

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFING

POLICE AND FIRE

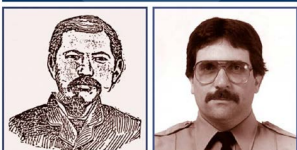
Community Connect

The New Canaan Fire Department has introduced a free system called “Community Connect,” allowing residents to submit property details to assist emergency responders. Users can enter information such as household size, emergency contacts, and utility shut off locations. Community Connect is available at <https://www.communityconnect.io/info/ct-townofnewcanaan>

National Police Week

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING FALLEN LAW ENFORCEMENT



National Police Week, observed the week of May 15, honored law enforcement officers who have fallen in the line of duty. In New Canaan, this includes Chief Constable Louis Drucker and Officer James Martin. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department.

K9 Apollo Passes Away



Apollo K9
Patrol Officer
Patrol Division

K9 Apollo, who served with the New Canaan Police Department from 2015 to 2024, passed away on May 16, 2025. The department recognized his years of service and thanked those who supported his training, care, and retirement. Apollo played a key role in the K9 Unit and was supported by several local partners throughout his career. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department.

TOWN HALL

New Director of Health

Amy Lehaney has been appointed the new Director of Health. Lehaney has 20 years of public and environmental health experience and previously worked in several Connecticut municipalities.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

SLS Students Visited the Inn



Recently, St. Luke’s students Maeve Welch and Catherine Woods visited the Inn and held a debate on school tuition voucher programs. They argued opposite sides of the issue while residents listened to both of their presentations.

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VFW Prepares for Memorial Day



VFW Post 653 Commander Mike McGlinn (left) and New Canaan Emergency Management Director Russ Kimes (right) greet passersby outside Zumbach’s Gourmet Coffee on Saturday morning as part of their Memorial Day fundraising drive. The two are helping lead the town-wide effort to place American flags on the graves of more than 1,300 veterans buried in New Canaan’s 14 cemeteries. To support this important work, visit vfwpost653.square.site.



BY ELIZABETH BARHYDT

We only meant to stop for coffee.

But outside Zumbach’s Coffee on Saturday morning, I saw two men at a folding table, surrounded by flags, poppies, and the quiet dignity of purpose. Their table wasn’t flashy. No bunting. No fanfare. Just a handwritten sign, a donation jar, and the calm assurance that they were doing something that mattered.

“We will definitely make a donation,” I said. And then stayed to talk.

The two men — Mike McGlinn, Post Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 653, and Russ Kimes, the town’s Emergency Management Director and a veteran of the Iraq War — were there on behalf of a small and mighty local group.

“We’re here on behalf of the Howard M. Bossa and Peter C. Langenus Post,” Kimes explained. “Small post — we’ve got maybe 40 members, and a dozen really

active.”

Their mission? Simple, solemn, and profound: to place a flag at every veteran’s grave in New Canaan before Memorial Day, and a wreath at Christmastime. On Saturday, May 24 at 8:00 a.m., volunteers will gather to participate in this act of remembrance.

The volunteers marshaled by Frances Wilson cover Lakeview Cemetery, where hundreds of flags are carefully placed by hand. At the 14 historic cemeteries across New Canaan, members of the New Canaan Fire Company #1 lead the effort — and it’s a labor of historical devotion as much as civic duty. “We are aware of 82 Veterans buried in those 14 cemeteries,” said Wilson. Some headstones are worn by time, others inaccessible, but the firefighters honor them all. “They place flags at the entrances or gates as well as at each gravesite that is still distinguishable. By doing so, they honor and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

A Flag, a Family, and a Scout’s Quiet Gift of Honor



Above left: James Bakal and Mike McGlinn. Photo contributed by James Bakal. Above right: Each display case bears a plaque from James. Photo by Beth Barhydt.



BY ELIZABETH BARHYDT

At the end of May, just before the flags are placed at Lakeview Cemetery for Memorial Day, another kind of tribute will quietly appear outside the New Canaan Fire Department: a white, mailbox-shaped receptacle designed to retire old American flags with dignity. The box, painted red, white, and blue, is the second installment of a two-part Eagle Scout project by New Canaan High School junior James Bakal.

“It’s the flag retirement box,” James explains. “So anyone with an old, tattered, ripped flag can drop it off there, and Troop 70 will take it to summer camp and retire it the correct way.”

That simple but profound act—offering townspeople a place to bring their weather-worn flags—is the capstone of a project that began many months earlier. The first part was completed in time for Veterans Day 2024, when James hand-built 27 wooden display cases designed

to hold the American flags given to families at the funerals of military veterans.

“When a veteran passes, the family will get a flag at the funeral,” James says. “The box that I made is supposed to be the box they use. It’s just a gift from the VFW to the family.”

James crafted each of the 27 triangle-shaped cases himself and donated them to the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post, where they are now ready to be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

COLUMN

Resent-o-Meter

BY JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

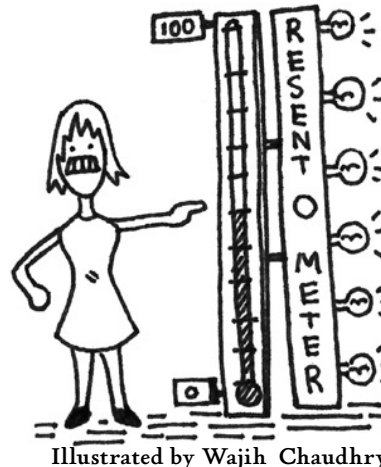
Resentment is a blinking yellow light that indicates a change is needed. When we feel resentful, either someone is pushing against our boundaries, or we feel entitled to something unrealistic, such as a perfect (fill in the blank).

Pay attention to resentment: don’t wish it away. It will not disappear or evaporate. We store it in our bodies. Long-term resentment, expressed outwardly, ultimately leads to verbal or physical explosions; expressed inwardly, it leads to various

forms of self-harm, including depression. Do you need to clarify a boundary? Or change an entitled attitude?

Brandon and Chris had young children. Every year they invited Brandon’s mother to visit for three weeks. Grandma tended to overrule Chris and dote on her son, and she was critical of the couple’s parenting and lifestyle. This led to Brandon and Chris fighting most nights in their bedroom. With coaching, the couple was able to set clearer boundaries with Grandma: she was to affirm both parents, support their parenting, offer no unsolicited advice, and make visits

shorter. Their family and their marriage benefited. Grandma adjusted.



Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry

Housing Bill Lands at 92 Pages, With Vote Expected Soon as Towns React

BY ANNE WHITE

The housing bill that started as a sentence became a novel overnight.

With less than 24 hours’ notice, Connecticut lawmakers were handed the final version of HB 5002—a sweeping housing reform bill that grew from a one-paragraph “study” into a 92-page policy overhaul, now expected to come up for a vote as early as today.

The bill’s sudden appearance on Wednesday confirmed fears long raised by local zoning advocates: that the state would use placeholder legislation to bypass public debate and insert dramatic mandates at the eleventh hour.

“They’re passing a blank bill,” said Maria Weingarten, founder of CT169Strong, earlier this week. “It may be called any day now and we don’t know what’s in the bill. It’s not done in the light of day.”

Now they do know. And what’s in it is extensive.

The final amendment to HB 5002—released less than 24 hours before lawmakers were expected to vote—introduces statewide Fair Share housing quotas, mandates middle housing as-of-right on commercial lots, eliminates minimum parking requirements, and gives new power to the state to review and approve municipal housing plans.

The language also codifies “affirmatively furthering fair housing” into Connecticut law, mirroring a federal standard that adds civil rights enforcement to local land use decisions.

“The bill has come out of Appropriations, come out of Finance,” Weingarten said, “and there’s nothing on there that would have required it to be there.” That, she said, amounts to “giving a blank check.”

What began as a single paragraph—“To study housing and the needs of homeless persons”—now includes:

Section 10: A statewide formula for assigning affordable housing unit targets to each town.

Section 5(b)(11): Required allowance of 2-9 unit “middle housing” on commercial land across the state.

Section 6: Elimination of town-set parking minimums in favor of a needs-based calculation.

Section 9: State review of town housing plans through newly established “priority development zones.”

Section 19: Expanded power for the Attorney General to sue municipalities over discriminatory zoning outcomes.

There are other inclusions too—portable sanitation mandates for homeless residents, a ban on “hostile architecture,” regional waste coordination, and grants tied to compliance with state-directed housing objectives.

As of press time, it remained unclear whether the bill would be brought to the floor this morning, afternoon, or later. But the vote was imminent. And the backlash has already begun.

In a meeting earlier this week with legislators from Bridgeport—whose votes are often key in housing bills—Weingarten said the confusion was bipartisan. “The Bridgeport City Council members said, ‘Well, where’s the language? No offense, but we want to see what you’re actually writing down on paper.’”

Now they have it. And it affirms what had previously been dismissed as speculation. That progressive lawmakers were gathering votes and rewriting the legislation in secret.

“They don’t want us to know what’s in the bill until they’ve got their numbers,” Weingarten said at the time. “So even the moderate Democrats can’t help us.”

Fairfield County communities like Greenwich and New Canaan had lobbied against the rumored contents of the bill, citing concerns over density, infrastructure, and process.

Governor Ned Lamont has not publicly commented on the final amendment. Some legislators and advocates are still calling for him to intervene. “I would love to have a discussion with Lamont,” Weingarten said. “We want all of Connecticut to thrive and succeed and have smart policies. But these are not it.”

As the vote clock ticks, the sense across New Canaan is frustration—not just over policy, but over process. “If this isn’t a lesson in government overreach,” Weingarten said, “I don’t know what is.”

Whether that message will influence the outcome remains to be seen.



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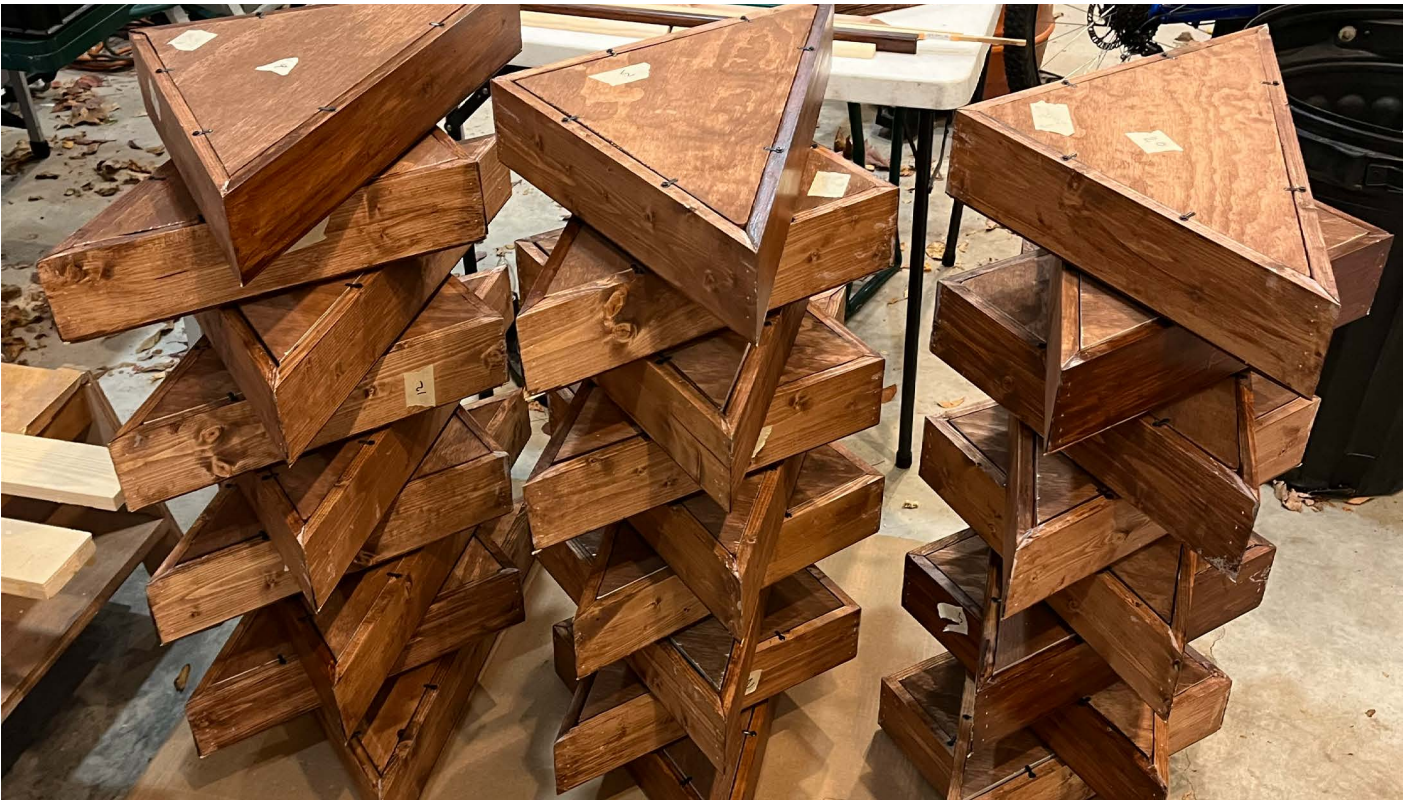
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The 27 handcrafted flag display cases built by James Bakal for the New Canaan VFW. Each case will hold the burial flag given to a veteran's family. This was the completed first half of his Eagle Scout project. Photo submitted by James Bakal.

