

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFING

CORRECTION

In our Board of Finance meetings story last week, we incorrectly reported that the BOF had asked the BOE for \$500 to \$700 million in cuts. The correct figure is \$500,000 to \$700,000 of reductions in next year's budget request. Our thanks to Chris Le Bris for letting us know.

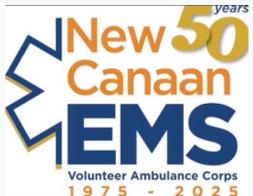
POLICE AND FIRE Police HQ Renovation Ahead Schedule

New Canaan Police Department plans to move into its renovated headquarters at 174 South Avenue on June 3rd, nearly six months ahead of schedule. The project, expected to finish under its \$29 million budget, includes safety upgrades, ADA accessibility, and energy efficiency improvements. Final preparations, including equipment relocation, are underway as the department vacates its temporary location by June 30th.

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that can be fatal if inhaled at high levels, with over 150 annual deaths in the U.S. from non-fire-related incidents. CO poisoning occurs when fuel-burning appliances or generators malfunction or are improperly vented. To prevent exposure, install CO alarms on every home level, use generators outdoors, and keep appliance vents clear of debris.

NCVAC: 50 Years



February 18th marked 50 years of service for the New Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corps (NCVAC), which transported its first patient in 1975. The organization has grown from a Town-provided Cadillac to a modern fleet staffed by trained personnel. NCVAC continues to provide emergency medical services to New Canaan residents. Photo credit: Town of New Canaan.

TOWN HALL New Canaan Zoning Rules Review

New Canaan's Planning and Zoning Commission has begun a comprehensive review of the town's zoning regulations, last updated nearly 20 years ago. Key priorities include aligning regulations with state laws, updating outdated criteria, and reducing the commission's workload. The process, expected to take one to two years, may also involve minor adjustments to the town's zoning map.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS Gas Leak Closes YMCA Tuesday

On Tuesday morning, a contractor damaged a gas main at the New Canaan

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Publisher@NewCanaanSentinel.com

Budget Review Continues as Board of Finance Reviews Spending Asks

By ELIZABETH BARHYDT

The town's budget process has moved forward in recent weeks with continued scrutiny of school expenditures, capital projects, and town department funding. The Board of Finance has been working through budget requests, weighing financial discipline against pressing infrastructure and service needs.

At the February 11 meeting, the Board of Education presented its proposed \$114.3 million operating budget, a 4.67% increase over last year. Salaries account for the bulk of the increase, with total compensation rising by \$3.31 million. The largest component is teacher salaries, which will increase by \$2.675 million due to general wage increases, step adjustments, and the addition of two new positions—an interventionist and a classroom coach.

Turnover savings from retirements, which typically offset salary increases, are projected at \$245,000, lower than last year's \$450,000. Healthcare costs and other benefits are also rising, contributing 83% of the total increase.

The finance board pressed the Board of Education to look for additional cuts. "We had sort of guided toward something with a three in front of it," one board member said, indicating that the 4.67% increase is above their preferred target. The board suggested reductions of \$500,000 to \$700,000.

Capital requests also drew debate, particularly a \$1.3 million proposal to upgrade the high school's public address system to an advanced classroom audio

enhancement system. The board also questioned the \$200,000 replacement of the aging scoreboard at Dunning Stadium, asking whether private donations could help fund the project.

The New Canaan Library's proposed 8% budget increase has been another point of discussion. Last year, the Town Council cut the library's funding request significantly, forcing it to pull from reserves. This year's proposal includes a one-time "reset" to stabilize operations and fund necessary staffing, maintenance, and digital resources.

Board members acknowledged the library's growing demand—daily foot traffic has surged from 1,200 visitors pre-pandemic to nearly 1,800 today. However, they pressed the library's leadership on whether this year's increase would set a precedent for future budget cycles. Library officials assured them that future requests would remain within budgetary guidance.

The Board of Finance has also looked closely at town capital projects, attempting to balance infrastructure improvements with fiscal restraint. The town's total general fund expenditures are projected at \$183.1 million, a 4.67% increase over last year. Capital expenses are a significant driver of the increase, particularly tax-funded capital expenditures, which will jump 351% from \$384,000 to \$1.73 million.

At the February 13 meeting, the finance board reviewed the Powerhouse Theater renovation plan, including a \$265,000 request to close the funding

gap for Phase One of the project. The renovations include a new lobby, ADA-compliant restrooms, and an office in the potting shed.

So far, \$850,000 has been raised toward the \$1.65 million Phase One goal, with \$725,000 in the bank and \$100,000 spent on architectural and engineering fees. The \$265,000 request would allow the project to secure a firm bid and proceed this summer.

Phase Two, which involves replacing the annex, is estimated to cost \$1 million. A \$500,000 state grant has been secured, but the remaining \$400,000 must come from private fundraising. Finance board members questioned whether the total cost of the project, including exterior bathrooms, was closer to \$2.6 million, \$2.8 million, or even \$3 million.

The board also raised concerns about accessibility compliance. The annex floor is four inches too high, meaning ADA-compliant exterior bathrooms would have to be built at an improper height if the annex is not replaced. Some members questioned whether funds should be allocated for the annex first. However, town officials emphasized that the lobby and interior restrooms were the priority.

The finance board signaled that it would likely approve the \$265,000 request for Phase One while leaving the annex replacement unfunded for now. Private fundraising efforts will continue for Phase Two.

The Public Works Department presented a \$1.165 million

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Conversations with the Community



By PATRICIA CHADWICK

For more than a few decades, increases in college tuition have significantly outpaced the rate of inflation in this country. Today, approximately 70% of undergraduate students are entering the job market with some level of debt in the form of a student loan, often as much as \$40,000. A loan of "just" \$20,000 is considered to be a manageable amount of debt to carry with them into their new life as a working person. Whether it be the parents—remortgaging their homes to pay some or all of the cost of tuition/room/board as they are nearing the end of their earning years—or their children, who assume the financial burden, the result is a drag on the economy. Purchasing power is diminished by the amount of the monthly loan payment; discretionary spending—the opportunity to travel or just go on a little splurge—is curtailed; accumulating savings towards a down payment on a home will take longer because of the burden of debt.

It should come as no surprise that the lure for an education that leads to a real professional position without a boatload of debt has become increasingly appealing to high school students. There was a time when "the trades" were deemed a less desirable career than employment in "the service sector." But over time, as fewer people entered the blue collar workforce, the supply/demand characteristics changed the economics of this market. There is almost nothing more valuable than a plumber or an electrician who can say, "Yes, I can be there today." Even if it is a "tomorrow" appointment, that's good news. The prices can be steep, but knowledge is valuable and I always appreciate that they can do something I cannot. Over the last thirty years, I've built great friendships with many of the skilled workers who have baled me out—turning fallen trees into firewood, replacing a damaged generator, repaving the driveway and of course dealing with the leaking ceiling, or the broken pipes in the basement. I love it when they trust me with their cell phone number—that's when I know they're on my side.

I was pondering how to write an upbeat story about the value of a career in the trades, when I suddenly thought of a school in Westerly, Rhode Island—Westerly Education Center. That school came into being by what one might call divine intervention. A couple, Rhode Island Senator Samuel Azzinaro and his wife, Carol, were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary with a dinner at The Ocean House where they were greeted by Chuck Royce, the entrepreneur who built the hotel. It was at that chance meeting in 2014 that the beginning of a resoundingly successful public/private partnership was formed. Chuck, who for years had sat on the board of Westchester Community College (WCC), was an ardent proponent of the two-year educational programs offered by community colleges. His vision of creating a similar school in Westerly had been a dream, but that chance meeting with Senator Sam Azzinaro led to a conversation that blossomed into what some might call a miracle. At the time, there was a small trade school program for high school graduates that was held after school hours in the high school itself. Chuck's idea was to create a dedicated building that would be equipped to offer a broad array of courses to graduates of the local high school—a place that would replicate what he had witnessed at WCC.

In short order, Chuck was on a mission, one that comprised federal, state and local government officials, including both Senators Reed and Whitehouse, Governor Gina Raimondo, Nicholas Mattiello, Former Speaker of the R.I. House of Representatives, and R.I. Senator Dennis Algieri, as well as numerous local businesspeople including lawyer Tom Liguori who acted as organizer and facilitator to maintain the momentum of the project. No obstacle was too great—not chemicals in the soil, nor a building that needed to be replaced, nor the need to garner government funding. Electric Boat, the General Dynamics subsidiary headquartered in Groton, Connecticut became an important part of the project. Sean Davis, a vice president at the company committed to hire graduates trained in a number of maritime

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Legislative Session in Full Swing: Proposal's Will Affect New Canaan

By ANNE WHITE

The state Capitol is a hive of activity as lawmakers wade through the demanding public hearing phase of Connecticut's five-month legislative session. With major policy proposals up for debate—including a sweeping tax cut plan, the erosion of the fiscal guardrails, the expansion of access to birth control, and contentious zoning reform bills—lawmakers and stakeholders are drawing clear battle lines.

At the center of the fray is New Canaan's State Senator Ryan Fazio, the Ranking Member of the Finance Committee, who has introduced an ambitious tax reform proposal. His plan is designed to address Connecticut's heavy tax burden, proposes income tax cuts, property tax caps, and a reinforcement of the state's fiscal guardrails. But while Fazio's allies view it as a long-overdue relief measure, opposition forces warn that it risks financial instability.

In a parallel debate, Fazio has also emerged as a vocal critic of the controversial "Work Live Ride" zoning reform, a bill that could reshape housing development across the state by overriding local zoning control. In a grueling 14-hour public hearing, he sparred with proponents of the bill, arguing that it represents an encroachment on municipal autonomy.

And in the background, another of Fazio's legislative efforts has

quietly come into full effect: an expansion of access to hormonal birth control through pharmacists, a policy shift that has garnered bipartisan support.

As the legislative session unfolds, these battles—over taxes, housing, and policy—are shaping into a high-stakes confrontation that could redefine Connecticut politics.

A Tax Reform Battle in the Making

Fazio's tax proposal is aggressive in its scope. At its core is a 1% reduction in income tax rates for middle-income earners, an initiative he says will save the average household in his district about \$2,000 annually. To finance these cuts, he proposes a combination of a two-year wage freeze for state employees, a tightening of spending growth, and the elimination of tax carveouts for politically connected industries.

The proposal also seeks to cap property tax increases at 2% annually, aligning Connecticut's approach with Massachusetts' successful model. The state currently ranks third-highest in the nation for property taxes, a burden that Fazio argues is eroding affordability and driving out residents.

Finally, the plan calls for extending Connecticut's budget guardrails—caps on spending and borrowing first instituted in 2017 during a bipartisan agreement.

Those limits have been credited with

preventing significant tax hikes and stabilizing state finances, but Fazio warns that legislative leaders may look to weaken them. "These policies are necessary to reduce costs and taxes for families for the future," he said.

While the plan has gained traction among fiscal conservatives, Democratic lawmakers are already signaling their resistance. Critics argue that a wage freeze for state employees, at a time when inflation has driven up costs, is politically untenable. Others say that limiting future spending growth could hamstring investments in infrastructure, education, and social services.

The Fight Over 'Work Live Ride' and Local Zoning

If tax reform is shaping up to be a fiscal fight, zoning reform has become a full-scale ideological battle. The "Work Live Ride" bill (HB6831), a key initiative of the Democratic majority, would mandate that municipalities allow multi-unit residential development as-of-right within a half-mile of public transit hubs. Failure to comply would result in the loss of state funding.

Proponents say the measure is a necessary step to combat Connecticut's housing shortage and make communities more affordable. Opponents see it as an attack on local control that could alter the character of suburban neighborhoods.

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COLUMN

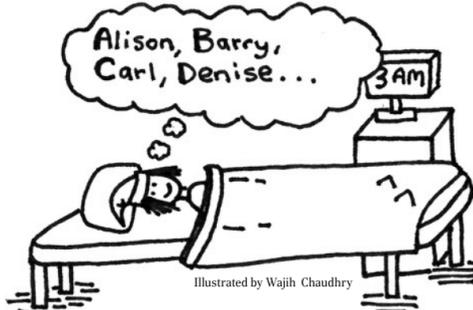
The Alphabet of Gratitude

By JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

It's worth repeating that we can't be anxious and grateful at the same time. Expressing gratitude for anything reboots our brains out of fight-or-flight mode. Writing five things we are grateful for in a journal or saying them out loud is comfort food for our brains.

Sometimes a journal isn't handy and speaking aloud isn't an option. We might be on a crowded subway or sleeping with our partner in the room. Especially in the middle of the night when blood sugar is lowest and anxiety is likely highest, we can lower our anxiety by mentally running through an alphabet of friends we have loved, places we've enjoyed, or foods we appreciate. (We can skip letters we can't find a name for. Few of us have been to Zanzibar, adore zucchini, or have a friend named Xerxes.) This practice usually puts us back to sleep before the third iteration.

Along with using the alphabet of gratitude, Jennifer and Ryan practice sharing "three gratitudes" at bedtime.



These are the last things they say to each other before they roll over to sleep. Each gratitude is something special that happened during the day—a conversation, a sunset, a good report. Their brief expressions of gratitude calm their brains and help them fall asleep more easily.

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



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Hoyt Livery: A Family's Relentless Pursuit of Service

BY PETER BARHYDT

The morning air is crisp, the pavement still damp from the previous night's rain. A thin mist lingers, curling around the black sedans lined up in meticulous rows, their hoods reflecting the first light of day. Santo Silvestro moves through them like a jeweler appraising his finest gems, his fingers brushing over the polished metal, his eyes catching imperfections that no one else would notice. He stoops to examine a tire, pressing the rubber with practiced precision. He has done this every morning for decades, before the phones start ringing, before the first car rolls out to its waiting passenger.

In the quiet of dawn, Hoyt Livery belongs to him alone.

Santo never intended to own a limousine service. He was a body man first, a mechanic with a meticulous touch, a craftsman who took pride in restoring vehicles that others would discard. In 1980, at the age of 21, he purchased New Canaan Auto Body with money he didn't really have, scraping together every dollar, making promises he wasn't entirely sure he could keep.

"I didn't sleep for a year," he says. "Every night I lay there thinking, what if I fail?"

Failure, however, never came. By the time he and his wife Lynda acquired Hoyt Livery from the Hoyt Funeral Home in 1987, Santo had already earned a reputation for precision. The limousine service had only a single stretch limousine and a silver town car—vehicles more suited for funerals than for business travelers or corporate clients.

"They thought it would be a good addition to the funeral business," Lynda recalls. "But really, their kids just used the cars."

The Silvestros saw potential, but the real work was in gaining trust. Santo walked into every deal with the same simple principle: If he said he would do something, he would do it. He repaired the cars meticulously, treated his drivers like family, and personally took the wheel when necessary.

"I drove for years," he says. "Because when you're starting out, you do everything yourself."

Trust, in the Silvestros' world, is not granted

**"I promised them," he says simply.
"I kept my word."**



lightly. It is built through consistency, through showing up, through doing things the right way when no one is watching.

"We don't lease our cars," Santo says, shaking his head. "We own them. We maintain them."

In an industry where most competitors lease vehicles and outsource repairs, Hoyt Livery stands apart. They own their body shop. They have their own mechanical shop. Their own car wash.

"There's a guy whose only job is to clean cars," Santo says. "Six days a week."

This obsession with control extends to every detail. Every driver is an employee—never a contractor. "If Peter Barhydt calls for a car and we're booked, we don't hand him off to another company," Lynda says. "If we take the job, we take responsibility."

It is a philosophy that sets them apart in

an era of ride-sharing, where Uber and Lyft have turned transportation into a nameless transaction.

"Uber drivers don't have their cars inspected the way we do," Lynda says. "They don't have the same insurance requirements. They don't get checked the way we do."

Santo leans in. "You get into one of our cars, I can tell you that car has been checked. I know who's behind the wheel. And if something doesn't feel right, the driver tells us, and we pull it off the road. No questions."

This is not a business for the passive. Santo and Lynda do not delegate from a distance. They are in the office, on the lot, at the shop—every day.

"You can't just run it," Santo says. "You have to live it."

New Canaan is different now. The old way of doing business—the way Santo prefers—is fading.

"We bought 11 commercial buildings on a handshake," Lynda says. "That doesn't happen anymore."

One by one, Santo acquired the lots that surrounded his growing empire: a paint shop owned by Norwalk Community College, a body shop from Modern Plumbing, a storefront from a retiring friend. Each deal was sealed with a handshake, a promise, and a mutual understanding.

"If you're ever thinking of selling," Santo would say, "come see me first." And they did.

Even the deli across the street, a New Canaan institution for decades, found its way into their hands.

"The owner's sons didn't want it," Santo says. "I wanted the property."

He agreed to buy the business on the condition that he could purchase the land. Decades later, when the time came to step away from running the deli, Santo handed the business—not sold, but handed—to the two employees who had been running it for years.

"I promised them," he says simply. "I kept my word."

The future of Hoyt Livery is already in motion. Nicole and Anthony Silvestro, Santo and Lynda's children, now handle much of the daily operations. They have inherited more than a business—they have inherited a philosophy.

"Our kids are our exit strategy," Lynda says. "But we're still here. We always will be."

Santo smirks. "I don't golf. I don't like sitting still."

Instead, he flies helicopters. He owns two Fixed Base Operations (FBOs) at Danbury Airport, selling jet fuel and renting out hangar space. It's his escape, his way of staying busy outside the confines of Hoyt Livery.

Yet, each morning, he is back at the lot, walking past the rows of black town cars, touching the hoods, checking the tires, making sure everything is in order.

He does not do this because he has to. He does it because it is who he is.

Some men build businesses to leave them. Santo Silvestro built Hoyt Livery so he would never have to.

St. Aloysius Expansion Nears Completion

BY PETER BARHYDT

A major expansion project at St. Aloysius Parish is nearing completion, poised to address the needs of a rapidly growing congregation while expanding faith-based educational programs for the community. The project, which aims to enhance both worship and community engagement, ensures a more accessible and inclusive space for all parishioners.

"We moved from 2,600 families to 3,400 families in a span of about seven or eight years," said Monsignor Rob Kinnally, pastor of St. Aloysius. "We needed to make the space more user-friendly."

The project, now in its third year of construction, includes a new Education and Faith Center, a chapel, green spaces, and a multipurpose gymnasium. Designed to accommodate increased enrollment in religious

education, the new campus will serve as a dedicated home for youth ministry and community gatherings. The state-of-the-art facilities will foster a sense of belonging and faith enrichment for all generations. In addition, the campus will feature improved accessibility, ensuring that individuals with disabilities and mobility challenges can fully participate in all parish activities.

The centerpiece of the expansion is the Education and Faith Center, which will house St. Aloysius Catholic Preschool for children aged two through five. The building will also serve the parish's religious education program, which enrolls approximately 800 children. Along with classroom space, the new center will include common areas designed for collaborative learning, spiritual retreats, and guest speakers from the faith community.

"This building will be used at least five days a week for religious education and then in the evenings for parish ministry meetings," Kinnally explained. "It's a widely used space, and we are excited to offer even more opportunities for faith formation."

Chris Otis, director of youth and family ministry, emphasized the importance of having dedicated youth space. "Right now, we don't really have a home on campus. This will be a space where teens can gather, pray, socialize, and grow in their faith," Otis said. "It's a vision that we've been working toward for a long time, and it will be a game-changer for our ministry." The addition of a modern technology suite will allow youth groups to engage in virtual faith programs, interactive catechesis, and global outreach initiatives.

The campus will also feature a new chapel, which Kinnally hopes will be open 24/7 for personal prayer and worship. "We have so many working people commuting to New York City, and by the time they return, everything is closed," he said. "Having an accessible chapel aligns with the broader Eucharistic revival happening nationwide. It will be a sacred space that allows for personal reflection and communal prayer at any time of day." The chapel will also serve as a place for small-group prayer services, reconciliation, and special liturgical celebrations outside of Mass times.

