didn't stay afterwards to support the students; it seems like he left once he could claim the title. That's hardly extraordinary—I happen to be friends with the assistant principal at the same school who is just 25 and has served there for three years as a teacher.

Meanwhile, Ryan Fazio's efforts couldn't be more different. For seven years, he volunteered as a tutor in the Bronx on Saturdays, not for titles or accolades but

to help. When COVID-19 ended his tutoring efforts, he didn't stop. He turned his attention to another group in need: senior citizens, volunteering to support them through the pandemic delivering meals every Saturday. Fazio's actions speak to genuine commitment, the kind that doesn't seek recognition but serves.

It seems like its the same, but its really not.

LETTER

Why District 8 Republicans will vote for Tod Laudonia to represent us in Hartford

Greenwich has enjoyed and benefited from a century-long tradition of Republican leadership which has made fiscal responsibility, effective governance, and community engagement hallmarks of our town's success. Our state of Connecticut, however, has not. The Democrat-run state government has suffocated businesses and residents with increased taxes, regulation and erosion of local controls.

Connecticut Republicans stand to preserve liberty, limited government, economic opportunity, religious freedom, and defense of our American values and traditions, so every citizen can work to attain their American dream. It is these fundamental Republican principles that Tod Laudonia will stand up for if you elect him to represent YOU in Hartford.

Unlike his opponent, Tod Laudonia has been an active member of our community his entire life. Just as we do, Tod has a deep love for and an understanding of the attributes that make Greenwich a desirable location in which to settle down and raise a

family. We appreciate that Tod has no patience for Democrat-inflicted legislation which seeks to destroy all that we love.

Our Local Zoning regulates a wide variety of commercial and residential buildings, which include low- and moderate-income residences, multi-family homes and townhouses, condominiums, single-family homes on partial and multi-acre lots, large acreage farms and large luxurious mansions that even the wealthiest Americans strive to attain. As one of the largest and most diverse towns in CT, Greenwich stands out as charming, accessible and desirable to residents that share the same spirit of working to attain their dreams.

Tod believes zoning decisions – for Greenwich and for all the lovely towns in Connecticut – belong in the hands of the people who reside in those towns.

The Connecticut Democrat-controlled legislature is hellbent on removing our local controls. The overreaching Democrat-sponsored bills which are put to vote every session are generally not in the best interests of towns like Greenwich. With few

exceptions, these bills are written by far-left extremists who believe in big Government and an increase of socialist controls. They are given deceptively benign names, which obfuscate the shackles contained within hundreds of pages of intentionally opaque legalese. These Democrat-sponsored bills are universally supported (and in some cases written) by extreme far-left NGOs and non-profits. If, in ten years, Greenwich begins to resemble Stamford and is forced to change its classification from “town” to “city”, it will be the direct result of Democrats in Hartford. Tod aims to fight against their inroads with all his might. We will be fighting alongside him.

We are supporting Tod Laudonia for State Representative in the 151st District. In fact, we are voting for Republicans across the board, in an effort to preserve Greenwich, preserve Connecticut, and preserve the Constitutional Republic of America.

Your elected District 8 Republican Town Committee members, Blazej Cichy, Michael DeVita, Philip Dodson, Gail Lauridsen, Joseph Montanaro, Joseph Solari

OPINION

Our Town and Personal Budgets Are Already Tough to Manage without Unexpected Electricity Increases



By LESLIE TARKINGTON

Ryan Fazio is the leader to represent the Connecticut 36th Senate District. With energy business experience, he is a leading advocate for lowering our electricity costs. Due to legislation initiated by Ryan, the Eversource electricity Supply, Transmission, Local Delivery, and “Public Benefits” costs are itemized on our monthly bills.

Benefits to whom? The young family, the senior on a fixed income? Our Town of Greenwich? Yet, we all pay legislative mandated utility costs without having budgeted them.

These electricity costs have become a conversation topic. Rather

than approving them in the State budget as a line item, the legislated Public Benefits section represents costs supporting State mandated energy programs, policies, and initiatives. Current Public Benefits monthly costs are almost equal to that of energy supply from Eversource and about 29% of the Eversource bill.

Public Benefits consists of two areas. Combined Public Benefits Charges are costs to support state authorized energy programs for the costs of hardship customers not paying their bills. The FMCC charge, or Federally Mandated Congestion Charge, includes costs to pay for the state ordered Millstone nuclear power purchase agreement, and programs including zero-emission credits, home renewable energy, and the cost of electric vehicle charging stations. Together the charges increased by 484% from the May to the September bills.

With colder winter weather approaching, electricity usage will increase, and the Public Benefits

section of our bill, charged on metering, will rise appreciably. As disclosed on the Company website, an average Eversource customer uses 700 kWh monthly. At a current Public Benefits rate of \$0.08817 kWh, the monthly cost is \$62 or up to \$700 a year.

Ryan Fazio improved regulatory oversight to protect consumers and has creative solutions to implement utility bill reductions. He requested a Special Legislative Session to curb rising bill costs by applying available American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal grants. He is calling for the utility regulatory authority (PURA), to be independent rather than report to a state government department (DEEP).

Please vote Ryan Fazio to continue bi-partisan leadership in the Connecticut State Senate, reduce our electric utility bills, and increase government transparency.

Leslie Tarkington is the longest serving member of the Greenwich Board of Estimate and Taxation.

OPINION

CT League of Conservation Voters Support for an Anti-Local Zoning Bill is a Problem



By BETH BARHYDT

The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV), known for its strong commitment to environmental conservation, seems to be straying far afield from its original mission.

Its 2024 endorsements and legislative scorecard tell a story of an organization that has shifted its focus from pure environmental advocacy to aligning with broader political agendas. In doing so, the CTLCV has diminished its role as a protector of the environment and instead has become another partisan weapon.

In past years, CTLCV earned respect for its nonpartisan approach, bringing together diverse voices to support policies that safeguard Connecticut's air, land, and water. This year, however, the scorecard reflects a growing focus on legislative initiatives that do not directly relate to conservation.

The League included questionable bills on its scorecard.

Among the bills the League highlights is House Bill 5390, an anti-local zoning bill which promotes over-development. Its relevance to environmental conservation is tenuous at best, harmful at worst. By eroding local control and allowing “as of right” development, vital areas that are currently protected by local zoning laws like wetlands and open space would become vulnerable. By including it in the legislative scorecard and penalizing those legislators that fought against the erosion of local control, CTLCV dilutes its focus and confuses its mission.

For some reason the League also included House Bill 5498 on its scorecard, which focuses on election security and absentee ballot protections. And House Bill 5450, addressing the use of artificial

intelligence and deceptive media in elections. More examples of the League stretching its mission far beyond conservation.

In addition to these bills, CTLCV's inclusion of House Bill 5523, which allocates federal American Rescue Plan funds, raises questions about its priorities. While infrastructure and development projects funded by ARPA may have environmental implications, the bill's primary focus is financial, not ecological. The merits of these bills are worthy of discussion but they are not environmental bills. The League's scorecard has become a platform for advancing a broader political agenda rather than strictly conserving Connecticut's environment.

The shift in focus is not just a matter of which bills are being endorsed; it reflects a deeper issue within the organization. Conservation is, and can remain, a unifying issue. Whether Democrat or Republican, residents across Connecticut share a vested interest in preserving the state's natural beauty and ensuring that future generations inherit a healthy planet. The environment doesn't discriminate by political party, and neither should the organizations dedicated to protecting it. CTLCV's increasing partisanship risks alienating those who care about the environment but do not align with the broader political views being promoted.

in marine animals, some of whom rely on echolocation to navigate the oceans. The disruption to their natural habitats is undeniable, and the loss of biodiversity is a cost that cannot be ignored. In addition, wind turbines are already responsible for significant bird mortality on land, and placing these turbines offshore extends this danger to species that are already vulnerable due to climate change and habitat destruction. The National Audubon Society has raised concerns about wind farms' effects on bird populations, particularly migratory species that fly over oceanic regions now populated by turbines.

Moreover, the construction and maintenance of these wind farms require the use of substantial amounts of fossil fuels.

Now is the time for CTLCV to recommit itself to the principles that guided its formation. The health of Connecticut's environment is too important to be sidelined by partisanship. The League endorsed one Republican in the entire state of Connecticut.

The League's effectiveness in the past was its ability to bring people together across the aisle, advocating for policies that put the environment first, regardless of political affiliation. Moving forward, CTLCV should focus on returning to its roots, championing legislation that directly impacts conservation efforts, and building coalitions that include all voices concerned with preserving our natural resources.

You need to look no further than Republican First Selectman Fred Camillo for a strong environmentalist who did not support House Bill 5390.

For those of us who believe in conservation and the power of unity to create lasting change, this moment presents an opportunity. Connecticut's natural legacy must be preserved through bipartisan effort, data-based policies, and a renewed focus on protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the forests and wildlife that define our state's beauty.

By returning to its core mission, the CTLCV can have the power to help great environmental laws get passed with both parties.

Studies have shown that the underwater noise generated during the construction of wind farms causes distress and disorientation

OPINION

By LESLIE MORIARTY

Rachel Khanna has earned your vote for re-election as the State Representative for the 149th district. As a member of the Greenwich BET, I have seen firsthand how diligent and effective Rachel Khanna is in Hartford. She works collaboratively to identify and advocate for State funds for necessary community services and projects that our local taxes would be strained to cover. She supports fiscal control to limit our tax burden. She is a strong voice for local control of housing development and succeeded in stopping the erosion of local P&Z authority. She supports women's rights and gun control legislation. She recognizes the threat of climate change on our coastal community. Importantly, Rachel

knows how to navigate the maze of Hartford to bring results for Greenwich and Stamford.

Rachel has been more effective than any of her predecessors in this district. Rachel, working with other Greenwich Reps, secured over \$100 million of grants for important services and projects which would otherwise require town or private funding; projects like school construction and pedestrian safety projects, Greenwich Boys and Girls Club, and more. Rachel also maintained her fiscal conservative discipline—delivering balanced budgets that include the largest reduction in taxes in the State's history while also making significant reductions in the State's pension liability. I am not the only one who is impressed by Rachel's values and effectiveness as a State Rep. She

has earned the support of many organizations, with endorsements from Moms Demand Action, Planned Parenthood, CT Realtors, Stamford Fire Fighters Association, and more.

We need a representative in Hartford who has a seat at the table, who advocates for necessary funding for projects and services in our community, who supports our values, and who is willing to work tirelessly on our behalf. Rachel has proven herself to be that person. I urge you to vote for Rachel Khanna for the State Representative for the 149th District.

Leslie Moriarty (writing as an individual)

Leslie is a current member of the Greenwich Board of Estimate and Taxation and past Chair of the Greenwich Board of Education

LETTER

Ryan Fazio isn’t the Right Choice for CT-36

To the Editor,

In 2022, when I ran against Ryan Fazio for State Senate, I made it clear that his votes were out of step with the values of our community. I warned that his opposition to common sense gun safety laws and his stance on women's rights would have serious consequences.

Unfortunately, my concerns have been proven right. Fazio's continued opposition to critical legislation, like Connecticut's updated gun control measures and expansion of reproductive rights, is a reminder of how out of touch he is with the needs and values of our district.

That is why I am proud to support Nick Simmons in his campaign for the 36th District Senate seat. Nick has the experience and the vision we need in Hartford. He's been in the room with Governor Lamont, working on the very issues that matter most to us—economic development, safety, and personal freedoms. He's not just committed to making Connecticut a better place; he's already done the work.

While Fazio voted against gun control laws that would make our streets and schools safer, Nick was part of the Lamont administration which signed these life-saving measures into law.

We need a leader who will fight for all of us, and I believe Nick Simmons is that leader. Let's elect someone who will truly represent our values in Hartford.

*Sincerely, Trevor Crow
Former Democratic Candidate for State Senate*

LETTER

Tina Courpas Will Actually Enforce Fiscal Discipline at the State Level

Dear Editor and Voters in the 149th District,

Rachel Khanna is running for re-election on a platform of fiscal responsibility and keeping down costs. Unfortunately, her voting record in the legislature during this, her first term in office, demonstrates nothing of the sort. Time after time and vote after vote, she has chosen to echo the voices of the profligate-spending, extremely progressive Democrats in her caucus, rather than represent most voters in the 149th District.

In 2017, when the State Senate was divided evenly between Democrats and Republicans, the legislature voted to adopt “fiscal guardrails” to end the excessive spending that had damaged the state's credit rating and its credibility with capital markets, businesses and voters.

In February 2023, the Connecticut Legislature re-enacted those guardrails for an additional 10 years. These guardrails were responsible for the modest income tax cuts the legislature was able to enact earlier this year. A mere 5 weeks later, in March of 2023, Ms. Khanna. as a member of the Appropriations Committee voted to hold a Public Hearing on whether certain “distressed municipalities” should be carved out of the fiscal guardrails.

Excluding those municipalities from the fiscal guardrails would have circumvented the guardrails entirely and resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars of expenditures outside the constitutional state spending cap (SB00787).

Then, in May of 2024, Ms. Khanna voted to approve the “Stabilization Bill.” Rather than go through the disciplined process of prioritizing the needs of the state's citizens to arrive at a true balanced budget, the bill allocated approximately \$370 million of remaining ARPA funds to a variety of items, including funding for ongoing state operating expenses.

The many shortfalls in CT's current budget, particularly in the area of higher education, were simply plugged by these one-time federal tax dollars, leaving a budgetary “cliff” that will create very difficult choices for next year. Last February, Governor Lamont expressed significant concerns about lawmakers’ failure to address these issues. These concerns are now coming home to roost.

What would true fiscal discipline have looked like? It would have meant voting “no” for the “Stabilization Bill” and instead putting pen to paper, cutting expenses and balancing the budget, just like her constituents do day in and dayout. Somehow when it's the taxpayers who will be left footing the bill, promises of someone else's money in the future

LETTER

Fazio Supports Women’s Rights

Nick Simmons’ focus on attacking Ryan Fazio's stance on reproductive rights is misguided. Fazio is, and always has been, pro-choice. Turning such a sensitive issue into a political weapon isn't just a misstep—it's a disservice to the community. Women's health and rights are not talking points to be exploited for votes.

In a state legislature dominated by Democrats, abortion isn't under threat, yet Simmons clings to it as if it were. Meanwhile, Fazio has done the real work. He's championed broader access to birth control, leading to fewer unplanned pregnancies. His policies also ensure that surgical procedures take place in safe,

regulated environments, providing real protections for women.

If Simmons has nothing more to contribute than mischaracterizations and fear tactics, voters are right to question the substance of his campaign. Greenwich deserves better.

Rose Repaci

LETTER

Capparelle Supports Laudonia

To the Editor:

My name is Jim Capparelle and I am a lifelong Cos Cob resident. My family has lived in Cos Cob for over 100 years. I have been a Realtor in Greenwich for 50-plus years. Over the years, our family has built over 100 homes throughout Greenwich. I am a current District 8 RTM member.

Like so many other families

who immigrated here over 100 years ago, I have become increasingly concerned with the destructive forces that have infiltrated our State and local governments. Middle class families and small business owners are being undermined by “progressive” Hartford agendas. It's time for a change. A return to common sense. This November

can be the beginning of real progress.

For all these reasons and more, I am voting for the full Republican Ticket, including for my good friend and neighbor, Tod Laudonia, to take back CT's 151st house district.

Jim Capparelle

LETTER

Khanna Conscientious and Hard Working

Re-electing Rachel Khanna as state representative of the 149th district will return an honest, conscientious and hard working leader to Hartford to fight for our freedoms, wellbeing and security.

In her first weeks in the State Assembly, Rachel asked me how she could help make Greenwich a more sustainable community and what our most pressing needs were. Rachel not only listened, she delivered, securing state funding to make our schools greener. This is just one example of her thoughtful, attentive style and effective leadership.

Rachel proactively reaches out to the community, genuinely listens to her constituents and delivers for them time and again, most importantly on issues of public health and the environment by championing clean air and water, improving gun safety and protecting women's reproductive rights.

Rachel wisely recognizes that our environment is the foundation for the health of our residents and a bolster to our economy. The past two years, I've travelled to the capitol with Rachel to learn about the most significant environmental issues in our state at the CT League of Conservation Voters' Environmental Summit. Again, Rachel listened and delivered.

During her first term, Rachel co-sponsored both a critical food waste recycling bill and a long overdue climate bill. She also supported necessary legislation to reduce exposure to toxic PFAS in consumer products, advance renewable solar energy and limit the use of harmful herbicides. Her voting record on environmental bills earned her the highest score

of 100% from the non-partisan CTLCV. In her next term, Rachel will continue to advocate for clean air and water, promote clean energy and safeguard our natural resources, prioritizing people and planet.

Rachel aims to make our community safer as evidenced by her co-sponsorship of An Act Addressing Gun Violence, which keeps guns out of the hands of dangerous people by implementing “no exemptions” safe storage requirements, requiring the registration of ghost guns and banning the intentional display of firearms in public. She also supported bills to strengthen background checks on firearms sales and to keep guns away from people who are at high risk of using them to hurt others or themselves.

A long-time champion of reproductive rights, Rachel has earned the endorsement of Planned Parenthood and Reproductive Equity Now for her defense of safe and accessible women's healthcare. Unlike her opponent, she stands behind the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act, which protects Connecticut providers who perform legal abortions from out-of-state lawsuits and shields anyone traveling to Connecticut for safe, legal abortion care. She has our daughters' backs by safeguarding women's rights to control their own bodies.

Please join me in supporting Rachel to represent Greenwich and our common values in Hartford. We need leadership like hers to fight for our freedoms, environmental protections, and our health and safety.

By Julie DesChamps, Old Greenwich

CANDIDATE

Together, we can Preserve Greenwich

By TOD LAUDONIA

Little by little, drip by drip, radical Democrats and the unelected bureaucratic establishment in back offices of government buildings will erode important local decision making. This would usher in the largest state takeover of municipal control over land use and public education that Connecticut has ever seen.

My opponent and the other Democrat members of Greenwich's state House delegation all voted in favor of HB5390, the latest installment of controversial transit-oriented development proposals passed by the State House in May 2024. <https://fastdemocracy.com/bill-search/ct/2024/bills/CTB00028691/#votes> (Visit for official record). Parading their support for the sweeping housing legislation my opponent celebrates that the new provisions will be “opt-in” for municipalities, so towns like Greenwich can ‘opt out to no penalty’.

This is not protecting

Greenwich from anything. In reality, opting out of such a program will severely “de-prioritize” a town for discretionary state funding. So, Greenwich can either opt in or lose out. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShSchWDeK4s> (Visit for testimony: Rep. Zullo Fights for Local Zoning Control - HB 5390 (youtube.com)

Greenwich is the preferred feed bag for big government ideologues at the State Capitol, who love to build the state budget on the backs of hard-working taxpayers in our community. While in Hartford, my opponent has idly watched as Greenwich residents fund another list of bloated state programs, the vast majority of which will never send one cent to our schools, parks, roads, or facilities.

In 2024, Greenwich alone provided over \$1.1 billion in revenue to the State of Connecticut. In return? Three (3) million dollars in state aid.

Your local concerns are being drowned out at the state level by constant calls for regionalization.

I experienced this firsthand as Greenwich Tax Collector, when the state tried to co-op the municipal tax collecting effort, attempting to appoint six regional collectors and then take a cut off the top for themselves. Alongside other local leaders, we stopped their push and kept this important function of local government here at home.

But without a strong voice in the legislature, the wall around the southwest corner of Connecticut will grow taller and stronger to protect the bureaucracy that will strip Greenwich of its most crucial functions of local control.

Make a plan to vote early, which is already underway at Greenwich Town Hall, so that families like yours in communities like ours will have a voice that echoes inside the gold dome of the State Capitol. Otherwise, head to the polls on November 5th, I'll see you there. Thank you and be well.

*Tod Laudonia
Candidate for the 151st House
District (Greenwich)*

OPINION

Hector Arzeno Works Hard, Knows Greenwich

Dear Editor

I have known Hector Arzeno for decades. We first met when he and I were coaching our children's soccer teams. Needless to say, Hector knew a lot more about soccer than did I. His expertise about the game and patience teaching the children amazed me. And since then, Hector continues to amaze!! A linchpin in Greenwich's Hartford delegation, Hector has contributed in so many ways - not least his bringing home \$22million of state funding to help with the construction of a new Central Middle School.

As a member of the BET, it has been painful for me

to see the Central Middle School project languish and fester. Thank goodness the BET and subsequently the RTM finally appropriated the necessary funds. And a special thank you is due to Hector for his persistent hard work in Hartford that will alleviate the burden on Greenwich taxpayers.

We are so fortunate to have Hector as our representative. Please join me in voting to give Hector Arzeno another term. I know he will continue to serve with distinction and will admirably represent all residents in our district.

David Weisbrod

LETTER

Specifics on Campaign Funding and Where it is Being Spent by Fazio and Simmons

To the editor:

From now until the upcoming Tuesday, Greenwich residents have a choice to represent them in the Upper Chamber of the Statehouse, Incumbent Senator Ryan Fazio or challenger Nick Simmons.

Before candidates make their final pitches on local control, taxes and spending, there is some background that I feel needs to be addressed.

Let's talk about campaign spending. These two candidates are not playing on a level playing field. In 2005, in light of the John Rowland Scandal, the Citizens Election Program was enacted into law with overwhelming Democratic Support. The Program goals were simple:

1. Eliminate reliance on special interest money
2. Allow statewide officers and legislators to make decisions free from the influence of special interests
3. Restore public confidence in the electoral process
4. Increase citizen participation
5. Provide the public with timely and useful disclosure forms

Why then, are we talking in 2024 about a law written and passed by Democrats in 2005?

Because Senator Fazio, for the second time in his career, is facing an opponent who has determined the rules do not apply to them, or their family's wealth.

The origin of Mr. Simmons campaign money and Senator Fazio's has been well documented. Simmons raised his nearly \$500,000 from a litany of places, including out of state interests and real estate developers. Senator Fazio is using the \$124,000 allotted to him by the citizens of Connecticut.

Almost as curious a question, but one receiving less attention as to the “Where is it coming from?” question, is the “Where's it going” question.

LETTER

Be wary of Fearmongering

Greenwich Republican chair Jerry Cincotta has been editorializing about protecting our town against a Democratic “Super Majority” in Hartford. Republican operatives are trying to scare us into voting for their candidates by arguing that Democrats in the state legislature will have a Super Majority and pass every piece of progressive legislation despite even a veto from moderate Governor Lamont. This is nonsense on several fronts:

1. There are multiple tools available to the minority party for stopping bills, including the introduction of killer amendments or a filibuster. Democrats already hold a supermajority in the state senate and Republican senators have used these tactics frequently and successfully.
2. Not all Democrats vote together – some are progressive, some are moderate and some lean

conservative. Khanna, Arzeno and Meskers, the Democrats representing this town are “Blue Dogs,” members of the moderate caucus, which often puts them at odds with the more progressive wing of their party, as we saw when they voted to reject the “Fair Share” housing bill, a proposal to take away local zoning control.

3. It's better to have a seat at the majority table. When it comes to advocating for our local needs, you can be a lot more effective when you have a seat at the table with the majority party. The Democratic assembly delegation has been more successful in bringing tax dollars back to Greenwich and Stamford than any prior Republican delegation.

Our current Democratic State Representatives have delivered the largest income tax cuts, protected local zoning control, supported

our educators, returned large amounts of funds for rebuilding our crumbling schools and for our prized nonprofits. They also got the green light and money for important and long-needed community-improvement projects such as the Roxbury Elementary School, and the Glenville corridor traffic safety project.

Please vote for the strong record of our current State Representatives Hector Arzeno, Rachel Khanna and Steve Meskers and vote to elect State Senate candidate Nick Simmons. They aren't resting on their successes. There's more good work to be done.

Let's vote for the POSITIVE RECORD of our local legislators. Let's not fall for the FEAR TACTICS.

Paul Kretschmann

LETTER

Actions speak louder than words — Ryan Fazio

Do what you say and say what you do. Actions speak louder than words. Candidates should run on their track record and policies. Ryan Fazio has invested a great deal of time working hard to represent the interests of our area in Hartford. He is laser focused and continuously prioritizes his constituents.

The negative attacks must stop. We are a community of intelligent, successful people who

know better. Why can't Greenwich be the example for other towns on how to run campaigns with civility? Healthy debate and open communication is very important for ideas to be formulated and agreements with compromise to be made. Pettiness has no place here. We need to stop politics from going in such a dangerous direction. We can have civil discourse without destroying relationships with our families, friends, and fellow

citizens.

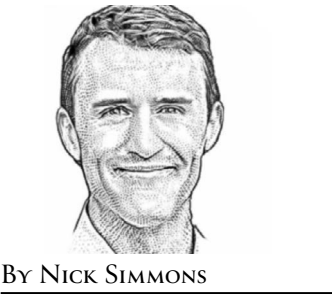
Ryan is a person who lives by these principles and is the right candidate for the job.

I know all our candidates, Republican and Democrat, are running to do what they think is best for us, but Ryan has strong support from both sides of the aisle and will continue to work hard for ALL of us.

Jill Tighe Kelly

CANDIDATE

A Moderate Vision for Connecticut’s Future



By NICK SIMMONS

Born and raised in the 36th District, I’ve come to cherish the values that make this part of Connecticut special—including a commitment to putting the community’s interests before your own.

Growing up in a family with

diverse political perspectives—my father a moderate Republican, my mother a liberal Democrat—I learned the power of compromise from a young age. This belief in balance has guided my career in public service, from my time as a teacher in Harlem to serving as Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Ned Lamont. Now, as a new father, I feel an even stronger sense of duty to ensure our district remains a vibrant, safe, and welcoming place for all families. That’s why I’m running for State Senate—to offer a moderate, solutions-oriented voice in Hartford and tackle the challenges facing our community.

