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LOCAL NEWS BRIEF

TOWN HALL

Prepare for Storms

Major storms in New Canaan can lead to long-lasting power outages, loss of communication services, and road closures. Residents should prepare by signing up for New Canaan Alerts, assembling an emergency kit, and creating a shelter and communication plan. For more information visit https://www.newcanaan.info/_T8_R536.php or contact New Canaan Emergency Management Director Russ Kimes at 203-594-4101.

Hazardous Waste Day

Household Hazardous Waste Day will take place tomorrow, September 14th, at the New Canaan Wastewater Plant. Residents can dispose of toxic, flammable, and corrosive materials such as paints, cleaners, and chemicals, but commercial waste and certain hazardous items will not be accepted. For more details, contact Mimi Pitt at mimi.pitt@newcanaanct.gov or 203-594-3001.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE BOARD OF SELECTMAN MEETING?

P&Z Members

The Planning and Zoning Commission recently had two members resign, Art Casavant and Kent Turner. With two vacancies, alternate members Tom Benton and Eric Knowles were promoted to regular members for three-year terms.

Fire Department Equipment and Training

The New Canaan Fire Department requested approval for two important budget items. The first was to spend up to \$16,000 with MES Fire Equipment for the annual service of extrication tools and the purchase of new equipment. This ensures the department's rescue tools are in optimal working condition. The second request was for up to \$25,000 to cover the cost of firefighter training at the Connecticut Fire Academy. This expense primarily supports training for new recruits. Both requests were approved by the Board.

Police Department Equipment

The New Canaan Police Department requested approval for two equipment purchases. The first was \$11,529 to buy four Telrepc body cameras, related software, and four in-car computers. The second request was for \$14,190 to purchase four portable radios and accessories from Motorola. These orders are critical for maintaining officer accountability and efficient communication while on duty.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Publisher@NewCanaanSentinel.com



Chamber Awards Are Back

By BETH BARHYDT

The New Canaan Chamber of Commerce is bringing back its Chamber Awards after a pandemic hiatus, with the event set for Wednesday evening on September 25, 6:00 - 7:30 at the New Canaan Library, Anderson Terrace. The evening will honor three standout businesses for their contributions to the community: Pennyweights, the Adirondack Store, and Planet New Canaan.

Lite bites and appetizers will be served with wine provided by Craftbottlz and Walter Stewart's Market. Tickets for the event are priced at \$35, and it promises to be an evening of celebration and community connection.

The Chamber Awards event will be an opportunity to celebrate the businesses being honored and to bring together the New Canaan community in support of local commerce. Proceeds will help support the Chamber's ongoing initiatives.

ADIRONDACK STORE: ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

The Adirondack Store, established in 2021, is the recipient of the Rookie of the Year award. The store has quickly become a popular destination for those seeking rustic and Adirondack-style furniture, home décor, and

outdoor living essentials. The store's carefully curated collection reflects the charm of the Adirondack region, and it has successfully attracted both locals and visitors.

PLANET NEW CANAAN: SHINING STAR AWARD

Planet New Canaan, a local nonprofit dedicated to promoting sustainability, will receive the Shining Star Award. The organization has worked tirelessly to encourage eco-friendly practices in town, including efforts to reduce plastic waste and promote composting. Planet New Canaan has collaborated with local restaurants and businesses to implement sustainable practices and reduce environmental footprints.

PENNYWEIGHTS: BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

The Business of the Year award goes to Pennyweights. Pennyweights has been a mainstay in downtown since 1980. Located at 108 Elm Street in New Canaan, owners Geoff & Kelly have been providing beautiful pieces of jewelry since they took over the business in the year 2000. The business was originally started in 1980 and celebrates 44 years this year! Pennyweights strongly believes in giving back to the community.

COLUMN

Wagging Finger or Open Palm?



By JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

Any demand can be stated as a request. The problem is, most of us wait too long to make our wishes known, hoping that the other person will intuit our requests. Partners aren't mind readers. Neither are roommates.

It's important to communicate our requests before resentment builds up. It's easier to choose the right words and tone of voice when we're not angry. Otherwise, out comes our wagging finger, our sharp tongue, or maybe even a verbal hammer.

It's also important to find out the other person's preferred form of communication. One person might prefer a written list; another person might perceive such a list as nagging.

When our partner experiences us as an angry, critical authority figure instead of a peer with a sincere request for help, we usually get nowhere. Our partner's perception is reality regardless of our intent. Open palms have a higher hit-ratio than wagging fingers.

Sophia learned how to distinguish whether her partner, Scott, saw a wagging finger or an open palm by carefully observing his body movements as she made her requests. Scott moved toward her open palm and away from her wagging finger. She started over when she sensed Scott moving away.

Excerpted from Jill Woolworth's book, The Waterwheel, available at Diane's Books, Dogwood Bookstore, Amazon, and barnesandnoble.com. Jill is a therapist at the Center for Hope & Renewal.

Addiction and Mental Health Supports



By LUCY DATHAN

September is National Recovery Month, and our community recently recognized addiction awareness with a town vigil hosted by the New Canaan Parent Support Group. It was an extremely meaningful event that highlighted the importance of transcending awareness to a place of acceptance, where family and the community are the critical factor in recovery. One of the speakers poignantly stated that the opposite of addiction is connection. This was highlighted by the nonprofit community support groups in attendance that usher people suffering with addiction toward a road of meaningful recovery, many of which are a part of Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery, also known as CCAR.

These nonprofits generally receive funding from donations, as well as federal and state funds, to carry out their objectives. State funding comes in the form of Medicaid rates for services received by Medicaid recipients, or block grants to local agency nonprofits. Additional state funding for these agencies is through the Opioid Settlement Fund, which was created through litigation with opioid manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies based on their respective role in the marketing and distribution of opioids. The proceeds of these funds must focus on prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction. In Connecticut, these funds are overseen by the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee that was established by 2022 legislation. Residents can make recommendations for consideration of the Opioid Settlement funding via this committee.

In my role in both the Human Services and Appropriations committees, I hear stories from providers as well as their clients who testify for additional funding to expand services and reduce waitlists. The services performed by CCAR members are incredible: not only do they provide services that used to be offered by state employees — which was much more costly — these services are rooted in local communities. This enables clients to have improved access to the critical personal connections that provide coaching, support, and healing in their hometowns, which is especially critical for success post in-patient stays. Further, some former clients find employment opportunities in CCAR member agencies offering 'Peer Support' to those seeking recovery, with the benefit of further bolstering their own continuing recovery.

I have been a fierce advocate of peer support

services in my legislative tenure. Peer support is an essential role on the healthcare team that assists individuals on their recovery journey by someone who has also experienced the healing process of recovery from substances (or other psychiatric or traumatic experiences). As a result, these peer supporters promote sobriety based on their own personal recovery journey. Mental health professionals agree that peer support offers an irreplaceable modality that cannot be found elsewhere.

I have spoken to many in the healthcare, mental health, and insurance industries who have concrete evidence that these coaching and counseling services decrease hospital stays both in number and in length, facilitating emergency room visits for those in crisis and preventing rehospitalizations. Most significantly, peer support services transition people to the road of recovery much faster, with the precious knowledge they are not alone. Peer support workers complement the roles of therapists, case managers, and other members of the treatment team symbiotically, to the benefit of all involved.

Connecticut is an outlier in allowing peer support services to be reimbursable by Medicaid, and currently a limited number of insurance providers reimburse for these types of services. Some CCAR members have raised concerns that it could cause issues in their state block grant funding, which must be addressed as we advocate for full accessibility to comprehensive recovery. What's most detrimental at this time, however, is that Connecticut is currently surrendering federal matching funds for these services by not having these services under the Medicaid umbrella. Connecticut has established a framework for peer support to ensure certification standards are in place for providers and with legislative approval; the Department of Social Services could obtain the federal authorization to reimburse providers for these services as well.

After the vigil's eighth powerful gathering of our community, I am only renewed in my dedication to peer support as I believe gaining greater access is a vital means to continue to de-stigmatize substance misuse disorders while helping our neighbors find a lasting road to recovery — and in a fiscally responsible manner. We owe it to our community to leave no stone unturned in caring for each other, and with federal dollars available, it would be negligent to do otherwise.

State Representative Lucy Dathan has been representing New Canaan and Norwalk in the 142nd Connecticut General Assembly house district since 2019. She is a resident of the Silvermine community in New Canaan, where she and her husband, Matt, have raised their three children. Outside of the legislature, Lucy Dathan is a CPA and part time finance executive, working on early stage technology start up companies.

INSIDE

FED RATE CUTS ON THE HORIZON?

Patricia Chadwick analyzes the Federal Reserve's upcoming decision, predicting potential rate cuts and highlighting the economy's strength. Chadwick recently released her memoir *Breaking Glass: Tales from the Witch of Wall Street*. Page 4.



Study Links Energy Drinks to Mental Health Risks in Teens

By Russell Barksdale, Jr., Ph.D., MPA/MHA, FACHE is President & CEO of Wavency LifeCare Network

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INSIDE



CURIOUS THINGS THAT JESUS SAYS

In this column, Rev. Msgr. Rob Kinnally highlights Jesus' call to focus on inner purity and authentic discipleship over rituals, leading to transformative love and healing.

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CENTENNIAL



Dionna Carlson

SIBLEY ON BIRDS; BRISTOW BIRD SANCTUARY 100TH ANNIVERSARY

David Sibley's lecture at the Library and the centennial celebration of Bristow Bird Sanctuary emphasized bird conservation, the importance of reconnecting with nature, and future plans for sanctuary improvements.

PAGE BI

Library Announces Annual Literary Speaker



Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jhumpa Lahiri will be the guest speaker at New Canaan Library's 17th Annual Literary Luncheon on November 8, 2024, where she will discuss her latest book, *Roman Stories*, a celebrated short story collection. Lahiri, known for her works exploring identity


and cultural conflicts, will also share her experiences of writing in Italian. This event, which serves as the library's largest annual fundraiser, will feature a Roman-themed afternoon, corporate sponsorships from local businesses, and an exclusive drawing prize from Manfredi Jewels. Page 5



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Introducing Faizal Hussain, XC Varsity Captain at NCHS

By CHRISTOPHER DEMUTH

As captain of the New Canaan High School boys' cross country team, Faizal Hussain enters this season with both personal and team aspirations. With his final season approaching, Hussain speaks about his goals, preparation, and the mindset he hopes will propel both him and his teammates to success. Faizal shares the position of captain with his fellow seniors Ryan Boulanger, Spencer Paine, and Timmo. Faizal has run under head coach Bill Martin for all 4 years of high school.

Q: What are your personal goals for this upcoming cross country season?

A: I'm hoping to break 17 minutes in the 5k race. If everything goes well, I might even be able to crack 16:30. I've been working hard, so it's a big focus for me.

Q: What goals have you set for the team this year?

A: We have to make it to State Opens this year. We've missed it by one place the last two years, and it's been really frustrating because I know how talented this team is. I understand that everyone can't have their best race on the same day, but we've worked hard all season, and we've got to show out at the Class L meet.

Q: How do you plan to balance your personal performance with team success?

A: Cross country is unique because, while it's a team sport, you're running your own race. The best way to help the team is to focus on your own running. But it's also important to support your teammates, especially when they're struggling, and to make sure you don't do anything that would negatively affect them, like cutting them off during a race.

Q: How has the team been preparing during the off-season?

A: The summer off-season is the best time for preparation. The team works hard, but we also have fun running together. It doesn't really matter how fast we're going; we just try to get as many runs and miles in

as we can during the off-season.

Q: Can you describe a typical training day for you and your team?

A: In-season, we have three kinds of training days. There's a mileage day, where we run longer distances at a slower pace, a speed day, where we focus on different aspects of running like anaerobic and aerobic workouts or hill work, and a recovery day, which is a slow, short run before or after a race.

Q: What specific areas are you focusing on improving this season?

A: I want to focus on explosive speed at the end of my race. If you can finish strong, you can pass a lot of people, and that makes a huge difference in races.

Q: How do you foster a sense of camaraderie and teamwork among your teammates?

A: The team is really like a family. We cheer each other on no matter where we are in the race. During workouts and runs, we help push each other to go farther and stay on pace. It's about working together to achieve our goals.

Q: What is your approach to setting race strategies?

A: Race strategy depends a lot on the course. Weather is always a huge factor in cross country, especially during the fall in New England. The conditions can change quickly. We usually do a run-through of the course before a race, so we can identify where the hills, tough patches, and different terrains are. That helps us adapt our strategy. It's also about how everyone's feeling—whether someone's injured or not. Our team has a lot of runners who are close in speed, so we push each other and make sure we're scoring as many points as possible.

Q: Who do you consider your biggest competition this season, and how do you plan to compete against them?

A: We have a few rival teams in the conference that are really strong. It's about sticking to our strategy, knowing our

strengths, and executing on race day. It'll be a challenge, but I think we're ready.

Q: How do you and your team analyze and learn from past races to improve future performance?

A: Analyzing races is tricky in cross country because every course is different. The one we can analyze best is Waveny, since we've run it so many times. We usually look at our splits and see which parts of the race need improvement, like hills or flat sections.

Q: What inspired you to start running cross country?

A: I watched the marathon event during the Olympics when I was younger, and I thought it was so cool. I wanted to try running myself after seeing that.

Q: How do you stay mentally focused and motivated during a long race?

A: Most of cross country running is mental. During a race, you shouldn't be overthinking. It's really easy to get inside your own head and second-guess yourself. I try to remember that the work has already been put in, and I'm prepared. The only thing you should be thinking about during a race is how to pass the guy in front of you and how to maintain your form, stride, and breathing.

Q: How do you balance academics, social life, and the rigorous training schedule of cross country?

A: It's actually easier to stay on top of schoolwork during the season than in the off-season. I can structure everything around training, which helps me set deadlines for myself. And no matter what, I always make sure Friday nights are free for fun with friends.

Q: Who has been your biggest support system throughout your cross country career?

A: That would definitely be Coach Martin. He's been there for me every step of the way, and I don't think I'd be where I am without his help.

Thank you to Faizal Hussain for giving his time to share his thoughts on the upcoming cross country season. This year Faizal along with the other cross country captains are aiming for states and FCIAC championships. Over the next few weeks expect to see more interviews with the captains of the New Canaan Rams Varsity fall sports.



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Study Links Energy Drinks to Mental Health Risks in Teens



BY RUSSELL BARKSDALE, JR.

A newly released study has raised significant concerns over the consumption of energy drinks among children and adolescents, revealing a troubling connection between these beverages and a rise in mental health problems, including anxiety, stress, depression, and suicidal thoughts.

Current data indicates that more than 30% of young people aged 12 to 17 regularly consume energy drinks, with boys partaking more frequently than girls. Many adolescents mistakenly believe these drinks will improve their academic performance or enhance their social standing. Energy drinks are often used to fuel late-night study sessions, boost athletic performance, or are sometimes mixed with alcohol during social gatherings. Despite being readily available in retail outlets with no age restrictions, many youths perceive these drinks as harmless.

Promoted for their purported ability to increase energy, combat fatigue, and sharpen focus, energy drinks carry significant health risks, largely due to their exceptionally high levels of caffeine, with some brands containing 500 milligrams or more per can. Medical professionals have voiced concerns over the toxic effects of such caffeine intakes, noting alarming statistics: more than 5,000 caffeine overdoses occur each year, with half of the cases involving individuals under the age of 19.

THE HEALTH RISKS OF ENERGY DRINK CONSUMPTION

Research into the health effects of energy drinks on teenagers has intensified in recent years, with findings linking these beverages to serious physical issues such as increased risks of heart attacks, respiratory difficulties, and seizures. There have been documented instances of energy drinks causing irregular heart rhythms in otherwise healthy teens, a risk heightened for those involved in intensive physical activity.

Moreover, there is a rising concern about the negative impact of energy drinks on mental health. Regular consumers report heightened feelings of anxiety, depression, and stress. Additionally, as the stimulatory effects of caffeine dissipate, some teens struggle

with concentration and alertness, which may lead them to seek other stimulants, including amphetamines.

IDENTIFYING CAFFEINE OVERDOSE

The potential for caffeine overdose escalates when energy drinks are consumed alongside other stimulants or alcohol. Symptoms of overdose can vary widely and include, but are not limited to:

- Accelerated heart rate
- Breathing difficulties
- Aggression or confusion
- Gastrointestinal issues
- Dizziness
- Increased thirst or dehydration
- Nausea
- Insomnia
- Stress
- Depression
- Suicidal thoughts
- A Gateway to Substance Abuse

Compounding these issues, studies also identify a concerning trend: teens who drink energy drinks are significantly more likely to engage in substance abuse. This risk is magnified for those with existing mental health challenges, such as anxiety, depression, or ADHD. Research shows that adolescents who consume energy drinks are twice as likely to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, or experiment with drugs compared to their peers who do not.

Demographic factors contribute to this vulnerability, with teens from less engaged families or those lacking knowledge about health risks being particularly at risk. While many will debate that an occasional energy drink may not pose a significant threat, parents are recommended to closely monitor consumption patterns and consider intervention if their child regularly indulges.

THE DANGERS OF MIXING ENERGY DRINKS WITH ALCOHOL

The practice of mixing energy drinks with alcohol is increasingly common among teens, who often believe this combination will enhance the effects of both substances. Studies indicate that approximately 10% of adolescents have combined these drinks, viewing it as a way to prolong their drinking experience.

However, this risky behavior heightens the chances of severe health complications, including heart issues, seizures, and respiratory problems. Additionally, the likelihood of alcohol-related injuries, such as physical violence or impaired driving, increases markedly.

With the transition and disruption of sleep patterns from the start of the school year, coupled with the growing evidence of the dangers associated with energy drinks, it is essential for both

parents and youth to navigate these potential health hazards with vigilance and informed caution.

Please visit <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/4LGI20c/> for article references.

Russell Barksdale, Jr., Ph.D., MPA/MHA, FACHE is President & CEO of Waveny LifeCare Network



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COLUMN

“The Time Has Come,” the Walrus Said.



By PATRICIA CHADWICK

It is apt today, as we await with anticipation the decision next week regarding a possible reduction in the level of the Fed Funds' rate, to replace “the Walrus” with “Jerome Powell,” the current chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the Fed).

The Fed has made it abundantly clear over the last two years that its actions regarding interest rates were (are and will be) guided by its dual responsibilities of (a) preserving the purchasing power of the U.S. dollar, i.e., maintaining price stability, and (b) promoting maximum employment. Note: Prior to 1978, the Fed's role was limited solely keeping inflation under control. However, when the price of oil quadrupled in the early 1970s, resulting in soaring inflation and economic recession, Congress added the responsibility of “promoting employment” to the duties of the Fed. Over the forty-five plus years since the passage of that bill into law, balancing those two responsibilities has at times been challenging. However, since 2021, when the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc with the global supply chain, inflation has been the challenge.

Inflation in this country is most commonly measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a composite based upon a representative basket of goods and services. As we all know, however, inflation is very particular to one's own

circumstances that include geography—whether one is a city dweller, or living in the suburbs, or in a town in the open countryside; the status of one's health; whether one owns a home outright, or is paying down a mortgage, or is a renter; the needs for travel/commuting, and, perhaps most importantly, one's age. That basket of goods and services, one that is deemed to be representative of the country as a whole, is far from the actual experience of individuals and families. Two important components of the CPI are food and energy, both of which are essential costs for everyone, even those who don't own an automobile, but must pay their utility bills. The demand for those two constituents are fairly price inelastic. The price of food has been particularly alarming over the last several years, but much of the inflation has been the result of exogenous forces. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022 had a multi-year impact on the rise in the prices of wheat, barley, seed corn, sunflowers and oils, as well as other food commodities. In addition, what used to be anomalous weather disruptions—extreme heat, floods and droughts—have become more the norm in the last few years, adding to the scarcity of food on a global basis and the volatility of prices. And here in the USA, avian flu has led to commercial egg farms having to euthanize their flocks. The impact of those cutbacks is expected to continue into at least early 2025.

In the manufacturing and industrial sectors of the U.S. economy, the prices of many products have dropped significantly from their supply-constrained highs two years ago. That inability to ship billions of dollars of overseas production to this country brought about a change of heart by a

I remain convinced that there is a high likelihood of three interest rate cuts between now and next February. I will be happy with .25% in September.

large number of U.S. companies (90% of North American manufacturers, by one investment bank's report) regarding their long-held trend of outsourcing production to facilities in foreign countries where lower wages offer a competitive advantage. According to some reports, more than one million manufacturing jobs—in industries as varied as electronics, automotive parts, semiconductors, consumer soft goods, and health care items—have been repatriated to this country in the last four years in an effort to shorten the supply chain. Those new jobs have been part of the reason for the continued robust employment in this country. In the short run, however, that shift from foreign to domestic manufacturing has added to the price of the final product, as hourly wages in this country are often multiples of those overseas. The advent of AI, however, has already begun to have a favorable impact on productivity in numerous industries. That trend will undoubtedly expand for decades to come, resulting in enhanced profitability and reduced inflation. Productivity gains also allow for increases in wages of the same magnitude without incurring an inflationary cost for the company.

The speed with which the Fed raised interest rates—from near zero in February of 2022 to 5.50% less than 18

months later—had the desired impact on inflation, which cratered from 9.1% (in July 2022) to 2.5% today, a whopping full 6.6 percentage points two and a half years! That is an unprecedented decline in inflation. Throughout this period of decline in the rate of inflation, the Fed Funds rate has remained unchanged at 5.50%, with the result that “real” interest rates today are very high. An extended period of high real rates could indeed become a recessionary threat at a time when there is no urgency to slow down economic growth. The telltale signs of over-expansion in the economy do not exist today—inventories are not out of line with trendline economic growth; both corporate and household balance sheets are healthy. Employment is strong, and as productivity increases, it will provide the opportunity for continued economic growth at a rate faster than employment. Those are all signs of a healthy economy. It is true that the trend for years has been that Federal debt continues to grow faster than the country's GDP. As of June 2024 it stood at 123.8% of GDP, which is down from an all-time high of 130.6% in 2020 during the COVID pandemic. However, allowing the economy to spill into a recession will do nothing to reduce the Federal debt. As I write this column, we are still days—and mountains of data—away from the September 17 - 18

Federal Reserve meeting at which it will make a decision about interest rates. The histrionics of the stock market, from my point of view, are silly; extrapolating every piece of economic data in a straight line into the future is a fool's errand. The data in general present a picture of moderate inflation, an excellent level of employment, a healthy consumer and a favorable environment for growth in corporate earnings. All good news!

In my February column, I wrote that the time had come and gone for a recession. I continue to believe that, even more strongly today. The only thing that could jinx that prediction would be if the Fed deliberately allowed real interest rates to remain high. There is no indication that the Fed has that intention; in fact, various Federal Reserve Bank presidents have all but said that a rate cut is likely, with the caveat that the decision will be data-driven. I remain convinced that there is a high likelihood of three interest rate cuts between now and next February and I will be happy with .25% in September. Cassandras will always find something to complain about with the state of the economy. But the preponderance of the data tell a good story and one that should get even better over the next year. Take a deep breath and carry on.

Patricia Chadwick is a businesswoman and an author. Her second memoir, Breaking Glass, with the subtitle: Tales from the Witch of Wall Street, came out on May 14, 2024. It tells of her “growing up” and succeeding in what was then the all-male bastion called Wall Street. Her new book is a sequel to her first Memoir, Little Sister, the story of her childhood in a religious community-turned-cult. www.patriciachadwick.com

COLUMN

Saying Goodbye to Maui



By ICY FRANTZ

I wasn't a dog person growing up. We always had one or two in the house, but as a young girl, I spent my time concerned with other things - friends, sports, and even schoolwork - took precedence.

For me, the animals in my childhood home were like furniture - a part of the scenery, a fixture to relax on at the end of the day - and I developed about as much emotional connectivity with them as I might with a dining room chair.

Then I met Buddy. Buddy was a wonderful, loyal Golden Retriever who was at my husband's side for 14 years. They grew up together, and although I wasn't there for all of it, I heard the tales of countless escapades and witnessed the special bond they had.

Buddy spent time at business school in New Hampshire, on boats on the Long Island Sound, and, later, accompanied us on ski trips to Vermont - once taking on a porcupine (and narrowly escaping with his life). He walked down the aisle at our wedding and waited until our first child was born to know that it was okay to move on.

In the end, we sat by Buddy's side when our vet put him to sleep, and I heaved and sobbed with a pain I had never felt.

And although Buddy left very big pawprints to fill, eventually we got another dog.

Our three boys picked out

Skyscraper from a litter of Golden Retriever puppies in Guilford, Connecticut, and quickly “Sky” became an integral part of our family. There are few photographs from that decade that do not include his sweet face.

He stood on the sidelines of countless sporting events, kindly tolerated the many Halloween costumes and football jerseys that the boys dressed him in, and his name was listed alongside ours on our annual Christmas card.

But with time, Sky's puppy energy subsided and his face grew white, and the boys started middle school and our daughter was born. And although our home was already chaotic, we got Maui, the cream-colored Golden who inspired this piece.

We were excited about Maui's arrival; Sky, on the other hand, was not. Or at least not at first.

He found him bothersome and annoying and needy, and Maui was all of those things. But the two of them forged a relationship - mentor to mentee - sprinkled with a healthy dose of nightly roughhousing.

At the age of ten, Sky developed bone cancer, and after a short period of time, the right course of action became obvious.

I sobbed when our vet put Sky down; I wasn't sure I would ever get past the pain of losing this amazing dog. Weeks went by, and yet I remained stuck.

I remember a therapist suggesting that perhaps the grief I was feeling was misplaced, and I was actually feeling the grief of other significant losses in my life.

I considered that. Certainly, a new loss can bring up memories from prior losses.

But maybe it was less complicated - I simply missed our dog. I had come

And maybe there is something so special about the unconditional love we receive from our dogs; it is the healing touch on a rough day and a moment of joy in the early morning. And no matter what is happening in the world, our dogs give us their all, no questions asked. I would like to think we do the same for them, but I am pretty sure they love us harder.

a long way from the young girl who didn't care much about animals.

And then, Maui (AKA Mau Mau). He saw the children into the next decade. He watched sadly as bags were packed and the boys left for school and college, and then to begin their work lives in New York City. He saw our daughter off as well.

But when the kids returned, Maui's excitement was at a high. He loved a full house almost as much as we did.

