

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFING

POLICE AND FIRE

Police Raise \$5K for Special Olympics



The New Canaan Police Department received a plaque from Special Olympics Connecticut for raising over \$5,000 for the 2024 Law Enforcement Torch Run. Funds were raised through community-supported events like Tip-A-Cop, Penguin Plunge, and the Torch Run. The department hopes for continued support in future efforts. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department.

School Resource Officer Appreciation Day



On February 15th, National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day, New Canaan recognized five police officers for their work in public schools. Officers Deak, Bentley, Gibson, Blank, and Vartuli provide security and build connections with students. Their daily efforts support both safety and community relationships. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department.

Essential Tips for CO Safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) safety is essential for every household. CO is a colorless, odorless gas produced by fuel-burning appliances when not properly vented. Simple safety steps, such as installing CO alarms, using generators outdoors, and keeping vents clear, can help prevent exposure. Taking these precautions ensures a safer home environment.

TOWN HALL

Playground Upgrades to Come

After three kindergarten students broke their arms on East Elementary School's playground this year, the district allocated \$250,000 for a rubberized surface and an ADA-compliant structure. The updates align with upcoming state regulations requiring rubber surfaces for playgrounds built after July 1st, 2025. The project is included in the district's proposed budget.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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Judge Upholds Town's Rejection of 51 Main St. Housing Development

By ELIZABETH BARHYDT

The Red Cross building at 51 Main Street has been many things—a rectory, an office, a landmark of Victorian charm tucked into the folds of New Canaan's historic district. Most recently, it has been a battleground. The latest skirmish ended in court, where a Superior Court judge ruled against developer Arnold Karp in his attempt to construct a 20-unit residential complex on the property.

The decision, issued Feb. 18, 2025, is a victory for the Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z), which had denied Karp's proposal in 2022, citing historic preservation, fire safety, and pedestrian hazards among its concerns. The ruling confirms that the town had the legal right to reject the project, even under Connecticut's 8-30g affordable housing statute, which allows developers to override certain zoning restrictions in towns with low affordable housing stock.

Karp's plan, first submitted in 2022, called for relocating the 144-year-old Red Cross building closer to Main Street, gutting its rear section, and attaching a four-story apartment complex behind it. His team argued that six of the 20 proposed units would be designated as affordable housing, making the project untouchable under 8-30g, the state law designed to spur affordable housing development in municipalities like New Canaan, where fewer than 4% of residences qualify as affordable.

The town pushed back. The Church Hill Historic District, they argued, was

New Canaan's only designated historic district, a pocket of 19th-century clapboard houses and church spires that had remained largely unchanged since its creation in 1963. The Red Cross building itself, built in 1881, had been deemed a contributing resource to the district, its Queen Anne Victorian architecture listed on the CT Register of Historic Places.

Preservationists called Karp's proposal a "looming intrusion" that would dwarf the Red Cross building, disrupt the district's streetscape, and violate historic preservation guidelines. In hearings, experts described how the development's massing—a 48-foot-tall structure stretching nearly the entire width of the lot—would obliterate the site's historic character. The New Canaan Historic District Commission weighed in, calling the project "detrimental to the fabric of the historic district."

Fire and traffic concerns compounded the case against the development. The New Canaan Fire Marshal warned that emergency vehicles would struggle to access the site due to narrow setbacks, a single driveway, and the building's height. The town's traffic consultants flagged pedestrian risks at the site's entrance, which sits at the busy intersection of Main Street, Locust Avenue, and Heritage Hill Road.

When the P&Z unanimously rejected the proposal in Dec. 2022, Karp took the case to court, arguing that the town had failed to balance the need for affordable housing against historic concerns.

The Superior Court disagreed. In

a 48-page ruling, the judge found that New Canaan had provided sufficient evidence to support its decision. The ruling emphasized that the impact on the historic district was "immediate, absolute, and irreparable," outweighing the addition of six affordable units. The court also upheld fire safety concerns, noting that the narrow lot coverage and reduced setbacks left little room for emergency access.

However, the judge left one door open. While affirming the town's decision, the ruling remands the case back to the P&Z to determine whether a scaled-down version of the development might be feasible. Specifically, the court asked whether reducing the building's height and density could protect the historic district while still allowing for affordable housing—a question that remains unresolved.

The decision marks a significant legal win for New Canaan in its efforts to control development under 8-30g, particularly as the town defends its four-year moratorium on affordable housing overrides, granted by the state in August 2024. That moratorium temporarily shields the town from 8-30g proposals—though Karp has filed a separate legal challenge questioning whether the town met the state's affordable housing benchmarks.

As for 51 Main Street, the ruling does not necessarily mean the end of development on the site. Karp can still submit a revised proposal.

Understanding New Canaan's Budget Process and What's Next

By ANNE WHITE

New Canaan's annual budget process is in full swing, with officials carefully reviewing expenditures and revenues for the upcoming fiscal year 2025-2026. This process is designed to ensure that the town's financial resources are allocated efficiently while maintaining essential services and long-term investments.

Key Players in the Budget Process

Board of Selectmen (BOS): This three-member board, led by First Selectman Dionna Carlson, is responsible for initiating the budget process. The Selectmen review departmental budgets and make initial recommendations before passing the proposal to the Board of Finance. While they review the Board of Education's (BOE) operating budget, they do not have authority to modify it.

Board of Finance (BOF): Chaired by Todd Lavieri, this board plays a crucial role in analyzing the budget, evaluating revenue projections, and considering potential adjustments. This Board can increase or decrease the budget.

Town Council: As the town's legislative body, the Council has the final say in approving the budget. Members have the authority to accept, reject, or reduce the Board of Finance's recommendations.

Board of Education (BOE): Responsible for setting the school system's budget, the BOE works closely with Superintendent Dr. Bryan Luizzi to determine the funding needed for public schools. Town bodies cannot make line item changes to the BOE budget—they can only increase or decrease total funding to the BOE.

Where the Money Goes

The proposed \$183.1 million budget includes:

\$34.9 million for town operations, funding services such as police, fire, public works, and the library.

\$114.2 million for education, ensuring continued investment in New Canaan's schools.

\$18.1 million for debt service, which covers payments on previously approved infrastructure and capital projects.

\$1.7 million for tax-supported capital projects, which fund improvements to town facilities and infrastructure.

Key Dates to Know

The budget process follows a structured timeline, with multiple opportunities for public review and input:

January 30, 2025: The Board of Selectmen approved the proposed budget, forwarding it to the Board of Finance for consideration. (See page 3)

February 6, 2025: The Board of Finance begins its review of the Selectmen's recommendations. (see page 2)

March 6, 2025: The Board of Finance will vote on its final recommendation before passing the budget to the Town Council.

March 13, 2025: The Town Council begins its deliberations, reviewing adjustments made by the Board of Finance.

April 3, 2025: The Town Council holds its final budget meeting and votes on the official budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025.

How Residents Can Get Involved

Public hearings: The Board of Finance and Town Council each hold meetings where residents can voice their

opinions on budget priorities. Board of Finance public hearing is March 4 at 7pm and the Town Council public hearing is April 1 at 7pm. Both will be held at Town Hall.

Reviewing budget documents: All financial reports, proposals, and meeting agendas are posted on the town's website (see also John Engel's column on page 11 for more information).

Contacting officials: Residents can share their perspectives with members of the Board of Finance and Town Council before key votes.

A Balanced Approach to Fiscal Planning

First Selectman Carlson emphasized that while the budget includes a 4.67% increase over last year, officials are actively looking for ways to refine spending. (see her column at right)

One of the factors influencing this year's financial planning is the town's Grand List, which reflects the total assessed value of taxable property in New Canaan. The 2024 Grand List increased by 0.38%, a modest gain that impacts revenue projections and tax calculations.

Education remains the largest portion of the budget, with the Board of Education's proposal (see page 2) reflecting a 4.6% increase over the previous year. The district's funding priorities include maintaining high-quality instruction, ensuring competitive salaries for educators, and making strategic investments in school facilities.

Looking Ahead

As the town moves closer to finalizing the budget in April, residents can take advantage of public meetings and online resources to stay informed.

COLUMN

Conversations with the Community



By DIONNA CARLSON

When I ran for First Selectman, I promised to keep residents informed and engaged in decision-making. New Canaan is strong because of its people—those who serve, volunteer, advocate, and participate. I want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be part of the conversation. That's why I've made communication a priority—through newsletters and community engagement.

Budgets

Budgets may not be the most exciting topic, but they are the foundation of how our town runs. The Board of Selectmen approved a 4.67% increase to the General Fund Budget for the upcoming fiscal year. This figure does not reflect anticipated revenues, which we will have better visibility into later in the budget process.

The Board of Selectmen also does not have oversight of the Board of Education's operating budget—only the Board of Finance and Town Council have the authority to revise it. The town's budget is now under review by the Board of Finance and will soon be considered by the Town Council.

Managing our town's financial future requires balancing priorities. While we continue investing in essential services like road maintenance and public safety, we must also be mindful of debt levels to maintain our AAA credit rating. With \$23.3 million in proposed bonded projects for fiscal 2026, we must ensure that every dollar is spent wisely.

The Future of Irwin House

One project that has sparked discussion is the future of Irwin House. The estimated cost to repair the exterior of the building exceeds \$1.3 million, yet even that would not bring it up to modern accessibility standards or renovate its interior.

At the Board of Finance meeting, Public Works Director Tiger Mann provided further insight: demolishing the building would cost at least \$172,000, plus additional environmental remediation costs—still being assessed—will increase that figure.

Before any decision is made, there will be continued public discussion through the budget process. I want to hear from residents, what do you believe is the best path forward for Irwin House?

Investing in Roads and Infrastructure

Road maintenance remains a top priority. Some have suggested shifting away from bonding for road work and covering costs annually through tax revenue. While understandable, bonding helps distribute the financial burden over the life of the asset.

As Tiger Mann explained, road maintenance is ongoing—there is no point at which the work is "finished." The cost of paving has tripled since 2003, yet New Canaan has managed to keep expenses down while maintaining high-quality roads. We must continue this balanced approach to avoid unnecessary financial strain on residents.

Local Control

If you've ever been frustrated by state policies that don't seem to fit New Canaan, you're not alone. Hartford continues to push legislation that undermines local decision-making, and we must remain vigilant.

One example is the proposed Work, Live, Ride bill, which ties state grant eligibility to zoning policies that may not align with our town's needs. This one-size-fits-all approach disregards local planning efforts. I submitted testimony opposing this bill and will continue working with our state legislators to ensure New Canaan's voice is heard.

Another concern is the proposed sale of Aquarion to the Regional Water Authority (RWA). While the transaction may seem beneficial on paper, it could lead to higher water rates, decreased tax revenue, and reduced local oversight. If you share these concerns, I encourage you to reach out to PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority) at pura.information@ct.gov or call 1-800-382-4586 once a docket number is assigned. You can also sign up for docket alerts at PURA's website.

Staying Engaged

There are many ways to stay engaged:

- Visit the town website NewCanaan.info for budget details, meeting schedules, and updates.
- Attend public meetings—your input matters. The Board of Finance public hearing is on March 4th, with a final vote on March 6th before the budget moves to the Town Council.
- Subscribe to and read my newsletter for regular updates on town issues.

We have challenges ahead, but with careful planning, community input, and a commitment to responsible governance, I am confident that we will keep New Canaan thriving.

Dionna Carlson is the New Canaan First Selectman. Her leadership is guided by a respect for local decision-making and a commitment to keeping residents informed and engaged. Read more from Dionna each month by subscribing to her email newsletter, *News From Town Hall*. To sign up to receive the newsletter visit newcanaan.info and click on the red bar at top, *Sign Up For Alerts*. To read the February issue of the newsletter visit newcanaan.info and click on the yellow bar at top, *News From Town Hall*.

COLUMN

Cell Phones Can't Charge Each Other

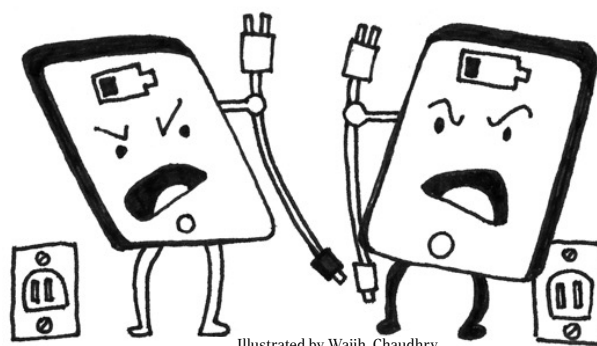
By JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

There is a romantic notion that a spouse can be "my everything." This idea is false. Our spouse cannot be our 24/7 charging station. Nor can we plug into ourselves. Couples need a wide circle of friends and advisors, as well as a transcendent source of strength, to provide meaning to life.

Contemplative practices and faith can remind us that we are part of a larger, loving community. These practices encourage us and challenge us to become our best selves.

Love cannot be solely self-generated or demanded from our partner when our own battery is low. It takes time and community to cultivate.

By developing a broad network of supportive relationships and a source of meaning beyond ourselves, we can override our human tendency to default to fear—including fear that our partner is somehow at fault for not meeting our every need.



Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry

Aaron and Whitney have a wide circle of trustworthy friends and share a meditation practice as part of their faith. They believe in a source of love bigger than themselves. When Aaron lost his job and Whitney developed a serious illness during the same year, they had a "charging station" large enough to power them up.

Excerpted from Jill Woolworth's book, *The Waterwheel*.



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The Numbers Game: Inside Board of Finance Meetings

FEBRUARY 6 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

New Canaan's Board of Finance meeting on February 6 played out as a study in fiscal discipline, operational constraints, and the ever-present challenge of delivering services while keeping taxpayers at ease. The budget review for fiscal year 2026 focused on three primary objectives set by Chairman Todd Lavieri: lowering the tax burden, reducing bonded capital expenses, and controlling taxpayer-supported capital outlays.

Lavieri set the tone early: "The budget that has been sent to us has an increase of 6.9%. This needs to come down." His target—cutting 200 basis points, roughly \$3 million—hung over the discussion as department heads walked through their budgets, justifying expenditures while nodding to a prevailing atmosphere of cost-cutting.

The town's total general fund expenditures are projected at \$183.1 million, a 4.67% increase over the prior year. Town operations will rise by 3.76%, while the **Board of Education's budget** is set to climb by 4.57%. Capital expenses, always a flashpoint, have surged: tax-funded capital expenditures will leap 351.47%, from \$384,000 to \$1.73 million. That figure drew scrutiny. "We need to reduce this," Lavieri said, warning that maintaining a sustainable capital funding trajectory requires years of restraint.

The budget review began with Health and Human Services. **Health Department Director Jenn Eielson delivered a rare piece of good news: her department's budget request reflected a 0.04% decrease.** "Revenues are up, expenses are down. We like that," said Board member Bob Hamill. The town's OpenGov system, implemented in 2023, has streamlined operations, allowing for greater efficiency and cost savings. Eielson noted that online payment processing has eliminated the need for additional clerical support, and the department has been able to reallocate resources accordingly.

Human Services Director Marcy Rand painted a different picture. Demand for services is climbing sharply, with more residents requiring food pantry assistance, rental aid, and energy assistance. The number of senior clients alone jumped from 110 last year to 231 this year. **Yet, her department's budget request is down 8.48%.** "We just got creative," Rand said, citing grant reallocations and partnerships that have helped offset costs.

The library budget review unfolded as a case study in unintended consequences. Last year, the Town Council cut the library's requested increase by more than half, forcing the institution to pull from restricted reserves to maintain its programming. This year's proposed budget includes a one-time "reset," an 8% increase meant to recover lost ground and support the library's expanding footprint.

New Canaan Library CEO Ellen Crovatto outlined the pressures. Daily foot traffic has surged from 1,200 pre-pandemic visitors to nearly 1,800 today. Meeting room turnover occurs at an unprecedented rate, with spaces flipping as often as seven times a day. The library now ranks as the

"We need to be sure every dollar is justified," Chairman Todd Lavieri said. "We support the schools, we support the programs, but we also support the taxpayers."

highest-trafficked library per capita in Connecticut.

With those demands, Crovatto and Library Director Cheryl Capitani made the case for a full-time custodian and a part-time AV specialist to handle the increasing wear and tear on the building and technology infrastructure. They also proposed modest increases in programming and digital collections, which have struggled to keep up with demand.

Digital materials pose a unique challenge. Libraries must pay five to six times the retail price for e-books, and licenses expire after two years. The proposed budget includes an \$18,000 increase for digital content, an investment that would cut waitlists by half.

Board of Finance members acknowledged the need but pressed on sustainability. "If we approve this increase, can you commit that this is a one-time reset?" asked Board member Michael Chen. Capitani assured the board that the library's future requests would remain within town budgetary guidance.

Endowment questions also surfaced. The library's reserves have been depleted, in part due to the stabilization and relocation of the 1913 Legacy Building—an unfunded mandate from the town. What to do with that structure remains an open question. "Renovation estimates are in the seven-figure range," Crovatto said, adding that an advisory committee is being formed to evaluate its future use.

Throughout the meeting, a paradox emerged: residents want more services, but the town's fiscal philosophy prioritizes restraint. The town's debt service remains flat at \$18.1 million, and its unassigned general fund balance sits at \$20 million—healthy figures that reflect past fiscal conservatism. The challenge, as Lavieri framed it, is maintaining that discipline while delivering what residents expect.

"Everything costs more," Lavieri said. "We need to find efficiencies, and we will."

FEBRUARY 11 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Education's budget presentation to the Board of Finance unfolded with a familiar mix of precision and pressure. The numbers were laid out, the trends were examined, and, as always, the central tension emerged: how to meet the needs of New Canaan's schools while keeping spending in check.

Superintendent Dr. Bryan Luizzi and Board of Education Chair Katrina Parkhill delivered the request—\$114.3 million for the fiscal year, a 4.67% increase over last year. That figure, and the forces driving it, dominated the discussion.

aging equipment; road maintenance funding; infrastructure improvements at the Transfer Station and other municipal facilities.

Mann explained that \$1.165 million was being requested, up from the previous allocation of \$565,000, due primarily to the need for a combination vacuum jet truck (\$640,000) and a cold storage building (\$690,000) that had been deferred for over a decade.

Committee members questioned the cost of the vacuum truck and whether the town could consider renting or sharing with neighboring towns.

Mann responded, "Wilton has one, Darien has one, and Ridgefield is waiting on delivery of the same unit. We had one until two years ago, and we should have replaced it at the time. We can't meet our permit obligations with our current equipment."

When asked about renting, Mann explained, "The daily rental rate is \$3,600, and the state's Department of Administrative Services got zero bids in our district when trying to secure one. So, rental is both cost-prohibitive and unreliable."

After further discussion, the board agreed to keep the request in the budget for final review in June.

John Howe, Director of Parks & Recreation, and Ryan Restivo, Superintendent of Parks, presented their department's capital budget requests.

The town committee reviewed several infrastructure funding requests, focusing on safety and accessibility projects while deferring discussions on long-term capital improvements.

A request for \$125,000 to replace a 10-foot out-front rotary mower and \$35,000 to replace the safety railing at the Transfer Station's commercial area were among the proposed expenditures. The committee also considered funding for ADA-compliant improvements at Waveny Park, including restroom renovations and accessibility upgrades.

Public Works Director Howe emphasized the importance of the ADA compliance projects, explaining that the bathroom upgrades at the Nature Center and Powerhouse Theater were critical to ensuring accessibility. "This isn't just about compliance; it's about providing equitable access," he said.

The most extensive discussion of the evening focused on the Powerhouse Theater renovations. Representatives from the theater outlined requests for additional funding to complete Phase One of the project and detailed considerations for Phase Two, which involves replacing the annex.

The Powerhouse Theater representative reported that \$850,000 had been raised toward the \$1.65 million Phase One goal. An additional \$265,000 is needed to close the funding gap and secure a firm bid by July 1. Committee members pressed for clarification on the financial breakdown and prior contributions from the town.

The representative explained that Phase One includes lobby renovations, new ADA-compliant restrooms, and an office in the potting shed. Of the total \$1.65 million budget, \$725,000 is currently in the bank, and \$100,000 has already been spent on architectural and engineering fees. The \$265,000 request would allow the project to proceed.

Phase Two, which involves replacing the annex, is estimated at \$1 million. A state grant of \$500,000 has been secured, but an additional \$400,000 in private fundraising is needed to complete the project. Some committee members expressed frustration with shifting cost estimates, questioning whether the total project cost was \$2.6 million, \$2.8 million, or \$3 million. The representative clarified that additional expenses for exterior bathrooms and renovations to the potting shed increased the overall total.

The discussion then turned to the challenges posed by ADA compliance. The exterior bathrooms are physically connected to the annex, but the annex floor is currently four inches too high to meet accessibility standards. Mann, speaking on behalf of the project, explained that building the bathrooms now would require modifications to the annex floor. If the annex is later replaced, those modifications would have to be redone, increasing costs.

A committee member asked whether it would make more sense to prioritize funding for the annex before addressing the bathrooms. Mann responded that this would be counterintuitive, as accessibility was the primary driver of the project. The interior bathrooms were prioritized first, and lobby renovations needed to be completed before further work could begin.

Committee members acknowledged that securing full funding for the annex replacement remained a challenge but agreed on the need to complete Phase One. One member noted that approving the \$265,000 request would allow the first phase to move forward while discussions on Phase Two continued. The annex replacement was not included in the current budget, and the committee was not prepared to allocate additional funding at this time.

The Powerhouse Theater representative reiterated that private fundraising efforts for Phase Two were ongoing. The project had initially sought \$500,000 from the state but received only \$100,000, placing additional pressure on private donors to bridge the funding gap.

Committee members agreed on several key takeaways. The \$265,000 request for Phase One was considered critical and likely to be approved. Funding for the annex remained uncertain and would require additional private donations. The town would need to assess the financial impact of modifying the annex floor twice if Phase Two was delayed.

The committee chair concluded the discussion by acknowledging the complexity of the funding breakdown and reaffirming support for the Powerhouse Theater project. "This discussion helps clarify the numbers and priorities. We all support the Powerhouse Theater project, but we have to be mindful of what we can commit to tonight. The \$265,000 request is reasonable and allows the first phase to be completed while fundraising for the annex continues."

The committee advanced the \$265,000 request for final review in June.

The budget review process will continue through March, with final adjustments before the Board of Finance votes on a proposal to send to the Town Council.



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At the core of the budget increase: salaries. Total compensation is projected to rise by \$3.31 million, accounting for 3.03% of the total 4.67% increase. Certified teachers—including administrators—make up the bulk, with a \$2.77 million increase. Teacher salaries alone are up by \$2.675 million, driven by general wage increases, step adjustments, and two new positions: an interventionist and a classroom coach.

Despite this, the district's headcount remains flat. "We know the board loves the page in the book that explains exactly why the budget changed," Luizzi said.

Turnover savings from retirements—a key offsetting factor—are projected at \$245,000, significantly lower than last year's \$450,000. The average salary difference between a retiring veteran teacher and a new hire is about \$32,000 to \$36,000.

Benefits, the second-largest driver, make up 83% of the total increase. Healthcare claims are up 4.5%, stop-loss insurance has jumped 15%, and payroll taxes linked to salary hikes will add another \$94,000.

Contracted services will rise by \$159,000, mostly due to increased outsourcing in areas like reproduction services and consulting. Property services are set to increase by \$252,000, including \$148,000 in energy costs, \$26,000 in building repairs, and \$56,000 for software support and licensing.

Transportation costs—always a significant line item—are climbing by \$150,000. When pressed on the cause, officials pointed to fuel expenses and adjustments in reimbursement for non-route miles.

The Board of Finance signaled early that the budget, as presented, was too high. "We had sort of guided toward something with a three in front of it," one member said. "We're at 4.67%. Can we find a way to get 500 to 700 [million] off this number?"

Luizzi and his team agreed to continue monitoring variable expenses, including retirements and insurance costs, but made no immediate commitments. "We'll keep a close eye on anything that might shift," Luizzi said.

The conversation turned to federal funding, particularly the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant, which helps cover special education costs. "The grant covers about 7% of costs nationwide," Luizzi explained. "When IDEA was passed, there was a 40% federal funding commitment. That's never happened."

With rising outplacement tuition costs and a constrained reimbursement model, special education remains a financial wildcard. "Providers set their own rates, but we're constrained by regulations," one official noted, suggesting legislative intervention might be needed at the state level.

The capital budget presentation began with a shift in strategy. This year, the district moved some maintenance expenses—like painting—into a single district-wide fund instead of allocating them to individual schools. The goal: flexibility. The reaction: skepticism.

"We're going to be really, really tough on capital this year," the Board of Finance warned. "We need to know exactly where the money is going."

Some projects were specific, like masonry repair at Saxe Middle School and rubberized playground surfacing at East School. Others, like HVAC piping replacements, drew pushback. "You're asking for \$1.1 million, but where is this problem occurring?" one board member asked.

The district's technology investments will transition from a third-party lease model to bonded capital funding, with an \$800,000 annual allocation. A new strategy for procuring equipment could allow New Canaan to qualify for up to 40% federal rebates.

Fleet management continued as usual, with three vehicle replacements planned, maintaining an eight-year rotation cycle. One experiment—trying to repurpose an old fleet vehicle for maintenance use—had failed, leading to an additional request for a dedicated maintenance vehicle.

The single largest capital request: a \$1.3 million public address (PA) system upgrade at the high school. But this wasn't just any PA system.

New Canaan would be the first school in the state to install the **Audio Enhancement System**, a multi-use classroom sound system that amplifies teachers' voices through ceiling-mounted speakers, integrates with emergency response protocols, and replaces traditional PA speakers. "Every student benefits," Luizzi argued, pointing to schools in Illinois and elsewhere that had adopted the model.

"Functionally, it's a game-changer," he added. "And there's no ongoing service contract."

Then came the scoreboard debate. Dunning Stadium's LED scoreboard is 14 years old, no longer supported by the manufacturer, and one breakdown away from being unusable. The district asked for \$200,000 to replace it.

Board members weren't convinced. "If it's urgent, why is it in next year's budget instead of a special appropriation?" one asked. "And has the New Canaan Athletic Foundation been approached for funding?"

School officials agreed to explore alternative funding options before the next budget meeting.

As the meeting wrapped, the Board of Finance reinforced its stance: capital spending needed to be tighter, and operating costs should be scrutinized for potential savings.

"We need to be sure every dollar is justified," Chairman Todd Lavieri said. "We support the schools, we support the programs, but we also support the taxpayers."

FEBRUARY 13 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS


The New Canaan Board of Finance continued its budget deliberations, focusing on funding requests for infrastructure, parks, and public facilities.

Director of Public Works Tiger Mann presented the capital requests for DPW, outlining major priorities, including replacing

BOARD OF SELECTMEN FY25-26 BUDGET SUMMARY

	FY 24-25	FY 25-26		
	ADOPTED	BOS RECOMMENDED	YoY Δ\$	YoY Δ%
Town				
Town Department Operations	33,832,188	34,944,215	1,112,027	3.29%
Town Pension Contribution	405,250	612,465	207,215	51.13%
Town Health Internal Service Fund Transfer	5,842,317	6,134,433	292,116	5.00%
Town Unemployment/Workcomp/Wellness	966,725	907,902	(58,823)	-6.08%
Town Insurance Liability	688,886	705,522	16,636	2.41%
Total Town	41,735,366	43,304,537	1,569,171	3.76%
BOE Operating Budget				
BOE Operations	91,402,053	95,695,365	4,293,312	4.70%
BOE Health Internal Service Fund Transfer	17,743,435	18,551,906	808,471	4.56%
	109,145,488	114,247,271	5,101,783	4.67%
BOE Expenses Paid By Town				
BOE Pension	100,730	168,427	67,697	67.21%
BOE 401A	187,000	208,060	21,060	11.26%
	287,730	376,487	88,757	30.85%
Total BOE Support	109,433,218	114,623,758	5,190,540	4.74%
Tax Funded Capital				
Town Tax Supported Capital	184,325	1,108,100	923,775	501.17%
BOE Tax Supported Capital	200,000	627,000	427,000	213.50%
	384,325	1,735,100	1,350,775	351.47%
Debt Service				
Town Debt Service	10,439,122	10,439,122	-	0.00%
BOE Debt Service	7,680,153	7,680,153	-	0.00%
BOE IT Leases	795,000	646,401	(148,599)	-18.69%
	18,914,275	18,765,676	(148,599)	-0.79%
Non Wage Contingency	350,000	350,000	-	0.00%
Operating Transfers & Outside Agencies				
Town Library Operation Contribution	2,791,235	3,013,500	222,265	7.96%
Town Library Healthcare Contribution	472,500	496,125	23,625	5.00%
Outside Agencies	852,000	821,000	(31,000)	-3.64%
Total General Fund Budget	174,932,919	183,109,696	8,176,777	4.67%


Your eyes mean everything to us.