First, my campaign is focused on reducing the high cost of living, making Connecticut more affordable, and creating an environment where families and businesses can thrive. By lowering taxes and encouraging job growth, we can help more people stay in Connecticut and attract new residents. We need more taxpayers, not higher taxes. Personal freedom and safety are equally important. I’m proud that our state has protected reproductive rights through the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act, and I will continue to defend a woman’s right to choose. Similarly,

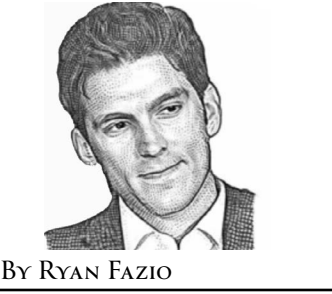
on gun safety, I support common sense reforms like background checks and safe storage laws that protect our families while respecting responsible gun ownership. I also believe that our district needs a renewed focus on infrastructure. Anyone who has driven on I-95 or taken Metro-North knows the importance of modernizing our transportation system. I will work hard to secure the funding necessary to improve our highways and public transit, making life easier for commuters and boosting our local economy. As a former educator, I know

the transformative power of a strong education system. Every child in our district deserves access to world-class schools, whether their path leads to college or vocational training. We must invest in our schools and support our teachers so that all students are equipped for success in the modern economy. Finally, our district’s strength lies in its diversity—of background, thought, and political views. I’m committed to rejecting the extremes on both sides and focusing on practical solutions. Whether it’s safeguarding personal freedoms or ensuring

fiscal responsibility, I will work across the aisle to bring people together. This election offers a clear choice: we can embrace a moderate, common-sense approach that unites us and gets things done, or we can continue down a path of partisanship. My vision is one of fiscal responsibility, personal freedom, and forward-looking solutions that reflect the values of our community. I’m ready to work for all of you to strengthen our district and our state. Nick Simmons
Candidate for Connecticut State Senate, 36th District

CANDIDATE

Local control of zoning and affordable housing



By RYAN FAZIO

Do you believe that developers should be allowed to build high-rise buildings anywhere in our town without having to go through the local zoning process? I don’t, but many people in power in Hartford do. Under the current state affordable housing law, 8-30g, developers can build any residential building of any size ignoring local zoning if 30 percent of the units are deed-restricted affordable units. In recent years, there have been dozens of 8-30g projects formally proposed or completed in Greenwich and New Canaan, like the 105-unit Weed Street proposal in a single-family zoned neighborhood. In the state Senate, I’ve been fighting for local control over zoning because policies like 8-30g

will horribly change our towns and without creating housing affordability. Unfortunately, that fight has proven difficult. Democrats currently hold a roughly 65 percent majority in the state legislature and their party leadership is in strong support of 8-30g and in even stronger support of taking away more local zoning rights from our towns. There is a clear difference. Democratic leaders in both houses have proposed a bill called “Fair Share,” which makes 8-30g look like child’s play. It would give developers even more ability to ignore local zoning to build whatever they want and, on top of that, make towns and cities financially liable to build new developments themselves. Not only would Greenwich and New Canaan lose almost all our local zoning controls, but our property taxes could go up significantly to pay for the construction of vast government buildings. And whereas Stamford is exempt from 8-30g development currently, it would likely bear the burden of Fair Share’s anti-zoning provisions

and financial liabilities. If Democrats pick up more seats in the state Senate and state House this November and gain clear super-majorities (67 percent of the seats) to override gubernatorial vetoes, Fair Share will probably pass. That means your local zoning will be taken away, your property taxes will go way up, and any developer can build high rises in any neighborhood. The good news I can report is that even while being in a legislative minority, I’ve been able to find some common ground with colleagues in both parties. This year I co-authored and passed two new laws slightly increasing our local control of development while stopping another major proposal that would undermine local control. Rep. Tom O’Dea and I introduced legislation this year to make it easier for towns to get a break from 8-30g for four years in the form of a moratorium. That policy was included in HB5474 and passed into law. New Canaan subsequently got a moratorium

and hopefully this policy will make it easier for New Canaan and Greenwich to get future ones too. Additionally, I co-authored and passed SB333 into law this year that returns some ability to towns and cities to make changes to their planning and zoning and other development decisions in their municipal charters (their local law). This was only necessary because in 2023, a “sneak attack” to take away more local rights over zoning and development was passed as a part of a 350-page omnibus bill that was publicly released just an hour before it was voted upon. Fortunately, I was able to reverse it. This year I was also able to stop another proposal from Hartford leadership, “Work Live Ride,” meant to undermine local control. In the closing days of the legislation, I threatened a day-long filibuster of HB5390, which would have taken eligibility for hundreds of millions of dollars from municipalities that do not adopt as-of-right development rules near bus and train stations. If that law was passed then

Riverside, Old Greenwich, Cos Cob, Tallmadge Hill, downtown New Canaan and Springdale in Stamford would have to adopt as-of-right zoning or else lose vital funding. I was able to stop it, but next year that proposal and “Fair Share” will be back. The results of the election this November will dictate whether I can stop them. Hopefully we send more pro-local control candidates up to Hartford this time. I believe that Connecticut would benefit from more balance and bipartisanship in its state government. One-party super-majorities and one-size-fits-all decision-making are unsustainable. I believe that Democrats and Republicans from across the state should find common ground. We should replace 8-30g and say NO to further erosion of local control like Fair Share or Work Live Ride. Laws like these do not improve housing affordability and Democrats need to stop trying to pass them. We can do better. We can make it easier to build middle housing like accessory dwelling units and

residential units in mixed-use or commercially zoned areas. We should reward middle housing for nurses, firefighters, and teachers—rather than just giant government or deed-restricted complexes that those workers would not qualify for anyway. And we must reduce the cost of construction, energy bills, and property taxes—all of which contribute more to unaffordability in our state than zoning. This district that I have the privilege to represent is my home and I will always fight to defend our residents’ right to make decisions locally. A government that governs closest to the people governs best. State Senator Ryan Fazio represents Greenwich, Stamford, and New Canaan. In 2024, he was honored by the Council of Small Towns for his defense of towns’ interests in Connecticut.

OPINION

The BET’s Responsible FY26 Budget Plan

The FY26 budget guidelines from Republican and Democratic BET members reveal a stark choice: responsible fiscal management versus unchecked spending. Greenwich residents, like many across the U.S., are already struggling with high inflation, and the Democratic proposal risks further burdening residents with higher taxes while limiting our town’s ability to respond to future challenges. In contrast, the Republican approach champions fiscal discipline, prioritizing essential services and infrastructure while trimming non-essential spending. This isn’t about austerity for its own sake; it’s about ensuring every dollar is wisely spent. By proposing a more limited budget, we aim to safeguard Greenwich’s financial health and prevent unnecessary tax hikes.

Our approach doesn’t compromise quality of life—it protects it. We advocate for targeted resources toward core services, scrutinizing inflated programs to provide taxpayers with the best value for their money. This also means completing the backlog of \$200 million of unfinished infrastructure projects before embarking on new ones. The approved FY26 BET budget guidelines respect the limits of our community’s resources while maintaining quality services. This is not about saying “no” to spending but “yes” to smarter, more efficient budgeting that keeps Greenwich vibrant, affordable, and financially secure. David Alfano, Nisha Arora, Karen Fassuliotis, Harry Fisher, Lucia D. Jansen, Leslie Tarkington.

Re-Elect Héctor Arzeno to continue working for Greenwich in Hartford

Dear Editors: As someone who was born and raised in Greenwich, I will be voting for Hector Arzeno for State Representative of the 151st, and there are many reasons why you should too! You may have heard how Hector, along with our other two State Reps, Steve Meskers and Rachel Khanna, have brought tens of Millions of dollars back to Greenwich, including significant funding for Central Middle School, the Boys & Girls Club and local non profits. These are just the examples of financial windfalls to Greenwich because of Hector’s hard work and determination. There are many other examples of his working with both Democrats and Republicans to make sure that our Residents are well represented in Hartford. Rep. Arzeno serves on the Education, Environment and the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committees. He has had 100% attendance in both 2023 and 2024, giving us 4 to 5 days a week in Hartford during session. He has co-sponsored 33 bills. Hector had 40 years experience in international finance before entering into public service on the RTM, serving as a delegate on the Finance Committee. As Chair of District 8, I can personally attest that Hector is a force for protecting

the interests of Greenwich. Now that Hector is our State Representative in the 151st, his skills in finance, his working knowledge of Greenwich, his work ethic and his incredible ability to work with everyone in Hartford make him a force to be reckoned with. As a moderate, he has an established record of fiscal responsibility, supporting the largest tax cut in CT history, and understands that our state legislature will continue to deliver better results for Greenwich. He supports the authority of our local zoning officials so that municipalities can provide affordable housing in ways that work for each individual community, and is a passionate advocate for securing CT as a leader in gun safety by closing legislative loopholes. There is good reason why Hector has been endorsed by CT Realtors, Planned Parenthood, CT Against Gun Violence, Moms Demand Action, the Sierra Club, and the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters. He fights to make sure that all of us here in Greenwich are heard in Hartford. I know he will continue to represent everyone in Greenwich and protect our interests in Hartford. Please join me in voting to Re-Elect Hector Arzeno in November. Cheryl Trepp Moss

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LETTER

Money Being Wasted at Every Level of State Government

To the Editor:

Connecticut has a spending problem, not a taxing problem! The State Legislature establishes public policies and uses tax receipts to fund those policies. The only way the State can have a tax problem is if the Legislature spends too much money and that is not a tax problem, that is a spending problem.

It is ironic that every resident of the state must limit their spending based on what they can afford, but some members of the Legislature, primarily Democrats, absolve themselves of this fact once they get elected. This problem is compounded by the lack of accountability for how our tax dollars are spent. For example:

- The recent spike in the Public Benefits

portion of our electricity bills highlights: (1) the Legislature's ability to find multiple ways to impose new taxes/fees and (2), their ability to impose taxes in less than transparent ways. Over 25% of our electricity bills have nothing to do with the generation or transmission of electricity. Rather this portion is made up of state mandated fees that support legislative initiatives such as renewable energy investments, customer support for those who chose not to pay their bills, and alleged energy efficiency programs.

- In 2019, the Legislature committed to the buildout of the Connecticut State Pier with an estimated cost of \$93 million. Over the life of the delayed project, several scandals arose leading to a U.S. Dept. of Justice investigation

and the resignations by several senior officials of the project. The current cost estimate is now over \$300 million with approximately \$200 million being financed by taxpayers. This is an unbelievable failure of oversight by the Democrats in the Legislature.

- As described in a recent column by Red Jahncke Democrats have given state employees a 33% wage increase over Governor Lamont's six-year tenure. This significant increase has not only impacted the last six years' spending levels but will also increase future budgets as pension benefits will be calculated off these higher wages. In fact, over the first five years under Lamont, even with \$5 billion in extra money contributed to the pension fund in excess of the required

amount, the State's unfunded liability in the employee pension fund only dropped by \$1 billion. Democrats' focus on money put into the fund ignores the growth in pension liability driven by the increased wages.

Every decision made by the State Legislature impacts you and your family. Residents need to understand this and elect representatives who will spend our tax dollars wisely and be accountable for their decisions. This is why I am supporting Senator Ryan Fazio for reelection and Tina Courpas, Paul Cappiali and Tod Laudonia for our Greenwich State Representatives. They will be effective stewards of our tax dollars and our community.

Jerry Cincotta, Chair, Greenwich RTC

LETTER

A Few Answers on Senator Ryan Fazio's Record

To the Editor,

I am in complete agreement with my husband Dan's previous letter to the editor entitled "Fazio is my choice," but I respectfully suggest he left out a few very important points.

Ryan Fazio stands out in today's political landscape because of a quality that's often in short supply: authenticity. On the most pressing issues facing our town, Ryan's actions consistently reflect a genuine commitment grounded in principle and pragmatism — something I've witnessed firsthand.

Women's health

On women's health, Senator Fazio has shown a sincere dedication to expanding access to reproductive healthcare. His co-authorship of 2023 legislation allowing pharmacists to prescribe birth control wasn't about political maneuvering; it was a practical, effective step towards making contraception more accessible and eliminating the need for a potentially costly doctor appointment to secure a prescription. This reform has been shown to improve outcomes in other states by making birth control more widely available. I've spoken to Ryan about his views on this issue, and his position is clear: support for maintaining abortion rights in Connecticut, accurately representing the stance of the majority in his district who believe in a woman's right to choose. What I respect most is his nuanced approach—he isn't simply parroting a stance but has also voted against lowering health and safety standards in the abortion industry. For Ryan, it's about ensuring that when women seek care, they receive the best care possible. Protecting choice doesn't mean lowering the bar for safety, and that's where his authenticity shines through.

Moreover, I've been impressed by how his

initiatives have aimed at reducing the number of unplanned pregnancies, which, in turn, lower the number of women forced to make difficult choices regarding abortion. Through expanding access to birth control and promoting preventive care, he has taken meaningful steps that ultimately reduce the number of abortions needed. This pragmatic approach addresses the root causes and leads to real progress for women's healthcare.

Public safety

Public safety is another area where Senator Fazio's leadership goes beyond lip service. Endorsed by local law enforcement, he has taken meaningful actions to address the rise in crime, particularly in areas like gun violence and car thefts. His co-sponsorship of legislation to strengthen background checks for firearm purchases demonstrates his genuine commitment to practical, balanced solutions. He's not trying to win votes by shouting; he's giving law enforcement the tools they need to get illegal guns off our streets. I've seen Ryan's sincerity in his conversations with law enforcement and local leaders — he listens, engages with the facts, and makes decisions based on what will keep our communities safe. There's no grandstanding here, just a thoughtful approach to protecting citizens while respecting their rights.

Local control of zoning

In zoning and local control, Ryan's authenticity is again apparent. This isn't just an issue on paper for him; it's about protecting the character and autonomy of our communities. He has consistently advocated for maintaining local authority over zoning decisions, co-authoring two significant victories that returned zoning power to municipalities. While his opponent, Nick Simmons, has supported legislation that would

erode local input and grant developers the ability to bypass community voices, Ryan has been steadfast in defending the rights of local leaders to shape their towns. I've seen his commitment up close; he's not swayed by pressure from special interests. His focus remains on ensuring that zoning decisions reflect the values and needs of local residents, and he isn't afraid to push back when he sees legislation threatening those principles. Ryan told me he would do everything he could to stop Hartford from taking local control away from Greenwich — I believe it.

Energy

Energy reform is perhaps the clearest example of Ryan's authentic leadership style. As the Ranking Senator on the Energy and Technology Committee, his involvement isn't just for show. He has been deeply engaged in the details, co-authoring a six-point plan aimed at reducing utility costs for families in Connecticut. This isn't just about passing legislation for show; it's about delivering real relief to residents struggling with high electricity bills. His work has led to bipartisan reforms to increase transparency on electric bills, and he continues to advocate for changes that will make energy more affordable while also protecting the environment. The fact that Governor Lamont often seeks Ryan's counsel on energy issues is a testament to his expertise and authentic engagement in this complex field. I've witnessed the genuine concern he has for the impact of high utility costs, and I trust his leadership because he tackles these challenges with depth and sincerity.

Setting the record straight

The criticisms coming from his opponent are often filled with sweeping generalizations and accusatory rhetoric. In answer to a wildly manipulative email sent by his opponent about

abortion, Ryan's answer was this: "The one vote (5414) he is criticizing was a narrow regulatory change in 2022 that allows midwives and nurses to perform surgical abortions without a doctor. 17 Dems – mostly women – joined me in voting against that out of concern that it would hamper safety standards for women. Good people can disagree on that vote but he is totally blowing it up in a disingenuous way. I support keeping abortion legal in CT no doubt about it."

Those who have seen Ryan Fazio at work (which Dan and I have) know that he takes his responsibilities seriously. He approaches each issue not with an eye on the next election, but with an eye on what's right for the people he represents. Whether it's expanding access to healthcare while prioritizing safety, advocating for public safety measures that actually work, defending local governance, or lowering energy costs, Ryan Fazio's record reflects an authentic, consistent effort to craft meaningful solutions.

It is sad to me to see how Ryan's opponent is spending massive amounts of out-of-district marketing dollars on negative ads cynically misrepresenting Ryan's record. Perhaps that is simply what candidates with no personal record of their own and no real plan for the future do these days.

Ryan doesn't seek applause at every turn, nor does he frame his policies in catchy soundbites. He is the kind of leader who listens, engages honestly with the facts, and makes decisions based on the needs of his constituents.

For those seeking leaders who offer real answers and authentic solutions, Senator Ryan Fazio is, without question, the best choice.

Sincerely, Helen Ix FitzPatrick

LETTER

Connecticut has a jobs problem it can no longer ignore.

Connecticut has a jobs problem it can no longer ignore.

During the 12-month period ending June 2024, jobs in Connecticut grew by a paltry .7% versus the national average of 1.7%. According to the CT Department of Labor, 20% of our job growth occurred in government jobs, while 70% came in the educational and health services; jobs that are either directly funded by taxpayers or indirectly through Medicare, and Medicaid. That means roughly 10% of our job growth originated from the private sector!

And even with all the public sector jobs created during this time, Connecticut was still dead last among New England states and an embarrassing 42nd place nationwide.

Even Governor Lamont recognizes Connecticut's problems. At the 2024 Yale Innovation Summit, Lamont shared, "We were once the most entrepreneurial state in the country. We were pretty good. We got a little flat." Indeed.

Bolstered by a favorable tax structure for businesses and residents, our state used to be a mecca for businesses of all sorts. Consider, that until the mid-90s, Stamford had the third highest concentration of Fortune 500 companies in the country, with 18 companies headquartered in the city. Today, that number sits at just 4.

Since 2017, the list of companies relocating their US-based headquarters include such storied names as Aetna (New York), Lego (Boston), GE (Boston), United Tech (Boston) and Alexion (Boston). It begs the question - how bad do your policies have to be that you move to Massachusetts?

Connecticut's failure to create significant numbers of private sector jobs should come as no surprise. Democrats in Hartford have erected numerous obstacles that hinder economic growth. Today, we consistently rank among the highest business, property and labor costs in the nation. According to a 2023 study by the Tax Foundation, Connecticut ranks 15th (1st being the worst) in

combined federal and state corporate tax rates. And, unlike so many other states, our government does little to incent companies to remain, much less relocate, here.

One of our biggest challenges lies in hiring employees. Democratic policies facilitated a -1.2% decrease in our labor force during the past 12-month period. Once again, we've the dubious distinction of being dead last in New England, and well below the national average which saw a 2.4% gain. As CBA president and CEO Chris DiPentima commented, "Connecticut needs more people and the state's high cost of living—driven by high taxes and our energy, housing, and childcare costs—is a key challenge."

We need a vibrant private business sector to grow our local economy, pay the taxes needed to invest in our infrastructure, retain valued public sector workers and support our growing state-pension obligations. Reliance upon state-created jobs is not a viable framework for a sustainable future.

Connecticut needs to adopt policies to create real economic opportunities for our citizens and promote economic growth. And it starts with stopping the outflow of businesses and residents to other states. We should be offering tax incentives and grants to attract (and retain) businesses, limiting regulations on small business that quell growing and hiring, and reducing the tax burden on our citizens.

It's time to put an end to a Democrat-controlled House, Senate and Governor's Office that has been great at growing government and taxes, but misses the mark when it comes to private-sector job creation.

I know many businesspeople and residents in the 149th District share my concerns. That's why I hope you'll join me in voting for Tina Courpas for State Representative this November, so that we can bring common-sense to Hartford. It's time for Connecticut to get back to business.

Michael Behringer, District 149

LETTER

Tina Courpas, Candidate for State Rep 149 and Ryan Fazio, State Senator will bring our tax dollars back to Greenwich

Dear Editors:

Ms. Khanna and the other Democrats who currently represent Greenwich in Hartford say they should be re-elected because of the state funding they claim to have obtained for Greenwich. What they do not talk about is how much in the way of taxes Greenwich residents pay to the State and how little of those tax dollars our Greenwich Democrats have actually gotten back for our town.

Greenwich already contributes over \$1 billion per year in income tax payments alone. When sales, real estate conveyance, gift and estate, and pass through / corporate taxes, paid by Greenwich residents are included, the data imply that Greenwich residents pay over \$1.5 billion per year in total taxes to the state.

In the fiscal year 2024 state budget that Ms. Khanna says she "helped craft", Greenwich was allocated slightly less than \$2.8 million of over \$3 BILLION

in total "statutory formula" municipal aid distributed or budgeted by the state to towns and cities. And for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2025, Greenwich is slated to receive slightly more than \$2.8 million out of a state municipal aid budget of almost \$3.1 billion. Greenwich thus receives less than 1/10th of 1 percent of the municipal assistance money dispensed by the state – which represents only 2% of the taxes Greenwich pays to Hartford!

The numbers tell the truth – Greenwich sends vast sums to Hartford each year, yet Ms. Khanna and her fellow Democrats bring back a tiny fraction of it.

I am voting for Republicans Tina Courpas (149th District Rep) and Ryan Fazio (36th District Senator) and encourage all Greenwich and North Stamford residents to do the same.

Regards,
Jane Sprung, voter in the 149th District

LETTER

Board of Education's Actions Unprecedented in History of Greenwich Boards

I am Harry Fisher, Chairman of the Board of Estimate and Taxation, but writing as an individual.

I have a long perspective on town politics as I served on the RTM and BET in the 80s and 90s. I have witnessed numerous replacements of members of the BET who had to resign for various reasons. Two of those resignations resulted in my appointment to the BET by the full board.

At no time to my knowledge did the party suffering a vacancy have its choice disregarded by the other party, especially to the degree that the democrats did at an illegal meeting Monday morning. And it seems the Board of Education acknowledged its mistake in that characterization of an emergency by ratifying the vote last night without republican support.

Today I spoke with a former chair of the BOE with a long-held perspective similar to mine. He also has no recollection of one party disregarding the choice of the

party suffering the vacancy, nor of the Board of Selectmen having to fill a vacancy, which it did over 60 days past its statutory power to do so.

The actions of the democrat members of the BOE is nothing short of reckless disregard for tradition and best practices for a board in this community.

I understand that the democrats notified the Board of Selectmen prior to its properly noticed meeting on Tuesday that it planned to initiate a legal challenge to the BOS action to appoint Mr. Cappiali.

I note that it is required by law that the democrats pay for their own counsel and not expend any town funds for that purpose. However, continuing the fight will cost the town in defending the legal action of the Board of Selectmen, and therefore waste taxpayer resources.

I fail to understand how the town or the students will be well served by a BOE that will be at odds with itself due to this unnecessary action.

Thank you.

LETTER

Senator Fazio's Record Of Honest Action for Women's Health, Public Safety, Zoning, and Energy

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Senator Ryan Fazio.

On women's health, Senator Fazio has been a consistent advocate for expanding access to reproductive healthcare. In 2023, he co-authored legislation that allows pharmacists to prescribe birth control. Fazio has also been clear in his support of maintaining abortion rights in Connecticut. He voted against lowering health and safety standards in the abortion industry, demonstrating his commitment to ensuring women receive the best possible care.

Public safety is the second area where Fazio's leadership shines. Endorsed by local police, he has taken significant steps to address rising crime rates, particularly gun crime and car thefts. He co-sponsored laws to strengthen background checks for firearms purchases and introduced measures to give law enforcement the tools they need to remove illegal guns from the streets.

Third, Senator Fazio

has been a defender of local control in zoning decisions. He successfully co-authored two major victories that returned zoning authority to local governments, allowing municipalities to make planning decisions that reflect the character of their communities. Fazio defends local decision-making.

Finally, Fazio has made energy reform a central part of his legislative agenda. As the Ranking Senator on the Energy and Technology Committee, he co-authored a six-point plan to reduce utility costs and passed bipartisan reforms aimed at lowering electricity prices for Connecticut families. He continues to push for reforms that will make energy prices less expensive.

Senator Fazio's record is one of honest action. He has worked across the aisle to deliver real solutions on women's health, public safety, zoning, and energy. Please consider the positive impact Fazio is having on our community.

Sincerely, Debra McLaughlin

NEWS BRIEFING
 Continued from Page 1

FROM TOWN HALL
Town Honors First Responders’ Vital Service
 Greenwich observed National First Responders Day on Tuesday, October 29, to honor the essential roles of firefighters, police officers, EMTs, and Public Works. A photo at Town Hall marked their contributions to community safety.
 Photo Credit: Greenwich Department of Public Works

Town Celebrates Disability Employment Awareness Month
 October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and Greenwich marked it with proclamations from First Selectman Fred Camillo at Coffee for Good and Abilis’ headquarters. Coffee for Good, along with partners like Abilis Inc., Greenwich Library’s café, and Island Beach, supports employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Parking Permit Renewals Due Online
 Residents with municipal parking permits must renew online for 2025, completing applications, residency verification, and payment through the designated link. Payments are due by Dec. 1 to avoid late fees, with a 10-15 business day review period for applications. All renewals must be finalized by Dec. 31; questions can be sent to parkingpermits@greenwichct.org.

Town Launches Route 1 Tree Planting
 Greenwich’s Planning & Zoning Department announced it will plant over 100 trees along Route 1 from Port Chester to Stamford, following years of planning and interdepartmental collaboration. Approved by the Connecticut Department of Transportation, the project includes 90 trees to be planted this fall and the remainder in spring. The Greenwich Tree Conservancy will fund the trees and planting costs, with the first planting scheduled for November 1 at East Putnam Avenue in Cos Cob.

Town Considers Feral Cat Ordinance
 The Board of Selectmen reviewed updates to a proposed ordinance aimed at managing feral and stray cats, requiring keepers to register with the town and sterilize cats under their care. The ordinance allows animal control to either impound cats or implement a Trap-Neuter-Release-Vaccinate (TNR-V) protocol to reduce the population. Pending approval, the proposal will proceed to the Representative Town Meeting for further consideration.

AROUND TOWN
Leaf Collection Starts November 12
 The 2024 Leaf Collection Program begins Tuesday, November 12. Until then, residents should not place leaves on or near roads. Only leaves in biodegradable bags will be collected, and residents are asked to avoid raking onto roads, sidewalks, or drains to prevent flooding.

Turkey Trot Races Set November 30
 The Greenwich Alliance for Education’s 14th annual Turkey Trot will take place on November 30, featuring a 5K race and a 1-mile run/walk that start at the Arch Street Teen Center. The 1-mile begins at 9:30 AM, and the 5K at 10:00 AM, with a warm-up at 9:00 AM. Registration costs \$15 for children and \$30 for adults, increasing to \$40 after October 29 and \$50 on race day.

Quarry Knoll Redevelopment Project Advances
 Greenwich Communities has received initial approvals to redevelop Quarry Knoll I, creating at least 275 affordable units on town-owned land. This plan supports Greenwich’s goal of meeting the state’s 10 percent affordable housing requirement under Connecticut’s 8-30g law. The project follows the redevelopment of Armstrong Court and seeks to provide fully affordable housing options in the area.

Aquarion Alerts Lead Pipe Checks
 Aquarion Water Company will contact Greenwich customers with lead, galvanized, or unverified water service lines, as required by new EPA regulations effective October 16. Customers can view the material of their service lines on Aquarion’s interactive online map. Only customers with potential lead risks will receive further information; those with non-lead lines will not be contacted.