Green Spaces and Sustainability

Green space has also been a priority in the redesign. "We wanted a space for everyone to enjoy, with native plantings, pollinator pathways, and areas for quiet reflection," Kinnally said. The outdoor area will include a spiritual spaces; a Good Shepherd garden, and areas for outdoor worship services. Seating areas and walking paths will invite visitors to meditate and relax, fostering a connection between nature and spirituality. The landscaping has been thoughtfully designed to promote biodiversity while also providing shaded areas for meditation and small group discussions.

Sustainability is at the forefront of the project. "We're incorporating geothermal

"This parish family lives the Gospel with great joy and boundless energy," Kinnally said.



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heating for the community room, solar energy for the school, and electric vehicle charging stations," Kinnally noted. "We're making a long-term investment in both our faith community and the environment." Additional measures include water conservation initiatives, high-efficiency lighting, and the use of recycled materials in construction. The parish is also exploring partnerships with environmental organizations to further integrate sustainable practices into campus operations.

Next Phases and Community Impact

A second phase of construction will include a two-story building featuring a large community room on the first floor and a dedicated youth ministry space, named "The Upper Room," on the second floor. "We're creating a space where young people can feel safe, grow in their faith, and engage with their peers in meaningful ways," Otis said. "This will give them a home base for their faith journey." The community room will also be available for parish events, family gatherings, and faith-based workshops.

Another major component of the expansion is the gymnasium, which will

serve as both an elementary school regulation gym and an auditorium. "We've always made our space available to the community, and now we'll have brand-new, state-of-the-art facilities," Kinnally said. The gym will host parish and community sports programs, school activities, and special events, providing a versatile venue for engagement and development. The new facility is also expected to enhance interfaith and intergenerational programs, allowing for greater community interaction.

Faith Center is expected to be completed in June, with preschool classes for two-year-olds beginning in January 2026 and full enrollment by September 2026.

Religious education programs will begin using the space this fall, providing an improved learning environment for the parish's young members. Parish leaders anticipate that the new facilities will significantly enhance the church's ability to provide holistic faith formation for families and individuals of all ages.

While a formal celebration will wait until all phases of the project are complete, the parish hopes to mark its patron saint's feast day, June 21, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"We will recognize our donors and celebrate this milestone together," Kinnally said. "It's a testament to the generosity and faith of our community."

St. Aloysius Parish: A Rich History

Founded in 1896, St. Aloysius Parish was established to serve the growing Catholic population of New Canaan. Over 120 years and three church buildings later, the parish continues to thrive, now welcoming nearly 3,000 families. The mission remains unchanged: to bring Christ—present in Word and Sacrament—to all.

"This parish family lives the Gospel with great joy and boundless energy," Kinnally said. "You will find Jesus fully alive in this place, and no matter where you are in your faith life, you will be at home here."

With vibrant ministries, faith formation programs, and a commitment to serving others, St. Aloysius Parish continues to be a beacon of hope and spiritual growth in the New Canaan community. The parish offers a variety of outreach initiatives, including food drives, support for struggling families, and engagement with local shelters and aid organizations.

For more information on the project or to support the campaign, visit www.starcc.com.

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COLUMN

Best Bites: New Canaan



By PAUL REITANO

It was a Friday night, early winter of 2020, and I was at the Carriage Barn Arts Center; a fundraiser for my daughter's nursery school. My wife had lured me out of the house with the promise of "heavy" passed appetizers (potential pigs in the blanket). I squeezed into my only pair of ironed pants and prepared myself to outbid every other dad at the accompanying auction for the sole miniature chair signed by my daughter's pre-k teacher. As I waited in line for my third, and final High Noon - a bearded man, Julian, came up to me. We got to chatting, and he told me something shocking; that this may be the last party I go to for a very long time. What a buzzkill, I thought. He started talking about friends in China and virology and I laughed him off as just a very kind, very confused, smart person. A few weeks later the world came to a complete stop and we all started spraying down our groceries. Needless to say, Julian is still a lot smarter than I am. And yes, I did get that miniature chair. And no, it wasn't worth the three hundred dollars.

Q: Julian, what have you eaten today?

A: Today was not good.

Q: What happened?

A: I just got back from vacation and had plans to get back on the diet. What I've discovered is if you've been eating poorly, it continues to build on itself and...

Q: Just tell me, Julian.

A: Keep in mind - I hadn't really eaten up until this point.

Q: Just say it.

A: So, this morning I went downstairs - I went into the freezer and I got an ice cream bar.

Q: One of those little ones from Trader Joes?

A: No, it was full size.

Q: Big deal, you had an ice cream bar. There's nothing wrong with that. You're a good man.

A: I had three.

Q: You had three ice cream bars today? It's only 1:30!

A: I realize that. And that's all I've eaten today. That and three cups of coffee.

Q: Why stop at three? What keeps you from eating the entire box?

A: I control myself through inventory. The ice cream bars are all gone. So, they are no longer a threat to me.

Q: But your beautiful children - now their ice cream is gone, too.

A: No, theirs is still here. I'm not into their ice cream.

Q: Julian, you have both my admiration and my sympathy. Let's move on - what do you do for a living?

A: I'm a financial advisor.

Q: Should I take all of my money out of the market right now?

A: Yes.

Q: Really?

A: Probably safer places to be for the next six months. All the money that was being splashed into the economy during the Biden administration is being stopped. That's effective austerity. Immigration is being stopped, that's less workers. Inflation is starting to rise just as growth is slowing. That's four things stocks don't like.

Q: One moment, I'm just going to log in to my Vanguard here...

A: You should probably seek a second opinion. I could be wrong.

Q: No, I very much like first opinions only. It helps me make rash decisions.

A: Ok, but people who do what I do can always be wrong, it's-

Q: In addition to helping me cash out my portfolio, you're also a total history buff. How did that happen?

A: I started thinking about history more as it applied to my work. I was constantly trying to find historical analogues to help me understand what's currently going on in the market and on a broader scale.

Q: Remember to speak slowly to me, Julian. I was a theater major.

A: Ok, so if lifetime experience for me is about 40 years. If I use only that information in order to try and understand my current environment, I am only going to be able to look back on those years to make my decisions. That's where the history part of it becomes really cool. If you broaden your viewpoint - you can find a better analogue to what's currently going on and make better, less subjective decisions.

Q: What can history tell us about what's going on right now?

A: There's a great book called the

So you're telling me we're in the Fourth Turning?



Blackbird's "Jalapina Sour" Jalapeño infused blanco tequila, Pineapple brine, Lime, Pineapple juice

Fourth Turning by Neil Howe. The Fourth Turning is a theory of history that views time as cyclical, driven by generational shifts occurring roughly every 20-25 years across a full cycle of about 80-100 years. The theory is that these "turnings" follow a predictable pattern, with the Fourth Turning being a period of intense crisis that resolves the tensions of the previous three, leading to societal transformation. It frames history as a recurring interplay of generational dynamics, with each cycle ending in a dramatic upheaval that resets

the social order.

Q: So you're telling me we're in the Fourth Turning?

A: Pretty much.

Q: Julian, do you ever have good news?

A: One of my problems is...I have a weak social filter.

Q: I feel like this may be the wrong time to ask what you like to eat in New Canaan, but I'm going to do it anyway.

A: My wife and I have lunch dates on Fridays and lately we've been going to Blackbird.

Q: Good sushi there.

A: Yes, but what I love is their Jalapina Sour. It's Jalapeño tequila, Pineapple brine, Lime and Pineapple juice. The piece of picked pineapple on top is the best garnish for any drink I've ever had.

Q: I'll go get one with you if you promise not to tell me about the end of the world.

A: It's a deal.

HARTFORD LEGISLATIVE UPDATE From Page 1

Fazio, who sits on the Planning & Development Committee, has emerged as a leading critic of the bill. During a 14-hour public hearing, he argued that the proposal would disproportionately impact towns like Greenwich, Stamford, and New Canaan, forcing dense development into areas that lack the infrastructure to support it.

Joining him in opposition were Greenwich First Selectman Fred Camillo, New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson, and Greenwich Communities Chair Sam Romeo. "This is about our ability to determine what kind of community we want to be," Carlson testified. "This bill doesn't respect that."

Despite the pushback, supporters of the bill remain undeterred. Housing advocates argue that exclusionary zoning laws have historically driven up housing costs and reinforced

economic segregation. With Governor Ned Lamont backing transit-oriented development as part of his economic strategy, the battle over HB6831 is far from over.

Birth Control Expansion Quietly Takes Effect

Amid the heated debates over taxes and zoning, a key policy change spearheaded by Fazio has quietly taken hold. His bill expanding access to hormonal birth control through pharmacists has now gone into full effect, with the state's Department of Consumer Protection rolling out training programs to enable pharmacists to prescribe oral contraceptives.

The measure, which had bipartisan support, is expected to increase access to birth control, particularly in areas where healthcare providers are less accessible. "This is a meaningful step forward for women's health in Connecticut," Fazio said.

Public health experts have praised the law as a model for other states, though some conservative lawmakers raised concerns about regulatory oversight. As more pharmacists complete the required training, the number of locations offering

direct prescription access is expected to grow.

What Comes Next?

With three months left in the legislative session, the battle lines are clear. Fazio's tax cut proposal faces an uphill fight in the Finance Committee, where Democratic leadership has yet to indicate whether they will take it up. The Work Live Ride bill is expected to advance, but whether it passes in its current form is uncertain—particularly given the vocal opposition from suburban legislators. And the birth control law, now enacted, could serve as a rare point of bipartisan consensus in an increasingly divided political landscape.

Meanwhile, Fazio is taking his message directly to the voters. He is co-hosting two town hall meetings this week—one at Greenwich Town Hall and another in North Stamford—to rally support for his legislative priorities.

With Connecticut's legislative session moving at full speed, these debates are far from settled. But in a Capitol defined by competing visions for the state's future, one thing is certain: the fights over taxes, zoning, and policy are just getting started.

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**NOTICE AND WARNING
TOWN OF NEW CANAAN**

Board of Finance Public Hearing on 2025-2026 Budget

Notice is Herely Given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Board of Finance of the Town of New Canaan in the Town Hall Meeting Room and via Zoom, on **Tuesday March 4th, 2025 at 7:00 PM** on the tentative budget recommendations for the Town and the Sewer Utility for Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Notice is Also Herely Given that a Vote will be held by the Board of Finance of the Town of New Canaan in the Town Hall Meeting Room and via Zoom, on **Thursday March 6th, 2025 at 7:00 PM** on the tentative budget recommendations for the Town and the Sewer Utility for Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Expenditures	2024-25 Adopted Budget	2025-26 Proposed Budget	\$ Change From FY25 Budget	% Change From FY25 Budget
General Government				
Selectmen	607,991	677,798	70,207	11.55%
Finance	1,243,047	1,209,906	(33,141)	-2.67%
Assessor	382,635	425,451	42,816	11.19%
Tax Collector	274,349	188,688	(85,661)	-31.22%
Legal	400,000	425,000	25,000	6.25%
Human Resources	435,173	474,884	39,711	9.13%
Information Technology	621,994	756,925	134,931	21.69%
Town Clerk	517,813	520,158	2,345	0.45%
Registrar of Voters	238,717	200,481	(38,236)	-15.32%
Parking	384,845	391,161	6,316	1.64%
Town Commissions	-	38,250	38,250	-
Conservation Commission	11,000	-	(11,000)	-100.00%
Total General Government	5,115,164	5,308,682	193,518	3.78%
Benefits and Insurance				
Health & Security Benefits	6,342,317	6,672,778	330,461	5.21%
Pensions & Other Post Employment Benefits	485,260	612,465	127,205	26.22%
Insurance Liability	1,628,111	1,572,924	(55,187)	-3.39%
Total Benefits and Insurance	8,375,678	8,858,167	482,489	5.76%
Public Safety				
Police	7,665,300	8,063,967	398,667	4.93%
Animal Control / Park Ranger	100,500	95,179	(5,321)	-5.29%
Fire & Fire Marshal	4,656,457	4,789,020	132,563	2.85%
EMS	642,888	640,805	(2,083)	-0.32%
Emergency Management	200,174	154,737	(45,437)	-22.70%
Boating	553,101	543,813	(9,288)	-1.68%
Land Use	596,618	611,445	14,827	2.49%
Total Public Safety	14,435,038	14,898,966	463,928	3.21%
Public Works				
Administration	351,783	353,997	2,214	0.63%
Highway	3,860,946	3,801,635	(59,311)	-1.54%
Engineering	400,990	550,160	149,170	37.23%
Town Buildings	1,338,733	1,489,261	150,528	11.24%
Town Utilities	581,743	600,460	18,717	3.22%
Transfer Station	1,910,442	1,903,461	(6,981)	-0.37%
Parks	2,286,350	2,378,147	91,797	4.02%
Nature Center	80,972	69,057	(11,915)	-14.71%
Tree Service	539,413	539,489	76	0.01%
Total Public Works	11,331,372	11,819,667	488,295	4.31%
Recreation				
Civic Activities	16,500	-	(16,500)	-100.00%
Administration / Programs	576,835	638,718	61,883	10.73%
Waveny	123,228	103,978	(19,250)	-15.62%
Paddle Tennis	31,900	26,900	(5,000)	-15.67%
Park Buildings	289,290	289,800	510	0.18%
Lapham Community Center	357,127	370,558	13,431	3.76%
Pool Operations Kiwanis	81,693	82,996	1,303	1.59%
Total Recreation	1,475,373	1,512,950	37,577	2.53%
Health & Human Services				
Health	583,154	582,921	(233)	-0.04%
Human Services	489,731	445,225	(44,506)	-9.11%
Total Human Services	1,072,885	1,028,146	(44,739)	-4.17%
Human Services Agencies				
Catboat	50,000	25,000	(25,000)	-50.00%
Kids In Crisis	96,000	70,000	(26,000)	-27.08%
New Canaan Cares	8,000	5,000	(3,000)	-37.50%
Child Guidance Center	5,000	5,000	0	0.00%
Domestic Violence Crisis Centre	10,000	10,000	0	0.00%
Meals On Wheels	5,000	5,000	0	0.00%
Community Program Mental Wellness	2,500	1,500	(1,000)	-40.00%
New Canaan Urgent Assessment	25,000	15,000	(10,000)	-40.00%
Total Human Service Agencies	291,500	131,500	(160,000)	-54.74%
Other Agencies				
Health/Welfare	226,000	250,000	24,000	10.62%
Day Care Center	32,000	32,000	0	0.00%
New Canaan Historical Society	25,000	25,000	0	0.00%
Trans Private Schools	280,000	280,000	0	0.00%
Channel 79 TV	40,500	40,500	0	0.00%
Probate Court	12,000	12,000	0	0.00%
Total Other Agencies	615,500	639,500	24,000	3.90%
Library				
Library Operating	2,791,235	3,013,500	222,265	7.96%
Total Library	2,791,235	3,013,500	222,265	7.96%
Town Only Operating Expense	45,413,945	47,214,078	\$ 1,800,133	3.96%
Contingency	725,000	691,084	(33,916)	-4.68%
Volunteer Tax Abatement	62,156	80,000	17,844	28.71%
BOE Pension	100,730	168,427	67,697	67.21%
BOE 401A Match	187,000	208,000	21,000	11.26%
Total Operating Expense	46,488,831	48,361,649	\$ 1,872,818	4.03%
Tax Supported Capital Projects				
Transfer to Tax Funded Capital Projects	384,325	1,735,100	1,350,775	351.47%
Total Interfund Transfers	384,325	1,735,100	1,350,775	351.47%
Debt Service				
Town	10,439,122	10,439,122	-	0.00%
School	7,680,153	7,680,153	-	0.00%
School IT Lease	795,000	646,401	(148,599)	-18.69%
Total Debt Service	18,914,275	18,765,676	(148,599)	-0.79%
Board of Education				
Operating Expense	91,402,063	95,695,365	4,293,302	4.70%
Health Internal Service Fund Transfer	17,143,435	18,551,906	1,408,471	8.21%
Total Board of Education	109,145,488	114,247,271	5,101,783	4.67%
Total Town Operating, All Debt Service, All Capital Expenditures and Board of Education Operating Expenses	174,932,919	183,109,696	\$ 8,176,777	4.67%
Revenue				
Adopted Budget	2024-25	2025-26	\$ Change From FY25 Budget	% Change From FY25 Budget
Parking Permits, Fees, Tickets	878,200	918,700	42,500	4.85%
Investment Income	2,000,000	1,800,000	(200,000)	-10.00%
Conveyance Fees	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	0.00%
Tax Collections - Prior Yrs	300,000	300,000	-	0.00%
BOE Excess Cost Grant	916,577	916,577	-	0.00%
Building Permits	850,000	900,000	50,000	5.88%
Educational Cost Sharing	437,012	437,012	-	0.00%
Tipping Fees	415,000	415,000	-	0.00%
Other State Aid	215,940	216,940	1,000	0.46%
Bond Premium	1,981,000	1,981,000	-	-100.00%
Transfer from Other Funds	807,634	-	-	-
All Other Revenues	1,553,063	1,532,923	(20,140)	-1.30%
Total Estimated Revenue	11,832,426	12,795,152	(962,726)	-8.14%
Contribution from Fund Balance	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	0.00%
Amount to be Raised by Taxation for General Fund (Budgeted Expenses Less Est. Revenue)	158,100,493	160,072,544	\$ 10,972,051	6.94%