Regular eye exams are essential for detecting early signs of age-related conditions such as glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy.




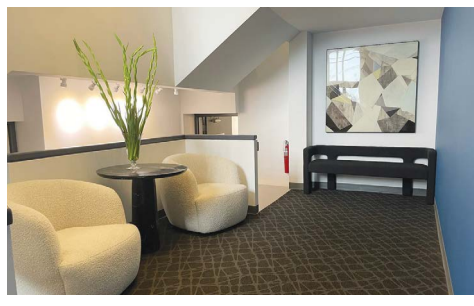

For children, eye health and vision quality play an essential role in physical, cognitive, and social development.

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Located in the heart of downtown New Canaan, this pristine 2,210 square foot commercial space offers a prime location directly across the street from the New Canaan Metro-North train station and just 300 feet from the retail center. The space is bright, street-facing, and features six exterior offices with stunning floor-to-ceiling windows, two interior offices, an open workspace, and a kitchenette area. Previously used by a hedge fund and financial management firm, this turnkey office space is ready for immediate occupancy and offers the perfect setting for your business. Just a short walk to the village center, this is an ideal location for those seeking a prestigious, accessible downtown address.

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for showtimes and tickets

Westport Artist Brings Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine, Shares Experience with Rotary Club

Westport-based artist Mark Yurkiw spoke at last week's Rotary Club meeting about his ongoing humanitarian efforts to deliver lifesaving medical and essential supplies to Ukraine since the war began in 2022.

Born in New York City to Ukrainian-born parents who came to the U.S. at the end of World War II, Yurkiw grew up speaking Ukrainian and maintains strong ties to his ancestral homeland. With the outbreak of war, he launched "Bringing Compassion to the World," an initiative dedicated to shipping medical and other critical supplies to Ukraine. His organization fills 40-foot containers, each costing approximately \$8,000 to ship.

During his presentation,

Yurkiw shared a slide and video presentation documenting his recent travels to Ukraine. His journey to the war-torn country was arduous—after a 27-hour trip by air and rail, he arrived in Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, before traveling another six hours over rough terrain to reach areas near the front lines.

Despite nearly two years of conflict, Yurkiw described how many Ukrainians remain shocked by the ongoing war and continue to adapt to its demands. Civilians and soldiers balance daily life with wartime responsibilities. Some serve as soldiers, others produce supplies like camouflage netting, cook meals for troops, or assemble drones from their homes to support the military effort.

He met families who had lost their homes and loved ones, highlighting the human toll of the war. In Kyiv, a massive public plaza has been transformed into a memorial for those lost in the conflict. Yet, amid the devastation, daily life continues. His presentation included images of historic churches, Kyiv's main university, and the picturesque streets of Lviv in western Ukraine, showing both the resilience and cultural richness of the country.

Yurkiw's work is supported by Ridgefield Responds, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit humanitarian organization. Those interested in supporting his efforts through donations of medical supplies or financial contributions can visit ridgefieldresponds.org.

USA Junior Golf Federation Launches to Support Young Golfers

A new nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting junior golfers has launched in Ridgefield, Connecticut. The USA Junior Golf Federation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, aims to provide aspiring young athletes with financial assistance, coaching, and training resources to help them compete at the collegiate level and beyond.

Founded by Roger Knick, the Federation is built on his 30 years of experience developing junior golfers through The Golf Performance Academy, which operates in Ridgefield, Connecticut, and Port St. Lucie, Florida. The Academy has become a training ground for young athletes looking to refine their skills while balancing academic and athletic

development.

Knick emphasized the importance of developing young players both on and off the course. "We understand that true human development occurs before, during, and after rigorous academic tests and golf tournaments," he said. "Our mission is to prepare aspiring junior golfers for the collegiate level by providing educational and athletic opportunities while fostering the values of hard work, integrity, honesty, discipline, and resilience."

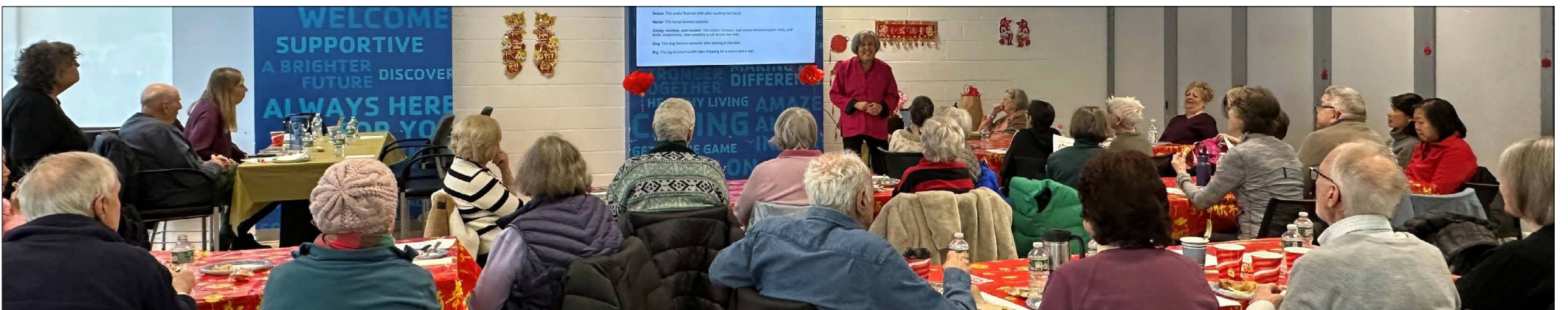
The Academy's program focuses on training athletes to meet the physical and mental demands of competitive golf while maintaining a strong academic foundation. Knick and his team work with student-

athletes to develop their skills, instill a growth mindset, and ensure they have access to high-level coaching and mentorship.

The USA Junior Golf Federation will support The Golf Performance Academy in its mission to ensure that talented junior golfers have the resources they need to pursue their goals. The organization will provide financial aid, training programs, and opportunities for young players to compete at higher levels.

For more information about the USA Junior Golf Federation or The Golf Performance Academy, including upcoming events and ways to support junior golfers, visit usajuniorgolfederation.org.

New Canaan YMCA Celebrates Chinese Lunar New Year at ForeverWell Event



The New Canaan YMCA celebrated the Chinese Lunar New Year on Wednesday, February 12 as part of its ForeverWell lunch and learn series for senior members. More than 30 attendees participated in the event, which featured a presentation by Y member Pauline Brody (pictured above) on the history, traditions, and significance of the Chinese zodiac calendar. She shared personal reflections on how her family has celebrated the holiday over the years.

Participants enjoyed traditional Chinese New Year cuisine, including dumplings, lo mein, spring rolls, and fortune cookies, while learning about the festival's customs. The Lunar New Year marks the transition from winter to spring and is observed from the first new moon of the year through the end of the lunar cycle. This year's celebration spanned from January 29 to February 12.

The ForeverWell program supports the health,

fitness, and social well-being of the Y's senior members. It offers drop-in sports, volunteering opportunities, individual and group fitness programs, and monthly lunch and learn enrichment events where seniors can engage with speakers, share experiences, and connect with old and new friends.

Throughout the year, local organizations and businesses collaborate with the Y's ForeverWell program to provide educational and cultural

experiences. Recent partners have included Bristow Bird Sanctuary, Carriage Barn Arts Center, Stamford Health, Staying Put in New Canaan, the New Canaan Historical Society, and the New Canaan Police Department.

The YMCA encourages senior members to stay active, engaged, and connected through its diverse offerings. To learn more about the ForeverWell program, visit www.newcanaanymca.org.

LEGAL AD

February 20, 2025

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Selectmen for the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut, will receive sealed bids for "Sidewalks, 2025 - Elm Street - Bumpouts (South Side)", New Canaan, Connecticut, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at the Department of Public Works Office, 77 Main Street, Town Hall, 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, 77 Main Street, Town Hall, New Canaan, CT, 06840. Copies of the contract documents for the work may be obtained in person during business hours from 7:30 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the following location: Department of Public Works Office, 77 Main Street, Town Hall, New Canaan, CT, 06840.

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.

All work must be completed by May 23, 2025.

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 AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 this hearing is scheduled as a hybrid meeting to be held in the Board Room at Town Hall, 77 Main Street. Access to this Public Hearing will be in person and via an on-line system at 7:00 p.m. to hear and decide the application(s) as follows:

1. Discussion and consideration of the request of VIM, Inc. C/O Frank Vuoso, owner(s), to amend the Zoning Regulations dated June 16, 2007, amended December 6, 2024 to amend Section(s) 4.4 Business A Zone to permit pet grooming facilities via special permit, under certain circumstances. Complete copy of the proposed amendment on file in the office of the Town Clerk and also the Planning and Zoning Department as well as on-line: https://www.newcanaan.info/departments/land_use/planning___zoning/p_z_commission_applications_2025.php#outer-11471.
2. Discussion and consideration of the request of David Rucci, Lampert, Toohey & Rucci, LLC, Authorized Agent for 14 Richmond Hill, LLC, owner(s), to amend the Zoning Regulation dated June 16, 2007, amended December 6, 2024 to amend Section(s) 5.4.C to allow the Planning and Zoning Commission to reduce certain requirements for legally non-conforming lots in order to facilitate the redevelopment of these lots and housing in the Apartment Zone. Complete copy of the proposed amendment on file in the office of the Town Clerk and also the Planning & Zoning Department as well as on-line: https://www.newcanaan.info/departments/land_use/planning___zoning/p_z_commission_applications_2025.php#outer-11473.

Dated: February 13, 2024
New Canaan, Connecticut
Daniel Radman, Chairman

LEGAL AD

NOTICE OF REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

The New Canaan Republican Town Committee will be holding a

Special Caucus of Registered New Canaan Republicans

on Friday, March 7th, 2025

Doors open at 7:00 P.M. and close at 8:00 P.M.

The Meeting Room, New Canaan Town Hall

The purpose of the caucus is to approve the Amendments to the

NC Republican Town Committee's Rules

View documents at www.NewCanaanRepublicans.org

**NEW CANAAN REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE
JONATHAN CHENG, CHAIRMAN**

LEGAL AD

STATE OF CONNECTICUT TOWN OF NEW CANAAN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS of the Town of New Canaan will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 3, 2025 this hearing is scheduled to be a hybrid meeting and will be both in person in the Board Room at Town Hall, 77 Main Street and virtually via zoom at 7:00 p.m.

1. 50 White Oak Shade - Zoning Variance - Upon application of Conor McMullan, Authorized Agent for Natalie A. Avellone, owner(s), for a Variance of Section(s) 3.5.D and 3.5.E to allow additions in excess of the permitted building coverage and within the side yard setback in the One Acre Zone at 50 White Oak Shade Road (Map 37, Block 88, Lot 89).

Luke T. Tashjian, Chairman
Dated: February 20, 2025

Budget Chats

There is something uniquely American about the way a town governs itself. A local budget is not numbers on a page; it is a statement of priorities, a reflection of community values. It is an agreement—between those who lead and those who are led, between those who serve and those who benefit from that service. It is the practical work of democracy, and it happens here, in town halls and public meetings, among neighbors.

We saw this firsthand last week at The *New Canaan Sentinel* Coffee. The budget was the main topic of discussion—how it works, who is involved, when the decisions are made. This is why we decided to really focus on the budget in this week's paper. Because knowing after the fact is not the same as being engaged while decisions are still being made.

The budget process in New Canaan is thorough, detailed, and shaped by people who understand that good governance requires time, effort, and discipline. Some who labor over it are volunteers, giving their nights to long meetings, their weekends to spreadsheets, their inboxes to questions and concerns. Others—our Board of Selectmen, our department heads, our Superintendent of Schools—do this work as their profession. They work hard to balance want with restraint, to ensure the town's present stability and its future success.

But whether volunteer or professional, what unites them is an understanding that this work matters. That it is not about the next fiscal year, but the one after that, and the one after that.

The budget process is designed to be deliberative, to take months, to allow for input and analysis. It moves from the Board of Selectmen to the Board of Finance to the Town Council, each layer adding scrutiny, each step ensuring that the final product is as responsible as it can be.

Come for the coffee, stay for the conversation—Friday mornings with The New Canaan Sentinel.

And yet, a curious thing happens. The process is open—the meetings are posted, the documents are available, the hearings are scheduled. But often, public engagement comes too late.

A decision is made, a number is finalized, and only then does the outcry begin. People say they were blindsided, that they didn't know, that they weren't consulted. But they were. The meetings were held, the emails went out, the opportunities existed.

It is not enough to pay attention once the decision is made. A town governs itself best when its people engage early, when they speak up while there is still time to shape an outcome. A concern raised in February can be addressed thoughtfully. A complaint made in April, when the final vote is days away, can only become an argument, a grievance, a missed opportunity.

John Adams wrote that "liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people." A government of the people does require something of the people: their attention.

New Canaan is full of smart, capable, engaged residents; generous with their time, their expertise, their energy. We coach teams, we serve on nonprofit boards, we show up for each other. This is the beauty of our small town—it is personal. And yet, when it comes to the budget, too many wait until after the fact to ask questions, to voice concerns, to care.

The men and women shaping the budget—whether elected, appointed, or hired—are making decisions that affect your taxes, your schools, your roads, your safety. They are deciding what is funded and what is not. They are choosing, on your behalf, what New Canaan will prioritize in the coming year. And they are doing it in the open.

If you have thoughts, now is the time.

And if you are looking for a good place to start, come to The *New Canaan Sentinel* Coffee at 8:30am on Friday mornings at the Lapham Center.

Editorial Page



"Great plan. Could we get some more details?"

COLUMN

Infectious Disease Outbreaks Spark Renewed Concerns—But Not About COVID



BY RUSSELL R. BARKSDALE, JR.

Once the wealthiest state in the current surge in infectious diseases is reigniting critical discussions surrounding vaccination coverage and global disease transmission. Notably, this increase is not related to COVID-19 and extends beyond the United States, underscoring the persistent threat of infectious pathogens in a globally interconnected world.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019, infectious disease specialists and public health economists have been closely monitoring epidemiological patterns to anticipate future outbreaks. Optimistically, advancements in surveillance, diagnostics, and response protocols have been strengthened to contain infectious threats; however, the resurgence of multiple pathogens this season should be disconcerting—especially when they were believed to be eradicated in the United States. Experts had anticipated that future outbreaks would be sporadic and contained; however, emerging trends emphasize the need for continuous vigilance and adaptive response strategies.

Connecticut is currently facing what public health officials are calling a "quad-demic," with significant case

increases in three of the four—norovirus, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Thankfully, COVID-19 cases have declined. The concurrent circulation of these viruses places considerable strain on hospitals, schools, and workplaces, potentially disrupting essential services. Although the newest COVID-19 variant, B.1.1.7 (commonly referred to as the UK variant), remains active, severe cases have declined in comparison to the other three viral pathogens currently in circulation. Beyond seasonal respiratory viruses, additional infectious disease outbreaks present further challenges to public health infrastructures.

In Kansas, one of the largest tuberculosis (TB) outbreaks in U.S. history is unfolding, with over 70 latent TB cases identified and more than 300 individuals actively undergoing monitoring, testing, and treatment. Latent TB infections, while asymptomatic, pose a significant risk for future disease activation, necessitating early intervention. Notably, drug-resistant TB strains have re-emerged in the same region that experienced an outbreak from 2021 to 2022. These resistant strains complicate treatment efforts and highlight the ongoing threat of antimicrobial resistance. Although TB cases

in the U.S. are frequently linked to global transmission, the Kansas outbreak accounts for less than 1% of all national cases. Epidemiological data indicate that approximately two-thirds of TB cases in the U.S. are identified in individuals born outside the country.

Simultaneously, Texas is experiencing a measles outbreak, with at least 40 confirmed cases, frequently affecting school-aged children. Alarmingly, some cases have required hospitalization. This resurgence is particularly concerning given that measles was declared eliminated from the United States in 2000 due to widespread vaccination efforts. However, declining immunization rates since the COVID-19 pandemic have created conditions conducive to measles transmission. Reports indicate that vaccine exemption requests in Texas have doubled between 2018 and 2024, further exacerbating vulnerability to outbreaks.

Beyond the United States, emerging infectious disease threats are being reported across Europe. In the past five months, four EU/EEA countries (Finland, Germany, Poland, and Spain) and the United Kingdom have detected a genetically linked cluster of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) in

environmental surveillance samples. Reportedly, this marks the first documented presence of cVDPV2 in environmental samples in these regions, raising concerns about potential transmission in Europe and the United States.

The precise drivers behind the rise in measles, tuberculosis, and polio detections remain complex and multifactorial. Potential contributing factors include declining vaccination rates, increased global mobility, and growing anti-vaccine sentiment. Given the political sensitivity surrounding these issues, scientific analysis must remain objective and evidence-based, avoiding speculative conclusions.

Regardless of the underlying causes, healthcare systems must be prepared to rapidly identify, isolate, treat, and trace infectious cases to mitigate disease spread. The stakes remain high, and complacency is not an option. A proactive, science-driven public health response is imperative to safeguarding communities. As we have seen with COVID-19, the spread of infectious diseases from outside of the U.S. can quickly cross our borders.

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

SUBMITTED

Men's Club to Host Symphony Performance on February 21

The New Canaan Men's Club will welcome Jonathan Yates, musical director and conductor of the Norwalk Symphony, along with violinist and music educator Marina Kitaychik, for a special performance and discussion at its February 21 meeting.

The event, a departure from the club's regular programming, will take place at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 111 Oenoke Ridge, at 10:40 a.m., with attendees asked to arrive by 10:30 a.m. The club's regular business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in Morrill Hall before members adjourn to the church sanctuary for the performance. Spouses and outside guests are invited to attend in

person or online.

Yates, an accomplished pianist and conductor, has led the Norwalk Symphony since the 2011-2012 season. A graduate of the Juilliard School, he was a recipient of the Bruno Walter Memorial Scholarship. He has performed alongside renowned musicians including violinist Midori, cellist David Finckel, and pianist Gilbert Kalish. In addition to his role with the Norwalk Symphony, he serves as music director emeritus of the chamber ensemble Camerata Notturna in New York City and is musical director of the Norwalk Youth Symphony, now in its 69th year.

Kitaychik, a violinist with the

Norwalk Symphony, trained at the Moscow Conservatory and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Mannes College of Music at The New School in New York. She studied chamber music with members of the Shostakovich Quartet, Borodin Quartet, and Orion String Quartet.

The performance is part of the Norwalk Symphony's 80th season, and its next major concert, "Music for All Ages," will be held March 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Norwalk City Hall. The program includes George Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*, narrated by Today Show co-host Craig Melvin. The symphony's mission is to

"share the beauty and power of orchestral music for audiences of all ages through live performances and music education."

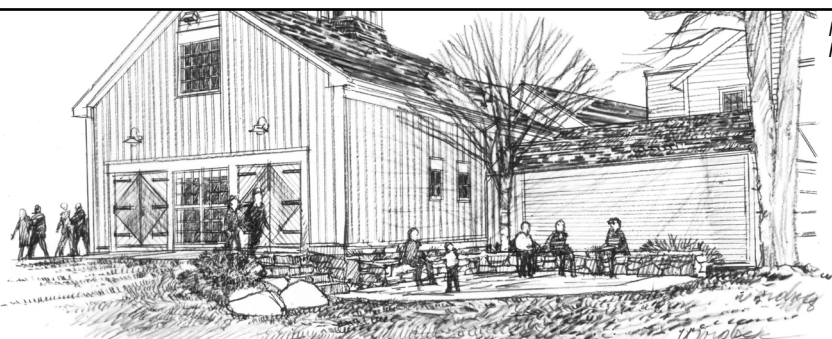
For those unable to attend in person, the event will be available for public viewing online. The livestream can be accessed by clicking Norwalk Symphony at the New Canaan Men's Club after 10:30 a.m. on February 21.

The New Canaan Men's Club, which is open to men 55 years and older, welcomes new members. For more information about joining, email ncmens@ncmens.club.



Keith E. Simpson
Associates

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GRADE 11 HIGH HONORS

Luke Adamczyk, Samaira Ahuja, Jordan Alexander, Isabella Altier, Anna Armijo, Brendan Bailey, Delia Bakal, Tristan Bardales, Emma Barnard, Emily Barnes, Tae Bazata, Ryan Bell, Analiese Bergmans, Christopher Blair, Theodore Blanc, Ariella Blatt, Tyler Bleil, Henry Brauweiler, Lucas Breed, Soraya Breed, Abigail Brown, Grady Campo, Summer Campo, Emma Carlon, Olivia Carofano, Carina Carpi, Larkin Celiberti, Joseph Cerami, Julia Cereghino, Henry Chandra, Nicolas Chesnais, Clemens Clasby, Lyla Cody, Ava Cook, Jack Cooley, Anthony Costanzo, William Cox, Nicole Cuda, David Cuenca Goddard, Nicolo D'Andrea, Ayush Dave, Antonia de Guzman, Anthony DelCarmine, Adrian Delicata, Parker Della Bitta, Isabella DeVito, Blake DiCapua, Magdalena Dinger, Gavin Dinning, Nathan Dinning, Julian Doshi, James Dunkin, Aya Elmernissi, Marlena Ericsson, Sophia Fallon, Lauren Fico, Julia Fittipaldi, Cormac Flaherty-Lovy, Olive Gallagher, Bauer Gammill, Liam Gelvin, Giuliana Gianatasio, Avery Griffiths,

Nicholas Grubelic, Emma Grzymiski, Natalie Hamilton, Archie Hancock, Graysen Handler, Emma Hassan, Michael Hiraman, Dylan Ho, Molly Holmstead, Alma Hsu, Saira Isfahani, Eleni Ivanov, George Ives, Niyathi Iyengar, Avery Jakovic, Helena Jan, Isabelle Janiga, Lucas Jetnil, Miraclyn John Yesudian, Tatum Kazlauskas, Isabelle Kelly, Lanford Kenny, Katharine Kerko, Cormac Kilkenny, Quinn Kilkenny, Andrew Kim, Gabriella Konspore, Tucker Kosofsky, Sophia La Magna, Preston Lambeth, Lia Lavin, Camryn Lee, Charlotte Lee, Selena Lee, Benjamin Leibowitz, Caden Leslie, Francesca Limone, Rogan Lowe, Natalia Lundberg, Cameron Lyden, Tristan MacAllister, Aleksander MacIver, Lisa Mallozzi, Wellington Mara, Grace Marcogliese, Yanfer Martinez, Braydan Mazabras, Mason McClave, James McInerney, Colin McKiernan, Nolan McLaughlin, Timothy McManus, Andrew Meli, Jack Mitchell, Ryan Monohan, Evelyn Morales, Juan Moreno Munera, Harlow Munoz, Colleen Murphy, John Murphy, Patrick Neville, Madison Norton, Spencer Osborne, Ava Pagano, Kashvi Parashar, Paiton Pascarella, Cara Passios, Emily Pastushan, Chloe Perkins, Bennett Pertusiello, Madeleine Peterson, Serena Peterson, Ashton Pinkernell, Morgan Pitts, Naomi Pitts, Emma Prior, Kian Andrei Ragaza, Emma Ridolfi, Anne-Eva Ritter, Claire-Helene Ritter, Lily Roen, Serra Savasoglu, Molly Schimmeck, Samuel Schoonmaker, Jeremy Schubert, Phoebe Schuh, Sadie Sharma, Ryan Shih, Thomas Shullman, Graydon Sieghart, Elizabeth Smock, Leni So, Lily Sommers, Aubrey Stevenson, Megan Stewart, Leni Storm, Siya Sukhani, William Teles, Emily Telesco, Michael Telesco, Reagan Thom, Zane Tickoo, Marco Tignanelli, Luke Ungaro, James Vaccaro, Victoria Vaccaro, Kelly Vance, Anna Vertin, Brooks Walker, Skyla Warren, Shane Wartinbee, Isabelle White, Linkin Wong, William Wunderlich,

GRADE 10 HIGH HONORS

Eva Alexander, Emma Amaya, Krista Ancker, Aiden Anderson, Chloe Armstrong, Peter Belov, Lucy Bench, Edward Bliss, Kirsten Borner, Sadie Boroff, Sofia Brooks, Maxwell Brown, Hayden Burke, John Burke, Jack Busby, Leighton Busby, Isabella Caamano, Isabella Calaba, Macyn Callahan, Isla Campbell, Nathaniel Carr, Claire Chen, Carolina Chimera, Allison Cicia, Isabella Coca, Boyd Cousley, Colin Cronk, Jackson Crowell, Jack Dalipi, Margaret Dayton, Sienna de Kanter, Zoe de Munnink, Victor Ding, Charlotte Doak, Matilda Doak, Nola Dockwell, Evangeline Dolger, Kane Duggar, Henry Durfee, Rayan El Hattab, Eric Encinger, Michael Ettinger, Christopher Feliz, Clare Fields, Julie Frangione, Kate Frangione, Valentina Fuentes Jimenez, Connor Furman, Augustus Gardiner, Meghan Garvey, Jason Generalis, Phoebe Glynn, Liam Gonzalez, Lola Gonzalez, Leah Granskog, Emma Greenhut, Mairead Greiner, Clare Greisen, Caroline Haddad, Evelyne Han, Andrew Harmon, Annaliese Hering, Joshua Herman, Liam Hibbert, Fearghus Hillmann, Whitney Hoegstedt, Cora Huang, Morgan Hull, Graham Jackson, Quinn Jens, Aksh Juneja, Isabelle Kim, Madelyn Kinsley, Kaitlyn Knowles, Charlie Koch, Madeline Kupchak, Gabriella La Magna, Henrik Lang, Eliza Lorenz, Tessa Madden, Reid Maggio, Ava Magliacano, Roxanna Magratten, Anna Makar, Dante Marsili, Juliette Martinez, David Marz, Stella Maxey, Andres McMahon, Beatrice Merritt, Emerson Miller, Aedan Mitchell, Susanna Moor, William Morawa, Anais Moutran, Hayden Murray-Smith, Caitlin Neville, Adrian Novothny, Pruthvi Nukala, Madeline O'Hara, Michael O'Malley, Addison O'Reilly, Henry Oak, Dariel Ortiz, Lucy Paine, Elisabeth Panagrossi, Yeva Pankova, Pierce Parkhill, Grace Pellicci, Ava Pils, Audrey Pittaro, Cambree Plater, Isabelle Pound, Liliana Racioppi, Henry Reagan, Matthew Reed, Alexia Rees, Layne Resnick, Ava Reynolds, Anika Rizvi, Owen Robie, Isla Roen, John Ryan, Daniel Sabo, Liv Saedal, Michael

Sargis, Charlotte Sawyer, Samantha Schaufler, Julia Scripps, Gia Servidio, Aryana Shah, Sophia Sibilia, Isabella Sieckhaus, Noah Sieckhaus, Jacob Silver, Jackson Singer, Nancy Skidmore, Scarlett Stewart, Allison Stiles, Skylar Strupp, Saras Sukhani, William Tamasco, Magdalena Tereha, Nilasha Thirumalai, Elle Thompson, Jack Thompson, Victoria Tremblay, Sydney Tunney, Emilia Veroude, Matthew Vertin, Jenna Vigano, Jayne Visokey, George Wang, Kieran Wartinbee, Peyton Woerz, Willem Wrede, Mariana Zepeda, Leah Zheng, Tessa Zimmerman, Zachary Zusman,

GRADE 9 HIGH HONORS

Jayke Aedo, Tyler Anderson, Teagan Arnold, Olivia Aronson, Neel Arora, Aria Babayev, Christian Baker, Leo Baroni, Hannah Barr, Heath Barry, Brandon Barua, Cole Bleil, Grace Bomann, Devin Boulanger, Sabrina Bourlatskii, Stefania Bragason, Emery Brown, Henry Buczkiewicz, Katherine Caamano, Sophia Cain, Cole Candee, Elizabeth Carlon, Mackenzie Carriero, Jane Carroll, Louisa Carter, Jonathan Case, Lauren Casey, Luciana Casey, Eleanor Clarke, Tatum Colthup, Adele Cousley, Charlotte Crehan, Grace Culbertson, Sophia D'Elisa, Charles Daniels, Luke Dart-Miller, Marco de Guzman, Bridget de Kanter, Sean Deasy, Gavin DeGaetano, Emmeline DeMuth, Emily Desrosiers, Lucy Detmer, George Diamantis, Julia DiGiacomo, Maeve Driscoll, William Duffee, Abigail Dunlap, Sophia Dunlap, Christopher Emeagwali, Cole Esposito, Joseph Felice, Ella Ferrer, Sheila Finn, Olivia Finnerty, Charles Firno, Rocco Fittipaldi, Desmond Fitzpatrick, William Flynn, Madeleine Frisch, Shun Fu, Dallas George, Sofia Giammarco, Robert Gilliam, Jaden Gjokazaj, Brooke Glazar, Colin Goldman, Liam Goodhart, Victoria Gorzkowicz, Leo Grady, Corinna Gustafson, Brooke Hanlon, Margaret Hanson, Stella Heijens, Conor Heron, Charlotte Heyn, Bree Hickey, Andrew Hojnacki, Jessamyn Hole, Lucy Horowitz, Kiki Horsburgh, Charlotte Huetter, Oscar Humphreys, Tulah Imbruce, Christian Ivanov, Arshia Iyer, Jack-Oliver Jamin, Yuqing Jiang, Abigail Johnsen, Lucca Jones, Caroline Kelly, Natalie Kenin, Alexander Kerko, Nicholas Kerko, Thomas Kim, Abigail Kosofsky, Elijah Kremer, Ryder Kutney, Eva La Magna, Chloe Lee, Jacob Lee, Nicholas Lee, Milena Lencyk, Jason Lin, Maya Lundberg, Scarlett MacAllister, Sachi Malhotra, Connor Mallin, Sofia Mallozzi, Emily Marciano, Freya Matchavanit, Pari Mathur, Priti Mathur, Abigail McClure, Nora McDonough, Emery McIntosh, Andrew McKee, Melanie McMurry, Emma McPartland, Dane Mitchell, Molly Monohan, Julianna Moore, Xi Nan, Mariia Nestertseva, Braxton Niedermeier, Alyssa O'Connor, Hunter Oliva, Anabelle Otto, Caroline Palmer, Charlotte Parker, Olivia Parker, Nicholas Passios, Zachary Pavlowsky, Luke Perretta, Luca Pisant, Maryn Plumb, Vivaan Powari, Blake Pozatek, Cailin Prostor, Patrick Quill, Lillian Quinn, Yuvan Raju, Samantha Ramirez, Ethan Ready, Amalie Reis, Brendon Retana, Leila Ridolfi, Finn Robertson, Keira Robertson, Roger Rosales, Mia Ross, Charles Rotchford, Beatrice Row, Aidan Salas, Gabrielle Savelli, Riley Scherer, Sophie Schettino, Eleanor Schilpp, Haley Schlafman, Riley Schlafman, Katherine Scholtz, Rebecca Schubert, Madison Schulte, Raina Shah, Colin Sharma, Cooper Smith, Cyrus Stevenson, William Stimpson, Kaleb Tan, Hemming Thackray, Jake Tirana, Gabriel Treloar, Peter Tsapralis, Eloise Tuff, Katherine Ulrich, Helena Ungaro, Isabel Vaccaro, Lucia Valente, Alexander Vetterli, Dean Vinca, Jack Vincent, Chandler Wagner, Elliot Walls, Anthony Westhead, Eleanor Whinery, Grey Wildman, Nathan Zhan, Milo Zinser-Trudel, Sophia Zoog,

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Boys Hockey: Undefeated Regular Season, Preparing for Postseason Run

The New Canaan Rams have completed their 2024-25 regular season with an unblemished record, cementing their status as the top-ranked team in the state and the No. 1 seed in both the FCIAC and CIAC Division I tournaments. With a perfect 20-0 record, the Rams enter the postseason as the team to beat, having dominated top opponents throughout the year.