Great Pumpkin Rescue Event
 Waste Free Greenwich, in partnership with GPS, will host its third annual Great Pumpkin Rescue on Saturday, November 16, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at Living Hope Community Church in Old Greenwich to collect pumpkins for composting and

raise awareness about food waste. Last year’s event diverted over 4,000 pounds of pumpkins from landfills. The free event will include games, raffle prizes, and a composting demonstration.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS
Greenwich Library Closes Briefly for Repairs
 Greenwich Library closed temporarily on October 29 and 30 for sewer pipe repairs. During this time, Cos Cob and Byram Shubert Libraries extended hours to 9 am to 9 pm, and digital resources remained accessible. Due dates for materials were extended to November 1.

Library Survey Shows 96% Satisfaction
 Greenwich Library’s spring survey, part of its *Greenwich Library Reconnects* plan, received 1,887 responses assessing satisfaction with library services, collections, and digital resources. Results showed over 96% satisfaction with in-person and digital offerings, programming, and communication, with most respondents using the library weekly. Areas for improvement included room reservations, website usability, social media, and programming for teens, which library staff are addressing.

YWCA Hosts DV Awareness Vigil
 The YWCA Greenwich held its annual Harmony Project candlelight vigil on October 22 to raise awareness of domestic violence and provide support to victims, following a similar 5K walk earlier in the month. Last year, their hotline received over 3,600 calls, underscoring a high local demand for resources. The YWCA offers various services, including emergency shelter, counseling, and legal aid, while educating the community on healthy relationships and warning signs of abuse.

OG Deli Reopens
 After a two-year break, Old Greenwich Deli has reopened at 1345 E. Putnam Avenue, previously the site of EATalia Market. Originally opened in 2020, the deli moved to Stamford in 2022 before returning to Old Greenwich. The menu includes breakfast sandwiches, daily specials, burgers, salads, and a range of signature sandwiches and wraps.

PEOPLE IN TOWN
Zara Haque Wins Award
 On October 18, 2024, Zara Haque received the Connecticut Youth Services Association’s Youth Leadership Award for her work in STEM education and community engagement. She leads the Greenwich Middle School STEM Fair and collaborates with STEM to Stern, which promotes STEM learning in underserved communities. This award marks her as the sole youth honoree by the association in 2024.

SCHOOLS
SH Alumnae Nominated for National Emmy
 Sacred Heart Greenwich alumnae Emily Sedgwick and Devan Jordan have been nominated for the 2024 National Student Production Awards by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. Their documentary, produced in the school’s Real World Filmmaking class, profiles ABC journalist Bob Woodruff and his foundation supporting injured veterans. This is Sacred Heart Greenwich’s first national Emmy nomination in 20 years since Erica Jorgensen’s win in 2004.

GHS Teacher Wins Educator Award
 Greenwich High School social studies teacher Ryan Jones received the University of Chicago’s Outstanding Educator Award. Jones, who has taught in Greenwich Public Schools for over a decade, was also honored with the Distinguished Teacher Award by the Greenwich DTA Committee in 2022.

Glenville Second Graders Visit Town Hall
 Second graders from Glenville School visited Greenwich Town Hall, meeting with First Selectman Fred Camillo and his Executive Assistant, Ken Borsuk. The students learned about the roles of local government officials, toured the building, and participated in a Q&A session with Camillo.

ISD Hosts Parent Workshop
 Each fall, the International School at Dundee holds a workshop introducing parents to the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program. Parents learn about concepts such as student agency, international-mindedness, and the Learner Profile through hands-on activities. Additional workshops are planned to continue engaging parents in the IB framework.

GHS Senior Advances as Coca-Cola Scholar
 Greenwich High School senior Justin Bernstein has been named a semifinalist in the 2025 Coca-Cola Scholars Program, advancing toward a potential \$20,000 scholarship. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, the largest corporate-sponsored scholarship program in the U.S., has awarded over \$87 million to more than 7,000 students since its inception. Semifinalists will now submit essays, a recommendation, and a transcript for the next phase of selection.

GHS Ancient Civ Students Explore Library
 GHS teachers Ms. Margarita David and Ms. Avigail Bialyik recently took Ancient Civilizations students to the Morgan Library & Museum in New York City. Students participated in the “Myth & Symbol” program, examining Mesopotamian cylinder seals and cuneiform tablets. They also toured the museum and viewed financier J.P. Morgan’s preserved office.

Donovan Mitchell Unveils GCDS Athletic Center
 Donovan Mitchell, Greenwich Country Day School alumnus, joined Head of School Adam Rohdie and Athletic Director Tim Helstein to unveil the Donovan Mitchell Family Athletic Center. Known as “The DON,” the facility includes a regulation NCAA basketball court that can convert into two high school courts and serve as the campus’s primary gathering space for all-school events. Mitchell marked the opening with a ceremonial shot on the court.
 Photo Credit: Greenwich Country Day School

JC Celebrates United Nations Day
 On October 24, Julian Curtiss School held its 33rd annual United Nations Day, celebrating the cultural diversity of its students, who represented 60 countries and 30 languages. Dressed in traditional attire, students paraded around campus, each carrying the flag of their heritage. Principal Eduardo Calderón emphasized the importance of empathy and unity in building an inclusive community.

SPORTS
GHS Girls Cross Country Wins FCIAC
 Greenwich High School’s girls cross-country team won the FCIAC Championship at Waveny Park, defending their title from last year. Sophomore Sophie Passalacqua led the team with a second-place finish in 18:33, and junior Margaret McCoee followed in seventh at 19:06. Additional top-40 finishes included juniors Gemma Hardwick, Ava Passamano, Orla Muir, senior Ellie Englund, and sophomore Eleanor Kim.

SH Greenwich Clinches FAA Championship
 Sacred Heart Greenwich completed an undefeated FAA regular season by defeating St. Luke’s 7-0, securing the FAA regular season championship and top seed in the tournament. Ainsley Clough and Kingsley Ely led the Tigers’ offense, with SHG dominating on penalty corners.

GA’s Lily Lyons Wins FAA Cross Country Title
 Greenwich Academy junior Lily Lyons claimed the individual title at the 2024 FAA Girls Cross Country Championships with a personal record time of 17:59, leading her team to a close second-place finish behind Hopkins. Lux Burgin also excelled for Greenwich Academy, finishing second in 19:51, as top athletes from various schools earned All-FAA honors.

GHS Girls Cross Country Wins Class LL Championship
 Greenwich High School’s girls cross country team secured back-to-back Class LL and FCIAC championships this season, highlighted by standout performances from team leaders and rising stars like freshman Sophia Passalacqua. The Cardinals claimed victory in the recent Class LL meet at Wickham Park, edging out Glastonbury by 11 points with a team score of 82.

GHS Field Hockey Exits in Semifinals
 After defeating Wilton in the FCIAC Tournament quarterfinals, Greenwich High School’s field hockey team was eliminated in a 3-0 semifinal loss to undefeated Staples. Despite the loss, Coach Megan Wax praised the Cardinals’ resilience, noting freshman goalie Tatum Wunderlich’s 15 saves in a game dominated by Staples’ offensive pressure.

SH Field Hockey Wins on Senior Day
 Sacred Heart Greenwich’s field hockey team celebrated Senior Day with a dominant 5-0 win over Westminster School, bringing their record to 13-2. The Tigers, first in the FAA, secured home-field advantage for the upcoming tournament, led by standout performances from seniors

and multi-goal contributions.

GHS Volleyball Advances to FCIAC Semifinals
 Greenwich High School’s girls volleyball team advanced to the FCIAC semifinals with a 3-0 win over Westhill, maintaining their undefeated conference record. The Cardinals, now 20-1 overall, overcame last year’s quarter final exit with strong performances from players like Heidi Zieme and Joy Houdre.

GHS Field Hockey Reaches FCIAC Semifinals
 The Greenwich High School field hockey team advanced to the FCIAC semifinals with a 2-1 quarterfinal win over Wilton, showcasing solid defense and teamwork throughout.

GHS Boys Soccer Advances to FCIAC Semifinals
 Greenwich’s boys soccer team advanced to the FCIAC semifinals with a 1-0 quarterfinal win over Ridgefield, secured by senior Matthew Maloney’s goal in the 50th minute. The Cardinals, unbeaten and riding a seven-game shutout streak, will face Brien McMahon next in the tournament.

GHS Girls Volleyball Secures Top FCIAC Seed
 Greenwich High School girls volleyball capped a dominant 19-1 regular season, sweeping 17 of their wins and finishing 15-0 in the FCIAC to secure the top conference seed. Led by a strong senior lineup, the Cardinals showcased skill and teamwork throughout the season.

GHS Field Hockey Earns No. 4 FCIAC Seed
 Greenwich High School’s field hockey team ended its regular season with an 11-3 record, earning the No. 4 seed in the FCIAC Tournament. Led by standout performances, including a recent 8-0 victory over Stamford, they’ll face Wilton in the quarterfinals, aiming to build on their strong finish.

SH Field Hockey Strengthens with Two Wins
 Sacred Heart Greenwich field hockey, with a 12-2 record, added recent wins over Millbrook School (6-0) and Greens Farms Academy (3-2), showing strong teamwork and resilience. Key contributors included Charly Nemec, Caeley Clough, and Kingsley Ely, with goalkeeper Casey Smith securing a shutout against Millbrook.

FROM HARTFORD
CT DOT Hosts Public Sessions on I-95 Study

The Connecticut Department of Transportation will hold an in-person public information session on the I-95 Greenwich Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) Study on November 20, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Greenwich High School. A virtual meeting will follow on November 21 at noon, accessible via registration at i95Greenwich.com, with a YouTube livestream option. The PEL Study, launched in 2023, examines potential safety and mobility improvements along I-95 from the New York State line to Exit 7 in Stamford.

DEEP Issues Statewide Outdoor Fire Ban
 This past Saturday, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) imposed a statewide ban on all outdoor fires in state parks, forests, and wildlife areas due to extreme fire risks and the ongoing Hawthorne Fire. This measure, supported by Governor Lamont’s state of emergency declaration, mobilizes state resources to manage existing fires and prevent new outbreaks. Residents are advised to avoid outdoor burning, refrain from equipment that may spark, and promptly report any signs of wildfire.

Gov. Lamont Orders Audit of CSCU Finances
 Governor Ned Lamont has requested an independent audit of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system to ensure transparent financial management. The audit will examine CSCU’s procurement card purchases, meal and entertainment expenses, vehicle usage, tax reporting, and overall spending practices. This review aims to verify that CSCU’s financial practices comply with state policies and support its educational mission.

OUR NEIGHBORS
Avon Theatre Honors Michael Douglas
 The Avon Theatre Film Center awarded Michael Douglas a lifetime achievement honor on October 22. The event raised funds to support the theater’s educational programs and facility updates. An online auction runs through October to further support the theater’s mission.

COLUMN

Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude



By Rabbi Mitchell Hurvitz

“The Sound of Music” is my wife Roseanne’s all-time favorite movie. For almost 40 years, Roseanne has wanted to stay a few days at the Von Trapp Family Lodge in Vermont; but it took six months of chemo and immunotherapies, and beating back my cancer, that finally I realized I needed to make the time and to have the willingness to make her simple wish happen.

Early in the summer, we went to the Lodge and immersed ourselves in the Von Trapp family history and the American home they had made for themselves in Stowe, Vermont. We met Maria’s granddaughter and learned a lot about the true history of the Von Trapp family. The Sound of Music depicts Nazi persecution, but it does so in a very G-rated manner; the true story is a lot more harrowing.

We hiked around the enchanting farm and gazed upon the sweeping mountain vistas that reminded the Von Trapp family of their beloved Austrian home from which they had to flee. It was a beautiful and meaningful trip, and on the drive home, we joyously

listened to the soundtrack of the Sound of Music while singing along with all of the songs.

My favorite is “My Favorite Things:” Raindrops on roses, whiskers on kittens...Brown paper packages tied up with strings... Snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes...These are a few of my favorite things! When the dog bites, when the bee stings, when I’m feeling sad, I simply remember my favorite things, and then I don’t feel so bad!

In honor of Julie Andrews’ 79th birthday, a different version of this song was offered, which also personally resonated: ...needles for knitting, Walkers and handrails, and new dental fittings... hearing aids and glasses... false teeth in glasses...When the pipes leak, When the bones creak, When the knees go bad, I simply remember my favorite things, And then I don’t feel so bad...Then I remember the great life I’ve had, And then I don’t feel so bad.

This past year was tough, and I experienced “dog bites and bee stings.” I had to find the strength to accept that which I couldn’t control and instead focus on all the blessings that surrounded me if only I would notice.

God commands us to “choose life,” no matter the circumstances. We can do this by practicing an attitude for gratitude and continually seeking out at every opportunity of Sacred Joy! Cultivation of gratitude helps us better recognize what is good vs. wrong. Gratitude occurs when we realize the good that we already possess. No matter how dire or challenging the circumstances, it is

*Life is too short
not to experience daily
sacred joy.*

always possible to find something for which to be grateful, and the easiest way to do this is to pursue sacred joy actively.

Life is too short not to experience daily sacred joy. It is too easy not to find the time to do this; for example, being on our phones rather than being fully present is more effortless. It is also easier to think that our material possessions can bring us happiness. But our possessions do not bring us true and lasting joy, nor life fulfillment. Possessions can add some happiness to our lives but hold no intrinsic value. The house we build and live in does not matter; it’s the home we make, the family and friends we treasure, and the times we share our sacred joy.

We must learn to prioritize our favorite things, what we treasure most, and the times and spaces we share joyfully with those we love most. Happiness has value, but it is not ultimately the meaning of life. Happiness is only what the individual feels, and sacred joy is always about something we share with others. We never experience sacred joy in solitude, and the desire for sacred joy is also so strong that many of us have witnessed loved ones courageously fighting off the Angel

of Death so they could reach an appointed time of sacred joy.

When my body was wracked with cancer and the toxins of treatments, once a week I felt no pain. Shabbat would come, and I would share in a bar or bat mitzvah and only experience sacred joy, oblivious to physical challenges.

Sharing love and joy with others is our favorite thing. It is what connects us to each other and God. Laughing together, loving, and being present with each other is what sacred joy is all about. Cultivate an attitude for gratitude, and notice the opportunities to share sacred joy. What can be more favored than living such a sacred and rewarding life?

Shabbat Shalom.

Temple Shalom’s Senior Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz is a scholar, teacher, community activist and preacher, and is recognized as one of the prominent religious leaders in the Greenwich area and beyond. A frequent guest speaker at synagogues and churches, study groups, community institutions and universities, he is a charismatic personality who engages individuals and stimulates hearts and minds. His teachings can be found in Greenwich Sentinel and in other local and national publications.

Friends of Nathaniel Witherell Bring Original Artwork to Residents

By Debra McLaughlin

Friends of Nathaniel Witherell is a charitable organization dedicated to raising funds to enhance the quality of life of The Nathaniel Witherell’s skilled nursing care residents and short term rehabilitation patients. Founded in 2007, Friends of Nathaniel Witherell support activities that bring smiles and comfort to our seniors. From art classes and live music to bingo and recreational activities, we aim to enhance the lives of every resident. We bring joy to our residents and help those who once helped us.

Art exhibits in nursing homes can brighten seniors’ lives and are powerful ways to enhance the overall well-being of seniors. They spark memories, encourage conversations, and give residents something exciting to talk about. Looking at art stimulates the mind and lifts the spirit. Seniors gain a sense of joy while enjoying beautiful paintings, while adding a little color and culture to their day! Each month Mary Tate, Friends of Nathaniel Witherell’s Director of Resident and Volunteer Services, brings in a new art show whether it be



Carina Imbrogno Portrait of a Boy


photography or painting or tapestry to provide fresh interesting wall art to our residents.

We search for artists to display their work for residents and patients. The current artist displaying her wonderful paintings is Carina Imbrogno (<https://caimbrogno.wixsite.com/>

mysite). She is a self-taught award-winning artist who began creating art at age 40. She paints in photo-realistic style, capturing people, animals and landscapes. Her work has been accepted in over 400 exhibits worldwide, receiving nearly 300 awards. Many of her pieces currently hang in The Nathaniel Witherell art gallery..

For further information about Friends of Nathaniel Witherell and the vital experiences we provide to those at The Nathaniel Witherell, call Lisa Harding, Director of Development, Advancement & Fundraising at 203-618-4227 or lisa.harding@friendsofnw.org. Let us tell you about the happiness and sense of community we bring to those who need it most.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Mary Tate, Friends of Nathaniel Witherell’s Director of Resident and Volunteer Services, at mary.tate@witherell.org or 203-628-4228. We have over 150 volunteers contributing 300 volunteer hours per month. There are tons of opportunities to suit your interests and schedules, including arts and crafts, card games, gift shop, hair salon, and pet therapy program.



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By Rabbi Yossi Deren

The world’s attention is riveted on a small piece of land in the Middle East. Tensions are high, conflicts seem unending, and anxiety is widespread. The enduring conflict between Israel and its hostile neighbors - along with groups seeking its destruction - has escalated to a point where nearly every country has taken a stance. This global spotlight elicits a variety of emotions, especially among Jews worldwide. For many, there is a profound sense of identity with Israel, often expressed in fierce pride and unwavering support. Yet, for others, while a deep, emotional connection to Israel exists, there are also feelings of ambivalence, anxiety, or even confusion. Some may wonder: why is this tiny country unable to resolve its challenges?

Recently, millions of Jews around the world celebrated the Jewish New Year during the high holiday season. A significant part of this celebration is the completion and renewal of the annual Torah reading cycle. Each Sabbath, Jews gather in their synagogues to read a section of the Bible, finishing the entire text over the course of a year. This coming Sabbath, the reading is from Genesis 12:7: “And G-d appeared to Abram and said, “To your children, I will give this land.” For Jews, the Bible serves as the foundational deed to the Holy Land. Billions of people of various faiths respect the Bible, the Torah, the five books of Moses, as the

A real breakthrough occurs only when a new perspective is introduced that transcends the traditional model of two sides locked in opposition, each seeking a strategic advantage to force the other into submission

Word of G-d.

True conflict resolution is inherently complex and elusive. A real breakthrough occurs only when a new perspective is introduced that transcends the traditional model of two sides locked in opposition, each seeking a strategic advantage to force the other into submission. While this approach might bring a temporary cessation of violence, or even long-term peace, it is not the ideal. Ideal conflict resolution requires introducing a perspective that allows both sides to recognize something greater than themselves.

If we view the Jewish people’s connection to the land of Israel merely as a factor in a political struggle, it risks being perceived as another tool in the effort to overpower the opposition. However, the Bible’s claim is not intended as a weapon or a declaration of

dominance. Rather, it introduces a different paradigm altogether. The Torah’s message is about truth, about the divine will, and about the mission of humanity itself. G-d granted the land of Israel to the Jewish people not as an exclusionary right of possession, but as a platform to fulfill a divine mission that resonates with all of humankind.

The land of Israel, therefore, is not merely territory - it is a means through which to bring G-dliness, goodness, and kindness to the world. This divine mission invites all people to partake in its ultimate purpose. When we, the Jewish people, embrace this mission, we are not seeking to oppress or exclude others, but to uplift everyone, to elevate the entire world through the Torah’s teachings.

As the late Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks once said, “Non-Jews are embarrassed by Jews who are embarrassed of Judaism, but they are proud of Jews who are proud of Judaism.” When Jews understand the deeper meaning of their identity - through the study of Torah, the observance of mitzvot, and a genuine connection to the mission embodied by the land of Israel - they inspire others as well. In this way, the Jewish people can lead the world toward a future of peace, inclusivity, and harmony.

This Tuesday, Nov. 5 we’ll be discussing “How Israel Wins” at a seminar that is open to the public - www.chabadgreenwich.org/israelwins - join us!

Worship Directory and Services

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Harvest Time Church

1338 King St., 203-531-7778
www.htchurch.com

Worship Services: Sun, 9 & 10:45am. All services are streamed on the church’s website and YouTube channel. In addition to Sundays, there are also groups for children and teens on Wednesday evenings.

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church

10 Northfield St.,
203-869-7988

www.firstbaptistgreenwich.com

Sunday Servings: 11:30am, Facebook Live or for Devotion: 11-11:25am (Dial in 701-802-5355, Access code 360922).

Greenwich Baptist Church

10 Indian Rock Ln;
203-869-2807

www.greenwichbaptist.org

Worship: Sun, 11am (in person and online through Facebook & YouTube). Children Sunday School: 9:30am, ages 9-14y. Adult Bible Study: Sun, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall. Prayer Gathering: Wed, 7pm, Pastor’s Office or virtual on Google Meets.

CATHOLIC

Sacred Heart Church

95 Henry St.; 203-531-8730
www.sacredheartgreenwich.org

Mass: Mon-Fri, 7am (in the Chapel); Saturday Vigil, 4pm (in Church); Sunday: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30am. Confessions: Sat, 3-3:30pm or by appointment. Divine Mercy Prayer Group: Wed, 7-9pm. Prayer Group: Thu, 4-5pm, in the Chapel, 38 Gold St, All are welcome. Ministry to the Homebound: if you, or someone you know, is homebound and would like a priest visit you, call the Rectory at 203-531-8730. Stations of the Cross: All Fridays during Lent, 6:30pm, in the Church, All are welcome. *Thanksgiving Food Drive: non-perishable food donations, Please leave items at the front or rear entrances of the church each weekend through Sunday, Nov. 17. Suggested items: \$20 Store gift cards (Stop & Shop or Shoptite). For information or to help with this ministry contact John Innominato at 914-565-1637.*

St. Catherine of Siena & St. Agnes

4 Riverside Ave; 203-637-3661
www.stc-sta.org

* All Masses at St. Catherine of Siena Church are in-person and livestreamed (View our Livestream and recordings here: <https://events.locallive.tv/worship/stc-sta>)

Masses: Saturday, 3-4pm – Confessions (Specific dates confirmed weekly in bulletin.) Vigil Mass, 5pm. Sunday: 7:30am, 9am (Family Mass), 10:30am (Traditional Mass), 5pm (Teen Mass), all at St. Catherine’s Church). Masses in other Languages: French Mass - 2nd Sunday of the month, 11am. Italian Mass - 3rd Sunday of the month, both at St. Catherine’s Chapel. Spanish Mass, 6:30pm, St. Catherine’s Church. Daily/Weekdays: Mon, Tue, Thu & Friday: 7am – Daily Mass, St. Catherine’s Church; 5:15pm – Daily Mass, St. Catherine’s Chapel. Tuesdays: Rosary, 6pm, St. Catherine’s Chapel. Wednesdays: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8:30am-4pm, St. Catherine’s Church. Ongoing: Food & Essentials Drive for Neighbor to Neighbor (there will be a car or SUV with an open trunk in the parking lot across from St. Catherine’s church on Tuesdays, 9-11am. Join Music Ministries for choir rehearsals - Traditional, Contemporary, Teen, Cherub, Family Mass Choir - contact Music Director, Dr. Liya Petrides at music.director@stc-sta.org with questions. Walking with Purpose: Thursdays, through March 28, 10-11:30am (off Feb. 15 & March 14), stc-sta.org/walking-with-purpose. New Day Bereavement: starts March 5 (There’s no cost and you need not be a member of the Parish of St. Catherine and St. Agnes or even Catholic, you just need to be registered. If inter ested, please contact Parish Partners at (203-637-3661, ext. 375). *Adult Faith Formation “Bible Study” Wednesdays, Sept. 11 - Nov. 13, 9:45-11:30am. Gail Archer, organist: Music by Women Composers: Sunday, Oct. 27,*

2pm.

St. Marv Church

178 Greenwich Ave.;
203-869-9393

www.stmarygreenwich.org

Public Mass: Sun: 9, 10:30am, 12:15 & 5:15pm. Sat Vigils: 4 & 7pm (Spanish). Daily: Mon-Fri, 12:05pm (Church doors will open from 10am-3pm). Confessions (English): Tue: 7-8pm; Sat: 3-3:45pm. Eucharistic Adoration: 1st Fri of the month: 12:30-5pm. *Cana Prep: Saturday, Nov. 2, 8:30am-6pm, \$200 per couple, RSVP to canaprep.stmary@gmail.com.*

St. Michael the Archangel

469 North St.; 203-869-5421
www.stmichaelgreenwich.com

Mass: Mon-Fri: 7:30 & 9am. Sat: 9am & 5pm. Sun: 7:30, 8:30, 9:45am, 12 & 5pm. Confession: Sat: 4:15-4:45pm; Wed: 9:30-11am & 6:30-8pm. Eucharistic Adoration: Wed, 9:30am-8pm. New Day Bereavement Program: through Nov. 17, Thu, 7-8:30pm & through Nov. 30 (skipping Nov. 23), Wed, 4-5:30pm, 203-869-5421. *All Saints Mass: Friday, Nov. 1, 9am. Saturday, Nov. 2: All Souls Day: Adoration, 8am; Feast of All Souls mass, 9am, 5:15pm; “Put your house in order” discussion, 9:30am.*

St. Timothy Chapel

1034 North St.; 203-869-5421

Mass: Sat: 4pm (Vigil Mass). Sun: 11am.

St. Paul Church

84 Sherwood Ave.; 203-531-8741
www.stpaulgreenwich.org

Mass: Mon-Thu: 9am; Sat: 4pm (Vigil); Sun: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30am. Confession: Sat, 3-3:45pm. Mass on Holy Days: Vigil: 5:30pm, 9am & 12:15pm. Visit the website for information regarding the Bereavement Group (twice monthly) and weekly volunteer opportunities at the Don Bosco Kitchen and Food Pantry with the St. Paul Mercy Volunteers. All masses are available via livestream through the website. Evenings For Married Couples: 1st Thurs of every month, 7:30pm. *Annual Coat Drive – through Thursday, Nov. 7: gently used winter coats and jackets for men, women and children. Boxes located at the entrances and in the connector to the Parish Center. These coats will be distributed to those in need through the Greenwich Department of Human Services. Fall Dinner: Saturday, Oct. 26, beginning at 5pm, 50/50 Raffle and Baskets, \$30 for adults, \$10 for children under 10.*

St. Roch Church

10 St. Roch Ave; 203-869-4176
www.strochchurch.com

Mass: (Reservations and/or for viewing via live streaming): Mon-Fri: 7:30pm; Sat: 5pm; Sun: 7:30am (Concelebrated for Previously Scheduled 9:30am Mass Intentions), 10:30am, 12pm (Spanish). Mass Intentions: consult the bulletin for time.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist

11 Park Pl; 203-869-1555
christiansciencect.org/greenwich

Sundays: 10:30am. Sunday School: for students up to 20yrs, 10:30am, Wed. 7:30, testimonies of healing - call in for all services 203-680-9095 code 520520*. Reading Room, 333 Greenwich Ave. 203-869-2503, M-F, 11-3, some Saturdays. Bibles and children’s books for sale.

COMMUNITY

First Church of Round Hill

464 Round Hill Rd;
203-629-3876

www.firstchurchofroundhill.com

In-person worship: Sundays, 10am.