EAGLE SCOUT
CONTINUED From Page 1

given to grieving families—no charge, no fuss, just quiet recognition. “We’ve already given away two—to Mike Aldrich and Mike McDonough,” says Mike McGlinn, commander of the New Canaan VFW. “This kid is so good and these things are professional.”

McGlinn adds that the VFW plans to keep the cases on hand to continue offering them to the families of veterans when the time comes. “He got his name on everything on the side there. He’s a really nice kid.”

The second part of the project—creating the freestanding flag retirement box—was inspired by a common question the fire department receives: what should be done with old flags?

“People are always asking the fire department what to do with their flags,” says Russ Kimes, New Canaan’s emergency management director. “This will help everyone.”

James’s decision to focus his Eagle Scout project on honoring the flag and veterans comes from deep within his family history.

“My grandfather fought in World War II,” he says. “Two of my cousins had trips to Afghanistan. I think my uncle was also in World War II.”

A longtime Scout, James started in first grade. “My dad has been on campouts and at meetings, and my parents have been extremely supportive,” he says. “It’s definitely been a natural progression. Not everybody makes Eagle, so having this project close to the heart has really meant a lot.”

To younger kids thinking about joining Scouts, James says simply: “Test it out for a year. If you love it like I did, then you stick with it. But if you don’t, you don’t. It’s just how you are.”



The flag collection bins are currently in process, scheduled to be completed by the end of May. The retirement box will be permanently installed outside the main entrance of the New Canaan Fire Department, providing residents with a respectful, year-round option for disposing of worn or tattered American flags. Painted in red, white, and blue, the mailbox-style container will be maintained by Boy Scout Troop 70, which will collect the flags and retire them in a formal ceremony each summer at camp. The project addresses a longstanding need in the community, as local officials say residents often turn to the fire department for guidance on proper flag disposal.. Photo submitted by James Bakal.

For James, the real gift of Scouting has been the people. “The camaraderie. I found some older kids who are now in college, and I’m still extremely close with them. Just the sense of community I feel and the life skills I’ve learned.”

Back at the VFW, McGlinn reflects on the impact James has already made. “It’s a story. He’ll tell you the story. We give these to the veterans’ families. We don’t charge anything. It’s about

honoring them.”

Soon, the red, white, and blue retirement box will stand sentinel outside the firehouse, ready to receive the faded symbols of service and sacrifice. It won’t draw attention to itself. It will just be there, quietly doing what it was made to do.

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VFW CONTINUED From Page 1

remember all those interred there, whether their names are legible or not.”

These burial grounds are steeped in history — the oldest veterans interred date back not just to the Revolutionary War, but to the French and Indian War (1754-1763).

Then on Monday, May 26 at 9:00 a.m., the community will gather again for the Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony at Lakeview Cemetery. And on Saturday, June 7 at 8:00 a.m., volunteers will reconvene to collect the flags — completing the cycle of honor.

As noted by Frances Wilson, who helps lead the effort on behalf of Post 653, these traditions depend entirely on community involvement — both from those willing to volunteer their time and those able to contribute financially.

The December wreath effort is immense. “It’s 1,300 wreaths now,” said McGlinn. “There’s more people dying now. Every year there’s a couple more.”

The wreaths don’t place themselves. Nor do they pay for themselves. “Those Christmas wreaths cost us \$15,000,” McGlinn explained. “That’s where this money goes.” Every flag, every wreath — comes from donations. “Fifteen grand,” said Kimes. “Every year, we need to get that 15 grand.”

If a flag is ever missed, the response is immediate. “When myself or Lakeview is made aware of a missed Veteran, either the staff at Lakeview or myself or Chris Wilson (my husband) place a flag or a wreath,” said Wilson. “Our mission is that no known Veteran is to be forgotten. We have been shepherding this effort for the past 15 years, because of a promise to a beloved friend and former VFW Commander, Peter Langenus.”

The effort is community-powered in more ways than one. Some flag stands are donated by Ace Hardware. “They did it last year too,” said McGlinn. “I went to the post office, and there was a box for me.” And some of the most thoughtful contributions come from the youngest citizens. McGlinn proudly described an Eagle Scout project that built 20 wooden display cases for storing veterans’ burial flags, and even created a patriotic mailbox-style depository for retired flags — to be placed in front of the Firehouse.

Two of those cases have already been gifted to honor the memory of Michael Moriel Aldrich, a West Point graduate and Army veteran who later led Force Protection Inc., and Michael Joseph McDonagh, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and longtime New Canaan resident.

The VFW Post meets monthly at the Masonic Lodge on Main Street — a dollar-a-year lease that

gives them “a space with chairs,” as McGlinn put it. “We’re not your typical VFW Post that has a bar and everything else,” he said. “Just a group of people trying to do good things.”

Kimes, who served in Iraq in 2003, represents the next generation of veterans keeping the tradition alive — not only through his work with the VFW but in nearly every civic channel in New Canaan. He’s the town’s Emergency Management Director, a volunteer firefighter, and a steadfast presence on committees like the Fire Commission and the Fourth of July Planning Committee. “I do a lot of things,” he said with a smile. “Keeps me busy.”

His family’s service runs deep. Kimes is a third-generation New Canaanite — his father and grandfather both served in the military, and during the early 2000s, he and his brother were deployed at the same time. “My brother was in Afghanistan when I was in Iraq,” he recalled. “My poor mother.”

That local-rootedness shapes everything he does. Whether coordinating emergency response or making sure a flag is placed on the right grave, Kimes sees his work as part of the fabric of New Canaan itself. “This is my hometown,” he said. “You serve where you live.”

Post 653 may be losing members from the World War II generation — “there’s only a handful of us left from post-Vietnam who even live in town,” Kimes said — but the mission endures.

Groups to Thank for Flag Placement:

- Michael Dinan of the NewCanaanite
- Lakeview Cemetery: Pete Passaro, Kelly Robb, and the entire maintenance crew
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Boy Scout Troops 70, 45, and 31
- Cub Scout Packs 70, 45, and 7
- Girl Scouts of New Canaan
- Service League of Boys (SLOBs)
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- National Charity League, New Canaan Chapter
- New Canaan Fire Company #1
- The Exchange Club of New Canaan
- Young Americans for Freedom Club
- New Canaan Democratic Town Committee
- New Canaan Republican Town Committee
- And the many individual volunteers who come each year for this important service

To support VFW Post 653’s annual initiatives, visit vfwpost653.square.site





Games thrive at the Lapham Center, where each has its champion and strong community support. Below left: Bridge Players; Above: Canasta players in action; Below right: Wednesday night Mahjong. Regardless of which game you choose, all three stimulate the brain, enhance cognitive well-being, and foster social interaction.



A Bridge Player, a Canasta Player, and a Mahjong Player Walk into a Room

BY GERI RHOADES

The Canasta player asks the Bridge player, "Is this Canasta?" The Bridge player chuckles and replies, "No, that's the noisy room next door." The Mahjong player overhears the exchange and adds, "We cause quite a ruckus, too." While only Mahjong players might fully appreciate the humor, we gathered three players in a room to discuss the growing trend of these games and how Lapham Community Center supports their passion.

We apologize in advance to all three groups; we don't have enough space to provide each game's complete history or complexity of each game. Consider this as an introduction to games you might not be familiar with.

Bridge is a card game played by four people in partnership. A standard 52-deck is used, and each player is dealt 13 cards. Key terms associated with this game include bids, tricks, and trumps. The first phase of the game is the bidding phase, where players bid on how many tricks they think they can make.

After the bidding phase, the players take turns leading cards. The next player tries to match or trump the suit if possible. A “trick” is won by the player who plays the highest card of the suit led or the highest trump card if one is

played. The goal of the game is to win the most tricks.

Bridge can be traced back to the early 16th century, with earlier variations known by many names, including whist. Its popularity surged in the United Kingdom and the United States in the late 19th century. In 1925, Harold S. Vanderbilt invented a new scoring system while on a Panama cruise, which is still used today. The American Contract Bridge League was established in 1927 and is the largest bridge organization globally, boasting over 165,000 members. There is so much more to this game, and again, apologies to bridge players worldwide for this oversimplified description.

Canasta is also a card game played by four people in partnership. It uses two standard 52-card decks, with the two jokers from each deck, and each player is dealt 13 cards. Key terms associated with canasta include talon, melding, mixed canasta, natural canasta, and specialty hands, among others. The goal of the game is to close as many canastas as possible (either seven cards of the same rank or by using wild cards) to reach a team total of 8,500 points. Suits don't matter in Canasta. There's so much more to learn about this engaging game.

Canasta originated in the 1940s and was created by two

Uruguayan lawyers who were bridge partners seeking a less time-consuming game. It belongs to the rummy family but is considered more strategic and less reliant on chance. There is no official league for canasta, which has led to many regional 'table rules' across the country. Numerous game variations exist, including hand and foot, samba, and modern american canasta, which we play at Lapham. Although estimating the total number of players is difficult due to the lack of a league, canasta has experienced a resurgence in popularity following its 1950s heyday.

Mahjong, on the other hand, is an individual game played among four players. It is perhaps the most visually appealing of the three games, featuring 152 beautifully designed tiles. Key terms associated with Mahjong include kong, pung, Call, Exchange, and many others. Unlike Canasta, suits do matter in this game, as do numbers.

Mahjong was developed in China in the mid-1800s and gained popularity in the United States during the 1920s. It is said to have evolved from an older Chinese card game called madaio. The National Mahjong League was established in 1937 to standardize the game, which led to the

***Regardless of which game you choose,
all three stimulate the brain,
enhance cognitive well-being, and foster
social interaction.***

version of the american mahjong we play today. The League has over 350,000 members and is increasingly popular among Gen X players.

Our focus group included Les Kurian, manager of the men's bridge group and a bridge teacher at Lapham; Aggie Aspinwall, Director of the Lapham Community Center and mahjong instructor; Diane Master, a canasta and mahjong enthusiast; and moderator Geri Rhoades, a canasta teacher and facilitator of canasta groups at Lapham on Mondays and Thursdays.