New Canaan's success this season has been defined by key victories against some of Connecticut's strongest programs. On February 5, the Rams staged an impressive comeback against Notre Dame-West Haven, overcoming an early 2-0 deficit to secure a 3-2 victory. Rogan Lowe led the effort with two goals, while Tony DelCarmine netted the game-winner. Goaltender Brendon Harmon stopped

23 shots, shutting out the Green Knights over the final two periods.

Three days later, New Canaan continued its winning ways with a decisive 6-1 win over Ridgefield. Bryce Lyden recorded a hat trick, and Lowe added a goal and two assists as the Rams controlled play from start to finish.

In their highly anticipated rematch with Darien on February 10, New Canaan played to a 1-1 tie against the No. 2-ranked Blue Wave. Drew Harmon scored the equalizer in the second period, while goaltenders from both teams held strong under heavy pressure.

Throughout the season, the Rams have relied on an explosive offense, disciplined defense, and stellar goaltending. Lowe, DelCarmine, and Lyden have been consistent offensive threats, while defensemen Jack

Thompson and Andrew Harmon have anchored a blue line that has shut down opponents all year. In net, Brendon Harmon has delivered clutch performances, giving the Rams a steady presence in goal.

New Canaan now turns its focus to the FCIAC and CIAC Division I tournaments, where they will be the team to beat. The FCIAC Tournament kicks off on February 22 with the first round, followed by semifinals on February 27 and the championship game at Sacred Heart University's Martire Family Arena on March 4.

The Rams will also be a top contender in the CIAC Division I state tournament. With a team that pulls together and a talented coaching staff, New Canaan has earned a run at both the FCIAC and state titles.

Game Wrap Ups

Team	Date	Opponent	Result
Boys Basketball	2/13	Trumbull	Win (51-48)
Boys Basketball	2/15	Ledyard	Win (58-37)
Boys Basketball	2/17	Ridgefield	Loss (47-62)
Boys Hockey	2/12	Fairfield Prep	Win (2-1)
Boys Hockey	2/14	Fairfield Warde / Ludlowe	Win (11-0)
Boys Hockey	2/17	Xavier	Win (8-1)
Girls Hockey	2/15	East Catholic	Win (4-2)
Girls Basketball	2/13	Trumbull	Loss (24-28)
Girls Basketball	2/17	Ridgefield	Loss (27-50)
St. Lukes Ice Hockey	2/13	Greenwich Country Day	Loss (3-7)
St. Lukes Girls Squash	2/12	Hopkins	Loss (1-6)
St. Lukes Girls Squash	2/13	Rye High School	Loss (3-4)
St. Lukes Girls Basketball	2/12	Greens Farms Academy	Win (61-45)
St. Lukes Girls Basketball	2/14	Kent	Loss (53-58)

Comments? Publisher@NewCanaanSentinel.com

Girls Ice Hockey 18-2

The New Canaan Rams girls ice hockey team has wrapped up an impressive 2024-25 regular season, finishing with an 18-2 record and positioning themselves as one of the top contenders in the upcoming FCIAC Tournament.

New Canaan dominated throughout the season, with their only two losses coming against league powerhouse Darien. The Rams showcased their offensive firepower and defensive depth, with standout performances from senior captains Maddie Tully and Serena O'Connor. Tully led the team in scoring, while O'Connor contributed both offensively and defensively. Fiona Curri, Jenna Vigano, and Izzy Hanna also played pivotal roles in the team's success.

Between the pipes, sophomore goaltender Macyn Callahan was a force, recording multiple

shutouts and keeping New Canaan competitive in tight games. Her standout performance came in a February 9 matchup against Darien, where she made 25 saves despite the 2-1 loss.

Key victories along the way included a dominant 7-1 win over Wilton on February 10 and a 4-2 victory against East Catholic on February 15. The Rams' ability to control play at both ends of the ice has made them one of the toughest teams to face in the league.

With the FCIAC Tournament on the horizon, New Canaan is focused on making a playoff run. The Rams are expected to enter as a high seed and could face Darien again in a potential championship showdown. As the Rams prepare for their playoff push, their regular-season dominance has set the stage for what could be an exciting postseason.

Rams Boys Basketball

The New Canaan Boys Basketball team closed out the 2024-25 regular season with a strong finish, securing a spot in the FCIAC tournament as the No. 6 seed with an 8-6 conference record (13-6 overall). The Rams demonstrated resilience throughout the season with key victories and competitive performances against top conference opponents.

New Canaan secured signature wins, including a hard-fought 51-48 victory over Trumbull on February 13, where Luke Robinson led the scoring effort with 13 points. Henry Chandra added 10 points, while Andrew Esposito contributed 9, helping the Rams fend off a late push from the Eagles. The Rams also avenged an earlier season loss to St. Joseph with a 58-49 win on February 13. Their home performance remained dominant, maintaining a five-game winning streak at one point.

Despite their success, the team faced challenges in late-season matchups, including a 62-

47 loss to Ridgefield on February 17. Blue Vertin led New Canaan with 13 points in that contest, but Ridgefield's early scoring run proved too much to overcome. The Rams struggled to gain offensive momentum in the first half but showed signs of a comeback in the fourth quarter.

New Canaan was set to play its final regular-season game against Danbury on February 19 at 7:00 p.m. The result was unavailable at press time.

New Canaan will enter the FCIAC tournament as the No. 6 seed and will face a tough road ahead. The Rams will likely take on higher-seeded teams such as Ridgefield (14-0), Staples (12-2), and Ludlowe (11-3) in the later rounds should they advance. Their ability to control the pace of games, capitalize on perimeter shooting, and execute defensively will be key to their success.

As the Rams prepare for their playoff push, their regular-season performance has shown flashes of championship potential.

Why Wealth Won't Make You Happy

By THE REV. JOHN KENNEDY

A few years ago, I read a statistic that said 80% of New Year's resolutions fail by the second week of February. If we are like most people, then many of us—those who made resolutions at all—have either given them up or forgotten about them by now. New Year's resolutions express a universal desire for happiness. Their high failure rate also reflects our struggle to attain it.

Happiness is widely pursued but seldom found. The Declaration of Independence lists our rights as "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"—as if in recognition of its elusiveness.

According to the 2024 World Happiness Report, American happiness is declining. Yet, the happiness industry—books, seminars, podcasts, apps—continues to grow. We spend more money chasing happiness but seem to be moving further from it.

As long as our happiness depends on wealth, comfort, fleeting experiences, or reputation, we will never be satisfied. Arthur C. Brooks, the happiness columnist for *The Atlantic*, once put it this way: "The secret to satisfaction has nothing to do with achievement,

money, or stuff."

No object, experience, or status can be a stable foundation for happiness. As George Harrison sang, "All things must pass."

Self-centeredness never leads to joy. Thomas Merton observed, "There is a false and momentary happiness in self-satisfaction, but it always leads to sorrow because it narrows and deadens our spirit."

This theme appears in the show *Mad Men*. Protagonist Don Draper once says, "Even though success is a reality, its effects are temporary. You get hungry even though you've just eaten... You're happy because you're successful—for now. But what is happiness? It's a moment before you need more happiness."

Speaking of happiness: the Gospel text for Sunday, February 16 was the beginning of the Sermon on the Plain. It's Luke's version of Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, and like Matthew's, it starts with beatitudes—proclamations of blessedness or, as it could also be translated, happiness:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh..."

These beatitudes echo that Sunday's Old Testament

Happiness is widely pursued but seldom found. The world sells it as wealth, comfort, and status, but Jesus shows another way.

readings from Jeremiah and the Psalms, which describe the happy person as one who trusts in God, delighting in the law of the Lord. Such a person is like a tree planted by water, bearing fruit in due season.

Matthew's version focuses on the interior disposition: "Blessed are the poor in spirit." Luke simply says, "Blessed are you who are poor." In Luke, Jesus is talking about literal, material poverty.

It's good to have both versions. The Gospel places a claim on both our inner and outer lives.

So what is it about the poor that, according to Jesus, makes them blessed—or even happy?

Notice how these beatitudes are addressed: "Blessed are you who are poor... blessed are you who are hungry now." Jesus speaks directly to those around him: the apostles and a great crowd of disciples.

Jesus' words are personal. He is not making a general statement about poverty. This becomes clear with the last beatitude: "Blessed are you

when people hate you... on account of the Son of Man."

God's general, universal concern for the poor and lowly is a consistent theme throughout Scripture. But here, Jesus speaks specifically about the sacrifices that come with discipleship. In last week's Gospel, Jesus called his first disciples, and we were told, "They left everything and followed him."

Jesus says that those of his disciples who take up their cross and follow him are blessed and favored by God; that the kingdom of God is theirs; that in the end all will be well; that any present experience of suffering on account of his name will be transfigured, just as the cross leads to the resurrection.

The theme of reversal runs through the Gospels—particularly Luke's. Jesus says: "The first will be last and the last will be first." "The greatest among you will be least of all and servant of all." Mary's Magnificat echoes this: "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted

up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty."

Jesus makes this reversal explicit with four statements of woe which follow the four beatitudes:

"Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you..."

How should we take this? Many of us are rich by global standards. We have food, we laugh, and we enjoy a good reputation. Are we spiritual goners?

To the extent that we find ourselves on the privileged side of Jesus' divide, we should feel challenged: How are we using our resources? What do we truly value? Are we living for God or for wealth?

Jesus warns against the spiritual dangers of wealth—how it can foster pride, greed, and insensitivity to the suffering of the poor. But he also leaves

room for the responsible use of wealth. Jesus' ministry was supported, at times, by wealthy disciples. Joseph of Arimathea, a rich man, provided a tomb for Jesus' burial.

Perhaps the problem isn't wealth itself, but self-centeredness and unjust patterns of living.

The way to happiness, according to Jesus, is to surrender all we have to God; to live as his disciples; to accept the costs of following him; to let go of our attachments to wealth and fleeting pleasures.

This is more challenging than the happiness the world sells. But as we have seen, the world's ways do not really lead to happiness anyway.

So, if you're ready—if you're hungry—for something deeper, listen to Jesus. Draw near to him like the crowds in the Gospel, to receive his healing and transforming power.

He calls us not to solemnity, but to joy. He came to set us free; to draw us into what Thomas Merton called the cosmic divine dance of love; a life lived with open hearts and hands, generously outstretched to those in need and in service to our Lord.

The Rev. John Kennedy serves as Associate Rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in New Canaan.

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.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

49 Park Street 203.966.0293

christiansciencet.org/newcanaan

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:

February 22nd at 4 PM: Join Charis Chamber Voices for a benefit concert featuring Morten Lauridsen's beautiful work *Lux Aeterna*. This performance will be followed by a gala reception in the Common Room where you will enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine, food, dessert, and a live auction.

Tickets are \$125 for one person or \$200 for two and available at

<https://www.charisvocals.com>.

February 28th at 7 PM: Winter Blues

Party. Join in the Common Room for an evening of fun and fellowship, reaturing live music by Nick Dupuy, a cocktail bar, light appetizers, and a cozy fire to keep the chill away.

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. A's Healing Rosary Prayer Group

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

111 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.4515

churchoffice@stmarksnewcanaan.org

www.stmarksnewcanaan.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:

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

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 a.m. at Saxe Middle School 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.

United Methodist Church

165 South Avenue 203.966.2666

office@umcofnewcanaan.org

www.umcofnewcanaan.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.

Community Baptist Church

174 Cherry Street 203.966.0711

cbcnewcanaan@gmail.com

www.cbcnewcanaan.org

Youtube: 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

Grace Community Church

9:30am Service @ New Canaan High School,

11 Farm Road, New Canaan

203-966-7600

info@gracecommunity.info

www.gracecommunity.info

Welcome to Grace Church, where we strive to build a church

of action, founded on Biblical truth, characterized by faith, grace, community, service, authenticity, clear thinking, and cultural relevance. Grace Community Church is an exercise in knowing God, knowing truth, and building community that extends to our full lives, not just to our Sunday mornings. Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30am or via GCC's Facebook page or YouTube page. Nursery care and Sunday school/teen programming is available for babies through 12th grade. Coffee and bagels available in the lobby after the service, all are welcome.

Upcoming Events:

February 28th and March 1st at varying times: Rally friends, neighbors, sports teams, and community organizations to help pack 100,000 meals at the upcoming Feed My Starving Children Food Packing Event. There are a variety of 2-hour volunteer slots available, so lots of helping hands are needed. Visit <https://shorturl.at/R3Fno> to register as a volunteer.

Talmadge Hill Community Church

870 Hollow Tree Ridge Road; Darien, CT

203.966.2314

talmadgehillchurch@gmail.com

www.talmadgehill.org

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@chabadnewcanaan.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

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=bFJQem9HWFcxU0EzZUM2VENEZmgyUT09#success>

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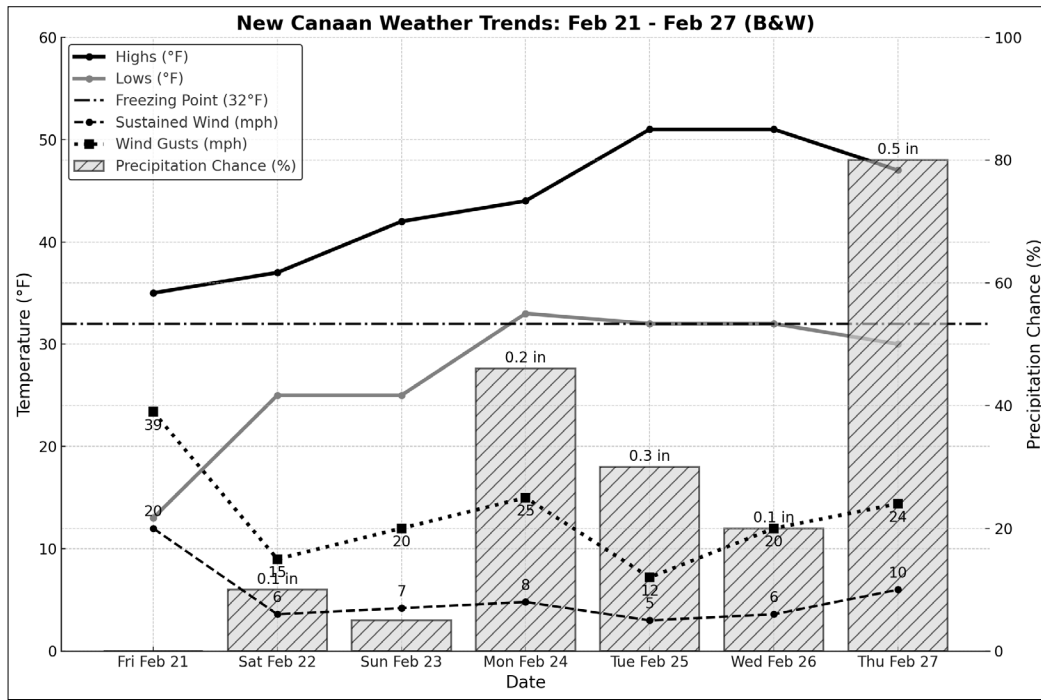
New Canaan Weather Forecast: Here's What to Expect

By Emma Barhydt

As New Canaan continues to embrace winter's crisp charm and we prepare to bid farewell to February, residents can look forward to a week filled with chilly breezes, moments of sunshine, and the occasional chance of rain. Whether you're planning outdoor activities or staying cozy indoors, here's the detailed forecast to help you prepare for the week ahead.

Friday, February 21: Expect a windy day with a high of 35°F. Winds will come from the northwest at 20 mph, with gusts reaching up to 39 mph. By evening, temperatures will drop significantly to 13°F, with winds easing slightly to 8 mph and gusts up to 30 mph. The sky will remain clear throughout the day and night, with no rain expected.

Saturday, February 22: The weekend begins with



sunny skies and a high of 37°F. Winds will be light from the west-southwest at 6 mph, with gusts up to 15 mph. The day will remain dry. Overnight, skies will turn partly cloudy, and temperatures will lower to 25°F. Winds will continue at 7 mph, gusting to 15 mph, with a small chance of rain

as cloud cover increases to 66%.

Sunday, February 23: Partly sunny skies will prevail with temperatures reaching 42°F. Winds will remain steady from the west at 7 mph, with gusts up to 20 mph. There is a very low chance of rain, and cloud cover will be

around 47%. Nighttime will bring mostly clear skies with temperatures dropping to 25°F. Winds will be light, coming from the east-northeast at 2 mph, and cloud cover will rise to 55%.

Monday, February 24: Monday will be cloudy, with a high of 44°F. A passing shower is expected in the

afternoon, with a 46% chance of rain. Winds will blow at 8 mph, gusting up to 25 mph. In the evening, skies will clear to partly cloudy, and temperatures will lower to 33°F. Winds will persist at 8 mph with gusts up to 17 mph, and clouds will clear up overnight.

Tuesday, February 25: Temperatures will climb into the upper low 50's under mostly cloudy skies. Winds will remain light, and there is a small chance of rain during the day. Overnight, skies will become overcast, with light rain. Nighttime temperatures will fall to the low 30s, accompanied by continued light winds and showers.

Wednesday, February 26: Wednesday will feature some sun breaking through the clouds, with temperatures peaking in the low 50's. Winds from the northwest will remain

light, with gusts reaching up to 20 mph. A small chance of rain persists, but mostly clouds will dissipate throughout the day. At night, temperatures will drop to the low 30's under clear skies, with light northwest winds and almost no chance of rain.

Thursday, February 27: Cloudy conditions are expected throughout the day, with in the mid 50's under mostly cloudy skies. Winds will remain light with gusts in the teens possible. In the evening, temperatures will drop sharply to the low 30's, with rain and sleet expected overnight. Winds will shift to the east-northeast at 10 mph, gusting up to 24 mph, and cloud cover will remain at 100%.

With fluctuating temperatures, breezy days, and a potential icy end to the week, New Canaan residents should keep an eye on changing conditions.

Nationally: The Week Ahead

By Emma Barhydt

Northeast:

The Northeast is expected to experience a gradual warming trend throughout the week. Starting Friday, February 21, temperatures will be cold with highs around 37°F (3°C) in Stamford, CT, under partly sunny skies. As the weekend progresses, temperatures will rise, reaching the mid-40s by Sunday, February 23. The warming trend continues into the week, with highs approaching 50°F (10°C) by midweek. Expect a mix of sun and clouds, with increasing cloudiness toward the end of the week. No significant precipitation is anticipated during this period.

Southeast:

The Southeast will enjoy mild and pleasant

conditions throughout the week. Atlanta, GA, will see mostly sunny skies on Friday, February 21, with highs around 47°F (8°C). Temperatures will gradually increase, reaching the low 70s by Tuesday, February 25. The region can expect a mix of sun and clouds, with a chance of showers returning by Thursday, February 27.

Midwest:

The Midwest is set to experience a warming trend after a cold start. Chicago, IL, will have very cold conditions on Friday, February 21, with highs around 25°F (-4°C). However, temperatures will rise over the weekend, reaching 40°F (5°C) by Sunday, February 23. The warming continues into the week, with highs in the mid-40s and a mix of sun and clouds. No significant precipitation is

expected during this period.

Southwest:

The Southwest will experience unseasonably warm and dry conditions. Phoenix, AZ, will see temperatures climbing from the upper 70s on Friday, February 21, to the low 90s by midweek. Skies will remain mostly sunny throughout the week, providing excellent conditions for outdoor activities.

Northwest:

The Northwest will face a series of wet weather systems. Seattle, WA, can expect cloudy skies with brief showers beginning midday on Friday, February 21. Rain and breezy conditions will persist through the weekend, with temperatures in the mid-50s. The pattern of occasional rain and clouds continues into the week, with a slight

warming trend by midweek.

West Coast:

The West Coast, particularly California, will enjoy mild and stable weather. Los Angeles, CA, will experience mostly sunny and pleasant conditions on Friday, February 21, with highs around 78°F (25°C). These favorable conditions will persist throughout the week, with temperatures remaining in the mid to upper 70s and plenty of sunshine.

Please note that weather conditions can change rapidly. It's advisable to check the latest forecasts from reliable sources such as the National Weather Service and AccuWeather for the most up-to-date information.

According to the Wall Street Journal

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AGGREGATED NEWS FROM THE WSJ

How Dirty Money From Fentanyl Sales Is Flowing Through China

U.S. officials have uncovered a sophisticated money-laundering network linking Chinese brokers and Mexican drug cartels, facilitating the flow of fentanyl profits. These brokers utilize underground banking systems and apps like WeChat to collect and launder drug money, complicating efforts to combat the opioid crisis.

Europe Flails for Response After Trump Blames Kyiv for Ukraine War

European leaders are grappling with President Trump's unexpected decision to blame Ukraine for the ongoing war with Russia, a significant shift in U.S. foreign policy. This development has exposed internal divisions within Europe and highlighted its reliance on U.S. leadership in NATO, prompting calls for a unified approach to the crisis.

An Investing Riddle: Stocks Are in Turmoil but Stock Markets Aren't

Despite the S&P 500's modest 4.2% gain year-to-date, individual stocks within the index have experienced significant volatility, particularly in the technology sector. Factors such as the rise of Chinese AI and the Trump administration's tariff policies have contributed to this disparity, with

company-specific news driving stock performance more than broad market trends.

The Battle for Overhead Bins Is Raging. These Are the Rules to Play By.

Air travelers are facing increasing challenges with overhead bin space, leading to conflicts and delays. Proper carry-on etiquette, including placing larger items in overhead bins and smaller ones under seats, is essential to alleviate these issues and ensure a smoother boarding process.

U.S., Russia Forge New Path on Ukraine After First High-Level Talks

The United States and Russia have initiated a new diplomatic approach to address the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, following their first high-level talks. This development signifies a potential shift in international efforts to resolve the crisis, though specific details of the discussions remain undisclosed.

Trump's Tariff Proposals Would Cut German Growth, Bundesbank's Nagel Says

Bundesbank President Joachim Nagel has expressed concerns that President Trump's proposed tariffs could negatively impact Germany's economic growth. The tariffs, particularly on automotive exports, pose a significant risk to the German economy, which relies heavily on its export sector.

Trump Wants to Bring Down Treasury Yields

President Trump has indicated a desire to reduce Treasury yields to lower borrowing costs and stimulate economic activity. This approach involves influencing Federal Reserve policies and implementing measures to make U.S. debt more attractive to investors.

Trump's Push for Peace in Ukraine

President Trump is actively pursuing peace negotiations to resolve the conflict in Ukraine, engaging directly with Russian leadership. This initiative marks a significant shift in U.S. foreign policy, aiming to de-escalate tensions and establish stability in the region.

OPINION: Trump, Andrew Jackson and the Politics of Crisis by Peggy Noonan

Peggy Noonan draws parallels between President Trump's leadership and that of Andrew Jackson, particularly in their approaches to national crises. She examines how both presidents navigated challenges to assert executive authority and shape the political landscape.

OPINION: NATO Is Ukraine's Future and Always Will Be

Holman W. Jenkins, Jr. argues that acknowledging Ukraine's inevitable integration into NATO is essential for resolving the ongoing conflict with Russia. He suggests that clear communication

of this reality could deter further aggression and stabilize the region.

OPINION: The GOP's DOGE Test

Kimberley A. Strassel critiques Republican lawmakers for advocating fiscal responsibility while simultaneously supporting wasteful spending projects, using the example of the DOGE initiative. She calls for genuine commitment to reducing government waste rather than indulging in politically convenient expenditures.

OPINION: Germany's Election Dodges Its Climate Debacle

Joseph C. Sternberg discusses how mainstream German political parties are avoiding substantive debate on the country's failing green energy policies during election campaigns. He highlights the economic repercussions of these policies and the political reluctance to address them candidly.

OPINION: If Indians and Pakistanis Can Relocate, Why Can't Gazans?

Sadanand Dhume explores historical instances of population transfers, such as between India and Pakistan, to question the feasibility of relocating Gazans as a solution to ongoing conflicts. He presents this controversial idea as a potential path to lasting peace in the region.

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Safety Is CERTain

By JOHN J KRIZ

"They're an extraordinary group of people -- extraordinary resource for our town," says New Canaan Director of Emergency Management Russ Kimes about the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) www.newcanaancert.org "I couldn't do my job without their assistance. So it's truly appreciated."

But just what is CERT, and what does it do? When it comes to public safety, just about everyone knows about the police and fire departments, as well as our Emergency Medical Service (EMS) -- the ambulance, with its EMTs and paramedics. But they're not all.

What CERT Does

New Canaan's all-volunteer Community Emergency Response Team's mission is to train and equip themselves and fellow citizens to be prepared to help themselves and their neighbors in the event of a disaster or emergency -- to be 'the help until help arrives.' In addition, CERT assists and supports first responders in case of an emergency or other event, when those first responders are overloaded. CERT is a force multiplier, helping first responders to leverage their capacities. While CERT members do not participate directly in so-called DLH (Danger to Life and Health) events, as would police and fire personnel, "there's a ton of activities that need to happen outside of that, particularly within the incident command," says Russ Kimes.

New Canaan's CERT is the oldest one in Connecticut, having been established in 2003.

If an incident occurs, CERT's resources can be requested by Mr. Kimes at the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), EMS, the First Selectman, Fire and/or Police. Once the 'Bat Signal' goes out, CERT's management, in turn, contacts, organizes and deploys its team of trained volunteers, who would coordinate with first responders and incident command.