Round Hill Community Church

395 Round Hill Rd;
203-869-1091

www.roundhillcommunitychurch.org

Weekly Sunday Worship services in the Sanctuary at 10am or online at roundhillcommunitychurch.org anytime. Children’s Worship (grades K-5) meets during the 10 am service. Please call the Church Office or visit the website for the most up-to-date information, events,

and schedules. Tools for Aging Well, 2nd Wednesday of the Month, 11am-12pm, Sanctuary.

CONGREGATIONAL

The First Congregational Church

108 Sound Beach Ave;
203-637-1791

www.fccog.org

Worship: In-Person & Virtual: Sundays, 10am. Live-streaming on YouTube and Facebook, and broadcast on WGCH (1490 AM). Connect during the week: Friday: Friday Email Blast (sign up by calling the church office); Church school before worship most Sundays, 9am for preschoolers through grade 6. Online programming available via Zoom. A joyful community diverse in spiritual backgrounds and beliefs. *Landmark Recognition Celebration: Saturday, Nov. 2, 5pm.*

North Greenwich Congregational

606 Riversville Rd; 203-869-7763
(Instagram photos and videos @ [north_greenwich_church](https://www.instagram.com/north_greenwich_church))

Worship Service: Sun, 10:30am, in person.

Second Congregational Church

139 E Putnam Ave;
203-869-9311
www.2cc.org

Sunday worship: 8:30 & 10:30am. Children’s Chapel during worship. Elementary & Youth Choir: Wednesdays, 4:30pm. *Friday Yoga: through Nov. 22, 9-10am, (\$20/class). Election Day VBS: Tuesday, November 5, 9-11:30am. Friendsgiving Potluck: Sunday, Nov. 17, directly after worship.*

EPISCOPAL

Anglican Church of the Advent

606 Riversville Rd; 203-861-2432
facebook.com/greenwichanglican

Service: Sun, 9am, Holy Eucharist. Sunday School during academic year.

Christ Church Greenwich

254 E. Putnam Ave;
203-869-6600

www.christchurchgreenwich.org

Holy Eucharist: Sundays, 8am, In-person only, Chapel. Messy Church Eucharist: every Sund, 9am, In-person only, Parish Hall. Holy Eucharist: 10am, In-person or livestream, Main Sanctuary, Children’s Chapel during the service. Choral Evensong or Sung Compline: In-person or livestream, 5pm. Wednesdays: Preach and Teach Eucharist (new time for this midweek service), 12:15pm, In-person only Chapel. Thursdays: Choral Evensong, 6:30pm, In-person or livestream, Main Sanctuary. *Youth Confirmation: Sundays, Sept. 15 - June 7, 11:15am-12:15pm. The Disciples of Christ in Community: Tuesdays, Sept. 17 - Nov. 19, 7-8:30pm. Intergenerational Bible Study with Rev. Terry & Rev. Tim: Sundays, Oct. 20-Nov. 3, 11:15am. Courage & Faith presents: “The Art of Faith, the Faith of Art” with Christian Wiman: Saturday, Nov. 2, 6pm.*

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

954 Lake Ave.; 203-661-5526
www.stbarnabasgreenwich.org

Holy Eucharist: Sundays, 10am (in person & livestreamed). *Join us as we celebrate all the new beginnings brought by the fall in the company of one another and of our Lord. Every Sunday features joyful preaching by our clergy, Father Justin and Rev. Phoebe, beautiful music by our director of music, Marnus Greyling, and the St. Barnabas Choir, and a warm welcome for kids and parents. Our exciting Sunday School programs for kids take place every Sunday during the 10am service: Children’s Church for kids 4-8 years old, and YC (Youth Church) for those 9+. Children are also always welcome in church, and childcare is provided all morning in our nursery. Come kick off your fall in faith.* Visit us in person, on our website, and on social media (Instagram: @st.barnabasgreenwich). Small church feel - Big church experience.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

200 Riverside Ave.;
203-637-2447

www.stpaulsriverside.org

Worship: Sundays, 10:15am (in person and streaming). Coffee hour immediately following worship service in Selleck Hall. Sunday School (including frolic Fatih class for toddlers 2+) in the Children’s Chapel downstairs – drop-off starts at 10am. Ongoing: Neighbor-to-Neighbor food drive box by office door. Pick-up is every Thursday morning.

St. Saviour’s Episcopal Church

350 Sound Beach Ave; 203-637-2262
www.saintsaviours.org

In-person Service: Sundays, 10am.

JEWISH

Chabad Lubavitch of Greenwich

75 Mason St.; 203-629-9059
www.chabadgreenwich.org

Please visit our website for details on Shabbat services, classes, programs and more. Judaism 101 for Moms: Thursdays, 9:20am.

Congregation Shir Ami

One W. Putnam Ave;
203-274-5376

www.congregationshirami.org

All services, programs and celebrations are available online via Zoom. Kabbalat Shabbat: Fridays, 7-8:30pm, First Presbyterian Church. Soul Spa - Torah Study: Saturdays, 10-11:30am, on Zoom. *Unlocking the Jewish Prayer Book with Rabbi David: Sunday, Nov. 10, 5pm, on Zoom.*

Greenwich Reform Synagogue

92 Orchard St.; 203-629-0018
www.grs.org

Join Rabbi Gerson and Cantor Rubin every Friday, 6pm for Shabbat Services, and once a month for Tot Shabbat, 5:30pm. All in person services are also live streamed on Zoom. *Around the World in 80 Minutes with Orchestra Lumos: Sunday, Nov. 3, 3pm.*

Temple Sholom

300 E. Putnam Ave.;
203-869-7191

www.templesholom.com

Services - In-person and virtual Friday night Shabbat services, 6:30pm & Saturday morning Shabbat services, 10:30am. *Itsy Bitsy Playgroup: Fall Session: Fridays, Sept. 6-Nov. 22*, 9:15am. 3rd-5th Grade Youth Program: Sunday, Nov. 3, 11:30am. Game Night: Mah Jongg & Canasta hosted by Sisterhood: Monday, Nov. 4, 7pm.*

LUTHERAN

St. Paul Lutheran Church

286 Delavan Ave.;
203-531-8466

www.firstpaul.com

Sunday Divine Service: 9am. Sunday Bible Study: 10:30am. Wednesday Dinner: 5:30pm. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30pm.

METHODIST

Diamond Hill United Methodist

521 E. Putnam Ave.;
203-869-2395

www.diamondhillumc.com

In-person & Online Worship Service every Sunday, 10am, followed by a time of Fellowship. Wednesday Noonday Prayer & Wednesday Evening Bible Study. (Details at diamondhill.com).

First United Methodist Church

59 E. Putnam Ave.; 203-629-9584
www.fumcgreenwich.com

Sunday Worship, 9:30am (except the last Sunday of the month at 10:30am). Virtual Daily Gathering: Mon-Fri, 3pm, Zoom. Talking with Your Hands: Mon, 3pm. Reading this World as a Christian: Tue, 3pm. Back to Rock – music with Mr. Bruce: Tue, 3pm, via Zoom. Reading the Shape of Scripture: Wed, 3pm, via Zoom. Spring Bible Study: Thu, 3pm, via Zoom. Tea & Talk: Fri 3pm, via Zoom.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal

42 Lake Ave.; 203-661-3099

Worship via teleconference: Sun, 11am and until further notice (Dial-in number: 425-436-6380, Access code: 612220).

NONDENOMINATIONAL

Dingletown Community Church

376 Stanwich Rd., at Barnstable Lane

Sunday Service: 10:30am. Philip Antinone – Chaplain.

Revive Church

90 Harding Rd., Old Greenwich (Old Greenwich Civic Center)
www.myrevive.org

Worship Service: Sun, 10am, Holiday Inn 980 Hope St, Stamford. Online Sermons available on Facebook (facebook.com/myrevivechurchgreenwich) and on YouTube. All groups are online. Direct any prayer needs to the prayer chain at 203-536-2686 or revivecfm@gmail.com.

Stanwich Church

202 Taconic Rd.; 203-661-4420
www.stanwichchurch.org

Sunday Morning Worship Service: *9am & 10:45am. Kids Ministry for grades 5 and under, and Student Ministry for grades 6 and above, are offered. Live stream and recorded media are available at stanwichchurch.org. We’d love to meet you here!*

Center for Spiritual Development.

NSAC

293 Sound Beach Ave; 203-637-4615
www.Center4SpiritualDev.org

Sunday Service (hybrid: in-person & virtually on zoom): 7pm. Virtual Children’s Lyceum (ages 5-14): 3rd Sunday of the month, 10:10:40am. Healing Service: 3rd Thursday of the month, 7-7:30pm. (Email Albertsonpcc@gmail.com for registration and Zoom Links). *Spiritual Mediumship class – The Joy of Mediumship – a series of virtual interactive classes with exercises and individualized coaching: Nov. 4, 11, 18 & 25, 7-9pm \$120, Register at CSDPastor@gmail.com.*

Trinity Church

5 River Rd.; 203-618-0808
www.trinitychurch.life

In-Person Services: Sun., 9:45am, Hyatt Regency Greenwich, 1800 E. Putnam Ave., Old Greenwich; 10am, Trinity Westchester, 2111 Boston Post Rd, Larchmont, NY; 11am, Saxe Middle School, New Canaan.

PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian Church

1 W. Putnam Ave.;
203-869-8686
www.fpcg.org

Worship: Sundays, 10am. *Blood Drive: Saturday, Nov. 2.*

Grace Church of Greenwich

89 Maple Ave.
203-861-7555

www.gracechurchgreenwich.com

Worship: Sundays, 8:45am, 10:45am & 4:30pm, Woman’s Club of Greenwich, 89 Maple Ave. Bible Studies and Sunday School meet in person. All are welcome.

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www.LivingHopect.org

In-person & online (LivingHopect.org/ livestream) worship Sundays: 10am. Prayer for the Nation: Thursdays, 7:30-8pm, Online. Register and more information: livinghopect.org/resources/alpha. *Old Greenwich Farmers Market: Wednesdays through Oct. 30, 2:30-6pm, Rain or shine, oldgreenwichfarmersmarket.com. Alpha, Delta & ReGenerate course: Wednesdays through Nov. 20, 7-8:30pm.*

RMA Presents “How to Live to Be a 100 Without Disability”

By Arnold Gordon

At the October 23rd meeting of the Retired Men’s Association Spike Lipschutz introduced the day’s speaker, Dr. Edward Schuster. The title of his presentation was “How to Live to Be a 100 Without Disability.” Dr. Schuster is a Stamford based cardiologist who received his medical degree at the Chicago Medical School and completed his internship and residency at Duke Hospital. He was a fellow in cardiology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, and is currently an attending physician at Stamford Hospital. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Stamford Hospital Foundation, the director of cardiac rehabilitation, a member of the teaching faculty at Columbia University, and medical director of The Tully Health and Fitness Institute in Stamford. He is married with three children and four grandchildren, and resides in Stamford.

Dr. Schuster began by telling us that he has been giving the same talk for 43 years, with lots of updates along the way, including a title change to refer to reaching 120 years instead of 100. Why? Using ChatGPT, he asked whether God ever said how long man should live. The answer led to Genesis 6.3, in which God said “My spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh. His day shall be a hundred 20 years.”

Overall, Dr. Schuster’s presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the factors contributing to a long and healthy life, blending personal anecdotes with professional expertise. His message underscored the power of informed lifestyle choices, medical knowledge, and emerging technologies in shaping our health destinies.

In order to put into perspective how we age and for how long, he presented some interesting statistics: the world’s oldest person with proof of her age was a woman in France who died not too long ago at the age of 122 (she was known to smoke and drink). In CT, the average age at death is 78 for men and 80 for women. For the first time in US history, average life expectancy has dropped, largely due to Covid and deaths due to drug overdoses. There are about 150,000 people in the US who have reached 100, even some with existing heart disease. People are staying healthy as they age, but generally, it takes a lot of money (or great insurance) to receive quality medical services and maintain a healthy lifestyle. When we were growing up nobody over 65 was still working, and nobody was playing pickleball at 85. Dr. Schuster noted that when he started practice, the only people who reached a hundred were little old ladies who never saw a doctor because there was nothing wrong with them. Now, an impressive number of patients who have had, e.g., bypass surgery, pacemakers, and stents are making it to 100.

Dr. Schuster’s discussion on longevity was multifaceted, covering genetics, lifestyle choices, and advances in medical technology. He emphasized the importance of understanding one’s family



Dr. Edward Schuster gave an entertaining and highly informative talk about the aspects of our lives that are most correlated with longevity and good health.

He emphasized the importance of understanding one’s family medical history, noting that genetic predispositions play a significant role in health

medical history, noting that genetic predispositions play a significant role in health outcomes, which is why it is important to let your doctor know of any family history of serious illness (cancer, diabetes, heart disease, etc.). He discussed the evolution of genetic testing, the decreasing cost of decoding the genome, and the potential for personalized medical interventions based on genetic profiles through the use of the new technique CRISPR.

A major theme was the impact of lifestyle choices on longevity. He underscored the importance of regular exercise, stating it is the only proven method to reduce the risk of Alzheimer’s disease. He also highlighted the dangers of smoking, which can shorten one’s lifespan by a decade. Interestingly, married men live longer than unmarried, but there is no effect for women. Lifestyle and healthcare risk factors that affect longevity include: seat belt use; air pollution; religion (religious people live longer); body weight (40% of Americans are obese, which increases the risk of heart disease, cancer and other diseases); education (more leads to longer life); low bad cholesterol (LDL below 80); very little alcohol; controlled blood pressure; annual mammograms; good dental hygiene; latest flu, Covid and RSV vaccinations.

Diet played a central role in Dr. Schuster’s recommendations, specifically the Mediterranean diet, rich in olive oil, fish, nuts, fruits, and vegetables, which prevents various diseases. He cautioned against consumption of processed foods and fast food, linking them to poor health outcomes. Dr. Schuster also touched upon the potential of certain medications to contribute to longevity. He mentioned Ozempic, a diabetes drug that is also used for weight loss and may have protective effects against Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, but more studies are needed. He recommended getting vitamins directly from food sources rather than supplements.

The talk also covered the importance of preventive healthcare measures, such as mammograms, prostate exams, and colonoscopies. Dr. Schuster mentioned calcium score tests to assess heart health and urged attendees to be proactive

about their health by seeking regular medical screenings. Dr. Schuster predicted that artificial intelligence (AI) would revolutionize healthcare by enabling early detection of diseases. He envisioned a time when AI could identify individuals at high risk for specific conditions, allowing for timely interventions. Regarding organic foods, there is a lack of definitive studies but some evidence suggests a reduction in cancer risk. He also acknowledged the importance of eye examinations and home safety evaluations, especially for seniors, to prevent falls, which are a leading cause of death among the elderly.

Dr. Schuster concluded his talk by recommending two books: “The New Science of Aging and the Quest for Immortality: Why We Die,” by Venki Ramakrishnan, and “The Singularity is Nearer: When We Merge with AI,” by Ray Kurzweil.

The RMA’s upcoming presentation, “The Current State of AI and Its Future Potential,” by John Reese, is scheduled for 11 AM on Wednesday, November 6, 2024. John Reese has been incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) into his work and life for over 50 years, from early systems to today’s generative AI platforms like ChatGPT, Perplexity, and Claude. He currently consults with executives on optimal implementation of generative AI in their organizations. As CEO and founder of Validea.com and Validea Capital Management (companies named for their mission of “validating ideas”), Reese leverages expert system AI technologies in both ventures.

With a BSEE in computer science from MIT and an MBA from Harvard Business School, Reese has built a career bridging technology and business. He holds three patents and has authored two books, including “The Guru Investor” (Wiley). His corporate experience includes serving as VP of Strategic and Technical Development for a Fortune 500 telecommunications company.

AI is reshaping business, society, and education with unprecedented speed. This interactive presentation will:

- Demonstrate the current state of AI through live demonstrations
- Show how AI can benefit your personal life—from health and finance to

hobbies

- Reveal how businesses can leverage AI to gain competitive advantages
- Share insights into how generative AI actually works
- Explore AI’s transformative impact across specific industries
- Provide practical tools you can start using today

Through hands-on participation, you’ll learn expert tips for maximizing ChatGPT’s potential—whether you’re a complete beginner or experienced user. Join us for a glimpse into both the immediate applications and future possibilities of AI technology.

Through his non-profit leadership roles, Reese chairs the HBS NY Alumni Forums and serves as director at large of the RMA. His previous leadership roles include board positions with the HBS NY Alumni Angels and HBS Club of Connecticut. A recognized voice in finance and technology, he has appeared on CNBC, The Street, and Fox Business News, and contributes to Forbes.

To stream the presentation by John Reese at 11 AM on Wednesday, November 6, click on <https://bit.ly/30IBj2l>. This presentation will also be available on local public access TV channels, Verizon FIOS channel 24 and Optimum (Cablevision) channel 79. The public is also invited to attend the presentation in person at the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich at 1 West Putnam Avenue.

Note: The views expressed in these presentations are those of the speakers. They are not intended to represent the views of the RMA or its members.

RMA speaker presentations are presented as a community service at no cost to in-person or Zoom attendees, regardless of gender. Any member of the public who would like to receive a weekly email announcement of future speakers should send a request to members@greenwichrma.org. The RMA urges all eligible individuals to consider becoming a member of our great organization, and thereby enjoy all the available fellowship, volunteer, and community service opportunities which the RMA offers to its members. For further information, go to <https://greenwichrma.org/>, or contact members@greenwichrma.org.

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Treasured Trees & Treasured Memories at Tree Conservancy’s 2024 Celebration

By Anne W. Semmes

Just how embracing we can be with our trees was spelled out movingly last Thursday week at the Greenwich Tree Conservancy’s annual “Treasured Trees” event at Sam Bridge Nursery. Over 70 tree enthusiasts gathered to be introduced to the chosen top winning trees of the annual contest then hear the testimony from each tree winning owner.

Speaking for the first prize winning 200-year plus English Yew Tree, standing 45-feet in the Christ Church Cemetery, was Rusty Parker, Christ Church member and GTC board member, who via Joanne Bouknight nominated the tree on behalf of Christ Church. “It’s older than the graveyard,” said Parker. As introduced by John Conte, GTC board vice president – the Yew had “a winning score of 94 out of 100.” “This tree was likely brought as a seedling to North America,” noted Parker, who’d nominated the Yew last year but “It didn’t make it. So, we rewrote the words and got a better photograph...We love the tree because it has been so much comfort in the cemetery.” He added, “You’re all welcome to visit the graveyard at Christ Church - the tree is way in the back.”

A sizeable Japanese Maple was Second Prize winner. Conte spelled out its score of 89 out of 100. “It got a 10 for size and age, a nine for pedigree, 18 for uniqueness, 24 for value.” And it has “a wonderful story.” Accepting the prize of a framed tree photograph – and all winning trees receive a GTC plaque, was Chris Retzler, who shared his mother Leona Retzler was unable to attend but “I’m the child of climbing that tree probably 50 years ago. So, the tree is quite older but it’s my mother’s favorite tree. It just keeps her going. She lives backcountry and everyone’s telling her to move downtown.” But what keeps her rooted is, “All the plants and all the trees that she’s planted over the years.”

And that planting had influenced her son as he shared. “I got into planting when I moved out here.” From “taking care of all the perennials I got into rainforest conservation in college.



First Place English Yew L to R Sue Baker, Rusty Parker, Photo by Bob Capazzo. Sam Bridge, Bobbi Eggers, and John Conte. Photo by Bob Capazzo.

So that’s how I got into conservation. And I have to thank my parents for all that they did, getting me out working in the yard. And why did I do that? The plants and the trees - they can’t speak for themselves.”

“The third-place award,” said Conte, “goes to Rory and Kathryn Shaw for their beautiful Dawn Redwood - known as [botanical name] Metasequoia glyptostroboides – and it is one of the finest examples in Greenwich. It scored 10 on size, 10 on age, nine on pedigree, and its uniqueness in the ornamental values just maxed it out at 20.” told Conte, “Unfortunately sometimes in the fall they lose their needles, but when they come out in the spring, they have this very, very soft green color.”

Accepting the award was Matt Mcmillan of Mcmillan Garden Design who had submitted the tree. “The tree itself is like a hundred feet tall,” Mcmillan began. The first time I ever saw this tree - I was doing some work on the property, and it is the coolest thing I ever saw. It’s the one thing that Kathryn Shaw was always most proud of.”

Mcmillan then dove into telling the backstory of the Dawn Redwood, a deciduous, coniferous tree - known to have existed back to nearly 150 million years ago. But with Mcmillan’s history beginning in 1941 with its discovery by a paleobotanists, Conte suggested Mcmillan set up a table after the presentations to share that history.

There were four other contenders in the lineup including Laura Noe’s Red Leaf Maple, Susan Allen’s Copper Beach, Siobhan Burn’s Weeping Higan Cherry, and a Korean Evodia from Fred Landsman’s Sleepy Cat Farm. But the finale Honorable mention was a particularly heartwarming story with the whole family present for the telling tale of their Peach Tree.

So, began Andriana Perez with the rescue of the Peach Tree. Back in 2015, she was at Whole Foods seeing a man with a potted peach tree plant trying to return it but could not without a receipt, so threw the pot into the trash. “So, some people rescue animals,” she told, and with the man’s permission she rescued the peach tree plant and took it home. “I put it in the house with sun and water... and I forgot about it.” Meanwhile the kids began bringing home peaches from a small tree nearby. “And then in August in 2016, my husband’s father came to visit us, and he saw the little pot and said, ‘You might as well plant it somewhere - let it grow.’”

“So, the kids and I decided,” she continued, “to plant it close to the kitchen because, we’re going to cook with all these peaches... So, we planted the tree, and the peach tree has grown with our family. It’s now actually taller than us. And when it sees rain, it has beautiful flowers... And the photographers stop by and ask, ‘Do you mind if I take a photo of the tree? And



Second Place L to R Sue Baker, Chris Retzler, Sam Bridge, and John Conte. Photo by Bob Capazzo.



Third Place L to R Sue Baker, Matt Mcmillan, Sam Bridge and John Conte. Photo by Bob Capazzo.



Honorable Mention: L to R Sue Baker, John Conte, Sam Bridge, Andriana Perez and family. Photo by Bob Capazzo.

our mailman always stops by and he says, can I please have a peach?”

And “All the kids look forward to bringing the peaches in, to make ice cream, peach cobbler, and all sorts of things... And this year my husband’s

father passed away, so it’s also in our portrait, and in photos of his father. And the peach tree now reminds him of his father, the time he came and planted the peach tree.”

PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS FROM CHECK FRAUD

Fraud continues to grow each year as the scammers get smarter and smarter. Losses exceed \$485 billion this year. As a business owner, your best defense is understanding the fraud tactics, learning how to protect yourself and to make your employees aware of these scams.

In most cases, Businesses only have 24 hours to detect and report fraud to their Financial Institution. It is incredibly important that the business owner and anyone responsible for the banking is aware of this and monitoring the accounts daily.

Unfortunately, there is no end in sight for fraud but there are ways that you can protect yourself and your business.

- ✓ **SIGN UP FOR POSITIVE PAY:** this provides protection against check and ACH Fraud by monitoring checks and electronic payments.
- ✓ **UTILIZE ONLINE BANKING:** review inclearing checks both front and back to ensure accuracy and proper endorsement. Set parameters to send alerts if account activity is out of the ordinary.
- ✓ **HAND WRITTEN CHECKS:** always use a gel pen when writing checks. Gel pens are less easy to be “washed”. When a check is “washed” the payee name and amount can be changed. Typically these checks are stolen and washed in chemicals to remove ink. The fraudster then issues the check to a different payee and possibly for a different dollar amount. The “washed” checks still have your signature, check number and bank account number, allowing them to clear your account.

Check fraud accounts for 80% of these fraudulent losses each year. It is extremely important to have systems in place and daily account monitoring. To learn more about how The First Bank of Greenwich can help protect your accounts, please reach out to one of our branches.

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Balancing Staying or Selling: Advice for Seniors Considering Their Options

By JAMES HOFFMAN

Many seniors face a pivotal choice about their homes in today’s market. As someone who’s spent decades in real estate, both as a licensed broker and in my role as Connecticut’s former Real Estate Commissioner for the 4th Congressional District, I’ve seen firsthand the complexities of this decision. Here, I’ll share insights on staying put versus selling, a choice that often hinges on financial, social, and personal factors.

Reasons to Consider Staying

For many seniors, the decision to stay put is anchored in family connections, a strong support system, and the comforts of a familiar environment. If you have family nearby who visit regularly or friends within close reach, these connections can be invaluable. Having people around can provide emotional support, companionship, and practical help, which can be harder to find in a new place. Living in a familiar neighborhood with trusted healthcare providers, grocery stores, and recreational activities may make daily life feel less daunting.

Staying might also make sense financially if your property costs are manageable. Homeownership costs like mortgages and property taxes are often predictable. If your home is paid off and property taxes remain stable, staying might help preserve financial security. Additionally, if you’ve invested in accessibility improvements like grab bars, ramps, or even a stair lift, the home may already be well-suited for aging comfortably.

Reasons to Consider Selling

However, maintaining a home brings costs and responsibilities, often more than retirees realize. I’ve seen clients overwhelmed by the upkeep of larger properties or costly repairs that arise, particularly when mobility is a concern. Yard work, regular maintenance, and unexpected repairs like a roof or HVAC replacement can add up, stretching a fixed income. Downsizing or moving into a more senior-oriented setting can ease these burdens and create a lifestyle where you’re free from the ongoing responsibilities of home maintenance.

Another factor in selling is the potential financial flexibility it offers. Selling a home that has appreciated in value allows seniors to tap into their equity, potentially enhancing retirement funds. Many clients opt to

downsize, move into a smaller, more manageable home, or even rent in a retirement community to reduce expenses and enjoy a streamlined, maintenance-free lifestyle.

The Selling Process and Today’s Market

Today’s housing market conditions can be favorable for sellers, especially as inventory remains low. Seniors concerned about costly renovations may be surprised to find buyers willing to purchase homes “as-is,” with cash offers and quick closings becoming more common. While the decision to prepare a home for sale can be daunting, sellers today often face fewer hurdles, benefiting from a competitive market that may yield better offers without extensive repairs or staging.

When choosing to sell, seniors should also consider tax implications. Thanks to the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, up to \$250,000 of capital gains (or \$500,000 for married couples) from the sale of a primary residence can be excluded, reducing potential tax liabilities. Consulting a tax professional is critical here to ensure that proceeds from a sale align with financial goals and retirement plans.

Finding the Right Fit for Your Future

Ultimately, deciding to stay or sell your home is a personal choice that combines practical, emotional, and financial considerations. For some, staying in a familiar place with friends, family, and established routines is invaluable. For others, the freedom of a smaller, more manageable home or a retirement community offers an attractive option. Balancing the comforts of familiarity with the benefits of financial freedom and reduced responsibility can help you make a decision that’s both fulfilling and sustainable.