We asked them to select three words that describe their respective games. All three chose "fun," while Les, who has been playing bridge for ten years, and Aggie, a mahjong player for twenty years, also selected "challenging." Diane chose "competitive" for canasta. Aggie added "addictive," but it was evident from their banter that all three players were hooked!

When asked which game was the best, they took a diplomatic approach. "The best game is what

you make of it," Les said. However, they did share some insights: Mahjong is ideal for those who can recognize patterns. Players with musical backgrounds or those who enjoy crafts like needlepoint tend to pick it up more quickly.

Diane, who considers herself a “bridge dropout,” sought something more social and less pressure-filled than bridge. While both bridge and canasta are partner games requiring teamwork, bridge includes the added challenge of bidding, which can create pressure.

Addressing the stereotype of bridge players being serious and quiet, Les insisted that wasn't the case during his games. However, players are traditionally quiet in Duplicate Bridge, a more competitive game. We also discussed the perception that bridge is a challenging game. Les likened it to an onion: "As you peel away the layers of bridge, it can get more complex; however, you can choose to keep it simpler."

Canasta can become more challenging with specialty hands, but these hands remain consistent

over time, making them easier to memorize. In contrast, mahjong's hands change annually, with the League issuing new mahjong cards each year.

Regardless of which game you choose, all three stimulate the brain, enhance cognitive well-being, and foster social interaction. Bridge encourages problem-solving and logical thinking, while mahjong improves hand-eye coordination. One clear takeaway is that these games thrive at Lapham, where each has its champion and strong community support.

Check out Lapham https://www.newcanaan.info/community/lapham_community_center/index.php for various bridge, mahjong, canasta opportunities, and other events. Or call 203-594-3620. Lapham Community Center provides programs and services for all adult residents of New Canaan (age 21+) in a friendly and informal setting. Continuing education courses, various health and exercise programs, and numerous special events are offered throughout the year to enrich lives and build a stronger community. The Sentinel also puts their events in their calendar and the 5 top things to do in New Canaan. Come for the games, but stay for the community!



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New Canaan YMCA Hosts Family Field Day



Participants line up for the water balloon toss, one of the many interactive games at the New Canaan YMCA's Family Field Day on May 18, drawing cheers and laughter from all ages. Contributed photo from the New Canaan YMCA.

The New Canaan YMCA welcomed families of all ages to its annual Family Field Day on Sunday, May 18, offering a wide array of outdoor activities designed to promote wellness, creativity, and community spirit.

Held on the YMCA's campus, the event featured classic games such as potato sack races and water balloon tosses alongside gaga ball, an inflatable obstacle course, a yoga challenge, and hands-on crafts including tie-dye, face painting, and pinwheel making. Families also enjoyed a

selection of healthy snacks provided throughout the afternoon.

Organizers emphasized the importance of events that bring together local families in a relaxed, joyful setting. "We're proud to host a day that encourages movement, imagination, and connection," said YMCA staff during the event.

The YMCA extended its appreciation to the volunteers and staff who made the day possible, as well as to the many families who participated and contributed to the community atmosphere.

LemonAid Stands: A Sweet Summer Tradition for a Global Cause

This summer, young philanthropists across New Canaan are once again invited to set up LemonAid stands to support vulnerable children at the Facing the Future Education Center (FAFU) in Kibera, Kenya. The annual initiative, organized by the New Canaan YMCA, combines a timeless childhood activity with meaningful global impact—and local families are encouraged to participate and share their photos with *The New Canaan Sentinel* throughout the season.

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, children and families can host a LemonAid stand in their neighborhoods to raise funds for FAFU, a school and safe haven serving more than 380 children in one of the world's most impoverished areas. The funds raised help provide essential services including education, meals, clean water, and medical care to children living in Kibera, Africa's largest slum.

Participation is simple: sign up by contacting Diana Riolo at 203-920-1653 or driolo@newcanaanymca.org, then pick up a LemonAid kit from the YMCA while supplies last. Stands can be hosted at any time over the summer. Donations collected are returned to the YMCA to support FAFU directly.

Since 2007, the New Canaan YMCA has partnered with Facing the Future to provide life-sustaining support to children living in Kibera, where overcrowding, lack of sanitation, and

extreme poverty are daily realities. Originally serving 120 students in a single room, FAFU has grown into a multi-building campus offering structured education, basic healthcare, and two meals a day. For many of the students, FAFU is their only source of food and water.

The YMCA's broader support includes the annual FAFU Child Sponsorship Program, which matches New Canaan families with FAFU fourth graders through a \$360/year sponsorship that covers tuition, meals, a uniform, school supplies, and medical care. In addition, the Panzano FAFU High School Scholarship Fund—named in honor of former YMCA Executive Director Craig Panzano—provides scholarships to FAFU graduates.

As LemonAid stands begin popping up across town, *The New Canaan Sentinel* invites families to share photos of their stands and young fundraisers. Selected submissions will be published throughout the summer to celebrate the community's creativity and generosity.

To submit photos, email them to CORDELIA@SentinelHometownNews.com with the subject line "LemonAid Stand 2025," and include your name, your child's name(s), and the date and location of your stand.

To learn more about the YMCA's partnership with Facing the Future or to sponsor a child, visit www.newcanaanymca.org/fafuFacing-the-Future-Partnership.



Families leapt into the action during the potato sack races at the YMCA's annual Family Field Day, bringing generations together in friendly competition. Contributed Photo



Two young participants proudly display their handmade pinwheels, one of the many creative craft stations offered at the New Canaan YMCA's Family Field Day. Contributed Photo

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In a highly anticipated rematch of last year's Class LL final, No. 1-ranked Darien defeated No. 2 New Canaan 9-2 at Dunning Field on Thursday, May 1, asserting dominance in draw controls and executing a stifling defensive game.

Darien led 2-0 at halftime, struggling early to get past Rams goalkeeper Ceci Patterson, who recorded 12 saves. The Blue Wave broke through in the third quarter with five goals, led by senior Katie Walsh's four-goal performance and a goal and assist from junior Anna Von Kennel.

New Canaan's Ashton Pinkernell and Sydney Patten scored the Rams' only goals in the third quarter. Despite the loss, head coach Kristin Woods said she hopes to have several injured starters return before a potential postseason rematch.

Rams Outlast Ridgefield in 2-1 Victory

By Christopher DeMuth

The New Canaan Rams varsity baseball team delivered a gutsy performance Monday afternoon at Mead Park, pulling off a 2-1 win over the Ridgefield Tigers in a game defined by sharp pitching, timely hits, and clean defense.

The game was a low-scoring battle from the first pitch. Neither team managed to score in the first two innings, with both starting pitchers working efficiently. Ridgefield got on the board first in the top of the third, but the Rams responded immediately in the bottom half of the inning. After tying the game at 1-1, New Canaan took the lead in the fifth and never looked back.

What separated the Rams in this close matchup wasn't explosive offense, but their ability to make the most of their limited chances. New Canaan finished the game with only four hits, compared to Ridgefield's five, but those four hits managed to convert to runs at more than double the rate of Ridgefield's hits.

Senior Adrian Delicata led the Rams at the plate, going 2-for-3 with a double. His confident swings and ability to put the ball in play gave New Canaan a boost in the middle of the lineup. Delicata now boasts a .667 average from this game and showed why he's one of the Rams' most dependable hitters.

Leadoff man T. MacAllister also played a key role. He reached base twice, going

1-for-1 with a walk and a double, helping set the tone early. MacAllister's bat came alive in the third inning, sparking the rally that tied the game.

Joining them was Maddox Hoffman, who added a double and scored one of the team's two runs. Hoffman finished 1-for-3 and made several plays in the field, handling all eight of his defensive chances without a misstep. Hoffman continues to be a strong two-way contributor for New Canaan, adding energy and consistency to the Rams' lineup.

While the offense did just enough, it was the Rams' pitching that truly secured the win.

Stuart Hellmann got the start and pitched 4.1 solid innings. He allowed four hits and one run, walking four and striking out two. He finished with 80 pitches and gave New Canaan the chance to stay in the game early.

After Hellmann exited in the fifth, junior Zak Joslin took over and was dominant in relief. Joslin pitched the final 2.2 innings, allowing just one hit and no runs while striking out three. He threw only 29 pitches, attacking hitters and keeping the Tigers off balance with a mix of fastballs and off-speed pitches.

The Rams also played error-free baseball in the field, a major difference-maker in a one-run game. The defense recorded 21 putouts and seven assists without a single mistake. Every infielder finished the game with a

perfect fielding percentage, including clean performances from MacAllister, Delicata, and Hoffman.

Outfielder D'Andrea added to the Rams' all-around performance by swiping a base in the late innings, keeping Ridgefield's defense under pressure. D'Andrea also drew a walk and played his role well, reaching base and moving into scoring position to help set up the go-ahead run.

While Ridgefield made several threats throughout the game—particularly in the third and fourth innings—the Rams always found ways to escape trouble. In the top of the fourth, with the Tigers threatening again, Hellmann induced a key groundout to end the inning. Later, Joslin stranded a runner in scoring position in the sixth with a pair of quick outs.

The Rams' ability to stay locked in under pressure, limit mistakes, and make routine plays was the difference. Ridgefield may have matched or even slightly out-hit New Canaan, but they couldn't match the Rams' efficiency or composure.

New Canaan will look to carry that energy into their next game, where they'll face another tough conference opponent. If they continue to pitch well, defend cleanly, and get contributions throughout the lineup, they could be a dangerous team in the postseason.

Final Score:
New Canaan Rams – 2
Ridgefield Tigers – 1

Weekly Sports Round Up

School	Sport	Date	Opponent	Result	Score For	Score Against
New Canaan Boys	Baseball	5/10	Brien McMahon	Win	4	1
New Canaan Boys	Baseball	5/12	Bridgeport Central	Win	16	5
New Canaan Boys	Baseball	5/13	St. Joseph	Loss	0	4
St. Lukes Boys	Baseball	5/7	Greenwich Country Day	Win	16	5
St. Lukes Boys	Baseball	5/8	Greenwich Country Day	Win	5	4
New Canaan Boys	Baseball	5/15	Trumbull	Loss	2	3
New Canaan Boys	Baseball	5/19	Ridgefield	Win	2	1
New Canaan Boys	Lacrosse	5/19	Ridgefield	Win	15	9
New Canaan Boys	Tennis	5/15	Danbury	Win	7	0
New Canaan Boys	Tennis	5/16	Ridgefield	Win	6	1
New Canaan Boys	Tennis	5/16	Bridgeport Central	Win	7	0
New Canaan Boys	Tennis	5/8	St. Joseph	Win	7	0
New Canaan Boys	Tennis	5/12	Trumbull	Win	6	1
New Canaan Boys	Volleyball	5/14	Darien	Win	3	1
New Canaan Boys	Volleyball	5/15	St. Joseph	Win	3	
New Canaan Girls	Lacrosse	5/15	Ridgefield	Win	17	6
New Canaan Girls	Softball	5/17	St. Joseph	Loss	1	2
New Canaan Girls	Softball	5/19	Ridgefield	Win	3	0
New Canaan Girls	Softball	5/20	Danbury	Loss	7	10
St. Lukes Girls	Softball	5/15	Holy Child	Win	10	2
St. Lukes Girls	Softball	5/17	Kingswood Oxford	Loss	1	3
St. Lukes Girls	Tennis	5/14	King	Win	4	2
St. Lukes Girls	Tennis	5/17	Marianapolis Prep	Win	7	0
St. Lukes Girls	Tennis	5/18	King	Loss	2	4
St. Lukes Boys	Baseball	5/15	Rye Country School	Win	4	1

This Week in Sports from Christopher DeMuth

GIRLS GOLF

May 12 – Rams Defeat Rival Darien

The girls golf team continued their strong season with a commanding 155-195 win over Darien at the Country Club of New Canaan (Par 34). Chloe Cui led the team with an impressive 36, followed by Maxie Mirin (38) and Lauren Livesay (39). Carielle D'Elisa (42), Lily Mohr (45), and Adelaide Tuff (50) rounded out the solid team performance.