Capital Projects - Town	2024-25 Approved	2025-26 Proposed	2025-26 Recommended for Bonding	2025-26 Recommended for Tax Funding	2025-26 Recommended Other Funding
Information Technology					
IT Hardware/Software	90,000	40,000	-	40,000	-
WAN Software / Hardware	80,000	30,000	-	30,000	-
Cyber Security Mitigation	55,000	-	-	-	-
Parking					
Parking Pay Machines - Elm Street/South Ave (9)	-	91,100	91,100	-	-
New Permitting/Ticketing Software Program	62,000	-	-	-	-
Fire					
Personal Protective Equipment	40,000	47,500	-	47,500	-
Radio Replacement	12,000	10,000	-	10,000	-
Fire Hose Replacement	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	-
Equipment / Tools	15,000	15,000	-	15,000	-
Staff Vehicle Addition	80,000	-	-	-	-
Water Supply Improvement	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
SCBA Replacement	-	450,000	-	450,000	-
Water Rescue	3,325	-	-	-	-
Utility (Pick up Truck) replacement	-	105,000	-	105,000	-
Station Exhaust System	15,000	-	-	-	-
Gear Washer	12,000	-	-	-	-
Security Cameras	-	15,000	-	15,000	-
Search maza	20,000	-	-	-	-
Emergency Management					
Motorola Radio Hardware & Software Update Agreement	139,226	143,403	143,403	-	-
Motorola Tri-Band Radios	33,000	-	-	-	-
EMS					
New Ambulance	-	390,000	390,000	-	-
Police Department					
Police vehicles	52,500	213,500	213,500	-	-
Equipment for new vehicles	28,600	-	-	-	-
Vehicle changeover costs	12,000	-	-	-	-
Bullet Proof Vest Replacement	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	-
Portable radio replacement	15,000	15,200	-	15,200	-
Mobile Radio Replacement	5,000	15,000	-	15,000	-
Taxer Replacement (7)	15,000	17,000	-	17,000	-
Mobile Data Terminal Replacement	4,800	4,800	-	4,800	-
Duty Firearm Replacement (10 in FY25 and 45 in FY26)	12,000	60,000	60,000	-	-
Fixed License Plate Readers (10)	28,000	-	-	-	-
Defibrillators (AEDs) (4)	7,500	7,500	-	7,500	-
Body Camera (4)	7,000	3,100	-	3,100	-
In-Car Cameras	13,000	-	-	13,000	-
Body Camera/In Car Camera Licensing + Storage (54 BWC/27,000) (16 Fleet Cars/13,600)	40,600	-	-	-	-
Public Works - Town Buildings					
Town Hall Repairs and Upgrades	65,000	50,000	-	50,000	-
Town Hall Annex HVAC Replacement	65,000	154,000	154,000	-	-
Town Hall Annex Roof Replacement	85,000	313,500	313,500	-	-
Firehouse Raize and Replace Door Replacement, Rot Repairs	10,000	-	-	-	-
Firehouse Garage Heating Upgrades	35,000	-	-	-	-
EMS Building Exterior Repairs	-	15,000	-	15,000	-
Parks Garage Saxe Apron, Balards, Exterior Repairs	-	35,000	-	35,000	-
Waveny House Abatement	200,000	-	-	-	-
Waveny House ADA Upgrades	-	200,000	200,000	-	-
Waveny House Water and Waste Lines Replacement	300,000	-	-	-	-
Waveny House Drainage	50,000	-	-	-	-
Waveny House Exterior Repairs	-	2,450,000	2,450,000	-	-
Waveny Park Powerhouse Theatre	-	200,000	200,000	-	-
Waveny Park Potting Shed (front of Powerhouse)	-	65,000	65,000	-	-
Waveny Park LCC, Floors & Sound	-	83,000	83,000	-	-
Waveny Park LCC, Garage	-	26,000	26,000	-	-
Waveny Park LCC, Drainage & Chimney Caps	50,000	685,000	685,000	-	-
Waveny Pool-Building System Upgrades	50,000	-	-	-	-
Waveny Park Lamp Post Replacement Project	280,000	280,000	280,000	-	-
Highway Garage Building Interior & Exterior Repairs	50,000	-	-	50,000	-
Inwin Park Main House-Roof Eng & Painting & Repairs	150,000	1,319,000	1,319,000	-	-
Inwin Gores Pavilion	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Nature Center Visitor Center/Greenhouse Boiler Conversion to propane/ Oil Tank Removals	150,000	-	-	-	-
Nature Center Education Building	-	150,000	150,000	-	-
Nature Center Audubon House Demo	50,000	-	-	-	-
Nature Center Visitor Center Demo Ramp Install Stairs	50,000	-	-	-	-
Nature Center Back House Door Replacement, Rot Repairs	25,000	-	-	-	-
School House Apartments / Daycare-Drainage, Rebuild entrance cover	50,000	-	-	-	-
School House Apartments Patio	-	50,000	-	50,000	-
Train Station DOT/Restroom Repairs	150,000	-	-	-	-
Center School Parking Lot Lamp Posts	-	130,000	130,000	-	-
Chimney Inspection and Clearing Town Buildings	50,000	-	-	-	-
Utility Van - Maintenance Operations	65,000	-			

New Canaan Sentinel

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More Than Coffee

Every Friday morning at the Lapham Center, a small, steady ritual unfolds—coffee and conversation with the *New Canaan Sentinel*. The coffee, provided by Grace Farms, is organic, ethically sourced, and comes from woman-owned farms. It is distributed by one of New Canaan's treasures, a place that understands the power of quiet generosity, of thoughtful efforts that, over time, add up to something real. It is the perfect companion to what happens at these gatherings—neighbors talking about their town, their stories, their newspaper.

This week, part of the conversation was about us. Not a topic we planned, not one we sought, but there it was—spontaneous, sincere, and, for those of us at the *Sentinel*, both humbling and heartening. Readers spoke about how the paper has improved, how the reporting has become sharper, more substantive, more attuned to the issues that matter to New Canaan. It was the kind of feedback that makes a newsroom sit up a little straighter, that reminds us why we do this work.

This paper began just 18 months ago. It started, as all things do, as an idea, a hope, a belief that New Canaan deserved a newspaper that was deeply local, deeply engaged, and deeply committed to serving the town. In those early days, it was just a few people working long hours, trying to get the basics right, to build something that felt like home. Today, the *Sentinel* is stronger. The reporting is deeper. The coverage is broader. But none of that happened in a vacuum. It happened because New Canaan stepped in and stepped up—offering tips, sending letters, asking us to be better, supporting us through subscriptions, advertising, and engagement. A newspaper and its town are in it together. When a paper thrives, a community is informed, connected, engaged. When it falters, something essential is lost.

The *New Canaan Sentinel* is not a “gotcha” paper. We don't chase clicks. We don't peddle outrage. We start from a simple premise—that most people, whether they agree or disagree, want what is best for New Canaan. That context matters. That fairness and clarity matter.

This is a newspaper built a little differently—more rooted

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

in community, in faith, in an understanding that local news is not about division but about shared civic life. We do not seek to be louder than the rest of the media landscape, or even necessarily faster (though happily, we are, more and more). But we do seek to be thorough. Comprehensive. A place where you can find what you need to know, in one place.

And that only happens because of you. Because of the letters you write, the stories you share, the ads you place, the businesses you support. This is not just a paper about New Canaan—it is a paper of New Canaan.

Across the country, small newspapers are disappearing. Some shut down entirely, others shrink into something unrecognizable—cutting staff, filling pages with syndicated content, losing the ability to serve the communities that once relied on them. When a local paper disappears, a town loses something irreplaceable. Civic engagement declines. Government decisions go unscrutinized. The small but meaningful moments—business openings, school achievements, the work of volunteers—fade from record.

If New Canaan wants to keep its newspaper, it must make the deliberate choice to do so.

The ways to do this are simple, but they matter. **Subscribe.** A newspaper cannot exist without paying readers. **Engage.** Send a letter, share a tip, submit a moment that matters. When a town participates in its paper, the paper becomes a truer reflection of the town. **Advertise.** Local businesses have long been the financial backbone of newspapers. If you own a business, take out an ad. If you don't, **Support Our Advertisers**—the businesses that do—because when they invest in local journalism, they invest in New Canaan. **Show up.** Whether it's at coffee and conversation, at town meetings, or at local events, being involved makes all the difference.

A town that values itself, that understands the importance of a shared civic life, will do what is necessary to keep its newspaper strong.

Last week, we received many kind words. We also received a correction—a number misstated, a zero where it shouldn't have been. Both are valuable. One tells us what we're doing right, the other makes us better. This is how a real newspaper operates: with humility, accountability, and trust in the intelligence of its readers.

We work to get better every week. But that only happens because the people in New Canaan have decided to make it so.

Editorial Page



"Of course it has no taste ... but just look at the size of that baby."

LETTER

Great Work on 51 Main St. Article

Dear Editor,
I wanted to tell you what a well written and researched article you published in the New Canaan Sentinel about the proposed development at 51 Main Street. This is the type of important local news for which, I and other residents, depend

on the Sentinel. FYI I have not seen news on this court ruling in any other spot.

Kudos to Elizabeth and the Sentinel. I am happy to be a subscriber.

Again, great work. John

LETTER

Curriculum Concerns

Dear Editor,
As some of you may know, a mother from our community recently raised concerns about a book that is required reading for 8th-grade English. She found its content, particularly the offensive and sexually explicit language, inappropriate for her daughter. This issue has sparked a debate within our community, with some parents supporting the book, while others do not. However, this letter is not about the content of any specific book; it is about the process by which books are selected as required reading, ensuring that we have policies in place to provide a safe learning environment for all New Canaan Public School (NCPS) children.

Our schools must adhere to clear state rules and district policies when making curriculum decisions. I have formally requested a review of this approval process and a presentation of findings and corrective actions. I encourage all parents and community members to attend the Board of Education (BOE) meeting on March 3, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Wagner Room at the High School to ask critical questions and demand transparency.

Key Issues That Need Answers:

Was this book approved by the required Curriculum Committee?

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-220(e) mandates that each district have a curriculum committee responsible for reviewing and approving all educational materials. If such a committee exists, we should have access to meeting minutes documenting when and how this book was approved. What is the date it was added, and where can we find these meeting minutes?

Read the statute here: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-220(e) **Was there community input?**

District Policy 6160 requires that program evaluations include surveys of parents and other stakeholders to ensure curriculum decisions reflect community needs. This policy has been violated by school administration for at least the past three years that my children have been enrolled. Were parents given the opportunity to provide feedback when this book was first added, or has this policy been violated even longer? To my knowledge, no such survey was

conducted before the book was included on the required reading list.

I addressed this policy violation during the November 18, 2024, BOE meeting, and I encourage everyone to review the full discussion. You can view my presentation starting at 7:40 in the video linked here: Watch presentation.

You can also review the full policy here: NCPS BOE Policies (page 216).

Did the BOE follow the proper approval process?

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-229(a) requires that any change in required textbooks be approved by a two-thirds vote of the BOE. If this vote took place, the meeting minutes should reflect which BOE members supported it. Where are these meeting minutes, and who were the six members who decided to approve the book?

Read the statute here: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-229(a)

Why This Matters to All of Us:

Recently, a parent requested an opt-out policy for books with explicit content. This is not just about one book but about ensuring that all families feel comfortable with the materials their children are required to read. The BOE's primary responsibility is to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students, which includes giving parents a voice in curriculum decisions.

If the correct process was not followed, we need to understand why, and we must ensure that future curriculum decisions are made with full transparency.

I addressed these and some other concerns in a December 16 2024 BOE presentation, which can be viewed here (starting at 6:40): Watch presentation.

I encourage all parents, educators, and concerned community members to attend the March 3, 2025, BOE meeting and make their voices heard. We all deserve a say in the materials that shape our children's education.

Sincerely, Julia Farberov

LETTER

What We Need from a Local Paper

Dear Editor,

Excellent coverage of the annual budget process in this week's edition. The overview and message from the First Selectman in page one, followed by an in-depth report on the first two Board of Finance meetings and editorial put a

spotlight on this important subject.

Plus the article on 51 Main was good reporting on another important issue.

This is what we want and need from our local newspaper.

Regards, Chris Le Bris

PATRICIA CHADWICK From Page 1

trades, including pipefitting, radiography, electrical and high voltage.

The ribbon cutting ceremony took place in January of 2017 and since that day, more than 42,000 men and women have attended Westerly Education Center, learning numerous skills that are turned into jobs as soon as they graduate. Lest you think this school educates only men, the Boat for Women is an Electric Boat trades exposure program that began in 2019. It introduces women to the sheet metal, pipefitting, and electrical trades training programs and its purpose is to eliminate stigmas associating trade work as being limited to men. That program remains very much alive and well six years later. Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) is a strong educational partner with Westerly Education Center and offers workforce training in healthcare, bio-manufacturing and education. Both schools also offer traditional for-credit courses that appeal to students who are working toward an undergraduate degree.

Today, there are hundreds of vendors in the supply chain that hire trainees from Westerly Educational Center, and the school's educational offerings have broadened into a number of other fields including healthcare, finance and education to the benefit of other companies in Rhode Island and Connecticut—including Amgen, Toray, Thielsch Engineering as well as a number of long-term care facilities. Financial aid for students and trainees comes in a variety of ways. For those who are pursuing a college degree, there is the option to apply for federal funding aid that can be applied to for-credit courses. The workforce trainings have generally been free for participants, and the cost has been defrayed both through the generosity of the private sector as well as through some public funding.

Over the last seven years, the school has successfully applied for grants that have exceeded \$15 million. While some students do enter the work force with modest debt, the burden is a far cry from what faces the majority of four-year-college graduates across this country.

When I asked the question, “To what do you attribute the success of Westerly Education Center,” the response was reassuring for its future. [It] “is a place where higher education, business, industry and community partners come together and create training programs to meet employer workforce demands. We have a creative team who put students first and are willing to devise programming that helps individuals earn the credentials they need in order to qualify for well-paying work.” Chuck Royce's vision, some ten years ago, has become a reality. Thousands of skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen have excellent jobs that contribute to the economic health of Rhode Island and eastern Connecticut.

A postscript: Westerly Education Center is a unit of the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, whose mission is to ensure, promote, and expand postsecondary attainment by providing an effective system of postsecondary education and workforce training that is high quality equitable accessible, affordable, and aligned to pre-kindergarten-12 education and the economy.

Special thanks to Beth Bailey, chief communications officer for the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner and its workforce, Rhode Island.

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



**Keith E. Simpson
Associates**

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
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BUDGET From Page 1

request, up from \$565,000 last year. The increase is driven primarily by a \$640,000 combination vacuum jet truck and a \$690,000 cold storage building that has been deferred for over a decade.

Finance board members questioned whether the vacuum truck could be rented or shared with other towns. Public Works Director Tiger Mann responded that neighboring towns Wilton, Darien, and Ridgefield all have their own, and rental rates are prohibitively high at \$3,600 per day. The state also failed to secure any bids for rental units in Fairfield County. Given the town's permit obligations, the board agreed that purchasing a new truck was the best long-term solution.

Other capital requests included \$125,000 to replace a 10-foot out-front rotary mower for the Parks Department and \$35,000 to replace a deteriorating safety railing at

the Transfer Station's commercial area. ADA-compliant restroom and accessibility upgrades at Waveny Park were also reviewed, with officials emphasizing their importance in ensuring equitable access to public facilities.

Looking Ahead

The budget process will continue in March as the finance board refines its recommendations before sending a final proposal to the Town Council. Chairman Todd Lavieri reiterated the board's priorities: lowering the tax burden, reducing bonded capital expenses, and ensuring that taxpayer-supported projects are carefully justified.

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

The Board of Finance is expected to vote on the proposed budget on March 6, with the Town Council set to review and finalize the budget in early April. Officials will continue looking for cost-saving opportunities while ensuring that critical projects and services remain funded.

YOUR NEWS BRIEFING CONTINUED From Page 1

Community YMCA, leading to the safe evacuation of all patrons, staff, and children. Fire crews found no hazardous gas levels, and Eversource shut off the gas within 45 minutes. The YMCA remained closed for the rest of the day.

Exhibition Opens: "Color Me"

"Color Me," an exhibition at Silvermine Galleries in New Canaan, runs from February 15th to March 13th, showcasing artwork by Silvermine Guild artists that explores the use of color. The collection includes paintings, sculptures, and installations highlighting color's role in form and emotion. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm.

Kids In Crisis Speaks at Rotary



Recently, Denise Qualey and Erica Bates spoke at the New Canaan Rotary Club about Kids In Crisis, an organization providing temporary housing and support services for children in Fairfield County. The agency houses individuals from birth to age 18, including LGBTQ adolescents, and offers crisis counseling and community education programs. Photo credit: New Canaan Rotary Club.

Glamour Gals Visit Waveny



The Glamour Gals New Canaan High School chapter visited Waveny LifeCare Network for its first event. Led by founder Kate Frangione, students provided nail painting and basic makeup application for residents. Photo credit: Waveny LifeCare Network.

NC Thrift Shop Upgrade

The New Canaan Rotary Club and the Exchange Club of New Canaan provided grant funding to upgrade the kitchen at the New Canaan Thrift Shop. The upgrades will improve efficiency for volunteers cleaning glassware, dishes, and china before sale. Photo credit: Waveny LifeCare Network.

SCHOOLS

SLS Students Recognized in Writing Awards



Laurel Aronian '25 and Gavin Mhley '29
Recognized for Exceptional Writing



Two St. Luke's School students received recognition in the 2025 Hudson-to-Housatonic Scholastic Writing Awards. Laurel Aronian '25 earned two Silver Keys for her essays "Thinking Outside of the Black Box" and "Uncertainty in Memory and Morality," and an Honorable Mention for "Free Will." Gavin Mhley '29 received an Honorable Mention for his science fiction and fantasy piece "The Raven's Iris." Photo credit: St. Luke's School.

NCHS Presents *Les Misérables*

New Canaan High School will stage *Les Misérables* as its winter musical. Performances are scheduled for March 20th-22nd at 7 pm, with a matinee on March 22nd at 1 pm. The production features themes of redemption, resilience, and revolution.

SLS Students Complete Midnight Run



Recently, St. Luke's School students collected and delivered winter clothing and supplies for their annual Midnight Run. Club Co-Presidents Kate Edwards '25 and Ingrid Kerr '25 thanked the advisor, staff, chaperones, and community for their support. The event focused on providing essential items to those in need. Photo credit: St. Luke's School.

SLS Alum Visits



Recently, St. Luke's School alum Clara Pakman '19 visited to speak with students in Creative Writing and Advanced Engineering & Design classes. She discussed her work as a poet and will mentor students on a project related to cognitive science, research and design, and user experience. Photo credit: St. Luke's School.

SLS Eighth Graders Explore Printmaking



St. Luke's School eighth-grade studio art students recently visited the Center for Contemporary Printmaking. They created ocean-themed screen printed t-shirts and practiced etching on recycled Tetra Paks. Photo credit: St. Luke's School.

SLS Students Design Prosthetic Hands



St. Luke's School Anatomy and Physiology students recently collaborated with the designLab and the Center for Leadership to design custom prosthetic hands. They consulted with MIT graduate student Carolina Warneryd '18 and Paul Kent from the disAbled Life Alliance to discuss prosthetic research and challenges. Students then created sketches, prototypes, and solutions to enhance existing prosthetic designs. Photo credit: St. Luke's School.

SLS Alum, Lyakovetsky Speaks to Class



Recently, St. Luke's School alum Max Lyakovetsky '18, a Design Intern at Volkswagen and a Transportation Design student at ArtCenter College of Design, spoke to the Advanced Engineering and Design class. He will mentor students on an automotive design project. The talk was part of the school's Alumni Project Series. Photo credit: St. Luke's School.

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission at a regular meeting held via hybrid and in person on February 25, 2025 duly adopted the following resolution(s). Approved Applications become effective upon the filing of a copy thereof in the office of the Town Clerk.

1. RESOLVED, 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. Approved with an effective date of March 3, 2025.
2. RESOLVED, 3 Farm Road – that application of Waveny Care Center, Inc., Authorized Agent for Town of New Canaan, owner(s), for a Site Plan and Special Permit approval pursuant to Section(s) 8.2.A and B, 5.1.E.1 and 6.5.B.4 to allow the addition of a new structure for a not-for-profit community health facility; and to permit retaining walls exceeding four (4) feet in height in the Waveny Zone at 3 Farm Road (Map 31, Block 51, Lot 111) is approved with conditions and with an effective date of March 4, 2025.
3. RESOLVED, Discussion and consideration of the request of Wavey Care Center, Inc., Authorized Agent for Town of New Canaan, owner(s), to amend the Zoning Regulations dated June 16, 2007, amended December 6, 2024 to amend Section(s) 5.1.E.4 to increase allowable building coverage and building height via special permit. Approved with an effective date of March 3, 2025.

Krista Neilson, Secretary
Dated February 25, 2025

ACROSS CT

House Passes GOP Budget Plan

The U.S. House passed a GOP budget plan 217-215, proposing \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts and \$2 trillion in spending reductions, including potential \$880 billion cuts to Medicaid. Connecticut's House delegation voted against the plan, citing concerns over its impact on essential programs. The proposal now proceeds to committee hearings for further review.

OUR NEIGHBORS

Jason Perillo won the special election for Connecticut's 21st Senatorial District, defeating Tony Afriyie with 53.39% of the vote.

Dippin' Chicken Opening March 15

Dippin' Chicken will open on March 15th at 236 East Avenue, serving Korean fried chicken with all-natural, Halal-certified chicken and various global dipping sauces. The menu includes boneless chicken, wings, sandwiches, kimchi fries, fried rice, and dalgona candy. The restaurant will partner with Rescuing Leftover Cuisine to redistribute surplus food and operate daily with extended hours on weekends.