As a long-time real estate professional, I always encourage clients to weigh their personal situation carefully. Speak with a trusted real estate agent, consult a financial advisor, and involve your family in the discussion. Making an informed choice ensures that the years ahead are as comfortable and enjoyable as they can be.

Native of Greenwich, Connecticut, Chairman of the Board of the Greenwich YMCA, former member of the RTM, Appointed by the Governor as Chairman of the State of Connecticut Energy Advisory Board and

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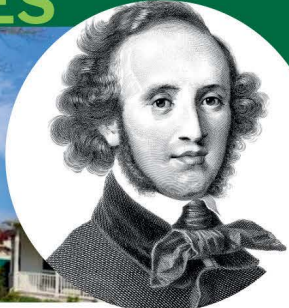
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James B. Hoffman biography: United States Naval Academy graduate, Masters degree Georgetown University, Yale University

White House liaison officer and military aid to the President under Ronald Reagan.

Appointed to the State of Connecticut Real Estate Commission for 7 years by Governor Rell representing the Connecticut 4th Congressional

District. Managing broker, for Greenwich Connecticut Properties, LLC. Hold multiple real estate licenses throughout the United States

“My relationship with my clients has always been based on trust and an expectation of providing the support, knowledge, and experience I’ve accumulated over the past 30 years.”

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Jim Hoffman is the former Real Estate Commissioner for Connecticut representing the 4th Congressional District. He is a certified Seniors Real Estate Specialist®. Jim is licensed in CT, NY, DE, MA, FL, DC, ME, VT, and NJ.

A former naval officer who graduated from the US Naval Academy, Jim also holds degrees from Georgetown University and Yale. He is a past Chairman of the Board of the Greenwich YMCA.

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Address	Area	Price	Day/Time	Broker
24 Taylor Drive	Cos Cob	\$1,280,000	Sat 1-4 PM	BHHS New England
29 Highview Avenue	Old Greenwich	\$3,995,000	Sat 12-3 PM	BHHS New England
24 Taylor Drive	Cos Cob	\$1,280,000	Sun 1-4 PM	BHHS New England
53 Bible Street #4	Cos Cob	\$719,000	Sun 1:30-4 PM	Compass
21 Dawn Harbor Lane	Riverside	\$3,995,000	Sat 1-3 PM	Houlihan Lawrence
4 S Stanwich Road	Greenwich	\$2,175,000	Sun 1-2:30 PM	Houlihan Lawrence
69 Taconic Road	Greenwich	\$4,750,000	Sat 1-4 PM	William Raveis
269 Pemberwick Road	Greenwich	\$2,996,000	Sun 1-3 PM	William Raveis
44A Signal Road	Stamford	\$7,500,000	Sat 1-3 PM	BHHS New England
42A Signal Road	Stamford	\$7,500,000	Sat 1-3 PM	BHHS New England
92 Putnam Park #92	Greenwich	\$725,000	Sat 2-4 PM	Coldwell Banker
208 Valley Road	Cos Cob	\$1,075,000	Sun 2-4 PM	Coldwell Banker
17 Maple Drive	Old Greenwich	\$1,999,995	Sun 1-3 PM	Coldwell Banker

NEW LISTINGS

DATA FROM LOCAL REAL ESTATE AGENT
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203.461.5964

Address	List Price	Price/ SqFt	SqFt	AC	BR	FB	Area
1465 E Putnam Ave 529	\$509,000	\$649	784		1	1	Old Greenwich
25 W Elm Street 16	\$749,000	\$801	935	0	2	1	South of Post
169 Mason Street 1G	\$850,000	\$810	1,050		2	1	South Parkway
15 Lafayette Court 1D	\$999,999	\$720	1,388		1	2	South Parkway
69 Riverside Avenue	\$1,800,000	\$843	2,136	0.4	3	2	Riverside
7 Byfield Lane	\$1,895,000	\$689	2,752	2.96	5	4	South Parkway
282 Bruce Park Ave 2	\$1,995,000	\$593	3,363		4	4	South of Post
12 Annjim Drive	\$2,295,000	\$911	2,520	0.28	4	2	South Parkway
86 Mary Lane	\$3,190,000	\$591	5,400	0.3	5	5	Riverside
52 Shore Road	\$3,495,000	\$1,824	1,916	0.41	4	2	Old Greenwich
20 Cutler Road	\$3,995,000	\$609	6,555	4	5	4	North Parkway
21 Dawn Harbor Lane	\$3,995,000	\$1,077	3,710	0.95	4	4	Riverside
29 Grossett Road	\$4,195,000	\$920	4,562	0.59	5	4	Riverside
27 Weston Hill Road	\$5,350,000	\$810	6,607	0.31	6	5	Riverside
12 Dwight Lane	\$5,995,000	\$680	8,818	4.5	5	5	North Parkway
1 Element Lane	\$6,999,000	\$700	10,000		6	6	North Parkway
20 Gate Field Drive	\$7,495,000	\$675	11,098	2.04	7	8	South Parkway
568 Riversville Road	\$5,775,000	\$800	7,222	4	6	7	North Parkway
9 Dorchester Lane	\$5,995,000	\$821	7,300	0.44	6	5	Riverside
180 Round Hill Road	\$6,400,000	\$1,080	5,926	1.08	4	4	South Parkway
26 Andrews Farm Road	\$8,950,000	\$1,099	8,146	4	6	8	North Parkway
133 Otter Rock Drive	\$10,450,000	\$1,486	7,034	0.73	6	5	South of Post

NEW SALES

DATA FROM LOCAL REAL ESTATE AGENT
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Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres	SqFt
1046 Lake Avenue	\$5,850,000	\$5,100,000	\$4,200,000	705	5	8	4.17	11,323
7 Orchard Drive	\$6,050,000	\$4,995,000	\$4,700,000	149	4	4	0.79	3,172
87 Dingtletown Road	\$4,395,000	\$4,150,000	\$3,900,000	143	6	5	2.26	5,863
176 Shore Road	\$7,750,000	\$7,750,000	\$7,500,000	104	6	7	0.54	7,706
31 Ridge Street	\$2,999,000	\$2,999,000	\$3,175,000	18	3	2	0.13	3,000
143 Hoyt Street 3G	\$349,000	\$349,000	\$327,500	131	1	1		1,181
23 Hickory Drive	\$850,000	\$785,000	\$750,000	56	3	2	0.34	1,318
8 Byfield Lane	\$5,395,000	\$5,395,000	\$5,400,000	14	5	6	2	9,362
25 Forest Street 15A	\$865,000	\$865,000	\$860,000	21	3	3		2,068
8 Cherry Lane	\$2,150,000	\$2,150,000	\$2,485,800	10	4	1	0.35	2,603

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FEATURED LISTING

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Highway safety bigger priority than ever for Greenwich Fire Department and its community

By Liz Leamy

More than ever, highway safety is a growing concern for many due to the rising number of first responders and Department of Transportation (DOT) personnel who have been injured on the scene, with the Greenwich Fire Department (GFD) experiencing this first hand.

The night of June 26th had started off like any other shift for the dedicated GFD members.

At 1130pm, a 911 call then came in reporting a crash on Interstate 95 by exit 4 in which a tandem tractor-trailer had swerved on the wet highway and gone off the road causing it to overturn.

In turn, companies from multiple districts in town then responded, including Engines from Downtown Greenwich, Byram, Cos Cob and Old Greenwich stations.

Upon arriving at the scene, firefighters proceeded to mitigate the emergency, which included stabilizing the vehicle, extricating the driver and then transferring the patient for transport to Stamford Hospital by a Greenwich EMS unit.

At around 110am, while awaiting the arrival of CT-DEEP, Engine Co. 1, a 45,000-pound Pierce Arrow XT that was parked with its emergency lights on and road flares out in a blocking position covering the center and right lanes to protect the police officers and other emergency personnel was unexpectedly hit at a high rate of speed by the operator of an unregistered car carrier truck that also struck two passenger vehicles.

"I95 has become one of the more dangerous aspects of the job and we're on the highway all the time," said Jason Jeracka, GFD Lieutenant Engine 1. "The construction and design (to include multiple passenger airbags) of the Pierce fire engine really protected us that night. I'm grateful to the Town of Greenwich for providing us with such great equipment."

The impact caused Engine 1 to be pushed almost 130 feet, spun around and tossed off the roadway facing the wrong direction, totaling the engine.

The three firefighters inside Engine 1 at the time of the crash, including Jeracka and GFD Firefighters Ellery McFarland and Forrest Edelman all sustained significant non life-threatening injuries.

Edelman had to be extricated from the driver's seat of the truck before he could be transported to a local trauma center while the driver of one of the passenger vehicles and the car carrier also sustained injuries.

In total, five people were transported to the Stamford Hospital Emergency Room as a result of this crash.

Although these three firefighters who were honored, along with 14 of their GFD colleagues for their involvement in October, did not experience any life-threatening injuries, Jeracka and Edelman



The aftermath of when GFD's parked Engine 1 Fire Truck had been unexpectedly struck by a tandem tractor trailer on I95 last June. (Photo courtesy of the Greenwich Fire Department)

sustained a series of serious injuries that kept each of them out of work for an extended period of time and required extensive rehabilitation and physical therapy.

Due to his injuries and rehabilitation, Jeracka missed a month and a half of work, while Edelman underwent treatment for three and a half months, having returned to work just recently on October 16th.

This terrifying incident highlights the dangers of I95 and other highways in the area as Jeracka and his colleagues have become adamant about the importance of highway safety for everyone in the community and on the highways.

According to Jerack and members of the GFD, this is a time in which people need to pay greater attention than ever when they are driving.

"People aren't paying attention and there is a lot of distracted driving," said Jeracka. "It takes its toll and the effects can be long lasting and life changing."

Most certainly, this is a time in which people seem to be busier than ever and are running around driving to a whole different range of destinations in the course of a day.

That, in tandem with the fact that cell phones have become the norm and play such an integral role in people's lives today has completely transformed the whole concept and experience of driving.

Subsequently, it is critical for drivers to always be as mindful, aware and respectful toward one another as ever when they are behind the wheel so everyone works together in harmony and gets to wherever they're going in safe fashion.

"People need to always pay attention when they're driving," said Jeracka. "It's for their own and everyone else's safety."

Meanwhile, there are also drivers who tend to be resistant when the GFD, Greenwich Police Department or EMS vehicles are driving through town headed to an emergency call, a situation that poses a big challenge to their effectiveness and safety of their work and everyone's health and safety.

"Please slow down and move over for the firefighters, police and EMS," said Jeracka. "It can be hazardous if people don't, we just



Another photo showing the effects of the impact of the tandem tractor trailer on GFD's Engine 1 Fire Truck that occurred on I95 last June.



GFD's Engine 1 after the June accident shown in daytime (Photo courtesy of the Greenwich Fire Department)

want to do our job safely."

Ultimately, it's all about people working together and being as alert and respectful as possible when driving to back the notion that teamwork most definitely helps make the dream work.

TIPS ON DRIVING SAFETY:

- be alert and aware
- pay attention at all times on the road
- do not look at or use cell phones while driving
- try to work together and flow with the traffic
- stop at lights, follow the speed limits and always respect the rules
- do not rush and make time for wherever you are going
- be considerate and patient when driving, especially of fire trucks that also might be coming in and out of their parking bays at their fire houses as it only takes 30 seconds or so.

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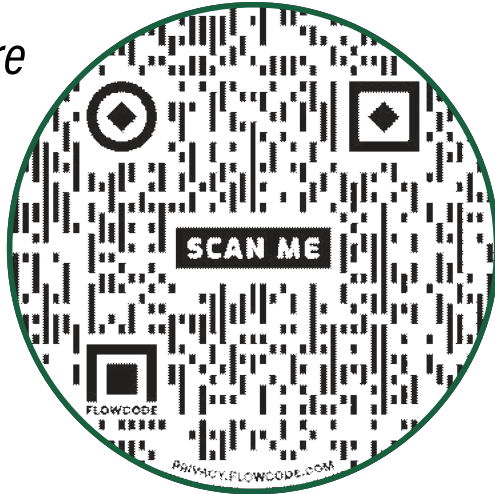
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Celebrating Fifty Years of the Oral History Project with Riding In Greenwich



Riders and hounds embarking on a hunt. Courtesy of the Oral History Project.

By MARY A. JACOBSON

These days often-heard complaints among Greenwich residents center on the town’s ever-increasing traffic congestion. Whether attempting to traverse the Boston Post Road or North Street or the Merritt Parkway, drivers are frequently beset with frustration over the amount of time it can take to get from one end of town to the other.

Theodore F. Wahl, born in 1898, was interviewed by Oral History Project volunteer Marcia Coyle in 1974. His memories are of Greenwich one hundred years ago and will allow the reader to pivot from thoughts of cars and traffic to horses, hounds, and the hunt in Greenwich.

Ted Wahl was at the center of horses and riding in Greenwich throughout his life. His family moved here from Florida in 1902, when Ted was four years old. His uncle, John Wahl, had opened a stable in Greenwich, “down on Bridge Street. He finished that in 1902 and that’s when my father brought us up from Florida... he taught riding there, and Dad was with him.” Ted dropped out of school at age fourteen and worked for his uncle.

In time, people desired “a little bit more riding. They had the Field Club down there, and they wanted riding connected with the Field Club.” According to Wahl, the Field Club stable, “built by the Greenwich Riding Association, had held twenty-two horses.” The stable was enlarged to accommodate up to forty horses. “Then they got a few hounds and started a little drag hunting,” a form of equestrian sport in which mounted riders hunted the trail of an artificially laid scent with hounds. This pre-determined route would be laid to take advantage of the best jumping opportunities. The hounds

purchased “were English hounds bought from different places. They even got some from Detroit to drag with.”

Ted Wahl moved from the Field Club to the management of Round Hill Stables in 1924, at that time part of the Round Hill Club, with fifty-five horses. Eventually, Wahl bought the stables, land, and buildings from the Round Hill Club in 1965. Wahl was proud to say that he was involved in teaching the third generation of riders. “I was talking to a lady the other day downtown and she said, ‘You know what year you taught me to ride?’ I said, ‘I haven’t the slightest idea.’ She said, ‘1912.’”

The “country” was wide open in the early days of the sport. “There was a lot of field, and there was plenty of room to hunt. We weren’t tied in ‘cause where the Round Hill Club is now, that was all Wilson’s meadow. That was all open and we could go out and jump straight on up to Round Hill.” Riders could hunt in both Fairfield and Westchester counties and were known as the Fairfield and Westchester Hounds. Their hunting grounds stretched “as far as the other side of Rye... north up almost to the other side of Bedford... Then we’d cut the other way, over to Stamford... We had a big country to hunt.”

According to Wahl, the Hunt was recognized by the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association in 1915. Wahl recounts the day “we were dragging up near the North Village Church and a deer jumped up. . . of course, the hounds followed him, and the field went with them. And then they kind of thought, ‘Well, if we can hunt a deer around here, why can’t we hunt fox?... And that’s how they come to start the fox hunting in Greenwich, after the drag (in 1921)”

Wahl recounted the story of John McEntee Bowman, president of the Biltmore (now the



Ted Wahl. Courtesy of the Oral History Project.

Westchester Country Club), elected Joint Master in 1921. “He built a beautiful kennel (at the bottom of Pecksland Road). The old kennel building is still standing there (at the time of the interview in 1974)... We hunted one day from there all the way down to the Westchester Biltmore. We laid a drag and hunted all the way down there... They put peat moss on the hard roads then, so the horses wouldn’t slip and could jump the fences.”

At other times a hunt might start at the Bedford Village green with as many as fifty to seventy-five people. A favorite meeting place, particularly on Thanksgiving Day, was the Round Hill Store.

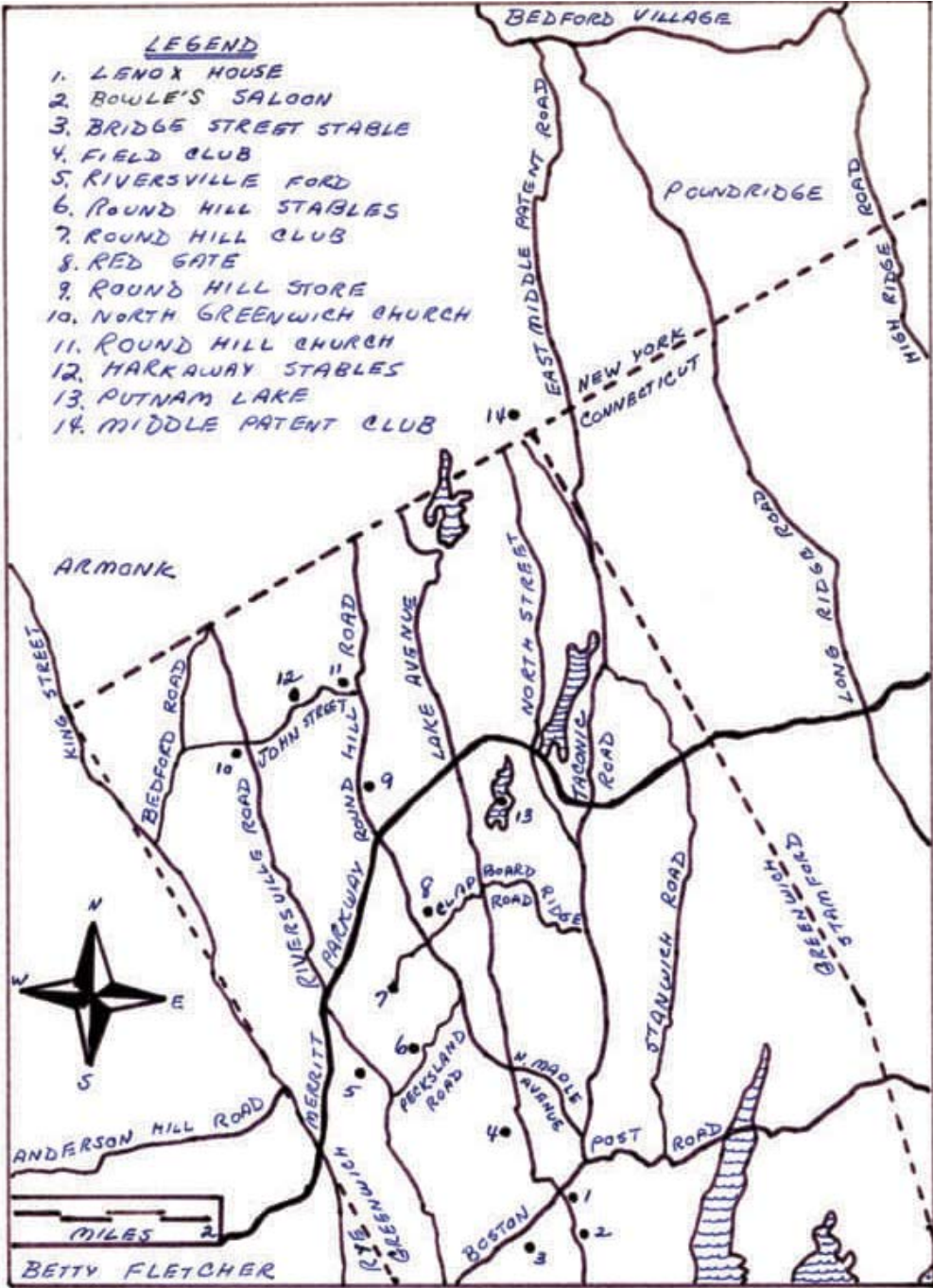
Another meeting spot was located on Clapboard Ridge Road, “There’s a red gate there. Goes in back of the Boys’ Club property.” The red gate was eventually replaced by an iron sign simply stating, “The Red Gate.” Beyond Riversville Road, “we used to meet at Riversville ford. That’s where we crossed the river... the ford’s right where Mayfair Lane comes down.” Other meeting places included Middle Patent Church, East Middle Patent Church, the reservoir on North Street, and a kennel above the Merritt Parkway on Stanwich Road.”

Construction of the Merritt Parkway “made a tremendous difference. We lost several hounds on the Merritt Parkway when that got there. It made us hunt further north... It cut the country right in half.” As Wahl described it, “For a long time it was dirt and that was good because we could gallop right up alongside the road when the hounds were there.”

In 1948, fox hunting stopped. “Our last Master of the Hunt was Mr. John Howland... The country began to get built up by that time. But he went and got these drag hounds, and he hunted the drag hounds for four years... until 1952. And that’s when the Hunt stopped altogether.”

According to Wahl, in its day, “The Hunt here was a big addition to Greenwich. It was a big drawing card with the people coming in here to live. But they got in here and they built us up so we couldn’t hunt anymore.” The end of an era.

The interview “Riding in Greenwich” may be read in its entirety in the main library location. It is also available to purchase by contacting the OHP office. The OHP is sponsored by the Friends of Greenwich Library. Visit the website at glohistory.org. Our narrator’s recollections are personal and have not been subjected to factual scrutiny. Mary Jacobson serves as blog editor.



Stables and hunting grounds in Greenwich that were in existence prior to 1952. Map prepared by Betty Fletcher. Courtesy of the Oral History Project.

JOHN WAHL ON HIS FAMOUS IRISH HUNTER JUGGLER

JOHN WAHL

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Stables and hunting grounds in Greenwich that were in existence prior to 1952. Map prepared by Betty Fletcher. Courtesy of the Oral History Project.



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SPORTS

Greenwich High School girls cross country team captures Class LL, FCIAC titles

By DAVID FIERRO

Last season, the Greenwich High School girls cross country team won the CIAC Class LL championship for the first time since 1982. This fall, the Cardinals earned a sweet repeat.

Though the roster has changed a bit from last season, Greenwich added more championships to its growing collection, impressively winning the team titles at the Class LL and FCIAC Championships.

Greenwich's most recent victory came at the CIAC Class LL Championships at Wickham Park recently. Behind numerous standout performances, the Cardinals finished atop the standings in the 14-team meet, totaling a team score of 82 points. Glastonbury placed second in the team standings with 93 points, while Staples (107), Ridgefield (112) and Trumbull (122) finished third to fifth, respectively.

"The running conditions were in our favor, not too hot and although there was some wind, it went unnoticed during the race," said Greenwich senior Ellie Englund, who along with seniors Averi Geary and Lindsay Schueler captains the Cardinals. "It was a

close call with Glastonbury, but in the end, everyone worked hard and we came out with the win."

At the competitive CIAC Class LL Championships, Greenwich was led by Sophia Passalacqua. A freshman, Passalacqua finished fifth in the state divisional race with a time of 19:03. Brooke Strauss, a Glastonbury senior, won the Class LL individual title, finishing first with a time of 18:13.

Senior Tess Sherry from Conard placed second in 18:35, while her sister Liv Sherry, also a senior was third (18:37). Lauren Parrett from Glastonbury placed fourth (18:59) and Passalacqua was fifth for the Cards.

Margaret McCoee had Greenwich's next best finish after Passalacqua. A junior, McCoee crossed the finish line ninth in 19:48. In the 2023 Class LL Championships, the Cardinals were paced by champion Esme Daplyn, Kate Friedman, who placed sixth and Lauren Resnick, who finished ninth. The trio each graduated from last season's championship squad, so this fall's cross country athletes knew they had to rise to the occasion and be primed for the best the

competition had to offer.

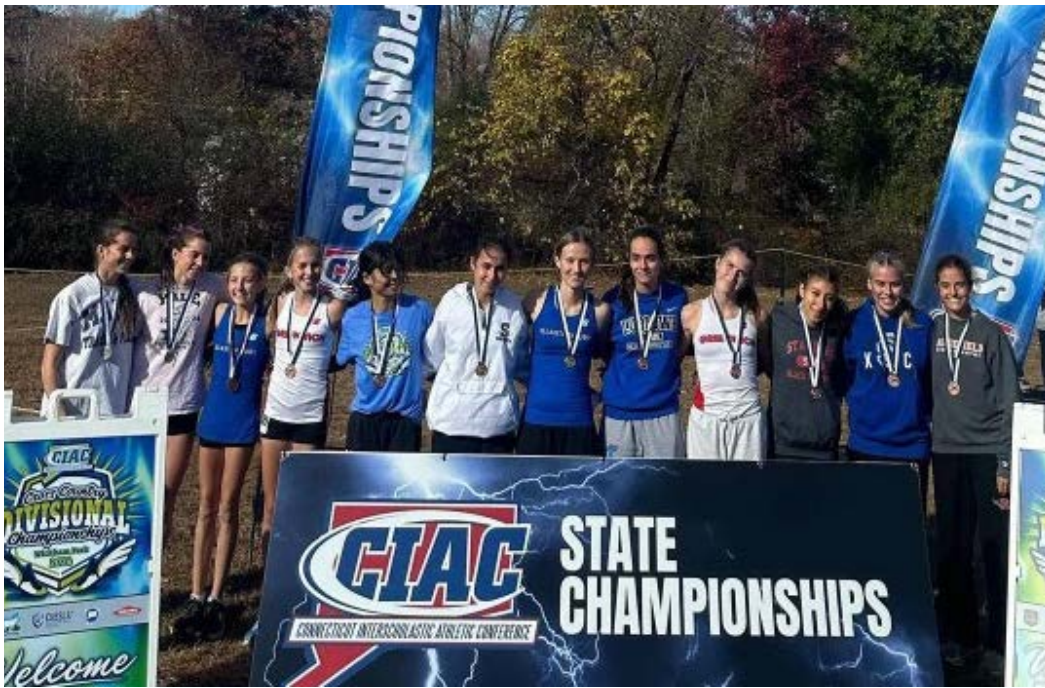
"Losing such incredible competitors to graduation was definitely nerve-racking, especially coming off such a strong year," Geary said. "We watched so many people step up to higher positions on the team to cover the spaces that were left empty."

"Both new and returning members started the season strong at the Wilton Invitational and continued to get even better throughout the season, motivating one another to improve," Geary continued.

Englund had a 17th-place finish in the Class LL race, posting a time of 20:51. Cardinals junior Ava Passamano was 26th in the race, which included 109 runners, clocking in at 21:23. Right behind her was GHS teammate Eleanor Kim, a sophomore (21:24).

Orla Muir, a Greenwich junior, finished 39th in 21:58.

"The entire team is working hard to make these wins happen," Geary said. "Even the ones who aren't explicitly in the top spots put in so much work and are readily able to step in when needed, displaying the vast array of talent that this team has."



Members of the Greenwich High School girls cross country team display their winning medals after the Cardinals won the team title at the CIAC Class LL State Championships at Wickham Park.