Maui was a great student. He learned tricks, like swimming deep down to the muddy floor of the Sound to retrieve a rock. And he learned to run swiftly through the invisible fence to go on what we called his walkabouts - he would find his way home, but only after a visit to the neighbor who gave him treats.

And Maui also became a teacher to Sailor, a young, energetic puppy (not the sharpest tool in the chest) who joined our family five years ago. Maui offered to Sailor what Sky had once

given to him.

If we are lucky, we will foster a very special bond with a dog or two in a lifetime.

For me, it was Maui. He seemed to understand that as I became an empty nester, I might need a little extra support. And he was right.

So, he walked me to bed every night, even when his hind legs started to fail and the climb up the stairs was a challenge. When I came home, he greeted me faithfully at the front door with a big smile and a gift - a used tissue from the garbage or a pair of underwear from the laundry. When I cooked, he laid at my feet (hoping for a little something) and he sat with me on the couch in our family room and by my side in my office.

And all the while he was looking after me, Maui's health was deteriorating (oh, how I hate that word).

Defined, it means “the process of becoming progressively worse”. And

yes, to an outsider, Maui may have looked like an old dog with sour breath and a matted mane. He no longer garnered the same attention that a puppy does, but to those of us on the inside - his family - he was precious and wise and loving and loved.

And maybe there is something so special about the unconditional love we receive from our dogs; it is the healing touch on a rough day and a moment of joy in the early morning. And no matter what is happening in the world, our dogs give us their all, no questions asked. I would like to think we do the same for them, but I am pretty sure they love us harder.

A few weeks ago, Maui died of respiratory failure.

I had been away when he developed pneumonia, and our vet brought him to a local clinic for an IV and nasal oxygen. I returned to be with him, and when I arrived, he greeted me with his usual big smile.

I sat on the cold floor of the clinic with his head in my lap. I told the vet that I wasn't ready to say goodbye. We never are, she said.

I read somewhere that the fact that we fall madly in love with dogs - although we know that their lives will be short, and then do it again and again - is the perfect example of hope.

And hope is where I want to leave us.

Because although I am feeling crushed from the loss of Maui, I also know that I would do it again and again - not to replace Maui or Sky or Buddy, but to experience once more, something I did not understand as a young girl, that wonderful and unique connection we can have with our dogs.

RIP Maui Frantz.

*Icy Frantz,
The Icing on the Cake,
Icy@icyfrantz.net*

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Curious Things that Jesus Says

BY REV. MSGR. ROB KINNALLY

In the Gospel readings offered in many traditions for the last two Sunday's, Jesus has encounters with folks that lead to curious mandates from Him. I'm a firm believer in helping believers unpack the meaning behind those kinds of conversations so that we can all understand a bit more and then go forward, challenged and inspired.

In the seventh chapter of Mark's Gospel, Jesus is asked why his followers don't follow some of the rituals that have been a part of Jewish temple tradition forever. In his response, Jesus chastises those obsessed with following ritual for the sake of following ritual and not understanding the meaning and relevance therein. Jesus calls them out because they are not authentic; for example, they worry more about ritual purification of vessels than living lives of purity. He warns them of the dangers of maintaining a tidy façade that hides a broken interior life. Jesus suggests that what those ritual-handwashing "police" miss is the opportunity to get their hands dirty serving God and their brothers and sisters.

This discourse on cleanliness is an invitation to spend more time on creating a clean heart for God and directing our hearts and hands toward our neighbor. It reminds me of the reading from Joel that we hear on Ash Wednesday where God speaks through the prophet and says "rend your hearts, not your garments." This Markan Gospel passage is a life-giving mandate to forget about checking boxes and remembering to love

without condition. It's a call to ask ourselves, "Why do I do what I do? And what am I doing for God and my neighbor?"

It's so important to wash our hands, but when it comes to living life, we have to make sure we aren't "washing our hands" of the responsibilities of discipleship. The great news is that in our prayer, Jesus will gently lead us to life-giving ritual and tradition.

The second passage I'd like to highlight in this category of curious Jesus mandates is from Mark 7:31-37. It's the story of the healing of the deaf and mute man. Here's how the healing is relayed in the New American Bible:

Then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"— that is, "Be opened!"— And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it.

Did you ever wonder why Jesus often told those who witnessed his miracles not to tell anyone what they saw? The deaf and mute man's hearing is restored and his speech is clear because Jesus cured him. But Jesus instructs the crowd "not to tell anyone." If we were there, wouldn't we say something like: "Really, Jesus?! This is amazing, and I want to tell the whole world – one minute this man was deaf and unable to speak and the next minute you commanded his ears to be opened

It will brighten our way, despite the darkness that may have enveloped us. It will lift our spirits when we thought we were fairly spirited already.

and they opened; one minute no one could understand the man, and the next minute everyone understands what he is saying. I want to share that story with everyone in my circle of family and friends right away! Why can't we tell anyone?!"

I think Jesus might reply this way: "You don't yet understand who I am. You think I have worked some kind of magic. I don't want you to share that understanding of me with others. When you fully embrace the reality that I am the Son of God, the Promised One who does the will of the Father and works these miracles because they are the will of the Father -- and the Father and I are one -- then you can tell the whole world! When you understand that an encounter with me is an opportunity for healing, forgiveness, and deep and abiding love, then you will not need a miracle; you will be satisfied with knowing that you are truly loved by me."

If we understand Christ as "miracle-worker," we do not have the whole story. A meaningful and life-giving encounter with Christ should encompass more than the

possibility of a miracle. A meaningful and live-giving encounter with Christ will leave us feeling like we are fully alive despite our weariness. It will brighten our way, despite the darkness that may have enveloped us. It will lift our spirits when we thought we were fairly spirited already. A true encounter with Christ -- in prayer, in church, in nature, in friendship, in art, in music, and wherever we find Christ -- will cause us to experience a true miracle: overcoming the fear that has left us unable to see, hear, and speak what Christ has to offer -- becoming our best selves in Him. Free of that fear, we become what He wants us to be. And once we are who we are meant to be in Christ, then we are free to tell everyone what happened!

Jesus has many curious things to say, but He always speaks the truth that is grounded in love, and stills our curiosity with His loving presence. I pray that however you believe, you will know that peace that comes from Divine Presence.

Rev. Msgr. Rob Kinnally is the Pastor at Saint Aloysius Church

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Jhumpa Lahiri Featured Speaker for Library's 17th Annual Literary Luncheon

New Canaan Library continues its tradition of presenting award-winning, internationally renowned authors with the announcement that Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jhumpa Lahiri will be guest speaker for the Library's 17th Annual Literary Luncheon. The event will be held on Friday, November 8, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the Country Club of New Canaan.

Jhumpa Lahiri, a bilingual writer and translator and recipient of numerous prestigious literary awards, is perhaps most well-known for her Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Interpreter of Maladies*. Ms. Lahiri will be speaking at the Literary Luncheon about her recently released short story collection, *Roman Stories*.

Declared a Best Book of the Year by The New Yorker and NPR, *Roman Stories* is the first short story collection from the author since her number one New York Times bestseller, *Unaccustomed Earth*. Masterful in the craft of short stories, Lahiri captures the vibrancy and history of the ancient city from the perspective of nine foreigners, assigning Rome the role of the protagonist of the collection, not merely the setting,



According to her biography, *Jhumpa Lahiri received the Pulitzer Prize in 2000 for Interpreter of Maladies, her debut story collection that explores issues of love and identity among immigrants and cultural transplants. With a compelling, universal fluency, Lahiri portrays the practical and emotional adversities of her diverse characters in elegant and direct prose. Whether describing hardships of a lonely Indian wife adapting to life in the United States or illuminating the secret pain of a young couple as they discuss their betrayals during a series of electrical blackouts, Lahiri's bittersweet stories avoid sentimentality without abandoning compassion.*

Jhumpa Lahiri's novel The Namesake was published in the fall of 2003 to great acclaim. The Namesake expands on the perplexities of the immigrant experience and the search for identity. A film version of The Namesake (directed by Mira Nair) was released in 2007. Lahiri's book of short stories, Unaccustomed Earth, received the 2008 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award (the world's largest prize for a short story collection) and was a finalist for the Story Prize. She contributed the essay on Rhode Island in the 2008 book State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America. Her book, The Lowland, won the DSC award for south Asian fiction, and was a finalist for both the Man Booker prize and the National Book Award in fiction.

Lahiri's first book written in Italian, In Altre Parole, later published in English as In Other Words, explores the often emotionally fraught links between identity and language. Her nonfiction also includes The Clothing of Books which was originally published in Italy as Il vestito dei libri. She has translated three novels by Domenico Starnone; Ties (2017, named a New York Times Notable Book and Best Foreign Novel by the Times of London; Trick (2018, nominated for the National Book Award and winner of the John Florio Prize for translation

from Italian to English); and Trust. She edited and partly translated The Penguin Book of Italian Short Stories. In 2021 she published her first collection of poems in Italian Il quaderno di Nerina [Nerina's Notebook] (Guanda, 2021). Her first full-length self-translation is her New York Times bestselling novel, Whereabouts. Originally written in Italian it was published as Dove Mi Trovo in 2018. She has also written a collection of essays on translation, self-translation, and writing across languages titled Translating Myself and Others. Originally published in Italian as Racconti Romani, her new book is Roman Stories (Knopf, October 10, 2023). Translated into English by Lahiri and Todd Portnowitz, the book was a New Yorker 2023 Best Book of the Year.

Born in London, Lahiri moved to Rhode Island as a young child with her Bengali parents. Although they have lived in the United States for more than thirty years, Lahiri observes that her parents retain "a sense of emotional exile" and Lahiri herself grew up with "conflicting expectations...to be Indian by Indians and American by Americans." Lahiri's abilities to convey the oldest cultural conflicts in the most immediate fashion and to achieve the voices of many different characters are among the unique qualities that have captured the attention of a wide audience. She is a graduate of Barnard College and has a Ph.D in Renaissance Studies from Boston University.

In 2014 Jhumpa Lahiri was awarded the prestigious National Humanities Medal. As well as the Pulitzer Prize, Lahiri has been awarded the PEN/Hemingway Award, an O. Henry Prize (for the short story "Interpreter of Maladies"), the Addison Metcalf Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Vallombrosa Von Rezzori Prize, the Asian American Literary Award, and the 2017 PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story. Lahiri was also granted a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2002 and an National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 2006. Previously she

was the director of Princeton University's Program in Creative Writing. She is now the Millicent C. McIntosh Professor of English and Director of Creative Writing at Barnard College. She was also named Commander of the Italian Republic in 2019 by President Sergio Mattarella.

"For the past decade, it has been a privilege to welcome some of the greatest contemporary writers in the world to our community," says Ellen Sullivan Crovatto, Vice President of External Affairs and Philanthropy. "This year will be yet another special occasion when the inimitable Jhumpa Lahiri joins us for this unique event that serves as a major support for all the Library's operations."

"Lit Luncheon guests will be treated to a Roman themed afternoon, a chance to win a magnificent drawing prize courtesy of Manfredi jewelers, and the opportunity to hear one of the world's foremost fiction writers describe why she began writing exclusively in Italian when she moved with her family to Italy several years ago," adds Crovatto.

Generous corporate sponsorship this year comes from Manfredi Jewels, William Raveis, Bankwell, Robinson & Cole, Yozo Studio, Stamford Motorsports/Vespa, Lampert Toohy & Rucci Law, Connecticut Breast Imaging and Springboard Travel. Mofly Media is the exclusive media sponsor for the event.

The Literary Luncheon is the Library's largest annual fundraiser, welcoming more than 400 guests for bestselling authors such as Geraldine Brooks (2023), Madeline Miller (2022), Alice Hoffman (2020), Delia Owens (2019), Amor Towles (2017) and Pulitzer Prize winner Anthony Doerr (2015).

For additional information or questions please visit the Library's website newcanaanlibrary.org or email Allison Zinzchenko azinczenko@newcanaanlibrary.org.

DOT Announces Major Route 15 Project

BY EMMA WHITNEY

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is embarking on an infrastructure upgrade with a comprehensive sign support replacement project on Route 15 which began on September 9 and will continue until July 11, 2026. The project will span several towns including New Canaan, Greenwich, Stamford, Milford, Orange, Woodbridge, New Haven, Hamden, North Haven, Wallingford, and Meriden.

Motorists should anticipate various traffic adjustments during the project.

This extensive initiative, designated CTDOT Project No. 0083-0271, involves replacing outdated extruded aluminum signs and supports that no longer meet the current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards. The existing signage has shown signs of wear, inadequate retro-reflectivity, and structural deficiencies due to the increased size requirements for modern signage and current wind loading criteria.

The project also includes updating exit numbers from sequential to mileage-based numbering, in line with Federal regulations. Two new permanent variable message signs will be installed to integrate with the CTDOT's Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) for Limited Access Highways.

Awarded to Ducci Electrical Contractors at a cost of \$7.48 million, this project is being administered by the Bureau of Engineering and Construction, Office of Construction, District 3 in New Haven.

Work on Route 15 will occur during the following times:

LANE CLOSURE/DETOUR INFO LISTED

CT-15 Northbound (Greenwich) New York State line to Exit 28 Off-Ramp

6:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m. (Monday -Wednesday)

6:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. (Thursday - Saturday)

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. (Sunday)

CT-15 Southbound (Greenwich) Exit 28 On-Ramp To New York State Line

6:00 p.m. - 5:00 a.m. (Monday -Thursday)

6:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. (Friday)

6:00 p.m. - 7am (Saturday)

7:00 p.m. - 5:00 a.m. (Sunday)

CT-15 Northbound (Greenwich) Exit 28 Off-Ramp to Stamford City Line

6:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. (Monday-Tuesday)

6:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. (Wednesday - Friday)

7:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. (Saturday)

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. (Sunday)

CT-15 Southbound (Greenwich) Stamford City Line to Exit 28 On-Ramp

6:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. (Monday -Wednesday)

6:00 p.m. - 4:00 a.m. (Thursday - Friday)

4:00 p.m. - 4:00 a.m. (Saturday)

5:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. (Sunday)

CT-15 Northbound (Stamford) Stamford City Line to Exit 35 On-Ramp

8:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. (Monday-Tuesday)

8:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. (Wednesday)

6:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. (Thursday - Saturday)

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. (Sunday)

CT-15 Southbound (Stamford) Exit 35 On-Ramp to Stamford City Line

6:00 p.m. - 4:00 a.m. (Monday-Thursday)

6:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. (Friday)

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. (Saturday)

5:00 p.m. - 4:00 a.m. (Sunday)

CT-15 Northbound (Stamford-Norwalk) Exit 35 On-Ramp to Exit 39B Off-Ramp

6:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. (Monday-Wednesday)

6:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. (Thursday - Saturday)

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. (Sunday)

Men's Club Meetings Fridays at 10am

Bruce Cruikshank, a member of the New Canaan Men's Club, is set to share the fascinating story behind his project of rebuilding a Jaguar XKE. The presentation will take place at the club's September 13th meeting. Known for its sleek design and engineering, the Jaguar XKE is a classic car enthusiast's dream, and Bruce's restoration journey promises to offer insights into the challenges and joys of reviving such a historic vehicle. This is part of a series of Friday morning meetings held by the New Canaan Men's Club at 10 a.m. at Morrill Hall, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and available remotely via Zoom. Upcoming presentations include Frank Sparks on September 20th, discussing the heroic stories of three highly-decorated Marines and a Green Beret Paratrooper, followed by Phillip Dodd on September 27th, who will explore the American Renaissance in New York.



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YOUR NEWS BRIEF CONTINUED From Page 1

Due to supply chain delays, some equipment is on backorder, but these orders were approved.

Grant Resolutions for Playhouse Renovation

The Board of Selectmen approved resolutions related to a \$2 million grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development's Urban Action Grant Program. This grant will fund the renovation and improvement of the New Canaan Playhouse building. The resolutions ratified the submission of the grant application by the First Selectman and authorized the execution of all necessary documents to secure the funds.

Information Technology Contract for VMware Renewal

The Information Technology Department was granted approval to enter into a contract with SHI for \$36,016.87. This contract covers the renewal of VMware software, which is critical for virtualizing the town's server infrastructure, and the purchase of 8 10Zig Zero Clients to replace aging hardware. This upgrade will help keep the town's IT systems current and ensure smooth operation across departments.

Parking Permit Late Fees

The New Canaan Parking Department proposed introducing late fees for commuter parking permit renewals. A \$50 fee will be applied to permits renewed in September, and a \$100 fee will be applied to those renewed in October. This change aims to encourage timely renewals and prevent commuters from losing their permits. The Board approved the fees and noted that the department would reevaluate the renewal process next year to improve efficiency and user experience.

Behavioral Health Needs Assessment

The Human Services Department sought approval for a \$25,000 purchase order to the New Canaan Community Foundation. This funding, sourced from the Opioid Settlement Grant, will be used to conduct a Behavioral Health Needs Assessment Survey. The survey aims to better understand and address mental health needs within the community. The Board approved the request.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Contract

The Health Department requested approval to enter into a five-year contract with Ledgelight Health District. This contract is part of the previously approved Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant and provides readiness for public health emergencies. The funding supports activities such as emergency planning, exercises, and coordination with regional health services. The Board approved the contract.

Lakeview Ave Culvert Repair

An emergency contract for \$5,250 was approved for Hussey Bros. Excavating to conduct repairs on the headwall of the Lakeview Avenue Culvert. Recent storm damage caused significant erosion at the culvert, which required immediate attention to prevent further deterioration. The repair is a temporary measure until the full culvert replacement project, planned for 2025, is completed.

Highway Department Purchase Order

The Department of Public Works sought approval for a FY25 blanket purchase order of \$40,000 to cover various drainage project expenses with Madison Supply. The Board granted approval for this request.

Purchase of Dump Truck

The Department of Public Works requested approval for the previously authorized purchase of a 2025 Western Star Dump Truck for \$273,239.

Initially listed as a purchase from Western Star, the truck will now be bought from Freightliner of Hartford. The change in vendor was approved.

Waveny Park Trail

The Public Works Department sought approval for a \$56,100 contract with Sound Construction, with an additional contingency of \$8,415.00, for a total project cost of \$64,515.00. This project focuses on reconstructing the trail that runs along Lapham Road inside Waveny Park, improving accessibility and safety for pedestrians. The Board approved the contract, noting that the current trail had become difficult to navigate due to erosion and other natural wear.

GIS system and MS4 Report

The Department of Public Works requested approval to enter into two contracts with Tighe and Bond. The first contract, totaling \$24,000.00, covers annual maintenance and data updates for the Geographic Information System (GIS). This system has many uses including urban planning, resource management, environmental impact assessments, and transportation planning. The second contract, totaling \$15,100.00, is for the preparation of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Annual Report. New Canaan holds a permit with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and Tighe and Bond assist in maintaining compliance with this permit. These contracts were approved.

Treated Salt Purchase

The Department of Public Works received approval to enter into a contract with Morton Salt for the purchase of 3,000 tons of treated salt. This purchase would be for winter road maintenance at a cost of \$88.78 per ton, totaling \$266,340. Although the department may not use the full 3,000 tons in one season, the remaining salt can be stored for upcoming winters.

Liquid Ice-B-Gone

The Department of Public Works received approval to enter into a contract with Innovative Surface Solutions. This would be for the purchase of 12,000 gallons of Liquid Ice-B-Gone at \$1.69 per gallon for a total price of \$20,280.

Waveny House Abatement

The Department of Public Works received approval to enter into a contract with Fuss and O'Neill in the amount of \$35,460, plus a contingency of \$3,546. This entails monitoring air quality, project monitoring, and design specification.

Irwin House Building Assessment

The Department of Public Works received approval to enter into a contract with Hoffman Architects and Engineers in the amount of \$15,700, plus a contingency of \$1,570. The project entails an assessment of Irwin House.

New Canaan Nature Center Gas Conversion

The Department of Public Works received approval to enter into a contract with C.V. Longo Mechanical for \$18,400, with a \$1,840 contingency. The project entails the removal of old equipment and the installation of a new gas fire burner at the Nature Center Visitor Center. The goal is to improve energy efficiency and eliminate the need for an underground oil tank.

Train Station Boiler and Gas Conversion

The Department of Public Works received approval to enter into a contract with C.V. Longo Mechanical in the amount of \$32,565, plus a contingency of \$3,256.50. The project entails the supply and removal of old equipment and the installation of a new gas fire furnace at the Train Station.

Town Hall Boiler Replacement

The Public Works Department received approval to enter into a contract with Eastern Mechanical Services for \$39,550, with a contingency of

\$3,955. The project involves replacing the older boilers at Town Hall with new, energy-efficient dual-fuel burners that can operate on both natural gas and oil. This ensures reliable heating during the winter months and gives the town flexibility in managing fuel costs.

Parks Garage Painting Project

The Department of Public Works received approval to enter into a contract with Aladdin Services in the amount of \$14,700, plus a contingency of \$2,940. The project entails the scraping and painting of the Parks Maintenance Garage.

Parks Garage Roof Project

The Department of Public Works received approval to enter into a contract with J. Antonelli Roofing in the amount of \$54,050, plus a contingency of \$10,810. The project entails the installation of a new roofing system, wood rot repairs, and lighting replacement at the Parks Garage Roof.

Emergency Repair

The Board approved the emergency motor repair by Stuart Stevenson Power for the generator at the wastewater treatment plant control building, totaling \$25,852.93.

Travel Expense Approvals

Two departments submitted requests for approval of employee travel expenses. The Department of Public Works seeks to send Lou Boice to the NE APWA Expo at a cost of \$500. The Finance Department requested \$1,800 to cover travel expenses for Anne Kelly-Lenz and Diane Wilson to attend the GFOA Fall Annual Conference. The Board approved these requests.

Finance Department Purchase Orders

The Finance Department requested approval for FY25 purchase orders to cover state-mandated expenses for school transportation and nurse reimbursement at private schools. The request included \$280,000 for New Canaan Country School transportation, \$121,000 for New Canaan Country School nursing, and \$118,000 for St. Luke's School nursing. This request was approved.

Full-Time Employee Hires

The Human Resources Department recommended two new hires. Matthew Bulan was approved as a Junior Systems Administrator for the IT Department. Adrienne Vitti was approved for hire as an Administrative Assistant in the Town Clerk's office. Both hires were within the approved budget and were selected after a competitive interview process.

Tree Removal and Stump Grinding

The Tree Warden requested approval to enter into a contract with Almstead Tree & Shrub Care for \$17,380. This project involves removing dead and hazardous trees, including ashes and beech trees, as well as stump grinding in various locations around New Canaan. The Board approved the request.

AROUND TOWN

Route 15 Sign Replacement

Work has started to replace and renumber over 70 exit signs along Route 15, with completion expected by July 2026. The project spans several towns including New Canaan, and will involve periodic lane closures during off-peak hours. The renumbering aligns with national standards, and the new signs will meet updated federal requirements.

Project Pink New Canaan

Julie Stein founded Project Pink New Canaan in 2023 to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research. The initiative will place pink ribbons and lights on over 100 lampposts downtown, with dedication tags available for purchase through September 26th. All proceeds will support the Breast Cancer Alliance's efforts in research and grants. For more information and to purchase a dedication tag please visit <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=bca&id=96>.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

Playhouse Features "Empire Waist"

Starting September 27th, The Playhouse Theater will feature "Empire Waist". The film by New Canaan High School alumna Claire Ayoub, stars Rainn Wilson.

NCHS Performance at Bristow



Last weekend, Bristow Park & Bird Sanctuary celebrated its 100th anniversary. There were performances by the New Canaan High School Madrigal Ensemble and Gwyneth Walker, performed by Harmonia V. The Madrigal Ensemble continued a tradition from the park's original dedication, performing "Grant Us Peace". Photo credit: New Canaan Public School.

Golden Duster Award



Silver Hill Hospital began Housekeeping Week by presenting the Golden Duster Award to Ana D. for her work maintaining the Martin Center. The award recognizes adherence to Silver Hill's core values. Environmental Services Manager Patt Frawley announced that the award will now be given monthly, with each recipient selecting the next honoree. Photo credit: Silver Hill Hospital.

SCHOOLS

NCCS Grit & Wit

New Canaan Country School's 5th-8th graders took part in Grit & Wit, an event combining physical and mental challenges to promote teamwork and problem-solving. Students worked together to complete each task and ensure all teammates finished. The event emphasized collaboration and community building.

Nature Center Preschool Begins



The nature center's Preschool began September 5th with outdoor activities. The 2's class visited the chickens, followed by exploring frogs near the pond. It marked the start of the new school year. Photo credit: New Canaan Nature Center.

Outdoor Action Trip

The New Canaan Country School 9th Grade Outdoor Action Trip recently took place. The trip focused on class bonding through hiking, camping, and team-building activities. Students and teachers worked together to strengthen connections outside the classroom. The 3 day event included a hike on the Appalachian Trail, emphasizing leadership and community-building. Photo credit: New Canaan Country School

Truwit Wins Silver

Ali Truwit, a 2018 Saint Luke's School graduate, won the silver medal in the 400m Freestyle at the 2024 Paralympics.

ACROSS CT

DOT Travel Survey

The Connecticut DOT is surveying residents on their daily travel habits to update data in response to changes from the COVID-19 pandemic and new technology. The survey, mailed to randomly selected households, will gather information on travel frequency, distance, and transportation methods, with results expected next spring.

Legal Ads

The Town of New Canaan, Connecticut

Department of Public Works

Request for Proposal

The Public Works Department of the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut, will receive sealed Proposals for "Waveny House Water & Waste Piping Project" until 10:15AM Local Time on Thursday October 3, 2024 at the Department of Public Works Office, Town Hall, 77 Main Street, New Canaan, CT, 06840, at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Specification documents are available at the Department of Public Works Office, Town of New Canaan, Town Hall, 77 Main Street, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840, or by calling William Oestmann, Facilities Superintendent at 203-594-3710. Specifications may also be obtained by e-mailing to william.oestmann@newcanaanct.gov.

There will be a mandatory site visit required for this project. Please contact Bill Oestmann at 203-594-3710 to make an appointment.

No contractor may withdraw their proposal within 90 days after the actual date of the RFP opening. Additionally, the contract documents require the prompt commencement of the work.

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or any part thereof, to waive defects in the same, or to accept any proposal or any part thereof deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut.

All contractors are requested to note that the award of this Contract is subject to the following conditions and contingencies:

- 1) The approval of such governmental agencies as may be required by law.
- 2) The appropriation of adequate funds by the proper agencies.

TIGER MANN DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TOWN OF NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN

TOWN COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of New Canaan will hold a Public Hearing on September 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall and virtual to review and to hear public comment on the proposed amendment to the Ordinance for Volunteer Tax Credit.