May 14 – Tri-Match Sweep

Two days later, the Rams dominated again, beating both Staples (192) and Ridgefield (204) with a team score of 159. Chloe Cui and Maxie Mirin both shot 38, with support from Lauren Livesay (41), Carielle D'Elisa (42), and Lucy Lavigne (50). The back-to-back wins show strong depth on this year's New Canaan squad.

GIRLS TENNIS

May 12 – Shutout vs. Trumbull

New Canaan girls tennis rolled to a 7-0 sweep of Trumbull. In singles play, Natalia

Lundberg, Maryn Plumb, Aarna Gupta, and Olivia Vellante all secured wins. Doubles teams of Lee/Carr, Adamczyk/Caleba, and Bench/Giammarco dominated their matches without dropping more than two games each.

May 17 – Another 7-0 Win Against Bridgeport Central

The Rams repeated the feat five days later, sweeping Bridgeport Central 7-0. Lundberg and Plumb didn't drop a single game, and doubles play remained flawless. New Canaan has now posted back-to-back shutouts and continues to show its dominance on the court.

BASEBALL

May 12 – Offensive Outburst Over Bridgeport Central

The Rams opened the week with a huge 16-5 win against Bridgeport Central. After a slow start, the bats came alive in the fourth inning, scoring six runs, followed by four runs each in the fifth and sixth. New Canaan tallied 11 hits in the game.

May 13 – Shut Out by St. Joseph

The momentum didn't carry over to Tuesday, where New Canaan fell 4-0 to St. Joseph. Despite a strong defensive effort with no errors, the Rams only managed two hits and couldn't get on the scoreboard.

May 15 – Extra-Inning Heartbreaker vs. Trumbull

New Canaan battled hard in a nine-inning game against Trumbull but lost 3-2 in extras. The Rams outhit Trumbull 9-4 and tied the game in the seventh, but the Eagles walked it off in the ninth.

GIRLS SOFTBALL

May 17 – Narrow Loss to St. Joseph

In a tightly contested game, New Canaan fell 2-1 at home against St. Joseph. The Rams tied the game in the fourth inning, but the Cadets pushed across the go-ahead run in the seventh. New Canaan had four hits and one error in the game.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

May 12 – Sweep at Ridgefield

The boys volleyball team started

their week with a clean 3-0 sweep over Ridgefield, winning the sets 27-25, 25-22, and 25-20. The Rams closed out each set with composure and strong teamwork.

May 14 – Big Win Against Darien

In a high-energy match, New Canaan took down rival Darien 3-1. After a close second set loss, the Rams bounced back to win the next two sets 25-15 and 25-18. It was a complete team effort in front of a home crowd.

May 15 – Another Sweep vs. St. Joseph

The Rams closed out the week with a 3-0 sweep of St. Joseph. They won convincingly in straight sets (25-16, 25-19, 25-21) and continued to show they're a force in the FCIAC this season.

BOYS LACROSSE

May 13 – Rams Dominate McMahon

New Canaan boys lacrosse cruised past McMahon with an 18-2 win on the road. Heading into the eventual run at a state champions title, its performances like this that help to set the stage.

The Coup Against Local Control

It was once said by Justice Louis Brandeis that “sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants.” By that measure, the legislative process surrounding Connecticut’s House Bill 5002 must be considered a petri dish cultivated in permanent darkness.

What ought to have been exposed to the full glare of public scrutiny was instead drafted behind closed doors, shielded from daylight, and ushered toward enactment beneath a veil of procedural subterfuge. The 92-page amendment to HB 5002—delivered with less than 24 hours’ notice before a potential full vote—did not so much revise housing policy as it reordered the constitutional relationship between towns and the state. It did so without candor, consensus, or the consent of the governed. This was not legislation in the classical sense—born of deliberation, informed by testimony, refined through debate. This was a bureaucratic ambush, meticulously timed to avoid scrutiny and engineered to suppress resistance.

Let us be plain: this is not how a republic behaves.

Across Connecticut, citizens of all political persuasions—urban and suburban, liberal and conservative—have met this maneuver with confusion, alarm, and a growing sense of betrayal. Local officials, neighborhood advocates, even veteran legislators were kept in the dark until the last possible moment. When the bill finally surfaced, it bore no resemblance to the modest “study” legislation originally proposed.

It is not cynical to see this for what it is. It is realistic. This was the plan.

For there is no evidence that the people of Connecticut—whether in Bridgeport or Branford, Greenwich or Groton—asked for such sweeping centralization. They did not clamor for state-imposed mandates, for the erosion of municipal discretion, or for the imposition of one-size-fits-all zoning doctrines on communities with distinct identities and constraints. What they wanted, and have always wanted, is a voice. What they may now receive is a command.

The new legislation—expansive in scope, accelerated in delivery, and opaque in process—relied not on persuasion, but exhaustion. It sought no consensus, because it welcomed no dissent. Citizens were not invited to shape it. They are dared to stop it.

Even the most seasoned legislators had not been able to read it. And until its release yesterday, lawmakers from every corner of the state asked the same basic, damning question—Where is the bill?

No answer came, because the votes were being curried and counted.

This is not merely a breach of decorum or deviation from best practice. It is a violation of first principles. In a government derived from the people, legitimacy does not spring from authority alone—it springs from process. A law crafted in secrecy and passed under duress may be binding, but it is not binding in spirit. It may be constitutional, but it is not democratic.

The tragedy is twofold. First, that sweeping policy has been enacted without the transparency that free people not only expect but deserve. Second, that this very method—secrecy, speed, and exclusion—is becoming normalized. The erosion of public trust is not a collateral casualty. It is the intended consequence.

Connecticut, once a paragon of town governance and civic particularism, now finds itself subject to a method of lawmaking that confuses silence for consent and fatigue for acquiescence. This week’s housing bill is not merely a land-use measure. It is a case study in soft authoritarianism—the assumption that government’s job is not to listen but to manage, not to represent but to direct.

The citizens of Connecticut deserved an honest conversation. They were given a monologue instead.

This was not governance. It was orchestration. And if allowed to stand, it will not be the last.

Editorial Page



Congratulations!

Annika Holmberg (pictured) graduated Summa Cum Laude from Syracuse University on May 11th with degrees from two of the university’s schools - a B.S. in Journalism (with honors) from the Newhouse School, and a B.S. in Finance (with honors) from the Whitman School of Management. She was also admitted to the international business honor society of Beta Gamma Sigma. Annika is a 2021 graduate of New Canaan High School and is the daughter of Allyn Magrino of New Canaan and Per Holmberg of Fairfield.

YMCA Honors Kelly Garvey as May Cause-Driven Leader

The New Canaan YMCA has recognized longtime staff member Kelly Garvey as its May Cause-Driven Leader, celebrating her 25-plus years of service and dedication to the health and well-being of the community.


Garvey, who joined the Y in 1998, has been a vital part of the Group Exercise Instructor team, known for her consistent encouragement and her ability to foster a welcoming, inclusive environment. Over the years, she has inspired hundreds of members to stay active, offering both motivation and support to individuals pursuing their fitness goals.

“Kelly’s passion for health and wellness is evident in everything she does,” said YMCA representatives. “She

brings energy and care to every class, making each member feel seen and supported.”

In addition to her impact on members, Garvey is known for her camaraderie with colleagues and her unwavering commitment to the YMCA’s mission. The Y expressed deep appreciation for her years of service and the daily contributions she continues to make.

Community members are encouraged to nominate other outstanding YMCA staff for future recognition through the organization’s Cause-Driven Leaders program. Forms are available online at www.newcanaanymca.org/cause-driven-leaders.




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LIVING OUR CAUSE

Cause-Driven Leader



**Kelly Garvey,
May 2025**

Kelly has been a key member of our Group Exercise Instructor team and began working for the New Canaan YMCA in 1998, well over 25 years!

During this time, she has been a cornerstone of our YMCA, inspiring and supporting countless members to stay active and achieve their fitness goals. Her passion for health and wellness shines through in everything she does, from motivating members with personalized encouragement to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Kelly’s commitment to our community and her remarkable support to our members and her colleagues is truly amazing. We are grateful for Kelly’s years of service and the positive impact she continues to have every day.

Green Shirts Beautifying New Canaan all around Town



It’s spring, and the New Canaan Beautification League (NCBL) has been actively working to help keep New Canaan beautiful. “A lot goes into preparing the town for the beautiful blooms,” says Faith Kerchoff, co-Vice President of Civic Beautification. The planning starts the previous fall when the flowers for the hanging planters are selected to ensure they can be nurtured in pots before being hung in May. After choosing these flowers, other locations are matched to provide a cohesive look throughout the town. “We carefully budget all of this since it can get expensive,” Faith adds. “NCBL financially sponsors all of our projects except for outdoor dining, which the town funds.”

Each season, NCBL plants vibrant flowers at Town Hall in two large round planters on the side and four rectangular planters in the front. This year, members Pam Yee, Kathy Kwiatkowski, Fanny Moran, Faith Kerchoff, and Yvonne Hunkeler filled the planters with hibiscus, lantana, diamond frost euphorbia, gomphrena, angelonia, dahlia, and bacopa.

At God’s Acre, NCBL members Kathy Lapolla, Chris Eng, and Dan Eng planted red, white, and blue flowers. Thanks to members Eniko Szatai, Faith Kerchoff, Julieane Livesay, Mo Flanagan, Diane Coyle, Fanny Moran, and Pam Yee, the large barriers around outside dining received a makeover, enhancing the newly expanded table seating downtown.

Projects at Mead Park included cleaning the entrance and planting two Cornus Kousa (Scarlet Fire) trees in the grassy area just beyond the Mead Park Plaza. These trees were planted in memory of Carol West Seldin,

a long-time NCBL member. Additionally, the Japanese Society of Fairfield County donated two new cherry blossoms to Mead Park’s Gold Star Walk. Jackie Alexander, an NCBL and Japanese Society member, stated, “It’s an honor to recognize the fallen soldiers of WWII and to share friendship and goodwill with the community through these trees.” Thanks to Mike LeBlanc and Jeff Mannella from the Department of Public Works for their assistance.

Many members tend to our 33 triangles, ensuring they remain vibrant and weed-free. You’ll notice the flowers changing as we move from spring to summer. Members Claude Colabella and Sarina Vetterli manage this team. You’ve probably seen many green shirts out and about at the train station, mailbox drop-off, and various other NCBL-tended locations as our Traveling Trowels team makes their rounds.

Finally, this week, the town hung 227 hanging baskets. Members Karen Christie and Suzy Spatz organized this project.

NCBL is thrilled to have such an essential part of our town’s beauty, and we hope you enjoy all the colors.

The New Canaan Beautification League is a nonprofit community service and educational organization in New Canaan, Connecticut. Founded in 1939, its mission is to enhance the community’s beauty while providing members opportunities to increase their gardening, conservation, and horticulture knowledge. To learn more, visit newcanaanbeautification.org.



Outdoor dining crew: Eniko Szatai, behind Faith Kerchoff, Julieane Livesay, Mo Flanagan, Diane Coyle, Fanny Moran, and Pam Yee.

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands Agent has approved the following application:

Permit Number (IW-25-21) issued to Timothy C. and Sarah B. Gravely Trustee, 124 Dunning Road, Map 32 Block 22 Lot 67. Prepare site for construction activities and install soil and erosion controls. Install 34’ x 13’.11” concrete pad for construction of a pool house partially within the 50’ upland review area. Install septic tank and 16’ lf of GLF 15-72 system within 100’ upland review area. Fine grade, topsoil and seed all disturbed areas upon completion.