At the recent FCIAC Championships held at Waveny Park in New Canaan, Greenwich also repeated as the team champion. Passalacqua paced GHS with a strong second place finish with a time of 18:33. Sophia Spelman of Fairfield Warde won

the championship, crossing the finish line first in 18:27. McCoee had a seventh-place showing for the Cards (19:06).

Gemma Hardwick, a junior, was 18th (19:59), Passamano placed 22nd (20:24), Englund finished 25th (20:29) and Muir (20:41) and Kim (21:01) were

31st and 36th, respectively for Greenwich.

"The FCIAC race was such a fulfilling moment to see the training pay off when the girls won the title," Geary noted. "It really gave us motivation going into the Class LL race. The race was fast and we had really great results."

Greenwich High to Volleyball Tournament Semifinals Sweeping Westhill in Quarterfinals

By DAVID FIERRO

The quarterfinal-round of the FCIAC Tournament was a roadblock for the Greenwich High School girls volleyball team in 2023, yet the Cardinals successfully soared over the quarterfinal barrier this season.

Top-seeded Greenwich hosted eighth-seeded Westhill in the FCIAC Tournament on Friday and the conference's No. 1 ranked team continued its undefeated record against its FCIAC foes.

Greenwich, which was eliminated from the conference tournament in the quarterfinals one season ago, advanced to the FCIAC semifinals, sweeping visiting Westhill, 3-0. The Cardinals, who sport an eye-opening overall record of 20-1 and are undefeated in FCIAC play, will face Fairfield Warde in Monday's 5 p.m. FCIAC semifinals at Stamford High School. In the regular season matchup, the Cardinals topped Fairfield Warde, 3-0, at GHS.

"It means a lot, because last year we didn't make it that far and I'm really happy that we won this time, because I really want to win the FCIAC Tournament," Greenwich sophomore Heidi Zieme said of the team making it to the FCIAC semifinals. "It means a lot, because I know my team really wants it this year, because of last year. It's a nice feeling to get there this time."

In Friday's 3-0 triumph versus Westhill, the GHS won by set scores of 25-11, 25-18, 25-20. Zieme registered 15 digs, nine kills, one block and one ace in the winning effort. Senior Talia Muir posted 13 digs and two kills, while Alina Sarkissian had eight kills, three blocks and one dig.

"I thought that they played better than the last time we played them," GHS coach Marianna Linnehan said of Westhill. "They switched things up a little bit - a different lineup - I think we were adjusting well. We just tried to stay aggressive."

Senior libero Joy Houdre notched 19 digs, two assists and two aces in leading the Cardinals' defensive effort.

"At first at every beginning of the set we were going back and forth, but being able to manage and go on a serving run was one of the things that made us get momentum," Houdre said.

After winning the opening game against the Vikings, 25-11, the Cardinals trailed, 6-2, but soon rallied. A kill by sophomore setter Victoria Sullivan



Victoria Sullivan of the Cardinals varsity girls volleyball team gets ready to serve during a matchup against Westhill.

ried the set at 10-10, then solid serving by Houdre helped the hosts take the lead for good on their way to taking the second set.

"Our aggressiveness on the offense was key and I just think at the end of the day we pulled it off," Houdre noted. "It was a little rocky, but we did it."

Sullivan tallied 30 assists, nine kills, six digs and one ace for the victors, who have won 19 of their 20 matches by a 3-0 score.

Sullivan started at setter in place of senior Sarah Bernann, who is expecting to return to action for Monday's semifinals.

"It was a little bit nerve-racking," Sullivan said. "Sarah is such a good mentor and I had big shoes to fill. But we all have a great chemistry within the team so it's easy for me to step in when she needs me to."

Kayah Armstrong, a sophomore, had seven kills, four blocks and two digs for GHS.

Photo by David Fierro: Victoria Sullivan sets the ball for GHS against Westhill in varsity playoff volleyball action.

"The offense was great, we got a lot of great kills from everybody up front," Sullivan said.

Several kills by Armstrong enabled Greenwich to seize the lead and play from in front of the Vikings in the third and clinching set.

"It feels great, we are so close and we really think we can do it," Sarkissian said. "We just need to push through and play our best in these games no matter what."

"Victoria (Sullivan) did really good, she was mixing it up on offense and overall, we did great," Sarkissian continued.

Greenwich last won the FCIAC Tournament championship when it defeated Darien for the title in 2021. Should the Cardinals beat Fairfield Warde in Monday's semifinals, it will compete in the FCIAC final Wednesday at Stamford High School at 6 p.m.

"We haven't had a record like this good since our freshman year, so we're just so happy," Houdre said. "It's amazing. I'm looking forward to it, we're going to be fully on fire on Monday."

"It's really exciting, last year we were eliminated this round, so it's really exciting we get to move on this year," Sarkissian noted.

"This is my first year on varsity so it's so cool to see our team go undefeated in the FCIAC," Sullivan said.

Sacred Heart Greenwich shuts out field hockey foe Westminster on Senior Day

By DAVID FIERRO

Sacred Heart Greenwich's field hockey team has been in top form all season, including its special Senior Day game against Westminster School on October 23.

Playing their last regular season home game of the season, the Tigers flourished on both ends of the field on their way to earning a convincing 5-0 Senior Day win against visiting Westminster School. Sacred Heart has an overall record of 13-2 heading into today's game against St. Luke's School in New Canaan.

The Tigers are in first place in the FAA and will receive home field advantage when the FAA Field Hockey Tournament begins next week. In their victory against Westminster School on Oct. 23, SHG score one goal in the first quarter, tallied twice in the third quarter and added two more goals in the fourth quarter.

Xan Collins started the scoring for

the Tigers, tallying off an assist from Elle Corcoran with 4:27 remaining in the first quarter. In the third quarter, Corcoran's unassisted goal with 2:23 left gave Sacred Heart a 2-0 advantage.

Kinley Dierckson made it 3-0 with a goal at the 1:32 mark of the third period. Sacred Heart concluded its scoring in the fourth quarter, with Corcoran scoring off a Collins pass with 2:27 left to play. Daphne Fallon scored the Tigers' fifth and final goal, scoring with 52 seconds to go in the fourth quarter.

Teresa Harkins made five saves for the Tigers, who drew eight penalty corners in the game. Sacred Heart coach Alex Gheorghe paid tribute to the squad's seniors on Senior Day.

"We couldn't be happier with today's results for our seniors," Gheorghe said. "We would be like to highlight them on their Senior Day; midfielder; Ainsley Clough, defender, Daphne Fallon, goalkeeper, Teresa



Photo by David Fierro: From left to right: Daphne Fallon, Ainsley Clough and Charly Nemec are senior captains of the Sacred Heart Greenwich field hockey team, which celebrated Senior Day recently with a 5-0 win over Westminster School.

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Local Mom Tells the Story of Her Journey From Apolitical to Influential Children's Activist

By KIA HEAVEY

Beginning in August of this year, I had the pleasure of meeting and working with Alex Sullivan, a mom of two boys who lives in New Canaan. Alex hired me to edit her new book, *She Didn't Start the Fire: The True Story of One Mother's Journey from Apolitical to Activist*, a memoir of her incredible quest to help children. I went into the project thinking it would be a quaint story of neighbors getting together to do what was best for their children. Instead, I was drawn into an unexpectedly harrowing and heroic tale.

It's no secret that Boards of Education across the country have become battlegrounds in recent years, sadly politicized and contentious. (Even as I type these words, Greenwich is embroiled in a fresh power struggle scandal between Democratic and Republican board members.) Caught in the middle are normal parents who just want their kids to go to school and learn the three Rs in a reasonably safe and healthy environment.

"This is a story about a mother who simply wanted what was best for her kids, but found herself swept up into a larger political movement," says author Alex Sullivan. "It's about more than just mask mandates — it's about how ordinary people can take action and make their voices heard."

My first impression of Alex was that of a friendly and humble person. She is happy by nature and grateful for the blessings in her life. But her petite frame also houses a keen mind and an unyielding moral compass. Here is a person who knows right from wrong and who will fight — fairly and diligently — to the end for her boys' wellbeing.

And fight she did. Alex attributes her feistiness to her Italian-American upbringing. Her intolerance of bullies drives her to set things straight — for her own kids and for all children — giving her the makings of a modern-day hero.

She Didn't Start the Fire begins in the eerie early days of the Covid-19 pandemic. Sullivan's straightforward narrative immediately takes the reader back to those uncertain times, plunging us back into that era of creeping fear and isolation. As time drags on and the noose tightens, Alex is torn between her love for her family, especially the vulnerable ones — her 90-year-old grandfather, her parents, and her toddlers — and her own intelligence and sense of logic.

A mathematician by training and inclination, Alex is working from home for a shipping company as a bulk commodities broker at the time. She tells of how the virus and the world's reaction to it upended her family's routine:

At work, I reached out to my husband via WhatsApp and told him I was certain I had contracted Coronavirus. He laughed at me and told me I was being ridiculous. To be fair to him, I am very dramatic. I get that from my mother and her theatrical ways. If we get dehydrated, we think we must surely have diabetes and our death is imminent.

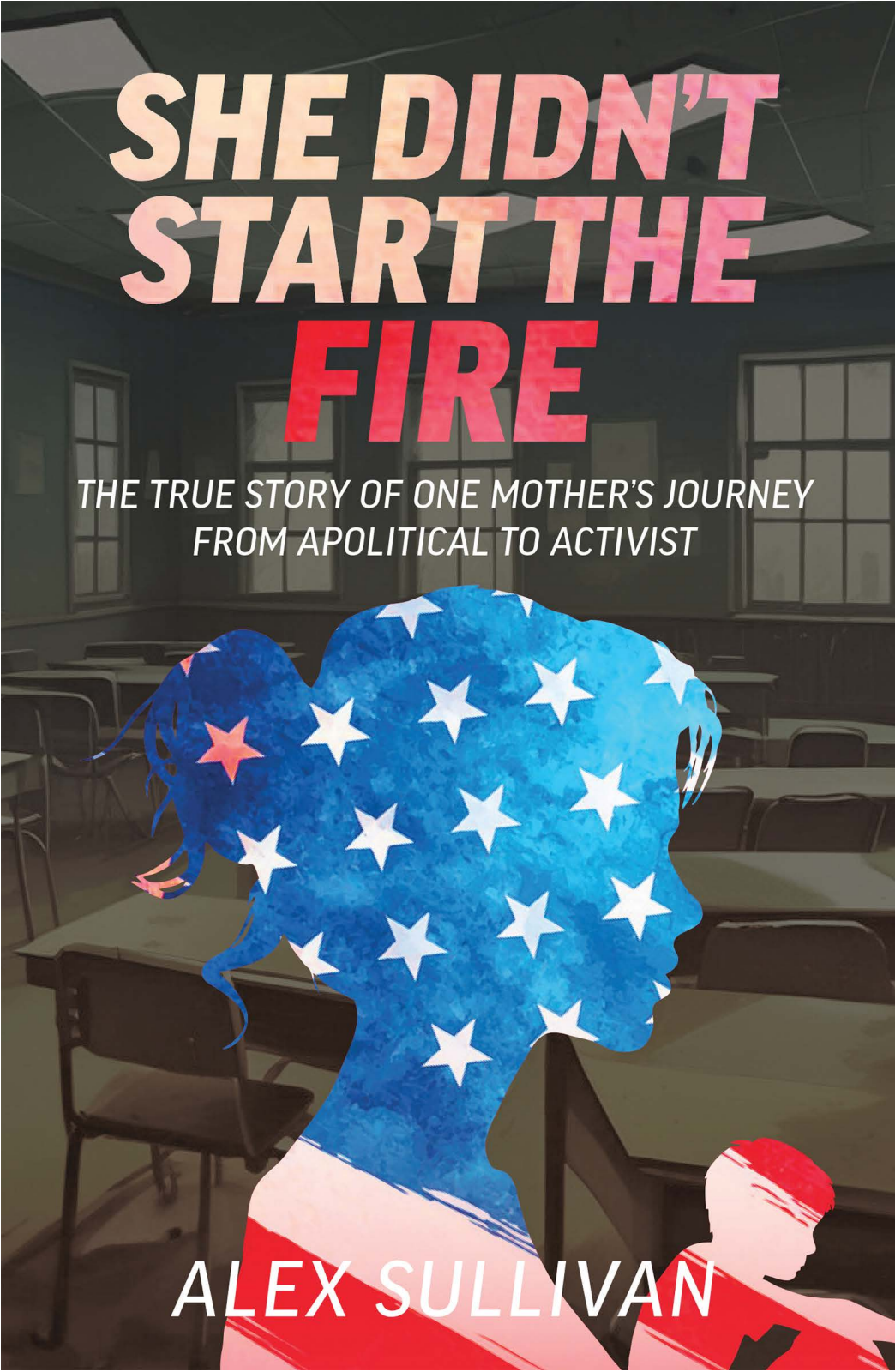
Ryan: Babe I'm sure you don't have a random Chinese virus that is concentrated in a tiny town like Wuhan. Go take some Mucinex.

Two months later, the commodities market would explode because of this "random virus." My husband would work 24 hours a day watching oil futures trade at negative prices and figuring out how to keep his job. Dean would poop on the carpet of our makeshift home office for Ryan's coworkers to watch over Zoom, because he was potty training, and we had lost our childcare. And finally, I would realize that right now, I could not care less if I lost my job. My kids needed me, and luckily, I was in a position where I could be there for them.

Thus begins one of the sub-plots of this simply but richly told story: the author's own struggle between her sense of duty to her education, her career, and feminism and her love for her family. Spoiler alert: It turns out that nothing is more powerful than a mother's love for her children. And in the weirdness of the Covid era, children needed all of that love they could get.

Sullivan takes us inside her home as "Two weeks to flatten the curve" stretches into years of isolation and mandated mask wearing. For young children in particular, the situation became increasingly damaging. Simultaneously, over time, fear and politics pushed aside science and good intentions. With her educational background in math and science, Alex researched the virus constantly, as well as the harm the alleged safety measures was doing to kids.

Since Ryan could still work from home, any time we could take our kids, leave New Canaan, and disappear from society, we did. My best days in 2021 were when it was just me, my husband, and my two



boys. I loved hugging and kissing them. I loved laughing. I loved being anonymous and unmasked in a sea of masked sheep wherever we were. I could be who I wanted to be without fear of retribution for my kids. If someone made a comment about me not wearing a mask, I was free to snipe back at them without my oldest, Grayson, being disinvited from the next birthday party.

But the freer I felt away from our home, the angrier I got. I was fortunate enough to get away and block it all out. How many people weren't able to do that? How many people were living in unfounded fear because of media and government manipulation? How many children were suffering silently with no end in sight? How many parents were struggling to find happiness for themselves and their families? How many people weren't living, just surviving?

By this time, it was clear that children were not at risk of serious illness from COVID, but many were developing delays in speech, reading, and social development from masking. Sullivan gets together with some other parents, who petition their Board of Education to give parents a choice whether to mask their own children. They simply wanted each parent to be free to choose what was best for their families. But their advocacy brought out a host of local activists who launched ugly political attacks on the pro-choice parents:

The attacks came fast and furious at me. How dare I point out hypocrisy! It was rude to know if someone sent their child to a private school, but it was totally okay for that person to attack you for wanting a say in your child's own public education.

The head of the DTC (Democratic Town Council) also got involved. She posted on the DTC page that Julie, Gary, Mike, and Seth were attempting a "Q-adjacent takeover of the Board of Education." Someone sent me the screenshot, and I googled "What does Q-adjacent mean?" Google led me to discover "Q-Adjacent" was related to "Q-Anon." It was the first time I had ever heard of the term "Q-Anon." I opened the Wikipedia page and read, "Their core belief is that a cabal of Satanic, cannibalistic child molesters are operating a global child sex trafficking ring which conspired against Donald Trump." WTF?

The attacks get worse from there, ranging from social ostracization to pressuring parents to disinvite five-year-olds from birthday parties. Sullivan and her comrades are put in a crucible reminiscent of the hysterical witch hunts in New England centuries earlier. The attacks are so severe that some families pull up stakes and leave the state, while Sullivan drops thirty pounds she can ill afford to lose.

When we went back to school in January after Christmas break, the administration and teachers were freaking out. I had reached a tipping point in the first week Grayson went back to school. He came home one day and told me he wasn't feeling well.

"What's up, bud?" I asked.

"I felt like I couldn't concentrate today, Mom. I was dizzy all day. I needed a mask break." He sounded defeated.

"Okay, well, did you tell your teacher you needed one?" I asked, annoyed.

"Yes. But, well..." he tapered off and looked embarrassed.

"What happened, Grayson?" I was getting worried and I was getting mad.

"Well, I took one, but I needed another. And I was nervous about asking again. So, I snuck into the corner of the classroom and put my face against the wall and pulled down my mask to breathe so that my teacher couldn't see me do it. I didn't want to get in trouble." Times like these were incredibly difficult to navigate as a parent. How do I instill the values in my child to respect authority, his teacher, and not be sneaky but also let him know that he 100% did the right thing, and all these rules are BS and insane? How do you successfully raise a now six-year-old in this environment? I was furious, I was sad...

The rest of the book is a sweeping account of how a normal suburban mom who never gave politics a thought becomes a local activist powerhouse with nation-wide influence. It is also a heartrending account of confused children and marital arguments. It's an extremely informative discourse on how local and state politics actually work. It is an inciteful look at how motherhood changes women and challenges everything we are taught to believe about ourselves and our role in society. And it is ultimately a triumphant tale and a highly satisfying read.

She Didn't Start the Fire is available in Kindle and paperback on Amazon.com.



Alex Sullivan, author of *She Didn't Start the Fire: The True Story of One Mother's Journey from Apolitical to Activist*.

The Restoration and Renewal of the Oneida Audubon Sanctuary Begins



A Regeneron Pharmaceuticals volunteer looks out over the salt marsh and Audubon sign describing the Sanctuary ecosystem. Photo by Anne W. Semmes.

By ANNE W. SEMMES

At the head of Smith Cove, Oneida Drive runs past a rare salt marsh adjacent to sparsely wooded land seen at the corner of Indian Harbor Drive. That land stretches uphill to the playground across from the Bruce Museum. Constituting nearly four acres this is the Oneida Audubon Sanctuary, a preserve of tidal wetlands/salt marshes of which Greenwich once had 1,800 acres but now only 250 acres. It is the smallest and only coastal sanctuary of six managed by Greenwich Audubon across town.

Last Monday week the restoration of those nearly four acres began with some 20 young volunteers pulling out invasives and planting native plants and trees. “We’re creating canopy space and generally improving growing conditions for other more valuable native plants that we’re going to be putting back in here,” said Matt Viens, Land Stewardship Manager at Audubon.

And those volunteers? “They come from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals in New York, and every year they work with the Volunteer New York program to do a week of community service projects.”

“The other two things we’re going to be working on,” said Viens, “is we’re going to be putting in two native trees, a hackberry and a white oak tree.” “The other thing we’re doing today is setting the first stages for where the walking path is going to be. We’ll be digging parts of it out, laying down landscape

fabric, which would prevent weeds from growing up...so that over time maintenance of the trail is relatively less.”

“So, the idea is,” he continued, “that it’ll just be a general loop trail starting here and go to that little kiosk that has an Audubon sign that gives you a little bit of the local ecology, plants, animals you might see here. Why this ecosystem is important.” And yes, those salt marshes can bring Egrets and Great Blue Herons.

“That trail will follow the water line between those two red cedars,” Viens indicated, “then it will loop back around the edge of the road area, maybe about 20 to 25 feet in from the road. And then eventually, we might put in a little spur path going out the way the property extends, but that’s not part of the plan at the moment.”

Viens then introduced a few shrub plants to a few volunteers with shovels ready to plant. “So, the ones with the leaves mostly still intact are Arrowwood viburnum. And these are Black Chokeberry. They’re both really good native plants. They should do well in a coastal environment. And these will help form almost like a border hedge here.”

So, with this being a tidal wetland, are there rising waters he was asked? “It gets periodically flooded. But we don’t anticipate, at least for many years, this park to be submerged. But the plants we’re planting are things you would typically find in a coastal environment. So, most of these plants can handle periods of salt, water intrusion, or wet roots or things of that

“We’re creating canopy space and generally improving growing conditions for other more valuable native plants that we’re going to be putting back in here.” Matt Viens.

nature.”

Instructing the planters, Viens said, “When you’re digging your hole, you want it to be a bit wider than the top.” Pointing to the plant containers, he told, “So basically the depth should be equivalent to the size of the root ball. The pot’s a little bit higher than the top of the root ball, so, a little bit less than the pot.”

Nearby was an ongoing effort to dig a hole deep enough for that hackberry tree, with some four volunteers working away at a huge rock in the hole. “There’s going to be a lot of room once we get that giant [rock] out if we can get it out,” said Chistian Alexander, Senior Coordinator of Community Programs at Greenwich Audubon.

“So, I run all of our volunteers, our internship programs, our youth leadership and our summer camp,” said Alexander. “A lot of the volunteer efforts that I coordinate end up being land stewardship responsibilities to help support Matt...We have a two-man team, but a lot of the land stewardship efforts that are important for bird conservation are just tedious and take a lot of man hours. We do a lot of invasive species removal. And having a group like this to do that really helps out.”

It was at a previous meeting

at the Audubon Center where Executive Director Rochelle Thomas was laying out future plans for Greenwich Audubon before invited garden club members that she shared that Audubon had received funding help earlier this year for this sanctuary restoration. “We received \$23,000 in funding from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council. It’s part of their Climate Smart Land Stewardship grant program. And that grant program supports projects that are focused on environmental restoration in a way that is also climate forward.”

She cited the Oneida Audubon Sanctuary as “a really accessible space of land and it provides us a lot of opportunity.” She highlighted the declines in different bird species, with shorebirds showing “the second most significant decline.” “So, it gives us an opportunity to provide essentially healthier, more dynamic coastal habitat for those bird species. And also because of its central location, is a really wonderful opportunity to serve as a community gathering space and education space and sort of the gateway for folks to learn about habitat conservation and birds and then hopefully engage with some of our properties.”



Digging a hole for tree planting presented a problem with a rock removal. Photo by Anne W. Semmes.



Matt Viens, Land Stewardship Manager at Audubon, instructs a volunteer on shrub planting. Photo by Anne W. Semmes.



The first stage in creating a walking trail in the Oneida Audubon Sanctuary. Photo by Anne W. Semmes.



Regeneron Pharmaceuticals volunteers ready themselves in planting native shrub plants. Photo by Anne W. Semmes.

Greenwich Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

FRIDAY, NOV. 1

12 p.m.
Women's Health Presentation with the AHA. YMCA of Greenwich, 50 East Putnam Ave. Free & open to the public. RSVP. greenwichymca.org/events.

4 p.m.
Escape Jim Henson's Labyrinth (Ages 8-13). Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. perrotlibrary.org

7:30 p.m.
GHS Theater Arts Department presents "Twelfth Night." Greenwich High School Blackbox Theater. Showtimes: Nov. 1, 7:30pm, Nov. 2, 5 & 8pm. \$10. docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2_dW-w_dw-gIeaPCuo6QcQMIAIaZx-UDdjfbbrdpjAdX7zLOA/viewform?pli=1

SATURDAY, NOV. 2

9 a.m.
Greenwich Tree Conservancy's Fit in the Forest. Babcock Preserve. Free. Register. greenwichtreeconservancy.org

9 a.m.
Greenwich High School's Anatomy and Physiology Club: Team Hope Walk for Huntingtons Disease. Sherwood Island State Park, Sherwood Island Connector, Westport. app.dvforms.net/api/dv/kqp3pl.hdsa.org/thwfairfieldct

9 a.m.
Sacred Heart Greenwich Open House. 1177 King Street. shgreenwich.org

9:30 a.m.
Yoga @ the Library With Laura DeLongis Barnes. Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. 203-637-1066 x15. judys@perrotlibrary.org. perrotlibrary.org

2 p.m.
Talk: "The Art of Faith, the Faith of Art" with Christian Wiman. Christ Church Greenwich, 254 E. Putnam Ave. Free admission. christchurchgreenwich.org

7 - 10 p.m.
7th & 8th Halloween Dance. Arch Street Teen Center. \$30, or 1 Express Pass Punch. info@archstreet.org. archstreet.org.

SUNDAY, NOV. 3

9 a.m.
The Byram Veteran's Women's Auxiliary's Annual Pancake Breakfast. Byram Veteran's Association, 300 Delavan Ave. Adults, \$12; Seniors, \$9; Children 6-12, \$7; Children 5 & under, Free. jpoolsrus@aol.com

11 a.m.
ICC Greenwich: Children's Diwali Party. 1035 Newfield Avenue, Stamford. \$18-\$25. iccgreenwich.org

1 p.m.
Guided Gallery Tour: Greenwich During the Revolutionary War: A Frontier Town on the Front Line. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. Free. Through March 9, 2025. greenwichhistory.org/events

2 p.m.
Fred Elser First Sunday Science: The Roots of Innovation. Innis Arden Cottage, Tod's Point. Free. No park pass needed. brucemuseum.org

MONDAY, NOV. 4

9 a.m.
Friends of Mianus River Park: 'Pliking'/Hiking event. Meet at the bridge on Merribrooke Lane, Stamford. (Bring gloves and a small trash bag). 203-918-2548. friendsofmianusriverpark.org

9:15 a.m.
Qigong Class @ the Library. Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. 203-637-1066 x15. lending@perrotlibrary.org. perrotlibrary.org

1 p.m.
Lecture: "An American Renaissance, Beaux-Arts Architecture in New York City." Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. \$30, payable by check in advance. greenwichdecorativearts.org

3:45 p.m.
Beginner Chess for Kids. Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. perrotlibrary.org

TUESDAY, NOV. 5

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Election Day Of Play (ages 4-8). Greenwich Botanical Center, 130 Bible St. greenwichbotanicalcenter.org

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Election Day Vacation Camp. YMCA of Greenwich, 50 E. Putnam Ave. greenwichymca.org/events

10 a.m.
'Perrot Walks' - walk through Binney Park. Meet at Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. 203-637-1066 x15. perrotlibrary.org

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 6

2 p.m.
Greenwich Art Society and Greenwich Botanical Center: Seven Bridges Sculpture Garden Walking Tour. Backcountry Greenwich. greenwichbotanicalcenter.org/upcoming_events/seven-bridges-tour

7 - 9 p.m.
Astronomical Society of Greenwich: Bowman Observatory Public Nights. Bowman Observatory, on the grounds of the Julian Curtiss School. Free. GreenwichStars@Gmail.com. astrogreenwich.org

THURSDAY, NOV. 7

12 p.m.
Voices Center of Resilience: Bereavement Group for Those Who Have Lost a Loved One. Online. Free. Register. voicescenter.org

1 p.m.
Greenwich Tree Conservancy and the Greenwich Land Trust: Foliage Tree Walk. Westfall Preserve, Greenwich. Register. greenwichtreeconservancy.org

1 p.m.
Women's Business Development Council (WBDC): CT Paid Leave for the Self-Employed. Online. Free. Register. ctwbdc.org/class-listings

FRIDAY, NOV. 8
Nathaniel Witherell Tag Sale. All proceeds benefit the Nathaniel Witherell Resident Life Fund. 203-618-4228.