Notice is also hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of New Canaan at their regular Meeting on September 18, 2024 immediately following the Public Hearing at Town Hall and virtual will act and vote upon the proposed amendment to the Ordinance for Volunteer Tax Credit and to conduct any other business proper that may come before the Council.

Proposed Amendment: The definition of "Eligible Resident" in New Canaan Town Ordinance Chapter 57, Article VII, Volunteer Tax Credit, Section 57-23, be amended by replacing the number "20" with the number "25" each place it appears in such definition

The full text of this ordinance can be found at www.newcanaan.info

Legal Ads

September 13, 2024

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Selectmen for the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut, will receive sealed bids for "Furniture Package", New Canaan, Connecticut, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time on Thursday, October 10, 2024, at the Department of Public Works Office, Town Hall, 77 Main Street, New Canaan, CT, 06840, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Contract documents are available for review at the Department of Public Works Office, TOWN OF NEW CANAAN, Town Hall, 77 Main Street, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Digital Copies of the contract documents must be obtained by contacting Joseph B. Zagarenski, Senior Engineer, DPW via email joe.zagarenski@newcanaanct.gov

Bidders attention is called to the requirements as to the conditions of employment to be observed and to the requirements for commencement and completion of the work.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the bid opening. Additionally, the contract documents require the prompt commencement of the work.

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids or any part thereof, to waive defects in the same, or to accept any proposal or any part thereof deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut.

All bidders are requested to note that the award of this Contract is subject to the following conditions and contingencies:

- 1) The approval of such governmental agencies as may be required by law.
- 2) The appropriation of adequate funds by the proper agencies.

TIGER MANN DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TOWN OF NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT

Legal Ads

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN TOWN COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of New Canaan will hold a Public Hearing on September 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall and virtual to review and to hear public comment on the proposed amendment to the Ordinance for Personnel.

Notice is also hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of New Canaan at their regular Meeting on September 18, 2024 immediately following the Public Hearing at Town Hall and virtual will act and vote upon the proposed amendment to the Ordinance for Personnel and to conduct any other business proper that may come before the Council.

RESOLVED, The Town of New Canaan Code of Ordinances, Chapter 44, "Personnel", shall be amended in accordance with Public Act 24-16 as follows:

NEW Section 44-50: Certain Death Benefit Determinations. If the death of a firefighter, a police officer or any emergency medical service personnel is caused by a cardiac event, stroke or pulmonary embolism that occurred not later than twenty-four hours after the decedent concluded a shift or training, a committee consisting of the decedent's respective Department Head (the Fire Chief, Police Chief or Emergency Medical Services Captain), the Human Resources Director and the First Selectman shall have the authority to determine whether the decedent died in the line of duty.

Chapter 44. Personnel Rules and Regulations

[**HISTORY:** Adopted by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of New Canaan 4-15-1964, effective 5-23-64.]

RULE I. General Provisions § 44-1. Definitions.

As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ALLOCATION The assignment by the Board of Selectmen of a position to its proper class and grade in accordance with the duties performed, and the authority and responsibilities exercised.

APPOINTING AUTHORITY The Board of Selectmen or the Police Commission.

APPOINTMENT The offer to and acceptance by a person of a position in the Town service in accordance with the provisions of these rules.

ASSEMBLED EXAMINATION An examination for which applicants are required to appear at a specific place for the purpose of taking a test.

CLASS A group of positions sufficiently alike in duties, authority, and responsibility to warrant the use of the same title, class specification and pay range.

CLASS SPECIFICATION Means a written description of a class consisting of a class title, a general statement of the level of work and of the distinguishing features of work, examples of duties, and the desirable qualifications for the class.

CLASSIFICATION Means the act by the Board of Selectmen of grouping positions in classes with regard to duties and responsibilities, requirements as to education, knowledge, experience and ability, and tests of fitness, and grouping classes in grades with regard to ranges of pay.

COMPENSATION Means the standard rates of pay which have been established by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance for the respective classes and grades of work.

DEPARTMENT Means all Town departments, boards, and commissions except the Board of Education.

DEMOTION Means a change in employment status from a position in one class to a position of another class having a lower maximum rate of pay.

GRADE Means a group of classes occupying the same pay range although different in duties, responsibilities, and qualifications.

PAY RANGE Means one or more specific pay rates having a percentage relationship to one another, assigned to a class of positions or grade as the compensation for that class or grade.

PAY RATE Means a specific dollar amount as shown in the pay plan.

POSITION Means any appointed, paid office, or employment in the Town service, whether occupied or vacant.

PROBATIONARY PERIOD Means the working test or trial period of employment beginning

with the date of an employee's first appointment to the Town service.

PROMOTION Means a change in employment status from a position in one class to a position of another class having a higher maximum rate of pay.

REGULAR EMPLOYEE Means an appointed, paid employee who is lawfully retained in his position after appointment and completion of the probationary period as provided for in these rules.

SALARY Means the amount of compensation received for service rendered exclusive of mileage, travel allowances, and other sums received for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the Town's business, but including the reasonable value of board, housing, or similar advantages received from the Town.

TOWN EMPLOYEE Means all salaried officials or employees of the Town whose appointment or dismissal is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen or the Police Commission.

TRANSFER Means a change of an employee from one position to another position in the same class or another class having essentially the same maximum rate of pay, involving the performance of similar duties, and requiring substantially the same basic qualifications.

UNASSEMBLED

EXAMINATION Means a test consisting of an appraisal of experience and training, or of any other means of evaluating the relative qualifications of applicants.

§ 44-2. Purpose of ordinance.

It is the purpose of this ordinance to give effect to the provisions of the New Canaan Town Charter providing for the establishment of rules and regulations and a plan of classification and compensation for all Town employees.

§ 44-3. How ordinance known and cited.

This ordinance shall be known and cited as "The Personnel Rules and Regulations of the Town of New Canaan."

§ 44-4. Declaration of personnel policy.

Under the authority granted by the Town Charter the following personnel principles and policies are established to encourage the recruitment and retention of the high caliber employee needed to render effective service to the public:

A. Employment in the Town government shall be based on merit and be free of personal and political considerations.

B. Just and equitable incentives and conditions of employment shall be established and maintained to promote efficiency and economy in operation of the municipal government.

C. Positions having similar duties and responsibilities shall be classified and compensated for on a uniform basis.

D. Appointments, promotions, and other personnel actions, requiring the application of the merit principle shall be based on systematic tests and evaluations.

E. Every effort shall be made to stimulate high morale by fair administration of this ordinance and by every consideration of the rights and interest of employees, consistent with the best interests of the Town.

F. Continuity of employment covered by this ordinance shall be subject to good behavior, satisfactory performance of work, necessity for the performance of work, and availability of funds.

RULE II. Classification Plan § 44-5. Purpose of classification plan.

The classification plan provides a complete inventory of all Town employee positions and specifications for each class of employment. The plan standardizes titles, each of which is indicative of definite range of duties and responsibilities and has the same meaning throughout the service.

§ 44-6. Composition of the classification plan.

The classification plan shall be enacted by resolution of the Board of Selectmen and shall consist of:

A. A grouping in classes of positions which are approximately equal in duties, authority, and responsibility.

B. Class titles, descriptive of the work of the class, which identify the class.

C. Written specifications for each class of positions.

D. A list showing the class title of each position and the grade to which the class has been assigned for purposes of assigning a pay range.

E. A list showing the class title and grade of each position in the service as identified by the name of the incumbent.

§ 44-7. Use of class titles.

The class titles shall be used in all official personnel and financial records, but any other titles satisfactory to the department head may be used in official correspondence or for working purposes within a department.

§ 44-8. Use of class specifications.

Class specifications are deemed to be descriptive and explanatory of the kind of work performed and not necessarily inclusive of all duties performed. Positions shall be allocated to a class on the basis of the work performed during a majority of the time, but the employee may be required to perform the duties of either a higher or lower class, on a temporary basis, as the need may arise.

§ 44-9. Administration of the classification plan.

The Board of Selectmen shall be responsible for the administration of the classification plan. The Board shall allocate or reallocate each position to its appropriate class whenever a new position is created or whenever the organization structure of a department or the duties of a position are changed.

§ 44-10. Request for reclassification.

Any employee who considers his position improperly classified shall submit his request to his department head who shall review such request as to its justification. If the department head finds that there is merit in the request, he shall transmit it to the Board of Selectmen for its consideration, together with complete reasons for recommending the change. If the department head finds the request is not justified, he shall so advise the employee of his decision and also of the employee's right of appeal.

RULE III. Compensation Plan § 44-11. Composition of the compensation plan.

The compensation plan shall include the schedule of pay ranges consisting of minimum and maximum rates of pay and intermediate steps for all classes of positions and grades included in the classification plan. It shall be enacted by resolution of the Board of Selectmen with the approval of the Board of Finance.

§ 44-12. Maintenance of the compensation plan.

The compensation plan is intended to provide fair compensation for all classes in the classification plan with regard to range of pay for other classes, general rates of pay for similar employment in private establishments and other public jurisdictions in the area, current costs of living, the financial conditions of the Town and other relevant factors. To this end, the Board of Selectmen shall from time to time make comparative studies of all the factors affecting the level of pay ranges and will recommend to the Board of Finance such changes in pay ranges as appear to be pertinent.

§ 44-13. Use of pay ranges.

New or promoted employees shall normally begin work at the minimum pay for their class, with the following exceptions:

A. Where, in the opinion of the appointing authority, a prospective employee has attributes which so qualify him, and provided that funds are available, he may begin at a step other than the minimum, but, in no event, at any step higher than the fourth step of his class.

B. When an employee is promoted, his pay rate shall be advanced to that step in the new pay range which would provide at least the equivalent of the next step in the range from which he was promoted.

§ 44-14. Effective date of increases.

[Amended 11-3-1981, effective 11-3-1981]

A. All pay rate increases shall be effective as of July 1 or January 1 of each year, but only upon authorization of the Board of Selectmen following a recommendation for increase by the employee's immediate superior and department head. In determining whether or not the authorized increase shall be effective on July 1 or January 1, the following table shall apply:

Period during which employee has been hired or promoted

Effective date of pay increase

July 1 to October 1

October 2 to April 1

January 1 of the following fiscal

year

April 2 to June 30

One year from the following July 1

B. This table shall not apply to existing employees who are entitled to raises at anniversary dates which occur earlier than those specified in the table.

§ 44-15. Pay for part-time work.

Whenever an employee works for a period of less than the regular established number of hours per week, the amount of pay shall be proportioned to the time actually employed.

§ 44-16. Other compensation. Subsistence, including food, lodging and other compensation in kind, shall be evaluated on an equitable basis determined by the Board of Selectmen, and such values shall be deducted from the cash pay of employees receiving such allowances.

§ 44-16.A. Longevity. [Adopted 11-25-69, effective 9-1-69; amended 9-12-73]

All Town employees shall receive an extra premium for longevity based on the following:

A. After five years of service: \$50.

B. After 10 years of service: \$150.

C. After 15 years of service: \$250.

D. After 20 years of service: \$350.

RULE IV. Appointments, Training, Promotions

§ 44-17. Certification of vacancy.

A. Whenever a vacancy occurs in a position in any department except the Police Department, the department head shall notify the Board of Selectmen of said vacancy on a form prescribed by the Selectmen.

B. Whenever a vacancy occurs in other than the lowest class, the department head shall include with the notification a list of all employees in his department eligible for promotion to the vacant position.

§ 44-18. Application.

Application for employment with the Town must be filed on forms prescribed by the appointing authority and must be signed by the applicant.

§ 44-19. Examination.

All appointments and promotions shall be made on the basis of merit and after examination as to fitness. The character of all examinations shall be determined in each case by the appointing authority, and shall be practical in nature and designed to evaluate the actual qualifications of the applicant. Examinations may be assembled or unassembled and may consist of written, oral or performance tests, or a rating of experience and training or any combination thereof. Prior to receiving a probationary appointment, the applicant shall be given a physical examination by his physician at Town expense. He shall not be appointed until a physician's medical certificate has been placed on file to the effect that the appointee meets the established physical requirements of the class and/or is physically capable of performing the duties of the position for which appointment is being considered.

§ 44-20. Appointment.

A. The appointing authority shall make the appointment with the advice and assistance of the department head. In all instances the decision of the appointing authority shall be final. The Selectmen shall make no appointments of paid employees to any volunteer fire company except from lists of qualified persons recommended by the Fire Commission.

B. Notification of the appointment shall be immediately made by the appointing authority to the accounting office upon forms provided for this purpose.

C. No applicant shall be discriminated against because of race, color, creed or political affiliation.

D. Preference will be given, when all other qualifications are equal, to residents of New Canaan, Connecticut.

E. Pursuant to § C11-1 of the Charter of the Town of New Canaan, and Public Act 02-137 of the State of Connecticut, the appointment and dismissal of assistant Town clerks and assistant registrars of vital statistics shall be made by the Board of Selectmen, and the employment of such assistants shall be governed by these Personnel Rules and Regulations of the Town of New Canaan. The Town Clerk shall be considered the department head for consultation

purposes in accord with § 44-20A. The appointment of such assistants shall be made by the Board of Selectmen only on the positive recommendation of the Town Clerk. All other employment decisions regarding such assistants, including compensation changes, promotions, and dismissals, shall be made by the Board of Selectmen, in consultation with the Town Clerk.

[Added 12-11-2002, effective 1-1-2003]

§ 44-21. Probationary appointment.

A. All original or promotional appointments shall be tentative and subject to a probationary period of six months, except that all original appointments to patrolman shall be tentative and subject to a probationary period of 12 months. This probationary period is established for the effective adjustment of the new employee and shall be utilized to study the employee's work and, if necessary, for rejecting any employee whose work does not meet required standards.

[Amended 5-12-1976]

B. At any time during the probationary period, any employee may be dismissed by the appointing authority upon the recommendation of the department head. He shall be given one week's notice of dismissal.

C. Any rejected probationary employee who was promoted or transferred shall be reinstated in his previous position unless charges are preferred and he is discharged as otherwise provided in these rules.

D. Within two weeks prior to the termination of the probationary period, the department head shall submit to the appointing authority, upon a form provided for this purpose, his recommendation regarding the permanent appointment of the employee.

E. If a department head requests an extension of the probationary period prior to 30 days before expiration, the appointing authority may extend the probationary period for an additional three months.

F. Upon receiving a permanent appointment by the appointing authority, the employee shall become a regular employee and shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges thereof.

§ 44-22. Temporary appointment.

When qualified applicants are not available, or pending the making of a permanent appointment, or in the case of seasonal employees, the appointing authority may make temporary appointments under such terms and conditions as it may deem advisable under the circumstances.

§ 44-23. Training.

A. All Town employees may be required to engage in such on-the-job training programs and other programs as may be deemed necessary or desirable by the appointing authority.

B. Dependent upon the degree of benefit to the Town and provided that funds are available for this purpose, the appointing authority may authorize Town assumption of the tuition cost of training courses and may authorize these courses to be taken on Town time.

RULE V. Separation and Disciplinary Action
§ 44-24. Demotion.
A. The appointing authority may reduce the salary of an employee within the range provided in the pay plan, or demote the employee for just cause.

B. Any employee who is demoted may appeal in writing to the Personnel Advisory Board within 10 days after such action is taken.

§ 44-25. Suspension.
A. The appointing authority may suspend without pay any employee under its jurisdiction for reasons of misconduct, negligence, inefficiency, insubordination, disloyalty, unauthorized absence, or other justifiable reasons.

B. Any employee who is suspended may appeal in writing to the Personnel Advisory Board within 10 days after such action is taken.

§ 44-26. Dismissal.
A. The appointing authority may dismiss any employee for misconduct, inefficiency, or other just cause.

B. Any employee who is dismissed shall be granted, prior to the effective date of dismissal, a written statement setting forth the reasons for such dismissal, and a copy of such statement shall be

filed in the Selectmen's office.

C. Any employee who is dismissed may appeal in writing to the Personnel Advisory Board within 10 days after such action is taken.

§ 44-27. Layoff.

A. A department head may, with the approval of the appointing authority, lay off employees for any of the following reasons:

(1) Reorganization resulting in the abolition of position.

(2) Shortage of work.

(3) Shortage of funds.

B. When layoff becomes necessary, the department head shall notify in writing the affected employee at least five days prior to the effective date of such action stating the reasons for such layoff. A copy of such statement shall be filed in the Selectmen's office.

C. Necessary layoffs shall be made in the following order:

(1) Temporary employees.

(2) Probationary employees.

(3) Permanent employees in the inverse order of employment in the class and department involved.

§ 44-28. Transfers.

A. Transfers may be made under the following conditions:

(1) When an employee applies for transfer to another vacant position of the same classification.

(2) When a department head deems transfer necessary because of work conditions.

B. All transfers shall be approved by the Board of Selectmen.

C. Transfers shall be made between positions of like classification.

D. Transfers shall in no way affect an employee's seniority.

RULE VI. Grievances

§ 44-29. Grievance procedure. [Amended 9-13-72]

Unless other procedures have been negotiated and are specified in labor agreements, the following procedures shall apply.

A. An employee shall first present his grievance to his immediate supervisor who shall make careful inquiry into the facts and circumstances of the complaint. The supervisor shall attempt to resolve the problem promptly and fairly.

B. An employee who is dissatisfied with the decision of his supervisor may submit his grievance, in writing, to his department head. The department head shall make a separate investigation and inform the employee, in writing, of his decision and the reasons therefor within seven days after receipt of the employee's grievance.

C. If the employee is dissatisfied with the department head's decision, he may obtain a review by the Board of Selectmen by submitting a request for review within seven calendar days following the receipt of the decision to the department head. The Board of Selectmen shall make such investigation and conduct such hearings as it deems necessary and shall, within 15 calendar days after the receipt of the employee's request for review, inform the employee, in writing, of its findings and decision.

D. At any time within 15 calendar days after receipt of the decision of the Board of Selectmen, the employee may submit a written request for further review to the Personnel Advisory Board. The Personnel Advisory Board shall investigate such complaints made to it in writing and transmit its recommendations, which shall be advisory in nature, in writing, to the Board of Selectmen, and the decision of the Board of Selectmen shall be final.

E. This rule shall not apply to employees of the Police Commission.
RULE VII. Attendance and Leave
§ 44-30. Hours of work.
A. Town Hall employees shall work 35 hours per week.
B. Public Works Department employees, other than employees of the Engineering Division, shall work 40 hours per week.
C. The standard workweek for members of the Police Department shall average 37.5 hours in accordance with the negotiated labor agreement.
[Amended 9-13-72; 9-12-73]

D. Fire Department employees shall work 42 hours per week.
[Amended 9-17-68 effective 10-19-68; amended 5-20-69; effective 9-1-69]

§ 44-31. Overtime.

[Amended 9-17-68; effective 10-19-68]

A. No overtime pay shall be paid to any employee, except Public Works, Police and Fire employees, unless specifically authorized by the appointing authority. Department heads shall arrange for time off in lieu

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of overtime worked whenever necessary.

B. Public Works Department employees, except the Director of Public Works, Highway Superintendent, Park Superintendent, and employees of the Engineering Division, shall be paid at the rate of 1 1/2 times for working time in excess of 40 hours. Fire Department employees shall be paid at the rate of 1 1/2 times for working time in excess of 42 hours. Police Department employees of the rank of Sergeant shall be paid at the rate of 1 1/2 times for working time in excess of their regularly scheduled workweek, or for any hour in excess of eight hours per day.

[Amended 9-13-72; 9-12-73]

§ 44-32. Attendance.

Employees shall be in attendance at their work in accordance with these rules and general or departmental regulations. All departments shall keep daily attendance records of employees, which shall be reported to the Selectmen's office on the form and dates they shall specify.

§ 44-33. Holidays.

A. The following holidays shall be observed by Town employees: New Year's Day; Martin Luther King's birthday observance; Presidents' Day; Good Friday; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Columbus Day; Veteran's Day; Thanksgiving Day; and Christmas Day.

[Amended 11-25-69, effective 9-1-69; 3-12-86, effective 3-28-86]

B. In addition to the above holidays, employees may be granted other paid holidays when offices are closed by action of the Board of Selectmen.

C. If an observed holiday falls during an employee's vacation period, he shall be entitled to an additional day off.

D. Whenever a legal holiday falls on a Sunday, the following day shall be considered a holiday except for employees whose regularly scheduled workweek includes Sunday.

E. Employees who are required to work on an observed holiday because of the nature of their work shall be granted another day off as arranged by the department head.

[Added 9-17-68, effective 10-19-68; amended 11-25-69, effective 9-1-69]

§ 44-34. Annual leave.

A. All permanent employees shall be entitled to one day of annual leave (vacation) with pay for each month that the employee is in the employ of the Town. Probationary employees shall accumulate annual leave at the above rate during their probationary period but shall not be credited with it until the successful completion of their probation. Employees with five or more years of continuous service shall be annually entitled to 15 days' annual leave, accumulated at the rate of one and one-fourth (1 1/4) days per month. Employees with 15 or more years of continuous service shall be annually entitled to 21 days of annual leave, accumulated at the rate of one and three-fourths (1 3/4) days per month.

[Amended 11-25-1969, effective 9-1-1969; 9-12-1973; 11-9-1988]

B. Annual leave shall preferably be taken in the year earned, but, with the permission of the department head, may be accrued for a period not to exceed two years' accumulation (24, 30 or 42 days).

[Amended 9-12-73]

C. Annual leave shall only be taken after a request for the same has been made on forms provided by the Selectmen's office and the request has been approved by the employee's department head and the Selectmen's office. If more than two days' annual leave is requested, this must be done at least 15 days prior to the start of the requested vacation period. If two or fewer days are requested, the written request shall be in the Selectmen's office no later than 24 hours prior to the vacation day or days requested.

D. The vacation schedule shall be drafted by the head of each department on March 1 of each year, and in the case of the Fire Company by May 30, and shall be submitted to the Selectmen's office. It shall be drafted in such a manner that a minimum number of employees shall be on leave during the same period. If more than one employee in the same department requests annual leave during the same period and the department head decides that only one can be spared at that time, the request of the employee with the greater seniority shall be granted.

E. Pay in lieu of vacation shall not be granted except in the

following cases:

(1) If a permanent employee leaves the employ of the Town of New Canaan and he has vacation leave to his credit, he shall be paid the salary equivalent to the accrued vacation, limited to two years' accumulation. [Amended 9-12-73]

(2) If a permanent employee, while in the Town service, dies and he has vacation leave to his credit, the salary equivalent to the accrued vacation shall be payable to the following classes in the following order of priority:

(a) A named beneficiary whose name has been filed by said employee with the Bureau of Accounts.

(b) When not having so filed a name of beneficiary, to his widow or widower.

(c) When not having named a beneficiary or not having left a widow or widower, to the estate of the deceased.

§ 44-35. Sick leave.

A. All permanent and probationary employees shall be entitled to accrue one and one-fourth (1 1/4) days of sick leave for each month the employee is employed by the Town.

[Amended 6-20-78, effective 6-30-78]

B. Earned sick leave may be accumulated to a maximum of 130 days.

[Amended 9-13-1972; 6-20-1978, effective 6-30-1978; 11-9-1988]

C. Sick leave shall not be considered a privilege which an employee may use at his discretion but shall be allowed only in case of necessity and actual sickness, injury or disability of the employee or because of illness or death in his immediate family or to meet dental appointments or to take physical examinations or other sickness-preventative measures if permitted by the department head.

D. To receive compensation while on sick leave, an employee must notify his department head prior to or within one hour after the time set for the beginning of his regular duties and shall immediately, upon returning to his duties, notify the Selectmen's office of his absence, upon forms provided for this purpose.

E. Proof of illness may be required by a department head or the Board of Selectmen and, in the event of an absence for more than three days, a physician's certificate may be demanded as proof.

F. Any employee who shall absent himself without leave in any month shall forfeit the accrual of sick leave for that month.

G. No refund of vacation time shall be allowed due to illness incurred while on vacation leave unless sufficient proof of such illness can be provided to the Selectmen's office.

H. Temporary employees shall not be entitled to sick leave.

I. Payments made to any employee while on sick leave as compensation insurance shall be deducted from the amount to be paid that employee by the Town during each time that he is carried on the Town payroll.

J. In the event an employee entitled to sick leave benefits or benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Act elects to waive his rights under the Compensation Act and institutes legal action against the Town, the sick leave benefits set forth herein shall not become payable until final disposition of the legal action, and if the employee obtains judgment against the Town, the total amount payable as sick leave benefits shall be deducted from the judgment; provided, however, that if the judgment is less than the sick leave benefits, an additional amount shall be paid to the employee to make his total amount of judgment and sick leave payment equal to the sick leave benefits he would have received had he not instituted action.

K. Sick leave shall be charged in amounts of 1/2 day for an absence of two to four hours and a full day for over four hours.

§ 44-36. Military leave.

Any permanent employee who is a member of the National Guard or Naval Reserve or of the military or naval forces of the United States and is required to undergo field training therein shall be entitled to military leave for the period of such field training, provided that the amount of compensation paid to such employee for such leave shall be the difference between his compensation for military activities and the amount due as an employee of the Town.

§ 44-37. Jury duty leave.

Employees while on jury duty shall be paid the difference

between their regular pay and the jury duty pay.

§ 44-38. Leave of absence.

A. With pay. Leave of absence may be granted by the appointing authority to permit an employee to attend professional meetings or conferences in the interest of the Town or for other justifiable reasons.

B. Without pay. Leave without pay may be granted by the appointing authority when requested by an employee when such leave is deemed to be justified. Such leave may be granted when, due to an extended illness, the accumulated sick leave and annual leave has been used or for an extension of vacation time when circumstances will permit or for other similar purposes.

§ 44-39. Absence without leave.

A. An absence of an employee from duty, including any absence for a single day or part of a day, that is not authorized by a specific grant of leave of absence under the provisions of these rules shall be deemed absence without leave.

B. Any such absence shall be without pay and may be subject to disciplinary action. In the absence of such disciplinary action, any employee who absents himself for three consecutive days without leave shall be deemed to have resigned. Such action may be reconciled by a subsequent grant of leave if the conditions warrant.

§ 44-40. Procedure in requesting leave. An employee requesting a leave for any reason must fill out a request form and the requested leave must be approved by the Selectmen's office as well as by the employee's department head.

RULE VIII. Outside Employment

§ 44-41. Outside employment.