USA Junior Golf Federation Launches

The USA Junior Golf Federation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, has launched to support junior golfers at The Golf Performance Academy with financial aid and resources for collegiate golf preparation. The program focuses on skill development, physical readiness, coaching, mental resilience, and proper equipment. The Golf Performance Academy's approach has led to tournament wins and college scholarships.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BRIEFS

Appointments Approved

The Board approved the appointment of John Clarke to the Parking Commission for a term ending December 1, 2025, and Thomas Herman to the Conservation Commission for a term ending December 1, 2026.

Gauntlet Lacrosse Tournament and Cochran Classic

The Board approved the New Canaan Lacrosse Association's request to allow vendors selling apparel and food at the Lacrosse Jamboree on May 17th-18th and June 28th-29th, 2025, at Waveny Park.

Arts Festival Vendor Approval

The Board approved a request from the Carriage Barn Arts Center and the Parks and Recreation Department. The approval will allow the Waveny Park Arts Festival to have up to four food/beverage vendors on September 28th, 2025.

Outdoor Dining Season Adjustment

The Board approved a request from the Town Planner to adjust the outdoor dining season to run annually from May 1st through the first Sunday in November.

Fire Department Repair and Equipment Contracts

The Board approved contracts for the New Canaan Fire Department which included \$73,140.26 for equipment repairs and PO increase with Northeastern Fire Apparatus, \$60,000 for repairs with Gowans Knight, \$13,000 for the addition of a module with Locality Media Inc., and \$40,000 for the purchase of equipment with Fire Tech.

Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) Permit Renewal

The Board approved a \$17,560 contract with AECOM for professional services related to renewing the WPCF's discharge permit.

Steve Benko Pool Pump Installation

The Board approved a \$49,400 contract with J & J Pool and Concrete Service LLC for the installation of a second main pump at the Steve Benko Pool.

Fleet Vehicle Purchase Approval

The Board approved a \$63,415 purchase from Karl Chevrolet for a Chevy 3500 HD Silverado Truck to replace a Parks and Recreation Department fleet vehicle.

Travel Expenses

The Board approved \$775 in travel expenses for two employees to attend the New England Turf Grass Conference on March 5th-6th, 2025.

Bond Sale Purchase Orders

The Board approved purchase orders related to the recent bond sale. The orders included \$37,500 for Moody's and \$15,000 for Munistat.

Chief Building Official Appointment

The Board approved the appointment of Scott Becker as Chief Building Official for a four-year term.

Part-Time Administrative Hires

The Board approved hiring Linda Sidani as Administrative Assistant to the Tax Collector and Nicole Barrett as Administrative Assistant to the Assessor.

Facebook or Facetime

By THE REV. DR. CHUCK DAVIS

So, I have decided to replace Facebook with Facetime. Now some of you are thinking of "Skype" for apple computers. I am going one step beyond. I am thinking about bringing my social discontent to God.

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land (II Chronicles 7:14)

Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with

fasting and sackcloth and ashes. (Daniel 9:3)

You have said, "Seek my face."

My heart says to you,

"Your face, LORD, do I seek." (Psalm 27:8)

What would happen if I sought the face of God more and the "likes" and emojis of Facebook less?

I wanted to be sure that I am not just being a whiner myself - you know the old guy, the dinosaur, who doesn't get the value of technology and social media - so I just opened my Facebook (that will mean 2 times today). And there it was - 17 of the 20 most recent

What if the time taken to launch names at others for their opinions and ideas via Facebook was spent in Facetime with God about how broken our hearts are over the direction of our society in these days? I wonder if we could turn the language of curse in our land today to a language of blessing?

items in my news feed are from people offering social critique. Most of them Christ-followers. And several of them are using an aggressive and arrogant tone that seems far from what Jesus would identify with. It just doesn't feel like the social critique is helping us to fulfill our calling as Christ-followers to

be salt and light.

You may not be a Christ-follower, but I do not think that aggression or arrogance fulfill your great purpose in life either.

What if the time taken to launch names at others for their opinions and ideas via Facebook was spent in Facetime with God about how broken our hearts

are over the direction of our society? I wonder if we could turn the language of curse in our land today to a language of blessing?

Maybe Aaron's ancient blessing contextualized for our contemporary world would take over?

Thus you shall bless the people

of your land: you shall say to them, The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

(Numbers 6:23-26)

Now that is some Facetime that we could all use - the Lord shining his face upon us.

Rev. Dr. Chuck Davis is serving as Transitional co-Lead Pastor at Stanwich Church. He serves leaders globally as the President of Global Leadership Inc.

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 28th at 7 PM: Winter Blues

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

March 2nd at 11:30: A Coffee Concert will be held after Worship Service.

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

Upcoming Events:

March 19th from 9 AM- 4 PM: Connecticut March For Life. Mass will begin at 9, followed by the bus departing at 10 AM. To register, visit <https://starcc.com/respect-life/>

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

Upcoming Events:

March 5th from 9 AM- 5 PM: Imposition of Ashes and Rite of Reconciliation. Fr. Peter, Rev. Elizabeth and Fr. John will offer the imposition of ashes and the rite of reconciliation throughout the day (with the exception of the noon service of Holy Eucharist).

March 8th at 5 PM: For many decades, the St. Mark's Choir has been known for its concerts with orchestra. With this concert St. Mark's will revive that tradition.

The Choir and Soloists, accompanied by a full orchestral ensemble, will present these wonderful works. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 on the day of the show. Visit St. Mark's website for more information.

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_X0KDg

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CBCNewCanaan/>

Sunday School at 10:00am

Worship Service at 11:00am

Live Facebook Broadcast 11:30 am

Upcoming Events:

March 10th 7-9 PM: Bishop John R Thompson presents Revelation, the masterclass. This will be the first day of an 8 week course. Visit CBC's website for more information.

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.templestainaistamford.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 Sholom

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

www.templesholom.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=bFJQem9HWFcU0EzZUM2VENEZmgyUT09#success>

The Sentinel

National WSJ News Aggregate | Weather

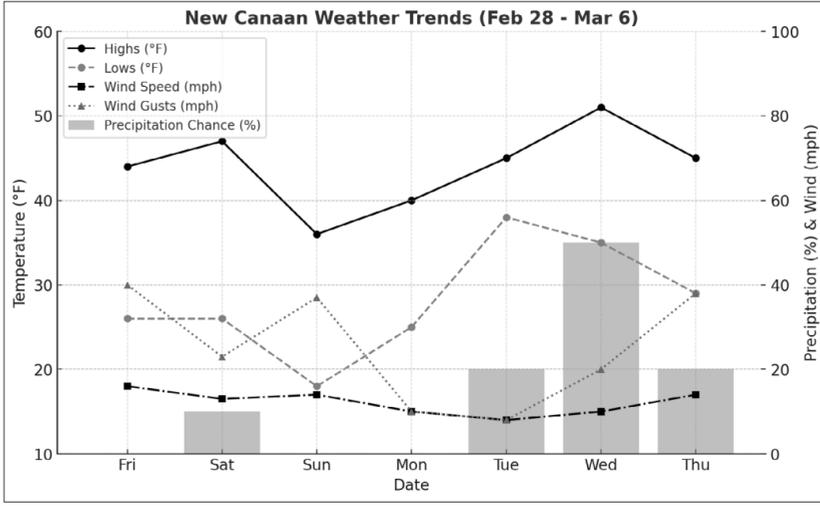
New Canaan Weather Forecast: Here's What to Expect

By Emma Barhydt

New Canaan can expect a week of fluctuating temperatures, breezy conditions, and occasional rain as March approaches. The week's forecast shows mostly dry conditions, with light rain midweek and temperatures ranging from the upper teens overnight to low 50s during the day.

Friday, February 28: A breezy end to the workweek will feature a mix of sun and clouds with temperatures peaking at 44°F. Strong west-northwest winds at 16 mph, gusting up to 40 mph, will make the air feel cooler, so layers are recommended for outdoor activities. As evening falls, temperatures will drop to 26°F with mostly cloudy skies and lighter southern winds at 7 mph. The chance of rain remains low, ensuring dry conditions heading into the weekend.

Saturday, March 1: Clouds will dominate the sky throughout Saturday, with temperatures warming



slightly to 47°F. Winds from the west-southwest will reach 13 mph, with gusts up to 23 mph, adding a brisk feel to the day. While there's a small chance of light showers, any rainfall will be minimal. The evening will clear up, with temperatures dipping to 26°F under mostly clear skies. Winds will shift to the west-northwest, maintaining gusts near 30

mph, keeping the night crisp. Sunday, March 2: Sunday will deliver the coldest daytime temperatures of the week, with a high of just 36°F. Despite mostly sunny skies, strong morning breezes from the northwest at 14 mph—gusting up to 37 mph—will keep the air sharp. The evening brings clear skies and a steep temperature drop to 18°F.

Winds will ease slightly but remain noticeable at 10 mph, with gusts up to 2 mph. Monday, March 3: Sunshine returns on Monday, bringing calm and dry conditions. Temperatures will climb into the low 40s, accompanied by light northwest winds, making it a pleasant day for outdoor errands. The night will stay mostly clear, with

temperatures falling to the mid 20s and light northeast winds. No precipitation is expected, providing a stable start to the week.

Tuesday, March 4: A shift in weather arrives Tuesday, with mostly cloudy skies and milder temperatures in the mid 40s. Winds will remain light, allowing for a comfortable day despite the cloud cover. Overnight, temperatures will fall to the upper 30s as overcast conditions persist. Light rain is expected but will be minimal, with no significant impact on travel or evening plans.

Wednesday, March 5: The mildest day of the week, Wednesday will see temperatures rise into the low 50s, though skies will remain mostly cloudy. Light rain is expected for a few hours during the day, accompanied by steady winds at 10 mph and stronger gusts. Overnight, rain will become steadier, with temperatures dropping

to the mid 30s. Winds will increase to 14 mph, and about half an inch of rainfall is expected, making it the wettest period of the week.

Thursday, March 6: The week concludes with a return to cooler, breezy conditions. Thursday will be mostly cloudy, with a high in the mid 40's and a chance of a light morning shower. Winds will pick up throughout the day, with gusts reaching up to 35 mph. Nightfall may bring brief periods of snow, and temperatures will drop to the high 20's. Strong winds will persist into the evening, with gusts up to 38 mph, providing a brisk end to the week.

As New Canaan transitions into spring, the weather remains a familiar mix of brisk breezes, cool evenings, and the occasional light rain. It's the kind of week that calls for warm layers, friendly conversations over coffee, and maybe a good book by the fire.

Nationally: The Week Ahead

By Emma Barhydt

Northeast: The Northeast will experience fluctuating temperatures throughout the week, ranging from the upper 30s to the low 50s. Conditions will start mild under partly sunny skies before a cold front moves in over the weekend, bringing cooler air. The start of the following week will remain chilly, but temperatures will rebound toward midweek. Expect mostly dry conditions, though a late-week system may bring light rain or snow showers, especially in northern areas. Winds could be gusty during the weekend frontal passage, with breezy conditions lingering into the start of the week.

Southeast: The Southeast will enjoy

mild conditions, with temperatures ranging from the mid-60s to the low 70s. A cold front moving through midweek may bring a chance of showers and thunderstorms, some potentially strong. Gusty winds may follow the front late in the week, but drier conditions will return by the end of the period.

Midwest: The Midwest will see temperatures ranging from the upper 30s to the mid-40s, with a warming trend early in the week. A storm system will bring rain and snow chances, particularly across northern areas, with rain potentially heavy at times and the possibility of localized flooding. After the midweek system passes, temperatures will remain mild, and skies will gradually clear by the end of the week.

Southwest: The Southwest will experience warm and dry conditions, with temperatures ranging from the upper 70s to the low 80s. A brief period of unsettled weather is expected over the weekend, with scattered showers and mountain snow possible. Gusty winds are likely, especially in desert areas. Dry and sunny weather will return by the start of the following week, with temperatures rebounding quickly.

Northwest: The Northwest will encounter a wet pattern, with temperatures ranging from the low 50s to the mid-60s. Cloudy skies and periods of rain are expected throughout the week, with cooler air lowering snow levels in mountainous regions. Occasional showers and clouds will persist through

midweek, accompanied by breezy conditions during frontal passages.

West Coast: The West Coast will see mild conditions, with temperatures ranging from the upper 60s to the low 70s under mostly sunny skies. A low-pressure system over the weekend could bring scattered showers and some mountain snow. Winds may become gusty during the weekend storm, especially in coastal and mountain areas, but calmer conditions are expected by the end of the week.

Please note that weather conditions can change rapidly. For the most accurate and up-to-date forecasts, check reliable sources such as the National Weather Service, NOAA, and AccuWeather.

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN

ACTION TAKEN BY THE INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
Monday, February 24, 2025

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands Commission of the Town of New Canaan, at its meeting on 02/24/25 made the following decisions:

1. Application IW-25-3 89 South Bald Hill Road, John S. Macgregor IV Trustee, Map 46, Block 124, Lot X5. Proposed machine dredging of existing pond to remove sediment build up. Material will be used on site, in upland areas as fill. Once dredging is complete, all disturbed areas will be stabilized with seed and plantings. **APPROVED** with Special Conditions.
2. Application IW-25-4 146 Oenoke Ridge-New Canaan Nature Center, Town of New Canaan, Map 32 Block 20 Lot 41. Dredge 0.40ac +/- Kiwanis Pond, add pond edge stone landing, remove invasive stand of phragmites, spread pond spoils on site and stabilize all disturbed areas with new native plantings. **APPROVED** with Special Conditions.

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

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BY TED TALLY

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Distrust of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare



RUSSELL R. BARKSDALE, JR.

In 2024, over \$100 billion was reportedly invested in artificial intelligence (AI) companies, an over 60% increase from 2023. Many financial analysts regard AI as the leading sector for venture capital, reflecting investor confidence. However, when it comes to healthcare, enthusiasm is tempered by skepticism. While AI holds significant promise in medical applications, concerns about trust and safety remain paramount for patients and healthcare professionals alike.

A recent national study highlights this growing unease: more than 65% of adults surveyed expressed low confidence in their healthcare system's ability to implement AI responsibly. Additionally, over 57% doubted that

While AI holds significant promise in medical applications, concerns about trust and safety remain paramount for patients and healthcare professionals alike.

their health system could ensure AI-driven decisions would not cause harm. This hesitancy suggests that while AI adoption in healthcare is accelerating, efforts to reassure patients of its benefits are lagging. The skepticism may also stem from well-publicized cases of insurance-based precertification denials driven by AI algorithms.

The application of AI in radiology, pathology, and clinical decision support systems has the potential to revolutionize diagnostics, mitigate risk factors, and optimize treatment plans. By analyzing vast amounts of medical research and outcome data, AI could assist physicians in making earlier and more accurate diagnoses. However, this potential must be balanced against the realities of the healthcare landscape, where providers must stay abreast of evolving

medical knowledge while also navigating complex administrative burdens.

One of AI's most controversial roles in healthcare is its use in managed care, particularly in the precertification process for clinical tests and medical procedures. AI-driven algorithms are increasingly employed by insurers to assess medical claims and determine "medical necessity," too often leading to claim denials. Yet, a historical analysis of 2023 claims data reveals a stark contrast in prior authorization rates: Medicare Advantage enrollees faced nearly 2 prior authorization requests per person, while traditional Medicare beneficiaries encountered just one per 100 enrollees—a striking disparity.

Further scrutiny suggests potential shortcomings in AI-driven precertification

determinations. A recent claims analysis found that approximately 1 in 10 precertification denials were successfully appealed, with an approval rate exceeding 80%. These findings score "the squeaky wheel" theory over precertification algorithms unless hands remain on the scale. For these reasons human oversight remains crucial to prevent inappropriate denials or bias.

Despite its theoretical potential in clinical medicine, AI is currently being deployed primarily in administrative functions, such as billing automation and patient scheduling. The financial burden of AI implementation also raises concerns about digital disparities—healthcare systems with greater resources are better positioned to evaluate and refine AI applications, while underfunded institutions may struggle to integrate these

technologies effectively.

Just over a decade ago, IBM's Watson was celebrated as a groundbreaking innovation poised to revolutionize healthcare. The Jeopardy-winning supercomputer was introduced as a powerful tool for physicians and clinical researchers, capable of processing vast amounts of medical data to enhance disease diagnosis, treatment development, and patient care. However, Watson ultimately fell short of its ambitious promise. Now, with the dramatic reduction in data storage costs and exponential advances in processing speeds, machine learning is entering a new era in healthcare—one that may finally fulfill the potential once envisioned.

A national survey of U.S. hospitals found that approximately 65% have adopted AI-powered predictive models, with 79% relying on models developed by their electronic medical record (EMR) developers. Among hospitals using predictive analytics, 92%

employed AI for inpatient health trajectory predictions, 79% for identifying high-risk outpatients, and 51% for scheduling optimization. However, independent evaluations of AI accuracy and reliability are essential to enhance patient trust and ensure safe outcomes.

AI is, by definition, "artificial," and without continuous human oversight, its effectiveness and safety cannot be secured. To ensure AI fulfills its promise, rigorous testing, monitoring, and recalibration are necessary to eliminate bias and enhance reliability. Just as new pharmaceuticals undergo extensive clinical trials before widespread adoption, AI-driven medical tools must be subjected to stringent validation processes. Only through robust oversight and transparency can AI reach its full potential and earn the trust of patients and providers alike.

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

Obituaries



DIANE CZECH

Diane Margaret (nee Jawor) Czech, 83, passed away peacefully on February 22, in Lake Forest, Illinois, surrounded by family. Diane is the mother of former New Canaan resident, Stephen J. Czech.

Born on June 14, 1941, in Chicago, Illinois, Diane lived a life filled with love, generosity, and devotion to her family and community. She was a woman of deep faith and an active member of the Roman Catholic Church, serving as a Eucharistic minister for many years at various parishes across the country where she and her family resided. A strong supporter of Jesuit education and their communities in both Illinois and Arizona, she found great fulfillment in her faith-based service and philanthropy.

Diane was a devoted wife to her late husband, James L. Czech, and together they built a loving home centered around faith, hospitality, and care for others. She was the cherished mother of Stephen (Jennifer) of Greenwich, CT and Newport Coast, CA, Deborah of Lake Forest, IL, David (deceased 1968), Adrienne (Patrick) Gibbons of Lake Bluff, IL, and Thomas (Teresa) of Bozeman, MT. She also adored her grandchildren Sydney and Mikey Czech, Lincoln Czech, Paige, and John Gibbons. She was predeceased by her beloved son David Andrew; grandson James Michael "Mikey" Czech, and parents Joseph and Josephine Jawor.

A natural hostess with an unmatched warmth and kindness, Diane had a gift for making everyone feel welcome in her home. She was known for her exceptional cooking and baking skills—her kitchen was always filled with delicious food that brought family and friends together. Her talents extended beyond the kitchen into gardening, sewing, arts, crafts, and singing. She found joy in creating beauty around her home while also sharing her time generously through various groups, churches, and volunteer work.

Diane's nurturing spirit made her not only a wonderful mother but also a trusted sister, aunt, grandmother, friend, neighbor,

and advisor. Her unwavering support extended beyond her immediate circle as she contributed to numerous organizations alongside her husband through philanthropy and service.

Diane's legacy is one of love, generosity, and faith. Her memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew her as a beacon of kindness and strength. May she rest in peace knowing she touched so many lives with grace and compassion.

Visitation will take place on Friday, February 28, from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Wenban Funeral Home, 320 Vine Avenue, Lake Forest, IL 60045. A Mass of Christian burial will take place on Saturday, March 1, at St. Patrick's Church, 991 S. Waukegan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045. Interment will immediately follow Mass at Maryhill Catholic Cemetery, 8600 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, IL 60714. A luncheon will be held after the interment at Froggy's French Café, 306 Green Bay Road, Highland, IL 60040.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Diane to The Mikey Czech Foundation (www.mikeyczech.org), JourneyCare Home Health and Hospice (www.journeycare.org), and Freedom Home Care (www.freedomcare.com).