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN ACTION TAKEN BY THE INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION Monday, May 19, 2025

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands Commission of the Town of New Canaan, at its meeting on 05/19/25 made the following decision:

1. Application IW-25-11 – 42 Riverbank Court, John Douglas, Map P Block 41 Lot 41 2B. Legalize minor cosmetic stonework recently installed on existing stone walls and structures along Five Mile River. Proposal also includes installation of plantings. APPROVED with Special Conditions.

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 this hearing is scheduled as a hybrid meeting to be held in the Town Meeting Room at Town Hall, 77 Main Street. Access to this Public Hearing will be in person and via an on-line system at 7:00 p.m. to hear and decide the application(s) as follows:

1. **1135 Ponus Ridge** – Upon application of Christopher Moran, Brooks & Falotico, Authorized Agent for Claire Salvatore owner(s) for a Special Permit approval pursuant to Section(s) 3.4.1.a, 3.4.1.b and 3.4.C.7 to allow construction of an accessory structure over 1,000 sq. ft. in building coverage and to permit more than 5 garage bays on one property in the 2 Acre Zone at 1135 Ponus Ridge (Map 26, Block 23, Lot 59).
2. Discussion and consideration of the request of David Rucci, Lampert, Toohey & Rucci, LLC to amend the Zoning Regulation dated June 16, 2007, amended December 6, 2024 to amend Section(s) 5.4.C to allow the Planning and Zoning Commission to reduce certain requirements for legally non-conforming lots in order to facilitate redevelopment in the Apartment Zone. Complete copy of the proposed amendment on file in the office of the Town Clerk, the Planning & Zoning Department and on-line: https://cms3.revize.com/revize/canaan/departments/land_use/planning_zoning/p_z_commission_applications_2025.php#revize_document_center_rz11984
3. **14 Richmond Hill Road** – Upon application of David Rucci, Lampert, Toohey & Rucci, LLC, Authorized Agent for 14 Richmond Hill, LLC, owner(s) for a Site Plan and Special Permit approval pursuant to Section(s) 8.2 and 5.4.C to allow the nonconforming 4 family to be rebuilt utilizing 15’ side yard setbacks and 30% coverage in the APT Zone at 20 Richmond Hill Road (Map K, Block 10, Lot 924).
4. **20 Richmond Hill Road** - Upon application of David Rucci, Lampert, Toohey & Rucci, LLC, Authorized Agent for 20 Richmond Hill, LLC, owner(s) for a Site Plan and Special Permit approval pursuant to Section(s) 8.2 and 5.4.C.6 to allow a nonconforming 4 family site to be replaced with a 3 family consisting of 30% coverage and 15’ side yard setbacks in the APT Zone at 20 Richmond Hill Road (Map K, Block 10, Lot 93).

**Dated: May 15, 2025
New Canaan, Connecticut
Daniel Radman, Chairman**

Town Council Honors Keith Richey, Longtime Volunteer and Civic Leader, with Moment of Silence

The New Canaan Town Council held a moment of silence Wednesday evening to honor Keith Richey, a devoted civic leader and longtime volunteer who died this week. A resident of New Canaan since 1991, Richey raised two children in town and served in numerous leadership roles across civic and service organizations. He was best known for his 21-year tenure as Chairman of the Parking Commission and also served on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Richey was president of the Poinsettia Club and one of four men instrumental in opening its membership to women. From 2020 to 2021, he led the New Canaan Men’s Club through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Richey joined the New Canaan Exchange Club in 1992, serving as Program Chair and later President. In his biography for the Republican Town Committee, he recalled handing out flags on Memorial Day, serving drinks at Waveny Park during the Family Fourth, and helping to sell Christmas trees in Kiwanis Park to raise funds for child abuse prevention and other community causes. Richey was a 30-year member of the

Gridiron Club, contributing both as a writer and performer, and he and his wife were active in the New Canaan Dance Club, where he served as Treasurer and President. He also organized the annual Rich-Mich Softball Game for 25 years, a summer tradition in the community.

Professionally, Richey had a distinguished career in international tax law, retiring in 2018. He held a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Southern California, a J.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, and an LLM in Tax Law from New York University. His career included positions at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Exxon, Mobil, Citibank, Xerox, ITT, and Xylem Inc., where he ultimately oversaw international tax planning. Though a lifelong Republican, Richey described himself as an independent thinker. Above all, he emphasized that giving back to the community was of central importance to him—a principle that guided his decades of dedicated service to New Canaan.

Obituaries

The Sentinel does not charge for obituaries because every life in our community deserves to be honored and remembered without financial barriers. By providing this service at no cost, we ensure that families can share their loved ones’ stories freely, preserving their legacies as part of New Canaan’s history. To submit an obituary email Caroll@GreenwichSentinel.com



Thomas Brayton

Thomas Mark Brayton, beloved husband of Friede Bliss Brayton, passed away on May 17, 2025 at age 82 after a brief illness. Born on October 29, 1942 in Bath, New York, Tom was the son of the late Haswell Potter (Pete) Brayton, Jr. and Dorothy (Dot) Carr Brayton. After growing up in Herkimer, New York, he attended Eaglebrook School, graduated from Phillips Academy and then Princeton University, majoring in Classics.

Tom’s career took him from teaching and coaching, to public relations, on to the oil business and then back to teaching.

Tom lived in New Canaan and Darien for the last 50 years. He was a long-time member of the Country Club of New Canaan where he thoroughly enjoyed playing tennis, squash and paddle. He was also a member of the Congregational Church of New Canaan, where he and Friede were married in 1968.

Tom will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor and his great love of the New York Yankees and the New York Giants.

Tom is survived by Friede, his wife of 56 years, his elder daughter Lisa B. Platt and her husband Jeff and his adored grandchildren Austin and Serena, and his younger daughter Paige B. Campbell and her husband Tom.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Tom’s memory may be made to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306 or online at T2T.org

Born on August 21, 1937, in Memphis, Tennessee, to George and Selden Empson, Ray’s early years were spent on the move, as his father’s work took the family to cities and towns across the South and Northeast. A natural athlete from an early age, Ray, too, was always on the move, whether on the field, court or track. He never met a sport or activity he wouldn’t try, and developed an abiding love of the outdoors.

By the time he graduated from Nichols School in Buffalo, New York, in 1955, he had earned numerous academic and athletic awards, including nine varsity letters, and had set school records that would stand for decades. In recognition of his achievements, he was inducted into Nichols School’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 2023.

Ray went on to attend Princeton University, where he graduated in 1959 with a degree in English. At Princeton, despite weighing just 140-lbs, he was a standout member of the football and track teams, earning seven letters and placement on the All Ivy League Scholastic Football Team. While his claim to have been offered a tryout with the Cleveland Browns was not able to be confirmed by the time of publication, he was nonetheless remembered by teammates and friends for his grit, determination and speed.

Following his undergraduate studies, Mr. Empson served in the Army Reserve and earned his law degree from Harvard in 1962. His career began with positions at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy - where he represented the New York Stock Exchange and the Rockefeller Family - and the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. He later transitioned into finance at Chemical Bank, ultimately rising into a number of senior leadership positions, including Chief Financial Officer of Buster Brown Apparel, as well as President and CEO of Gerber Childrenswear, Alexander Julian and Bike Athletic.

After leaving the for-profit sector, Mr. Empson would have a long and successful “second career,” dedicated to public-minded service in leadership roles at non-profit organizations. He spent the ensuing years promoting conservation and environmental education as the President of Keep America Beautiful and as Chairman of the Arbor Day Foundation, before going on to serve as the President of the SeriousFun Children’s Network, the global community of camps and programs for children living with serious illnesses.

A long-time resident of Darien and New Canaan, Ray was a volunteer coach for youth sports teams and other local organizations, and was a regular at local golf courses. He is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Gay Morris Empson; his brother, Walter Empson; sons, Josh and Rip Empson; daughter-in-law, Rachel Klauber-Speiden; and grandchildren, Lucinda and Becket Empson-Speiden.

A true gentleman to the end, Ray’s enduring warmth, kindness and grace will be missed by all who knew and loved him, and will be remembered always.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of Ray’s enduring commitment to environmental stewardship.



Virginia Farrell

Virginia Kip Farrell passed away peacefully on April 2, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. Born on January 28, 1932, Kip spent most of her younger years growing up in Darien, Connecticut, where she enjoyed an active, sports-filled youth. Her mother, a trained classical pianist, had studied under the famed Nadia Boulanger in Paris, and her father was a banker. She attended New Canaan Country School, and graduated from Miss Hall’s School in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Kip met William Kegg, Jr., a New Canaan boy attending Harvard in 1950 and they were married in 1952. Upon Bill’s graduation from Harvard, he took an exciting position in

Paris as a film director, and the new couple started their lives together there. They returned to New Canaan, and Bill attended Harvard Business School before taking a position on Wall Street. They began their family with three children: Gigi Virginia Kip Kegg, William Boyd Kegg III, and Hollis Beaven Kitson

Kegg, and lived at times on Brushy Ridge Road, Park Street, and Colonial Court. Bill and Kip then found a “fixer-upper”, a run-down brownstone on East 91st Street in New York City, and set out to renovate it. They also found their way to the Point O’ Woods summer community on Fire Island and bought a cottage that has become a beloved family summer home over decades.

Tragically, Bill Kegg, Jr., passed away from cancer in 1966 at the age of 39, leaving behind Kip, a young widow with three children. Kip soon remarried and set out to gain working skills to raise her family and complete her college education. She also enrolled in Sarah Lawrence College, where she exercised her artistic abilities in subjects ranging from poetry to cutting and welding steel. She created the “Tilted Arc,” a welded steel structure that stood for many years on Sarah Lawrence’s campus. She earned her bachelor’s degree in 1980, graduating in the same class as her daughter Gigi. She also sang in the Canterbury Choir of New York City. She later used her sweet soprano voice to wake her grandchildren up in the mornings for camp at Point O’ Woods.

Kip met Mike Farrell, a partner in Price Waterhouse, at a party in New York in 1982, when both had recently divorced. Seeing each other across the room, there was an instant connection. After five years of courtship, they were married in 1987, adding Mike’s three sons and one grandchild to the combined family. Since their marriage, the family has added ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Sadly, Kip’s son Bill and Mike’s son Scott was taken by cancer.

Kip and Mike spent much time close to nature in their beloved summer community, Point O’ Woods, where Kip became the first woman member of the Point O’ Woods Volunteer Fire Company. When Mike retired in 1991, the couple moved from Manhattan to New Canaan, where Kip revived old friendships and gained new ones. She enjoyed tennis (often beating even her male counterparts on the court), skiing, and sailing, and they travelled with friends to Turkey, France, Italy, and Greece. Kip’s love of New Canaan led her to photograph many beautiful local scenes, which she displayed in her book, “Thank You, New Canaan,” which is available in Elm Street Bookstore and New Canaan Library.

Growing up horseback riding, Kip had a deep-seated love for old barns, stemming from her childhood memories. She was delighted to see that New Canaan has a wondrous collection of historic barns going back in time to its early settlers. But she was dismayed to see that historic barns were being demolished to make room for new homes and expand existing homes.

First, she campaigned vigorously for changes in New Canaan’s zoning rules to enable the preservation of historic structures, and for the adoption of a demolition delay ordinance. Her activity– and her “I BARNS” license plate–earned her local recognition as “The Barn Lady.” Next, she embarked on the huge project of finding, identifying, and photographing all of New Canaan’s barns, and preserving whatever information could be found about them.