10:30 a.m.
Voices Center of Resilience: Mindful Moment Meditation. Online. Free. Register. voicescenter.org

2 p.m.
Practical Color Choices Workshop. Greenwich Art Society, 299 Greenwich Ave. Members, \$70; Non-members, \$95. greenwichartsociety.org

6 - 8:30 p.m.
Teen 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament (Grades: 6th-8th). YMCA of Greenwich, 50 E. Putnam Ave. Members, \$10 p/player; non-members, \$15 p/player. greenwichymca.org

SATURDAY, NOV. 9

9 a.m.
Meet for Coffee at the Bruce:

Behind the Scenes with Kira and Kess. Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. brucemuseum.org

9:30 a.m.
Yoga @ the Library With Laura DeLongis Barnes. Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. 203-637-1066 x15. judys@perrotlibrary.org. perrotlibrary.org

10 a.m.
Bonsai 101 Workshop With YamaKi Bonsai Society. Greenwich Botanical Center, 130 Bible St. Free, GBC/YamaKi Member; \$15, Non-Member. greenwichbotanicalcenter.org

11 a.m.
Museum Movers: Yoga for Kids (Ages 3-6). Bruce Museum. Free with admission. brucemuseum.org.

1 p.m.
"Just Leaf It Be!". Greenwich Audubon Center, 613 Riversville Rd. \$10. All ages. Register. greenwich.audubon.org/events

SUNDAY, NOV. 10

1 p.m.
Guided Gallery Tour: Greenwich During the Revolutionary War: A Frontier Town on the Front Line. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. Free. Through March 9, 2025. greenwichhistory.org/events

3 p.m.
Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony concert. First Congregational Church of Old Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Ave. \$35, adults; \$5, students. 203-637-4725. chamberplayersofthegso.org

EARLY VOTING

Early Voting Schedule for November 5th General Election. Early voting takes place only at Greenwich Town Hall

Friday, Nov. 1, 10am-6pm
Saturday, Nov. 2, 10am-6pm
Sunday, Nov. 3, 10am-6pm

THROUGH FRIDAY, NOV. 1
Greenwich Department of Human Services's Coat Drive - new or gently used children and adult winter coats. Locations: Greenwich Town Hall (Lobby), Greenwich Library, Perrot Library, YMCA of Greenwich, and Greenwich Skating Club (9 Cardinal Rd). People can also purchase a coat off an Amazon wish list (amazon.com/hz/wishlist/lis/17JHF-BOIGPAL5?ref=_list_d_wl_lfu_nav_2)

THROUGH SATURDAY, NOV. 23

9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Greenwich Farmers' Market. Horseneck Parking Lot, Arch Street and Horseneck Lane. (Parking is free during market hours). greenwichfarmersmarketct.com.

MONDAY - FRIDAY

3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Arch Street Homework Heroes - Free after school tutoring (6th-12th grade). Arch Street Teen Center, 100 Arch St. info@archstreet.org. archstreet.org

TUESDAYS:

10 a.m.
Beginner Bridge with The Perfectly Polite Bridge Group. YMCA members, \$30; non-members, \$35. New players welcome. (Register by Monday, 6pm). 203-524- 8032. greenwichymca.org

5 - 7 p.m.
Lighthouse, a Program of Kids In Crisis: LGBTQ Youth Group Meeting. On Zoom. Free. Open to all LGBTQ Youth & allies. 203-661-1911. lighthouse@

kidsincrisis.org. kidsincrisis.org/get-help/lighthouse

WEDNESDAYS:

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
"Tools for Aging Well" (2nd Wednesday of the Month). Round Hill Community Church, 395 Round Hill Rd. 203-869-1091. roundhillcommunitychurch.org.

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Relaxed Duplicate Bridge with The Perfectly Polite Bridge Group. YMCA of Greenwich, 50 East Putnam Ave. Members, \$10; nonmembers, \$12. New players welcome. (Register by Tue). 203-524-8032. greenwichymca.org

12 - 2 p.m.
Waste Free Greenwich's Food Scrap Recycle Program: Drop off scraps at Round Hill Community Church, 395 Round Hill Rd. roundhillcommunitychurch.org/news/composting-at-rhcc

12:15 p.m.
Greenwich Rotary Club Weekly Lunch Meeting. Putnam Cottage, 243 East Putnam Ave. RSVP. 203-832-3654. sheila.goggin@cbmoves.com. greenwichrotary.org

6 - 7:30 p.m.

Arch Street Teen Center High School Support Group for boys: Stress, Success, and Teenage Setbacks - moderated by Executive Director Kyle Silver. 100 Arch St. Register. Kyle@archstreet.org. archstreet.org

6:30 p.m.
NAMI-CAN (Child and Adolescent Network) Online Support Group - for parents and primary caregivers of children & adolescents, under age 21, with behavioral and emotional issues. Free. namisouthwestct.org/online-support

2nd WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH:

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Aging Well - an informal conversation about different aspects of aging well. Round Hill Community Church, 395 Round Hill Road. Free & open to all. 203-869-1091. roundhillcommunitychurch.org

THURSDAYS:

8 a.m. & 4 p.m.
Tai Chi Basic Moves. First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Ave. Registration required. Tuition is paid as a donation made directly by the participant to abilis, Neighbor to Neighbor, or the First Congregational Church. experiencetaichi.org

3 - 7 p.m.
Arch Street After School Programming (All Ages) - every Thursday starting Feb. 22. Arch Street Teen Center, 100 Arch St. archstreet.org

5 - 7 p.m.

Kids In Crisis Lighthouse LGBTQ Youth Group Meeting - open to all LGBTQ youth in middle & high school. Wilton Historical Society, 224 Danbury Rd, Wilton. Free. 203-661-1911. lighthouse@kidsincrisis.org. kidsincrisis.org/get-help/lighthouse

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY:

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Book Exchange - choose from a huge selection of books. Holly Hill Recycling Center. Free, or, donate books. (Open every Fri & Sat. books4everyone.org

GREENWICH LIBRARIES:

greenwichlibrary.org
Friday, Nov. 1
9:30 a.m.
Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Assistance. Learning Lab. 203-862-6707.
9:30 a.m.
Senior Chinese Book Discussion Group. Online (WeChat). ywang@greenwichlibrary.org.
10 a.m.
Storytime. Cos Cob Library Turret. 203-622-6883.

11:30 a.m.
Qi Gong. Online. 203-622-6883. lmatthews@greenwichlibrary.org.
3 p.m.
Introduction to Virtual Reality. Innovator-in-Residence: Kinetic Art Using Robotics. Innovation Lab. 203-622-7979. innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org

7 p.m.
Friends Friday Films: "Immediate Family." Berkley Theater. cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org.

Saturday, Nov. 2
10 a.m.
Satur-yay! Storytime Children's Constellation Room. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org
10:30 a.m.
Hatha Yoga for Adults with Inger. Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

11 a.m.
Technology Help. Learning Lab. 203-625-6560. csherman@greenwichlibrary.org.

1 p.m.
AuthorsLive: The Perfect Story: How to Tell Stories That Inform, Influence, and Inspire by Karen Eber. Marx Family Black Box Theater. authorslive@greenwichlibrary.org.

2 p.m.
Chess for All with Ian Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

Sunday, Nov. 3

2 p.m.
Children's AuthorsLive: Adam Gidwitz. Berkley Theater. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org
Monday, Nov. 4

9:30 a.m.
Little Learners (Registration Required). Children's Constellation Room.

11 a.m.
All Together Storytime. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

11 a.m.
LEGOS for the Wee Ones with Beth. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

11:30 a.m.
Blood Pressure Screening. Community Room #5.

1 p.m.
Byram Book Club: "The Postcard" by Anne Berest. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

1 p.m.
Laser Engraved Journals: The Perfect Story. Innovation Lab.
2:15 p.m. or 3:30 p.m.

Laser Engraved Journals: The Perfect Story. Innovation Lab.

4 p.m.
Battle of the Books with Ms. Flynn. Byram Shubert Library Conference Room.

Tuesday, Nov. 5
9:30 a.m.
Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Assistance. Learning Lab. 203-862-6707.

11 a.m.
Storytime with Patty (Birth - Pre-K). Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

1:15 p.m.
Baby Lapsit (Registration Required). Children's Constellation Room.

Wednesday, Nov. 6
9:30 a.m.
Movers & Shakers (Registration Required). Children's Constellation Room.

10 a.m.
Baby Lapsit in the Stacks. Cos Cob Library Turret.

10 a.m.
La Leche League of Greenwich/Stamford/Rye. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

11 a.m.
The Nurse is in: Free Blood Pressure Screening. Byram Shubert Library Conference Room.

1 p.m.
Retirement Planning III: A Smart Way to Plan for Retirement Account Withdrawals. Online.

4 p.m.
Ceramic Workshop with Lucia. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

4 p.m.
Teen Advisory Board (Grades

7+). Teen Commons.
6 p.m.
Create a Magic Movie with Your iPhone or iPad: To Share for the Holidays or Just for Fun! Learning Lab.
Thursday, Nov. 7
9:30 a.m.
Great Books Discussion. Online.
10 a.m.
Japanese Storytime. Marx Family Black Box Theater.
11 a.m.
Sensory Storytime (Registration Required). Children's Constellation Room.

11 a.m.
Family History through Oral History: How to Take Advantage of the Upcoming Holidays. 2nd Floor Meeting Room.

11 a.m.
Sensory Storytime (Registration Required). Children's Constellation Room.

11 a.m.
Technology Help. Learning Lab.

3:30 p.m.
Kinder... Set...Go. Children's Constellation Room.

3:45 p.m.
Not Your Mama's Home Ec! GRADES 3+ Cos Cob Library Community Room.

6 p.m.
You Have Aging Questions... We Have Aging Answers. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

7 p.m.
Tea and Tranquility: Exploring the Spiritual Root of Chinese Tea Culture with Wenling Wang. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

7:30 p.m.
Thursday Evening Book Group. Online.

Friday, Nov. 8
9:30 a.m.
Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Assistance. Learning Lab. 203-862-6707.

10 a.m.
Storytime. Cos Cob Library Turret. 203-622-6883.

10 a.m.
Fiesta Fun with Flor Bromley! Spanish & English Music Marx Family Black Box Theater. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org

11 a.m.
Starting and Building a Non-profit Organization. Online. greenwichlibrary.libcal.com/event/12749605

3 p.m.
Innovator-in-Residence: Kinetic Art Using Robotics. Innovation Lab. 203-622-7979. innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org

7 p.m.
Friends Friday Films: "Paddington" Berkley Theater. cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org.
Saturday, Nov. 9

11 a.m.
Hooked On Crochet. Teen Commons. 203-625-6549. alaughlin@greenwichlibrary.org

11 a.m.
Technology Help. Learning Lab. 203-625-6560. csherman@greenwichlibrary.org.

1 p.m.
Cloak and Dagger Book Club. This Book Club will meet temporarily at the Byram Shubert Library, during the Cos Cob renovation. 203-622-6883.

1 p.m.
Dungeons & Dragons (Grades 6-12). Children's Constellation Room. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org

3 p.m.
Art Opening Reception: "Recent Paintings" by Gary Calabro. Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

Sunday, Nov. 3

2 p.m.
Children's AuthorsLive: Adam Gidwitz. Berkley Theater. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org

GREENWICH HOSPITAL: greenwichhospital.org/events
888-305-9253
Monday, Nov. 4

Greenwich Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

6 p.m.
CPR Friends & Family (Infant/Child). 38 Volunteer Ln. \$65. For discount information call 888-305-9253.

Tuesday, Nov. 5
12 p.m.
Webinar: How to Get the Nightly Sleep You Need.

5:30 p.m.
Webinar: Biological Clock: Control Your Fertility.

Wednesday, Nov. 6
11 a.m.
Better Breathers: Lung and Pulmonary Conditions. In person at 260 Long Ridge Road, Stamford. Free.

11 a.m.
Webinar: Better Breathers: Lung and Pulmonary Conditions. Free.

1:30 p.m.
Parkinson's Disease Support Group - for people with Parkinson's, their families and caregivers. 260 Long Ridge Road, Stamford. Free.

Saturday, Nov. 9
9 a.m.
CPR Friends & Family (Infant/Child). 38 Volunteer Ln. \$65. For discount information call 888-305-9253.

NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR: ntngreenwich.org

Everyday, all day
• 24/7 Food Drive Collection site at North Greenwich Congregational Church, 606

Riversville Road. The weather-proof bin is located outside of the Parish Hall.

- Greenwich Reform Synagogue, 92 Orchard St., Cos Cob.

Tuesdays, 9 - 11 a.m.
Food Drive (drive-thru) at St. Catherine of Siena's parking area across the street from the rectory entrance, 4 Riverside Ave. (Non-perishable foods, personal care products, large sized diapers (5 & 6) and pull-ups, and knit hats (hand knit or store bought).

Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Food Drive at St. Paul's Episcopal Church parking lot, 200 Riverside Ave.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: RedCrossBlood.org

Friday, Nov. 1
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Trinity Church, 5 River Road, Cos Cob.

Saturday, Nov. 2
8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam Ave., Greenwich.

Sunday, Nov. 3
7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
New Canaan Community YMCA, 564 South Ave., New Canaan.

Monday, Nov. 4
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Agudath Sholom synagogue, 301 Strawberry Hill Avenue, Stamford.

1 - 6 p.m.
Saint Pauls Lutheran Church, 761 King Street, Rye Brook, NY.

Tuesday, Nov. 5
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

1 - 6:30 p.m.
Saint Mark's Church, 111 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan.

Wednesday, Nov. 6
11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
West Harrison Senior Center, 251 Underhill Ave., West Harrison, NY .

Thursday, Nov. 7
7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Shippan Landing, 232 Harbor Dr., Stamford.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
American Legion Post, 1 Locust Ave Flint Park, Larchmont, NY.

Friday, Nov. 8
8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Stamford Church of Christ, 1264 High Ridge Road, Stam-

ford.

Saturday, Nov. 9
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
The Idea Kitchen, 1940 Palmer Ave., Larchmont, NY.

Sunday, Nov. 10
7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

TOWN MEETINGS: greenwichct.gov/calendar

Monday, Nov. 4
10:30 a.m.
Architecture Review Committee (ARC) Sign-Meeting.

Tuesday, Nov. 5
7 p.m.
First Selectman's Youth Commission Board Meeting. Mazza Room.

Wednesday, Nov. 6
7 p.m.
Architecture Review Committee (ARC) Regular Meeting.

Thursday, Nov. 7
11 a.m.
FS Sustainability Committee FS Sustainability Committee Meeting. Via Zoom.

7 p.m.
Conservation Commission Regular Meeting. Zoom Webinar.

SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, Nov. 16
Greenwich Riding & Trails Association's "Silver Horse

Ball". Greenwich Country Club. thegrta.org/silver-horse-ball-2024

Saturday, Nov. 9
• YWCA Greenwich's "The Fall Party". Belle Haven Club. ywcagreenwich.org/events/the-fall-party-2024

6 p.m.
Make a Wish: Wishes in the Wild. Greenwich Country Club. e.givesmart.com/events/D01

6 p.m.
Special Education Legal Fund S.E.L.F. Homecoming 6th Anniversary Gala. Arch Street Teen Center. bit.ly/SELFHomecoming

Wednesday, Nov. 13
11 a.m.
The RMA 70th Annual Banquet. Innis Arden Golf Club. greenwichrma.org

6 p.m.
GIFF (Greenwich International Film Festival) 10-Year Anniversary. I'escale restaurant, Greenwich. greenwichfilm.org

Saturday, Nov. 16
6 p.m.
Greenwich Riding & Trails Association's Bi-Annual Silver Horse Ball. Greenwich Country Club. thegrta.org

Saturday, Nov. 30
Greenwich Alliance for Education's 5K & 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk. greenwichalliance.org

Our Neighboring Towns

FRIDAY, NOV. 1
7:30 p.m.
Curtain Call presents "Mulberry Street". The Kveskin Theatre, 1349 Newfield Ave., Stamford. Performances: Fri & Sat, 7:30pm, & Sun, 2pm (Nov. 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 & 17). curtaincallinc.com

SUNDAY, NOV. 3
9 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Native American Heritage Celebration - through Nov. 3. Stepping Stones Museum for Children - Mathews Park, 303 West Ave, Norwalk. steppingstonesmuseum.org

TUESDAY, NOV. 5
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Youth Mental Health First Aid Training - for adults who regularly interact with young people. Park215, 215 Stillwater Avenue, Stamford. Free. Register: youth-mentalhealthct@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 6
1 p.m.
Age Well: A Community Resource Center for Seniors from SilverSource. Ferguson Main Library, Stamford. Free. fergusonlibrary.org

3 p.m.
Question, Persuade, Refer Suicide Prevention Workshop. Ferguson Library - Harry Bennett Branch, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

Sudoku for Kids

	2	3	
	4		1
4		1	
	1	4	

4		1	
3			4
	4		
2		4	1

	2		
	4	3	2
		1	
4	1		3

	3		4
	4		3
3		4	
	1		2

SUDOKU

Each row, column, nonet can contain each number only once. Answers below.

Easy

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

Hard

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

Very Hard

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

Easy

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

Hard

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

Very Hard

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

Sudoku answers

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

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

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

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



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WINNIE-THE-POOH BY A.A. MILNE

CHAPTER VI IN WHICH EEYORE HAS A BIRTHDAY AND GETS TWO PRESENTS

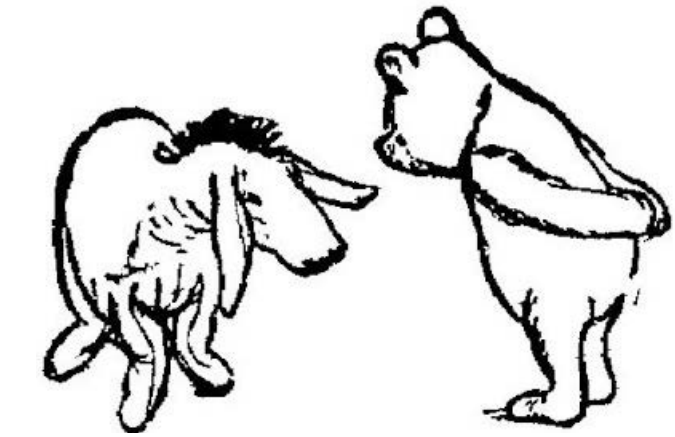
Eeyore, the old grey Donkey, stood by the side of the stream, and looked at himself in the water.
"Pathetic," he said. "That's what it is. Pathetic."



There was a crackling noise in the bracken behind him, and out came Pooh.
"Good morning, Eeyore," said Pooh.
"Good morning, Pooh Bear," said Eeyore gloomily. "If it is a good morning," he said. "Which I doubt," said he.
"Why, what's the matter?"
"Nothing, Pooh Bear, nothing. We can't all, and some of us don't. That's all there is to it."
"Can't all what?" said Pooh, rubbing his nose.
"Gaiety. Song-and-dance. Here we go round the mulberry bush."
"Oh!" said Pooh. He thought for a long time, and then asked, "What mulberry bush is that?"
"Bon-hommy," went on Eeyore gloomily. "French word meaning bonhommy," he explained. "I'm not complaining, but There It Is."

Pooh sat down on a large stone, and tried to think this out. It sounded to him like a riddle, and he was never much good at riddles, being a Bear of Very Little Brain. So he sang Cottleston Pie instead:
Cottleston, Cottleston, Cottleston Pie,
A fly can't bird, but a bird can fly.

Ask me a riddle and I reply:
"Cottleston, Cottleston, Cottleston Pie."
That was the first verse. When he had finished it, Eeyore didn't actually say that he didn't like it, so Pooh very kindly sang the second verse to him:
Cottleston, Cottleston, Cottleston Pie,
A fish can't whistle and neither can I.
Ask me a riddle and I reply:
"Cottleston, Cottleston, Cottleston Pie."
Eeyore still said nothing at all, so Pooh hummed the third verse quietly to himself:
Cottleston, Cottleston, Cottleston Pie,
Why does a chicken, I don't know why.
Ask me a riddle and I reply:
"Cottleston, Cottleston, Cottleston Pie."



"That's right," said Eeyore. "Sing. Umty-tiddly, umty-too. Here we go gathering Nuts and May. Enjoy yourself."
"I am," said Pooh.
"Some can," said Eeyore.
"Why, what's the matter?"
"Is anything the matter?"
"You seem so sad, Eeyore."
"Sad? Why should I be sad? It's my birthday. The happiest day of the year."
"Your birthday?" said Pooh in great surprise.
"Of course it is. Can't you see? Look at all the presents I have had." He waved a foot from side to side. "Look at the birthday cake. Candles and pink sugar."
Pooh looked—first to the right and then to the left.
"Presents?" said Pooh. "Birthday cake?" said Pooh. "Where?"
"Can't you see them?"
"No," said Pooh.
"Neither can I," said Eeyore. "Joke," he explained. "Ha ha!"
Pooh scratched his head, being a little puzzled by all this.
"But is it really your birthday?" he asked.
"It is."
"Oh! Well, Many happy returns of the day, Eeyore."
"And many happy returns to you, Pooh Bear."
"But it isn't my birthday."
"No, it's mine."
"But you said 'Many happy returns'—"
"Well, why not? You don't always want to be miserable on my birthday, do you?"
"Oh, I see," said Pooh.
"It's bad enough," said Eeyore, almost breaking down, "being miserable myself, what with no presents and no cake and no candles, and no proper notice taken of me at all, but if everybody else is going to be miserable too—"
This was too much for Pooh. "Stay there!" he called to Eeyore, as he turned and hurried back home as quick as he could; for he felt that he must get poor Eeyore a present of some sort at once, and he could always think of a proper one afterwards.



Outside his house he found Piglet, jumping up and down trying to reach the knocker.
"Hallo, Piglet," he said.
"Hallo, Pooh," said Piglet.
"What are you trying to do?"
"I was trying to reach the knocker," said Piglet. "I just came round—"
"Let me do it for you," said Pooh kindly. So he reached up and knocked at the door. "I have just seen Eeyore," he began, "and poor Eeyore is in a Very Sad Condition, because it's his birthday, and nobody has taken any notice of it, and he's very Gloomy—you know what Eeyore is—and there he was, and—What a long time whoever lives here is answering this door." And he knocked again.
"But Pooh," said Piglet, "it's your own house!"
"Oh!" said Pooh. "So it is," he said. "Well, let's go in."
So in they went. The first thing Pooh did was to go to the cupboard to see if he had quite a small jar of honey left; and he had, so he took it down.



"I'm giving this to Eeyore," he explained, "as a present. What are you going to give?"
"Couldn't I give it too?" said Piglet. "From both of us?"
"No," said Pooh. "That would not be a good plan."

"All right, then, I'll give him a balloon. I've got one left from my party. I'll go and get it now, shall I?"
"That, Piglet, is a very good idea. It is just what Eeyore wants to cheer him up. Nobody can be uncheered with a balloon."
So off Piglet trotted; and in the other direction went Pooh, with his jar of honey.



It was a warm day, and he had a long way to go. He hadn't gone more than half-way when a sort of funny feeling began to creep all over him. It began at the tip of his nose and trickled all through him and out at the soles of his feet. It was just as if somebody inside him were saying, "Now then, Pooh, time for a little something."

"Dear, dear," said Pooh, "I didn't know it was as late as that." So he sat down and took the top off his jar of honey. "Lucky I brought this with me," he thought. "Many a bear going out on a warm day like this would never have thought of bringing a little something with him." And he began to eat.

"Now let me see," he thought, as he took his last lick of the inside of the jar, "where was I going? Ah, yes, Eeyore." He got up slowly.



And then, suddenly, he remembered. He had eaten Eeyore's birthday present!
"Bother!" said Pooh. "What shall I do? I must give him something."
For a little while he couldn't think of anything. Then he thought: "Well, it's a very nice pot, even if there's no honey in it, and if I washed it clean, and got somebody to write 'A Happy Birthday' on it, Eeyore could keep things in it, which might be Useful." So, as he was just passing the Hundred Acre Wood, he went inside to call on Owl, who lived there.



"Good morning, Owl," he said.
"Good morning, Pooh," said Owl.
"Many happy returns of Eeyore's birthday," said Pooh.
"Oh, is that what it is?"
"What are you giving him, Owl?"
"What are you giving him, Pooh?"
"I'm giving him a Useful Pot to Keep Things In, and I wanted to ask you—"
"Is this it?" said Owl, taking it out of Pooh's paw.
"Yes, and I wanted to ask you—"
"Somebody has been keeping honey in

it," said Owl.

"You can keep anything in it," said Pooh earnestly. "It's Very Useful like that. And I wanted to ask you—"

"You ought to write 'A Happy Birthday' on it."

"That was what I wanted to ask you," said Pooh. "Because my spelling is Wobbly. It's good spelling but it Wobbles, and the letters get in the wrong places. Would you write 'A Happy Birthday' on it for me?"

"It's a nice pot," said Owl, looking at it all round. "Couldn't I give it too? From both of us?"

"No," said Pooh. "That would not be a good plan. Now I'll just wash it first, and then you can write on it."

Well, he washed the pot out, and dried it, while Owl licked the end of his pencil, and wondered how to spell "birthday."

"Can you read, Pooh?" he asked a little anxiously. "There's a notice about knocking and ringing outside my door, which Christopher Robin wrote. Could you read it?"

"Christopher Robin told me what it said, and then I could."

"Well, I'll tell you what this says, and then you'll be able to."

So Owl wrote ... and this is what he wrote:

**HIPY PAPY BTHUTHDTH
THUTHDA BTHUTHDY.**

Pooh looked on admiringly.

"I'm just saying 'A Happy Birthday'," said Owl carelessly.

"It's a nice long one," said Pooh, very much impressed by it.

"Well, actually, of course, I'm saying 'A Very Happy Birthday with love from Pooh.' Naturally it takes a good deal of pencil to say a long thing like that."

"Oh, I see," said Pooh.

While all this was happening, Piglet had gone back to his own house to get Eeyore's balloon.

He held it very tightly against himself, so that it shouldn't blow away, and he ran as fast as he could so as to get to Eeyore before Pooh did; for he thought that he would like to be the first one to give a present, just as if he had thought of it without being told by anybody. And running along, and thinking how pleased Eeyore would be, he didn't look where he was going ... and suddenly he put his foot in a rabbit hole, and fell down flat on his face.