When New Canaan's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated for an emergency such as a major storm, CERT is usually right there in support. CERT can be dealing with traffic control and monitoring road closures in the field, as well as helping to leverage incoming resources, such as fire apparatus and ambulances. Furthermore, CERT can assist in monitoring radio traffic, keeping track of key events and available resources, directing people to shelter resources and helping operate the EOC's call center, answering residents' questions and managing new information such as downed trees and power lines. CERT volunteer Kevin McIntosh says "it's neighbor to neighbor. It's kind of a reassuring voice on the phone when they call and they realize that they're talking to one of their neighbors."

Other emergency tasks include

"damage assessment," notes CERT volunteer Peter Bergen. "We're requested to go out and if a pole has come down -- Is it sparking or not? Is it endangering somebody's life? That's what we report on, too." CERT volunteer Jim Davis adds that downed trees and power lines also mean road closures and a need for traffic control, and CERT is usually assigned those tasks.

CERT provides important extra sets of skilled hands when and where they're most needed.

For example, during Hurricane Sandy New Canaan had 150 road closures, plus flooding, downed trees and power lines, and urgent medical issues. The 18 fire, police and EMS first responders on duty were overwhelmed. CERT was there with forty volunteers on day one. In 2024, CERT's cadre of 105 volunteers logged 1662 hours of service, 12% more than in 2023.

In addition to assisting during emergencies, New Canaan's CERT is prominent at various large, planned events in town, such as May Fair, the Family Fourth of July celebration in Waveny Park, Caffeine & Carburators and Veteran's Day ceremonies. CERT is also part of the planning of the town's involvement in these events. Assisting at these events, which can include such duties as vehicular and pedestrian traffic control and safety, and directing people to medical or other resources, helps CERT members hone their skills and support our community.

Emerging Tasks

Over the last year, CERT volunteer Elena Imbimbo has worked to expand connections with town emergency services. For example, there is an effort underway to get CERT more involved in operational roles in the field, says Fire Chief Albert Bassett. This would include acting as a "staging area manager where they [CERT] would be on the radio to assist us moving apparatus from one place to another. We're also looking at them to assist us with our accountability and accountability system where they're tracking the people that are arriving on scene." In addition, Fire Chief Bassett has plans to train CERT members to operate the command board, which tracks major points in and the progression of an incident. CERT volunteer Tracey Hamill notes that CERT participation in perimeter control -- keeping people away from possibly dangerous areas, and access avenues open -- is a part of this.

New Canaan's Fire Department has a "very good relationship" with CERT, says Fire Chief Bassett.

"The new move we're trying to do is try to get them [CERT] out more and help us with some of the tasks that we don't have the personnel for because I need to put firefighters into firefighting position," says Fire Chief Bassett. "I can use those support roles that understand emergency

Once the 'Bat Signal' goes out, CERT's management, in turn, contacts, organizes and deploys its team of trained volunteers



CERT volunteers and board members L-R Peter Bergen, Tracey Hamill, Elena Imbimbo, Jim Davis and Kevin McIntosh by CERT's equipment trailer.

services and they can act as an aid to some of our officers working different assignments on the outside, and they could be an aid to the incident commander with that documentation and managing the command board as resources come in." Another project underway is training CERT members to manage fill sites for fire apparatus needing water, directing apparatus in and out, and notifying incident command that apparatus is leaving the fill site and on its way to the incident.

CERT Structure

The CERT program concept was started by the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985, and grew into a national program in 1993 under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), with a goal of providing a consistent approach to preparedness training. However, the CERT program also provides substantial latitude to individual communities to ensure that it best meets specific local needs and conditions. Every state has CERTs, which total around 3000 volunteers. More than 600,000 people have received CERT training since inception.

CERT is an independent organization, led by its own sixteen person board, with offices and storage facilities at Irwin House. It is one of Connecticut's Citizen Corps programs, under the state's Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. <https://portal.ct.gov/demhs/emergency-management/resources-for-officials/citizen-corps> Most of CERT's funding is sourced locally via donations, with some money from the Town, plus some from the state, via Department of Homeland Security grants. CERT is also a value-for-money group, with only a few thousand dollars spent yearly for equipment and other needs.

CERT Training

Basic CERT training comprises a FEMA-developed 20-hour course covering disaster response skills such as disaster preparedness, fire safety and suppression, light search-and-rescue, basic first aid including CPR and 'Stop the Bleed,' disaster psychology, and incident command and management. CERT members can train in additional skills such as pedestrian safety, traffic control, AED and Narcan use, radio communications, volunteer deployment, emergency sheltering, emergency operations center activities and animal rescue/sheltering. CERT members can also be trained in emotional first aid, and in operating family assistance centers. CERT is looking into training to operate family reunification centers if, for example, a school is evacuated and children need to be reunited with parents.

Elena Imbimbo stresses that "every year we propose new topics for training. The goal is to train as many people as possible in different areas so that they're prepared in case there is an emergency." Training resources can be local experts, as well as those supplied by the state or others. Examples of state-led training include an active shooter exercise, as well as a plane crash scenario.

CERT also provides the basic FEMA-developed training for free to New Canaan residents. Some residents choose to join CERT after completing this training, but it's not required. However, once they have received the training, participants will be better prepared to care for themselves and others during an emergency, helping themselves to be more self-sufficient after a disaster. Peter Bergen cites the example of a downed tree blocking a dead-end street. Emergency vehicles cannot get in. Having someone CERT-trained there

means better, faster help for someone in need, plus a trained person to coordinate with first responders.

CERT's next training program starts on February 26. Each person completing the training receives a specially designed and filled backpack to assist them in emergencies.

CERT Equipment

CERT's equipment includes an SUV, and an equipment trailer containing diverse safety and traffic control equipment. In addition, safety clothing, radios, a generator and emergency lighting are part of CERT's arsenal.

Why Do It?

"I love New Canaan and I really wanted to do something that I could make an impact on the town that I have grown to love," says Jim Davis. "It's part of paying back to the community," adds Kevin McIntosh. As well, it's learning "how to take care of yourself when your government might not be there." Elena Imbimbo says she "just wanted to help by training them to be ready for anything." Tracey Hamill notes that volunteering for CERT "really reaches into the whole cross-section of New Canaan, which has been eye-opening for me and very rewarding." Peter Bergen "loves empowering people."

Tracey Hamill sums it up: "We are out there for the safety of the town."

If you want to be like so many other New Canaan residents and give back to the community, and to yourself, consider CERT training. It's free and starts next week. For more information, or to register, go to www.newcanaancert.org

John J Kriz is a 30+ year resident of New Canaan. The opinions expressed are his own.

GRADE 12 HONORS

SCHOLARS!

From Page 6

Saivinish Akavaramu, Matthew Angilletta, Ashton Baker, John Baluyut, Payton Bambace, Parthav Bhattarai, William Brooks, Stephen Brown, Graham Butler, Christina Carr, James Casey, Catalina Chanler, Ahaan Chawla, Charles Cushman, Carielle D'Elisa, Jacqueline Dathan, Allan de Munnink, Wilhemina DeFosset, Drew DeGaetano, Darian DiMuzio, John Disturco, Grace Driscoll, Lily Dunn, Noah Ferraro, Hettie Fillingham, Robert Frangione, Sarah Frank, Joaquin Garcia-Berg, Joshua Geyfman, Theodore Goetz, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Alexandra Grady, Taliyah Green, Brooke Gusitsch, Jack Haley, Carter Halsell, Jonas Marcus Hansen, Edward Harrison, Brianna Healey, Ella Healey, Stuart Hellmann, Hayley Hewitt, Lachlan Ivaneza, Cassandra Jessen, Jack Kalten, Harper Kenny, Meredith Knauf, Alexandra Kotlyar, Ryan Leahy, Viola Li, Ava Licata, Lauren Livesay, Slade Logsdon, Dianna Luccarelli, Avril MacHale, Daniela Madrazo, Tara Menon, Maxiene Mirin, Georgina Nanfan, Leanela Negron, Lily Nicolet, Nichole Nizzardo, Anuj Ogale, Sydney Patten, Cecilia Patterson, Anthony Pellicci, Charles Place, Paige Place, Aidan Rama, Dylan Rees, Matthew Riley, Brayden Robie, Sophie Root, William Roscoe, Emma Row, Katharine Russell, Katherine Sawyer, Patrick Saxe, Martin Scofield, Urtina Sejdaj, Cora Shooshan, Lauren Smith, Michael Smith, Ava Smock, Santiago Sosa, Caroline Squillante, Michael Stadnik-Poteroba, Hugo Sutton, Lucas Taylor, Brooks Thompson, Lisa Tremblay, Everett Trygg, Brenden Wells, Charles Williams, Lindsay Zaffino, Faizal Zakir Zakir Hussain, Luke Zinzchenko,

GRADE 11 HONORS

Leticia Abdala, Sophie Adamczyk, Samantha Aliapoulos, Jude Antoniou, Ethan Aranson, Juliet Axtell, Theodore Bach, James Bakal, Valentina Baldini, Bradford Benton, Bela Bhatt, Maxwell Boccaccio, Peter Brandt, Ryan Brooks, Thaddeus Burley, Cole Campisi, Oliver Carr, Dylann Cook, Natalia Cota, Conor Deasy, Lyla DeGaetano, Savannah Delany, Marissa DelCarmine, Christopher DeMuth, Sarah DeScenza, Owen Ditlevsen, Jackson Dooley, Andrew Esposito, Lina Ettamymy, Ryan Francis, Ellis Frey, Brooke Garcia, Elizabeth Gearhart, Matthew George, Peter Goodyear, Victoria Greer, Liam Hall, Lindsay Hanlon, Charlotte Hanover, Michael Harris, Grant Hickey, Tessa Helen Howarth, Daniel Hull, Parker Ivezaj, Ryan Jordan, Zak Joslin, Emma Kelly, Theresa Kelly, Melaina Kenin, Grayson Ladley, Jake Lettera, Andrew Liebau, Mia Lockyer, Ananya Malhotra, Gray Matthews, Grace McIntosh, Arya Mitra,

Jackson Mountford, Miles Nam-Hardie, Nikolas Nikeas, Clare O'Shea, Matthew Peloso, Riyaan Raghavan, Joel Ramos, Carson Roeder, Tyler Santiago, Eliana Savelli, Lorelei Schletter, Blake Schwartz, Aurora Shala, Sanjay Sivakumar, Aaciya Sonthonnax, Lylah Spring, Harrison Stainer, Ryan Stannard, Henry Stein, Christopher Studzinski, Bennett Uzpen, Jake Valente, George Volanakis, Blake Wheeler, Mason Wheeler, Caroline Wood, Peter Zwick,

GRADE 10 HONORS

David Asare, Phoenix Bennett, Emilia Bieliauskaitė, Brooke Bisesi, Clementine Bo, Edward Bradley, Charles Burges, Dylan Buschmann, Jane Morgan Cantor, Benjamin Chen, Ethan Cheuk, Henry Choi, Madison Ciavarelli, Claire Coleman, Charles Cuesta, Chloe Cui, Fiona Curri, Liam Danaher, Luciana Di Dodo, Andra Doneit, Peter Dooney, William Ericson, Mitchell Ericsson, Stanley Fillingham, Beck Findlay, Colin Finnerty, Cooper Fox, Wes Gallo, Veronica Gass, William Gerritsen, Oliver Gershey, Michael Harold, Jonah Heirshberg, Maddox Hoffman, Milana Hutchins, Anabel James, Jack Karczmit, Mina Karimnejad, Alanna Kell, Ethan Kremer, Charles Kropf, John Larkin, Lucianne Lavigne, Gus Leffers, Haoran Li, Maya Liu, Erica Ma, Andrew Mastronardi, Milo McCaughey, Griffin McGurk, Stone Milligan, Amira-Marie Mitchell, Finn Mocco, Nickoloz Natsvlishvili, Marina Notari Fontes, Vishnu Nukala, Marjorie Nurzia, John O'Neill, Charles O'Shea, Sofia Patterson, Owen Pesaturo, Nicholas Plasencia, Hadley Rattigan, Gabriel Rosario Mejia, Sebastian Rosario Mejia, Lucille Roscoe, Sheila Savage, Gabriella Scofield, Vlera Sejdaj, Alexander Sillo, Sophia Simpson, Matthew Sisser, Rial Smedley, Lolly Socaransky, Thomas Tchakarov, Benjamin Thomas, Catherine Ticsa, Henryerson Tolentino, Theodore Tonkovich, Olivia Vellante, Marquesa Weigel, Ava Welch, Molly Wolter, Tatum Woodie, Daniel Yang, Charles Zaffino, Vivienne Zuwiyya,

GRADE 9 HONORS

Nicholas Almasan, Maya Aquino, Lucas Azzopardi, Olivia Barbera, Austin Barr, Matteo Battisti, Sofia Boccaccio, Lucy Bomann, Sydney Bonheur, William Breen, Sophia Cantu, Marianna Ceballos, Nicholas Cerami, Kendall Ciccotelli, Katherine Cicia, Chloe Coleman, Poppy Cullen, Chris Cunningham, Anasophia D'Andrea, Roman D'Andrea, James Detmer, Elena Dillon, Felix Dinger, Karlee Doscher, Reece Doyle, Samuel Dunn, Benjamin Dymond, Jack Ericson, Bracelen Flood, Margot Frey, Evelyn Garcia, Alexa Gencarelli, Campbell Greiner, Claire Hellmann, Thomas Heyn, Claire Hickey, Sarah Hull, Kathryn Iacono, Serena Johnson, Alexandra Jordanopoulos, Benjamin Konigsberg, Courtney Marchiony, Caleb May, Madison McDougall, Frank Mercede, Michael Mocco, Paige Monohan, Jack Nicolet, Nora Nussbaum, Jackson

O'Hara, Sophie Olesen, Julia Olesnevich, Sarthak Parikh, Samuel Quimbaya-Torres, Rehan Sanish, Ava Schinella, Tyler Schwartz, Benjamin Scott, Beatrice Sexton, Nishant Shenoy, Cayden Shih, Spencer Skyrn, Julianna Spordone, Amelia Stainer, Tyler Suh, Charles Sullivan, Thomas Sullivan, Gregory Susanin, Archie Sutton, Petra Tessitore, Hailey Tobin, Eliza Van Amburg, Luke Williams, Matthias Yoo, Dean Yurista.

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Obituaries

SUZANNE SCHLUMPF

Suzanne (Susie) Schlumpf, 95, passed away peacefully in Lexington, KY on February 6, 2025. She was born in Kansas City, MO and was a registered pharmacist, graduating from Purdue University in 1951. She married her husband, James "Jim" Schlumpf, in 1952 and then worked as a pharmacist until her children, John, Laura and Robert, were born.

She took pride in her role as a homemaker and then later briefly returned to pharmacy work at Varnum's Pharmacy in New Canaan as well as a volunteer in the pharmacy department at Norwalk Community Hospital.

She lived in more than 25 different cities throughout the United States, but her time in New Canaan, CT, where she lived for over 43 years, was her "real" home.

She loved tennis, dancing, gardening and cooking. She was an excellent bridge player, a voracious reader, and a member of multiple book clubs. She and Jim enjoyed hosting elaborate Derby Day parties each year and traveled the world with their tennis club friends. Most rewarding of all, she hosted annual Schlumpf family reunions at Holden Beach, NC for over 30 years. Education was a key focus for Susie, not only for her family, but also for the community. She served as a literacy volunteer, was a member of AAUW, and was a proud member

of the philanthropic organization, PEO International Sisterhood, a group focused on helping women around the world advance through education.

She was preceded in death by Jim, her husband of 63 years, and by her parents, William "Cog" Coglizer and Betty Coglizer, and her sister, Carolyn Cooper. She is survived by her three children, John Schlumpf (Lynn), Laura Cox, and Robert Schlumpf (Trish Morehead). She also leaves behind seven grandchildren, David Schlumpf (James Marrone), Michael Schlumpf (Jennifer), Stephen Schlumpf (Leslie), Austin Cox (Andi), Jennifer Miles (Jeremy), Tia Cortes (Rogelio), and Katelin Bennett (Tyler) and ten great-grandchildren (Henry, Natalie,

Evan, Alexandra, Nicole, Brandon, Kylie, Riley, Makenzee, and Colt).

Memorial service will be held at the Congregational Church of New Canaan on March 29, 2025, at 11a.m., where her ashes will be interred.

Contributions can be made to PEO International, PEO Chapter N/CT New Canaan, or to the Congregational Church of New Canaan.

The New Canaan Sentinel believes every life deserves to be remembered. We do not charge for obituaries and welcome submissions to honor your loved ones.

Please email obituaries to Caroll@SentinelHometownNews.com.

YOUR NEWS BRIEFING CONTINUED From Page 1

New Canaan Mounted Troop Appoints New Horsemanship



New Canaan Mounted Troop has named Hannah Wirfel Jones as its new Horsemanship Director, bringing her extensive equestrian experience to the leadership team. Jones, a longtime NCMT instructor, has been instrumental in expanding the organization's riding programs since joining in 2011. A nationally ranked junior rider and USHJA Certified Trainer, she looks forward to continuing to mentor young equestrians and develop NCMT's horsemanship programs.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

Artist Aids Ukraine



Westport-based artist Mark Yurkiw addressed the Rotary Club about his efforts delivering medical and essential supplies to Ukraine since 2022. He discussed his travels through the country and interactions with soldiers and civilians facing daily risks. His work is funded by Ridgefield Responds, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Photo credit: New Canaan Rotary Club.

The Inn Residents Create Art



Residents of The Inn are participating in weekly studio art lessons led by Therapeutic Recreation leader John. The sessions cover a range of artistic mediums, including watercolors, oils, and pastels. Photo: Waveny LifeCare.

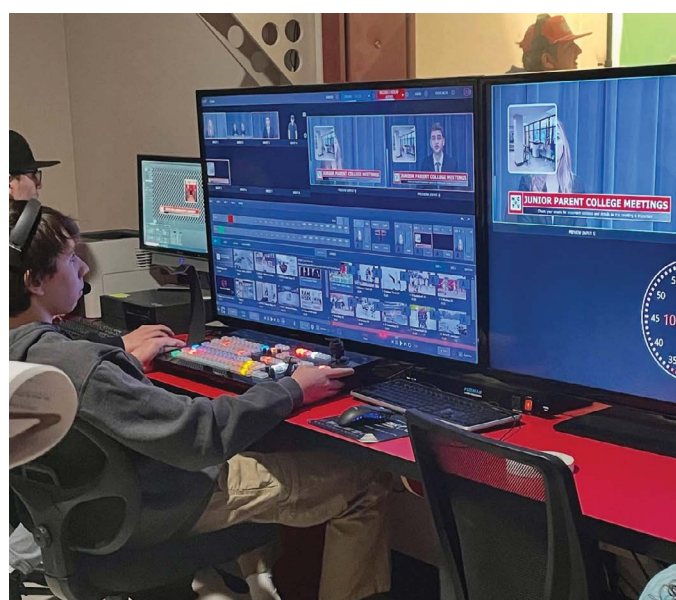
Girl Scouts Share Valentine's Cheer



On February 14th, Girl Scouts visited The Inn and distributed Valentine's Day cards to residents. Photo credit: Waveny LifeCare Network.

SCHOOLS

NCPS Students Deliver Latest School News



Last week, New Canaan High School student anchors delivered the latest school news, covering topics such as upcoming club registration, the senior internship program, and the girls track team's recent FCIAAC championship victory. Production crews handled technical aspects of the broadcast. The next episode will be on the @nctv78 YouTube channel. Photo credit: New Canaan Public Schools.

SLS CARE Club



On February 14th, St. Luke's School CARE Club students held a campus-wide Valentine's Day sale to raise funds for Circle of Care, a nonprofit supporting families of children with cancer. The club also provides food, clothing, and educational resources to children in Fairfield County. Photo credit: St. Luke's School.

NCPS Students Share Music and Valentines



New Canaan Public School students performed Wagon Wheel and distributed handmade Valentine's cards to residents of Waveny Care on Valentine's Day. The event aimed to connect students with community members and

promote social interaction. Photo credit: New Canaan Public Schools.

NCCS Students Donate Canned Goods



On February 14th, New Canaan Country School's Upper School Service Club delivered canned food donations to Person-to-Person CT. The food drive was part of the school's annual Souper Bowl, which combines community service with competition. The event supports local food assistance efforts. Photo credit: New Canaan Country School.

SLS Seniors Art Featured



The St. Luke's School Art Department announced that seven senior artists are featured in the Katonah Museum of Art's "Young Artists 2025" exhibition, running from February 12 to March 2. Georgia Bennett, Ainsley Birmingham, Kate Edwards, Maggie Lange, Emma Sherter, Sarah Steele, and Maddie Winarsky are showcasing their work. An artist reception is scheduled for March 1st, from 2 to 5 pm. Photo credit: St. Luke's School.

SLS Earns National Recognition



The National Council of Teachers of English awarded the "REALM Distinguished" rank to the 2024 edition of The Pendulum, St. Luke's Upper School literary and arts magazine. Editors Birch Howe '25 and Jackie Cecil '24, with faculty advisors George Yankura and Ashley Gangi-Petit, led the publication. The 2024 issue focuses on the theme "Apocalypse," covering division, conflict, decay, and renewal. Photo credit: St. Luke's School.

OUR NEIGHBORS

I-95 Busiest Commute

Interstate 95 southbound through Stamford is now the busiest interstate corridor in the U.S., with drivers losing about 150 hours annually due to congestion, according to INRIX's 2024 report. The Connecticut Department of Transportation plans to add auxiliary lanes between Exits 6 and 7 by year's end and is conducting long-term studies for further improvements.

Rescued Seal Pup

A gray seal pup found on Chapel Street in New Haven is recovering at Mystic Aquarium after being rescued by aquarium staff and state officials. The underweight and dehydrated seal is on a specialized treatment plan and receiving a diluted fish formula. Officials plan to release the seal back into the wild once it recovers.

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD EDITOR

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NEW LISTINGS

Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
232 Park Street #17	\$515,000	991	\$519.68		2	1
38 Tommys Lane	\$2,499,999	4,039	\$618.96	1.01	5	4
508 Ponus Ridge	\$3,950,000	8,113	\$486.87	2.84	5	6

NEW SALES

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
NONE							

FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

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

Address	Price	Day	Time	Broker
38 Tommys Lane	\$2,499,999	SAT & SUN	12:00PM-2:00PM	Re/Max
107 Weed Street	\$3,849,000	SUN	1:00PM-3:00PM	Higgins Group

Can New Canaan Hold Its Triple-A Rating? The Market Data That Matters



BY JOHN ENGEL

New Canaan is going through its annual budget review. There are two parts to the budget: operating and capital. The Selectmen have recommended a School budget of \$114 million, up 4.6%, and a Town budget of \$43 million, up 4.3%. The town council will cut that further. Most of the budget is locked in, the result of union negotiations, contracted services, insurance premiums, and debt service. Not much of the budget is discretionary. The biggest part of the discretionary budget is capital, and capital projects are bonded. Anything that costs more than \$50,000 and lasts more than a few years is capitalized. Most citizens are unaware that our town government publishes a list of all the capital priorities for the next few years (on page 118 of the selectman's recommended budget, [found on the town website](#).) Two current capital projects are the removal of Irwin House and the expansion of the Powerhouse Theater in Waveny.

As interest rates rise nationally, New Canaan finds itself re-financing our low-interest debt at higher and higher rates. We borrow for new (the Library), to improve (the Police Station), and to repair (Waveny roofs). We buy them, bond them, and bond them again when they wear out. Debt service is proposed at \$1.73 million for tax-supported capital and another \$18.11 million for debt service. This column is mostly about debt service.

Moody's is a rating agency that assigns credit ratings to New Canaan's bonds. The rating scale runs from Aaa to C, with Aaa being the highest quality. New Canaan enjoys a triple-A rating because:

"The Aaa rating reflects the town's large tax base with exceptionally strong income and wealth levels, healthy financial position following several years of operating surpluses and manageable long-term liabilities... The stable outlook reflects the expectation that the town's financial position will remain healthy due to strong management, stable revenues supported by strong property tax collections and low fixed costs."

Moody's is reviewing us today. The implication is that if Moody's ever loses confidence in the underlying real estate values here, they might lower our rating, and New Canaan would pay a higher interest rate in the market on the next round of bonds. That's why I was asked by the First Selectman this morning for an opinion on the New Canaan Real Estate market.

How's the market? If you are a Realtor dependent on commissions, it's pretty bleak. You might focus on the 16% decrease in transactions and flat dollar volume of sales these past two years. Homeowners are optimistic, focused on price and liquidity: what's my home worth and how long will it take to sell? (micro-economics) But our town

officials and their rating agency are more interested in macro-economics: the health of the whole town, risks, trends, and long-term projections. This boils down to real estate values and their confidence in residents' ability to pay our property taxes. One thing Moody's pays attention to is that while the budgeted tax collection rate is 98.5% of all taxes, we collect 99.8% of all taxes owed. This says a lot about our residents' ability to pay and our confidence in real estate.