Kip travelled all 348 roads, ridges, streets, and lanes of New Canaan, covering all 23 square miles. Her grandchildren recall riding in the back seat of the station wagon with juice boxes and pretzels, on the lookout for barns, ready to shout “Barn, Baba, Barn!” She kept plenty of dog treats in her pockets for any dogs she met during photo excursions through brush and over stone walls. She carefully catalogued volumes of barn photos and plotted their locations on a map of New Canaan, taking every opportunity to talk with barn owners to record history, stories, and anecdotes. Channel 12 News interviewed Kip as New Canaan’s “Hometown Hero” for her advocacy in protecting its historic barns.

To honor Kip’s memory, her family is preserving her barn research as an historical resource to ensure its accessibility for archival stewardship and community education.

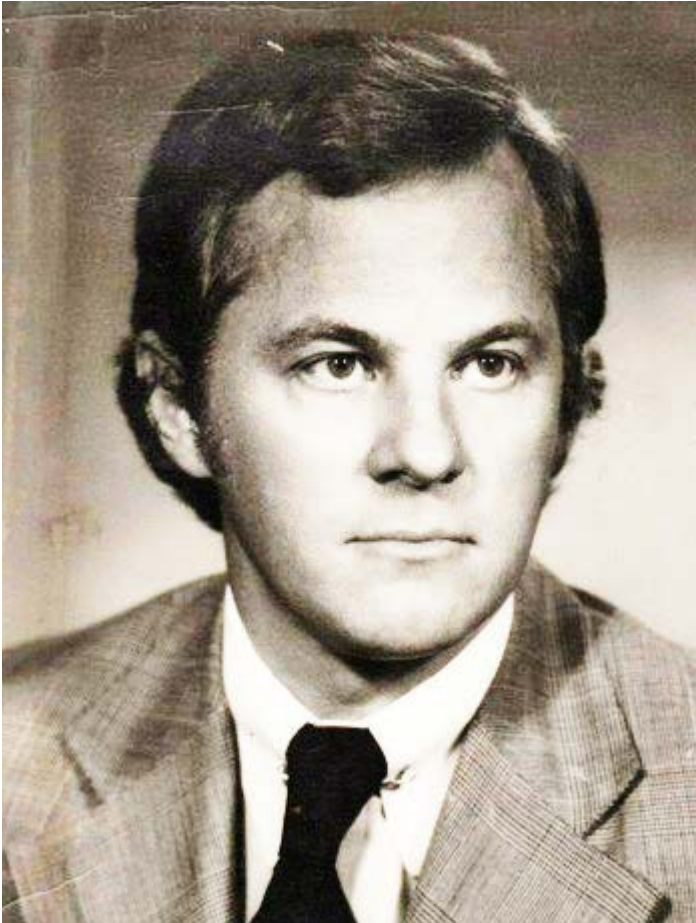
Kip’s contagious and exuberant energy made life fun and exciting wherever she went. She was a life force and a beautiful person who possessed a deep generosity of spirit.

Most of all, Kip’s greatest joy was her family; they were the center of her happiness. Her love, strength, and devotion built a deep foundation of wonderful experiences and lovely memories together. Her vibrant spirit lives on in the hearts of her family, friends, and the communities that she cherished deeply.

Kip is survived by her husband, John Michael Farrell of New Canaan, her sister, Laurie MacDonald Griff of Portland, Oregon, her daughters Gigi Virginia Kip Guthrie of South Salem, and Hollis Beaven Kitson Kegg of New York City, and her stepsons Gregory Dunn Farrell of New Providence, New Jersey, and Douglas Allen Farrell of Antrim, New Hampshire, 11 Grandchildren and 7 Greatgrandchildren.

A memorial service was held at the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan on Saturday, May 17.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Waveny LifeCare Network, 3 Farm Road, New Canaan, CT 06840.



George Empson, III

George Raymond “Ray” Empson, III, beloved husband, father, friend, and leader, passed away peacefully on April 29, 2025, in Stamford, CT. He was 87.

COLUMN

By Gilbert Burgess

R o m a n s 1 2 : 9 – 1 2
(Contemporary English Version):

9 Be sincere in your love for others. Hate everything that is evil and hold tight to everything that is good.

10 Love each other as brothers and sisters and honor others more than you do yourself.

11 Never give up. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord.

12 Let your hope make you glad. Be patient in time of trouble and never stop praying.

There was a young man who spent the entire evening telling his girlfriend how much he loved her. He said that he couldn't live without her and that he would go to the end of the earth. He was laying honey on his honey—"Honey baby, I would even go through the fire if I had to for you. Darling, I would die for you."

However, upon leaving, he said, "I'll see you tomorrow if it doesn't rain."

Romans 12:9 says: "Be sincere in your love for others. Hate everything that is evil and hold tight to everything that is good."

From these few verses, I would like to use for this column:

"God's Pure Love." This passage outlines the characteristics of what a Christian life should look like, emphasizing love, service, and living in a way that reflects God's character. These four verses are built upon earlier instructions about offering oneself as a living sacrifice to God.

Verse one of chapter 12 begins with: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

And verse 2 continues: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

This chapter concludes with a strong word about overcoming evil with good. Christians are not to be defeated by evil, but rather to respond with love and righteousness.

Love and righteousness are our reasonable service to God—God, He Who, rain or shine, is with us. His promises are yes and Amen for all who trust in Him. He has promised never to leave us or forsake us. God, the One Who has been making ways out of no way for us.

God’s Pure Love

*Don’t be phony with your love. Be real. Let it be pure.
Let it be transparent—not a cover-up or disguise.*

King David said in Psalm 73:26, "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." Yes, God—He holds our future in His Mighty Hands.

In Isaiah 46:4, God affirms His role as our creator and sustainer. Even into our old age, when our hair turns gray, He promises to support and carry us.

God promises to deliver and rescue those who love and put their trust in Him. He has promised to deliver us from harm or danger. Right about here, a "Thank You, God, for Your love" ought to bubble up in your spirit.

I've had some good days. I've had some bad days. But as the songwriter Rev. Paul Jones said: "I won't complain, because God has been good to me. All of my good days outweigh my bad days, and I won't complain."

Psalm 59:16 says: "But I will sing of your strength; I will sing of your mercy in the morning. For you have been my fortress and a shelter in the days of my distress."

And Psalm 104:33 declares: "I will sing unto the Lord as long as

I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being."

So I will declare His greatness and splendor. I'll make my boast in what a mighty God He is. The angels bow before Him. Heaven and earth adore Him. And I will sing, declaring His steadfast love for me.

God—He's all the world to me. I love Him. I've found in Him that, in spite of my waywardness, His love extends beyond superficial statements.

You and I—if we truly want to say thank You to God—must let our love be without dissimulation. Our love must not be hidden behind pretense or false display.

Don't be phony with your love. Be real. Let it be pure. Let it be transparent—not a cover-up or disguise.

John, on the Isle of Patmos, records in Revelation 2:2 the example of the church at Ephesus. They were devout. They labored patiently. They rooted out evil. But God was not pleased—because their works had become just that: works. They had lost sight of their first love—God. Theirs was a love

of dissimulation, hidden behind pretense.

Pause for a moment. Ask yourself: What is my definition of love?

The world's definition, more often than not, is based on convenience. "As long as we get along, I love you." Or: "Girl, he got good hair, good teeth, he drives a Porsche, and he said he'd go through fire for me." And yet: "He'll stop by tomorrow—if it doesn't rain."

The world operates in a love of convenience. But Romans 12:9 teaches that love must be sincere—genuine, honest, open. We are to hate evil and cling to what is good.

There is power in pure love. Pure love is dependable. Pure love is unshakable.

In 1 Corinthians 13:4–8, Paul writes:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast. It is not proud. It is not rude. It is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts,

always perseveres."

Pure love never fails. But we must acknowledge that such love does not originate from our mortal frame. Pure love comes from God. It is agape love. It seeks the best for others. It forgives. It heals. It can set the seemingly unlovable free from bondage.

Yes—even the me, myself, and I crowd. The "I got mine, you get yours" people.

In this age, we must guard against diluted love—weak, phony, watered down. That kind of love has no power to heal today's hurt.

So let us be real. Let us love purely. The text says: love must be without dissimulation.

God so loved the world that He sent us His Pure Love from above. We call Him Jesus. He is Pure. He is Holy. His name is the sweetest name on earth.

Pure Love—God's love—wider than the seas, extended to all. Divine Love—radiant, eternal—came down from Heaven to dwell within us.

Jesus, Thou art all-compassionate, unbounded in love. May Your salvation enter every trembling heart. And may we, with Your Pure Love, love others as You love us.

Rev. Burgess from Community Baptist Church

Worship Directory and Services

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
christiansciencect.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:

May 22 from 6:30-8 PM: Open Mic Night. Join an evening to share music and/or poetry. Diverse Expressions Featured Performance by Frank Critelli. Contact nickdepuysite@gmail.com for more information.

Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Church

21 Cherry Street 203.966.0020
www.starcc.com

Service Schedule:

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

Recurring Events:

Last Monday of every month 7pm: Women's Praise & Worship Holy Hour
Fridays 7:30am-6pm: Eucharistic Adoration (September-June)
Saturday 8:30am: St. A's Healing Rosary Prayer Group

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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

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

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

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

Recurring Events:

First Wednesday at 1pm: Laundry Love volunteering opportunity to come alongside people who are struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry.
First & Third Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm: Youth Group

Upcoming Events:

May 30 at 7 PM: Choir Cabaret Benefit. Join in Morrill Hall for some of the most enduring and familiar works of the 20th century master of his genre, George Gershwin.

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/UCoZ2UNa8aHI3O_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:

May 31 from 3-5 PM: Join an afternoon of line dancing. Tickets are \$10 and available on the CBC website.

June 14 from 2-6 PM: Friends & Family Picnic. Everyone, members, family, friends, and community are all welcome!

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.

Talmadgee 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.templesinaistamford.org
Service Schedule:

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

Recurring Events:

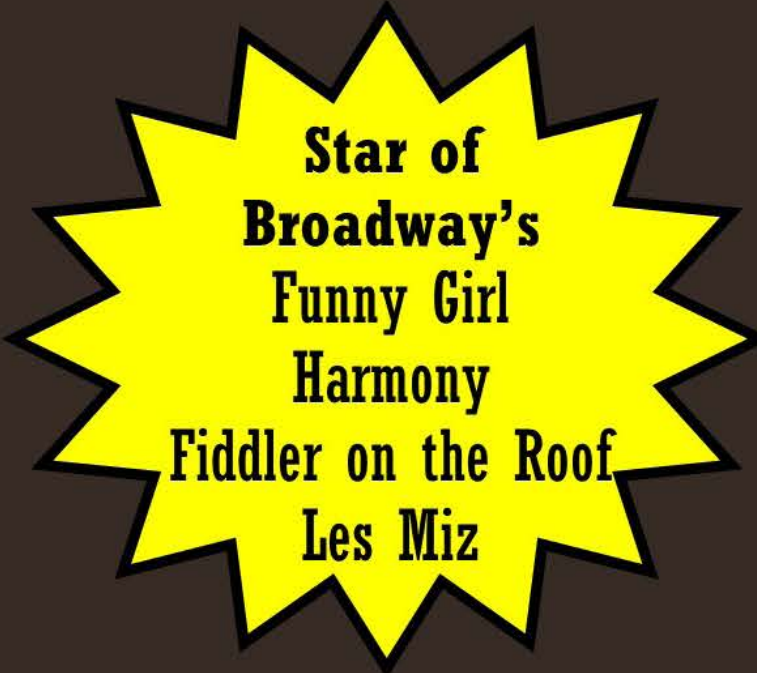
Fridays at 12 PM: Torah Study
Second Saturday at 10:30 AM: Mussar
First and Third Fridays at 5:30 PM: Shabbat Service for Families with Young Children
First Saturday at 8 AM: Avodat Halev Discussion Group

Temple Sholom

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



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Saturday, May 31
Kweskin Theatre



Standby, Me

An evening with

JULIE BENKO

Featuring jazz pianist Jason Yeager



TICKETS

203-461-6358

curtaincallinc.com/tickets/special-events/
or scan code below



YOUR NEWS BRIEF
CONTINUED From Page 1

Photo credit: Waveny LifeCare Network.