Since the Town does not favor an employee holding another job in addition to his regular one with the Town (particularly if there is a possibility that the other job would interfere with his satisfactory performance as a Town employee), no employee may take any outside employment without first securing the permission of the appointing authority. In the case of the Fire Company, the advice and recommendation of the Fire Commission shall be obtained by the appointing authority.

RULE IX. Travel Reimbursement

§ 44-42. Certain employees using cars to be reimbursed.

[Amended 5-7-1968, effective 6-1-1968; 7-26-1990]

Employees authorized by the Board of Selectmen to use their personal cars for business shall be reimbursed at the rate as established from time to time by the Board of Selectmen.

§ 44-43. Certain employees to carry liability insurance.

[Amended 9-13-72] Employees authorized to use their personal cars shall carry liability insurance with minimum limits of \$20,000/\$40,000/\$10,000 and shall furnish the Town with a certificate of insurance.

RULE X. Retirement and Group Insurance

§ 44-44. Eligible employees to become members of retirement plan.

[Amended 9-13-72] All eligible Town employees shall become members of the Town Retirement Plan on the first day of the month after they are employed and shall contribute at the rate of 2% of that portion of their compensation which is subject to social security and 5% on that portion not subject to social security. Police officers shall contribute 7% of their compensation.

§ 44-45. Eligible employees to become members of group insurance plan.

[Amended 11-25-1969, effective 9-1-1969; 7-26-1990]

All eligible Town employees hired after September 1, 1959, shall become members of the Town Group Insurance Plan upon completion of two months of continual active service. Upon proper application, provisions of the Town's health insurance plan are extended to dependents of eligible employees.

§ 44-46. Retirement due to age.

[Amended 9-13-72]

Retirement dates and benefits for policemen and firemen shall be as prescribed by the applicable labor agreement for the respective groups. For all other Town employees, the normal retirement date will be the first of the month on or next following their 65th birthday. Firemen may continue in active service up to their 65th birthday; for policemen, the provisions of their labor agreement applies; all other employees may continue in active

service until their 70th birthday, provided that they are physically able to perform the full duties of their assigned job in a satisfactory manner, and provided that the appointing authority approves.

§ 44-46.1. Maximum payment. [Added 3-12-86, effective 3-28-86]

In the event that an employee is awarded payments under Section 7-433c of the Connecticut General Statutes, the total amounts paid to that person from the Town's retirement plan, including social security, workers' compensation payments and benefits paid under Section 7-433c, shall not exceed 75% of the average annual compensation, as defined in the Town's pension plan, of the person whose services to the Town resulted in payment of the aforementioned benefits; provided, however, that if any changes to the Town retirement plan increases payments to all retirees or classes of retirees, such changes shall be applied uniformly to all retirees or classes of retirees as the case may be.

§ 44-46.2. Disability retirement benefits. [Added 6-18-2014]

A. If an eligible employee of the Town (other than a police officer or firefighter) or the Board of Education of the Town who is a member of the Town Retirement Plan incurs a total and permanent disability, then:

(1) If the disability is not occupational or service-connected, the employee shall receive a disability retirement benefit equal to the disability benefit percentage (as defined below) of his or her average annual compensation (or such other percentage as is prescribed by any applicable labor agreement), reduced by 50% of his or her Social Security disability benefit. If the employee has five or more years of credited service, the sum of his or her disability retirement benefit and 50% of his or her Social Security benefit cannot exceed his or her compensation at the time of disability.

(2) If the disability is occupational and service-connected, the employee shall receive a disability retirement benefit equal to the disability benefit percentage of his or her average annual compensation (or such other percentage as is prescribed by any applicable labor agreement), reduced by 50% of his or her Social Security disability benefit; and reduced further by his or her workers compensation benefit if the employee has less than five years of credited service. If the employee has five or more years of credited service, the sum of his or her disability retirement benefit, 50% of his or her Social Security benefit, and workers compensation benefit cannot exceed his or her compensation at the time of disability.

B. The disability benefit percentage equals 40% for an eligible employee of the Town who is a collectively bargained employee of the Department of Public Works of the Town, and 50% for each other eligible employee of the Town (other than a police officer or firefighter) and for each eligible employee of the Board of Education of the Town.

C. If a police officer who is a member of the Town Retirement Plan incurs a total and permanent disability, then:

(1) If the disability is not occupational or service-connected, the police officer shall receive a disability retirement

benefit equal to the greater of 50% of his or her average annual compensation (or such other percentage as is prescribed by any applicable labor agreement) or his or her accrued benefit. If the police officer has five or more years of credited service, his or her disability retirement benefit cannot exceed his or her compensation at the time of disability.

(2) If the disability is occupational and service-connected, the police officer shall receive a disability retirement benefit equal to the greater of 50% of his or her average annual compensation (or such other percentage as is prescribed by any applicable labor agreement) or his or her workers compensation benefit if the police officer has less than five years of credited service. If the police officer has five or more years of credited service, the sum of his or her disability retirement benefit and workers compensation benefit cannot exceed his or her compensation at the time of disability.

D. If a firefighter who is a member of the Town Retirement Plan incurs a total and permanent disability, then:

(1) If the disability is not occupational or service-connected, the firefighter shall receive a disability retirement benefit equal to 50% of his or her average annual compensation (or such other percentage as is prescribed by any applicable labor agreement). If the firefighter has five or more years of credited service, his or her disability retirement benefit cannot exceed his or her compensation at the time of disability.

(2) If the disability is occupational and service-connected, the firefighter shall receive a disability retirement benefit equal to 50% of his or her average annual compensation (or such other percentage as is prescribed by any applicable labor agreement), reduced by his or her workers compensation benefit if the firefighter has less than five years of credited service. If the firefighter has five or more years of credited service, the sum of his or her disability retirement benefit and workers compensation benefit cannot exceed his or her compensation at the time of disability.

E. The administrator of the Town Retirement Plan (or any committee serving as the plan administrator) shall have the discretion to determine if a disability is occupational and service-connected.

RULE XI. Membership in Civil Defense

§ 44-47. Enrollment in civil defense.

[Added 12-22-65, effective 1-28-66]

All regular full-time male employees shall be required to enroll as members of the Town's Civil Defense Organization.

§ 44-48. (Reserved)

RULE XII. Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

Trust

§ 44-49. Establishment of OPEB Trust.

[Added 4-20-2010, effective 5-7-2010]

A. Authority; establishment of retiree benefit trust. Pursuant to the authority granted to the Town Council of the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut, in § 4-11 of the Charter and § 7-450(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, there shall be created and established for such Town an Other Post-Employment Benefits ("OPEB") Trust to fund certain post-employment benefits, other than pension benefits, pursuant to the terms of previously established plans for the benefit of certain Town and Board of Education employees, retirees, their spouses and dependents. The provision of such OPEB Trust shall be as set forth in the OPEB Declaration of Trust, including revisions thereto, as are hereafter approved by the Town Council.

B. Transfer from reserve fund. In accordance with the provisions of § 7-403a(e) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Town hereby transfers the assets held in the "Special Revenue Funds-Reserve for OPEB" to the Trust.

C. Establishment of OPEB Board. Immediately upon the enactment of this ordinance, the Board of Finance shall constitute the OPEB Board for the OPEB Trust, hereinafter referred to as the "OPEB Board." The members of said OPEB Board shall receive no compensation for serving and shall serve terms coextensive with their respective terms as members of the Board of Finance.

D. Duties of the OPEB Board. The OPEB Board shall perform the duties set forth in the OPEB Declaration of Trust, as amended from time to time, relating to the management of the assets held in the OPEB Trust. The First Selectman, or his or her designee, shall have the care and custody of all funds in the OPEB Trust and shall have the power, with the approval of the OPEB Board, to invest such funds in securities legal for investment for such trust funds.

NEW Section 44-50: Certain Death Benefit Determinations.

If the death of a firefighter, a police officer or any emergency medical service personnel is caused by a cardiac event, stroke or pulmonary embolism that occurred not later than twenty-four hours after the decedent concluded a shift or training, a committee consisting of the decedent's respective Department Head (the Fire Chief, Police Chief or Emergency Medical Services Captain), the Human Resources Director and the First Selectman shall have the authority to determine whether the decedent died in the line of duty.

Legal Ads

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN

TOWN COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of New Canaan will hold a Public Hearing on September 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall and virtual to review and to hear public comment on the proposed amendment to the Ordinance for Blight Prevention and Abatement

Notice is also hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of New Canaan at their regular Meeting on September 18, 2024 immediately following the Public Hearing at Town Hall and virtual will act and vote upon the proposed amendment to the Ordinance for Blight Prevention and Abatement and to conduct any other business proper that may come before the Council.

Proposed Amendment:

- The definition of "Blighted Premises" under Section 7A-2 shall be amended by deleting the term "residential" from subsection A thereof.**
- The definition of "Blighted Premises" under Section 7A-2 shall be amended by deleting the word "extensive" from paragraph 13 of subsection A thereof.**
- Section 7A-13 shall be amended to read as follows:**

A. Violations of the provisions of this chapter shall be punishable by a civil penalty for each day a violation exists and continues beyond the date required for remediation set forth in the notice of violation under §7A-11 of this chapter. The maximum daily civil penalty shall be:

- \$150 for occupied property,**
- \$250 for vacant property, and**

- \$1,000 for any property for a third or subsequent violation occurring within a 12-month period.**

B. Violators will also be responsible for all costs and expenses associated with enforcement and the collection of any civil penalties, which shall include, but not be limited to, attorney fees, court costs, mailing costs and filing fees.

The full text of this ordinance can be found at www.newcanaan.info

Worship Directory and Services

UPDATE SERVICES AND ADD SPECIAL EVENTS TO THIS CALENDAR AT
www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/worship-calendar-updates

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

682 South Avenue 203.966.5849
www.ComeUntoChrist.org
 Sunday Service: 12:00 PM

Congregational Church

23 Park Street 203.966.2651
office@godsacre.org
www.godsacre.org

Sunday Services: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. The 10:00 am service is also live streamed and recorded, the video replay will be available throughout the week. Church School is available on Sundays for children ages 3 through 7th grade each Sunday from September through mid-June.

Recurring Events:

Tuesdays at 9:30 AM: Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM: Bible Study

Fourth Thursday from 12-2:30 PM: Meet at the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk to serve a meal.

Saturdays at 9:45 AM: From now until September 1st, the church offer a simple refreshment of lemonade and a sweet treat, which can be enjoyed on the lawn after worship. For more information please contact laurel@godsacre.org.

Sundays at 9:45 AM: Summer Fellowship time will take place after the 9:00am service and will include lemonade and a light snack provided by the host.

Upcoming Events:

September 21st at 9 AM: Join in repairing and rehabbing a Norwalk neighbor's home. HomeFront, a community-based volunteer-driven home repair program, provides free repairs to qualified homeowners, enabling them to stay in their homes with improved quality of life. No experience necessary, and lunch is included. To sign up please contact marianna@godsacre.org.

September 28th from 6-9 PM: Holy Smokes Fellowship BBQ. The Garners and the Fellowship Ministry invite you to a classic Memphis BBQ with all the fixings. Enjoy a fabulous meal, seasonal brew tasting, and s'mores by the firepit as you reunite with church friends or make new ones. \$30/person. Register at <https://godsacre.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/213/responses/new> by 9/22.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

49 Park Street 203.966.0293
christiansciencect.org/newcanaaan

Sunday 10:30 AM, in person only. Sunday School is available during Sunday Service and is open to children and young people up to the age of 20. There is also childcare available for children too young for Sunday School.

Wednesday Testimony Meeting: 1st Wednesday of each month, join by zoom or by phone 646 558 8656. Reading Room Hours: Open Mondays 11-2, Call to confirm hours 203-966-0293. All are welcome to the Sunday and Wednesday services, Sunday School, and the reading room.

First Presbyterian Church

178 Oenoke Ridge Road 203.966.0002
fpcnc.org

Sunday Service: 10am in person or via LocalLive. All are welcome. Coffee Hour after the service is also available in person or via Zoom. Dedicated childcare is available for all children via Wee Care Nanny Agency from 8:45-11:30am in the Nursery School. Transcripts of previous sermons are also available via the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan's website. Recurring Events: Every Saturday 9:15am (closed) and 10:30am (open): Alcoholics Anonymous. Every Tuesday 8pm: Men's A.A.

Third Wednesday from 6-7:30 PM: Wednesdays at the Well are intergenerational opportunities to learn and grow in faith together. Dinner will be served and all ages are invited.

Upcoming Events:

September 15th at 11:30 AM: Considering joining FPCNC? During this informative gathering, you will learn everything you need to know!

September 21st from 1:30-4:30 PM: Professor Root examines what living in a secular age does to congregational life and how the church can find new footing within it. Register by 9/15 at <https://psne.breezechms.com/form/andrewroot>

Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Church

21 Cherry Street 203.966.0020
www.starcc.com
 Service Schedule:

Saturday: Vigil for Sunday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Sunday 8:30 a.m. mass is live-streamed and recorded. **Monday-Friday: 7:00 am and 5:30 pm**
Saturday: 7:00 am

Recurring Events:

Last Monday of every month 7pm: Women's Praise & Worship Holy Hour

Fridays 7:30am-6pm: Eucharistic Adoration (September-June)

Saturday 8:30am: St. As Healing Rosary Prayer Group

Upcoming Events:

September 28th from 9-10:45 AM: Malta House is partnering with Norwalk's Foodshare event at Ben Franklin School. Feed 100+ families in need in less than 2 hours. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084DAFAD2CAAFB6-50913670-foodshare#/>

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

111 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.4515
churchoffice@stmarksnewcanaaan.org
www.stmarksnewcanaaan.org

Sunday Services: 8:00am: Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite I; **9:00am:** Outdoor Holy Eucharist Rite II; **10am:** Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite II (Live Stream also available on the St. Mark's website). Coffee Hour follows the 10am service. Church School during the 10am service: Godly Play for children in kindergarten through second grade; Holy Moly for third and fourth grades; Meet in the Middle for fifth, sixth and seventh grades. Professional childcare is offered for children ages four and under. Families with children who are not yet ready to separate for childcare are invited to use the rocking chairs at the rear of the chapel.

Weekday Services: Monday-Friday, 8:30am: Morning Prayer Rite II by Zoom.

Wednesday at 12:05pm: Noonday Eucharist in the chapel.

Recurring Events:

Mondays & Tuesdays at 12pm: Alcoholics Anonymous

First Wednesday at 1pm: Laundry Love volunteering opportunity to come alongside people who are struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry.

First & Third Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm: Youth Group

Wednesday 10am: Women's Alcoholics Anonymous

Upcoming Events:

September 1st through 15th: Clothes to Kids. Clean out those closets and bring your CLEAN or NEW clothing for children K-12 and place in the boxes marked for this purpose outside Morrill Hall. Contact Beth Ralston at bralston@stmarksnewcanaaan.org with any questions.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church

5 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.3913
office@stmichaelslutheran.org
www.stmichaelslutheran.org

Sunday Service at 10:00 am. Following the service there is coffee, cookies and conversation in the Fellowship Hall.

Recurring Events:

Thursday 12 PM: Alcoholics Anonymous

Trinity Church

New Canaan | Darien

468 South Avenue 203.618.0808
info@trinitychurch.life
www.trinitychurch.life

Join us **Sundays at 11:00 am** in the Saxe Middle School auditorium for lively worship, thoughtful and applicable teaching, weekly Communion, and an opportunity to make friends and grow in community. Trinity Kids (infants through fifth grade) and Trinity Youth (middle and high schoolers) take place during the service, and coffee and refreshments are served following worship. Trinity also holds services in-person in Greenwich and Larchmont, and on livestream via YouTube on Sundays at 9:45 a.m.; learn more at www.trinitychurch.life.

Recurring Events:

Sundays at 10:30 AM: Pre-service prayer in Saxe Auditorium. Spend time in listening prayer, pray for those teaching, and seek the Lord prior to our worship service.

Third Saturday from 8-10 AM: Connecticut Men's Breakfast. Join for a homemade breakfast held at the Ministry Center, 5 River Road in Greenwich.

Upcoming Events:

October Annual fall retreat in Monterey, MA for 2nd through 5th graders. An entire weekend of friends, games, campfires, and a sleepover. We will be looking at the ways God knows us, hears us, and has an exciting plan for our lives. \$225/child and space is limited. For more information and to register visit <https://trinitychurchlife.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2283404>.

United Methodist Church

165 South Avenue 203.966.2666
office@umcofnewcanaaan.org
www.umcofnewcanaaan.org

Sunday Service is at 10:00 am followed by coffee and conversation during Fellowship Time. Sunday School is available during Sunday Service. All are welcome.

Upcoming Events:

September 28th: Holy Hike. Details to be determined.

Community Baptist Church

174 Cherry Street 203.966.0711
cbnewcanaaan@gmail.com
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZ2UNa8aHI30_Syp_XOKDg
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CBCNewCanaan/>
 Sunday School at 10:00am
Worship Service at 11:00am
 Live Facebook Broadcast 11:30 am

Upcoming Events:

September 15th at 3 PM: Women's Day. The theme will be "Fortifying Our Winning Posture" with Kim Bianca Burgess.

September 25th through September 27th at 7PM Nightly: Fall Revival. It's time to renew.

Grace Community Church

365 Lukes Wood Rd 203.966.7600
info@gracecommunity.info
www.gracecommunity.info

Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:30am. Sunday morning worship service is held at New Canaan High School. Join for a contemporary worship service with a culturally relevant message from Senior Pastor Cliffe Knechtle. Nursery care and Sunday school/teen programming is available for babies through 12th grade. Stay afterward to catch up with friends and enjoy coffee and bagels.

Saturdays at 10am: Men's Bible Study

Wednesday Evening Service & High School Club at 6:00 pm: Join us for a weekly gathering on Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm. All are invited to meet in the West Barn Hall with Assistant Pastor Stuart Knechtle leading discussions on the Christian life including how to grapple with tough questions about faith, emotional well-being and spiritual discipleship. Concurrently, Youth Pastor Rob will meet with high school students in the Court for midweek club to hang out with friends and talk about navigating the waves of everyday life.

Upcoming Events:

September 27th-29th: Mens Weekend in Westerly, Rhode Island. RSVP with bo@gracecommunity.info.

October 5th at 9 AM: Womens Day Retreat at Walnut Hill Community Church in Bethel, CT. RSVP with carla@gracecommunity.info

Talmadge Hill Community Church

870 Hollow Tree Ridge Road; Darien, CT
 203.966.2314
www.talmadgehill.org
talmadgehillchurch@gmail.com

Ministers: Rev. Carter Via and Rev. Cheryl Bundy **Sunday worship service at 10:00am** in person. All are welcome! We encourage everyone to stay for coffee hour after the service. Sunday School is every Sunday during the service and uses the Godly Play curriculum. Please reach out with any questions utilizing information listed above!

Recurring Events:

Thursdays at 9:30am: Bible Study

First Saturday at 8am: Men's Group

Second Saturday at 10am: Women's Circle

Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center

137 Putnam Rd

info@chabadnewcanaaan.org
www.newcanaanjewish.org

The Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center is dedicated to strengthening and building the New Canaan Jewish Community by offering local Jewish resources that bring more positivity, Jewish education, charitable activity, good deeds and blessing to our lovely town.

We are about Judaism, not affiliation. Regardless of your background, and however you choose to define your level of Jewish observance or identity, the Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center can add spirituality, joy, study, community and connection for you and your family. The programs of the Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center are held in various locations, all located in New Canaan.

Temple Sinai (Reform Synagogue)

458 Lakeside Drive; Stamford, CT 06903
 203.322.1649

www.templestain Stamford.org

Service Schedule:

1st, 3rd & 5th Friday - 6pm in person and via zoom
 2nd & 4th - 7:30pm

Recurring Events:

Fridays at 12 PM: Torah Study

Second Saturday at 10:30 AM: Mussar

First and Third Fridays at 5:30 PM: Shabbat Service for Families with Young Children

First Saturday at 8 AM: Avodat Halev Discussion Group

Upcoming Events:

September 24th from 5:30-7:30 PM: Support Dignity Grows while packing bags and preparing sandwiches. Register at <https://www.templestain Stamford.org/event/support-dignity-grows--sandwich-making-.html>

Temple Shalom

300 E. Putnam Ave. Greenwich, CT 06830
 203-869-7191
www.templeshalom.com

Services: In-person and virtual Friday night Shabbat services, 6:30pm & Saturday morning Shabbat services, 10:30am.

Recurring Events:

Saturdays at 9 AM: Shabbat Study via zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/94358392426?pwd=bFJQem9HWFcXU0EzZUM2VENEZmgYU09#success>

Sports Images This Week



New Canaan Rams and Greenwich Cardinals linemen clash at the line of scrimmage during a preseason scrimmage. The Rams' donning red.



A New Canaan Rams powers through the Greenwich defense.



New Canaan pushes the ball upfield during the Rams' matchup on September 10, 2024.



New Canaan's #2 battles for possession against Ludlowe on September 10, 2024.

Upcoming High School Sports Schedule

Friday, September 13

- 3:30pm Girls Varsity Swimming vs Greenwich High School
- 4:00pm Girls JV Soccer vs Greenwich High School
- 4:00pm Girls Varsity Soccer vs Greenwich High School
- 4:00pm Girls Varsity Volleyball vs Greenwich High School
- 5:30pm Girls JV Volleyball vs Greenwich High School
- 6:30pm Boys Varsity Football @ Maloney High School

Saturday, September 14

- 8:00am Boys Varsity Cross Country
- 8:00am Girls Varsity Cross Country
- 10:30am Boys JV Football vs Maloney High School
- 10:30am Girls Freshman Soccer @ Greenwich High School

Monday, September 16

- 3:00pm Boys Varsity Golf vs Staples High School
- 3:00pm Boys JV Golf vs Staples High School
- 4:00pm Boys Freshman Soccer vs Greenwich High School
- 4:00pm Girls Freshman Field Hockey @ Darien High School
- 4:00pm Girls Varsity Field Hockey vs Darien High School
- 5:00pm Boys JV Soccer @ Greenwich High School
- 5:00pm Boys Varsity Soccer @ Greenwich High School
- 5:30pm Girls JV Field Hockey vs Darien High School

Tuesday, September 17

- 3:30pm Boys Varsity Golf @ Norwalk
- 4:00pm Boys Varsity Cross Country vs Danbury High School
- 4:00pm Girls Varsity Cross Country vs Danbury High School
- 4:00pm Girls Freshman Soccer vs Wilton High School
- 4:00pm Girls Freshman Volleyball vs Staples High School
- 4:00pm Girls Varsity Volleyball @ Staples High School
- 4:30pm Girls Varsity Soccer @ Wilton High School
- 5:15pm Girls JV Volleyball @ Staples High School

Wednesday, September 18

- 4:00pm Boys JV Soccer vs Wilton High School
- 4:00pm Girls JV Soccer @ Wilton High School
- 4:00pm Girls Freshman Field Hockey vs Staples High School
- 4:00pm Girls Varsity Field Hockey @ Staples High School
- 4:30pm Boys Freshman Soccer @ Wilton High School
- 5:15pm Girls JV Field Hockey @ Staples High School
- 6:30pm Boys Varsity Soccer vs Wilton High School

Thursday, September 19

- 4:00pm Boys Freshman Football @ St. Joseph
- 4:00pm Girls Varsity Volleyball vs Norwalk
- 4:00pm Girls Varsity Soccer @ Stamford High School
- 4:30pm Girls JV Soccer @ Stamford High School
- 4:30pm Girls Freshman Volleyball @ Norwalk
- 5:45pm Girls JV Volleyball vs Norwalk

Friday, September 20

- 3:00pm Girls Varsity Swimming vs Norwalk
- 4:00pm Boys JV Soccer vs Stamford High School
- 4:00pm Boys Varsity Soccer vs Stamford High School
- 4:00pm Girls Freshman Field Hockey vs Staples High School
- 6:00pm Boys Varsity Football @ Fairfield Warde

Saturday, September 21

- 9:30am Girls JV Volleyball vs Fairfield Ludlowe
- 10:00am Boys JV Football vs Fairfield Warde
- 10:00am Boys Freshman Soccer @ Stamford High School
- 10:00am Girls Freshman Volleyball @ Fairfield Ludlowe
- 11:00am Girls Varsity Volleyball vs Fairfield Ludlowe

Monday, September 23

- 3:00pm Boys Varsity Golf vs St. Joseph
- 4:00pm Girls Varsity Field Hockey @ Greenwich High School
- 4:00pm Girls Freshman Field Hockey vs Greenwich High School
- 5:30pm Girls JV Field Hockey @ Greenwich High School

Tuesday, September 24

- 3:30pm Boys JV Golf @ Wilton High School
- 3:30pm Boys Varsity Golf @ Wilton High School
- 4:00pm Boys Varsity Cross Country @ Greenwich High School
- 4:00pm Girls Varsity Cross Country @ Greenwich High School
- 4:00pm Girls Freshman Soccer @ Darien High School
- 4:00pm Girls JV Soccer vs Darien High School
- 4:00pm Girls Freshman Volleyball vs Fairfield Warde
- 4:30pm Girls JV Volleyball @ Fairfield Warde
- 6:00pm Girls Varsity Volleyball @ Fairfield Warde
- 6:30pm Girls Varsity Soccer vs Darien High School

Wednesday, September 25

- 3:00pm Boys Varsity Golf @ Stamford High School
- 4:00pm Boys Freshman Soccer vs Darien High School
- 4:00pm Boys JV Soccer @ Darien High School
- 5:30pm Boys Freshman Football vs Masuk High School
- 6:00pm Boys Varsity Soccer @ Darien High School

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

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FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

Get Your Open Houses Into the MLS by Wednesday at Noon for a Listing Here

| Address | Price | Day | Time | Broker |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|
| 173 Heritage Hill Road | \$1,100,000 | SAT | 10:00AM-2:00PM | HomeZu |
| 1315 Smith Ridge Rd | \$2,145,000 | SAT & SUN | 1:00PM-3:00PM | William Pitt Sotheby's |
| 25 Lukes Wood Road | \$2,725,000 | SAT & SUN | 2:00PM-4:00PM | Houlihan Lawrence |
| 253 Turtle Back Road | \$2,895,000 | SAT & SUN | 1:00PM-3:00PM | William Raveis |
| 49 Cross Ridge Road | \$3,995,000 | SAT & SUN | 2:00PM-4:00PM | Douglas Elliman |
| 749 Oenoke Ridge Road | \$5,495,000 | SAT & SUN | 12:00PM-2:00PM | William Raveis |
| 277 S. Bald Hill Road | \$1,445,000 | SUN | 2:00PM-4:00PM | William Raveis |
| 296 Carter Street | \$3,495,000 | SUN | 1:00PM-3:00PM | Brown Harris Stevens |

NEW LISTINGS

| Address | List Price | SqFt | Price/SqFt | AC | BR | FB |
|------------------------|-------------|-------|------------|------|----|----|
| 133 Jelliff Mill Road | \$799,000 | 1,204 | \$663.62 | 0.54 | 3 | 1 |
| 17 River Street #17 | \$888,000 | 2,034 | \$436.58 | | 3 | 3 |
| 173 Heritage Hill Road | \$1,100,000 | 2,481 | \$443.37 | | 2 | 1 |
| 5 Maple Street #5 | \$1,649,000 | 2,688 | \$613.47 | | 3 | 2 |
| 112 Bennington Place | \$2,250,000 | 5,050 | \$445.54 | 3.66 | 5 | 3 |
| 74 Pastures Lane | \$4,895,000 | 6,000 | \$815.83 | 2.55 | 6 | 6 |

NEW SALES

| Address | Original List | List Price | Sold Price | DOM | BR | FB | Acres |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|-----|----|----|-------|
| 268 Jelliff Mill Road | \$1,425,000 | \$1,250,000 | \$945,000 | 118 | 4 | 3 | 2.11 |

Like a Starter's Pistol, We're Off!