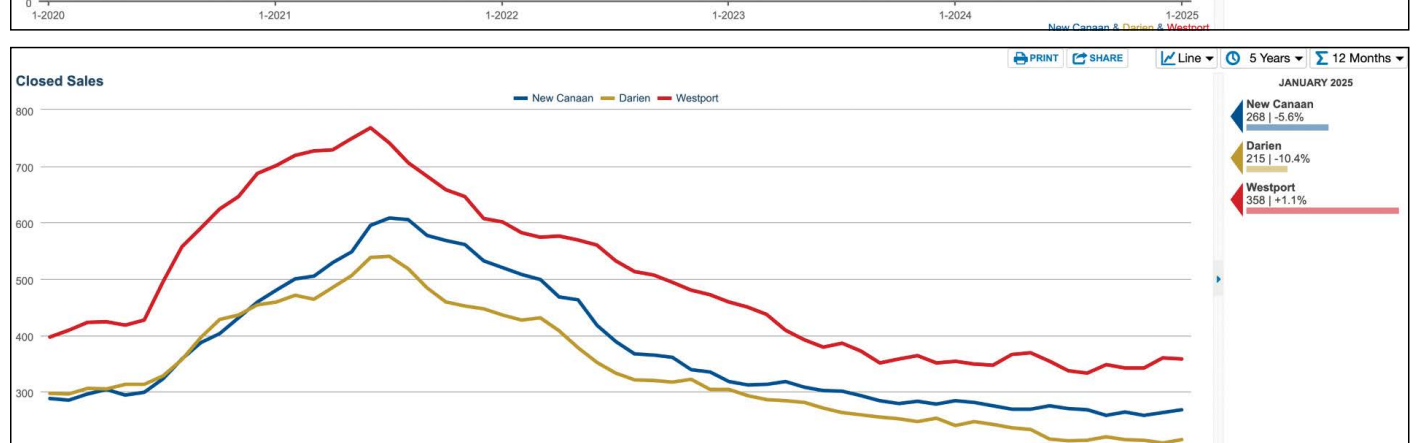
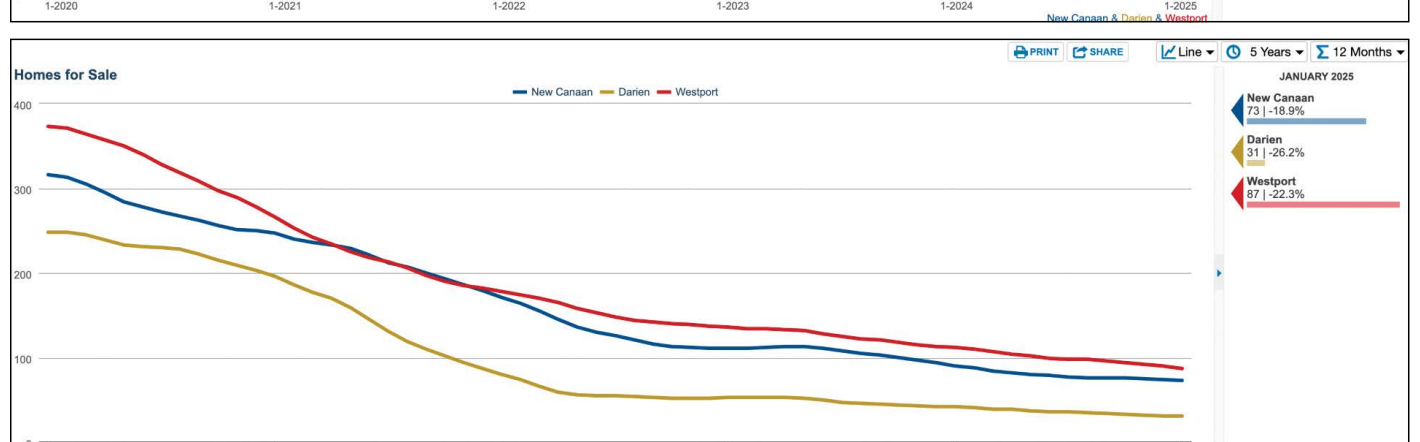
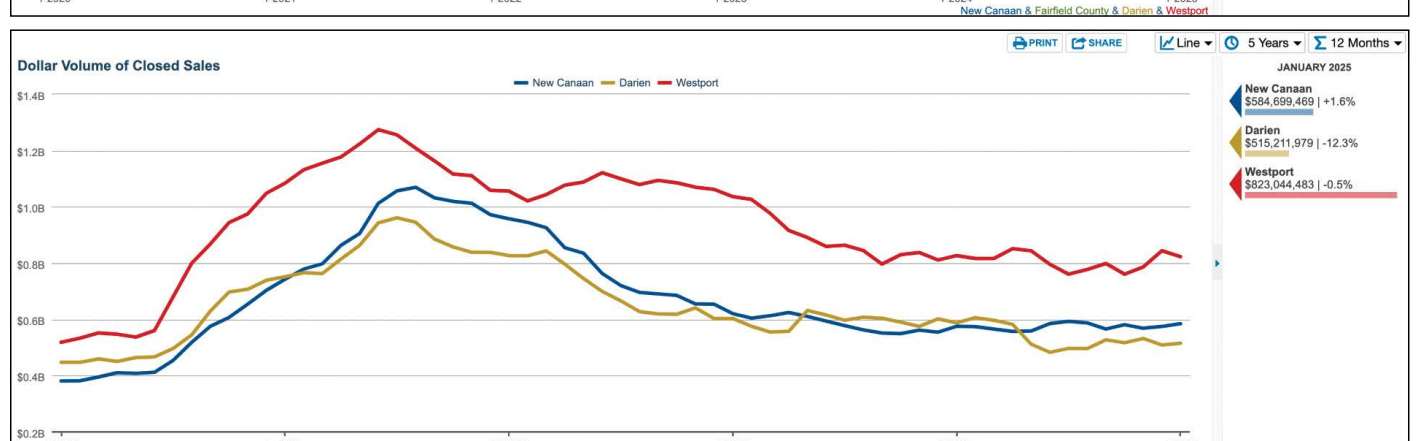
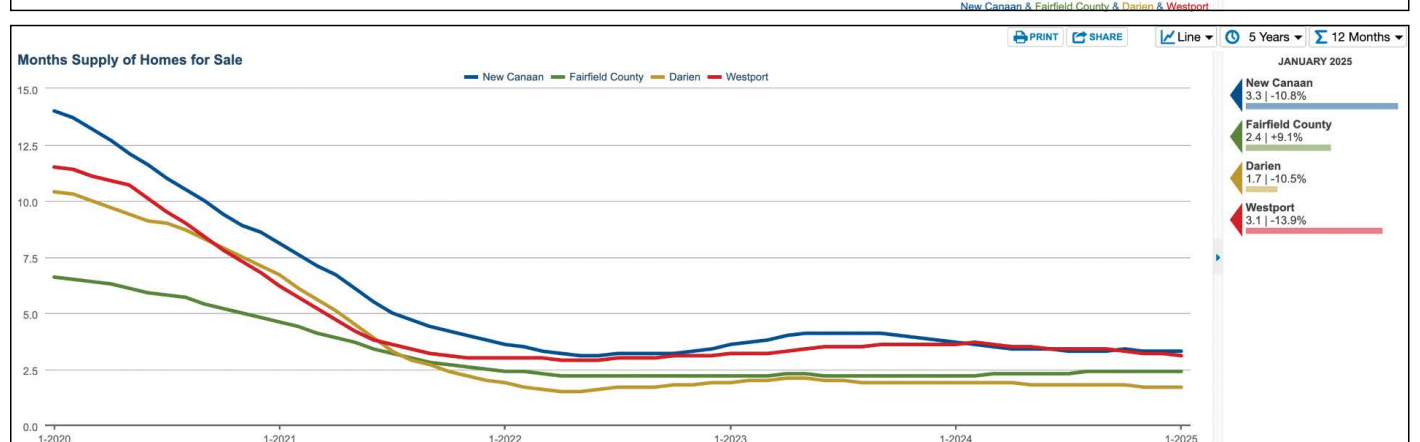
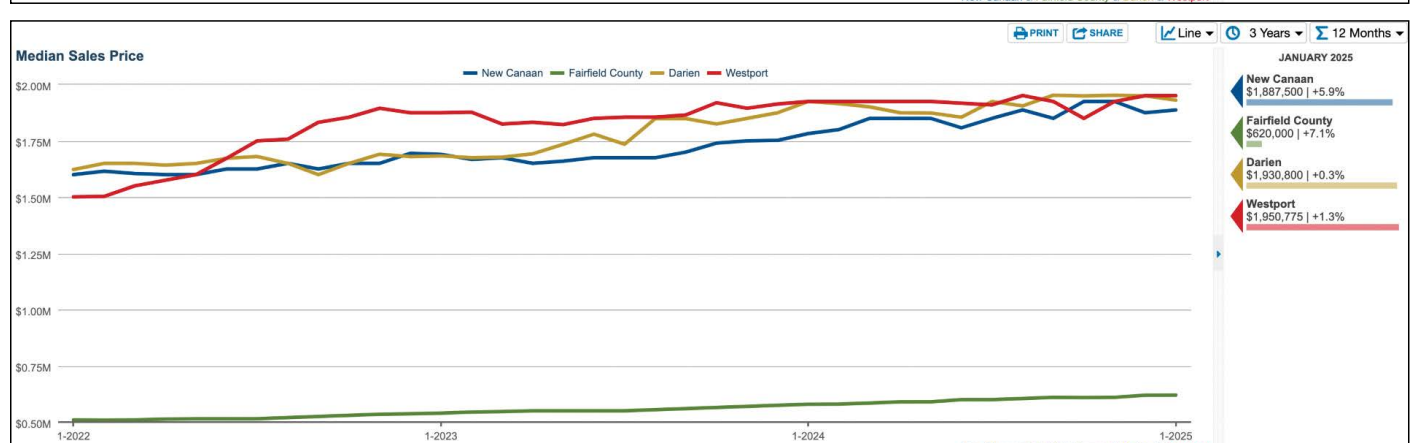
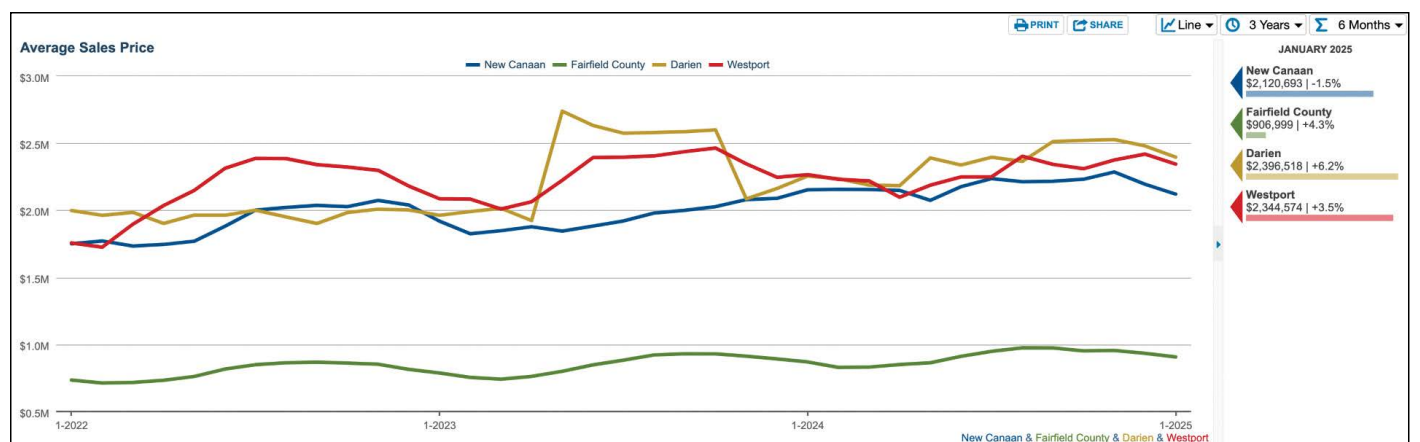
A thought exercise: If our property values were to double because of scarcity but jobs and wages failed to keep pace, they'd call that a recession. We'd see a lagging effect before inability to pay was reflected in declining real estate values. One early indication would be an increase in inventory levels. We aren't seeing that, yet. Or an increase in average-days-on-market: not seeing that. Finally, we'd see a decrease in the percentage of list price achieved: not an issue. It's currently 100% here and throughout Fairfield County. If, finally, these cracks become apparent, we should see a decrease in average and median price. These are the signs we look for. Today, I set out to produce the charts that might help our town officials and the folks at Moody's better understand whether New Canaan should remain triple-A.

Average Sales Price, where each data point represents six months of activity (strips out seasonality). It appears that New Canaan and her peer towns Westport and Darien are all on a flat trajectory, maintaining average sales prices over \$2 million consistently for the last 18 months. These three towns move together, competing for the same buyer. Therefore, if one were discovered to be an obvious bargain, that bargain would not last very long. Such is the case now with New Canaan, down 1.5% in average price year over year. Any gains were given back in the last three months, and the three-year trend line is positive for all three towns and Fairfield County as a whole.

Median Sales Price, where each data point represents 12 months of activity, better illustrates this tendency to move together, with New Canaan rising 5.9% year-over-year and Darien and Westport showing smaller gains. The three towns, with similar tax rates and similarly rated schools, have median prices within 2% of each other.

Months' supply of Homes for Sale is currently at 3.3 months' supply, down 10.8% year-over-year, and below the target six months we look for in a balanced market. Consider the relationship between the three graphs: the number of homes for sale dropped by 20%, prices rose by 5.9%, and months' supply dropped by 10% during the same period. Moody's might be correct in assuming that New Canaan's near-future self looks like Darien today: inventory cut by half (17 houses), month's supply cut in half (1.7 months), and prices up another 10% (\$2.2 million).

The Dollar Volume of Closed Sales has been steady for the last two years and is



expected to persist. This reflects a slight rise in price along with a slight decline in transactions. Rising prices are good for the New Canaan Grand List, while fewer transactions are bad for the State (.75% - 2.25%) and to a lesser extent the Town (.25%) portion of conveyance taxes.

Homes for Sale is down 18.9% year-over-year, not quite as bad as peer towns Darien and Westport but still pretty bad.

The Number of Closed Sales is down 5.6% in New

Canaan, a close parallel to the decrease in inventory levels.

We mustn't take it for granted that rating agencies will always give us a pass. On August 5, 2011, a Friday afternoon, rating agency S&P announced their first ever downgrade to U.S. sovereign debt, lowering the rating to AA+ with a negative outlook. My New Canaan neighbor was running S&P at the time and said it was a really, really tough time for the raters and rated.

Conclusion

The data suggests that New Canaan's real estate market remains stable, with rising prices and limited inventory supporting the town's financial health. While transaction volume has softened, key indicators — such as price trends, tax collection rates, and supply constraints — reinforce confidence in the town's long-term outlook. As long as these fundamentals remain intact, New Canaan's triple-A bond rating should hold, ensuring

continued fiscal strength and favorable borrowing conditions for future capital projects.

John Engel is a broker on the Engel Team at Douglas Elliman and each Thursday at 3pm he co-hosts a live show on real estate. Recent shows included Panama, Airbnb, Sarasota, Dubai, Austin, Vermont and the Middle East investor. John's guest on the show collects waterfront vacation apartments in Florida and Texas, 27 at last count, and claims they produce a 30% return. Not a bad way to make a living.



The Merritt "fog-way." The past weekend the Merritt Parkway was blanketed in fog, making for an eerie scene with the headlights and taillights. If you look closely, you can see the 5:28pm Metro-North train from New Canaan making its way to Grand Central. Photo by Neil Vigdor @GettinViggy

POWERHOUSE THEATRE IN WAVENY PARK

TERRA NOVA
BY TED TALLY

IN 1911-1912, FIVE ENGLISHMEN RACED THE NORWEGIANS TO THE SOUTH POLE. FIVE MEN NEVER MADE IT HOME. THIS IS THE TRUE STORY.

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FEB 21 - MAR 9

TPNC.ORG **TICKETS**

POWERHOUSE THEATRE IN WAVENY PARK

TERRA NOVA
BY TED TALLY

NEW CANAAN LIBRARY

TUESDAY, FEB. 25
6:30-7:30 pm

Polar Experts Talk:
Robert Falcon Scott's Last Expedition

In coordination with Town Players of New Canaan's production of **TERRA NOVA** by Ted Tally.

Come see the play and then learn more about the extraordinary early Antarctic explorers.

TERRA NOVA TICKETS at: TPNC.ORG

REGISTER FOR LIBRARY TALK at:

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Elvis at 90: The Music of Elvis Presley

By MICHAEL LaGAMMA

At the February 12th meeting of the Retired Men's Association Tim Brooks introduced acclaimed author Will Friedwald, who presented "Elvis at 90: The Music of Elvis Presley." Friedwald began by praising Brooks as a leading scholar of American music and the early recording industry, particularly highlighting Brooks's book on early Black recording artists as a seminal work. The lecture then transitioned to Elvis Presley, framing his story in three acts and a prelude.

Prelude: 1935-1953

Act I -

Breakthrough: 1954-1958

Act II - Hollywood: 1958-1967

Act III - Return of the King: 1968-1977

The prelude covered Elvis's early years, while Act I described his rise to fame, from his first record in 1954 to his being drafted into the Army in 1958. This period is considered by some as Elvis's golden age, a view the speaker respects but disagrees with. The second act encompassed Elvis's Hollywood years, a period often criticized even by ardent fans. The final act starts with the 1968 Comeback Special, marking a return to form and a period of incredible momentum until the mid-1970s, after which Elvis's decline began, culminating in his death in 1977 at age 42.

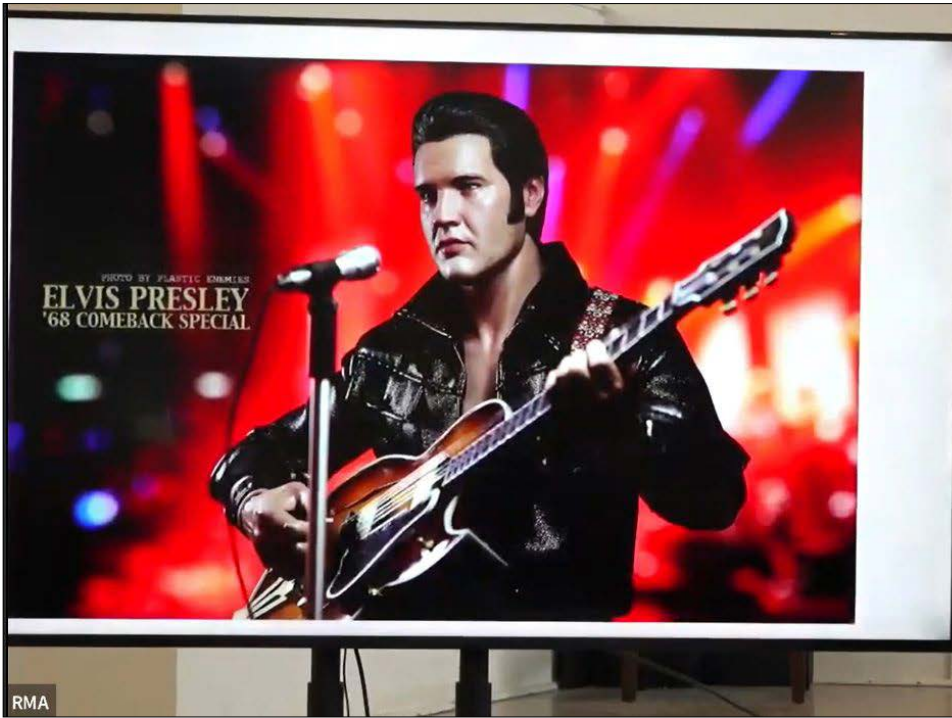
Prelude

Elvis was born January 8, 1935 in Tupelo, Mississippi to Vernon and Gladys Presley. The family's struggles during the Depression were highlighted, with Vernon being at one point imprisoned for forging a check. This early hardship marked Elvis's childhood. Later, the family moved to a housing project in Memphis in 1949, signaling an improvement in their financial situation. At this time, Elvis was already deeply immersed in music, buying records and studying various styles.

Despite his passion, no one seemed to encourage Elvis's musical pursuits. Described as shy and retiring, Elvis possessed an inner confidence that propelled him forward. His favorite music was gospel, particularly quartets, a genre that experienced a boom during his youth. Elvis initially aspired to join a gospel quartet like the Blackwoods. Another influence was Captain Marvel Jr., a comic book character from whom Elvis supposedly drew inspiration for his haircut and later for his stage attire.

Breakthrough

In the summer of 1953 Elvis walked into Sun Records, a small local recording studio. The studio had two functions: recording anyone who wanted to



Author Will Friedwald speaking on the career of Elvis Presley.

Described as shy and retiring, Elvis possessed an inner confidence that propelled him forward.

make a record or a greeting, for a fee; and issuing a few records commercially. Elvis's arrival was recounted through a dialogue involving Marion Keisker, the receptionist and owner Sam Phillips's assistant. B.B. King's quote about the young Elvis's dynamic talent and unique approach to music, which he likened to that of Frank Sinatra, was also shared.

Sam Phillips recognized Elvis's talent but struggled to define it. Elvis experimented with many genres, including R&B, Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, gospel, country, and blues. He recorded a variety of songs for Sun Records, many of which have been released. His first record, "That's All Right," a reimagining of Arthur Crudup's blues tune, was described as a transformative interpretation rather than a mere cover. Elvis's first record became a local hit, largely due to DJ George Klein's airplay on a Memphis radio station. The audience response was overwhelming, leading to Elvis being brought to the station for an on-air interview. This success led to a contract with the Louisiana Hayride, a radio show and concert tour that served as a farm club for the Grand Ole Opry. It was also during this time that he was heard by Colonel Tom Parker, an experienced promoter who became his manager.

Elvis' popularity soared during the next few years. An indication of how popular he became was when RCA offered Sun Records \$35,000 for his contract. That was the most ever offered for a recording artist contract at that time. Elvis signed



with RCA in late 1955. In 1956 RCA had Elvis appear in his first movie, a bit part in which he sang "Love Me Tender." The song became a huge success. During this time Elvis recorded numerous songs for RCA, often teen-oriented, like "Wear My Ring Around Your Neck" and "Teddy Bear." Parker booked Elvis on several network television shows, including the Ed Sullivan Show, which received its largest audience share ever at the time. RCA tried to market Elvis as a rebel when in reality he was really deferential.

Hollywood

Elvis was drafted into the army in 1958, choosing to serve as an ordinary G.I. rather than a celebrity entertainer. Later that year his mother, to whom he was very close, passed away, which

affected him deeply. While in the Army Elvis encountered three things that were to influence his life: martial arts, amphetamines, and Priscilla Beaulieu (born Priscilla Wagner), who he would later marry.

Once Elvis was out of the Army Colonel Parker initiated a bidding war for Elvis to appear on a TV show. At that time \$12-15,000 was the standard payment. Elvis received \$125,000 to appear on a Frank Sinatra special. It drew a huge audience.

Colonel Parker realized that the greatest amount of revenue with the least amount of work is in films. So he had Elvis concentrate on movies. Elvis starred in 30 films over a 12-year period. Many of them were cheaply made, and this phase of his career is widely recognized as his least creative.

Return of the King

During this final phase Elvis made two additional movies. His TV special "Elvis: Aloha from Hawaii" (1973) was broadcast worldwide and was the most watched TV special up to that time. Friedwald ended with "The American Trilogy" segment in which Elvis featured three songs, one of the Union, one of the Confederacy and one of African American culture. Through this performance Elvis tried to bring everyone together, being all inclusive.

A brief Question and Answer segment followed the presentation.

The talk can be viewed by going to the RMA website at <https://greenwichrma.org>, and clicking on "Speakers."

Breaking Glass: Tales From the Witch of Wall Street

The RMA's upcoming presentation, "Breaking Glass: Tales from the Witch of Wall Street" by Patricia Chadwick, is scheduled for 11 AM on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. Please note that this and all future RMA presentations will be held at Christ Church Greenwich, Parish Hall, 254 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830.

Breaking Glass: Tales From the Witch of Wall Street is Patricia Walsh Chadwick's second book, and is a sequel to her first book, "Little Sister, A Memoir," the story of her growing up in a staunchly religious Catholic community-turned-cult. One hundred people, including thirty-nine children, comprised the cult which was led by an excommunicated Jesuit priest and a married woman.

Patricia was evicted from her

home at the age of seventeen, due to a crush she had developed on a man in the community. She got her first job as a receptionist at a brokerage firm in Boston, where she developed her attraction to the stock market, memorizing every stock symbol on the NYSE. Within months she was scouring the news ticker for information on the stocks that the brokers owned for their customers. Rung by rung, she clawed her way up the ladder in that male bastion known as Wall Street, all the while taking courses at Boston University and Wharton.

Moving to New York in 1975, she quickly rose through the ranks of analyst to portfolio manager and was soon managing billions of dollars in pension and endowment assets. Her relentless drive earned her the moniker "Witch of Wall Street." At the age of forty-five, she gave birth to twins, while continuing forward in her career, becoming a global partner at Invesco. At the turn of the millennium she made the decision to leave Wall Street to spend time with her children, and within a couple of years had embarked on a second career as a corporate board director and an expert witness.

In 2016, Patricia co-founded Anchor Health Initiative, a healthcare firm that serves the needs of the LGBTQ community in Connecticut. She remains the pro-bono CEO of the organization.

To stream the presentation by Patricia Chadwick at 11 AM on Wednesday, February 26, click on <https://bit.ly/30IBj2l>. This presentation will also be available on local public access TV channels, Verizon FIOS channel 24 and Optimum (Cablevision) channel 79. The public is also invited to attend the presentation in person at Christ Church Greenwich, Parish Hall, 254 E. Putnam Avenue.

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

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

Calling all sophisticates, literary enthusiasts, and our very clever Sentinel readers!

Enter to Win Cash Prizes in our Cross-Over Contest!

Sentinel Literary Competition

FEBRUARY Challenge #225: Literary Love or The Bard

February is the month of love—but not all love stories are the same. This month, we challenge you to put your literary wit to the test with two bite-sized contests inspired by classic literature. Join in our cross-over contest for both New Canaan & Greenwich.

For ages 15 & Under: "Love Letters from Storybook Characters"

The winner receives \$25 and publication in the Sentinel!

Prompt: Ever wonder what Cinderella's glass slipper might write to her foot? Or what the Big Bad Wolf's love note to Little Red Riding Hood would say? In 50 words or fewer, write a Valentine's message from one famous storybook character to another—whether romantic, funny, or just plain weird!

EXAMPLES:

Dear Humpty Dumpty,
You may have had a great fall,
But to me, you're the greatest of all!
Cracked or whole, you're still my friend—
Little Miss Muffet

Dear Puss in Boots,

I like your hat. I like your boots. I like the way you trick people with big words. If I had nine lives, I'd spend them all going on adventures with you. Your fan, Jack (from the Beanstalk)

For ages 16 & Up: "Shakespeare in Six or Twelve Words"

Winners receive \$100 and \$50 and publication!

Prompt: The Bard was a master of love, tragedy, and mischief—now it's your turn. Summarize any Shakespearean love story in just six or twelve words - your choice. Whether it's "Much Ado: Enemies, rumors, wedding, still single"; Hamlet: "Dad's ghost returns. Bad idea, everyone"; or Macbeth: "Witches whisper fate, Daggers gleam, guilt stains his hands— All is lost." Make it clever, poetic, or laugh-out-loud funny!

Deadline: Friday, February 28, 2025. Winners announced in the March 6, 2025 issue.

How to Enter: Craft your clever response to this month's prompt, then visit www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/sentinel-writing-competition to submit it. Multiple entries are welcome, and pseudonyms are accepted—giving you the freedom to be as inventive as you like.





Preeminent surgeons caring for you, their neighbors

Maureen P. McEvoy, MD

Breast Surgeon; Breast Surgery Fellowship Director, Montefiore Einstein and Assistant Professor, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Raised in Connecticut and a resident of New Canaan, Maureen P. McEvoy, MD, provides comprehensive breast surgery care using minimally invasive and oncoplastic techniques to achieve cosmetically optimal outcomes. She focuses on minimizing surgery and maximizing patient care, offering surveillance for those with a high risk of breast cancer, performing lumpectomies, mastectomies and nipple-sparing mastectomies, and practicing de-escalation of axillary surgery.

A graduate of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dr. McEvoy completed a two-year clinical

research fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center followed by a breast surgical oncology fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard's teaching hospital.

Dr. McEvoy has served on national committees and written national guidelines on ways to decrease lymphedema through smarter axillary surgery. She has presented her work on breast cancer nationally and has received awards at national conferences.



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Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

Submit your events at:
newcanaasentinel.com/submit-an-event/

Town Meetings

Monday, February 24
 Inland Wetlands Commission
 7-9 p.m., Town Meeting Room & via Zoom
 Tuesday, February 25
 Board of Selectmen
 8:30-10 a.m., Town Meeting Room & via Zoom
 Board of Finance
 7-9 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room & via Zoom
 Planning & Zoning Commission
 7-9 p.m., Town Hall Board Room & via Zoom
 Wednesday, February 26
 Town Council
 7-9 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room & via Zoom
 Thursday, February 27
 Police Department Building Committee
 8-9 a.m., Location not posted at time of publication.
 Special Utilities Commission
 7-8 p.m., Town Hall Board Room & via Zoom
 Board of Finance
 7-9 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room & via Zoom

February 21

Coffee and Conversation
 8:30 – 9:30 AM at the Lapham Center
 Sponsored by the New Canaan Sentinel for a weekly community coffee and conversation.

Move with Grace Farms x lululemon | Yoga with Jane Krantz
 10:30 AM at Grace Farms
 Join instructor Jane Krantz for a fluid yoga class centered on moving through transitions with grace and finding stability in order to move with freedom, awareness, and expression. Starting with grounding breathwork, Jane will guide you through movement that will ignite a little bit of heat and a lot of joy, ending in a restful savasana. Tickets are \$20/non-members, \$16/members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org>.

Cookie Decorating
 12 PM at Grace Farms
 Bring your sweet tooth and decorate your own with winter-inspired cookies alongside Pastry Chef and Educator Leah Jones. Tickets are free for members, \$8/non-members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org>.

Polar Bear Picnic
 5:30 PM at Grace Farms
 Families are invited to gather for a cozy meal in the Commons prepared by our culinary team. After enjoying your meal, take part in winter-inspired crafts and games. Tickets are \$22/adults, \$16/children, and available at <https://tickets.gracefarms.org>.

Terra Nova Opening Night
 7:30 PM at the Town Players of New Canaan
 In the winter of 1911-12, five Englishmen and five Norwegians raced each other to the bottom of the Earth. Only the Norwegians returned. Terra Nova is the story of Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole. Tickets are \$35/adults, \$30/seniors, and available at <https://tpnc.org>.

February 22

Music at Grace Farms | Andromeda Turre
 4 PM at Grace Farms
 Join for a performance from Andromeda

Turre, an award-winning jazz performer, composer, and educator committed to using her art for positive change. Tickets are \$20/adult and available at <https://tickets.gracefarms.org>.

Terra Nova- Day Two
 7:30 PM at the Town Players of New Canaan
 In the winter of 1911-12, five Englishmen and five Norwegians raced each other to the bottom of the Earth. Only the Norwegians returned. Terra Nova is the story of Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole. Tickets are \$35/adults, \$30/seniors, and available at <https://tpnc.org>.

February 23

Deep Sleep Meditation / Yoga Nidra
 11 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
 Listen to the tranquil visual and guided imagery as you gently relax and restore. One hour equals 3-4 hours of deep sleep and you will feel genuinely refreshed and reinvigorated after the session. There will be no yoga poses. Registration is \$40/person and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/deep-sleep-meditation-yoga-nidra/>.

Last Saturdays on the Trail Winter Hiking Challenge
 11 AM at Grupes House, 1124 Valley Road
 Join the New Canaan Land Trust's Winter Hiking Challenge. During the month of February, visit all eight of their preserves open to the public that are almost 6 miles of trails. Then, celebrate your local hiking achievement on February 23rd. For more information and to register visit <https://newcanaanlandtrust.org/events/last-saturdays-on-the-trail-winter-hiking-challenge/>.