Concert at Waveny



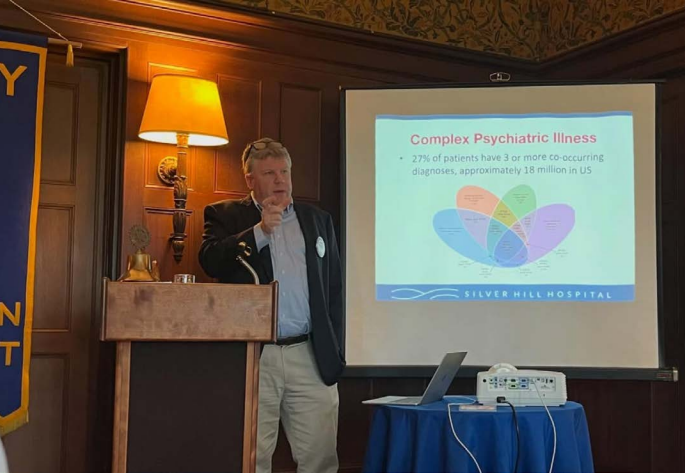
Waveny residents recently attended a concert by pianist Andrew Armstrong and student musicians from the New Canaan Chamber Music Special Young Artist Ensemble. Photo credit: Waveny LifeCare Network.

Groove on the Green



On May 17, the New Canaan Library held its second successful Groove on the Green event on the Library Green. The program included music, line dancing lessons, and a barbecue. Photo credit: The New Canaan Library.

Gerber Speaks to Rotary Club



Recently, Dr. Andrew Gerber of Silver Hill Hospital spoke to the New Canaan Rotary Club. He explained key historical and current factors contributing to mental health today. Photo credit: the New Canaan Rotary Club.

New Canaan Nature Center

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

05/19

YOGA AT NCNC

05/21

EARLY MORNING BIRD WALK NCNC

05/23

EARLY MORNING BIRD WALK AT BRISTOW

UPCOMING EVENTS

06/01

NEW CANAAN DOG DAYS

Rotary Day of Service



During Rotary Day of Service, volunteers cleared invasive plants and trimmed bushes to maintain accessible local trails. Photo credit: the New Canaan Rotary Club.

NCNC Pot-et-Fleur Workshop



On May 13, the New Canaan Nature Center held a Pot-et-Fleur workshop. Participants learned to make potted arrangements using herb and flower clippings. Photo credit: the New Canaan Nature Center.

SCHOOLS

Fourth Graders Visit Saxe



Fourth grade students spent time at Saxe Middle School in preparation for fifth grade. They explored the facilities and heard from sixth graders during “promotion hour”. The visit aimed to support a smooth transition next year. Photo credit: New Canaan Public School.

NCCS Memory Tiles



Recently, students from New Canaan Country School, Class of 2025, painted memory tiles on the stairwell walls of the Stevens Building. The annual tradition marks their upcoming graduation and each tile will become part of a growing display recognizing past graduating classes. Photo credit: New Canaan Country School.

NCCS Frogtown Fair



New Canaan Country School held its 78th Frogtown Fair, bringing together students and families for a day of music, games, and activities. Photo credit: New Canaan Country School.

SLS Visited Neuberger Museum

Recently, St. Luke’s School sixth grade students visited the Neuberger Museum to study various art styles and techniques. They learned about plaster casting, mold-making, and action painting. Students later used the action painting method to create designs on t-shirts.

SPORTS

NCCS Undefeated MS Softball



The New Canaan Country School Middle School softball team closed out the season with a 7-1 win over Whitby, finishing with a 5-0 record. They scored early and maintained control, limiting Whitby to one run and just three base runners. The victory secured an undefeated season. Photo credit: New Canaan Country School.

SLS Baseball and Softball

Last week, St. Luke’s School varsity baseball and softball teams won their FAA championships. Photo credit: St. Luke’s School.

SLS Boys Varsity Tennis Champs

This week, St. Luke’s Boys Varsity Tennis team won the 2025 NEPSAC Class C Championship.

OUR NEIGHBORS

New R/V Sound Explorer

The Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk has launched the R/V Sound Explorer, a new 46-foot research vessel designed to support educational programs. It will expand the aquarium’s outreach efforts, with public marine life cruises set to begin June 25.

Norwalk Intersection Redesign

Norwalk has started construction on a \$1.3 million project to redesign the five leg intersection of Stuart Avenue, Stevens Street, and Magnolia Avenue. The plan will split the five-way intersection into two, add crosswalks, improve hospital access, and adjust parking. Funded partly by a state grant, the project is expected to finish by the end of 2025.

SPRING EARLY
MORNING WALKS

with Senior Educator & Senior Naturalist Frank Gallo

8:30 AM-10AM

WEDNESDAYS

NCNC

MAY 14, 21
& JUNE 4

FRIDAYS

BRISTOW SANCTUARY

MAY 23, & 30

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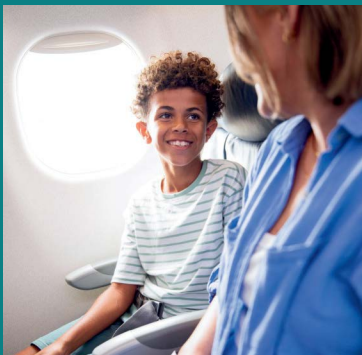
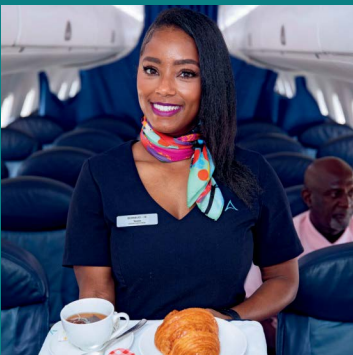
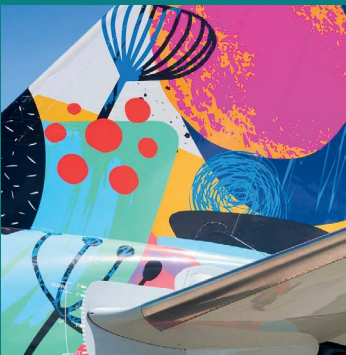


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FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

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

Address	Price	Day	Time	Broker
72 Locust Ave.	\$1,250,000	SUN	1:00-3:00PM	Douglas Elliman
94 Glen Drive	\$1,995,000	SAT	1:00-4:00PM	BHHS
66 Seminary Drive	\$2,295,000	SAT & SUN	1:00-3:00PM	Coldwell Banker
317 Park Street	\$3,895,000	SAT & SUN	10:00AM-2:00PM	William Pitt Sothebys
139 Jelliff Mill Road	\$2,495,000	SUN	11:30AM-1:30PM	William Raveis

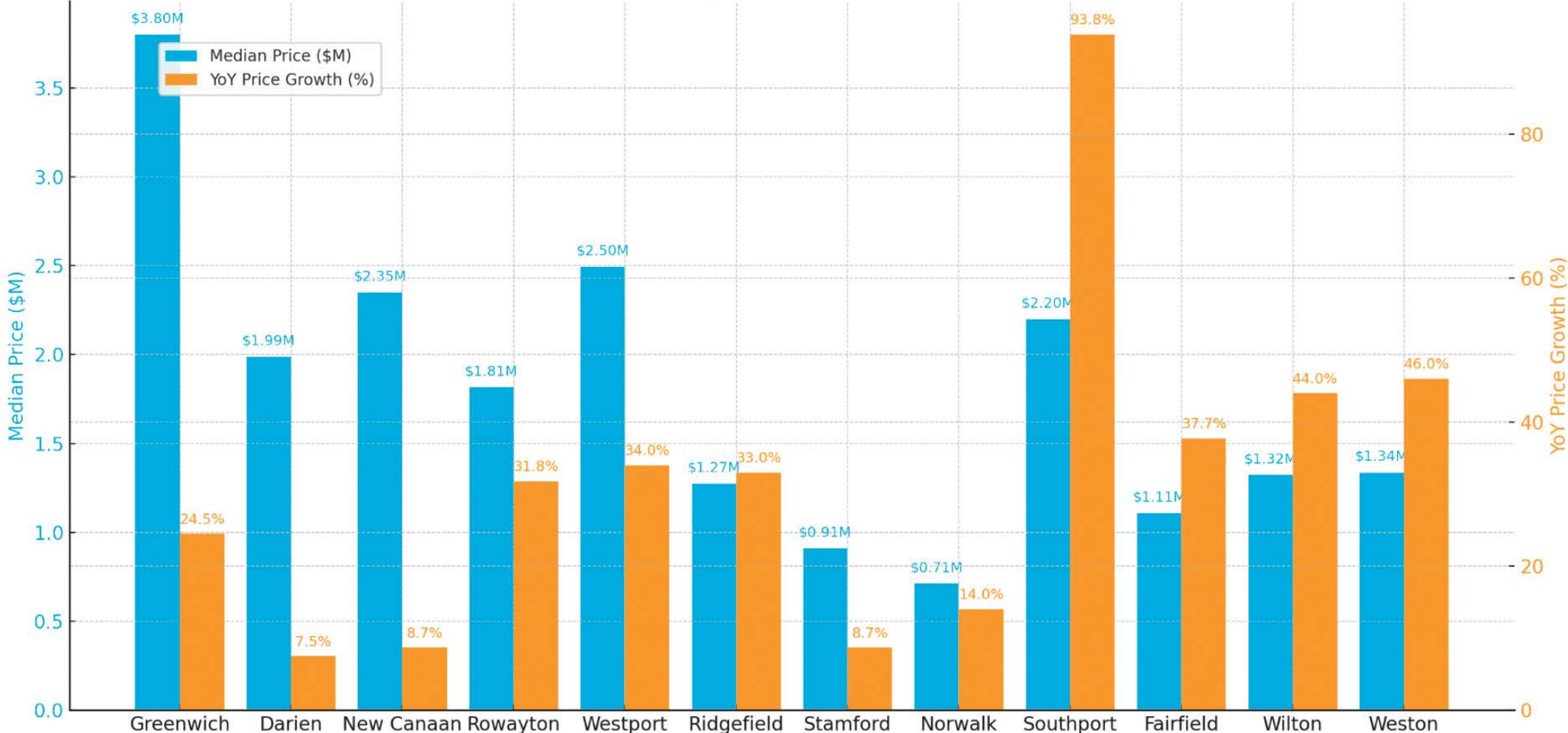
NEW LISTINGS

Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
46 Norholt Drive	\$1,495,000	3,789	\$394.56	1.04	4	3
90 Beech Road	\$1,875,000	3,783	\$495.64	1.9	4	3
94 Glen Drive	\$1,995,000	3,086	\$646.48	1.10	3	2
144 South Avenue	\$2,595,000	3,856	\$672.98	0.30	4	3
316 N. Wilton Road	\$3,625,000	5,020	\$722.11	2.00	5	4
317 Park Street	\$3,895,000	6,624	\$588.01	0.47	5	6
945 Oenoke Ridge	\$6,195,000	7,336	\$844.47	5.08	6	5

NEW SALES

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
234 Park Street #21	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$477,000	16	2	1	
55 Jelliff Mill Road #55	\$2,295,000	\$2,295,000	\$2,100,000	28	3	3	
70 Welles Lane	\$3,995,000	\$3,795,000	\$3,625,000	242	5	4	2.61

Real Estate Market Comparison: Median Price vs. YoY Growth



First Quarter Comparison of towns, growth rate and price.