BY JOHN ENGEL

It is as if we began the Fall Season with a starter pistol on Labor Day. Buyers and sellers are feeling a newfound urgency to enter the market.

Last week we listed an in-town renovated antique for \$2.5 million. Over 30 groups made appointments last weekend and there were multiple offers when the dust settled. The short Fall season is upon us and buyers are encouraged by falling rates and economic data despite the uncertainty that comes with a presidential election.

This week we have another renovated antique coming on for the same price, \$2.5 million on a quiet private lane near the schools. Will lightning strike twice? Yes. We know there are 29+ buyers out there for it. A classic saltbox with 12-over-12 windows, exposed beams, original wide board floors, updated with an open floor plan and a new kitchen; is it fair to expect the same response? Yes, I think so. It doesn't have a pool, but it has a 2-bedroom cottage and a two-story artist studio on the property. Buyers are responding to turn-key solutions. Steps from Waveny Park and three schools, I think the combination of sleek modernism with rustic charm is a recipe for success.

To predict New Canaan prices without knowing something about our immediately adjacent alternatives: Darien, Stamford and North Stamford. As those markets strengthen, so does our own.

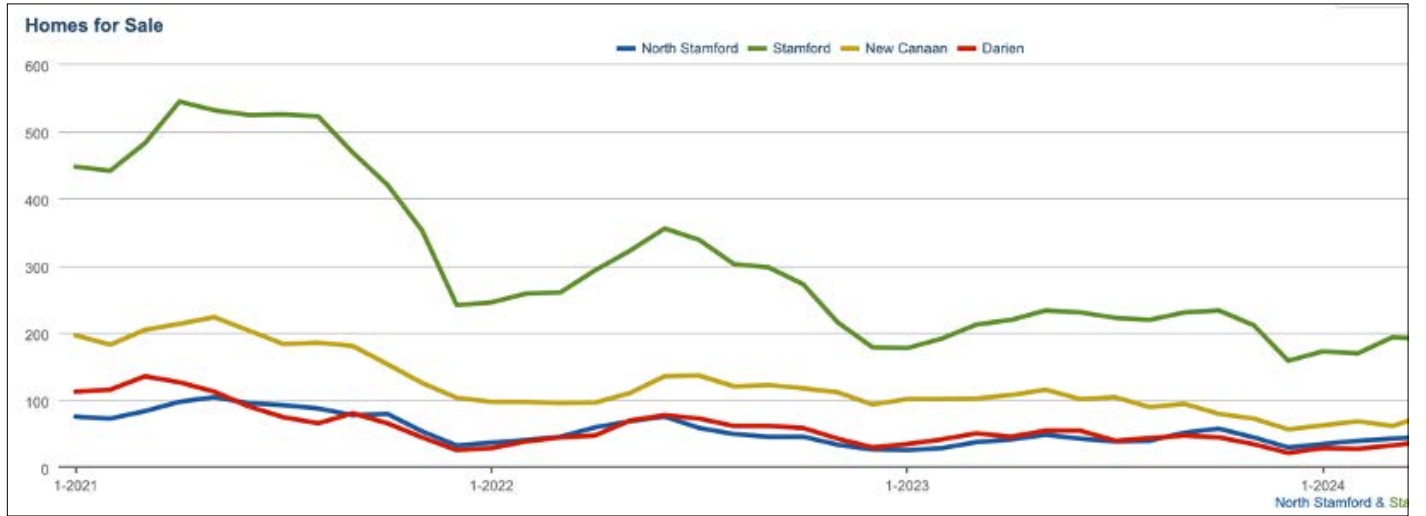
In this first graph we see the North Stamford market has had inventory levels around 45 single family homes since late 2022, currently at 44 and 18% above this point last year. The broader Stamford market, with a median price point in the 600's has seen a decline of 9% of available inventory in the same period and it is having an impact on North Stamford prices.

North Stamford single family sales in the first half had a median closing price of \$1,020,000, up 9.3% year over year, the highest ever. In the first half of 2024 houses on average sold for 101.3% of list price and cumulative days on market was just 20 days. Now, at the end of August, inventory in North Stamford in the \$1.575-\$2.4 million band remains extremely low, up 57% from a year ago to only 11 homes, helping to fuel strong competition for available homes.

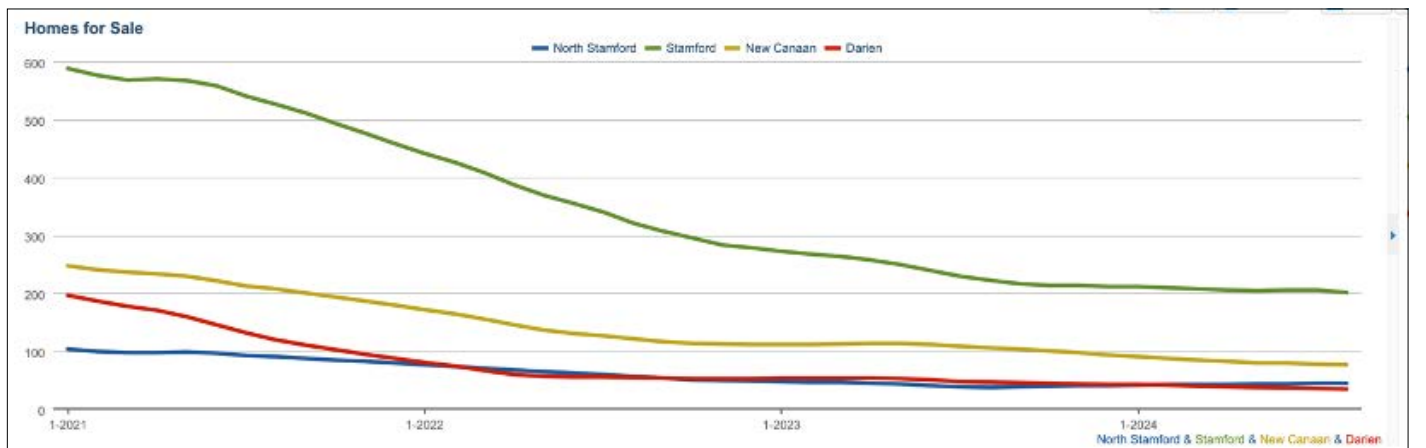
Should you list this Fall or want to wait until next Spring? The Fall Market starts now, and is strong at all levels. The end of the season probably bumps up against the Election in early November, typically a month of decreased activity. We are seeing less impact this time around. We've seen a surge of activity this week since Labor Day. Anyone seeking those buyers who are looking to close this year is listing in September through early October. It's hard to say what the Spring Market will look like. Rates may be lower, and demand will stay strong, but lower rates will free up new inventory, allowing some of sellers to finally make the move.

New data from Apollo shows the median age of all homebuyers is 49, up from 31 in 1981 despite the fact that the age of first-time homebuyers has risen by only 6 years over that 43 year time frame. What conclusions can we draw from this data? It's the "Silver Tsunami" If the first-time homebuyers only account for one third of the increase, the balance must be coming from elderly repeat buyers who now represent a majority of the market and who now have more housing options. My parents are an example, downsizing 3 times since then: into a New Canaan condo when I left college, moving across town to a townhouse ten years later, and downsizing a third time into a one-bedroom condo of less than 1000 feet, walkable to everywhere. I am sure every realtor in town has at least two senior citizens looking for a nice condo in the downtown with few or no steps. Right now, except for The Vue, there is only one condo available below \$2 million forcing many of New Canaanites to expand our searches for seniors beyond New Canaan.

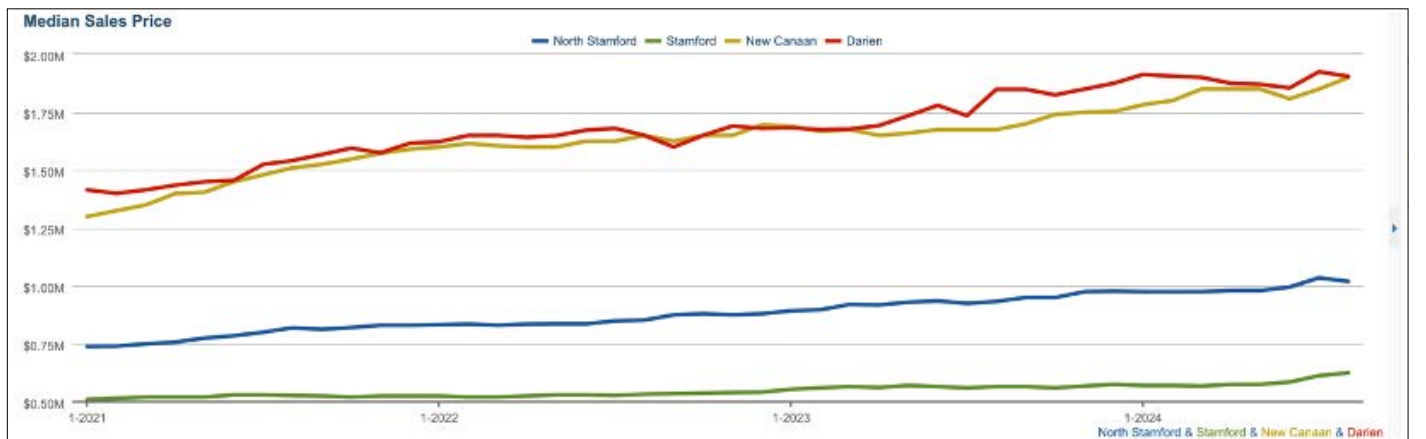
Timing. It's very difficult to time a sale and a purchase to coincide perfectly. According to the National Association of Realtors 53% of repeat buyers cited using the proceeds from the sale of a primary residence to buy their next home. Most people sell first and in a market of limited inventory secure a short-term rental until the right house comes available. The possible purchase of 100 Avalon units by the New Canaan Housing Authority, one of New Canaan's only short-term housing options could exacerbate this problem



The Stamford market is getting stronger, helped by declining inventory levels.



Here is the same graph showing the trend line by showing a rolling 12-month average.



as there are no other short term rentals available in town.

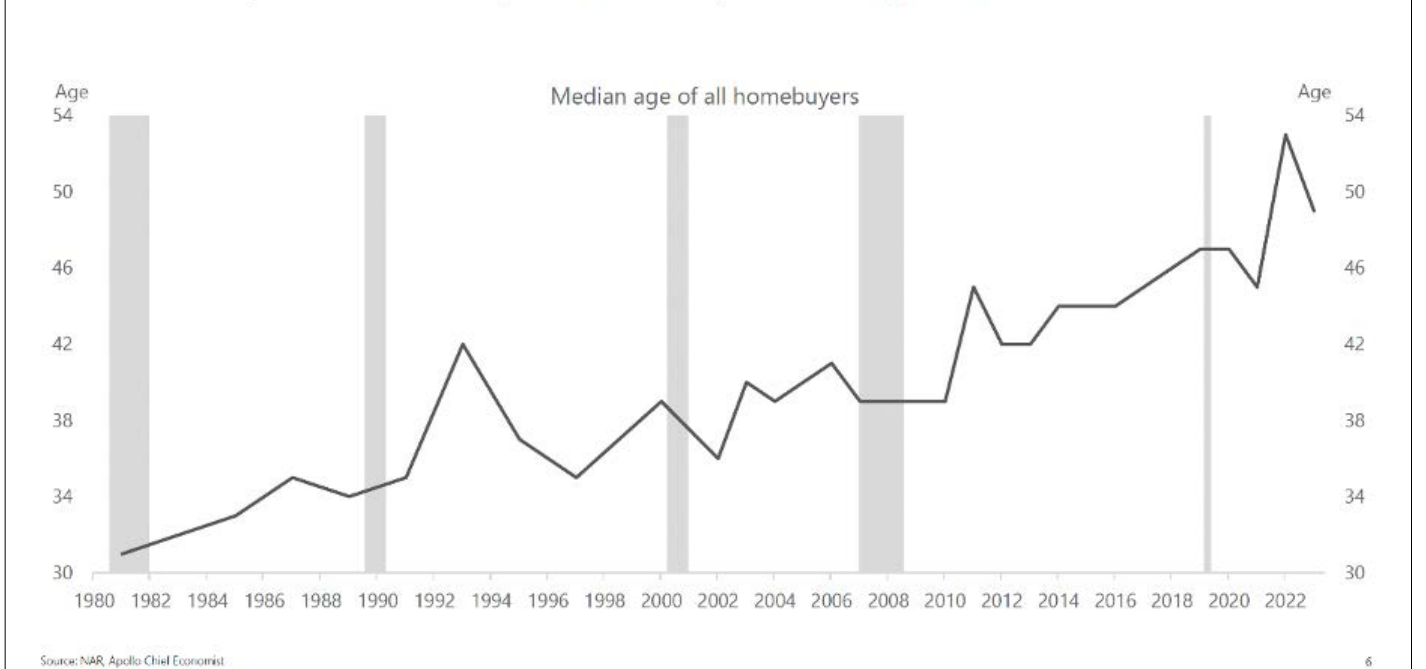
Notes from the Monday meeting: the 5-year outlook for the economy remains strong with meaningful appreciation in the housing market. We are on track for 4.8% shelter appreciation nationally and continuing as much as 20% over the next 5 years. Recent job estimates have been revised downward by between 350k and 700k and this makes a strong argument for cutting rates.

The New Canaan Board of Realtors is convening a meeting on Thursday morning, Sept 19 "to discuss the future of the MLS" They recently sold the building on Grove Street. That's causing some to wonder if more drastic changes are coming. Note, the Greenwich MLS says that 50% of their listings are not found on SmartMLS. This results from the fact that they require member firms to list all listings on

the Greenwich MLS. Many of those firms choose to list on only the one service, and since those listings feed Realtor.com and Zillow they're covered. Not so in New Canaan. The New Canaan board does not require members to list, and this policy has resulted in an incomplete picture of the New Canaan market. I am hoping that the meeting on September 19 is the beginning of a strong new chapter for NCBOR and NCMLS.

John Engel is a Realtor on the Engel Team at Douglas Elliman and he is ordering 2000 more daffodils along with 500 tulip from Colorblends.com in Bridgeport (to save on shipping). Daffodils are deer-proof and they multiply. He puts them in with a big cordless drill and 3 foot augur. Consider planting bulbs is fun on a crisp fall day.

The median age of all homebuyers is now 49 years old, up from 31 in 1981



Submit questions and comments to John.Engel@Elliman.com



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With a proven track record of success and backed by the most prestigious name in real estate, I offer **effective strategies** to help sellers and buyers **achieve their real estate goals.**

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774 OENOKE RIDGE | NEW CANAAN
AVAILABLE FOR \$2,650,000



394 WEST LANE | RIDGEFIELD
SOLD \$4,995,000



115 GREENLEY ROAD | NEW CANAAN
SOLD \$1,600,000



59 ECHO DRIVE NORTH | DARIEN
SOLD \$1,388,888

Not sure where to go when your home sells?

Home sellers worried about low inventory can rest easy with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty.

We've partnered with BLT in Stamford and Norwalk to offer an **exclusive** flexible apartment lease program. Enroll now and sell your home, knowing you can buy again later with 60 days' notice to end your lease penalty-free.

Eligibility is based upon both selling your home and buying your next home through William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty or Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty. Exceptions may apply. Enrolled participants in the Sell Now Buy Later program may not have an active buyer broker agreement with any other real estate company or be under contract at the time of this solicitation in order to qualify for the program benefits. The Sell Now Buy Later Program cannot be combined with other relocation benefits or real estate incentive programs. Terms, conditions, and fees for accounts, products, programs, and services are subject to change.



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Sibley on Birds; Bristow Bird Sanctuary 100th Anniversary

By JOHN KRIZ

SIBLEY LECTURE

Renowned bird expert and author David Sibley spoke to a full house at the New Canaan Library on Saturday, September 7 on his study, writings and drawings of birds.

The child of an ornithologist, Mr. Sibley developed an interest in birds from an early age. Raised in nearby Guilford, the self-taught artist finds that drawing birds helps him understand their 'shapes and features.' He termed it 'an interview with a bird.' He doesn't feel he's seen a bird until he's drawn it.

This lecture was part of the festivities surrounding the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the 17-acre Helen and Alice Bristow Bird Sanctuary and Wildwood Preserve adjacent to Mead Park. It is the nation's third-oldest bird sanctuary. The Town-owned preserve, which had been run down, has undergone a substantial renovation, with improved paths, seating and habitat restoration, led by Friends of Bristow Park, the New Canaan Conservation Commission, New Canaan Land Trust, and the Town of New Canaan, supported by many charities, such as the New Canaan Community Foundation and the New Canaan Exchange Club. Further renovations are planned.

Mr. Sibley shared many of his drawings of birds with the audience, using them to discuss the birds' characteristics. These drawings were a foundation for his field guide, first published in 2000. Eventually he focused more on the science of precise bird identification, as well as trying to better understand 'what birds are doing and why.' His recent book *What It's Like to Be a Bird* is a result of these efforts.

As examples, Mr. Sibley discussed killdeer (a bird species), which can produce a chemical camouflage during nesting season to hide from mammal predators. In addition, killdeer pretend to be

injured and then lure predators away from its nest. He also noted that birds have an 'incredible sense of balance,' with sensors in both their ears and pelvis. Pigeons bob their heads to help give them a clear view of surroundings as they walk, and barn owls can find a mouse in a pitch black room based on sound alone.

Birds have been a focus of conservation for over a century, with concern about feather harvesting to adorn ladies' hats being the catalyst for early bird conservation laws.

Mr. Sibley emphasized that birds need habitat to eat and breed, but that habitat loss is a problem, citing the eastern meadowlark which is disappearing due to fewer farms and more intense agricultural practices.

In addition, many birds are now migrating. They remember places on their travels that have food, cover and water, and return season after season. This is one reason why places such as New Canaan's Helen and Alice Bristow Bird Sanctuary and Wildwood Preserve are so valuable.

BRISTOW'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

A large, lively group gathered in Bristow Sanctuary on Sunday, September 8 under a bright late summer sky to rededicate the park, and learn more about the Sanctuary's plans and the birds, other animals and plants that call it home.

New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson led off, noting the vision of a century ago in establishing the Bristow Sanctuary, but how it had become rundown, with Chris Schipper taking initiative and community leadership by working to gather money and talent to restore it. She also noted the many donors who have been participating in the effort.

Keynote speaker ornithologist David Sibley discussed how people have become separated from nature, and how birdwatching helps

us understand our connections to habitats, wildlife and trees. People and nature are a network full of patterns, which helps us 'make sense of things.' Birdwatching is a way to reconnect with nature, and being in nature is like a healthy drug, reducing stress. He closed by noting there is no distinction between humans and nature, that there isn't a walled garden out there: 'It is all connected.'

The audience was then treated to the world premiere of *All Nature Sings*, composed and led by New Canaan native Gwyneth Walker, and performed by woodwind quintet Harmonia V. She based the five-movement piece on several poems, which were read by various town dignitaries.

This was followed by the unveiling of a statue of St. Francis of Assisi by Leo and his brother Selectman Steve Karl – the Karl family has a long association with Bristow Sanctuary -- with remarks by Rev. Scott Herr, rector of New Canaan's First Presbyterian Church. The New Canaan High School Madrigals then enchanted the audience by singing *Dona Nobis Pacem* (Give Us Peace).

Last on the program was the release by the pond of rescued birds, including robins, bluebirds and mourning doves, by *Wildlife in Crisis*. This charity has been releasing rescued birds in Bristow for several years. Chris Schipper noted after the birds were released that David Sibley led a morning bird walk that day and had identified 124 birds in Bristow Sanctuary.

Then people gathered to enjoy cake, cookies and cider, and to chat. The cake was a culinary tour de force: It was shaped and colored as a detailed map of the Bristow Bird Sanctuary.

I seek acquaintance with Nature, to know her moods and her manners.

I wish to know an entire heaven and an entire earth!

Acquaintance with Nature



The unveiling of a statue of St. Francis of Assisi by Selectman Steve Karl (right) and Leo Karl (left), a key moment in the Bristow Sanctuary rededication ceremony. Photos by John Kriz.

I seek acquaintance with Nature, to know her moods and her manners. I wish to know an entire heaven and an entire earth! Acquaintance with Nature

Henry David Thoreau

Henry David Thoreau

(Excerpt from one of the poems read) Bristow's History & Future

New Canaan residents established the Bird Protective Society in 1916. One of its early goals was to establish a bird sanctuary in town. This goal was realized in the summer of 1924 with the purchase for \$8,000 of 17 acres of wetlands and gravel pits next to Mead Park, most of the funding being supplied by Edith Olcott van Gerbig, a local philanthropist. An initial census found 91 bird species at Bristow, including

pheasant and ruffed grouse. The property was deeded to the Town in 1934 by the Bird Protective Society, with conservation restrictions, due to challenges in maintaining the sanctuary. In 1987 the Sanctuary was rededicated to sisters Helen and Alice Bristow, who had been avid members of the Bird Protective Society.

Further challenges, including infrastructure maintenance and an increase in invasive species, caused several residents to organize to revitalize Bristow Sanctuary. The Friends of Bristow Park was the result, raising funds

and attention to create a second-century master plan, which includes making the GreenLink Trail that runs through the Sanctuary more senior- and stroller-friendly, pond dredging, improved seating for bird viewing, adding bird houses and feeders, increasing native plant diversity, repairing fences, remodeling the entrances to improve access and parking, and installing a Pollinator Pathway. More information at www.bristowpark.com

Opinions expressed are the author's own.



Top Left: The New Canaan High School Madrigals perform "Dona Nobis Pacem" during the centennial celebration in front of the newly unveiled statue of St. Francis of Assisi.

Above right: Town officials, conservationists, and community leaders gather for a group photo beside the newly unveiled statue of St. Francis of Assisi, marking the culmination of the Bristow Bird Sanctuary's 100th anniversary event. Pictured are: Former First Selectman Kevin Moynihan, Leo Karl, Chris Schipper, DPW head Tiger Mann, Selectman Steve Karl, architect Keith Simpson, First Selectman Dionna Carlson and Selectwoman Amy Murphy Carroll at the St. Francis of Assisi statue dedication.

Bottom right: The cake! Bottom left: Chris Schipper, one of the key figures behind the restoration of Bristow Bird Sanctuary, speaks about the importance of preserving natural habitats and the century-old sanctuary.

Sentinel Celebrations

Welcome to your new home for personal news and happy milestones!

- Birth announcements
- Engagements
- Marriages
- Graduations
- Promotions
- New home/moving announcements
- Retirements


Please send the following details:

- In which Sentinel paper should the announcement appear — Greenwich or New Canaan?
- Name(s) of people involved
- Noteworthy details
- Include a high-resolution photo, if you like

Email them to:

Cordelia@SentinelHometownNews.com.


Submissions may be edited for brevity or clarity. The Sentinel may decline to publish announcements at its own discretion.



Rabbi Mitch & Roseanne Hurvitz
celebrate the Bris and Hebrew Naming of their grandson

Asher Joel

son of Simon and Miriam Hurvitz



A CONTEST IN THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW YORKER MAGAZINE

Sentinel Literary Competition

The Sentinel Literary Competition has returned from the Sentinel's annual hiatus tanned, rested, and ready to fill the indoor seasons with lighthearted intellectual diversion.

Here's what's new:

MORE TIME TO ENTER

The Competition will now run monthly (rather than weekly) to allow ample time for our local Wordsworths to contribute. Enter as many times as you like!

MORE AND BIGGER PRIZES!

The First Prize entry now brings home a check for \$100. The Runner Up wins \$50, and two Honorable Mentions each win \$25.

Email your entry(s) to:

Dawson@GreenwichSentinel.com



The September Competition:

**Give Us the Prompt:
Please Prompt Promptly!**

What should you write about? You tell us!

Mr. Dawson is looking for great prompt ideas, and his favorites will turn up as prompts for future Competitions.

Prompts should be pithy and clever and include an example of an entry.

Please email your entry(s) to the Competition's trusty judge, Joe Dawson, at: Dawson@GreenwichSentinel.com.

ENTER BY FRIDAY, SEPT. 27

Entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, Sept. 27. Winners will be announced in the Oct. 4 issue of *The Sentinel*.

COLORING CHALLENGE



What's the Difference Between Mice and Rats?



Mice and rats are both rodents, but they differ in several ways:

Mice are generally smaller, with an average body length of 3-4 inches, while rats are larger, typically 9-11 inches.