Open-ended Art Exploration with Barbara Rucci
 12 PM at the New Canaan Library, Arlene H. Grushkin Children's Program Room
 Families can drop in to come make art with Barbara Rucci. There will be three different art stations where you can explore your creativity. No registration needed, this is a drop-in program.

Terra Nova- Day Three
 2 PM at the Town Players of New Canaan
 In the winter of 1911-12, five Englishmen and five Norwegians raced each other to the bottom of the Earth. Only the Norwegians returned. Terra Nova is the story of Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole. Tickets are \$35/adults, \$30/seniors, and available at <https://tpnc.org>.

February 24

VITA Free Tax Preparation
 11 AM- 6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
 Get your 2024 taxes filed for free at New Canaan Library through SimplifyCT. SimplifyCT uses VITA, a secure, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) certified program that's been developed to connect individuals to volunteer IRS certified tax preparers who can give you advice and file your taxes. Drop-ins are welcome. Register at <https://shorturl.at/KDebZ>.

Chair Yoga
 11:30 AM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
 With the support of a chair, this gentle Chair Yoga class will help you improve postural alignment, maintain pelvic mobility, reduce muscle tension and gain strength through flowing movements and focused breathing. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-chair-yoga-117451>.

February 25

iPhone Photography Editing with Jane Beiles
 12 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
 Lunch & Learn: An interactive iPhone editing workshop with Jane Beiles, acclaimed photographer for publications including The New York Times, Architectural Digest and House Beautiful. The class is designed for any, and all, levels of photographers seeking to elevate their game. Tickets are \$65/members and \$75/non-members. For more information and to register, visit <https://carriagebarn.org>.

Open Tech
 2-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
 If you need help with email, smartphones/tablets, social media, or accessing the digital library, stop by for one-on-one support from a tech librarian. All technology-related questions are welcome. Tech assistance is limited to 20 minutes per session and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Polar Experts Talk: Robert Falcon Scott's Last Expedition
 6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
 Learn about Robert Falcon Scott's last expedition of 1910-1913, which ended in tragedy and inspired Ted Tally's 1981. The lecture will bring you up to date on the big questions of historical Antarctic exploration. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-terra-nova-130273>.

February 26

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide
 10 AM - 3 PM at the Lapham Center
 IRS trained and certified AARP Tax Counselors will provide free, income tax preparation on Wednesdays, February 5th through April 9th. There will be a focus on adults aged 50+ with a low to moderate income. AARP membership is NOT required. You can choose to have an IRS-certified volunteer prepare your taxes for you or provide guidance, so you can prepare them yourself. This program is by appointment only. Information about scheduling appointments will be available in mid-January. For more information, please visit <https://taxaidegreaterstamford.org>.

Journey Into the World of Tea | White and Green Teas of China and Japan
 3 PM at Grace Farms
 Step into the Pavilion to explore and taste the differences between the white and green teas of China and Japan. Journey Into the World of Tea is a tranquil and in-depth exploration of tea offering guests a taste of different notable varietals from cultures around the world, examples of demonstrations, and more. Tickets are \$24/members, \$30/non-members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org>.

Soul•Fête: A Culinary Immersion
 6-9:30 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
 Stand Together Against Racism (S.T.A.R.) proudly invites you to honor Black Excellence Month at the second edition of Soul•Fête, A Culinary Immersion. Join for an evening exploring the rich influence of Black cuisine on American food culture. Savor delicious dishes crafted by the talented Dr. Chef Alexandria, and dance the night away to the vibrant sounds of local band The Misfits. Tickets are \$162 and available at <https://www.star-ct.org/soulfete>.

Stamford Heath Presents: Preventing Cardiovascular Disease

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim and Dede Bartlett Auditorium
 This presentation will cover various practical strategies to prevent cardiovascular disease. This will include a broad discussion of diet/nutrition, exercise, and medications that could be used. This will also include a discussion about what factors influence a patient's risk of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Mark Steuerwald is a cardiologist at Stamford Health. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/stamford-heath-presents-preventing-cardiovascular-disease-130865>.

February 27

Madness with Best-Selling Author Antonia Hylton
 7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
 Widely listed as one of the best books of 2024, Madness tells the 93-year-old history of Crownsville Hospital, one of the last segregated asylums with surviving records and a campus that still stands in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Award-winning journalist Antonia Hylton traces the legacy of slavery to the treatment of Black people's bodies and minds in our current mental healthcare system. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/antonia-hylton-madness-author-talk-87317>.

SAVE THE DATE

February 28

Feed My Starving Children Food Packing Event
 Shift times vary at New Canaan High School
 Rally friends, neighbors, sports teams, and community organizations to help pack 100,000 meals at the upcoming Feed My Starving Children Food Packing Event. There are a variety of 2-hour volunteer slots available, so lots of helping hands are needed. Help pack meals to feed hungry kids around the globe. Visit <https://shorturl.at/R3Fno> to register as a volunteer.

Fraud and Crime Prevention
 1 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
 Protect yourself from scammers, information theft, and property crimes at home, online, and when you're out and about. Join for an informative and interactive presentation with members of the NCPD, who will share tips, tools, and details on free security assessments for your home or business. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-fraud-crime-prevention-ncpd-130624>.

Film Screening: Hidden Figures
 3 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
 Three female African-American mathematicians play a pivotal role in astronaut John Glenn's launch into orbit, even as they encounter racial and gender discrimination at work. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/film-screening-hidden-figures>.

Platon and The Defenders | Conversation and Book Signing
 5 PM at Grace Farms
 Join world-renowned portrait photographer Platon for an exploration of his newest book, The Defenders: Heroes of the Global Fight for Human Rights (2024). Tickets are \$12/adults and online at <https://tickets.gracefarms.org>.

Filmmaker and producer Jake Gorst presents the remastered 1959 classic "American Look"
 6 PM at the New Canaan Museum & Histori-

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

cal Society

This promotional film highlights the Chevrolet automobile line as a showcase of American industrial design and style. The film emphasizes the abundance of consumer goods and the role of design in offering people freedom of choice. Tickets are free for members, \$10/non-members, and available at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/3fsp8hm>.

Pages & Putts | Mini Golf at the Library- Day One
6-9 PM at the New Canaan Library
Bring your whole family to play Mini Golf and Support the Library! The 18-hole course will take you all around the library and there will be fun prizes for you to win. Apple Cart Food Co. will be selling hot dogs and other treats for golfers. Tickets are \$10 and available at <https://shorturl.at/WJzaE>.

Paint with Your Partner
6:30-8 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
A fun and engaging event for couples and friends. Work together or separately to create art inspired by the energy and movement of the ocean... no art experience required, all materials provided. Tickets are \$80 per couple and available at <https://carriagebarn.org>.

March 1

Feed My Starving Children Food Packing Event
Shifting times vary at New Canaan High School
Rally friends, neighbors, sports teams, and community organizations to help pack 100,000 meals at the upcoming Feed My Starving Children Food Packing Event. There are a variety of 2-hour volunteer slots available, so lots of helping hands are needed. Help pack meals to feed hungry kids around the globe. Visit <https://shorturl.at/R3Fno> to register as a volunteer.

Pages & Putts | Mini Golf at the Library- Day Two
10 AM- 3 PM at the New Canaan Library
Bring your whole family to play Mini Golf and Support the Library! The 18-hole course will take you all around the library and there will be fun prizes for you to win. Apple Cart Food Co. will be selling hot dogs and other treats for golfers. Tickets are \$10 and available at <https://shorturl.at/WJzaE>.

Storytelling with The Moth
2 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Learn storytelling from the best in this introductory workshop with The Moth. Since its launch in New York City in 1997, The Moth has presented thousands of stories told live and without notes, renowned for the great range of human experience they showcase. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/storytelling-moth-110688>.

March 2

The Joy of Deep Sleep Meditation / Yoga Nidra
10:30 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Listen to the tranquil visual and guided imagery as you gently relax and restore. One hour equals 3-4 hours of deep sleep and you will feel genuinely refreshed and reinvigorated after the session. Bring 2-3 blankets, a yoga mat, eye pillow and bolster for under the knees. Tickets are \$40/person. Register at <https://carriagebarn.org>.

Terra String Quartet and Oskar Espina Ruiz
4 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
The Terra String Quartet is a vibrant young international ensemble based in New York City. They are composed of graduates of The Juilliard School, The New England Conservatory, Harvard University, and the Curtis Institute of Music. Tickets are \$40/adults, \$30/children, and available at <https://www.treetopscms.org>.

March 3

VITA Free Tax Preparation
11 AM- 6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference

Room

Get your 2024 taxes filed for free at New Canaan Library through SimplifyCT. SimplifyCT uses VITA, a secure, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) certified program that's been developed to connect individuals to volunteer IRS certified tax preparers who can give you advice and file your taxes. Drop-ins are welcome. Register at <https://shorturl.at/KDebZ>.

Chair Yoga
11:30 AM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
With the support of a chair, this gentle Chair Yoga class will help you improve postural alignment, maintain pelvic mobility, reduce muscle tension and gain strength through flowing movements and focused breathing. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-chair-yoga-117451>.

March 4

Open Tech
2-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
If you need help with email, smartphones/tablets, social media, or accessing the digital library, stop by for one-on-one support from a tech librarian. All technology-related questions are welcome. Tech assistance is limited to 20 minutes per session and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

March 5

Building for Nature in Your Backyard with Diego Alcantara and Claudio Altesor
9:30-11 AM at the New Canaan Nature Center
Cofounders of the landscaping group Back to Nature have combined their lifetime interests in organic gardening and environmental preservation with their skills in construction and design to bring wonderful solutions to backyard projects. They will discuss the importance of permaculture design and how their projects integrate natural gardening practices to create beautiful and bountiful landscapes for their clients. Registration not required.

Women In The Arts Lecture Series: Female Still Life Painters
6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Join Page Knox for a discussion of the fascinating female flower painters and their extraordinary still lives, as they used the genre to create exquisite works of art and to establish themselves in eras ranging from Renaissance Italy and the Dutch Golden Age to the time of the French Royal Academy and today's contemporary art world. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-navy-event-122464>.

March 6

Winter Recipe Family Potluck
8:30- 11:30 AM at the New Canaan Library, Arlene H. Grushkin Children's Program Room
Join for a cozy Winter Recipe Family Potluck. Share your favorite winter dishes and indulge in the flavors of the season. Each family is invited to bring a beloved winter recipe that has become a tradition in your home. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/winter-recipe-family-potluck-122404>.

March 8

Writing Tips: The Importance of Revisions
10:30 AM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
In Writing Tips, the necessity to revise your work will be discussed along with the technical elements: cohesion, depth of character, POV and word integration, plus more that polish the narrative. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/writing-tips-98278>.

March 9

Taking Manhattan: Best-Selling Author Russell Shorto
2 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Russell Shorto, best-selling author

of The Island at the Center of the World, offers up a thrilling narrative of how the brash, bold, archetypal city of New York came to be—just in time for the 400th anniversary of its founding as Nieuw Amsterdam. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-russell-shorto-nyc-books-116540>.

March 11

Open Tech
2-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
If you need help with email, smartphones/tablets, social media, or accessing the digital library, stop by for one-on-one support from a tech librarian. All technology-related questions are welcome. Tech assistance is limited to 20 minutes per session and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

March 13

The Films of David Lynch: Lecture by Film Historian Greg Blank
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
B David Lynch was an American artist and filmmaker known for creating one of the most surreal and distinctive bodies of work in cinema history. About the Presenter: Greg Blank is a New York-based filmmaker and film historian with over 15 years of experience as a producer, director, cinematographer, and editor. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-historian-greg-blank-130095>.

March 15

Syrup Saturday
8:30- 11:30 AM at the New Canaan Nature Center
Bring the whole family and join the NCNC for their annual syrup season celebration. There will be pancakes & PJ's party, complete with tons of fun syrup-related activities. Tickets are \$15/person and registration will be open soon at <https://newcanaan-nature.org/syrup-saturday/>.

Gardening Workshop | Soil & Compost
11 AM at Grace Farms
Deepen your knowledge of soils and composts with Director of Horticulture Kimberly Kelly. Discover how to create and feed soil, a crucial element of a resilient ecosystem, and learn about how to make and properly use compost. Tickets are \$16/ members, \$20/non-members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org>.

Jazz & Wine Night with Michael-Louis Smith & Brooklyn Circle
7 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
An evening of wine and music featuring original jazz/world/groove. Featuring Saxophonist Stacy Dillard, Bassist Diallo House, Guitarist Michael-Louis Smith, and Drummer Ismail Lawal. Tickets are \$35 through March 13th. After, tickets are \$40. Register at <https://carriagebarn.org/>.

March 20

The Link from Mozart to Film- Day One
3 PM at the First Presbyterian Church
New Canaan Chamber Music concert featuring Stella Chen, Geneva Lewis, Matthew Lipman, Ani Aznavoorian, and Andrew Armstrong. Ticket prices start at \$50 and are available at <https://newcanaanchambermusic.org/tickets/>.

March 21

The Link from Mozart to Film- Day Two
7:30 PM at the First Presbyterian Church
New Canaan Chamber Music concert featuring Stella Chen, Geneva Lewis, Matthew Lipman, Ani Aznavoorian, and Andrew Armstrong. Ticket prices start at \$50 and are available at <https://newcanaanchambermusic.org/tickets/>.

March 22

NC Color Drop
10 AM at Waveny Park
A helicopter will release 2,000 golf

balls over a target at Waveny Park. Each ball will be numbered individually and the participants whose golf ball(s) land closest to the target will win one of the grand prizes below. All proceeds will be donated to need-based college scholarships for NCHS graduates. Spectators are welcome. Golf balls are \$100/each and available online at <https://www.nchs-sf.org/colordrop>.

BLOOD DRIVES

Friday, February 21

Italian Center
1620 Newfield Avenue
Stamford, CT 06905
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Monday, February 24

Wilton Firehouse
236 Danbury Rd
Wilton, CT 06897
12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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

Norwalk Hospital
34 Maple Street
Norwalk, CT 06856
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Tuesday, February 25

Green's Farms Church
71 Hillandale Road
Westport, CT 06880
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Support Services & Meetings

February 21

Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade and Refer
11 AM- 1 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer — the 3 simple steps anyone can use to help prevent suicide. 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. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/suicide-prevention-training-question-persuade-and-refer-128079>.

February 26

Alzheimer's Support Group with the Waveny LifeCare Network
2 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. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-dementia-support-group-93005>.

March 6

Navigating Post-Secondary Planning for Students with Learning Differences
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
For parents feeling overwhelmed by the college selection process for students with learning and attention differences: join for an informative panel discussion on finding the best-fit college or transition program. This event will empower you with the tools, strategies and resources you need to advocate for your student's future.

Every Friday

AA Speaker Meeting Wheelchair Access
Fridays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan

Every Saturday

AA Meeting-Sober Citizens Group
Saturdays at 9:15 AM
First Presbyterian Church of New

Canaan

AA Meeting-Laundry and Dry Cleaning Group
Saturdays at 10:30 AM
First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan

Lost Then Found NA Meeting
Wheelchair Accessible
Saturdays at 7 PM
United Methodist Church (back entrance)

Every Monday

AA Meeting
Wheelchair Access
Mondays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan

Adult Child AI-Anon Meeting
Mondays at 12 PM
St. Mark's Church, Youth Room

Every Tuesday

Adult Child Alanon Meeting
Tuesdays at 12 PM
St. Mark's Parish House, Conf. Room

Every Wednesday

AA Step Meeting
Wheelchair Access
Wednesdays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan

AI-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
New Canaan Parent Support Group
7- 8:30 PM
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
New Canaan

Our Neighbors

February 23

Greenwich Town Ice Skating Competition
9 AM at the Dorothy Hamill Rink, Greenwich
This year's competition promises to be bigger and better, with events tailored for skaters of all levels. Categories include Snowplow Sam, Aspire, Well-Balanced, Excel, and many more, providing opportunities for participants to shine and compete for medals and special honors. Register at <https://comp.entryeeze.com/Home.aspx?cid=535>.

February 27

Pollinator Potluck: Green Energy - A Win For Birds!
6 PM at the Greenwich Audubon Center
613 Riversville Rd, Greenwich
Join for a special evening as we host Mike Richter, President, Brightcore Energy and Michael Levin of Columbia University, as they discuss the science and application of geothermal systems and solar facilities – their pros, cons and how thoughtful siting can produce positive effects for our planet. Register at <https://shorturl.at/vd9yn>.

March 9

The Irish Tenors with the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra
7:30 PM at the Ridgefield Playhouse
The Irish Tenors have been Celtic music icons since their 1998 debut, boasting ten best-selling CDs and captivating audiences across the U.S. with their enchanting performances. They reignited America's love for Irish music, consistently drawing full houses and standing ovations. Tickets prices start at \$86 and are available at <https://ridgefieldplayhouse.org/event/the-irish-tenors-with-the-ridgefield-symphony-orchestra/>.

THE HOUSE AT POOH CORNER BY A.A. MILNE

CHAPTER IX

IN WHICH Eeyore Finds the Wolery and Owl Moves Into It

Pooh had wandered into the Hundred Acre Wood, and was standing in front of what had once been Owl's House. It didn't look at all like a house now; it looked like a tree which had been blown down; and as soon as a house looks like that, it is time you tried to find another one. Pooh had had a Mysterious Message underneath his front door that morning, saying, "I AM SCERCHING FOR A NEW HOUSE FOR OWL SO HAD YOU RABBIT," and while he was wondering what it meant, Rabbit had come in and read it for him.

"I'm leaving one for all the others," said Rabbit, "and telling them what it means, and they'll all search too. I'm in a hurry, good-bye." And he had run off.

Pooh followed slowly. He had something better to do than to find a new house for Owl; he had to make up a Pooh song about the old one. Because he had promised Piglet days and days ago that he would, and whenever he and Piglet had met since, Piglet didn't actually say anything, but you knew at once why he didn't; and if anybody mentioned Hums or Trees or String or Storms-in-the-Night, Piglet's nose went all pink at the tip and he talked about something quite different in a hurried sort of way.

*So to the letter-box he rose,
While Pooh and Owl said "Oh!" and
"Hum!"
And where the letters always come
(Called "LETTERS ONLY") Piglet sqoze
His head and then his toes.
O gallant Piglet (PIGLET)! Ho!
Did Piglet tremble? Did he blinch?
No, No, he struggled inch by inch
Through LETTERS ONLY, as I know
Because I saw him go.
He ran and ran, and then he stood
And shouted, "Help for Owl, a bird
And Pooh, a bear!" until he heard
The others coming through the wood
As quickly as they could.
"Help-help and Rescue!" Piglet cried
And showed the others where to go.
Sing ho! for Piglet (PIGLET) ho
And soon the door was opened wide
And we were both outside!
Sing ho! for Piglet, ho!
Ho!*

"So there it is," said Pooh, when he had sung this to himself three times. "It's come different from what I thought it would, but it's come. Now I must go and sing it to Piglet."

I AM SCERCHING FOR A NEW HOUSE FOR OWL SO HAD YOU RABBIT.

the other person's tail is only just in sight for the second half of the conversation."

"It's your fault, Eeyore. You've never been to see any of us. You just stay here in this one corner of the Forest waiting for the others to come to you. Why don't you go to them sometimes?"

Eeyore was silent for a little while, thinking.

"There may be something in what you say, Rabbit," he said at last. "I must move about more. I must come and go."

"That's right, Eeyore. Drop in on any of us at any time, when you feel like it."

"Thank-you, Rabbit. And if anybody says in a Loud Voice 'Bother, it's Eeyore,' I can drop out again."

Rabbit stood on one leg for a moment.

"Well," he said, "I must be going."

"Good-bye," said Eeyore.

"What? Oh, good-bye. And if you do come across a house for Owl, you must let us know."

"I will give my mind to it," said Eeyore.

Rabbit went.

Pooh had found Piglet, and they were walking back to the Hundred Acre Wood together.

"Piglet," said Pooh a little shyly, after they had walked for some time without saying anything.

"Yes, Pooh?"

"Do you remember when I said that a Respectful Pooh Song might be written about You Know What?"

"Did you, Pooh?" said Piglet, getting a little pink round the nose. "Oh, yes, I believe you did."

"It's been written, Piglet."

The pink went slowly up Piglet's nose to his ears, and settled there.

"Has it, Pooh?" he asked huskily. "About—about—That Time When?—Do you mean really written?"

"Yes, Piglet."

The tips of Piglet's ears glowed suddenly, and he tried to say something; but even after he had husked once or twice, nothing came out. So Pooh went on.



"But it isn't Easy," said Pooh to himself, as he looked at what had once been Owl's House. "Because Poetry and Hums aren't things which you get, they're things which get you. And all you can do is to go where they can find you."

He waited hopefully...

"Well," said Pooh after a long wait, "I shall begin 'Here lies a tree' because it does, and then I'll see what happens."

This is what happened.

*Here lies a tree which Owl (a bird)
Was fond of when it stood on end,
And Owl was talking to a friend
Called Me (in case you hadn't heard)
When something Oo occurred.
For lo! the wind was blusterous
And flattened out his favourite tree;
And things looked bad for him and we—
Looked bad, I mean, for he and us—
I've never known them wuss.
Then Piglet (PIGLET) thought a thing:
"Courage!" he said. "There's always hope.
I want a thinnish piece of rope.
Or, if there isn't any bring
A thickish piece of string."*

"What's all this?" said Eeyore.

Rabbit explained.

"What's the matter with his old house?" asked Eeyore.

Rabbit explained.

"Nobody tells me," said Eeyore. "Nobody keeps me Informed. I make it seventeen days come Friday since anybody spoke to me."

"It certainly isn't seventeen days——"

"Come Friday," explained Eeyore.

"And today's Saturday," said Rabbit. "So that would make it eleven days. And I was here myself a week ago."

"Not conversing," said Eeyore. "Not first one and then the other. You said 'Hallo' and Flashed Past. I saw your tail in the distance as I was meditating my reply. I had thought of saying 'What?'—but, of course, it was then too late."

"Well, I was in a hurry."

"No Give and Take," Eeyore went on. "No Exchange of Thought: 'Hallo—What'——I mean, it gets you nowhere, particularly if

"There are seven verses in it."

"Seven?" said Piglet as carelessly as he could. "You don't often get seven verses in a Hum, do you, Pooh?"

"Never," said Pooh, "I don't suppose it's ever been heard of before."

"Do the Others know yet?" asked Piglet, stopping for a moment to pick up a stick and throw it away.

"No," said Pooh. "And I wondered which you would like best. For me to hum it now, or to wait till we find the others, and then hum it to all of you."

Piglet thought for a little.

"I think what I'd like best, Pooh, is I'd like you to hum it to me now—and—and then to hum it to all of us. Because then



Everybody would hear it, but I could say 'Oh, yes, Pooh's told me,' and pretend not to be listening."

So Pooh hummed it to him, all the seven verses and Piglet said nothing, but just stood and glowed. Never before had anyone sung ho for Piglet (PIGLET) ho all by himself. When it was over, he wanted to ask for one of the verses over again, but didn't quite like to. It was the verse beginning "O gallant Piglet," and it seemed to him a very thoughtful way of beginning a piece of poetry.

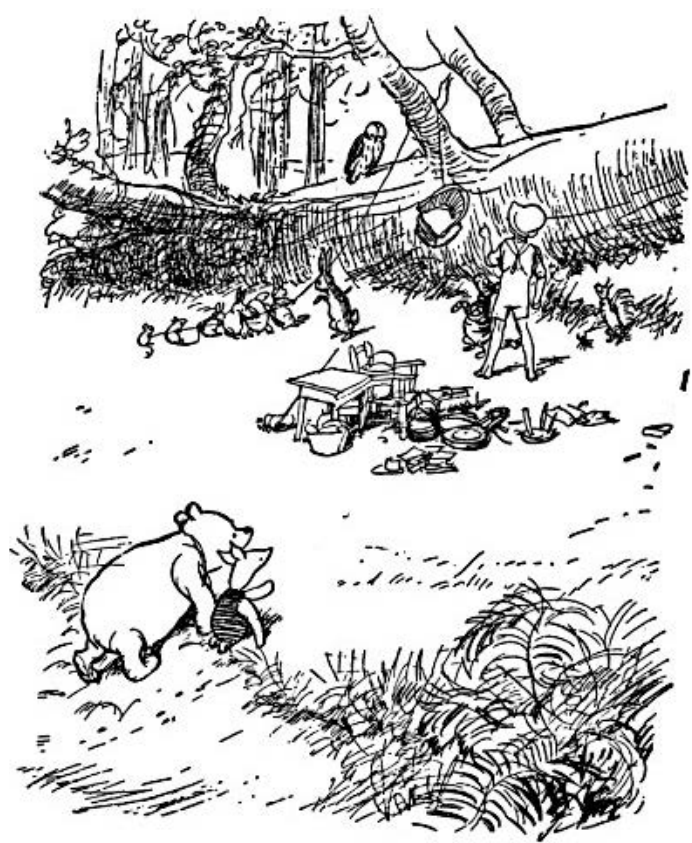
"Did I really do all that?" he said at last.

"Well," said Pooh, "in poetry—in a piece of poetry—well, you did it, Piglet, because the poetry says you did. And that's how people know."

"Oh!" said Piglet. "Because I—I thought I did blinch a little. Just at first. And it says, 'Did he blinch no no.' That's why."

"You only blinched inside," said Pooh, "and that's the bravest way for a Very Small Animal not to blinch that there is."

Piglet sighed with happiness, and began to think about himself. He was BRAVE....



When they got to Owl's old house, they found everybody else there except Eeyore. Christopher Robin was telling them what to do, and Rabbit was telling them again directly afterwards, in case they hadn't heard, and then they were all doing it. They had got a rope and were pulling Owl's chairs and pictures and things out of his old house so as to be ready to put them into his new one. Kanga was down below tying the things on, and calling out to Owl, "You won't want this dirty old dish-cloth any more, will you, and what about this carpet, it's all in holes," and Owl was calling back indignantly, "Of course I do! It's just a question of arranging the furniture properly, and it isn't a dish-cloth, it's my shawl." Every now and then Roo fell in and came back on the rope with the next article, which flustered Kanga a little because she never knew where to look for him. So she got cross with Owl and said that his house was a Disgrace, all damp and dirty, and it was quite time it did tumble down. Look at that horrid bunch of toadstools growing out of the floor there! So Owl looked down, a little surprised because he didn't know about this, and then gave a short sarcastic laugh, and explained that that was his sponge, and that if people didn't know a perfectly ordinary bath-sponge when they saw it, things were coming to a pretty pass. "Well!" said Kanga, and Roo fell in quickly, crying, "I must see Owl's sponge! Oh, there it is! Oh, Owl! Owl, it isn't a sponge, it's a spudge! Do you know what a spudge is, Owl? It's when your sponge gets all——" and Kanga said, "Roo, dear!" very quickly, because that's not the way to talk to anybody who can spell TUESDAY.



But they were all quite happy when Pooh and Piglet came along, and they stopped working in order to have a little rest and listen to Pooh's new song. So then they all told Pooh how good it was, and Piglet said carelessly, "It is good, isn't it? I mean as a song."

"And what about the new house?" asked Pooh. "Have you found it, Owl?"

"He's found a name for it," said Christopher Robin, lazily nibbling at a piece of grass, "so now all he wants is the house."



"I am calling it this," said Owl importantly, and he showed them what he had been making. It was a square piece of board with the name of the house painted on it.

THE WOLERY

It was at this exciting moment that something came through the trees, and bumped into Owl. The board fell to the ground, and Piglet and Roo bent over it eagerly.

"Oh, it's you," said Owl crossly.

"Hallo, Eeyore!" said Rabbit. "There you are! Where have you been?" Eeyore took no notice of them.

"Good morning, Christopher Robin," he said, brushing away Roo and Piglet, and sitting down on THE WOLERY. "Are we alone?"



"Yes," said Christopher Robin, smiling to himself.

"I have been told—the news has worked through to my corner of the Forest—the damp bit down on the right which nobody wants—that a certain Person is looking for a house. I have found one for him."

"Ah, well done," said Rabbit kindly.

Eeyore looked round slowly at him, and then turned back to Christopher Robin.

"We have been joined by something," he said in a loud whisper. "But no matter. We can leave it behind. If you will come with me, Christopher Robin, I will show you the house."

Christopher Robin jumped up.

"Come on, Pooh," he said.

"Come on, Tigger!" cried Roo.

"Shall we go, Owl?" said Rabbit.