GARY STEVENS

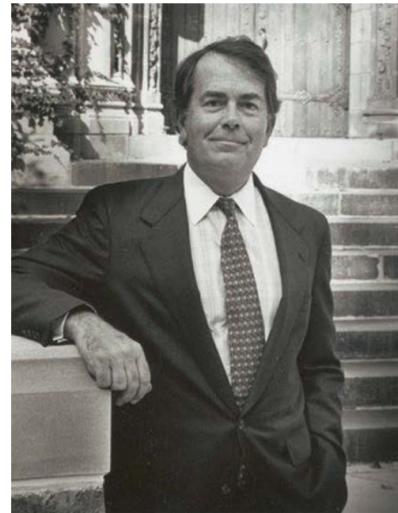
Gary Stevens of Gulfstream, FL and New Canaan, CT passed away on February 17, in Delray Beach, FL, at the age of 84.

A pioneering force in radio, Gary became a household name as one of WMCA New York's DJs, the "Good Guys." His passion for broadcasting extended beyond the microphone, leading him to a distinguished career serving as President of Doubleday Broadcasting, Managing Director at Wertheim Schroeder & Co, Inc. and founder of his own media brokerage, Gary Stevens & Co. Gary served as a member of boards including the National Association of Broadcasters, the Radio Advertising Bureau, the Electronic Media Ratings Council, as well as several public companies, including Saga Communications, where he served as Lead Director. He leaves an indelible mark on the industry he loved so much.

He is survived by his wife Frankie;

his children Kristin (Stevens) Sexton, Christopher Stevens, and Victoria (Stevens) Chapman; and his grandchildren Georgina and David Chapman III.

A memorial service was held on February 25 at Hoyt Funeral Home, New Canaan, followed by an Interment at Lakeview Cemetery, South Main Street, New Canaan.



RONALD ULRICH

Ronald J. Ulrich passed away on February 8, in New Canaan, CT, surrounded by his family. He was 80 years old.

Ron was a 52-year resident of New Canaan. He and his wife, Christie, were married at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in 1971, before moving to the town in 1973, and raising three children.

Ron was an active member of both the New Canaan Field Club and Country Club of New Canaan, where he played tennis, paddle, and golf.

Born in Binghamton, NY, Ron was blessed with determination and boundless energy. An Eagle Scout, by age 13, also competed in statewide tennis tournaments throughout his childhood. Despite being awarded a New York State Regents academic scholarship, he attended Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, where he played on the tennis team. Ron graduated in 1966, with bachelor's degrees in industrial engineering and business administration, then moved to New York City, where he worked on anti-poverty programs in Harlem. He earned an MBA from New York University in 1971.

Ron built a distinguished Wall Street career, starting at Mitchell Hutchins before spending 15 years as a partner and managing director at Morgan Stanley Group, where he co-founded Morgan Stanley Asset Management. In 1989, he established Equinox Capital Management, serving as chairman and chief investment officer for nearly 20 years. Ron committed himself to many nonprofit organizations. He was a trustee of Lehigh University and served as board chairman. He received a Doctor

of Humane Letters in 2005 and was the 2006 recipient of the "L in Life" award, presented to exceptional alumni who made an enduring impact on the school. In 2012, he was inducted into the Lehigh Athletics Hall of Fame. His philanthropic contributions to the school were numerous. Independently, Ron also provided financial support for three students from The Bahamas to attend Lehigh. His deep appreciation for symphonic music came from his German mother, who regularly listened to WQXR. He served as a board member of The New York Philharmonic for 20 years and sat on the boards of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Wildlife Conservation Society, New Canaan Country School, and Lyford Cay Club. He was especially proud of his involvement with African Parks, a wildlife conservation organization and the largest parkland manager in Africa. He served as Chairman of the African Parks Foundation of America for 11 years. During this time, he visited Africa regularly and was instrumental in building the organization's presence in the United States. Ron also made notable contributions to the Bahamas Alliance for Animal Rights and Kindness to help care for and manage the stray animal population across the Bahamas.

During their life together, he and his wife, Christie, shared devotion to animals and raised 11 rescue dogs. A lifetime member of the American Alpine Club, Ron climbed many of the 4,000-meter peaks in the Alps. He was admitted into La Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin, and his love of wine inspired him to try making his own at home. His backyard terroir ultimately proved more favorable for vegetables and maple syrup. Ron was a member of The Lyford Cay Club, Blind Brook, The Links, The Brook, The University Club, Country Club of New Canaan, Shooting Star, Saucon Valley Country Club, Queenwood Golf Club and Mark's Club. Ron instinctively chose action over deliberation. He took great pleasure in engaging with people from all walks of life, and his warmth, generosity, extraordinary drive, and disarming sense of humor left a lasting impression.

As much as he gave to others, Ron gave most to his family. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Christie; his sons, Benner, Adrian, and Collier; daughters-in-law, Samantha and Marina; grandchildren, William, Andreas, Hayden, and Nina; and his brother, Fred. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to African Parks or the New York Philharmonic.

The New Canaan Sentinel believes every life deserves to be remembered. We do not charge for obituaries and loved ones submissions to honor your loved ones. Please email obituaries to Caroll@SentinelHometownNews.com.

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

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FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

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

Address	Price	Day	Time	Broker
135 Marvin Ridge Road	\$1,225,000	SUN	1:00PM-3:00PM	Houlihan Lawrence
400 White Oak Shade Road	\$2,395,000	SUN	1:00PM-3:00PM	Houlihan Lawrence
26 Pequot Lane	\$5,890,000	SUN	1:00PM-3:00PM	Coldwell Banker

NEW LISTINGS

Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
151 Heritage Hill Road B	\$775,000	1,376	\$563.23		3	2
135 Marvin Ridge Road	\$1,225,000	3,038	\$403.23	1.31	3	2
55 Jelliff Mill Road #55	\$2,295,000	4,310	\$532.48		3	3
262 Brushy Ridge Road	\$9,500,000	13,349	\$711.66	4.04	8	8

NEW SALES

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
81 Canoe Hill Road	\$7,400,000	\$7,400,000	\$7,400,000	9	6	7	5.53

Moneyball Meets Real Estate: How AI and Data Are Changing the Game



By JOHN ENGEL

Times of crisis, of disruption or constructive change, are not only predictable, but desirable. They mean growth. Taking a new step, uttering a new word, is what people fear most.

— Fyodor Dostoevsky

I've been thinking about datamining a lot these days, what it means and how it is changing in the context of elections, business, and real estate. But first, some context.

In the 1990s, I worked for a New Canaan firm that studied consumer behavior in the retail environment. What we learned was to divide the world not just into men, women, and children, but to divide consumers into cohorts and group them by how they behave, by their shopping habits.

Our client Rollerblade organized their customers into four groups: "Fad Followers," "First Class," "Specialty," and "Value shoppers," each motivated differently and with different price sensitivities. Some were motivated by a sale, others bought the latest new trend or color, still others preferred specific brands or the best of a category, and some looked for specific specialty attributes such as sport-specific gear.

In the 1990s, we followed consumers around the store, taking notes with a clipboard. I often wondered what category I fit in. Could I be a value shopper one minute and first class the next?

In the 2000s, this science of behavioral analysis made major leaps forward as we began studying consumer shopping behavior and decision-making on the internet. I stopped following customers around the Walmart and started following them online. We wrote algorithms. If you're in zip code 06840 and a fan of Martha Stewart, you might be a candidate for a Suburban at Karl Chevrolet.

Now, add AI to the equation. Demographic, geographic, and psychographic analysis leads to dynamic pricing of everything from airline seats to movie tickets. Why not houses? Amazon would not exist without advanced and immediate behavioral cohort analysis. And now, artificial intelligence is accelerating our understanding of human decision-making.

What about real estate, particularly luxury real estate? Our industry has been

slow to adopt technology, almost resistant to the idea, saying that the role of a great agent cannot be replaced with Zillow and the best algorithms. We'll remind you that real estate is not a commodity like buying a car, and that intimate local knowledge sets great realtors apart. And we'll point to current NAR statistics that show 97% of all houses sell through a realtor.

These were the same arguments made by Major League Baseball scouts in the days before *Moneyball* and statistical analysis took over professional sports. For those who did not read *Moneyball*, the point is simple: the intuition of the Realtor is being replaced by a better and mathematical understanding of consumer behavior. The tools are getting better every day, as are the means of data collection.

Showingtime is the appointment-setting software realtors use, and it was purchased by Zillow in 2021 for \$500 million. Why? Datamining. Big Tech knows what homes you looked at, the amount and rate of your current mortgage, and how much equity is in your current home, and it knows where you are on the journey. Soon, it'll replace my gut feeling about what you should offer on that house with a defensible and mathematically more-perfect recommendation.

Datamining will focus on two areas, maybe three: the inventory, the buyers, and the agents. Let's break it down in our market.

First, the supply of homes is finite. There are only 7,000 homes in New Canaan, all in the Town Clerk's database including when sold, the price, and building permits. AI is getting better at analyzing the publicly available photos of the interiors of our houses, enough to make a more precise evaluation of value. If this were easy or precise, Zillow would still be in the home-buying business.

Second, we study the buyers and their behavior — "Where are they coming from? Why are they moving? How long have they been looking?" — and we react, perhaps adjusting how we talk about the house and the market. It doesn't take a great leap to imagine the photos changing and the listing description shifting depending upon who is looking, what they want, and where they are on the journey. The systems that currently show me "heat maps" of changing demand geographically are getting more sophisticated. Armed with a better understanding of buyers, the heat maps

will model Fairfield County behaviorally.

Owners of the most expensive homes tend to think that their buyers are coming from far away. It's statistically not true. Most come from not-so-far-away. Sellers ask if their house will be advertised in our New York, London, or Dubai offices. The truth is, we know which zip codes move to New Canaan, why, and what life events cause them to consider moving here.

Tracking the movements of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWI) and high-net-worth individuals (HNWI) used to be for private bankers and the major auction houses tracking art collectors. It is now incumbent on the major real estate firms (opening offices in every luxury market) to begin studying customer movements so they can get ahead with a recommendation or a referral at the most opportune time.

Third, there are the triggers. It's not enough to know a buyer is wealthy with a Brooklyn zip code. When your child turns 10, you think about upgrading schools. We buy and sell real estate when certain major life events occur. Proctor & Gamble is so successful because they knew you were having a baby before you did, and they dripped offers on you to make you a customer for Pampers. So, too, we know that young families with Brooklyn zip codes are looking to move to New Canaan for the schools. Which of the major real estate firms in Brooklyn know their names and are making that transition easier for them? While the business still relies on the agent today, and many of those Brooklyn families are relying on the advice of a friend or family member to choose a realtor. With AI, it won't be long before the agents in Brooklyn and New Canaan are communicating earlier and more efficiently about their shared prospective customer, and their agency (or Zillow) will be facilitating that.

Why is the real estate industry not further along in tracking consumer behavior? Agents are independent contractors. They move from agency to agency, and they take their Rolodex and relationships with them. The better agencies are providing increasingly sophisticated toolsets and technologies to get stickier with the most capable agents and their clients. Just as we rely on Showingtime to set the appointment, we're encouraged to turn over our Rolodex to the agency to help manage the relationships: "We will help you stay in touch, at the right time, in

the right way." Google stories of people falling in love with AI chatbots, and you know this is coming. Will the best agencies be the ones who leverage datamining tools to understand the houses and buyers in these important luxury markets? What will be the role of the agent?

As the tools improve, agents in Brooklyn and Vero Beach connect with agents here, making it easier for me to sell to a Brooklyn family and help my seller buy in Florida. Pattern recognition improves: birds of a feather flock together. Be it New Yorkers, Canadians, or Fairfield County buyers, we tend to move to a predictable set of southern zip codes. AI of the future, knowing my kids, their schools and interests, the status of my mortgage, and how much home equity I have in my house, will know

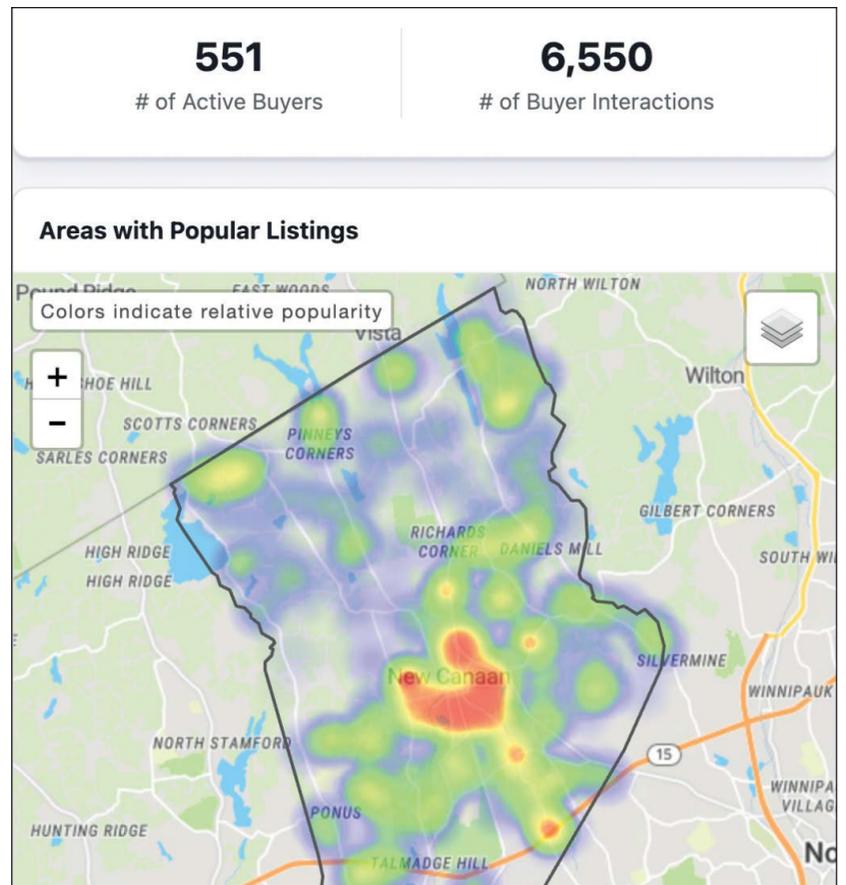
the towns I'm considering and have a ready-made solution for financing, staging, estate sales, moving companies, and insurance.

My neighbor recently moved to Florida to be in a very specific neighborhood, near a specific school, close to the squash facility and coaches, commutable to the office. If the business of real estate was less fractured, the relationships better established through better understanding, I might have made a referral.

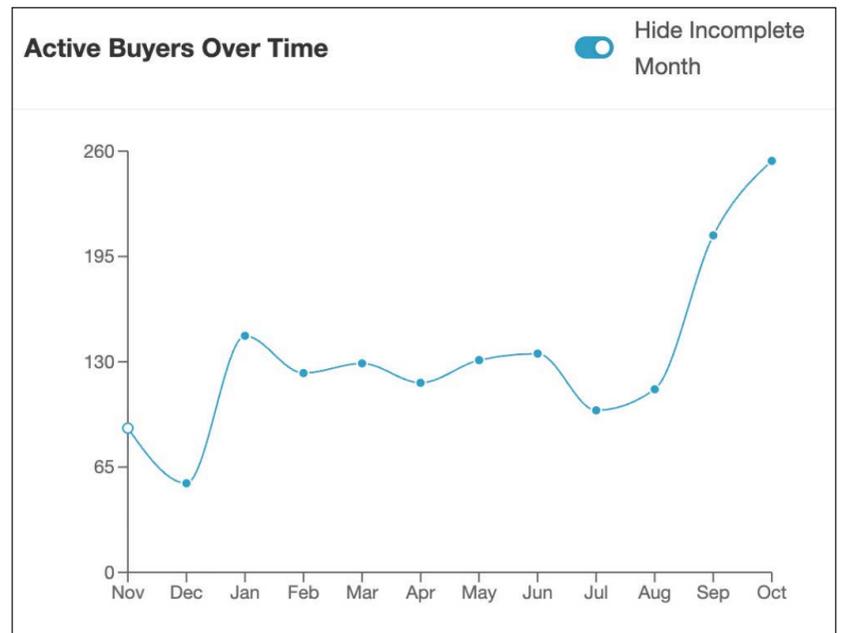
What is the takeaway? In an election season where datamining took center stage, where we saw huge sums spent in understanding the behaviors of important zip codes, sliced down to the city block, why not real estate sales? If 2024 was the year lawsuits shook up the real estate industry, forcing

agents and agencies to re-think where we add value in the process, 2025 is the year where agencies start getting serious about more than "marketing support." Besides reach, the critical way agencies and agents add value is in providing a deeper understanding of each local market and customer behaviors on a granular level within that market. 2025 is the year where *Moneyball* meets Real Estate.

John Engel is a former Military Intelligence officer who shifted his focus from studying military behavior to consumer behavior in the early 90's. He started two Internet companies, e-Media and Paper.com. Now a Realtor with Douglas Elliman, he is both afraid of being replaced by the machine and embracing the machine. John used spell-check on this article, but did not use ChatGPT.



Heat Map showing interest in listings across New Canaan in 2024.



Datamining the New Canaan market in 2024, studying click behavior.

Speaking Whale: The Audacious Mission of Project CETI

By Emma Whitney

In the vast, uncharted depths of our oceans, a profound mystery resonates through the water: the intricate communication of sperm whales. These marine giants, with brains six times larger than ours, engage in dialogues so complex they make human small talk look like static. Enter Project CETI (Cetacean Translation Initiative), a mission so ambitious it sounds like the plot of a sci-fi novel: to decode the language of these enigmatic creatures and, in doing so, bridge the chasm between our species.

If this sounds like *Arrival*, where linguists race against time to decipher an alien language, you're not far off. Except the extraterrestrials in this case aren't hovering in monolithic ships over Montana—they're swimming thousands of feet below the surface, clicking away in what researchers believe might be one of the most sophisticated animal languages on the planet.

THE QUEST TO CONVERSE WITH LEVIATHANS

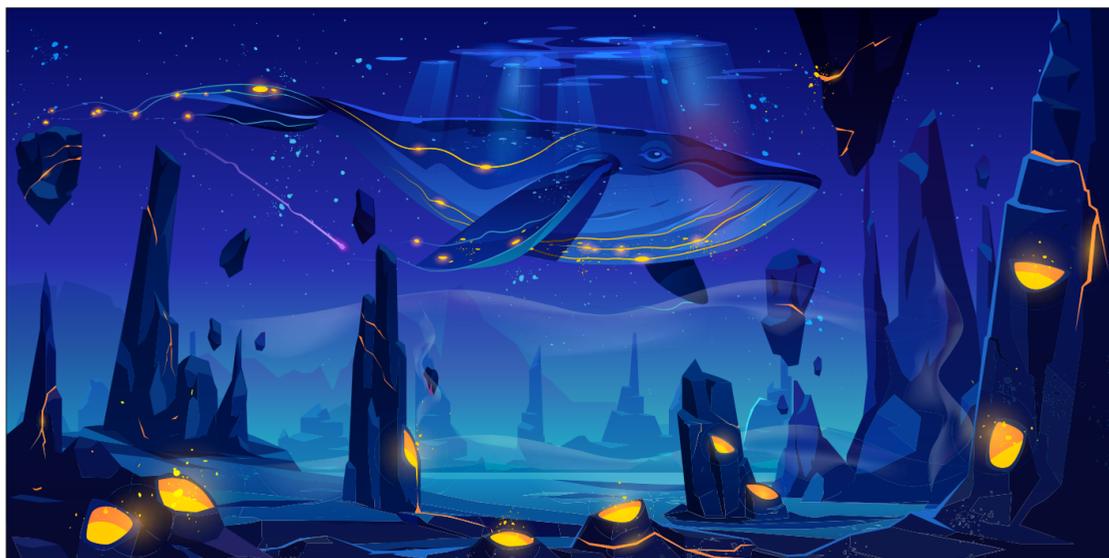
Imagine walking into a crowded room where no one speaks your language. You hear bursts of conversation, laughter, murmurs. Patterns emerge—some phrases repeat, others change depending on who's speaking. You start recognizing words. Sentences form. You begin to understand.