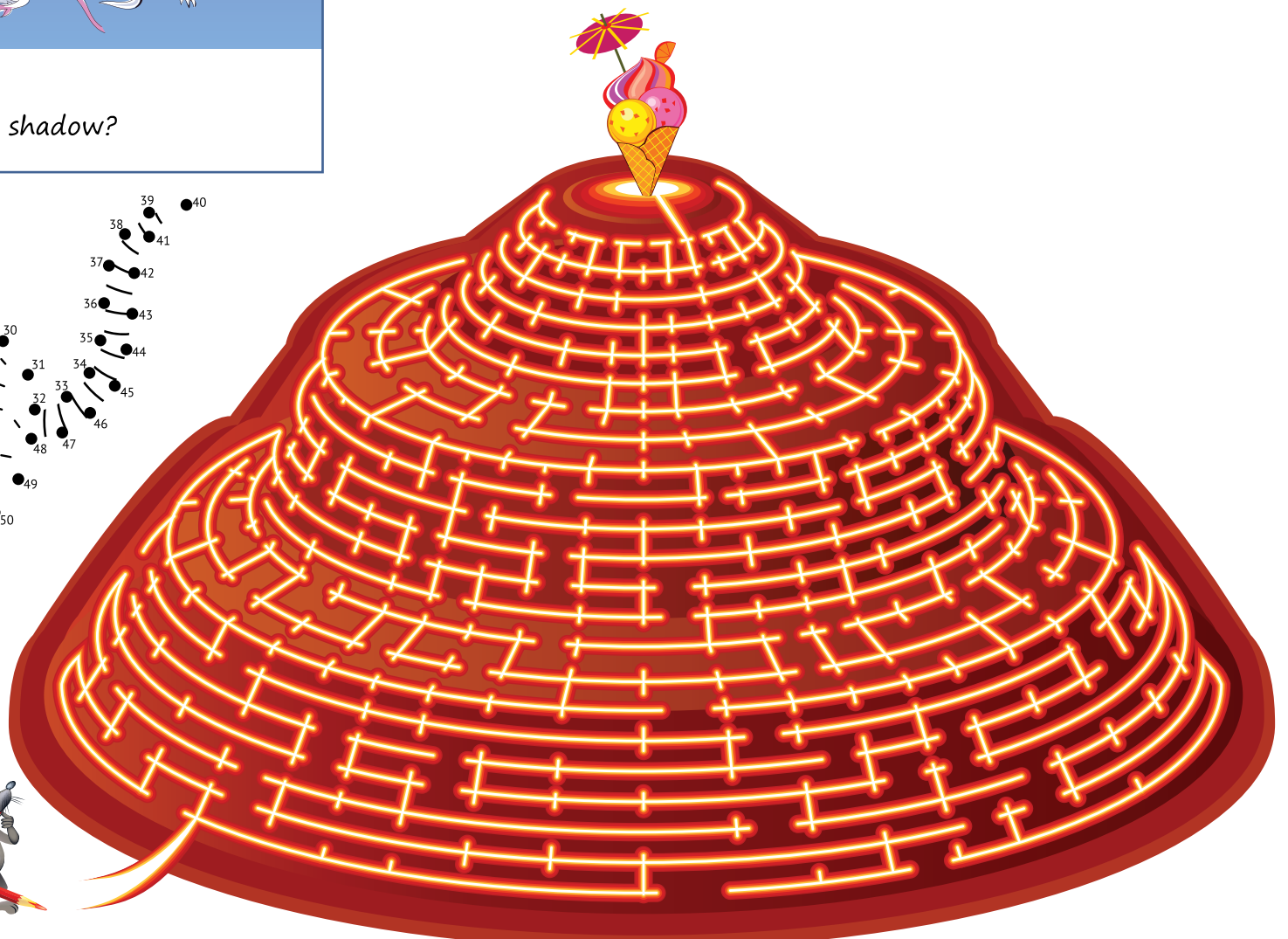
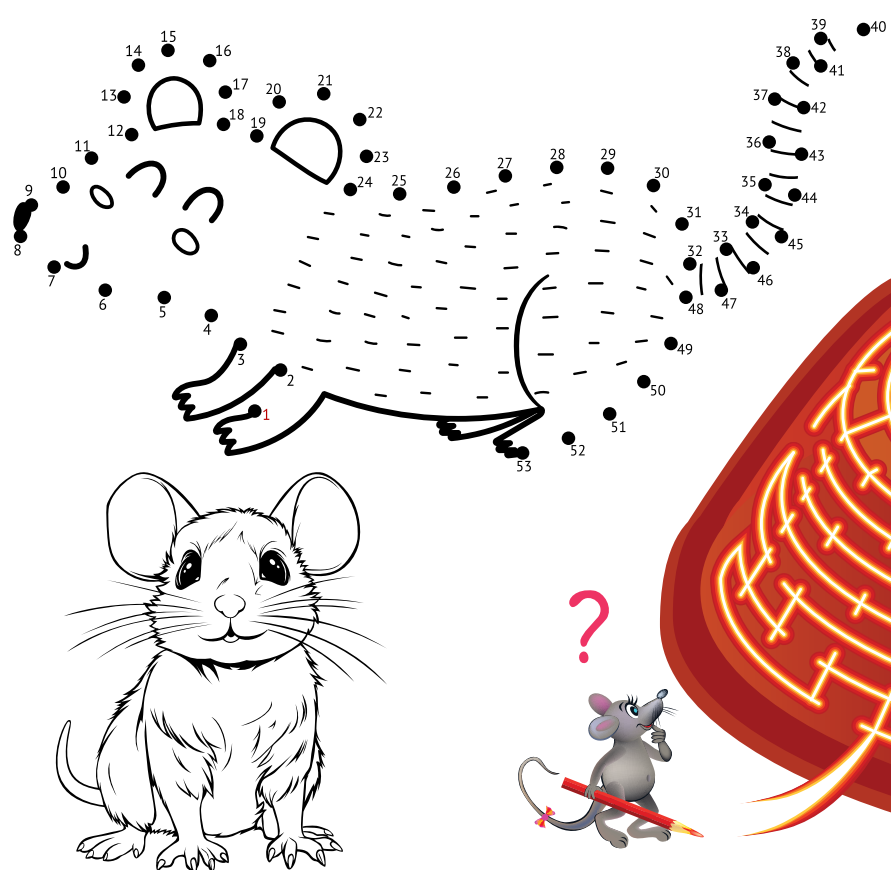
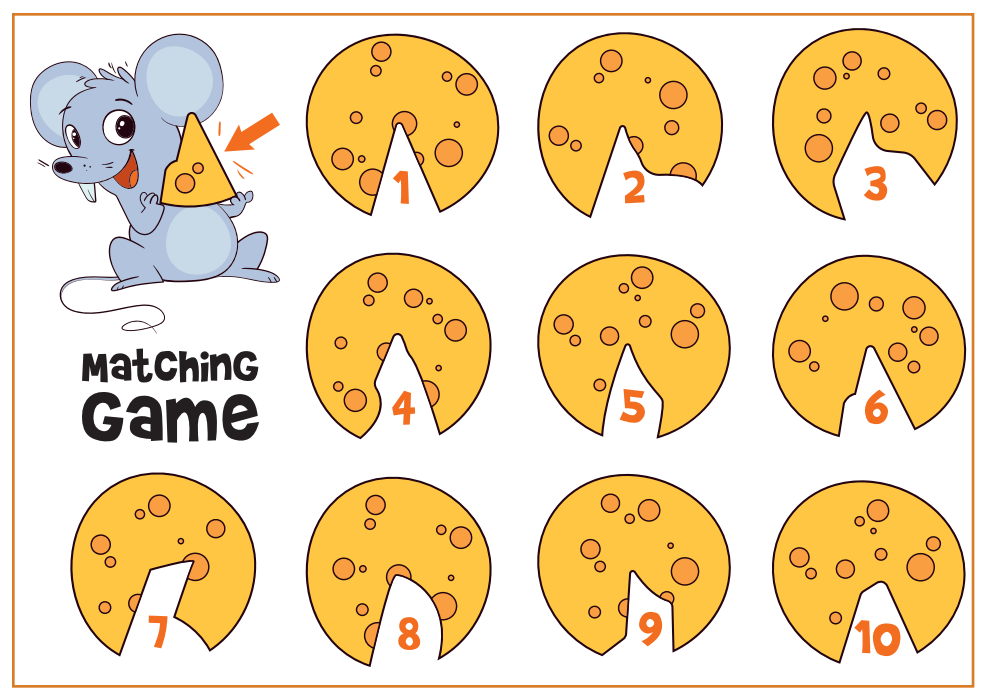
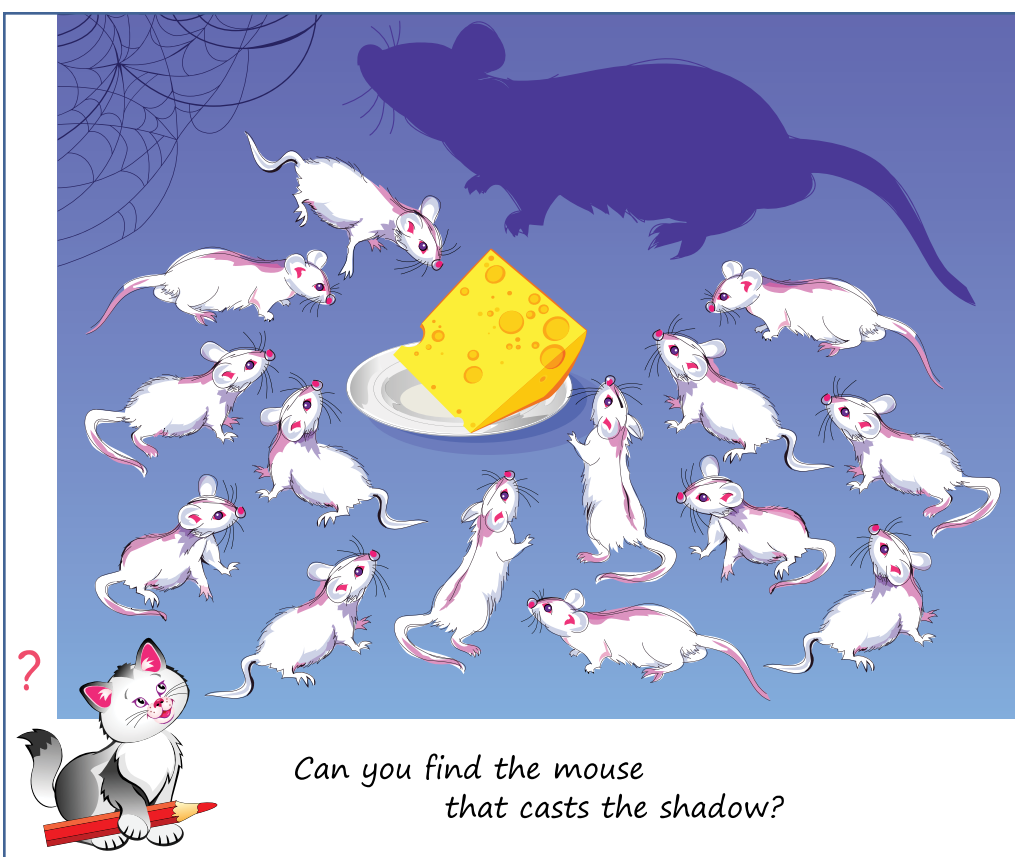
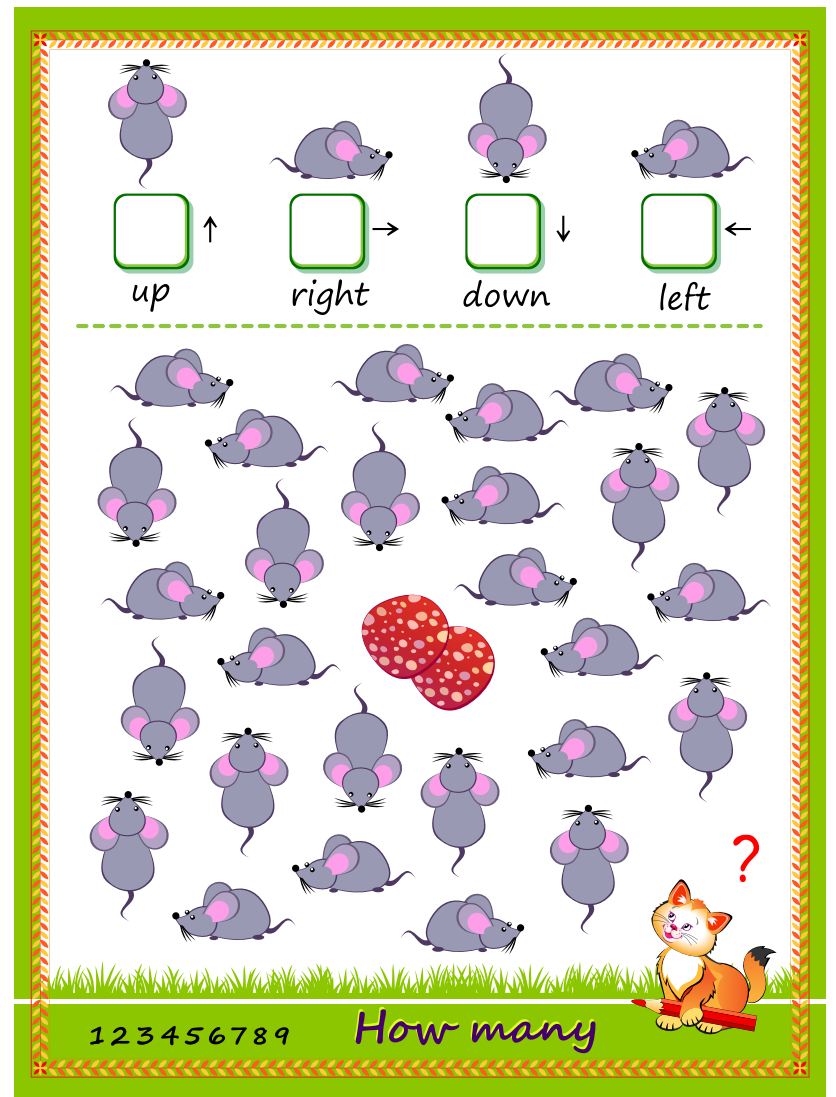
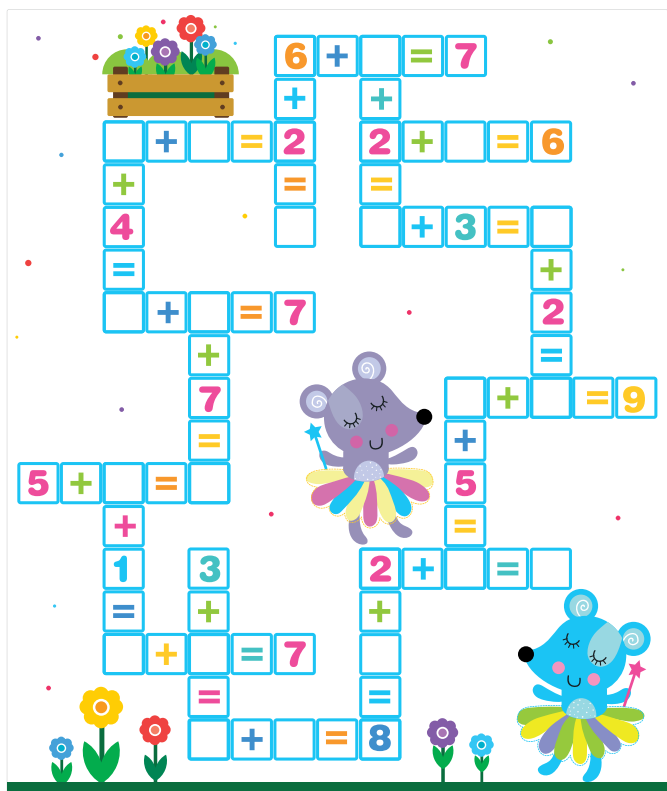
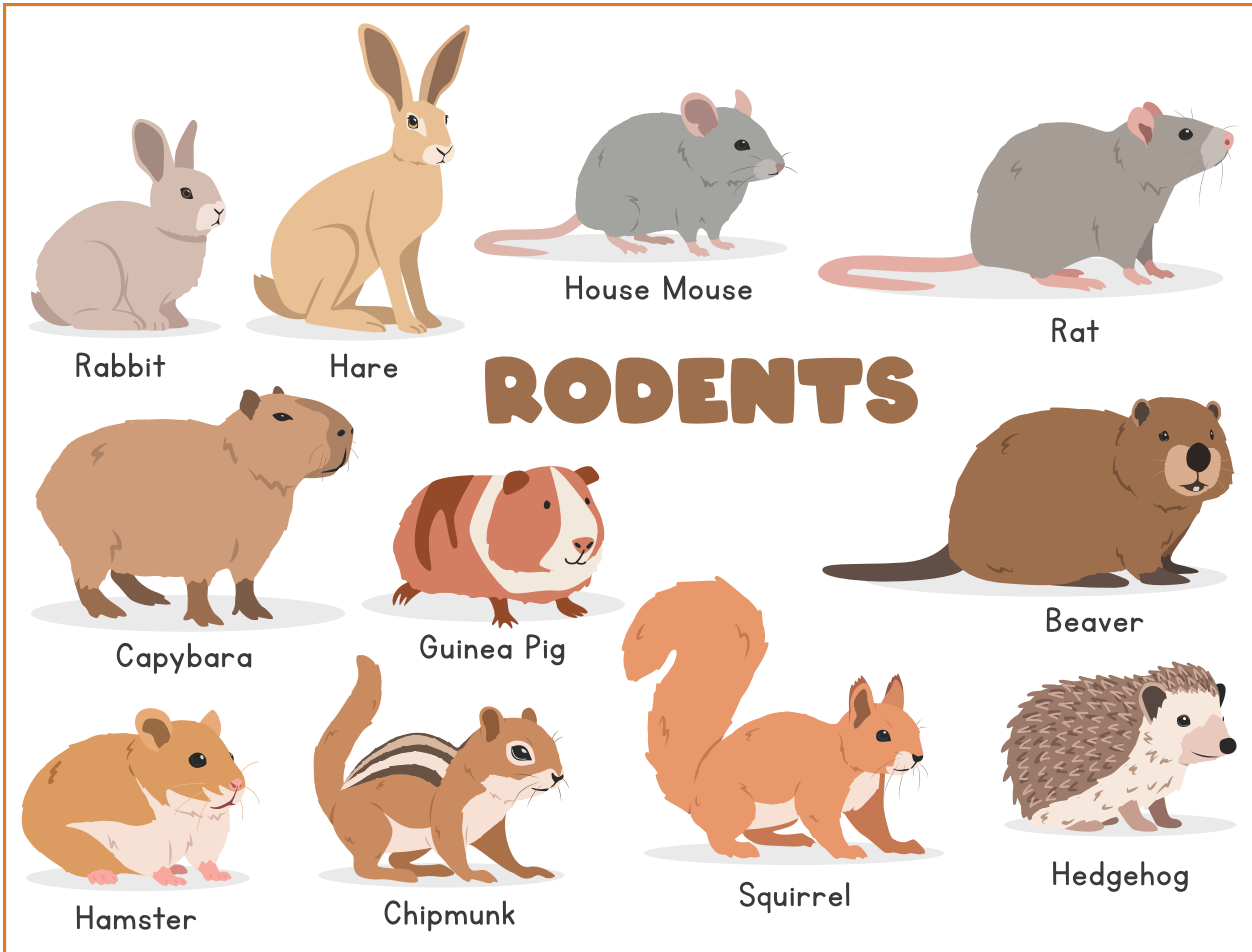
Mouse tails are longer relative to their body size and mostly hairless. Rat tails are thicker and scaly.

Mice have larger ears and a pointed snout, whereas rats have smaller ears and a blunter snout.

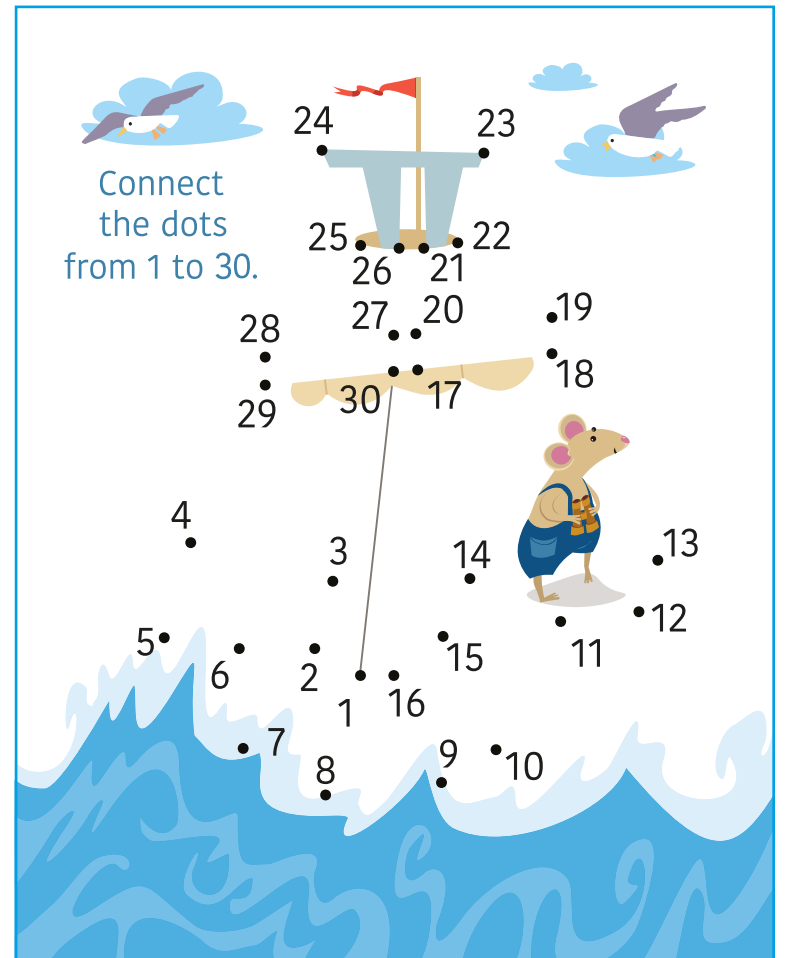
Rats are often more aggressive and also more social, and they live in larger groups. Mice tend to be more solitary although they are still social.

Both rats and mice are omnivores, but rats are more opportunistic and can eat a wider variety of foods.

Mice are faster breeders than rats, with shorter gestation periods and larger litters.



COLOR BY ADDITION & SUBTRACTION

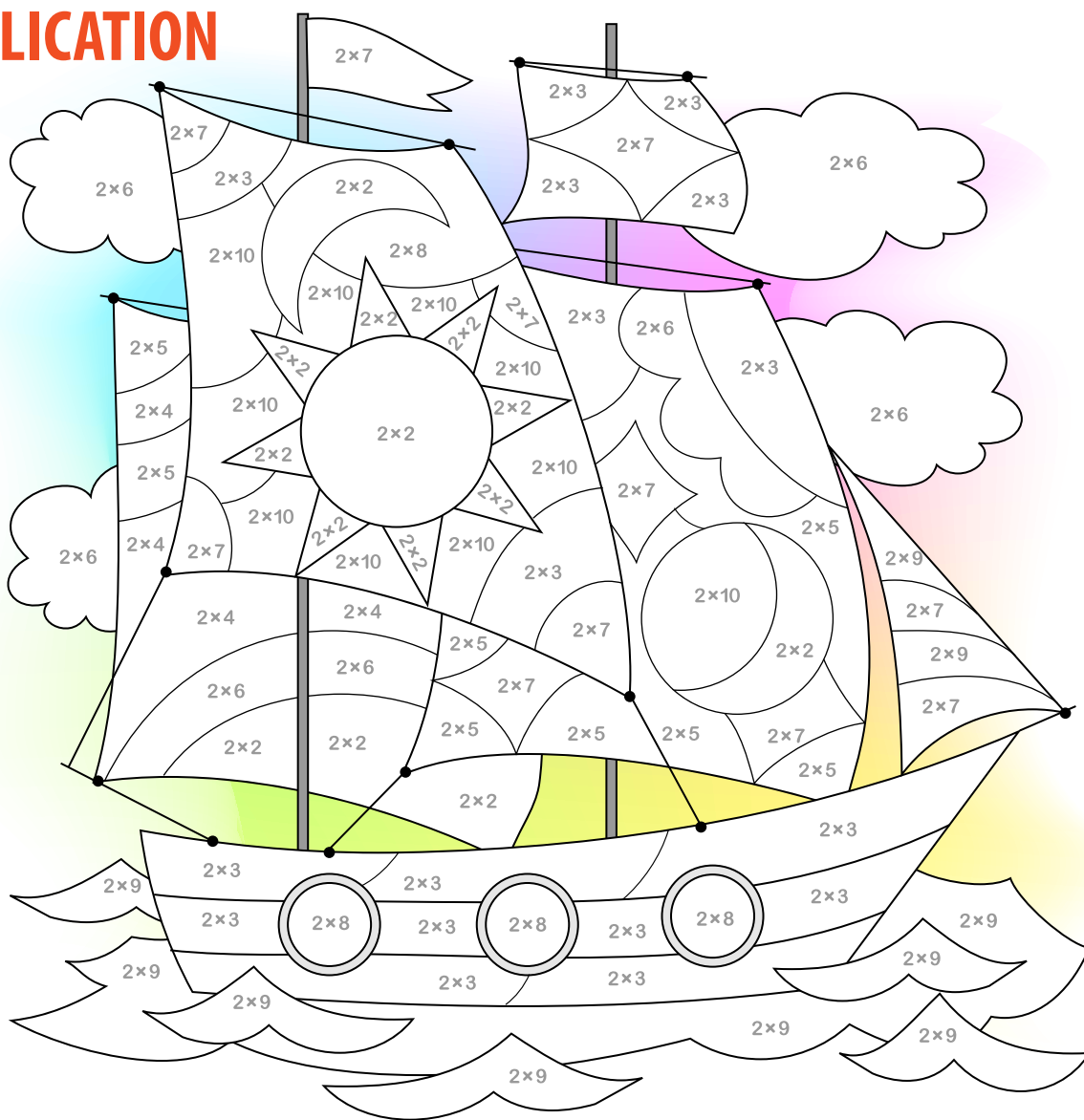


- | RED | YELLOW | PINK | GREEN | PURPLE | ORANGE | TURQUOISE | GRAY |
|-----|--------|------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | | | | | | | |

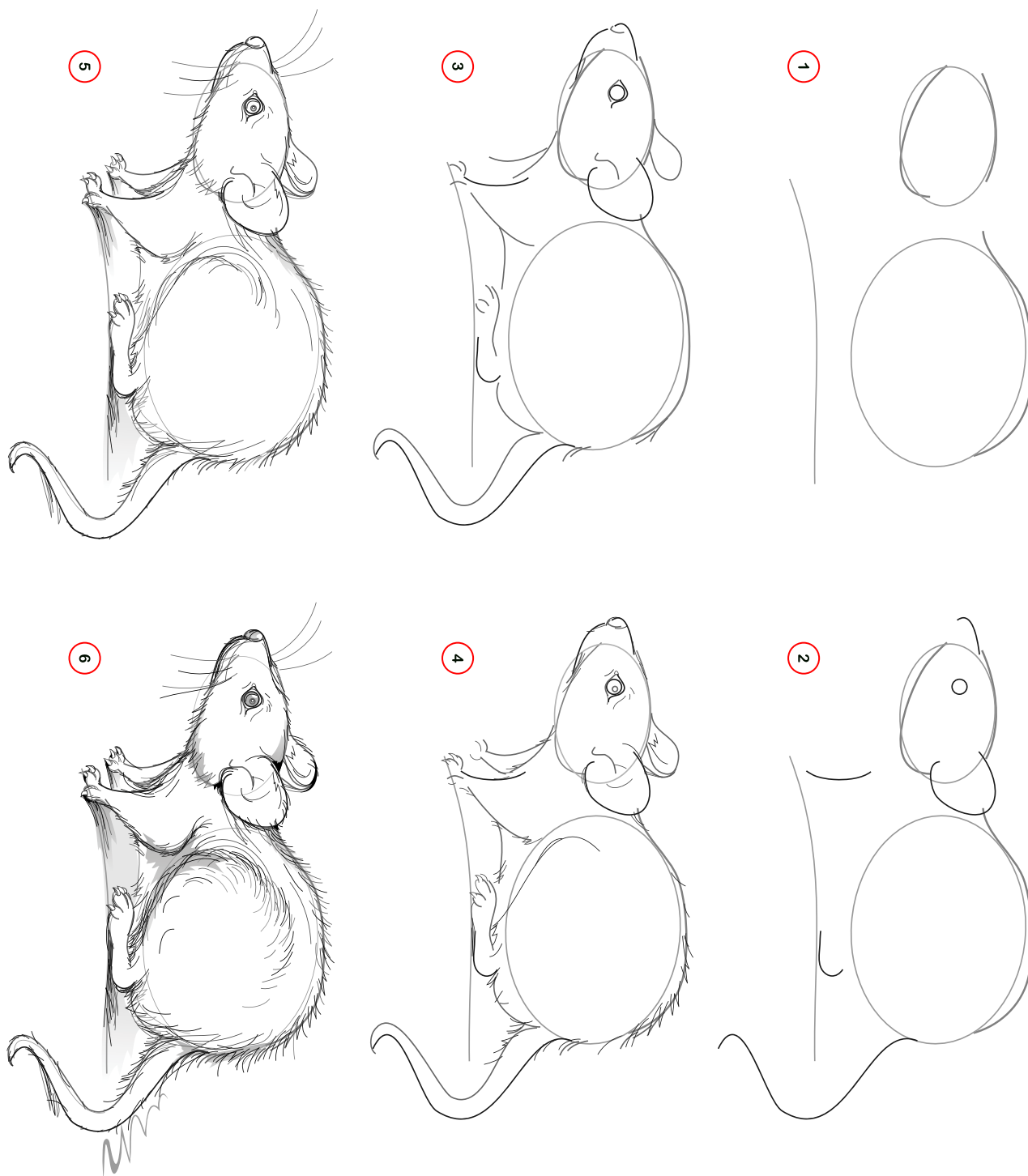
COLOR BY MULTIPLICATION



| |
|--------------------|
| $2 \times 2 = 4$ |
| $2 \times 3 = 6$ |
| $2 \times 4 = 8$ |
| $2 \times 5 = 10$ |
| $2 \times 6 = 12$ |
| $2 \times 7 = 14$ |
| $2 \times 8 = 16$ |
| $2 \times 9 = 18$ |
| $2 \times 10 = 20$ |



- | | | |
|--|------------|----|
| | YELLOW | 4 |
| | MAROON | 6 |
| | OCHRE | 8 |
| | PURPLE | 10 |
| | LIGHT BLUE | 12 |
| | RED | 14 |
| | TEAL | 16 |
| | BLUE | 18 |
| | GREEN | 20 |



Grab Your Sketchbook
DRAW A MOUSE, STEP BY STEP

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

Submit your events at:
[newcanaasentinel.com/submit-an-event/](https://www.newcanaasentinel.com/submit-an-event/)

TOWN MEETINGS

Monday, September 16

Inland Wetlands Commission - Public Hearing

7-9 p.m., Town Meeting Room & via zoom

Tuesday, September 17

Board of Selectmen

8:30-10 a.m., Town Meeting Room & via zoom

EMS Commission

6-7 p.m., EMS Headquarters

Utilities Commission

7-9 p.m., Town Meeting Room

Wednesday, September 18

Police Commission

6-7 p.m., Town Hall Board Room

Parks and Recreation Commission

7-9 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication. Please contact the Town Clerk at 203-594-3070

Town Council

7-9 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

Friday, September 13

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

8:30 - 9:30 AM at the Lapham Center Dining Room. Join the New Canaan Sentinel Team for coffee and conversation.

Health Talks with Shannon and Ellen

11 AM- 12 PM at the Lapham Center
 Meet up with Shannon and Ellen from the Health Department for coffee, conversation and snacks. Topics will be announced in the Lapham Center eblasts. Free event. For more information please contact 203-594-3620.

Fridays Movies at Noon

12 PM at the Lapham Center
 Come join the Lapham Center to watch Federer: Twelve Final Days. 1h 28m. An intimate follow-along through the final twelve days of Roger Federer's illustrious career. Call for more information: 203-594-3620

Ladies Comedy Night Out

7-9:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
 Patty is one of the top headlining American comics in the country with her hard hitting, high-energy style of comedy. The night will begin with a wine party followed by the comedy show at 8 pm. \$40/person. Register at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/1f42bb74-e2cc-42cc-811e-e7a53ac0704b>

Saturday, September 14

Learn The Art of Cyanotype: Intro

9:30 AM- 12:30 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
 Learn the process, experiment and develop your skills. Create prints on paper using the cyanotype historical photographic process. \$75/members and \$90/nonmembers. Register at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/the-art-of-cyanotype-workshop-the-basics/>

Beginning Mahjongg with Aggie

10 AM- 12 PM at the Lapham Center
 This class covers the rules, tile identification and basic strategies, followed by hands-on practice to reinforce learning. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

Town Farmers Market

10 AM - 2 PM at Lumber Yard Lot, 224 Elm Street
 There are many vendors with various local items available including specialty food, fresh meat, produce, soap, eggs, and honey! This week, join as the great hot peppers harvests of 2024 is celebrated. Special guests, Dave and Lisa Roger, amateur pepperheads, will be sharing recipes, planting and harvesting tips, giving away seeds from the garden of 100 varieties of hot peppers. Enjoy live music, kids activities. More information available at <https://www.localharvest.org/new-canaan-ct/events/2024-09-14-hot-pepper-pappalooza-at-the-new-canaan-farmers-market>

Birding Photography Tips & Tricks

10:30-11:30 AM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
 Join John Hannan of the Bedford Audubon Society for tips and tricks that can turn those frustrating "almost perfect" pictures from your bird walk or backyard into great photographic memories. Participants will learn how to pick the right image; tweak

light, color, sharpness, and noise options so the image pops; and then crop and size for best subject placement. This program is co-sponsored by the Friends of Bristow Park Sanctuary. Free event. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/birding-photography-workshop-93033>

Learn The Art of Cyanotype (Advanced)

1:30-4:30 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
 Learn advanced processes, further experiment and develop your skills. Create prints on paper using the cyanotype historical photographic process. Led by artist and instructor Fruma Markowitz. \$75/members and \$90/non-members. Register at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/the-art-of-cyanotype-advanced-workshop/>

Family Movie Night: Wonka

7:15-9 PM at the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society Lawn
 The first family movie night at the museum! Bring a picnic blanket, dinner, and bebies of choice for a fun night under the stars. Popcorn and snacks will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$10/members and \$25/non-members. Please rsvp to info@nchisotry.org

Sunday, September 15

New Canaan Old Timers Association Honoree Event

11 AM at Waveny House
 The 2024 Honorees are Dan Goldblatt, Heidi Sandreuter, Brett Wilderman, Steve Luciano, and Kevin Halloran. All of the proceeds from this event go towards the Vin Iovino Scholarship, named for the former athletic director and presented to selected senior athletes at the end of the school year. A Continental Breakfast will begin at 11 am followed by the Award Ceremony and Honoree Speeches at 12. Ticket prices start at \$50/adult and \$20/student. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/242277496882169>

Passport Center

1-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
 The library partnered with the Ferguson Library's US passport center to host passport clinics. At this event, the US Passport team can help registered attendees process US passport applications, guide those that are processing renewals for adults, take passport photo, provide all forms, and make copies of all documents. For more information visit <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/passport-center-83835>. To schedule an appointment visit <https://www.fergusonlibrary.org/services/passports>.

Lecture & Reception with John Kao

3-5 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
 John Kao will present "Creative Practices for Modern People". Kao is Senior Fellow at Yale's School of Engineering and Applied Science as well as a Yale Entrepreneur-In-Residence. He has a long history of thought leadership regarding innovation and entrepreneurship. The lecture is free for members and \$15 for nonmembers. For more information and to register visit <https://carriagebarn.org/event/lecture-reception-with-john-cao/>

Monday, September 16

Music in Film: a Lecture by Film Historian Greg Blank

6-7:15 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
 Greg Blank is a New York-based filmmaker and film historian with over 15 years of experience as a producer, director, cinematographer, and editor. He has lectured on film and media studies and other topics for over five years. Free event. For more information and to register visit <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/music-film-lecture-film-historian-greg-blank-100470>

Trivia Night with Guest Host Mike Bacon


5-7 PM at the Lapham Center
 Test your knowledge, have some fun, and you might event win a prize. Categories: Geography, History (including New Canaan), Entertainment, People and Sports. Appetizers and drinks will be available. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

Tuesday, September 17

Naval Narratives with Art: U-Boat War in the Atlantic (1939 - 1945)

10-11 AM at the Lapham Center
 An epic story of the desperate six-year struggle between allied forces and the German Navy to control the sea-lanes between America and the British Isles; a battle that, had it been lost, would have profoundly changed the course of World War II. Free event. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

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And Join Us in the Pub !

CINEMALAB.COM
for showtimes and tickets

Open Tech

2-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
 If you have questions about social media, email, smart phones, or accessing the digital library, stop in to get one-on-one assistance with a tech librarian. All technology questions, queries and interests are welcome. Drop in tech help is limited to 20 minutes. Tech help will be given on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Wednesday, September 18

Staying Strong - Slowing the Onset and Progression of Osteo

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
 Dr. Ruszkowski, a local, internal medicine physician will present a basic understanding of bone structure and how it naturally renews itself. What lifestyle and dietary practices can undermine natural bone rejuvenation. What you can do to reduce the rate of bone loss thru food choices and supplements. Free event. Lunch will be sponsored by Staying Put in New Canaan. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

Bestselling Author Laura Dave Presents: The Night We Lost Him

1-2:15 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
 Get ready for a lively conversation between New York Times bestselling author Laura Dave and her editor, New Canaan's own Marysue Rucci, as they discuss her soon-to-be-released novel "The Night We Lost Him." The event will conclude with a book sale and signing with Elm Street Books, and a reception featuring a taste of the intriguing recipe from "The Night We Lost Him": a strawberry balsamic pizza! Free event. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/laura-dave>

Ladies Night Out: Makeup Demo and Dinner

5-7 PM at the Lapham Center
 Join your friends for a glam demo and dinner with celebrity make-up artist Rose Lionetti, she will be sharing her secrets. Enjoy dinner while learning from Rose. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

Thursday, September 19

Juneteenth in September

6 PM at the Community Baptist Church
 A special fundraising event to celebrate progress and hope and raise awareness of mental health challenges in minority communities. Sponsored by Silver Hill Hospital honoring Juneteenth of Fairfield County.

Soundscapes from Latino America with INTEMPO

7-8 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
 Soundscapes from Latino America showcases INTEMPO's talented teaching artists and advanced students performing the diverse musical traditions of Latin America. This annual event promises high-level artistry in a cultural celebration not to be missed. Free event. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/intempo-music-performance-75245>

Friday, September 20

Fridays Movies at Noon

12 PM at the Lapham Center
 Come join the Lapham Center to watch The Long Game. 1h 52m. In 1957, five young Mexican-American caddies are determined to learn to play golf and create their own golf course in the South Texas desert. Call for more information: 203-594-3620

SAVE THE DATE

September 21

Beginning Mahjongg with Aggie

10 AM- 12 PM at the Lapham Center
 This class covers the rules, tile identification and basic strategies, followed by hands-on practice to reinforce learning. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

Town Farmers Market

10 AM - 2 PM at Lumber Yard Lot, 224 Elm Street
 There are many vendors with various local items available including specialty food, fresh meat, produce, soap, eggs, and honey!

Cider Saturday

10 AM - 2 PM at the New Canaan Nature Center

New Canaan Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

Enjoy an early autumn afternoon of family fun with cider press demonstrations, apple slingshots, a pumpkin scavenger hunt, seasonal harvest crafts for kids, baked apples, and stories around the campfire. The Annual Apple Olympics featuring bowling for apples and apple hoops will be held on the green. \$15/person. For more information and to purchase tickets visit <https://www.classy.org/event/cider-saturday-2024/e611631>

Adaptive Circus Program

3-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Join Circus Moves for a special adaptive program for children with special needs and their families. Come build fine and gross motor ability and gain body-awareness and cooperation skills in a high energy, inclusive environment. Circus Moves activities are adapted to meet each participant at their developmental level. Best for families with children in grades K-6th. Free event. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/copy-adaptive-circus-program-94305>

September 23

Gentle Yoga

10-11 AM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
A tranquil, foundation-building class designed to introduce new students to yoga, as well as offer regular practitioners a gentle class to complement their yoga practice. Participants must bring their own yoga mat. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/gentle-yoga-59018>

September 24

Naval Narratives with Art: Liberty Ships

10-11 AM at the Lapham Center
Liberty ships represent the industrial might of the United States at the height of its wartime mobilization. Intended to be cheap and expendable, shipyards around the country launched these massproduced vessels, many remained in service decades past their designed five-year life expectancy. Free event. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

Preventing Running Injuries

6:30- 7:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Whether you're an elite runner or just starting out, this program is designed to help you achieve peak performance. Join as Dr. Megan Gleason, Orthopedic Surgeon, shares insights on common running injuries and how to prevent them. Free event. For more information and to register please visit <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/carpal-tunnel-other-doctors-talk-92300>

September 25

AARP Safe Driving

9:30 AM- 1:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Refresh your driving skills with The AARP Smart Driver™ course. Learn more about driver safety strategies, accident avoidance, and defensive driving. Completion of the course may help you save on your auto insurance! Only 15 spots. Pre-registration can be made online at aarp.org/drive (which allows credit card payment). Or, you may register by calling 203-594-3620 and pay the day of by cash or check made payable to AARP. \$20/AARP members and \$25/nonmembers.

The Poetry of Autumn

12 PM at the Lapham Center
Ned Monaghan, Lapham's favorite orator and raconteur, will return to delight us with a reading and recitation of some of Europe and America's finest verse. A selection of poetry and anecdotes that celebrate the best of the human condition. This is a free event and lunch will be provided. For more

information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

Passport Center

4-7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
The library partnered with the Ferguson Library's US passport center to host passport clinics. At this event, the US Passport team can help registered attendees process US passport applications, guide those that are processing renewals for adults, take passport photo, provide all forms, and make copies of all documents. For more information visit <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/passport-center-83836>. To schedule an appointment visit <https://www.fergusonlibrary.org/services/passports>.

2024 Chamber Awards

6-7:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Anderson Terrace
Please join the Chamber of Commerce as they honor three New Canaan businesses who have made a significant contribution to our Community. Lite bites and appetizers will be served. Wine will be provided by Craftbottlz and Walter Stewarts Market. \$35/person. Register at <https://newcanaanchamber.com/2024/08/26/2024-chamber-awards/>

September 26

Building a Health Partnership with a Primary Care Physician

10 AM at the Lapham Center
Dr. Krishnan Narasimhan will address various questions as he speaks about family medicine and primary care. Coffee, tea and pastries will be served. Free event. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

Internet Safety with Paul Koorse

4:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Paul Koorse, Director of Information Technology for the town of Monroe, will discuss and identify the various cyber threats that exist and the steps you can take to mitigate risks. Be prepared to avoid phishing, malware and more. Free event. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

An Evening with Artist Jan Dilenschneider

5:30-7:30 PM at Waveny LifeCare Network
Enjoy art, champagne, light fare and meet the artist. Jan Dilenschneider finds much of her inspiration in the wondrous variegation of nature with influences from Impressionism and Expressionism echo in her rich palette, loose brush strokes, and luminous misty vistas. Please rsvp to events@waveny.org by September 20th.

The Green Gala

7-9 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Third Annual Fundraiser for Planet New Canaan, a non-profit organization. Enjoy live music from Kwame Henry Jones, drinks served by guest bartenders from New Canaan's Board of Selectmen, delicious food catered by Rosie Restaurant and meet the winners of our Sustainability Award. More information and tickets available at <https://www.planetnewcanaan.org/events/>

September 27

Fridays Movies at Noon

12 PM at the Lapham Center
Come join the Lapham Center to watch Arthur the King. 1h 47m. An adventure racer adopts a stray dog named Arthur to join him in an epic endurance race. Call for more information: 203-594-3620.

Rotary Club Lobsterfest

4-8 PM at the Steve Benko Pool Pavilion
Lobsters, lobster rolls, grilled salmon and fried chicken for curbside pick up or dine in at the Steve Benko pool at Waveny Park. Proceeds go to support local non-profits. \$50/person. For more information and tickets visit <https://shorturl.at/>

t9DiI

September 28

Town Farmers Market

10 AM - 2 PM at Lumber Yard Lot, 224 Elm Street
There are many vendors with various local items available including specialty food, fresh meat, produce, soap, eggs, and honey!

Rotary Club Lobsterfest

4-8 PM at the Steve Benko Pool Pavilion
Lobsters, lobster rolls, grilled salmon and fried chicken for curbside pick up or dine in at the Steve Benko pool at Waveny Park. Proceeds go to support local non-profits. \$50/person. For more information and tickets visit <https://shorturl.at/t9DiI>

September 29

“Origins & Originals” Concert with Russell Fisher

4-5:30 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Fisher will perform a mix of acoustic and electro-acoustic works for marimba, vibraphone and steelpan. Featuring music that contributes to the construction of one's identity from both the past and present. An active member of the booming steel pan scene, Fisher has performed in Panorama competitions with both Crossfire Steel Orchestra and CASYM Steel Orchestra. \$25/adult. For more information and to purchase tickets visit <https://carriagebarn.org/event/russell-fisher-percussionist/>

October 1

Naval Narratives with Art: Raid on St Nazaire

10-11 AM at the Lapham Center
Remembered by historians as “The Greatest Raid of All.” Code-named “Operation Chariot” this daring 1942 British raid on German Occupied France destroyed the heavily defended Normandie dry dock at St. Nazaire, denying the German Navy their only big ship repair yard with direct access to the Atlantic. Free event. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

Open Tech

2-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting
If you have questions about social media, email, smart phones, or accessing the digital library, stop in to get one-on-one assistance with a tech librarian. All technology questions, queries and interests are welcome. Drop in tech help is limited to 20 minutes. Tech help will be given on a first-come-first-serve basis.

October 5

Harvest Festival

7-10 PM at the New Canaan Nature Center
The 11th Annual Harvest Festival featuring Axe Throwing. An adult only evening featuring live music and local microbreweries and wine. It is also a successful fundraiser for the Nature Center. More information is available at <https://newcanaannature.org/harvest-festival/>

October 10

Conversation and Coffee with a Cop

1 PM at the Lapham Center
Nicole Vartuli, Community Impact Officer, will present a topic of interest to our community. Free event. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

October 11

Health Talks with Shannon and Ellen

11 AM- 12 PM at the Lapham Center
Meet up with Shannon and Ellen from the Health Department for coffee, conversation and snacks. Topics will be announced in the Lapham Center eblasts. Free event. For more information please contact 203-594-3620.

October 15

Superfoods for Brain Health

12 PM at the Lapham Center

Join Chef Gary Seri for a fun, interactive presentation to explore how certain foods can fuel your brain and enhance cognitive function. Free event. For more information please contact 203-594-3620.

October 19

Shred Day

8 AM- 1 PM at 394 Main Street,
The town of New Canaan's shred day is free and open to all residents. No clips, plastic covers, or binders. Paper only.

Mahjongg for 2 with Aggie

10 AM- 12 PM at the Lapham Center
Learn the variations and adaptations of traditional Mahjongg rules to suit a two-player format. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

October 24

Sip and Paint

5-7 PM at the Lapham Center
Join the Lapham Center for a fun evening of painting, appetizers and wine. Free event. Space limited, reserve early by contacting 203-594-3620.

October 30

Halloween Murder Mystery

5-7 PM at the Lapham Center
Whether you are a detective, murderer, or the unfortunate victim, you're guaranteed a memorable evening. Wear a costume and come prepared to play your role in the evening's events. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

October 31

Halloween Bingo

12-2 PM at the Lapham Center
The combination of lunch, BINGO, and prizes for the best costume is sure to be a hit. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

November 15

Waveny's Golden Gala

5:30-10 PM at the the Country Club of New Canaan
Celebrate Waveny's half-century of care, compassion and community. Join this grand event featuring cocktails, dinner, auctions, paddle raise and entertainment by FakeID, with all proceeds benefitting Waveny LifeCare Network. Ticket prices begin at \$300 and are available at <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/web/link/web/link.aspx?name=E344664&id=11>.

BLOOD DRIVES

Monday, Sept 16

First Presbyterian Church
Stamford, 1101 Bedford St
Stamford, CT 06905
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday, Sept 17

Stamford Museum and Nature Center, 39 Scofieldtown Road
Stamford, CT 06903
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Greenwich Blood

Donation Center
99 Indian Field Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Friday, Sept 20

United Church of Rowayton
210 Rowayton Ave
Norwalk, CT 06853
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

VFW, 465 Riverside Avenue

Westport, CT 06880
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Support Services & Meetings

September 20

Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade and Refer

11 AM- 1 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
Those trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. This training will certify you as a QPR gatekeeper. According to the Surgeon General's National Strategy for Suicide

Prevention (2001), a gatekeeper is someone in a position to recognize a crisis and the warning signs that someone may be contemplating suicide. Free event. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/suicide-prevention-training-question-persuade-and-refer-82867>.

September 25

Alzheimer's Support Group

2-3 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Family members, caregivers, and friends are invited to meet for informative and supportive group sessions to help navigate changes related to memory loss and cognitive decline. This event will be facilitated by Chris DiElsi, a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and an Alzheimer's Navigator at Waveny LifeCare Network. Attendees can find guidance, offer support, and ask questions in a safe environment. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-dementia-support-group-93000>.

October 9

Protecting Your Skin with Elle De Moll, M.D.

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Dr. De Moll will discuss skin cancer prevention, detection and treatment options. Learn how to spot skin cancer and how to keep your skin healthy. Lunch sponsored by Staying Put. Free event. For more information and to register please contact 203-594-3620.

Every Friday

AA Speaker Meeting

Wheelchair Access
Fridays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan
23 Park St, New Canaan

Every Saturday

AA Meeting-Sober Citizens Group

Saturdays at 9:15 AM
First Presbyterian Church
178 Oenoke Ridge Rd., New Canaan

AA Meeting-Laundry and Dry Cleaning Group

Saturdays at 10:30 AM
First Presbyterian Group
178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan

Lost Then Found NA Meeting

Wheelchair Accessible
Saturdays at 7 PM
United Methodist Church (back entrance) 165 South Avenue, New Canaan

Every Monday

AA Meeting

Wheelchair Access
Mondays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan
23 Park St, New Canaan

Adult Child Al-Anon Meeting

Mondays at 12 PM
St. Mark's Church, Youth Room
111 Oenoke Ridge Rd., New Canaan

Every Tuesday

Adult Child Alanon Meeting

Tuesdays at 12 PM
St. Mark's Parish House, Conf. Room
111 Oenoke Ridge Rd., New Canaan

Every Wednesday

AA Step Meeting

Wheelchair Access
Wednesdays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan
23 Park St, New Canaan

Al-Anon Parent's & Newcomer's Mtg.

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
Silver Hill, Jorgenson House
208 Valley Rd., New Canaan

Every Thursday

AA Big Book Meeting,

Wheelchair Access
Thursdays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan
23 Park St, New Canaan

New Canaan Parent Support Group

7- 8:30 PM
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
New Canaan

Our Neighbors

September 18

Women & Our Bodies: Hormone Therapy & Bone Health During Menopause

10-11 AM at Greenwich Water Club
49 River Road, Greenwich
Join as the benefits and considerations of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) are explored and delve into the critical importance of maintaining bone and joint health while entering the perimenopause and menopause stage of life. The expert speakers Danielle Pasquale and Bronwyn Fitz will break down complex topics & the latest research into understandable, actionable insights, helping you to better understand your options and the steps you can take to live your best during this stage. Free event. Register at <https://shorturl.at/Scm3g>

September 20

Blossom Hill Farm to Fork Annual Dinner

6-9 PM at the Country Club of Darien

The panelists will discuss the impact of protracted wars on children and Blossom Hill's programs that have changed the lives of over 130,000 beneficiaries. Celebrate the Fellows' remarkable achievements and the power of your support in nurturing education for peace in communities affected by conflict. Tickets are \$400/person and available at https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MjA5NjE0.

September 21

American Legion BBQ

2 - 5 PM at the Tomes-Higgins House at Christ Church, Greenwich

Show your support for local veterans and help the work that Post 29 does in the community. A variety of foods will be available including burgers, chicken, baked beans, and ice cream. There will be live music from That's What She Said performing classic rock from the 1960's to the 1980's. Tickets are \$40/adults and \$25/veteran. All proceeds net of expenses will go to financial support from Post 29 to local youth programs like the Boy and Girl Scouts, American Legion baseball and Boys and Girls State. RSVP by calling 203-531-0109 or 646-236-7657.

September 26

GLOW Wild Lantern Festival - Opening Day

5:30-9:30 PM at the Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo
Journey through a wonderland of illuminated larger-than-life lanterns inspired by our wild world. Displays of flora and fauna will light up the night sky, dazzling guests of all ages! Ticket prices are: \$22/adults and \$20/children aged 3-11. Tickets available at <https://www.beardsleyzoo.org/glow-wild.html>.