"Wait a moment," said Owl, picking up his notice-board, which had just come into sight again.

Eeyore waved them back.

"Christopher Robin and I are going for a Short Walk," he said, "not a Jostle. If he likes to bring Pooh and Piglet with him, I shall be glad of their company, but one must be able to Breathe."

"That's all right," said Rabbit, rather glad to be left in charge of something. "We'll go on getting the things out. Now then, Tigger, where's that rope? What's the matter, Owl?"

Owl, who had just discovered that his new address was THE SMUDGE, coughed at Eeyore sternly, but said nothing, and Eeyore, with most of THE WOLERY behind him, marched off with his friends.

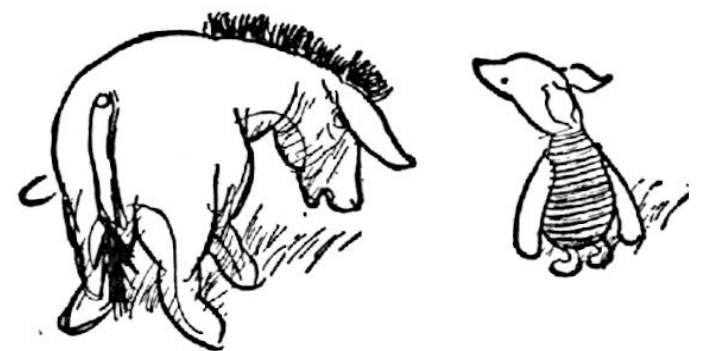
So, in a little while, they came to the house which Eeyore had found, and for some minutes before they came to it, Piglet was nudging Pooh, and Pooh was nudging Piglet, and they were saying, "It is!" and "It can't be!" and "It is, really!" to each other.

And when they got there, it really was.

"There!" said Eeyore proudly, stopping them outside Piglet's house. "And the name on it, and everything!"

"Oh!" cried Christopher Robin, wondering whether to laugh or what.

"Just the house for Owl. Don't you think so, little Piglet?"



And then Piglet did a Noble Thing, and he did it in a sort of dream, while he was thinking of all the wonderful words Pooh had hummed about him.

"Yes, it's just the house for Owl," he said grandly. "And I hope he'll be very happy in it." And then he gulped twice, because he had been very happy in it himself.

"What do you think, Christopher Robin?" asked Eeyore a little anxiously, feeling that something wasn't quite right.

Christopher Robin had a question to ask first, and he was wondering how to ask it.

"Well," he said at last, "it's a very nice house, and if your own house is blown down, you must go somewhere else, mustn't you, Piglet? What would you do, if your house was blown down?"

Before Piglet could think, Pooh answered for him.

"He'd come and live with me," said Pooh, "wouldn't you, Piglet?"

Piglet squeezed his paw.

"Thank you, Pooh," he said, "I should love to."

Find and color.



FIND ALL HIDDEN

- salmon
- lollipop
- ice cream
- groin
- bow tie
- croissant
- bone
- pepper
- palette
- book



FIND ALL HIDDEN

- pie
- boomerang
- fork
- banana
- bell
- drop
- ax
- canoe
- moon
- Popcorn



FIND ALL HIDDEN

- flute
- glasses
- shovel
- toothbrush
- ruler
- cook hat
- bat
- tent
- book
- badminton

Sudoku for Kids

			2
3	2		1
	3	1	4
	1		

2		1	
3			2
			4
4	3	2	

	3		
4		3	1
3		1	
2			3

4		1	
	2		3
3			
2		3	4

SUDOKU

Each row, column, nonet can contain each number only once. Answers below.

Easy

						6	8
	5	1					
	3		7	5	2		
	6			1	8		5
9		8	7				4
8	4	5					2
		3	4	8			7
					3		5
7	4						

Hard

						5	
9	6	5	8				2
	8	3					6
1		4	7				
	3			9			
				9	5		7
6			1		7		
3		6	2		1		4
		1					

Very Hard

				9	6	1	7
		2					8
7			6	4			
					9		
			1				
	7						
			9	7			3
4				5			
9	7	1	6				

Easy

8			3		9	6	5
7	3		8	6			
			2				
	5						1
	4		8			2	
1				6			
		7					
		5	3		7	9	
4	7	3		9			8

Hard

						5	
9	6	5	8				2
	8	3					6
1		4	7				
	3			9			
				9	5		7
6			1		7		
3		6	2		1		4
		1					

Very Hard

				3	5	1	7
		3		9			
7	8			2			
	8				2		
			5				
		9					4
			5			3	4
			7		8		
4	7	6	3				

Sudoku answers

2	1	8	9	5	7	4	6	3
4	7	6	3	1	8	9	5	2
8	9	1	5	2	4	8	6	7
2	3	5	9	3	2	1	7	6
6	7	9	3	4	8	5	2	1
3	6	4	2	5	1	7	8	9
5	4	2	1	6	7	9	3	8
1	8	3	9	5	2	6	7	4
9	2	7	8	1	6	4	5	3
3	5	1	7	2	8	3	4	6
8	6	4	7	2	3	1	5	9
5	4	2	1	6	7	9	3	8
1	2	8	3	7	5	6	9	4
6	4	7	1	8	9	5	2	3
3	9	5	2	6	4	7	8	1
8	1	4	7	3	6	9	2	5
5	6	4	9	1	2	8	3	7
2	9	6	8	9	1	2	8	3
7	3	9	8	6	4	1	2	5
8	1	2	4	3	7	9	6	5
5	4	2	3	8	9	6	1	7
9	7	1	6	4	3	5	8	2
4	3	6	8	2	9	5	7	1
8	5	1	7	3	6	2	9	4
2	9	6	5	1	4	7	3	8
3	8	7	2	9	5	1	6	4
6	2	4	1	3	8	9	7	5
7	3	2	5	7	3	4	8	1
5	4	2	3	8	9	6	1	7
9	7	1	6	4	3	5	8	2
4	3	6	8	2	9	5	7	1
8	5	1	7	3	6	2	9	4
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6	2	4	1	3	8	9	7	5
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8	5	1	7	3	6	2	9	4
2	9	6	5	1	4	7	3	8
3	8	7	2	9	5	1	6	4
6	2	4	1	3	8	9	7	5
7	3	2	5	7	3	4	8	1
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5	4	2	3	8	9	6	1	7
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7	3	2	5	7	3	4	8	1
5	4	2	3	8	9	6	1	7
9	7	1	6	4	3	5	8	2
4	3	6	8	2	9	5	7	1
8	5	1	7	3	6	2	9	4
2	9	6	5	1	4	7	3	8
3	8	7	2	9	5	1	6	4
6	2	4	1	3	8	9	7	5
7	3	2	5	7	3	4	8	1
5	4	2	3	8	9	6	1	7
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6	2	4	1	3	8	9	7	5
7	3	2	5	7	3	4	8	1
5	4	2	3	8	9	6	1	7
9	7	1	6	4	3	5	8	2
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8	5	1	7	3	6	2	9	4
2	9	6	5	1	4	7	3	8
3	8	7	2	9	5	1	6	4
6	2	4	1	3	8	9	7	5
7	3	2	5	7	3	4	8	1
5	4	2	3	8	9	6	1	7
9	7	1	6	4	3	5	8	2
4	3	6	8	2	9	5	7	1
8	5	1	7	3	6	2	9	4
2	9	6	5	1	4	7	3	8
3	8	7	2	9	5	1	6	4
6	2	4	1	3	8	9	7	5
7	3	2	5	7	3	4		

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1 Off drugs
- 6 Old movie channel
- 9 Popular tablet
- 13 Fibber McGee's broadcast medium, once
- 14 Warsaw native
- 15 Equine
- 23-Across
- 16 Etching agents
- 17 Truckloads
- 18 "No contest" or "not guilty"
- 19 Derby transaction
- 20 Hang on to first place
- 23 One has a day in May
- 24 "___ thy father ..."
- 25 Employer's posting
- 30 Where Arches National Park is
- 31 ___-to book
- 32 Homophone for "sense"
- 36 Dallas NBA player, briefly
- 37 Most cautious
- 40 Lubricating medium
- 41 Reduce drastically
- 43 Bit of cote chatter
- 44 Where a pig might be found?
- 45 "Don't let it happen!"

- 49 Take care of, as duties
- 50 Common words of commitment
- 51 Big ego, or what en-compasses 20-, 25- and 45-Across?
- 55 Serve that gets you a quick point
- 58 Like a certain tale or order
- 59 Similar
- 60 Full of holi-day spirit
- 62 Tiptop
- 63 What gets into a beach-goer's shoes
- 64 Noticeable navel
- 65 Where a fork might be encountered
- 66 Guess: Abbr.
- 67 Bunch of baby birds

DOWN

- 1 Grouch
- 2 Queen Anne's ___ (white plant)
- 3 Tweak the wording of
- 4 Subsidies and such
- 5 Person who never arrives
- 6 Informed
- 7 Get into gear?
- 8 Netflix's "The Kominsky"
- 9 Burst inward
- 10 Not as ruddy
- 11 Surface calculation
- 12 In need of a recharge

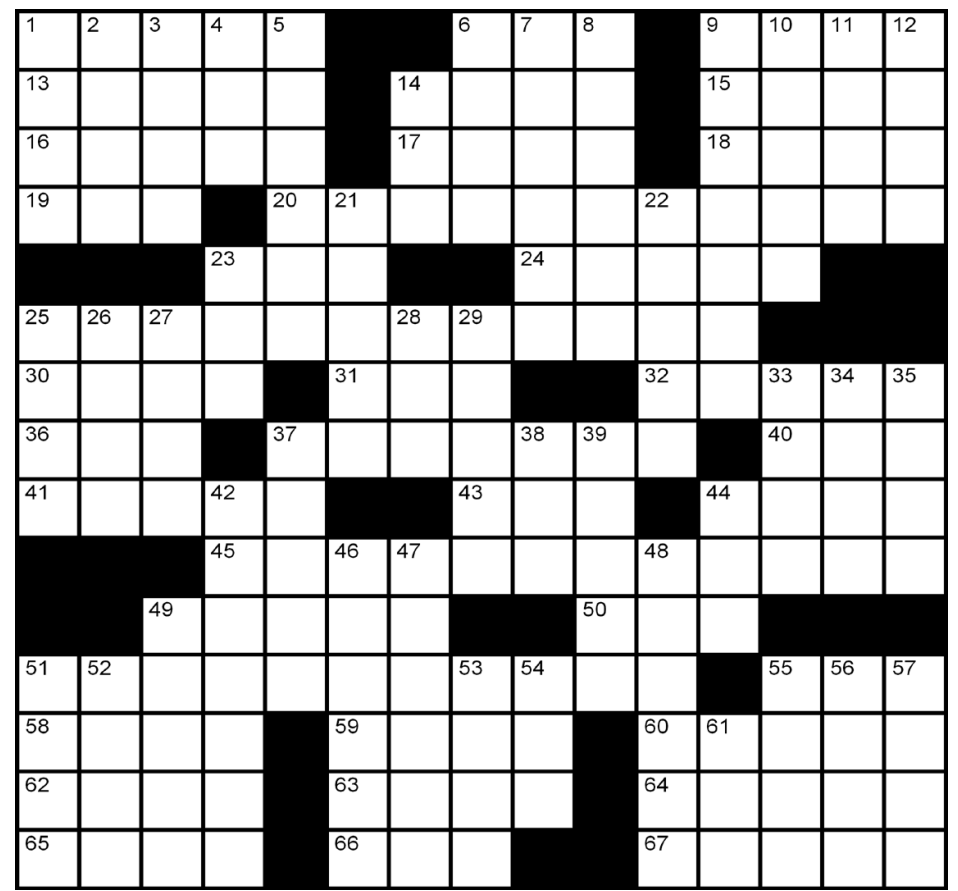
- 14 Friend
- 21 Steak city of Nebraska
- 22 Pass, as a bill
- 23 Abbr. on a citation, perhaps
- 25 Sounds of well-tuned engines
- 26 Abbr. in a citation
- 27 What flows from Mount Etna
- 28 Neither this ___ that
- 29 Once again?
- 33 Neophyte gamer
- 34 Polynesian image
- 35 Toy such as Rosebud
- 37 Roulette necessity
- 38 Geological span
- 39 Bulgaria's most populous city

- 42 Freed, like peas
- 44 Debate position
- 46 Feeling relaxed
- 47 Grey Goose liquors
- 48 Occasional bit of work
- 49 Alabama city in civil rights history
- 51 Red carpet figure
- 52 Dr Pepper Museum's Texas home
- 53 Clue
- 54 Word after "deep" or "defensive"
- 55 Voice above tenor
- 56 Award talked about on "Mad Men"
- 57 Gave the once-over
- 61 Hemingway's "In ___ Time"

DUE TO A TIMING ERROR, LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE ANSWERS WERE NOT PUBLISHED. THE ISSUE HAS BEEN CORRECTED, AND THIS WEEK'S ANSWERS WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S EDITION. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE OVERSIGHT.

9/1

Noodle Around by Bruce Venzke



Horoscopes

Weekly Horoscope: February 23-28, 2025

with purpose rather than urgency—true progress comes from deliberate choices.

Aquarius: Uncertainty may cloud your thoughts, making it difficult to find clarity. Allow time for answers to reveal themselves rather than forcing resolution. Creativity provides a necessary outlet, but be mindful of unrealistic expectations that could lead to disappointment. Patience and an open mind will bring the clarity you seek.

Leo: Unresolved matters may resurface, demanding your attention. The balance between solitude and connection is delicate—seek relationships based on mutual trust and respect. A deep bond may emerge or rekindle, offering new opportunities in love or work. Align with those who support you to create lasting success.

Pisces: Self-acceptance is key—embracing both strengths and vulnerabilities will influence how others treat you. Watch for imbalances in relationships and financial matters. Avoid overextending yourself or seeking validation at the expense of integrity. Protect your energy and trust your instincts when navigating complex situations.

Virgo: A distraction may tempt you away from responsibility, but avoidance will only create setbacks. Whether in career, finances, or relationships, face challenges directly. If progress feels slow, trust that steady effort leads to long-term stability. Collaboration will be key—seek out those who can help you stay on course.

Aries: Your intuition is sharp—listen to it. Emotions within relationships may reveal more than words. Express gratitude to those who support you, but keep financial and professional plans private until the timing is right. A magnetic presence draws others to you, but patience will determine whether these connections are lasting.

Libra: Your ability to shape your reality is heightened. Be decisive in work and relationships, and trust your instincts to navigate tension. New opportunities are emerging, but discretion is necessary—keep your plans private until they are fully formed. Confidence and focus will lead you to success.

Taurus: Practicality will serve you well this week. Trust reason over impulse when making decisions in love, career, and finances. A mentor or authority figure may challenge your perspective—respond with integrity to earn respect. Redirect frustration into productive action, and allow patience to guide you forward.

Scorpio: Release what no longer serves you before it weighs you down. Whether financial or emotional, burdens will feel heavier if left unchecked. Home and solitude offer refuge—lean on trusted support systems when needed. Resources should be protected rather than depleted; stability will come with patience.

Gemini: Balance structure with spontaneity. If restrictions feel oppressive, find ways to navigate them without reckless defiance. Past wounds may influence relationships, but awareness allows for healing. Financial and professional stability require discipline—consider whether current limitations are opportunities for growth or signals to forge a new path.

Sagittarius: Reflection will reveal what is worth holding onto and what must be left behind. If a relationship or career path feels stagnant, clarity will come when you step back. Nostalgia should not cloud reality. This is a time for independence, creative exploration, and moving toward a future that aligns with your truth.

Cancer: Distinguish between obligations that require action and those that can wait. Stability comes from following proven paths rather than reacting to chaos. If stress builds, let go of unnecessary burdens before they overwhelm you. Move forward

Capricorn: Take a step back and evaluate where your time and energy are being spent. If career progress feels blocked or relationships strained, reassess your priorities. Slow down and create space for balance—both in personal and professional pursuits. The right opportunities will come when you realign with what truly matters.

Family Time Crossword

The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker July 12, 2021

ACROSS

- 1. Old-style "Awww, why did this happen to me?"
- 5. Fuel-efficiency stat
- 8. Fancy "See you later!"
- 12. Extremely deep sleep
- 13. (K) Not just my
- 14. (K) Sandwich type with no bread
- 15. (K) "This is the best day ___!"
- 16. Genetic letters
- 17. (K) Land unit
- 18. Congress part
- 20. Sunday services, for some
- 22. (K) Common deli meat
- 24. (K) Boarded (2 words)
- 27. Ninja, for one
- 32. (K) "I'm working ___!" (2 words)
- 33. (K) Mustang, for example

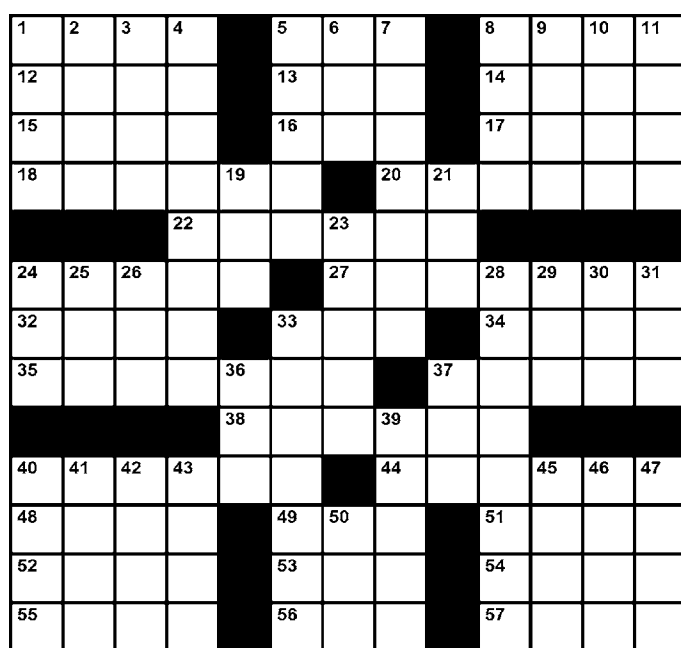
- 34. (K) Where Marco Polo traveled
- 35. City in Illinois
- 37. How romantic dinners are lit
- 38. Admit to the clergy
- 40. Type of oil
- 44. Everyday card charges
- 48. (K) Cleveland's state
- 49. (K) Palindromic body part
- 51. (K) Spoken out loud
- 52. (K) Be in charge
- 53. (K) Tiny puppy bite
- 54. (K) Was successfully fitted for
- 55. Arrows and BBs
- 56. (K) Explosive letters
- 57. (K) You can't ski without it

DOWN

- 1. (K) Powerful cards

- 2. The Beatles claimed it's all you need
- 3. (K) Prayer end
- 4. (K) City in Florida
- 5. Person who struts and sashays
- 6. (K) "Mallards like duckumentaries" is one
- 7. (K) It's taught in English class
- 8. (K) First word of a famous Christmas poem
- 9. (K) Circle bits
- 10. Shipping container weight
- 11. (K) Zoo creatures
- 19. (K) Light brown color
- 21. (K) Basketball's need
- 23. (K) Plaque, ribbon or trophy
- 24. (K) Deity

- 25. (K) Binary code number
- 26. Facial twitch
- 28. Super-colorful 9-Down
- 29. (K) Suffix with "manner"
- 30. (K) Engine's necessity
- 31. (K) Unit of sunlight
- 33. Like any news happening now
- 36. (K) Word before "little" or "late"
- 37. (K) Cube you roll
- 39. Highly capable
- 40. (K) Coke, for one
- 41. "Pardon me ..."
- 42. "Anna and the King of ___"
- 43. Heading at the top of a list
- 45. (K) Make clothes crisp
- 46. Hawaiian tuber
- 47. A whole bunch
- 50. Yang's companion



Top of the world? 17-A) Pole

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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 accordion music (5)
- 2 pot of hot cheese (6)
- 3 dental cleaner (9)
- 4 Polk and Taft (10)
- 5 put out feelers (7)
- 6 pull back (9)
- 7 official launch (7)

SOLUTIONS



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

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This Week in History & Fun Things to Celebrate

From February 21 to February 28, some exciting things happened in the past, and some wacky and wonderful special days are coming up!

This Week in History

February 21, 1885 – The Washington Monument Opens

A long time ago, people wanted to honor the first U.S. president, George Washington, with a giant monument. After years of planning and building, the Washington Monument finally opened in Washington, D.C. It stands 555 feet tall—that's taller than 92 giraffes stacked on top of each other! If you visit, you can take an elevator to the top and see the whole city.

February 20, 1962 – John Glenn orbits Earth

Okay, so this technically happened one day before our week, but it's too cool to leave out! Astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit Earth. He flew in a tiny spaceship called Friendship 7 and zoomed around our planet three times before safely splashing down in the ocean. His bravery helped NASA learn how to send astronauts to the moon just a few years later.

February 22, 1980 – The Miracle on Ice!

This might be the most exciting hockey game ever played! The U.S. Olympic hockey team, made up of young college players, faced off against the powerful Soviet Union team, who were expected to win. But guess what? The U.S. team pulled off a huge upset and won 4-3! People still call it the "Miracle on Ice," and it's one of the greatest sports moments in American history.

February 24, 1928 – The First Academy Awards

Every year, Hollywood throws a big party called the Oscars to celebrate the best movies. But did you know the first Academy Awards happened in 1928? It was much smaller than

today's fancy, star-filled event. Only 270 people attended, and the whole ceremony lasted just 15 minutes! Today, it's one of the biggest nights in entertainment.

February 28, 1955 – Elvis Signs His First Record Deal

Before Elvis Presley became the "King of Rock and Roll," he was just a young singer from Mississippi. But on this day in 1955, he signed his first major record deal. Soon, his songs like "Hound Dog" and "Jailhouse Rock" made people want to dance all over the country. He even inspired the way singers perform today!

Fun and Wacky Holidays This Week!

February 21 – National Sticky Bun Day

Who loves sweet, gooey cinnamon rolls? This day is all about celebrating sticky buns, which are covered in caramel, cinnamon, and nuts. Maybe you can bake some with your family!

February 22 – National Cat Day (in the U.S.)

Even though International Cat Day is in August, Americans have their own Cat Day on February 22. It's the perfect time to cuddle your cat, watch funny cat videos, or even visit a cat café if there's one near you!

February 24 – National Tortilla Chip Day

Tortilla chips were invented by accident when a worker at a tortilla factory cut up some scraps, fried them, and sold them. Now, they're a snack-time favorite! Celebrate by dipping some in salsa, guacamole, or cheese!

February 25 – Mardi Gras!

Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday" in French, and it's a day of parades, beads, and delicious food, especially in New Orleans! People wear colorful masks and costumes, throw big parties, and

eat yummy treats like King Cake. It's the last big feast before Lent, a season of reflection for many people.

February 27 – International Polar Bear Day

Polar bears are the biggest bears in the world, and they need lots of sea ice to hunt and live. This day reminds us to take care of our planet so polar bears can thrive. You can celebrate by learning more about these amazing animals or making a polar bear craft!

February 28 – National Chocolate Soufflé Day

A soufflé is a fancy, fluffy dessert that's super delicious. It puffs up like a balloon when baked and has a soft, melty center. If you love chocolate, today is a great day to try making one (or just eat some chocolate)!

Other Fun and Wacky Celebrations Coming This Week

February 22 – National Supermarket Employee Day

A day to appreciate the hardworking employees who keep our grocery stores running smoothly.

February 22 – National Cook a Sweet Potato Day

Encourages people to cook and enjoy nutritious and tasty sweet potatoes.

February 23 – National Dog Biscuit Day

A special day to treat your furry friend with a crunchy biscuit.

February 23 – National Banana Bread Day

A day to bake and enjoy warm, delicious banana bread.

February 25 – National Clam Chowder Day

Recognizes the comforting and hearty seafood soup, popular in New England.

February 25 – National Chocolate Covered Nut Day

A day to enjoy the sweet and crunchy combination of chocolate and nuts.

February 26 – National Letter to an Elder Day

Encourages writing a kind letter to an elder to brighten their day.

February 26 – National Set a Good Example Day

A day to promote kindness and positive actions that inspire others.

February 26 – National Tell a Fairy Tale Day

Celebrates the magic of storytelling and classic fairy tales.

February 26 – National Pistachio Day

A day to enjoy the tasty and nutritious green nut.

February 27 – National Retro Day

Encourages people to embrace nostalgia and celebrate past decades.

February 27 – National Toast Day (Last Thursday in February)

A day to appreciate the simple yet delicious food—toast!

February 27 – National Chili Day (Fourth Thursday in February)

Celebrates the spicy, savory dish loved across the country.

February 28 – National Tooth Fairy Day

Celebrates the mythical figure who collects lost teeth and leaves surprises for kids.

February 28 – National Floral Design Day

A day to appreciate the art of flower arranging and floral design.

February 28 – Rare Disease Day (Last Day in February)

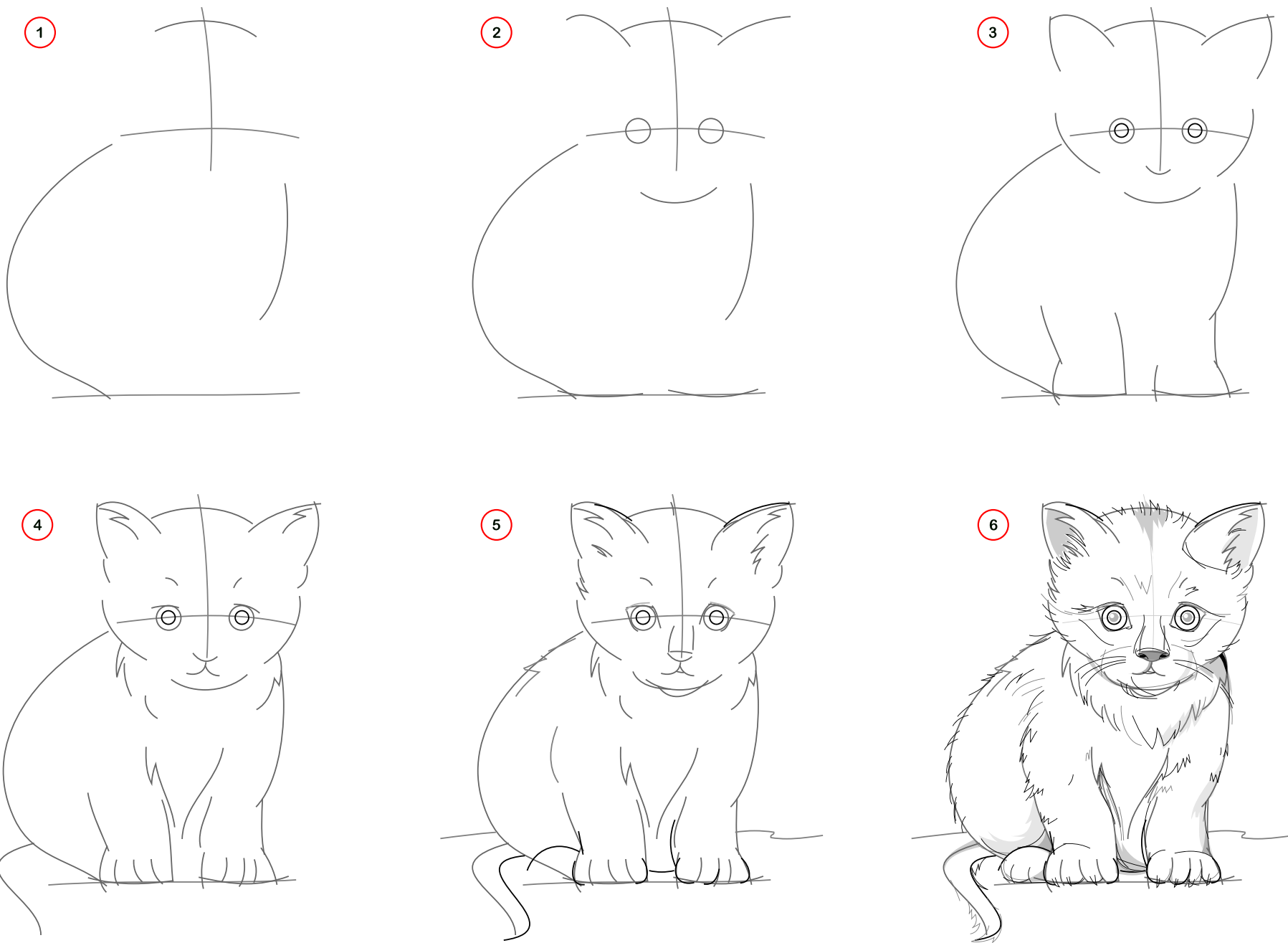
Raises awareness for rare diseases and the people affected by them.