That's essentially what Project CETI is doing with sperm whales. These creatures communicate using rapid sequences of clicks, known as codas, which vary among different groups, suggesting distinct cultures and dialects, according to Project CETI's 2023 Annual Report. Scientists believe these codas are not just basic signals like "danger" or "food," but possibly an elaborate system of social communication that may include names, individual identities, and even rudimentary syntax.

The challenge? Deciphering this cetacean Morse code. The researchers' dream is not just to translate it, but to eventually speak it back.

FROM SCIENCE FICTION TO SCIENTIFIC FACT

If you've ever watched *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*, you know that sometimes, the fate of humanity depends on understanding whales. In the film, an alien probe nearly



"Deep in the waters lives a creature so large, so sophisticated, so mysterious that has fascinated humans for millennia. We have told their stories and marveled at their songs.

What would happen if we could understand what they are saying?"

obliterates Earth because it's desperately trying to reach humpback whales, the only creatures with the right vocal frequency to respond. The solution? Bring whales into the future so they can chat with the aliens.

RIDICULOUS? MAYBE. BUT ALSO PRESCIENT.

Scientists have long speculated that whales, particularly sperm whales, have highly developed modes of communication. Their massive neocortex—the part of the brain responsible for learning and memory—suggests they have long-term social bonds, cultural traditions, and even problem-solving skills. This makes them one of the best candidates for interspecies communication.

If we succeed in cracking their language, what do we ask them first?

Do we apologize for centuries of hunting? Do we ask what it's like to live in a world of sound instead of sight? Do we just say, Hello?

DECODING THE DEEP: THE SCIENCE BEHIND CETI

At the heart of Project CETI's mission is technology that seems lifted from a James Cameron script.

The team is using AI and machine learning to sift through thousands of hours of whale codas, hoping to find the patterns buried in the noise. Drones and underwater microphones track sperm



whales in real time, picking up their conversations across miles of open ocean. Scientists have even deployed non-invasive digital tags that record whale movements and vocalizations, allowing researchers to correlate behavior with specific vocal sequences.

One of their biggest breakthroughs? In 2023, CETI recorded the most detailed footage of a sperm whale birth

ever documented. This revealed how other whales responded—using specific clicks—to protect and welcome the newborn into the pod. According to CETI's Annual Report, this is the clearest evidence yet that sperm whales have a structured language linked to social rituals.

THE CULTURAL RICHNESS OF SPERM WHALES

If sperm whales have a

language, do they also have culture? The answer appears to be yes.

Sperm whales live in multi-tiered social structures, like matriarchal societies where knowledge is passed from one generation to the next. According to research published by CETI, different whale clans have unique "dialects" of codas—just like humans have regional accents. They even have "click battles", where two whales engage in rapid-fire sequences, possibly to establish dominance or settle disputes.

There's even speculation—dare we say, hope—that sperm whales have names for one another. Some researchers believe that individual whales sign off their codas with an identifying "signature", akin to humans saying, "Hey, I'm Sarah."

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS: TO SPEAK OR NOT TO SPEAK?

Let's say we figure out how to talk to whales. Then what?

That's where things get tricky. If humans learn to communicate with another intelligent species, how does that change our moral obligations? According to New York University's School of Law, which collaborates with CETI, this could have legal and ethical ramifications. Could whales be granted personhood? Could a government designate a whale ambassador? Would whale conversations be protected

under privacy laws?

The question isn't just Can we talk to whales?—it's Should we?

And what if, after centuries of slaughter and pollution, the first thing they say to us is "Really.?"

A SYMPHONY OF COLLABORATION

Unlike Captain Kirk, CETI isn't sending one rogue crew on this mission. It's a sprawling operation, with over 50 scientists from 15 institutions, including MIT, Harvard, UC Berkeley, and the Dominica Sperm Whale Project.

The Caribbean island of Dominica, where CETI operates, is one of the few places where sperm whales can be reliably studied year-round. According to the project's Annual Report, Dominica has become an epicenter for marine conservation and youth education, ensuring that the next generation will carry this work forward.

THE ROAD AHEAD: UNCHARTED WATERS

We are still at the very beginning. Cracking sperm whale communication is one of the most difficult linguistic puzzles in history. It requires a massive dataset, advanced AI, and an unprecedented understanding of whale behavior.

BUT IF WE SUCCEEDED?

The implications are staggering. Learning to communicate with another species could redefine intelligence, reshape conservation, and challenge the long-held belief that humans are the sole stewards of language.

Imagine a future where we hold a conversation with an animal that has roamed Earth's oceans for 50 million years. Imagine the stories they could tell. Imagine if, instead of just listening, we finally learn how to reply.

A CALL TO LISTEN

As Dr. David Gruber, founder of Project CETI, puts it: "We're not trying to talk to whales. We're trying to listen to what they're already saying."

And maybe, just maybe, by listening, we'll not only understand whales—we'll understand ourselves.

If nothing else, this beats yelling at Siri.

Visit

<https://2023annualreport.projectceti.org/to learn more>.

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: Midnight, 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.



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Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

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

TOWN MEETINGS

Monday, March 3

Zoning Board of Appeals

7-8 p.m., Town Hall Board Room & Zoom

Tuesday, March 4

Board of Selectmen

8:30-10 a.m., Town Hall Meeting Room & Zoom

Board of Finance

7-9 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room & Zoom

Wednesday, March 5

Parking Commission

7-8 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

Tourism and Economic Development Advisory Committee TEDAC

7 p.m., Town Hall Board Room & Zoom

Thursday, March 6

Health & Human Services Commission

8:45-10 a.m., Town Hall Board Room & Zoom

Board of Finance

7-9 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room & Zoom

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-fraudcrime-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/filmscreening-hiddenfigures>.

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 & Historical 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/couple and available at <https://carriagebarn.org>.

Terra Nova

7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre

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 for adults, \$30 for seniors, and available at <https://tpnc.org>

March 1

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.

Food Drive for the New Covenant Center Food Pantry

10 AM- 12 PM at St. Aloysius Catholic Church Parking Lot

The local Order of Malta is sponsoring a food drive for the New Covenant Center Food Pantry in Stamford due to a very low food supply. Please enter the St. Aloysius Church parking lot from Cherry Street and the Father John H. Stapleton Knights of Columbus will direct those with donations through the drive thru drop off and unload your car. Items needed include: canned tuna fish & sardines, canned chicken, 16 oz. dry black beans, spaghetti, small bags of sugar, small bags of flour, olive/vegetable oil, broth, cereal, 28 oz. canned soup, white rice, 16 oz. canned chili beans, 12 oz. instant coffee/chocolate and bottled water.

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>.

Book Signing with Richie McGinniss

12-2 PM at Elm Street Books

Richie McGinniss will have a signing for his book, *Riot Diet*. The book is one-part memoir, one-part political commentary, and many parts modern-day gonzo journalism. More information is available at <https://www.elmstreetbooks.com/event/book-signing-richie-mcginniss>.

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>.

Terra Nova

7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre

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 for adults, \$30 for seniors, and available at <https://tpnc.org>

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 Nova

2 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre

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 for adults, \$30 for seniors, and available at <https://tpnc.org>

Treetops Chamber Music: Terra String Quartet

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- 5 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 7

Terra Nova

7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

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 for adults, \$30 for seniors, and available at <https://tpnc.org>

SAVE THE DATE

March 8

Principles of Cooking: Meat

10 AM at the New Canaan Library, Kend Kitchen + Community Room
Unlock the secrets to perfectly cooked meat in this engaging demonstration-style class. Whether you're a home cook looking to refine your technique, properly season your meat or gain new insights, this session will cover essential methods for achieving juicy, flavorful results every time. Registration for this event will open tomorrow, March 1st, at 9 am. To register, visit <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-cooking-class-113466>.

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>.

Woven Necklace Event

2-4 PM at the Little Plucky
Join for an afternoon of necklace making; bubbly and nibbles with artist Erika Burling. Create your own sustainable, handcrafted necklace that blends modern trends with vintage charm and timeless style using sustainable and eco-friendly materials. Tickets are \$55 and available at <https://www.thelittleplucky.com>.

Schubert: Mass No. 2, G Major, D 167

Mozart: Vesperae solennes de Confessore, K 339
5 PM at St. Mark's Episcopal Church
For many decades, the St. Mark's Choir has been known for its concerts with orchestra. With this concert St. Mark's will revive that tradition. The Choir and Soloists, accompanied by a full orchestral ensemble, will present these wonderful works. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 on the day of the show. Visit <https://www.stmarksnewcanaan.org> for more information.

Terra Nova

7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
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 for adults, \$30 for seniors, and available at <https://tpnc.org>

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>.

Terra Nova

2 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
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 for adults, \$30 for seniors, and available at <https://tpnc.org>

March 10

VITA Free Tax Preparation

11 AM- 5 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>.

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
David Lynch was an American artist and filmmaker known for creating one of the most surreal and distinctive bodies of work in cinema history. The Presenter, Greg Blank, is a New York-based filmmaker and film historian with over 15 years of experience. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-historian-greg-blank-130095>.

March 14

Microsoft Word Basics

2 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
If you are new to Microsoft Word or want to learn about the latest version of Word, this class is for you. Learn the basics of navigating the Office 365 version of Word, from creating a new document and formatting fonts to adjusting paragraphs, changing margins, and saving and printing your files. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/microsoft-word-basics-130078>

March 15

Syrup Saturday

8:30- 11:30 AM at the New Canaan Nature Center
Bring the whole family and join the NNC 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://newcanaanature.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 17

VITA Free Tax Preparation

11 AM- 5 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>.

March 18

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 19

Tour: William Louis-Dreyfus Collection & Katonah Museum of Art

11 AM - 2 PM in Mt. Kisco, NY
Join for a visit to the William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation, in Mt. Kisco, NY, for a tour of the extensive collection made up of pieces by contemporary, emerging and self-taught artists. After, there will be lunch and a visit to the

Katonah Museum of Art for a tour of their new Ali Banisadr exhibition. Tickets are \$50 for members and \$65 for non-members. More information and tickets are available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/william-louis-dreyfus-kma/>.

Virus and Malware Basics

2:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Join to learn more about the different types of malicious software, how to tell if your computer is infected, and what you can do to protect your computer from viruses and malware. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/virus-and-malware-basics-130558>.

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 24

VITA Free Tax Preparation

11 AM- 5 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>.

March 25

Spring Bulb Arranging Workshop with Bloomcraft

10:30 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
It's the perfect time of year to create an abundant spring bulb arrangement to take home and enjoy for weeks to come. Natalie McPartland of Bloomcraft will provide an array of vibrant spring bulbs like tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths. Perfect for beginners or flower enthusiasts, you'll learn the art of combining various colors, scents and textures. Tickets are \$125 for members, \$ 145 for non-members, and available at <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.

March 27

Breakfast with the First Selectman

8 AM at Chef Luis Restaurant, 129 Elm St
Join the Chamber as they welcome First Selectman Dionna Carlson where she will provide her first annual address to the business community. Dionna will update everyone on a variety of issues her office is working on and take questions. Tickets are \$45 per person and available at <https://newcanaanchamber.com/2025/02/21/breakfast-with-the-first-selectman-2025/>.

March 28

Lecture & Reception with Katharine Earnhardt

6 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Join for a special reception and lecture with Katharine Earnhardt, Founder of Mason Lane Art Advisory. Katharine will lead an engaging conversation around art appreciation as a way to fuel personal and professional growth. There will be a reception followed by the presentation with a Q&A. More information is available at <https://carriagebarn.org>.

April 6

2025 Unite to Fight 5K Run/Walk

7:30 AM at Waveny Park

Join Filling in the Blanks at their Seventh Annual Unite to Fight 5K. Check in will begin at 7:30, Kids Fun Run at 8:15 and the 5K walk/run beginning at 8:45. Show your support, register as a fundraiser, walker, or runner, and spread community awareness of Filling in the Blanks' mission. There will be prizes, t-shirts and food. To register, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/NewCanaan/UniteToFight>.

Spring Awakening Retreat with Grounded Meditation

9 AM- 1 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
This half-day retreat is designed to celebrate the arrival of Spring and embrace the theme of new beginnings. An immersive experience that will connect you to nature, your body, and your inner self through a variety of restorative practices. Tickets are \$150 before March 30th, \$175 after, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org>.

BLOOD DRIVES

Tuesday, March 4

Saint Mark's Church
111 Oenoke Ridge Road
New Canaan, CT 06840
1:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Wednesday, March 5

Strong Comstock
Community Center
180 School Road
Wilton, CT 06897
10:30 AM – 4:30 PM

King School
1450 Newfield Avenue
Stamford, CT 06905
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Friday, March 7

Convent of Sacred Heart
1177 King Street
Greenwich, CT 06831
8:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Saturday, March 8

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

Support Services & Meetings

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.

March 21

Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade and Refer

11 AM 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-128080>.

March 26

Alzheimer's Support Group with the Waveny LifeCare Network

11 AM 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-93006>.

Lifestyle Medicine: Mental Health

11 AM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
In this workshop, lifestyle medicine specialist, Dr. Raquel Harrison will discuss mental health issues

and how and where to get help. Dr. Raquel Harrison (MD, FACEP, dipABLM) is dual board certified in emergency medicine and lifestyle medicine. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-lifestyle-medicine-112567>.

April 25

Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade and Refer

11 AM 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-128081>.

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 Al-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

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

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

Every Thursday

AA Big Book Meeting, Wheelchair Access
Thursdays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan
New Canaan Parent Support Group
7- 8:30 PM
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
New Canaan

Our Neighbors

March 9

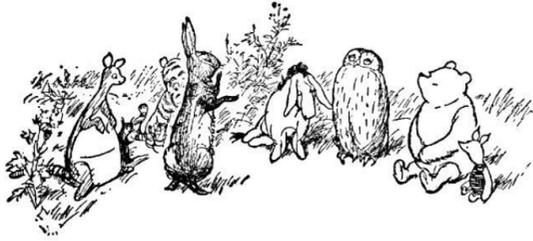
The Irish Tenors with the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra
7:30 PM at the Ridgefield Playhouse
The Irish Tenors have been Celtic music icons since their 1998 debut, boasting ten best-selling CDs and captivating audiences across the U.S. with their enchanting performances. They reignited America's love for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



THE HOUSE AT POOH CORNER BY A.A. MILNE

CHAPTER X

IN WHICH Christopher Robin and Pooh Come to an Enchanted Place, and We Leave Them There



Christopher Robin was going away. Nobody knew why he was going; nobody knew where he was going; indeed, nobody even knew why he knew that Christopher Robin was going away. But somehow or other everybody in the Forest felt that it was happening at last. Even Smallest-of-all, a friend-and-relation of Rabbit's who thought he had once seen Christopher Robin's foot, but couldn't be quite sure because perhaps it was something else, even S. of A. told himself that Things were going to be Different; and Late and Early, two other friends-and-relations, said, "Well, Early?" and "Well, Late?" to each other in such a hopeless sort of way that it really didn't seem any good waiting for the answer.

One day when he felt that he couldn't wait any longer, Rabbit brained out a Notice, and this is what it said:

"Notice a meeting of everybody will meet at the House at Pooh Corner to pass a Rissolution By Order Keep to the Left Signed Rabbit."

He had to write this out two or three times before he could get the rissolution to look like what he thought it was going to when he began to spell it: but, when at last it was finished, he took it round to everybody and read it out to them. And they all said they would come.

"Well," said Eeyore that afternoon, when he saw them all walking up to his house, "this is a surprise. Am I asked too?"

"Don't mind Eeyore," whispered Rabbit to Pooh. "I told him all about it this morning."

Everybody said "How-do-you-do" to Eeyore, and Eeyore said that he didn't, not to notice, and then they sat down; and as soon as they were all sitting down, Rabbit stood up again.

"We all know why we're here," he said, "but I have asked my friend Eeyore——"

"That's Me," said Eeyore. "Grand."

"I have asked him to Propose a Rissolution." And he sat down again. "Now then, Eeyore," he said.



"Don't Bustle me," said Eeyore, getting up slowly. "Don't now-then me." He took a piece of paper from behind his ear, and unfolded it. "Nobody knows anything about this," he went on. "This is a Surprise." He coughed in an important way, and began again: "What-nots and Etceteras, before I begin, or perhaps I should say, before I end, I have a piece of Poetry to read to you. Hitherto—

hitherto—a long word meaning—well, you'll see what it means directly—hitherto, as I was saying, all the Poetry in the Forest has been written by Pooh, a Bear with a Pleasing Manner but a Positively Startling Lack of Brain. The Poem which I am now about to read to you was written by Eeyore, or Myself, in a Quiet Moment. If somebody will take Roo's bull's-eye away from him, and wake up Owl, we shall all be able to enjoy it. I call it—POEM."

This was it.

Christopher Robin is going.

At least I think he is.

Where?

Nobody knows.

But he is going—

I mean he goes

(To rhyme with "knows")

Do we care?

(To rhyme with "where")

We do

Very much.

(I haven't got a rhyme for that "is" in the second line yet. Bother.)

(Now I haven't got a rhyme for bother. Bother.)

Those two bothers will have to rhyme with each other. Buther.

The fact is this is more difficult than

I thought,

I ought—

(Very good indeed)

I ought

To begin again,

But it is easier

To stop.

Christopher Robin, good-bye,

I

(Good)

I

And all your friends

Sends—

I mean all your friend

Send—

(Very awkward this, it keeps going wrong)

Well, anyhow, we send

Our love

END.

"If anybody wants to clap," said Eeyore when he had read this, "now is the time to do it."

They all clapped.

"Thank you," said Eeyore. "Unexpected and gratifying, if a little lacking in Smack."

"It's much better than mine," said Pooh admiringly, and he really thought it was.

"Well," explained Eeyore modestly, "it was meant to be."

"The rissolution," said Rabbit, "is that we all sign it, and take it to Christopher Robin."

So it was signed POOH, PIGLET, WOL, EOR, RABBIT, KANGA, BLOT, SMUDGE, and they all went off to Christopher



Pooh

Robin's house with it.



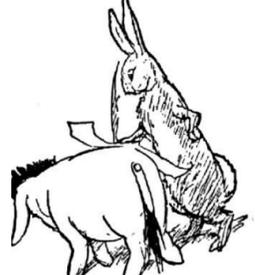
WOL



Piglet



Kanga



Rabbit



EOR



"Hallo, everybody," said Christopher Robin—"Hallo, Pooh."



They all said "Hallo," and felt awkward and unhappy suddenly, because it was a sort of good-bye they were saying, and they didn't want to think about it. So they stood around, and waited for somebody else to speak, and they nudged each other, and said "Go on," and gradually Eeyore was nudged to the front, and the others crowded behind him.

"What is it, Eeyore?" asked Christopher Robin. Eeyore swished his tail from side to side, so as to encourage himself, and began.

"What is it, Eeyore?" asked Christopher Robin.

"Christopher Robin," he said, "we've come to say—to give you—it's called—written by—but we've all—because we've heard, I mean we all know—well, you see, it's—we—you—well, that, to put it as shortly as possible, is what it is." He turned round angrily on the others and said, "Everybody crowds round so in this Forest. There's no Space. I never saw a more Spreading lot of animals in my life, and all in the wrong places. Can't you see that Christopher Robin wants to be alone? I'm going." And he humped off.