BANG!!!!???*!!

Piglet lay there, wondering what had happened. At first he thought that the whole world had blown up; and then he thought that perhaps only the Forest part of it had; and then he thought that perhaps only he had, and he was now alone in the moon or somewhere, and would never see Christopher Robin or Pooh or Eeyore again. And then he thought, "Well, even if I'm in the moon, I needn't be face downwards all the time," so he got cautiously up and looked about him.

He was still in the Forest!

"Well, that's funny," he thought. "I wonder what that bang was. I couldn't have made such a noise just falling down. And where's my balloon? And what's that small piece of damp rag doing?"

It was the balloon!

"Oh, dear!" said Piglet "Oh, dear, oh, dearie, dearie, dear! Well, it's too late now. I can't go back, and I haven't another balloon, and perhaps Eeyore doesn't like balloons so very much."

So he trotted on, rather sadly now, and down he came to the side of the stream where Eeyore was, and called out to him.

"Good morning, Eeyore," shouted Piglet.

"Good morning, Little Piglet," said Eeyore. "If it is a good morning," he said. "Which I doubt," said he. "Not that it matters," he said.

"Many happy returns of the day," said Piglet, having now got closer.

Eeyore stopped looking at himself in the stream, and turned to stare at Piglet.

"Just say that again," he said.

"Many hap—"

"Wait a moment."

Balancing on three legs, he began to bring his fourth leg very cautiously up to his ear. "I did this yesterday," he explained, as he fell down for the third time. "It's quite easy. It's so as I can hear better.... There, that's done it! Now then, what were you saying?" He pushed his ear forward with his hoof.



"Many happy returns of the day," said Piglet again.

"Meaning me?"

"Of course, Eeyore."

"My birthday?"

"Yes."

"Me having a real birthday?"

"Yes, Eeyore, and I've brought you a present."

Eeyore took down his right hoof from his right ear, turned round, and with great difficulty put up his left hoof.

"I must have that in the other ear," he said. "Now then."

"A present," said Piglet very loudly.

"Meaning me again?"

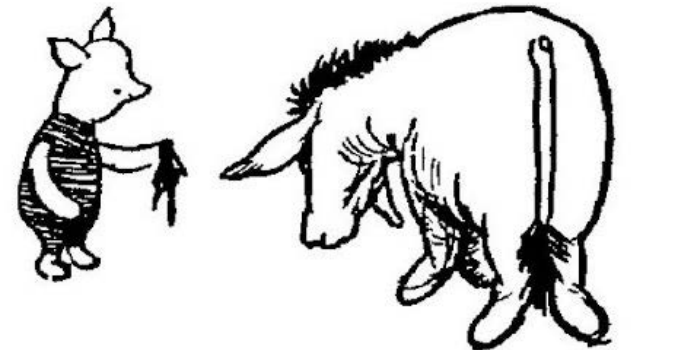
"Yes."

"My birthday still?"

"Of course, Eeyore."

"Me going on having a real birthday?"

"Yes, Eeyore, and I brought you a balloon."



"Balloon?" said Eeyore. "You did say balloon? One of those big coloured things you blow up? Gaiety, song-and-dance, here we are and there we are?"

"Yes, but I'm afraid—I'm very sorry, Eeyore—but when I was running along to bring it you, I fell down."

"Dear, dear, how unlucky! You ran too fast, I expect. You didn't hurt yourself, Little Piglet?"

"No, but I—I—oh, Eeyore, I burst the balloon!"

There was a very long silence.

"My balloon?" said Eeyore at last.

Piglet nodded.

"My birthday balloon?"

"Yes, Eeyore," said Piglet sniffing a little. "Here it is. With—with many happy returns of the day." And he gave Eeyore the small piece of damp rag.

"Is this it?" said Eeyore, a little surprised.

Piglet nodded.

"My present?"

Piglet nodded again.

"The balloon?"

"Yes."

"Thank you, Piglet," said Eeyore. "You



don't mind my asking," he went on, "but what colour was this balloon when it—when it was a balloon?"

"Red."

"I just wondered.... Red," he murmured to himself. "My favourite colour.... How big was it?"

"About as big as me."

"I just wondered.... About as big as Piglet," he said to himself sadly. "My favourite size. Well, well."

Piglet felt very miserable, and didn't know what to say. He was still opening his mouth to begin something, and then deciding that it wasn't any good saying that, when he heard a shout from the other side of the river, and there was Pooh.

"Many happy returns of the day," called out Pooh, forgetting that he had said it already.

"Thank you, Pooh, I'm having them," said Eeyore gloomily.

"I've brought you a little present," said Pooh excitedly.

"I've had it," said Eeyore.

Pooh had now splashed across the stream to Eeyore, and Piglet was sitting a little way off, his head in his paws, snuffling to himself.

"It's a Useful Pot," said Pooh. "Here it is. And it's got 'A Very Happy Birthday with love from Pooh' written on it. That's what all that writing is. And it's for putting things in. There!"

When Eeyore saw the pot, he became quite excited.

"Why!" he said. "I believe my Balloon will just go into that Pot!"

"Oh, no, Eeyore," said Pooh. "Balloons are much too big to go into Pots. What you do with a balloon is, you hold the ballon—"

"Not mine," said Eeyore proudly. "Look, Piglet!" And as Piglet looked sorrowfully round, Eeyore picked the balloon up with his teeth, and placed it carefully in the pot; picked it out and put it on the ground; and then picked it up again and put it carefully back.

"So it does!" said Pooh. "It goes in!"

"So it does!" said Piglet. "And it comes out!"

"Doesn't it?" said Eeyore. "It goes in and out like anything."

"I'm very glad," said Pooh happily, "that I thought of giving you a Useful Pot to put things in."

"I'm very glad," said Piglet happily, "that I thought of giving you Something to put in a Useful Pot."

But Eeyore wasn't listening. He was taking the balloon out, and putting it back again, as happy as could be....

"And didn't I give him anything?" asked Christopher Robin sadly.

"Of course you did," I said. "You gave him—don't you remember—a little—a little—"

"I gave him a box of paints to paint things with."

"That was it."

"Why didn't I give it to him in the morning?"

"You were so busy getting his party ready for him. He had a cake with icing on the top, and three candles, and his name in pink sugar, and—"

"Yes, I remember," said Christopher Robin.



A CANDY FACTORY IN CONNECTICUT!

Did you know that there is a famous candy factory right here in Connecticut?


PEZ candy was invented in Austria in 1927 by Eduard Haas III. The name "PEZ" comes from the German word "Pfefferminz," which means peppermint. PEZ started as a breath mint for adults but by the 1950s, it had transformed into the fun candy we know today.

In 1952, the PEZ


company opened an office in New York City. The same year, it patented the design for its famous candy dispenser.

In November of 1953, PEZ started building a big factory in Orange, CT. In 2011, they added a Visitor Center to the factory! Visitors can see the biggest public collection of PEZ dispensers in the world, peek into the factory where they make the candy, and more.







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CROSSWORD

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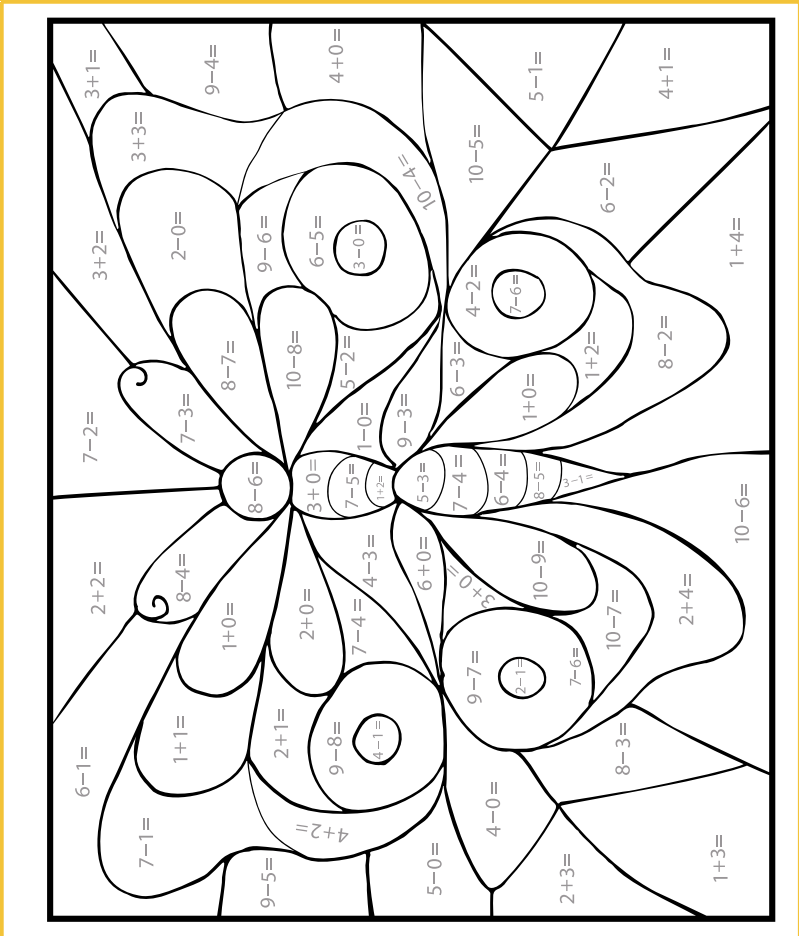
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15

16

12. GRAPE, 13. ORANGE, 14. PEAR, 15. MANDARIN, 16. BANANAS

1. FIG, 2. CHERRY, 3. CURRANT, 4. KIWI, 5. RASPBERRIES, 6. STRAWBERRY, 7. APRICOT, 8. PINEAPPLE, 9. WATERMELON, 10. MANDARIN, 11. LEMON, 12. GRAPE, 13. ORANGE, 14. PEAR, 15. MANDARIN, 16. BANANAS



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MATH

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1. FIG, 2. CHERRY, 3. CURRANT, 4. KIWI, 5. RASPBERRIES, 6. STRAWBERRY, 7. APRICOT, 8. PINEAPPLE, 9. WATERMELON, 10. MANDARIN, 11. LEMON, 12. GRAPE, 13. ORANGE, 14. PEAR, 15. MANDARIN, 16. BANANAS

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GRAB YOUR SKETCH BOOK

step by step

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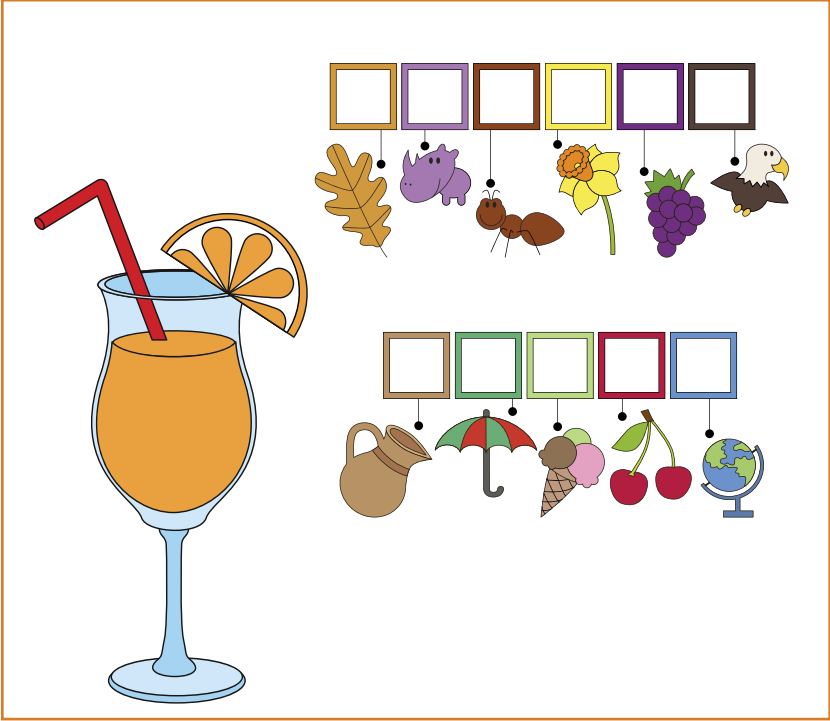
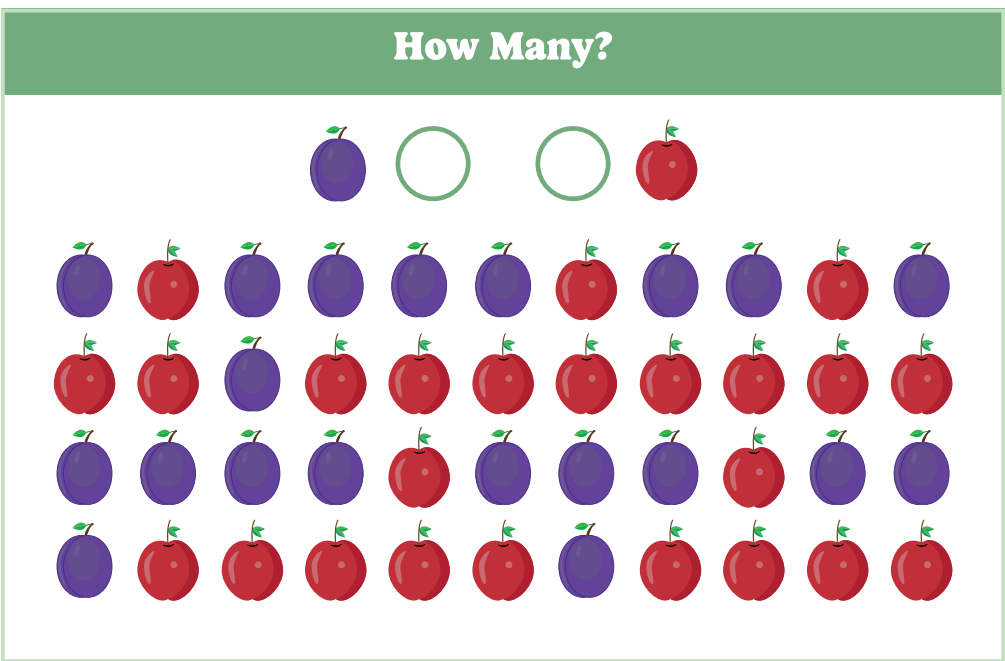
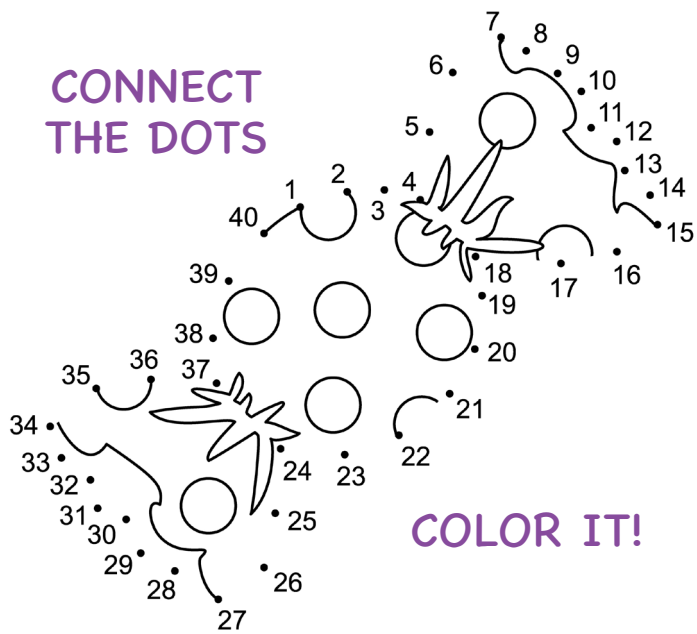
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ADDITION FOR KIDS

3 2 5 4

★ ADDITION FOR KIDS ★

2 5 6 ?

★ ADDITION FOR KIDS ★

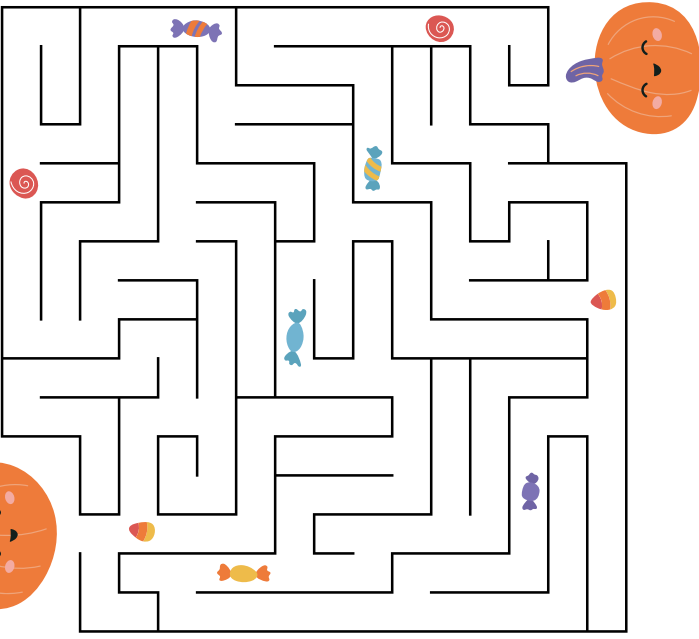
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WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

fruits

A	S	T	R	A	W	B	E	R	R	Y	O
K	J	F	O	S	A	Q	L	Z	V	X	A
W	Y	D	C	A	T	B	M	E	A	K	J
H	A	P	P	L	E	O	D	P	F	I	H
V	B	J	L	O	R	A	T	S	M	W	R
O	P	G	L	E	M	O	N	A	J	I	D
G	E	F	W	Q	E	I	L	N	D	E	P
E	A	Q	M	E	L	O	N	J	S	P	I
I	C	Q	X	L	O	R	A	N	G	E	J
G	H	K	B	A	N	A	N	A	W	A	D
A	J	H	P	L	C	B	R	D	S	R	B
O	R	A	S	P	B	E	R	R	Y	F	L

Help the pumpkin collect all the candy!



FIND HIDDEN OBJECTS IN THE PICTURE

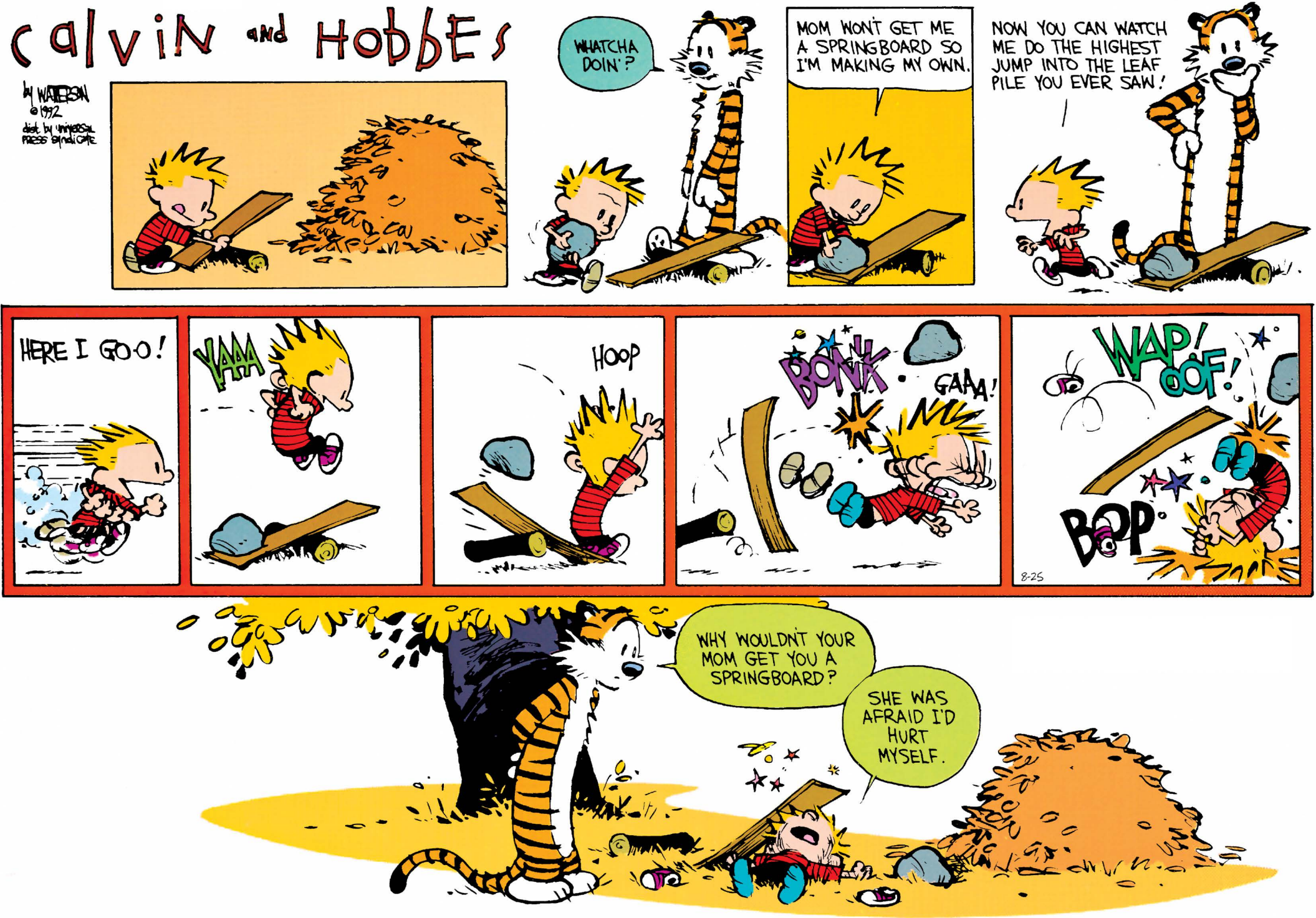
cup jam
canned food spices
banana apple
plate pear
bowl bowl
chair girl
broom knife
recycle bin

tulip cup
lamp
book
cutting board
cat
microwave oven
table plant
vase cactus
scoop towel
pot kettle
bottle dog

Top view puzzle

Can you help the kids find the right top view of candies?

The Sentinel



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COLUMN | WILDLY SUCCESSFUL: THE GRIZZLY BEAR

As Wild and Unconquerable as the Wilderness It Inhabits

By JIM KNOX

Cryptic at first, I glimpsed the great creature’s form through the dappled early morning light filtering through the Lodgepole pines. Brief and tantalizing, my view disappeared as she ambled behind dense foliage. With such a rare sighting, thankfully, I was not alone. Guided by the Yellowstone Forever Institute, my colleagues and I were leading students from Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo’s Conservation Discovery Corps on our inaugural Yellowstone National Park Eco-Expedition. Hunkered in the institute’s compact bus, our excited chatter drew to a hush. With excitement masked as patience, we waited. After a time, the rustling of pine boughs marked the animal’s movement just 25 feet away, and then she lumbered out from the realm of wilderness legend and into the same bright morning sunlight we beheld as if she owned the place—which in essence, she did. In that moment, my expedition mates and I beheld one of nature’s true wonders—a creature whose mere presence evokes silence and awe.

The Grizzly bear, *Ursus horribilis*, is a beast which eludes both the camera and conventional definition. Referred to as “a creature of roar and lore” it is both a very real and vital inhabitant of wilderness ecosystems, and simultaneously a creature roaming the untrod wilderness of our minds. Ranging from 6.5 feet in length and more than 350 pounds for a small female or sow, to 9 feet in length and more than half a ton for a large male or boar, Grizzlies are wilderness behemoths. A timeless symbol of the rugged American West, “The Golden Bear” stands as the state animal of California. While its size alone inspires awe, it is



The Grizzly Bear

"In that moment, my expedition mates and I beheld one of nature’s true wonders—a creature whose mere presence evokes silence and awe."

the Grizzly’s behavior which inspires other emotions. When first encountered by the Lewis and Clark expedition, their native guide, Sacagawea, warned the explorers not to shoot Grizzlies because it would only anger them. Accustomed to shy, easily intimidated Black bears, the Lewis and Clark party soon discovered the great bears could not be felled by a single musket ball or even two, and that—for the safety of their party—it was best to give a wide and respectful berth to the often unpredictable and ferocious bears. In fact, the origin of

their scientific name, “The Horrible Bear,” was earned by innumerable encounters with a creature that was as wild and unconquerable as the wilderness they inhabited. Named for their silvery “grizzled” tipped hairs, Grizzlies exhibit a variety of coat colors, from light blond, to golden, chocolate brown, to black, all often possessing the silvery grizzled sheen. While Grizzlies possess the hallmark huge rounded muscular bodies of the bear family, they differ from the other seven species in possessing pronounced facial disks, straight 4-inch-

long claws, and a distinctive shoulder hump which confers tremendous power for flipping boulders and digging up prey, roots, and other foods. With a highly varied and adaptable diet encompassing hundreds of plant and animal species from Buffalo berries to Cutthroat trout, and the unmatched ability to take down the largest prey including elk, moose, and bison, omnivorous Grizzlies dominated the North American landscape from present day Alaska and Canada, down through the mountains of Mexico and from Pennsylvania

westward to the Pacific. Between their close cousins, the Eurasian Brown bears, and their coastal relatives, The Kodiak and Kamchatka bears, the solitary Grizzly historically roamed one of the largest home ranges of any mammal species on the planet! Yet, the enormous chocolate brown mammal we beheld that day was not exhibiting the anticipated ferocity of an apex predator, she was displaying attentiveness and patience with her three small cubs who followed her with the playful vitality of all healthy

wild creatures. Privy to a tender moment between a mother Grizzly and her young—the only known sow with three cubs in the entire Yellowstone ecosystem—we treasured this rarely open window on their world. We would later learn that the sow had shifted her territory 14 miles in just a week in search of better hunting and foraging to help her produce more milk to feed her rapidly growing family. While I have studied Grizzlies in the wild, it was this moment that gave me an appreciation for another side to the great beasts. Like the iconic and infinitely varied wilderness that is Yellowstone, the Grizzly has many faces. In observing the bears with our team, I learned more about the Grizzly than I would have through solo observation. The awe, respect, and wonder we experienced that golden Yellowstone morning was shared and its impact, indelible. We will never be quite the same. What can the great bear teach us? We too are varied, often fierce, unpredictable, tender. While we must retain our adaptability, we must never relinquish our desire to roam and explore new territories. We must not shy away from challenges or challengers. We must focus on our little ones and guide them in the world in which we dwell, which is often far more uncertain than the geysers of Yellowstone. In short, we must adopt the spirit of the forever wild and unconquerable Grizzly to walk with the confidence to make our tracks where none have trod before.

Jim Knox is Curator of Education at Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo where he directs education and conservation initiatives to advance the protection of wildlife in Connecticut and beyond.