February 28 – National Skip the Straw Day (Fourth Friday in February)

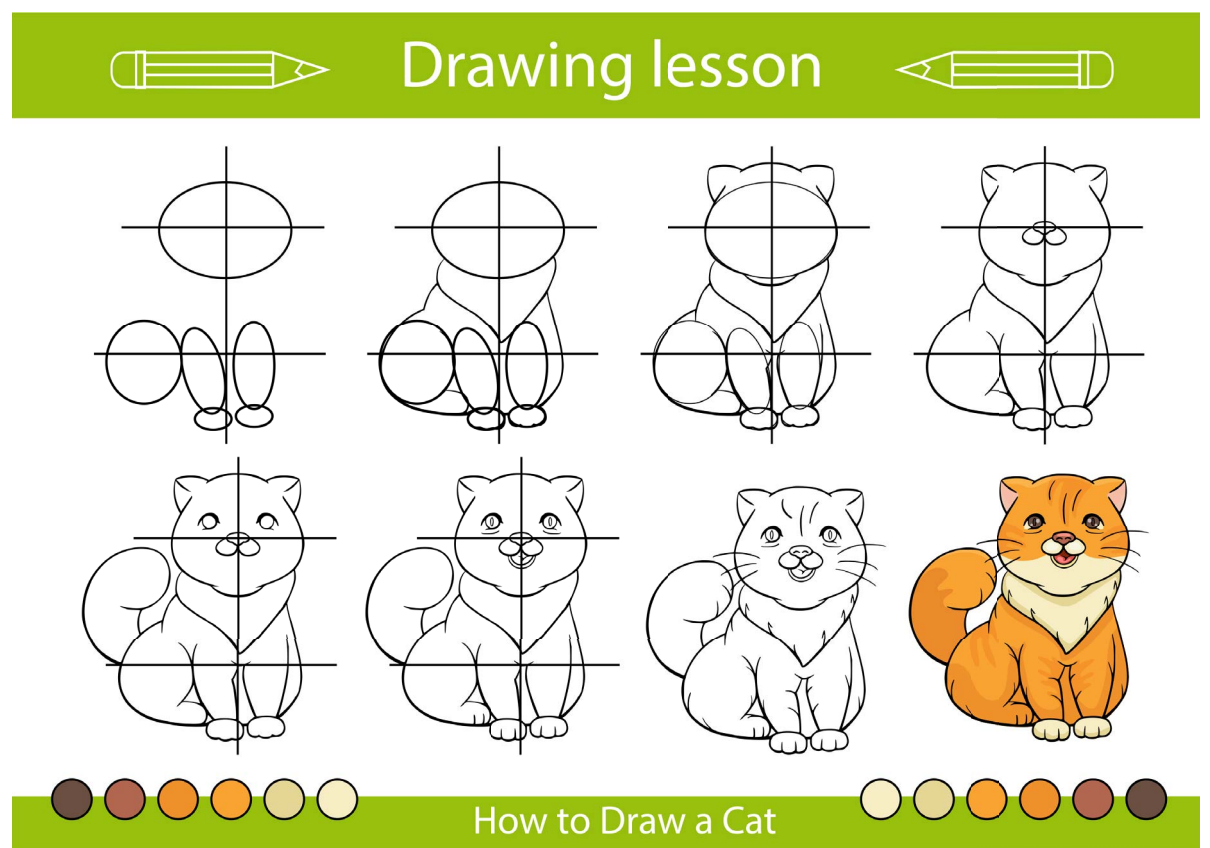
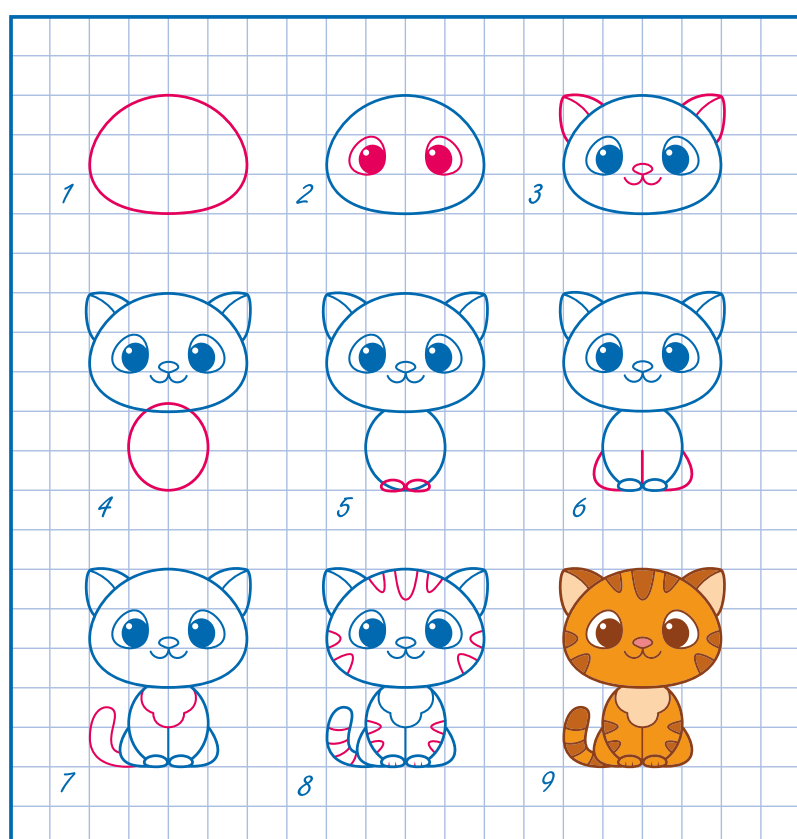
Encourages skipping plastic straws to help protect the environment.

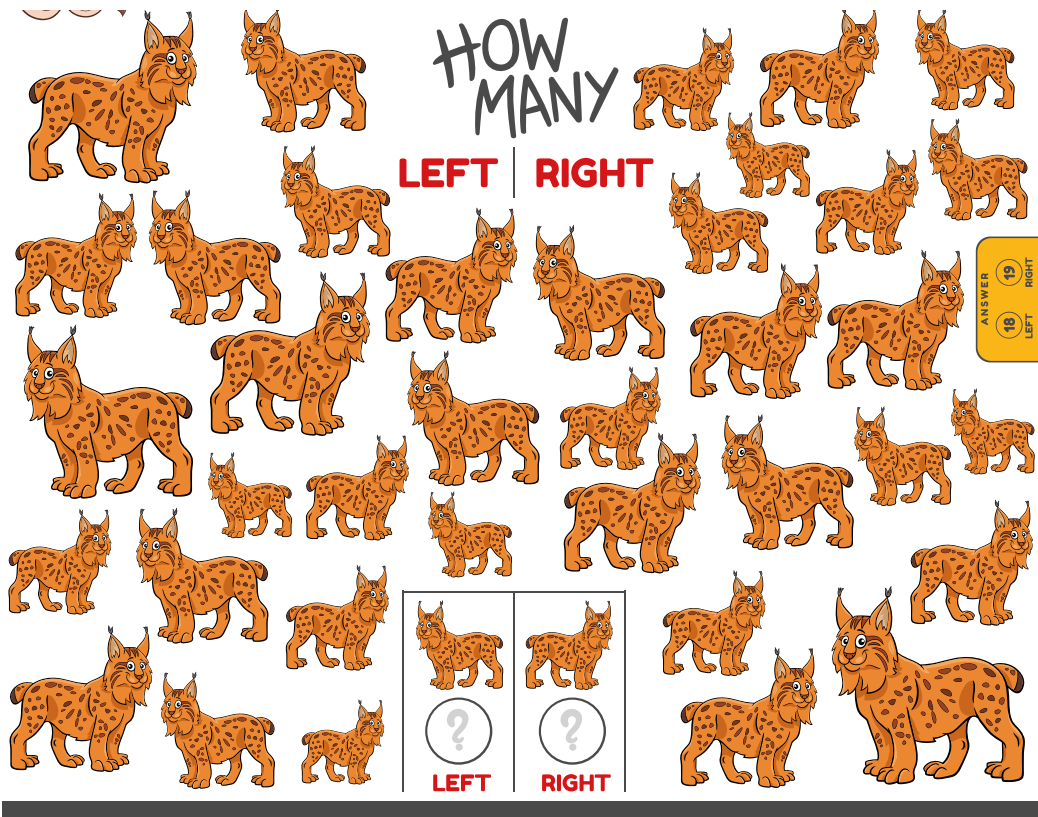
How Will You Celebrate?

With so many cool things that happened this week in history and so many fun holidays to enjoy, there's something for everyone! Whether you're making tortilla chips, watching an old Oscar-winning movie, or cheering for polar bears, have fun and enjoy this exciting week!



Learn to Sketch Like a Pro 3 Different Ways





REBUS PUZZLE

-N + -TAR = _____

-EE + -H = _____

-AR + -TE = _____

-SM + -RY = _____

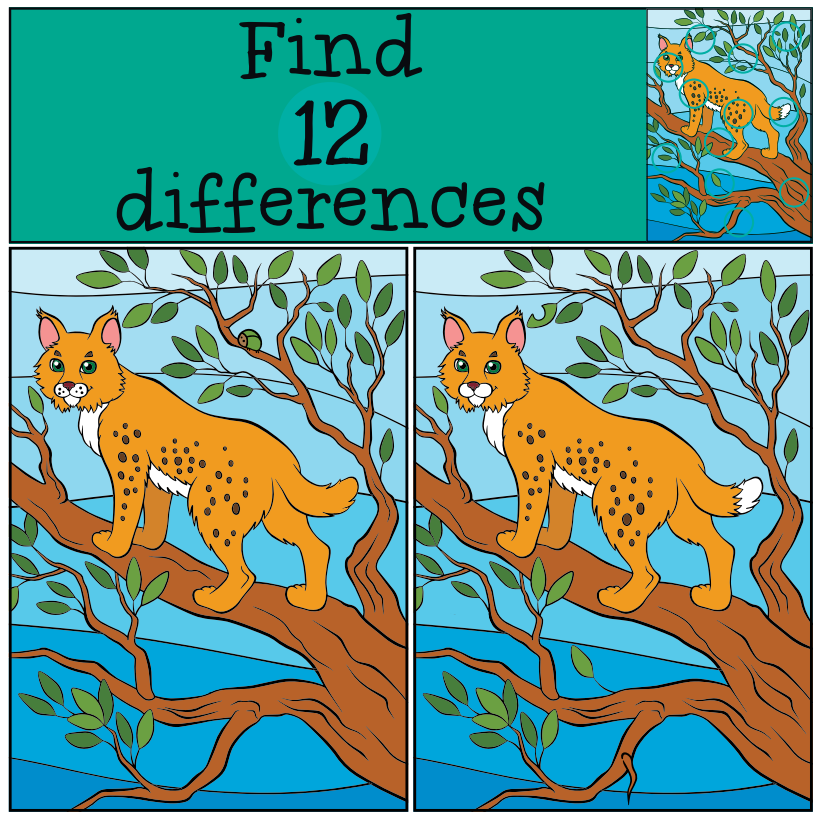
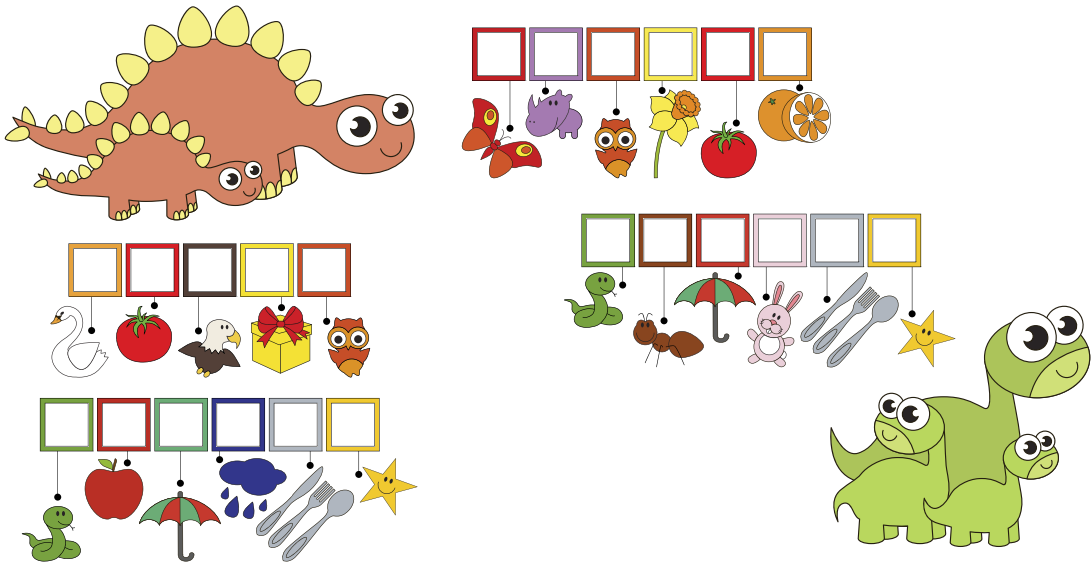
REBUS PUZZLE

-T + -IT = _____

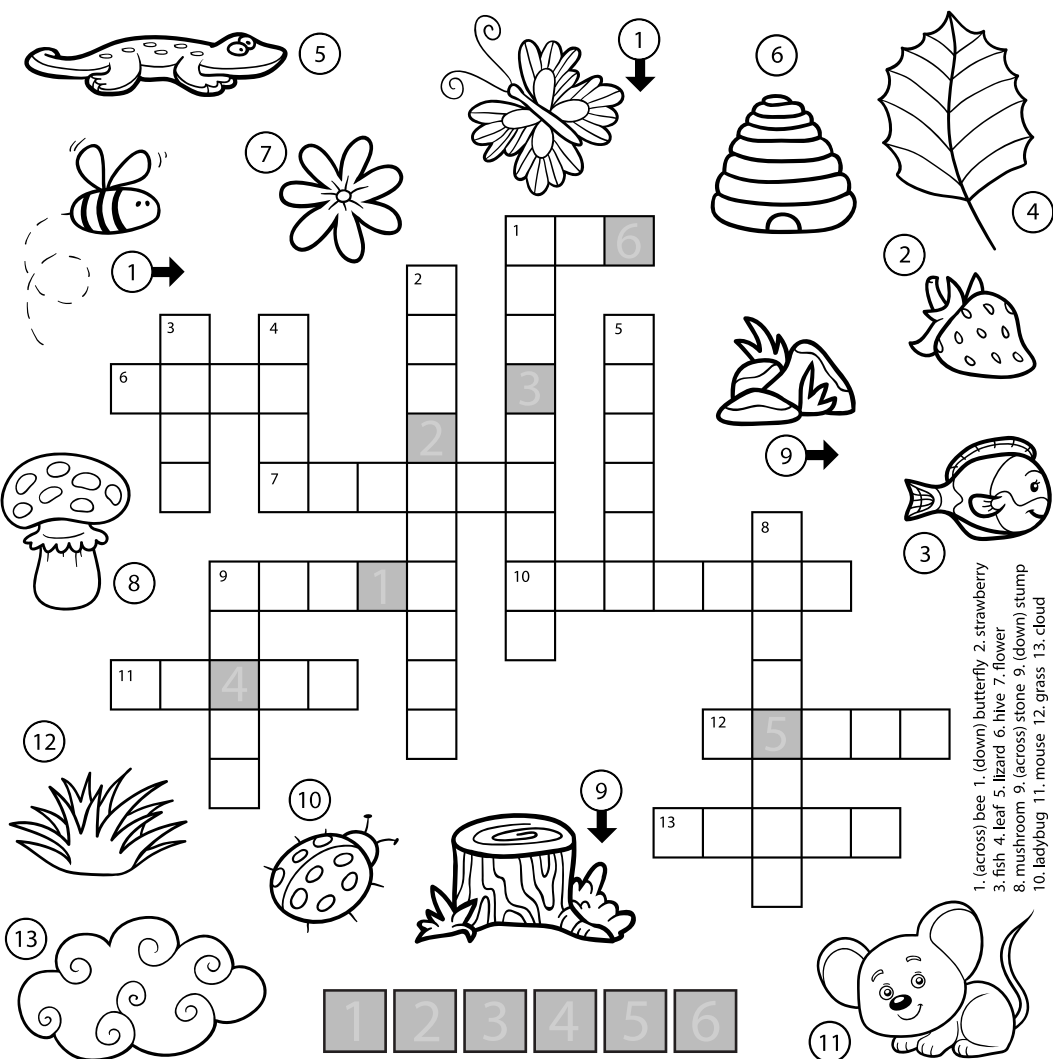
-RL + -OO = _____

-T + -PU = _____

-E + -RA = _____



Color this stylized bobcat: Coloring engages both hemispheres of the brain, combining creativity with logic to enhance focus and reduce stress. The repetitive motion promotes mindfulness, helping to lower cortisol levels and improve mood. Studies show that coloring intricate patterns, such as mandalas or detailed images like a bobcat, can activate the brain's reward system, releasing dopamine and fostering relaxation. This activity strengthens fine motor skills, improves hand-eye coordination, and encourages problem-solving by selecting colors and patterns. For all ages, coloring provides a simple yet effective way to boost mental clarity, enhance cognitive function, and promote a sense of calm.



+ + + = 32

+ = 18

+ + = 18

+ + - = ?

Hiding in Plain Sight: The Best of Both Worlds

By Jim Knox

I'll always remember the first night my parents gave me the car keys. I had received my license and I was finally permitted to drive my family and friends. To celebrate, we went out to Friendly's for some ice cream. Yet, one thing made that night especially memorable. On the way home, a tawny creature streaked across my high beams with blurring speed. The animal covered Whippoorwill Road in just two bounds. If it weren't for the fact it paused at the hedgerow on the shoulder, or that my brother and our friend screamed out with excitement, I might have doubted my eyes. There, paused for a fraction of a second, was a ghost of an animal—often rumored, yet rarely seen.

Lynx rufus, or the Bobcat, is an American original. From the Mojave Desert to the Rocky Mountains and from Maine's north woods to the Florida Everglades, this compact predator thrives. Sporting versatile camouflage, shielding them from the eyes of predator and prey alike, bobcats are masters of stealth and ambush. Marked with a cream-colored belly, brown-gray flanks and back, the bobcat is flecked with cryptic black spots and bars overlaid with a reddish tinge. This reddish cast is what gives the bobcat the common name of Bay lynx, distinguishing it from its silvery-furred cousin, the Canada lynx of the far northern United States, Canada, and Alaska. Both cats possess a short, 4-7-inch bobbed tail and tufted ears. With an average height of two feet, an average length of three feet and weight ranging from 12 to 40 pounds, these small to mid-sized cats command a larger-than-life reputation.

In fact, the bobcat's ferocity and tenacity are legendary. A frontiersman



Bobcat

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who could "lick his weight in wildcats" could be held in no higher esteem by his rugged peers. Possessing a rare blend of adaptability, speed and disproportionate power, the bobcat is equally capable of dining on grasshoppers or taking down full-grown deer. We must look no further for the secret of the bobcat's success than its adaptability. As a generalist, equally at home hunting rabbits on the ground, squirrels in trees, or frogs in streams, bobcats carve out a living by shifting gears when the prey is scarce. This accounts for the bobcat's ecological role as a creature of both untouched wilderness and suburbia.

It is the bobcat's tenacity and sheer toughness that deserve a second look. Unlike its larger cousin, the Amur tiger which targets smaller prey when the hunting gets lean, the bobcat takes the opposite tact, focusing on the largest prey—such

as Whitetail deer—during the leanest times. And it is during those lean times when the bobcat proves its mettle. While its close kin the Canada lynx can endure a deadly 55 degrees below zero, the bobcat can match that lethal mercury plummet and raise the bar, and the mercury, to withstand 125 degrees Fahrenheit as a resident predator in aptly named Death Valley National monument. Fully capable of a 180-degree temperature range—that's one tough cat!

It is not just the bobcat's physical traits that mark it as a predator with few rivals. It is the behavioral bobcat that gains the advantage over competitors and prey alike. Placing its rear paw pads deftly within its front paw pads when stalking, the bobcat can approach prey with phantom-like stealth. These solitary predators also shift their hunting from crepuscular (dawn and dusk

periods) to nocturnal, or even diurnal periods to capitalize on prey abundance, avoid competition, or remain hidden from their human neighbors.

With so many Connecticut residents embracing nature, we could ask for no better wild neighbor than the Bay lynx. This wild neighbor regulates small mammal populations--mitigating the spread of tick-borne diseases. Yet few of us know of its existence among the mosaic of woods, streams, golf courses and reservoirs around us. Found in every

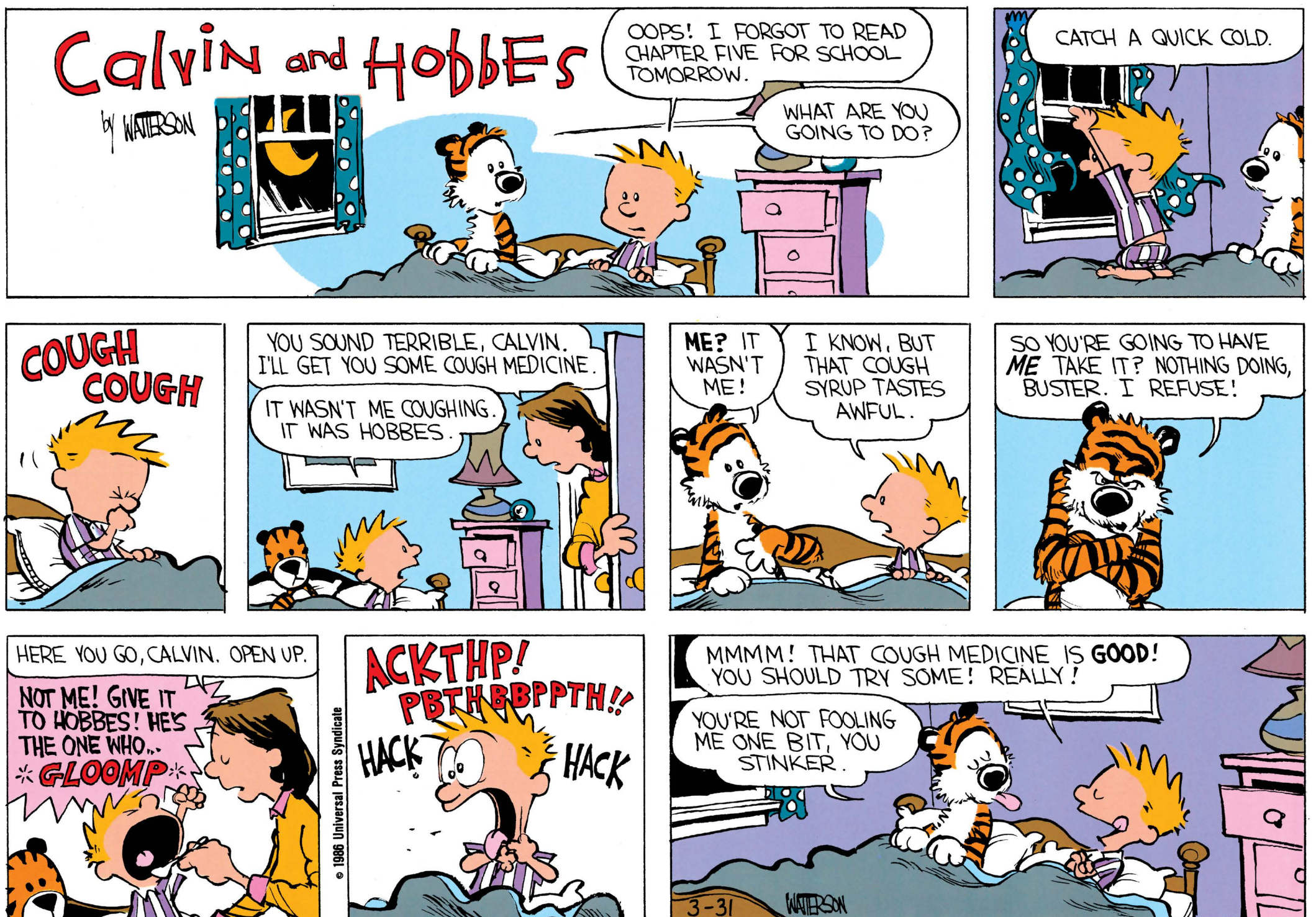
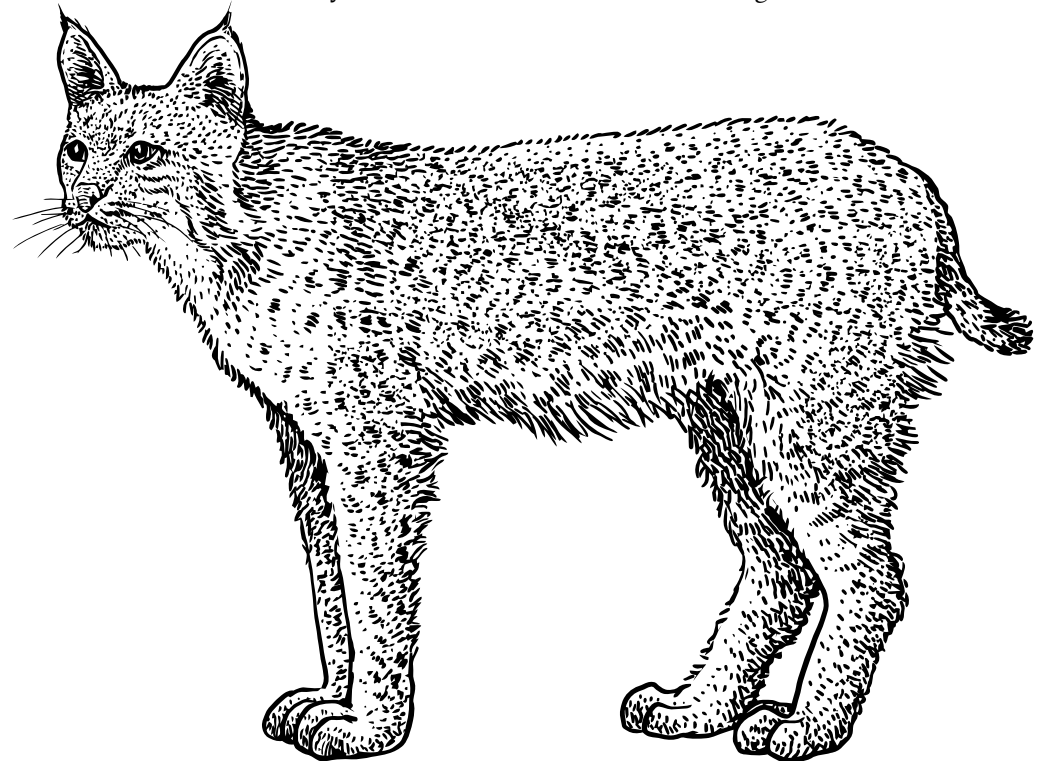
town in Fairfield County, the bobcat flies under our collective radar, often mistaken as a housecat, fox, or small dog. With a natural aversion to humans, yet a demonstrated ability to thrive in our midst—without us being the wiser—the bobcat has the best of both worlds.

Their hallmark adaptability has served bobcats well. While other predators diminish due to human expansion and habitat conversion, bobcat populations have remained remarkably stable in the U.S. and on the extremes of its

range in northern Mexico and Southern Canada, despite hunting and trapping practices for this furbearer throughout North America.

In the bobcat we have a species and symbol of New England's wild heritage residing within our own zip codes. Imbuing our backyards with a hint of true wilderness, this speckled carnivore reminds us that it is possible to strike a balance between a wild that was once feared and can now be revered.

Jim Knox is a wildlife conservationist, educator, and writer. As the Curator of Education at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, he develops conservation programs that inspire future generations to protect endangered species. A seasoned television host and wildlife expert, Jim has brought his expertise to millions through PBS, Animal Planet, and major networks like NBC and CBS. A member of The Explorers Club, he has studied great white sharks in South Africa and conducted field research on Alaskan brown bears. His nationally recognized conservation efforts and engaging storytelling make his Greenwich Sentinel column, Wildly Successful, both informative and compelling, bringing readers closer to the wonders of the animal kingdom.





Breakfast with Candy Costas

A Women's Health & Wellness Event

Friday, March 7th • 8-10am

In honor of International Women's Day, The J House Greenwich and The First Bank of Greenwich invites you to a morning dedicated to women's health, wellness & living life to the fullest! Keynote Speaker and Business Owner, Candy Costas, will lead the conversation about her "5 Keys to Living a Fun Life at Any Age", featuring a Q&A, food & drink, giveaways and more!