Not quite knowing why, the others began edging away, and when Christopher Robin had finished reading POEM, and was looking up to say, "Thank you," only Pooh was left.

"It's a comforting sort of thing to have," said Christopher Robin, folding up the paper, and putting it in his pocket. "Come on, Pooh," and he walked off quickly.

"Where are we going?" said Pooh, hurrying after him, and wondering whether it was to be an Explore or a What-shall-I-do-about-you-know-what.

"Nowhere," said Christopher Robin.

So they began going there, and after they had walked a little way Christopher Robin said:

"What do you like doing best in the world, Pooh?"

"Well," said Pooh, "what I like best—" and then he had to stop and think. Because although Eating Honey was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better than when you were, but he didn't know what it was called. And then he thought that being with Christopher Robin was a very good thing to do, and having Piglet near was a very friendly thing to have; and so, when he had thought it all out, he said, "What I like best in the whole world is Me and Piglet going to see You, and You saying 'What about a little something?' and Me saying, 'Well, I shouldn't mind a little something, should you, Piglet,' and it being a hummy sort of day outside, and birds singing."

"I like that too," said Christopher Robin, "but what I like doing best is Nothing."

"How do you do Nothing?" asked Pooh, after he had wondered for a long time.

"Well, it's when people call out at you just as you're going off to do it, What are you going to do, Christopher Robin, and you say, Oh, nothing, and then you go and do it."

"Oh, I see," said Pooh.

"This is a nothing sort of thing that we're doing now."

"Oh, I see," said Pooh again.

"It means just going along, listening to all the things you can't hear, and not bothering."

"Oh!" said Pooh.

They walked on, thinking of This and That, and by-and-by they came to an enchanted place on the very top of the Forest called Galleons Lap, which is sixty-something trees in a circle; and Christopher Robin knew that it was enchanted because nobody had ever been able to count whether it was sixty-three or sixty-four, not even when he tied a piece of string round each tree after he



had counted it. Being enchanted, its floor was not like the floor of the Forest, gorse and bracken and heather, but close-set grass, quiet and smooth and green. It was the only place in the Forest where you could sit down carelessly, without getting up again almost at once and looking for somewhere else. Sitting there they could see the whole world spread out until it reached the sky, and whatever there was all the world over was with them in

Galleons Lap.

Suddenly Christopher Robin began to tell Pooh about some of the things: People called Kings and Queens and something called Factors, and a place called Europe, and an island in the middle of the sea where no ships came, and how you make a Suction Pump (if you want to), and when Knights were Knighted, and what comes from Brazil. And Pooh, his back against one of the sixty-something trees, and his paws folded in front of him, said "Oh!" and "I didn't know," and thought how wonderful it would be to have a Real Brain which could tell you things. And by-and-by Christopher Robin came to an end of the things, and was silent, and he sat there looking out over the world, and wishing it wouldn't stop.

But Pooh was thinking too, and he said suddenly to Christopher Robin:

"Is it a very Grand thing to be an Afternoon, what you said?"

"A what?" said Christopher Robin lazily, as he listened to something else.

"On a horse," explained Pooh.



"A Knight?"

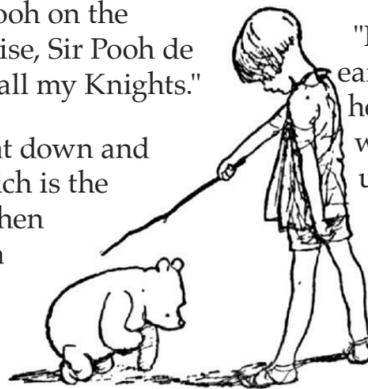
"Oh, was that it?" said Pooh. "I thought it was a—Is it as Grand as a King and Factors and all the other things you said?"

"Well, it's not as grand as a King," said Christopher Robin, and then, as Pooh seemed disappointed, he added quickly, "but it's grander than Factors."

"Could a Bear be one?"

"Of course he could!" said Christopher Robin. "I'll make you one." And he took a stick and touched Pooh on the shoulder, and said, "Rise, Sir Pooh de Bear, most faithful of all my Knights."

So Pooh rose and sat down and said "Thank you," which is the proper thing to say when you have been made a Knight, and he went into a dream again, in which he and Sir Pomp and Sir Brazil and Factors lived together with



a horse, and were faithful Knights (all except Factors, who looked after the horse) to Good King Christopher Robin ... and every now and then he shook his head, and said to himself "I'm not getting it right." Then he began to think of all the things Christopher Robin would want to tell him when he came back from wherever he was going to, and how muddling it would be for a Bear of Very

Little Brain to try and get them right in his mind. "So, perhaps," he said sadly to himself, "Christopher Robin won't tell me any more," and he wondered if being a Faithful Knight meant that you just went on being faithful without being told things.

Then, suddenly again, Christopher Robin, who was still looking at the world, with his chin in his hands, called out

"Pooh!"

"Yes?" said Pooh.

"When I'm—when——Pooh!"

"Yes, Christopher Robin?"



"I'm not going to do Nothing any more."

"Never again?"

"Well, not so much. They don't let you."

Pooh waited for him to go on, but he was silent again.

"Yes, Christopher Robin?" said Pooh helpfully.

"Pooh, when I'm—you know—when I'm not doing Nothing, will you come up here sometimes?"

"Just Me?"

"Yes, Pooh."

"Will you be here too?"

"Yes, Pooh, I will be, really. I promise I will be, Pooh."

"That's good," said Pooh.

"Pooh, promise you won't forget about me, ever. Not even when I'm a hundred."

Pooh thought for a little.

"How old shall I be then?"

"Ninety-nine."

Pooh nodded.

"I promise," he said.

Still with his eyes on the world Christopher Robin put out a hand and felt for Pooh's paw.

"Pooh," said Christopher Robin earnestly, "if I—if I'm not quite——" he stopped and tried again—"Pooh, whatever happens, you will understand, won't you?"

"Understand what?"

"Oh, nothing." He laughed and jumped to his feet. "Come on!"

"Where?" said Pooh.

"Anywhere," said Christopher Robin.

So they went off together. But wherever they go, and whatever happens to them on the way, in that enchanted place on the top of the Forest, a little boy and his Bear will always be playing.



Find and color.



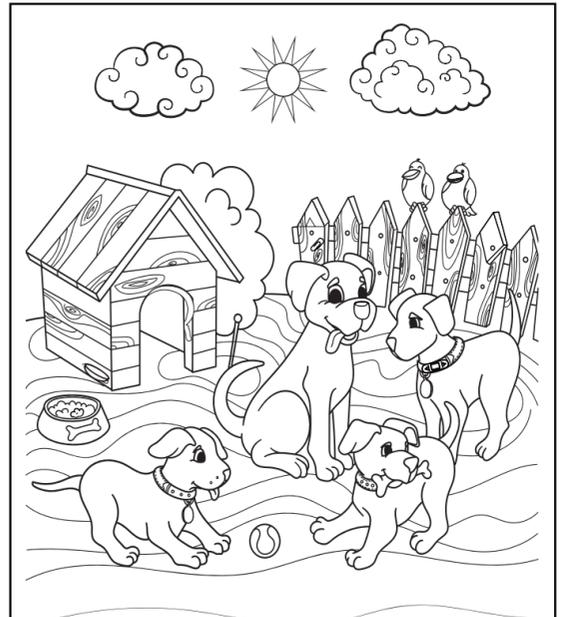
FIND ALL HIDDEN

- tortoise
- sea shell
- comb
- tooth paste
- brush
- umbrella
- baseball bat
- flag
- pestle
- skate



FIND ALL HIDDEN

- cauliflower
- pacifier
- anchor
- Popcorn
- binoculars
- pencil
- candle
- compasses
- tie
- moon



FIND ALL HIDDEN

- book
- plaster
- glass
- tent
- coffee bean
- plate
- paperclip
- sickle
- Popcorn
- horseshoe

Sudoku for Kids

1			
	2	1	4
4			3
2		4	

		2	1
1	2		
4			2
	1		3

			4
3	4	1	
		2	
2	3		1

1			2
	2	1	
	4		1
	1	2	

SUDOKU

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

Easy

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

Hard

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

Very Hard

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

Easy

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

Hard

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

Very Hard

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

Sudoku answers

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

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1 Cellist Casals
- 6 Baby carriage, to a Brit
- 10 Actress Kate or Rooney
- 14 Model of perfection
- 15 Nelson's laugh on "The Simpsons"
- 16 Metal with the symbol Fe
- 17 Kick off date night, say
- 19 Pro ___ (proportionately)
- 20 Not as expensive
- 21 Musical finale
- 22 Secretive group
- 23 Doc hidden in "patients"
- 24 Totally awesome
- 26 Where bubble tea originated
- 28 Certain flower girls
- 29 Aerodynamic
- 30 Whiskey barrel
- 33 Co. with blue lawn signs
- 34 Some birds' peepers, and a phonetic hint to three letters within 17-, 24-, 50- and 59-Across
- 38 PC's "brain"
- 41 Columbus MLS team, or a synonym for "team"
- 42 In need of vacuuming
- 46 Intricately decorated
- 49 "Hooray!"
- 50 Pasta lover's nightmare?
- 54 "___ & Oh's" (Elle King hit)
- 55 Boot out
- 56 Smallest of a litter
- 57 Presidential rejection
- 58 "Dibs!"
- 59 Organizer in a binder
- 61 Tacks on
- 62 Emmy winner Falco
- 63 Deck out
- 64 Loch ___ monster
- 65 Bobcat, e.g.
- 66 Catch with a rope

DOWN

- 1 Babies in sties
- 2 Gland near a kidney
- 3 ___ Boys ("Fight for Your Right" band)
- 4 Most popular dogs, per the AKC
- 5 Ancient
- 6 ___ Penh
- 7 Genre for Aretha Franklin
- 8 Yet to come
- 9 Scrape or scuff
- 10 Desert illusion
- 11 Flavorful kind of coffee bean
- 12 Spun
- 13 One may look for trends
- 18 Widely admired person
- 22 Movie FX
- 24 "The Great British ___ Off"
- 25 Like a lefty's hand after using a fountain pen, often
- 27 It might catch a fly
- 30 Rank below capt.
- 31 Response to a captain
- 32 Leave in stitches?
- 35 Laptop brand
- 36 Abridge, maybe
- 37 "How's it goin'?"
- 38 Camping gear maker
- 39 Bring home the bacon
- 40 Relaxes
- 43 Skimpy swimsuits
- 44 Some distracted drivers
- 45 Like 20 Questions questions
- 47 What a VIP pass offers
- 48 Bit of bod art
- 49 Word from the Tibetan for "rocky" and "bear"
- 51 Quarterback with the most Super Bowl wins
- 52 Append, as a vocal track
- 53 S&P 500, for one
- 57 Spanish for "life"
- 59 Bus. card number
- 60 Former WNBA president Ackerman

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

C	L	E	A	N	T	C	M	I	P	A	D				
R	A	D	I	O	P	O	L	E	M	A	R	E			
A	C	I	D	S	A	L	O	T	P	L	E	A			
B	E	T	H	O	L	D	T	H	E	L	E	A	D		
				M	O	M	H	O	N	O	R				
H	E	L	P	W	A	N	T	E	D	A	D				
U	T	A	H	H	O	W	C	E	N	T	S				
M	A	V	W	A	R	I	E	S	T	O	I	L			
S	L	A	S	H	C	O	O	P	O	K	E				
				H	E	A	V	E	N	F	O	R	B	I	D
				S	E	E	T	O	I	D	O				
S	W	E	L	L	E	D	H	E	A	D	A	C	E		
T	A	L	L	A	K	I	N	J	O	L	L	Y			
A	C	O	M	E	S	A	N	D	O	U	T	I	E		
R	O	A	D	E	S	T	O	B	R	O	O	D			

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9/2

Inside Look by David Karp

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20					21				22					
23				24					25					
26			27						28					
29								30	31	32		33		
38	39	40			41				42		43	44	45	
46			47	48					49					
50								51	52	53			54	
55								56				57		
58								59				60		
61								62				63		
64								65				66		

Horoscopes

Weekly Horoscope: March 2-7, 2025

Aquarius: Venus retrograde may stir uncertainty in relationships and finances. Avoid impulsive decisions and allow emotions to settle before seeking clarity. Mercury in Aries sharpens your communication, but choose your words carefully to avoid misunderstandings. Lean into creative projects as a grounding force.

Pisces: With the Sun illuminating your sign, personal growth and self-reflection take center stage. Venus retrograde urges caution in financial matters and emotional investments. Prioritize self-care and establish boundaries in relationships to maintain balance. Trust your intuition—it will guide you toward what aligns with your values.

Aries: Mercury enters your sign on March 3, heightening mental clarity and decisiveness. However, Venus retrograde encourages patience in love and financial matters. Avoid rushed commitments and instead focus on refining long-term goals. Your natural charisma is strong—use it wisely.

Taurus: Venus, your ruling planet, remains in retrograde, prompting deep introspection. Reevaluate financial and personal commitments before making major changes. Mercury in Aries may bring hidden information to light—trust your instincts, but resist the urge to react immediately. Let clarity come naturally.

Gemini: Mercury's shift into Aries enhances your communication skills, making it easier to assert your ideas. Venus retrograde, however, may bring past friendships or unresolved issues back into focus. Avoid distractions that steer you away from your goals—discipline will be essential.

Cancer: Career matters take precedence as Mercury in Aries amplifies professional conversations. However, Venus retrograde cautions against impulsive financial decisions. Evaluate long-term stability before making moves. Emotional clarity comes with patience—trust the process rather than forcing immediate resolution.

Leo: The Sun in Pisces encourages introspection, while Mercury in Aries fuels your ambition. Opportunities in education or travel may arise, but Venus retrograde advises a second look at any major commitments. Relationships require honesty—seek depth and authenticity over fleeting connections.

Virgo: Shared resources and emotional bonds come under scrutiny. Mercury in Aries pushes you to address unresolved matters, but Venus retrograde suggests careful consideration before making lasting financial or romantic decisions. Let actions speak louder than words in relationships—consistency is key.

Libra: Partnerships require attention as Venus retrograde stirs unresolved emotions. Mercury in Aries may intensify discussions—approach conflicts with diplomacy rather than reactivity. Patience in romantic and professional matters will prevent missteps. Seek clarity before making definitive commitments.

Scorpio: Daily routines and work responsibilities demand structure. Mercury in Aries enhances productivity, but Venus retrograde urges you to reassess commitments before overextending yourself. Set boundaries to protect your well-being. Financially, avoid high-risk ventures—stability comes from careful planning.

Sagittarius: Creative expression and romantic energy heighten, but Venus retrograde encourages reassessment rather than impulsivity. Mercury in Aries brings fresh ideas—channel them into meaningful projects. Old patterns in relationships may resurface; address them with honesty rather than avoidance.

Capricorn: Home and family matters take precedence. Venus retrograde prompts reflection on personal relationships, while Mercury in Aries may bring unexpected conversations. Avoid clinging to outdated expectations—adaptability will bring the most stability. Focus on nurturing what truly matters.

Family Time Crossword

The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1. (K) Like the person sprinting past you
- 5. (K) Show a door you mean business
- 9. (K) High thing to set for oneself
- 12. Slender musical instrument
- 13. In good health
- 14. Particular period of history
- 15. ___ vera
- 16. (K) Horribly un-good
- 17. Loud, continuous noise
- 18. Result of one type of intelligence test (2 words)
- 20. (K) Be lower in the middle, as a couch
- 21. (K) Baseball crushed off the wall
- 22. Like the house after spring cleaning
- 24. (K) That thing's
- 27. (K) Fresh morning dampness
- 29. (K) Cry softly
- 32. Inner mollusk shell layer (3 words)
- 36. (K) Skin hole
- 37. Anxious, to thee
- 38. (K) Like a mouth full of cotton
- 39. (K) Section of the foot
- 42. (K) Like a butcher's meat
- 44. (K) Period
- 46. (K) Indianapolis has a famous one
- 51. (K) Mother of Cain and Abel
- 52. Musical masterwork
- 53. App picture
- 54. (K) Supporter for a table or a person
- 55. Part of a church or cathedral

- 56. (K) Nursery rhyme residence
- 57. An encouraging word
- 58. (K) Create a text
- 59. Young kid running around
- DOWN**
- 1. (K) Pillow filler, sometimes
- 2. Skilled
- 3. (K) Not that long from now
- 4. (K) Eater's helpers
- 5. (K) What a home provides
- 6. (K) Stuff from volcanoes
- 7. Straighten tire wheels
- 8. Wild fight among many
- 9. Mattress supporter
- 10. Solo during an opera
- 11. (K) Used a door buzzer
- 19. General assistant
- 23. Leave wide-mouthed

- 24. Little one constantly getting into trouble
- 25. (K) Word after "I'll have some"
- 26. Game plan
- 28. "I'm impressed!"
- 30. Have a lapse in judgment
- 31. (K) One tissue layer
- 33. (K) Not me or him, try again
- 34. Do clairvoyant stuff
- 35. Type of moss
- 40. Zagreb resident
- 41. (K) Smiling and giggly
- 43. (K) Arm joint
- 44. Shoulder muscle, informally
- 45. (K) Concluded
- 47. Crescent point
- 48. (K) Feeling a bit sore all over
- 49. (K) Make filet mignon, say
- 50. (K) Leg joint

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

Common thing to slip on?

Look for the answer in next week's paper.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	L	A	S	M	P	G	T	A	T	A	P	
C	O	M	A	D	O	U	R	W	R	A	P	
E	V	E	R	D	N	A	C	R	E			
S	E	N	A	T	E	M	A	S	S	E	S	
				S	A	L	A	M	I			
G	O	N	O	N	W	A	R	I	O	I	R	
O	N	I	T	C	A	R	A	S	I	A		
D	E	C	A	T	U	R	D	I	M	L	Y	
				O	R	D	A	I	N			
C	A	S	T	O	R	D	E	B	I	T	A	S
O	H	I	O	E	V	E	O	R	A	L		
L	E	A	D	N	I	P	W	O	R	E		
A	M	M	O	T	N	T	S	N	O	W		

Previous riddle answer:

Where ain't is no good?
7-D) Grammar

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11					
12				13				14							
15				16				17							
18				19				20							
				21				22							
24	25	26		27				29		30	31				
32			33					34	35						
36								37			38				
				39				40	41		42		43		
44	45			46				47			48	49	50		
51				52				53							
54				55				56							
57				58				59							

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 poetry to be sung (6)
- 2 clothes worn to bed (7)
- 3 shed for canoes and kayaks (9)
- 4 calling to a specific place (9)
- 5 citizens of Greece's capital (9)
- 6 like Abraham Lincoln (7)
- 7 knotted treats (8)

SOLUTIONS

ARD	MAS	LYR	USE	PA
JA	ANS	BOA	MON	ENI
THO	ED	ING	ICS	TZE
PRE	LS	BE	ATH	SUM

Previous Answers: 1. POLKA 2. FONDUE 3. HYGIENIST
4. PRESIDENTS 5. EXPLORE 6. DISENGAGE 7. ROLLOUT 9/7

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 March 1 to March 6, some exciting things happened in the past, and some wacky and wonderful special days are coming up!

This Week in History

March 1, 1872 – Yellowstone Becomes the First National Park

Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho became the very first national park in the world! It's home to geysers, hot springs, and amazing wildlife like bears, wolves, and bison. Today, there are more than 400 national parks in the U.S.!

March 2, 1836 – Texas Declares Independence from Mexico

On this day, Texas decided to become its own independent country before later joining the United States. The Texas Declaration of Independence was signed by 59 delegates who wanted freedom from Mexican rule.