October 19

5th annual Beardsley Gala

6 PM at the Inn at Longshore 260 Compo Rd S, Westport
The Zoo Gala is a wildly elegant evening out that benefits conservation efforts and education. All funds raised will go towards the care of our endangered species, expansion of our exhibits, and educational programming. The evening will include entertainment, cocktails, dinner, an exciting silent and live auction, & animal encounters! Purchase tickets at <https://www.beardsleyzoo.org/online>.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Jared Goudsmit

ACROSS

- 1 Type of boat in "The Old Man and the Sea"
- 6 Black gunk
- 9 After-school helper
- 14 Group of judges
- 15 Primate such as Dr. Zaius
- 16 Egyptian dam city
- 17 Act overdramatically
- 18 Arroz ___ leche
- 19 Knightley of "Colette"
- 20 Starts of French cabarets?
- 23 "Big Little Lies" airtel
- 24 Nintendo console
- 25 Off-___-wall
- 28 "Billy, Don't ___ Hero" ('70s song)
- 31 (I'd like to speak now)
- 34 Most intense point in a story
- 36 Last word in a story
- 37 Disco performed while doing the limbo?
- 39 Union's foe
- 41 Ear: Prefix
- 42 Dark green superfood
- 43 Digit used to beat a drum?
- 48 "Parks and ___" (Amy Poehler show, casually)

- 49 Like a beefcake
- 50 Fuss
- 51 "The A-Team" actor
- 52 Capital of Japan?
- 53 Icky stuff
- 55 "Absolute garbage water," per Ted Lasso
- 57 Big baseball events ... and a hint to 20-, 37- and 43-Across
- 64 "This is so sad, ___ play Despacito" (meme)
- 66 Owed
- 67 Gwangju's region
- 68 Ocean explorer
- 69 #MeToo or Mesozoic
- 70 Doctor going to work sick, e.g.
- 71 Use a debit card
- 72 Biodegrade
- 73 "Cheep" homes?

- 10 App downloader
- 11 "Make me do it"
- 12 Rowing tool
- 13 Genetic messenger
- 21 NYC neighborhood near Greenwich Village
- 22 "Awesome!"
- 26 Big rig
- 27 Anticipate
- 28 Words before an expiration date
- 29 "Again!" at a concert
- 30 Apple consumers?
- 32 Award quartet for Rita Moreno
- 33 Insects drawn to light
- 35 Kind
- 38 Boxing round

- 40 Texter's "Also ..."
- 44 Defensively alert
- 45 "Butt out," briefly
- 46 Tiny arachnid
- 47 Force the door open
- 54 Further on in years
- 56 Love to bits
- 58 Yoked beasts
- 59 Bread in Brussels
- 60 Beat the ___ (keep cool in the summer)
- 61 Cupid : Rome :: ___ : Greece
- 62 "I'll Cover You" musical
- 63 "Simon ___"
- 64 Spots for Spotify, say
- 65 Back talk

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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7/19

Think Twice by Desiree Penner and Jeff Sinnock

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Astrology for Next Week

VIRGO

24 Aug-23 Sept You'll be impulsive and impervious to logic and won't care who you annoy. You know what you like and what you want and, if nobody gives it to you, you will reach out and take it. That will be very dynamic but it's not the real you, is it? Chill.

LIBRA

24 Sept-23 Oct It's pointless to argue with someone who disregards facts and sees faith as the answer to everything. The approaching Eclipse will inspire you to try to convince them there's a more logical way to look at the world but it's a waste of time - you won't succeed.

SCORPIO

24 Oct-22 Nov A rival thinks you're easily intimidated, ready to give in rather than fight for your rights. How wrong they are! An emotional Lunar Eclipse will make you hit back with everything you possess - and that's a lot. You don't have to put up with that kind of rubbish.

SAGITTARIUS

23 Nov-21 Dec You can handle a family issue with care but it will be better for everyone if you stamp your authority on the situation. Let them know you've no intention of playing games. If they want to waste their own time, that's fine, but don't let them waste yours.

CAPRICORN

22 Dec-20 Jan You can worry over things that may never happen or you can banish negative thoughts and live every moment as it comes. A Pisces Lunar Eclipse will tempt you to indulge in a bout of doom and gloom but you don't have to give in to it. There's always a choice.

AQUARIUS

21 Jan-19 Feb A Pisces Eclipse will increase your desire to squander money but you'd be wise to resist. The Sun in thrifty Virgo urges you to put cash away for a rainy day but just as strong will be the urge to splash out on feel-good fripperies. What's your willpower like?

PISCES

20 Feb-20 March A Lunar Eclipse in your sign marks the halfway point of your solar year. It may be too late to turn back and change things but it's not too late to review your successes and failures. You must, however, be honest. The success of the next six months depends on it.

ARIES

21 March-20 April The Pisces Eclipse warns you must face facts - at home and at work. Something is wrong and you can't change it until you accept your critics were right: you rushed things when a gradual approach would have worked better. There is still time to change.

TAURUS

21 April-21 May You may not want to lay down the law but you've no choice. The Lunar Eclipse will highlight differences that, if not resolved by decisive action, may cause all kinds of problems. This is also a good time to get involved in a community or environmental cause.

GEMINI

22 May-21 June Someone is stirring up trouble just to see how you react. You know who it is and you know you should do something about it but is it really worth the hassle? Sometimes the best way to deal with such people is to ignore them completely.

CANCER

22 June-23 July You may think you're ruthlessly logical but you're fooling no one but yourself. As Cancer is ruled by the Moon your emotions wax and wane; at times, you have superhuman self-control, at others you are all over the place. The Eclipse warns this is one of the latter. Stay calm.

LEO

24 July-23 Aug You're pushing too hard and too fast on something that needs to be taken more leisurely. It's unnecessary to finish it in record time, or to stretch yourself beyond your natural physical and emotional limits. Slow down and savour the creative process.

Discover more about yourself at sallybrompton.com

Family Time Crossword

The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Park

ACROSS

- 1. (K) Ten cents
- 5. (K) Common fuel
- 8. (K) Space object
- 12. (K) Spoken out loud
- 13. It can be a bust?
- 14. Part of "C/O"
- 15. Monastery resident
- 16. (K) Make a serious attempt
- 17. "I agree, Lord"
- 18. (K) Fade to black and cut the sound
- 19. "To Kill a Mockingbird" author
- 20. Trousers feature
- 21. (K) "The One and Only Ivan" animal
- 23. Exceeded 65 mph in a 45 zone
- 25. The next life
- 28. (K) That girl skipping rope
- 31. Political asylum seeker

- 32. (K) Desserts with ice cream and milk
- 34. (K) Race me to that tree
- 35. Peach kin with smooth skin
- 37. (K) Farmer's locale, in a song
- 38. Cheerleaders have it
- 39. Fencing piece?
- 42. (K) Things crunched in a gym
- 44. (K) Chicken serving
- 47. (K) Bee's place
- 48. Take to court
- 49. (K) Moving magma
- 50. (K) Inventor's need
- 51. (K) Quiet ___ mouse (2 words)
- 52. A fresh beginning
- 53. Sew up that big sock hole
- 54. (K) Type of 9-Down animal
- 55. Benefit

DOWN

- 1. (K) Rounded stadium roof
- 2. Uncrease a shirt
- 3. One of China's languages
- 4. (K) Caribou relative
- 5. (K) Part of a fence
- 6. What the police do sometimes
- 7. (K) Boar's abode
- 8. Too-hot bathwater will do this
- 9. (K) Wild's opposite
- 10. (K) Length x width
- 11. (K) Apartment payment
- 19. (K) Added to one's knowledge
- 20. (K) Possibly
- 22. (K) Stick-y ring-toss target
- 24. Annoying person or bug
- 25. (K) That girl skipping rope
- 26. Fowl of Australia

- 27. (K) Get touchy?
- 28. It can land on a snowfield
- 29. (K) Barnyard biddy
- 30. (K) Suffix with "Japan"
- 33. (K) "We ___ on the way to the park"
- 36. Contract provision
- 37. Anticipate with fear
- 39. Table leveler
- 40. (K) Broad
- 41. (K) Easy-Bake ___ (baking toy)
- 43. (K) Output from a drummer
- 45. (K) "Have you ___ been to Cleveland?"
- 46. Go "What am I seeing?" with the eyes
- 48. (K) Maple tree output
- 49. (K) One time around a track

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?
Reason there's a shed in the house?
Look for the answer in next week's paper.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | 13 | | | 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | | 16 | | | 17 | | | |
| 18 | | | 19 | | | | 20 | | | |
| | | | 21 | 22 | | | 23 | 24 | | |
| 25 | 26 | | | 27 | | | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| 31 | | | | | 32 | | 33 | | | |
| 34 | | | 35 | | 36 | | | | | |
| | | | 37 | | | | 38 | | | |
| 39 | 40 | 41 | | | 42 | 43 | | 44 | 45 | 46 |
| 47 | | | | 48 | | | 49 | | | |
| 50 | | | | 51 | | | 52 | | | |
| 53 | | | | 54 | | | 55 | | | |

Previous riddle answer:
Sausage center?
41-A) USA

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7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

- 1 actress Stewart (7)
- 2 empty space in the head (5)
- 3 wedding (8)
- 4 green light (10)
- 5 weak points (8)
- 6 Dewey Decimal experts (10)
- 7 wound wrapper (5)

SOLUTIONS

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| RA | US | KR | NG | TEN |
| SIN | GS | MAR | MIS | LIN |
| RYI | RIA | SION | IS | GAU |
| NS | ZE | LIB | FAI | PER |

Previous Answers: 1. BALANCED 2. GRAPE 3. UNANIMOUS 4. DESPERADO 5. VANQUISH 6. THUNDEROUS 7. THOSE 8/1

The answers to this week's puzzles can be found in next week's issue.

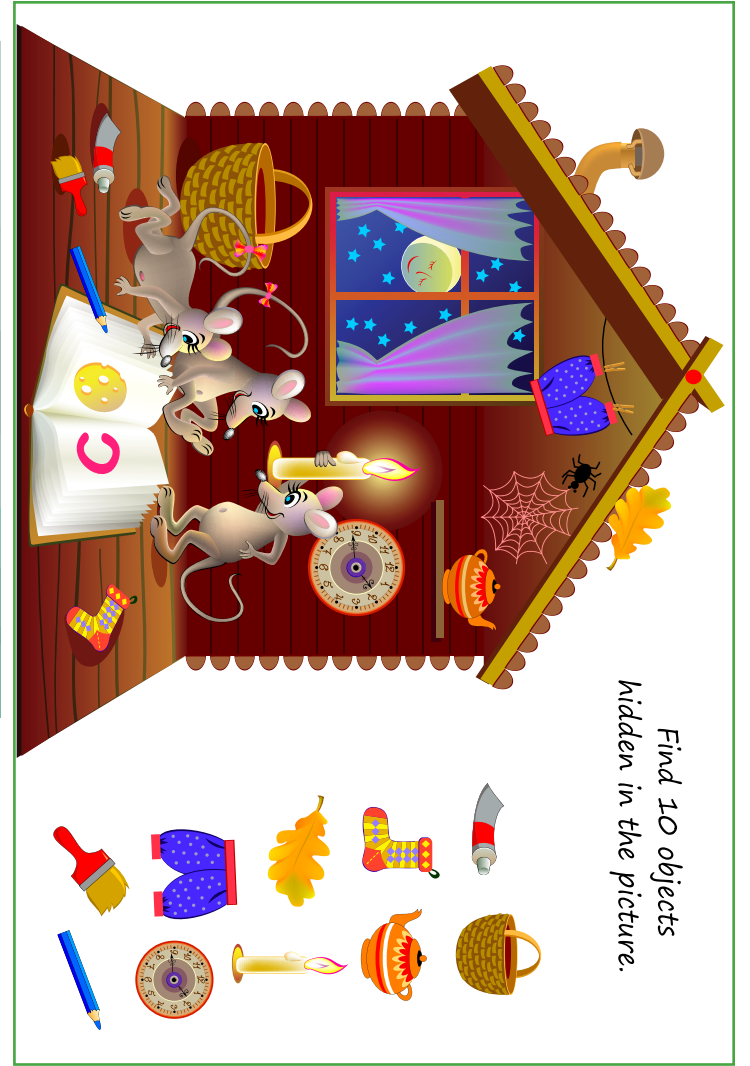
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PUZZLES

Find 17 differences



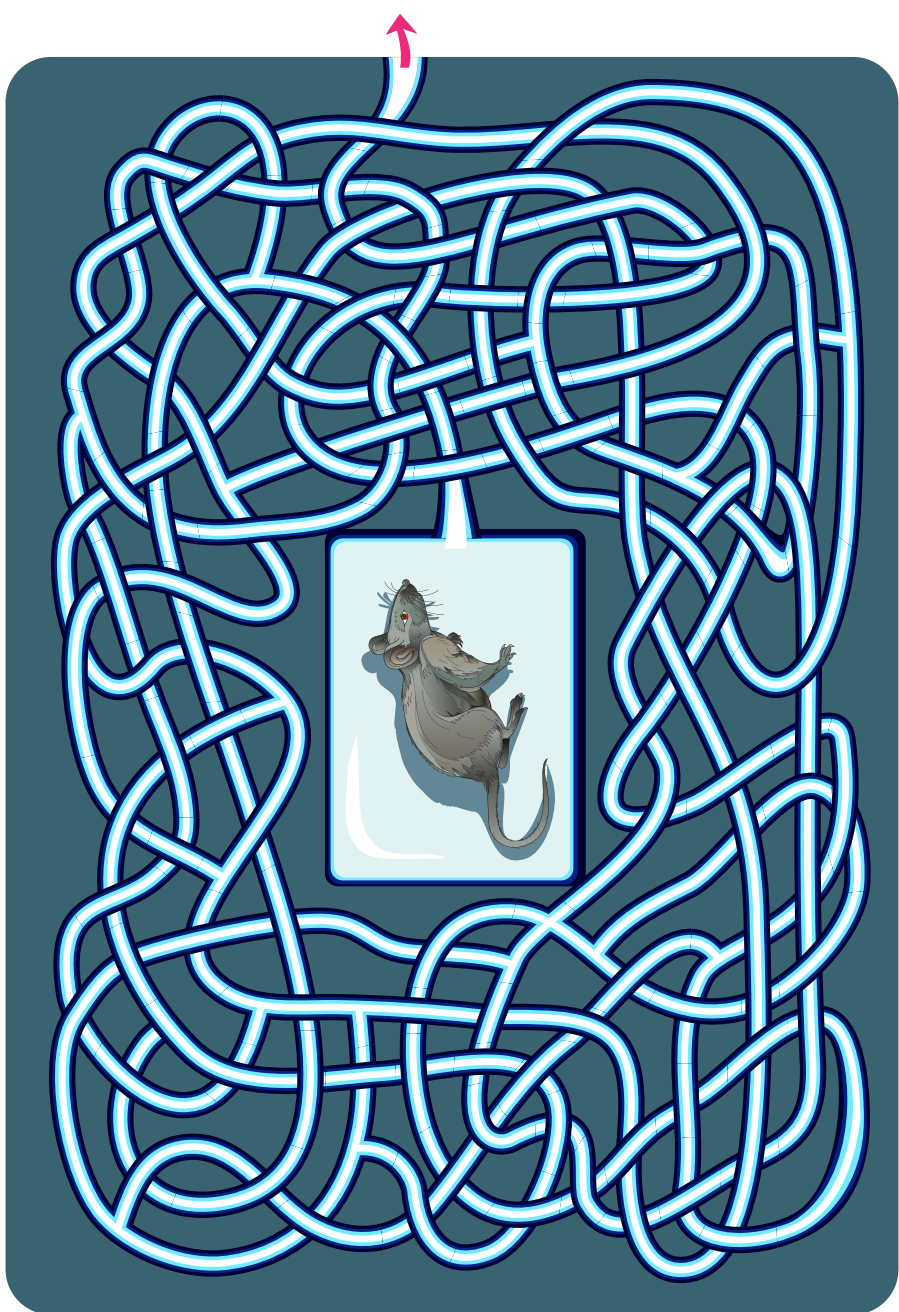
FROG AND RAT.

A frog and a rat were out travelling one day.
 "Kind sir," said the rat, "will you tell me, I pray,
 Why are all the people so civil to you,
 But glare upon me as though death were my due?"

"My friend," said the frog, "now the reason lies here;
 The water is cheap, but the grain it is dear.
 If you lived on water, or mud, or such stuff,
 The people to you would be civil enough."

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | P | O | R | K | H | S | I | F | B |
| R | E | I | N | D | E | E | R | M | U |
| G | N | L | S | E | A | L | N | O | T |
| O | G | H | E | C | A | M | E | L | T |
| O | U | C | O | P | F | D | A | E | E |
| S | I | K | R | R | H | R | O | E | R |
| E | N | T | N | A | S | A | O | G | F |
| M | O | U | S | E | B | E | N | G | L |
| E | E | B | Y | E | K | R | U | T | Y |
| S | H | E | E | P | S | N | A | I | L |

ANT
BEE
BUTTERFLY
CAMEL
CRAB
DOG
ELEPHANT
FISH
FROG
GOOSE
HORSE
MOLE
MOUSE
PENGUIN
PORK
REINDEER
SEAL
SHEEP
SNAIL
TURKEY



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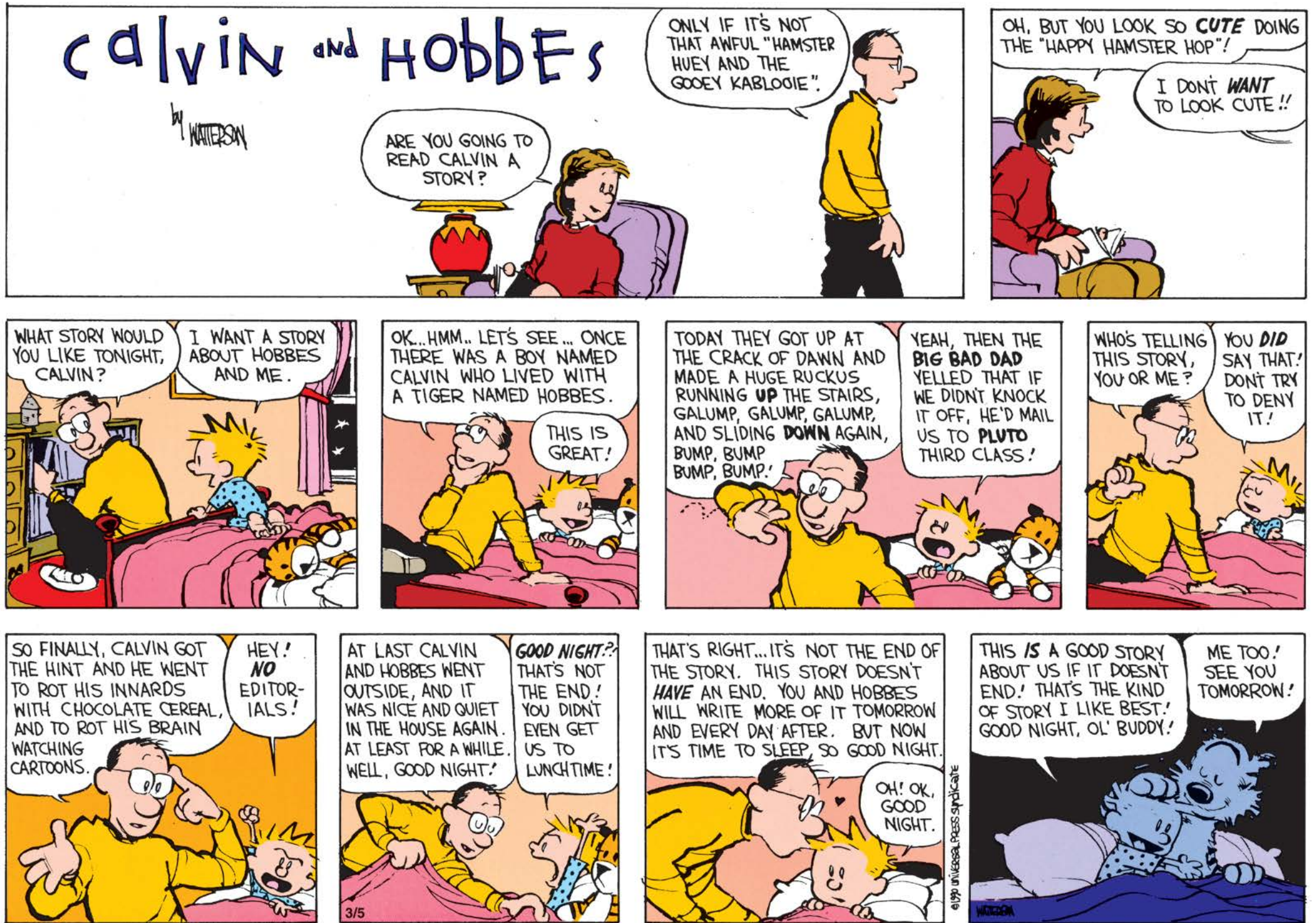
Learning Building Discovering Dreaming

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EDUCATION

From the Sentinel Foundation: the educational page for our readers.



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COLUMN | WILDLY SUCCESSFUL: THE CHIMNEY SWIFT

Aerodynamic Design Gives This Bird High Maneuverability

By JIM KNOX

The peal of their clear twittering calls drifted down to me as I watched the small birds zip and wheel against a deepening summer sky high above town hall. While I couldn't make out their quarry, I could tell they were on the hunt, banking and swooping to snatch their prey in midflight. Never seeming to relent, their swirling hunting flight in the sky above pulsed with energy.

The Chimney swift, *Chaetura pelagica*, is a wonder of the natural world. At first glance inconspicuous, the small ashy gray bird lacks the pomp of the peacocks or the palette of the parrots, but a closer look reveals a creature of engineering beauty. At 4.5 to 6 inches in length, with an 11-12-inch wingspan, the swift is small, and with a body mass of a mere ounce, it is an ultra-light wisp on a wing. Equipped with long, crescent-shaped wings twice the length of its bullet-like body—it slices the air. This unique design confers the aerodynamic edge needed to evade nearly all predators and lock in on its highly maneuverable prey. Built for an unbeatable combination of speed—more than 60 miles per hour in level flight—and the ability to outmaneuver their tiny speedy prey, swifts are seemingly always one step ahead of predator and prey alike. With their unpredictable darting flight paths, these tiny creatures can evade all but certain raptors such as the ultra-swift Mississippi kite, and the 225 mile per hour Peregrine falcon!

Favoring wasps, bees, flies, mosquitos, ants, and airborne spiders floating on silk strands,



The Chimney Swift

While I couldn't make out their quarry, I could tell they were on the hunt, banking and swooping to snatch their prey in midflight.

these insectivores employ a suite of adaptations to successfully target their airborne prey. Visual hunters, swifts possess recessed independently focusing eyes protected by bristle-like feathers, enabling them to fly deep within swarms of insects and select individual prey while still avoiding collisions with other swifts. Similarly, possessing a tiny aerodynamic beak, the bird's mouth is cavernous, extending past its eye. This provides the bird with a huge gape to engulf prey on the wing—up to an astonishing 12,000 insects each day!

Ranging throughout the Eastern United States and Southeastern Canada, and wintering in Northern South America, the Chimney swift likely expanded its population with New World colonization. Originally, cliff, cave, and tree nesters,

Chimney swifts adapted to nesting in chimneys, barns, cupolas, churches, lighthouses, outhouses, sheds, silos, wells, cisterns, boat houses, and other structures. In fact, they are one of the few bird species equally adapted to urban, suburban, and rural habitats. Possessing tiny sharp-clawed feet, swifts are incapable of upright perching and must perch on vertical or near vertical surfaces. Hyper adapted to a life of flight, and perching only to roost or nest, they are the aerial specialists in the world of aerialists. Their refined anatomical design provides swifts with the ability to remain aloft for extended periods. In fact, Chimney swifts are so adapted for airborne life, they drink and bathe on the wing, drinking by skimming their tiny beaks over the surface of ponds, lakes and rivers, and bathing by

splashing water on their breasts to shake over their bodies.

Yet, as superbly adapted as Chimney swifts are, they struggle with the often-accelerated changes to our planet. With populations declining throughout their range since the 1960's, the federally protected Chimney swift has been accorded Near Threatened species status with rapidly declining populations by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The reasons for these declines are not well understood. Preliminary research indicates pesticide usage has led to a decline of many insect prey species, while climate change, habitat alteration, and chimney capping have affected populations significantly. Though not colonial nesters, they often roost in large aggregations of between 100-1,000 birds,

leaving them susceptible to disturbance or alteration of just a single roosting site.

Highly beneficial and possessing seemingly ethereal flight ability, Chimney swifts are marvels of the natural world. Their mosquito munching ways are among our best defenses against the spread of mosquito-borne zoonotic diseases. So, what can we do to protect Mother

Nature's turbo-charged bug zappers? The National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection all have excellent resources for conservation measures we can take on our properties, and in our communities, to protect these amazing creatures.

Seeming to defy the limits of endurance, and the laws of flight, and roaming the vast expanse of the sky, the Chimney swift is unlike other creatures. Observance of these tiny birds redefines what is truly attainable. By pushing beyond what others consider possible, to evading forces that threaten to bring us down, to employing innovation that untethers us from the competition, the Chimney swift offers us a skyward model for performance. While life invariably presents us with challenges both great and arduous, with boundless energy and an unconstrained spirit, nothing is beyond those who are swift of heart

Jim Knox serves as the Curator of Education for Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo and as a Science Adviser for The Bruce Museum. His passions include studying our planet's rarest creatures and sharing his work with others who love the natural world.





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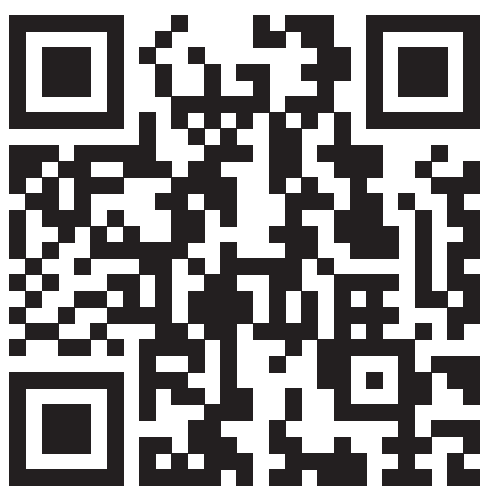
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