March 3, 1931 – The Star-Spangled Banner Becomes the National Anthem

Francis Scott Key wrote this famous song in 1814, but it didn't officially become the national anthem until 1931! It was inspired by the American flag still flying after a

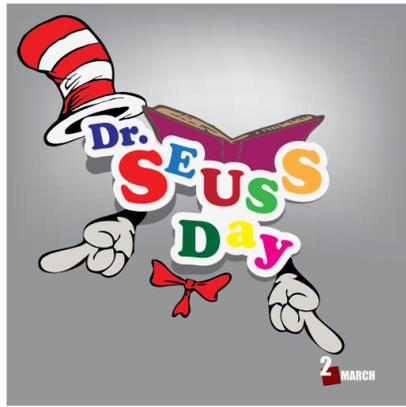
battle during the War of 1812.

March 4, 1789 – The U.S. Government Begins Under the Constitution

Before this date, the United States was run by the Articles of Confederation, but they weren't working very well. So, in 1789, the new U.S. government officially started under the Constitution, which is still the law of the land today!

March 6, 1836 – The Battle of the Alamo Ends

The famous battle at the Alamo, a mission in Texas, ended on this day. Even though the defenders lost, their bravery inspired many Texans to keep fighting for independence.



Fun and Wacky Holidays This Week!

March 2 – Dr. Seuss Day (Read

Across America Day)

This day honors the beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. Schools across the country celebrate by reading his books, like *The Cat in the Hat* and *Green Eggs and Ham*!

March 3 – National I Want You to Be Happy Day

A day all about spreading kindness and making others smile!

March 3 – World Wildlife Day

A great time to learn about animals and how we can help protect nature.

March 4 – National Grammar Day

A fun day to appreciate punctuation, spelling, and all the rules of writing!

March 4 – National Hug a G.I. Day

A day to show appreciation for the brave men and women who serve in the military.

March 5 – National Cheese Doodle Day

Celebrate by munching on crunchy, cheesy snacks!

March 6 – National Oreo Cookie Day

Oreo cookies have been around for more than 100 years! Dunk them in milk or twist them apart—how do you eat yours?

March 6 – National Dentist's Day

A reminder to thank dentists for helping keep our teeth clean and healthy!

Other Fun and Wacky Celebrations Coming This Week

March 1 – National Dadgum That's Good Day

A day to enjoy great food and say, "Dadgum, that's good!"

March 2 – Old Stuff Day

A day to appreciate antiques and vintage treasures.

March 3 – National Anthem Day

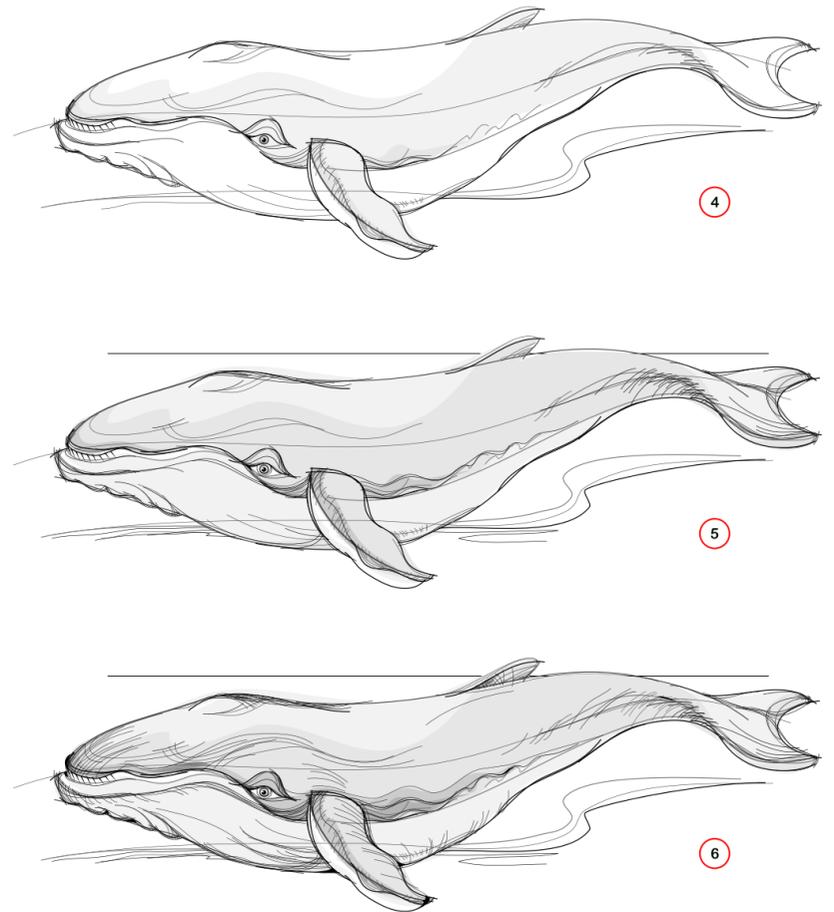
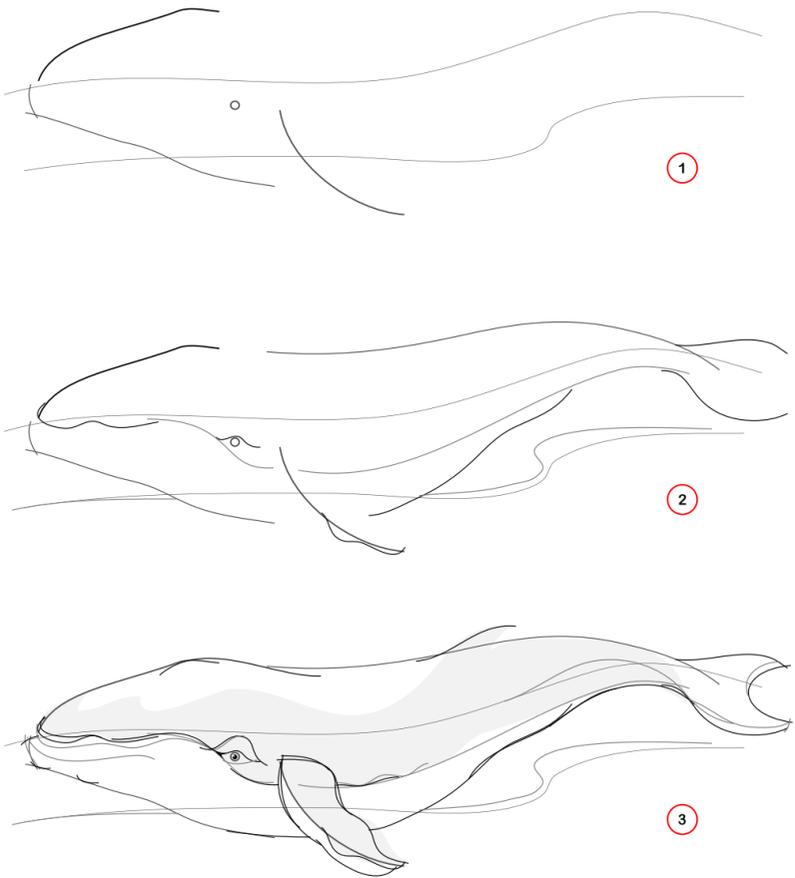
Honoring the day *The Star-Spangled Banner* became the official national anthem.

March 6 – National Frozen Food Day

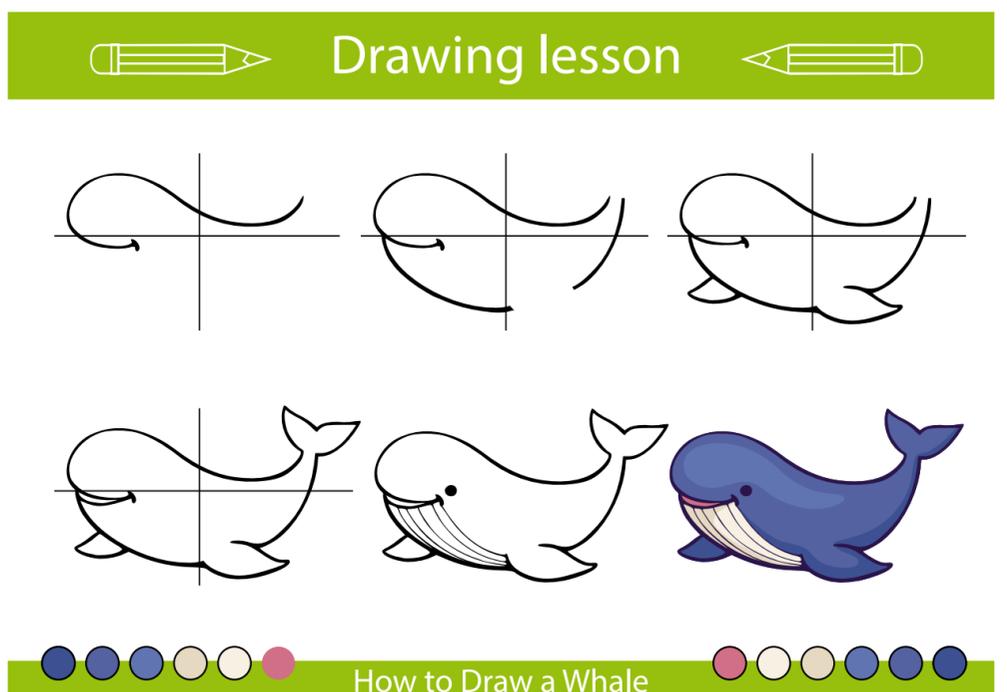
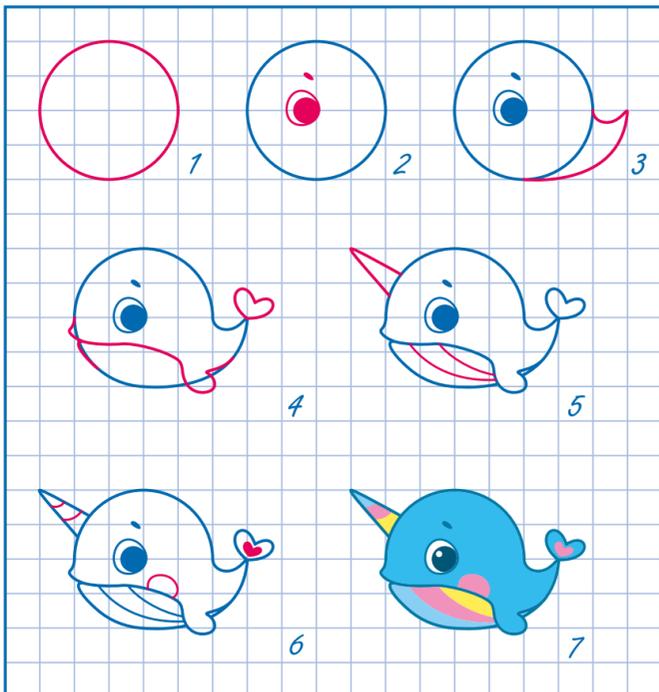
A day to appreciate the convenience of frozen foods!

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 reading a Dr. Seuss book, eating an Oreo, or learning about the Alamo, have fun and enjoy this exciting week!



Learn to Sketch Like a Pro 3 Different Ways



HOW MANY?

Hesperosaurus

Hes-per-o-sore-us

Hh

- Herbivore
- About 6 to 7 meters long
- USA
- Late Jurassic

PUZZLE TIME ENDANGERED ANIMALS WORD SCRAMBLE

 PARODEL [] [] [] [] [] []	 LEHAW [] [] [] [] []	 RETIG [] [] [] [] []
 DANAP [] [] [] [] []	 CLABK MURLE [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []	 RAPOL EARB [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

Write the first letter of each item to solve the puzzle.

[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

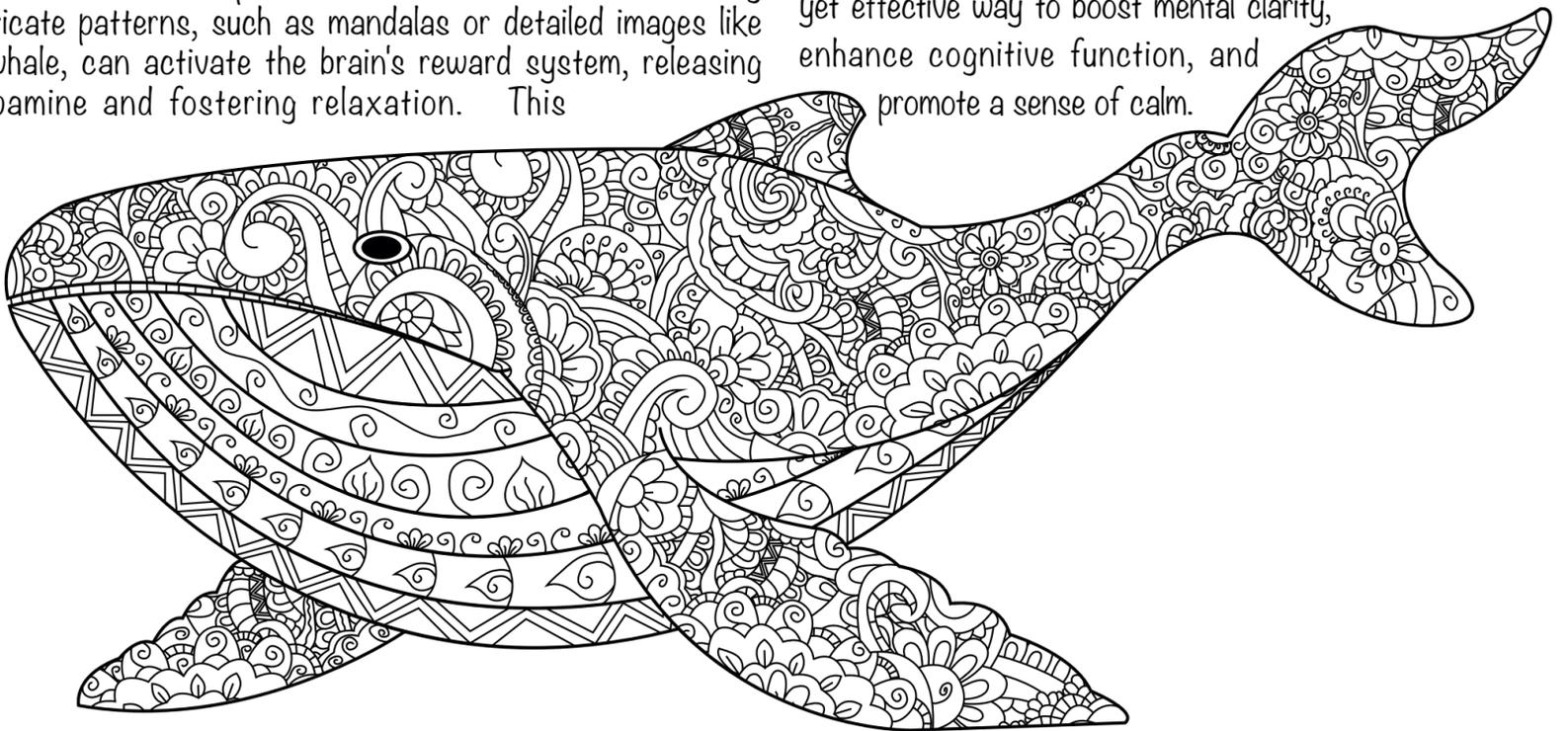
[]	[]	[]	[]

[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

Color This Whale Mandala

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 whale, 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.



10 Starfish 11 Diver 12 Seahorse 13 Crab 14 Octopus 15 Sponge 16 Clownfish 17 Seashell

The Largest Brain in History of the Planet

On World Wildlife Day, we celebrate the astonishing creatures that share our planet and the lessons they impart. Among them, few are as enigmatic and powerful as Connecticut's state animal—the sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*).

Famed as the largest of the toothed whales, the sperm whale has inspired myths, literature, and scientific wonder for centuries. Herman Melville immortalized it in *Moby-Dick*, describing its massive head, formidable strength, and mysterious nature. But beyond legend, the sperm whale is a marvel of intelligence, social cohesion, and resilience—an animal whose adaptations offer valuable insights for human success.

The Science of the Deep Thinker

The sperm whale is an apex predator, yet its power is not found in speed or brute force. It is defined by something far more compelling—its mind. With the largest brain of any creature to have ever lived, the sperm whale demonstrates extraordinary problem-solving abilities, communication skills, and memory.

These deep-diving mammals rely on echolocation—an advanced sonar system—to navigate the vast, pitch-black depths of the ocean. By emitting clicks and analyzing the echoes that bounce back, sperm whales build mental maps of their surroundings, allowing them to track prey and communicate with pod members over vast distances. Scientists believe sperm whale clicks, known as codas, may even form a rudimentary language—



The Sperm Whale is Connecticut's state animal.

Like the sperm whale, the wisest among us are not just thinking about today, but about what we leave behind.

A Call to Protect

Despite their intelligence and adaptability, sperm whales face mounting threats. Once hunted nearly to extinction for their oil, they now contend with pollution, ship strikes, and entanglement in fishing gear. Noise pollution from commercial vessels disrupts their ability to communicate and navigate, making survival even more challenging.

Protecting sperm whales means protecting the oceans they call home. Simple actions—reducing plastic waste, supporting sustainable seafood choices, and advocating for marine conservation—can make a tangible difference.

Lessons from the Ocean's Deep Thinker

On this World Wildlife Day, the sperm whale offers us a profound message:

Think deeply. Success is not just about speed—it's about clarity, vision, and making informed decisions.

Adapt and endure. The ability to navigate challenges, adjust strategies, and remain resilient determines who thrives.

Build strong relationships. Success is magnified when we invest in our communities and support those around us.

Leave a lasting impact. Greatness is measured not just in personal achievement, but in what we pass on to others.

Let the sperm whale remind us that wisdom, patience, and connection are not just qualities of the deep—they are principles for a life well lived.

The sperm whale is an apex predator, yet its power is not found in speed or brute force.

a structured means of transmitting information across generations.

The lesson? Success is not just about moving forward—it's about knowing where you are and where you're going. In our fast-paced world, clarity of purpose and the ability to interpret our

surroundings—whether in business, relationships, or personal growth—can make all the difference.

Navigating the Depths: Adaptation and Resilience

Sperm whales are built for the extreme. They dive deeper than any other marine mammal—plunging more than 3,000 feet below the surface in search of squid.

Down in the abyss, they endure crushing pressures that would collapse a human lung, yet they have adapted in remarkable ways.

By slowing their heart rate, storing oxygen in their muscles, and collapsing their ribcage to prevent damage, they thrive where few creatures can.

How does this apply to us? Success often demands resilience—the ability to endure setbacks, adapt, and push forward in unfamiliar terrain. Like the sperm whale, those who succeed are the ones who embrace discomfort, master new environments, and trust their ability to rise back to the

The Strength of Community

Though often pictured alone in the vast ocean, sperm whales are deeply social animals. They live in tight-knit pods, consisting of mothers, calves, and extended family members. The bonds within these

Legacy and the Long Game

whales care for one another's young, coordinate hunting efforts, and even stand guard when a pod member is injured. One of the most extraordinary behaviors observed in sperm whales is babysitting—adult whales will take turns watching over the calves of others while mothers dive for food. This cooperative spirit underscores a simple but powerful truth: true success is not a solo endeavor.

In human terms, sperm whales remind us of the power of mentorship, teamwork, and trust. No great leader, entrepreneur, or innovator has ever succeeded in isolation. Building a strong support network, sharing wisdom, and helping others succeed is what elevates us all.

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Legacy and the Long Game

Sperm whales can live for more than 70 years, making them one of the longest-lived marine mammals. Over their lifetimes, they pass down knowledge of migration routes, hunting grounds, and survival strategies. These lessons ensure the next generation is equipped to thrive.

Humans, too, succeed when we think beyond short-term gains. Whether through leadership, education, or innovation, those who leave a lasting impact are those who invest in the future.