How Will the Market Move Me?



BY JOHN ENGEL

“How’s the market?” It’s the question I get asked most often.

Sometimes I reach for data—graphs that show trends over time. I might point out that prices are above the highs of 2007. But that kind of information, while factual, often lacks meaning. It’s like saying the stock market is down 8% from its peak. Without context, that number doesn’t tell you whether things are improving or sliding further.

Other times I answer with comparisons across Fairfield County. If New Canaan is up, but Darien is up more, what does that mean? If Westport is only “a little up,” it might be because they surged years ago and are now coasting on momentum. Picture the housing market like the Kentucky Derby—some towns sprint early, others pace themselves, and buyers follow value when leaders fade.

Often, though, the answers come in the form of hard numbers: price per square foot, median sale price, days on market. These are the absolutes—easy to cite, easy to misread. They simplify a complex reality but fail to capture nuance. An average price per foot doesn’t distinguish between in-town homes and back-country estates, new construction and 18th-century colonials. Days on market? Easily manipulated by relisting or delayed status updates. And price per square foot? It ignores land value entirely—a critical oversight.

“None of these statistics reflect the undercurrent of uncertainty buyers and sellers feel today.”

None of these statistics reflect the undercurrent of uncertainty buyers and sellers feel today. There’s volatility—an inability to predict a home’s price within even a 10% margin. Some of this stems from politics and the transition to a new administration. Some of it comes from a deeper shift: our changing attitudes toward housing itself. What once signaled permanence and tradition—furniture, finishes, location—doesn’t hold the same value for a new generation.

But if you really want to know how the market feels—how it behaves—there’s no better way than a story.

Because the market isn’t just numbers on a page or bars on a chart. It’s people walking into a house they’ve dreamed about. It’s bidders making bold offers before the sun sets. It’s agents jockeying for position, buyers reading tea leaves, and sellers deciding, in real time, what their “make me move” number is.

Make Me Move

On Thursday morning, a new listing hit the market. It had three qualities in high demand: single-level living, move-in ready, and undeniably stylish.

At 9 a.m., the first showing was a young couple—first-time buyers—

represented by an agent. They had followed this house for years. They knew its every corner from past and present listings. It wasn’t just a house; it was the house. They became the early favorite.

At 10 a.m., a businessman arrived solo, hoping to save on commission by going unrepresented. He told me he’d recently made a “strong” offer on another property but lost. He couldn’t understand why. I could. The listing agent hadn’t followed up, hadn’t countered, hadn’t needed to. “She doesn’t work for you,” I explained. “Her job is to manage a frenzy, not chase every hand raised.” In a competitive environment, unrepresented buyers often sit in the back row while the pros occupy the stage.

To his credit, he moved fast—hired a buyer’s agent, engaged the listing agent, and made a same-day offer. He believed being first might give him an edge.

At 11 a.m., a third buyer toured the

home with a sharp local agent. They appeared calm, casual, uninterested. But by nightfall, they had made a full-price offer and asked what it would take to shut the process down. No games, just straight talk.

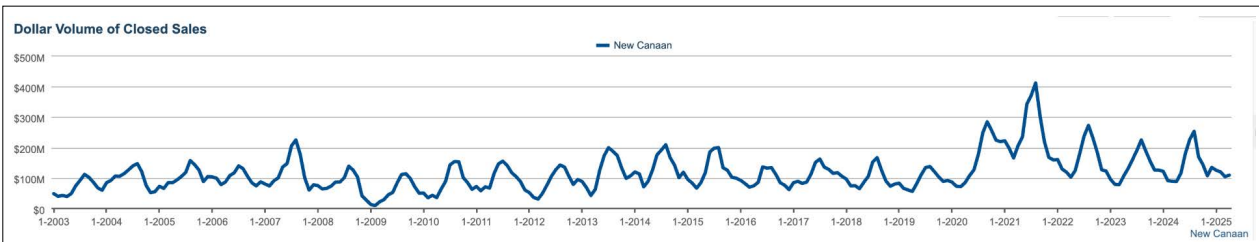
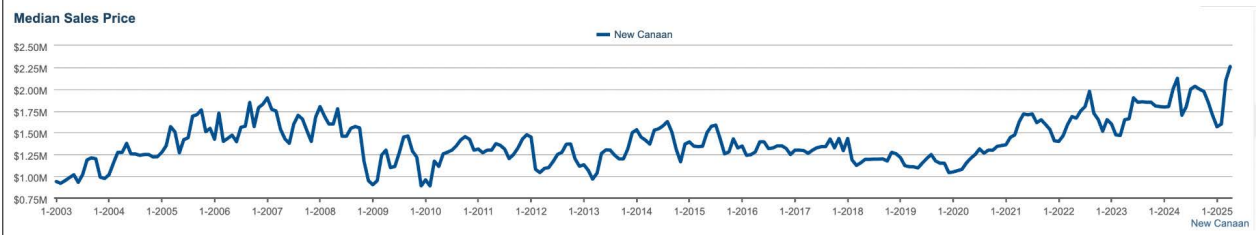
By the end of day one, the top three had all acted. Two asked the critical question: “What will it take to lock it up now?” The seller, coached by his agent, named a number—tempting, but just out of reach. Both were given a shot. One buyer said yes immediately: no contingencies, flexible close, and a promise to sign that weekend.

I don’t know how many offers came in total. What I do know is that the early birds were serious. They moved fast because they knew others would wake up to the listing by the weekend. The seller, too, moved fast. “Time kills all deals,” his agent reminded him. Plane taxiing? Doesn’t matter. Decide your number. Commit. Get contracts out. Because talk is cheap; escrow is commitment.

It ended well, this one. But not all stories do. One buyer backed out, trying to recover part of the deposit. Another left after a radon test. These deals are fragile—hundreds of variables must align. Most sales do appraise these days. But there are still stumbles.

I’m often asked about “Make Me Move” prices—those numbers that make a homeowner consider doing the thing they swore they weren’t ready to do. Everyone has one, or should. Because while we may love our homes deeply, they are replaceable. And if the market calls your number, would you answer?

John Engel is a broker with the Engel Team at Douglas Elliman in New Canaan and he is thinking about his “Make Me Move” price. We can all love our homes, a lot, and maybe it’s not a convenient time to move, but ultimately every house has a “Make Me Move” number. Every house should. Because every house can be replaced. Is he wrong? Call John with your “Make Me Move” number.

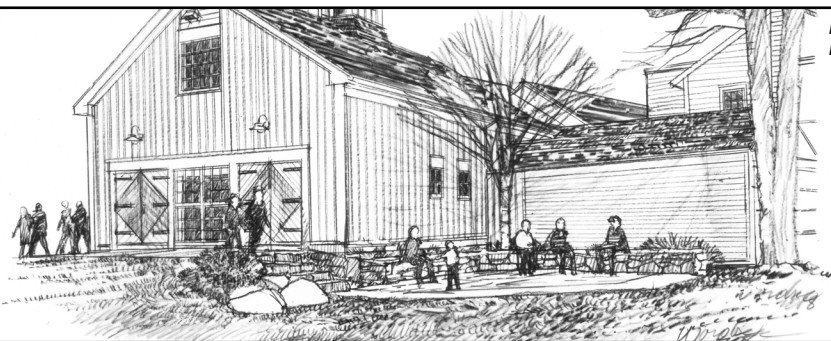


Submit questions and comments to John.Engel@Elliman.com



Keith E. Simpson Associates

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
RESIDENTIAL DESIGN
PROJECT COORDINATION
LAND PLANNING



New Canaan Historical Society



203.966.7071

40+ Years of Civic, Residential, and Commercial Landscape Architecture in Fairfield County



Nationally eminent surgeons caring for you, their neighbors

Oren M. Tepper, MD

Director, Aesthetic Surgery; Director, Craniofacial Surgery, Montefiore Einstein and Professor, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

From cosmetic procedures to craniofacial reconstruction to pediatric craniofacial and plastic surgery, Oren M. Tepper, MD, provides care that balances traditional aesthetic concepts with modern technology and minimally invasive techniques. A pioneer in stem cell therapy and 3D surgical innovation, his advances have revolutionized patient care and earned international recognition.

After graduating among the top of his class at New York University School of Medicine, Dr. Tepper trained at the renowned Institute of Reconstructive

Plastic Surgery, NYU Langone Medical Center, completing his plastic surgery residency as well as fellowships in craniofacial reconstruction and pediatric plastic surgery.

Dr. Tepper lives in Greenwich, provides specialized care from Manhattan to Connecticut and consults worldwide. He is acclaimed for his role in the separation of conjoined twins Jadon and Anias McDonald, performing similar surgeries twice more in Brazil.



Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony Monday May 26

Every year the community of New Canaan gathers on Memorial Day to remember with gratitude and honor the proud men and women who gave their lives while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces to protect and preserve a life of freedom for all Americans.

The Parade and Memorial Ceremony, sponsored by the Town of New Canaan and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Howard Bossa and Peter Langenus Post 653, will be held Monday May 26 starting at 9:30 a.m.

The Parade steps off from St. Mark's Church and proceeds down Oenoke Ridge to upper Main Street, past the Wayside Cross at God's Acre, past the Firehouse and Town Hall, and continues down Main Street to Lakeview Cemetery. There, parade watchers and marchers gather with veterans and Town officials for remarks about the true meaning and purpose of the Memorial Day holiday.

This year's Grand Marshal is Brian van der Heyden, a lifelong New Canaan resident who graduated from New Canaan High School in 1965. His family includes six United States Marines. In 1966, van der Heyden enlisted in the Marine Corps with four local friends, completing basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina, and further training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Camp Pendleton, California. He then went to Okinawa before deploying to Vietnam, where he served in DaNang, Tam Ky, Quang Tri, Phu Bai, Gia Le, and Hue City. As a "Point Man," he participated in over one hundred patrols, surviving the Tet Offensive in 1968.

Van der Heyden received numerous awards, including the Marine Corps Combat Action

award, two Presidential Unit Commendations, the Vietnam Service Medal with four stars, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation Award. He also earned a Meritorious Combat Promotion and a Letter of Commendation from his Commanding Officer. After returning to the U.S., he obtained two degrees in Criminal Justice from the University of New Haven. His father, a decorated combat Marine, fought in World War II, and his son Daniel Lee, a lieutenant in the Fairfield Police Department, served with the 4th Marine Division.

In 2018, van der Heyden was the keynote speaker at his alma mater on Veterans Day and the Memorial Day Ceremony. A parishioner of St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church, he is a Life Member of VFW Post 653, where he currently serves as Chaplain. He is also a life member of the Marine Corps Association and supports various veteran organizations. Van der Heyden is honored to be the Grand Marshal for this year's Memorial Day services.

The Guest Speaker is U.S. Marine combat veteran Chris Paksi, and Msgr. Robert Kinnally, pastor of St. Aloysius Church, will represent New Canaan clergy and lead the ceremony in prayer.

No parking will be allowed on Main Street from 8 a.m. until the parade finishes. The Line of March will be posted on the Town website www.newcanaan.info today, Thursday, May 22.

In the event of heavy rain, a parade cancelation notice will be posted on the Town website and social media pages, and the Memorial Day Ceremony will be conducted in Town Hall at 10 a.m. with limited seating.



HARMONY LODGE

67

200TH ANNIVERSARY

Dinner, Drinks, and Dancing

Dress

Black Tie/Business Casual

MAY

31

SATURDAY

6:30pm

New Canaan Historical
Society

13 Oenoke Ridge

Tickets are \$25

purchase at

[eventbrite.com: Harmony Lodge 200th
Anniversary](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/Harmony-Lodge-200th-Anniversary)

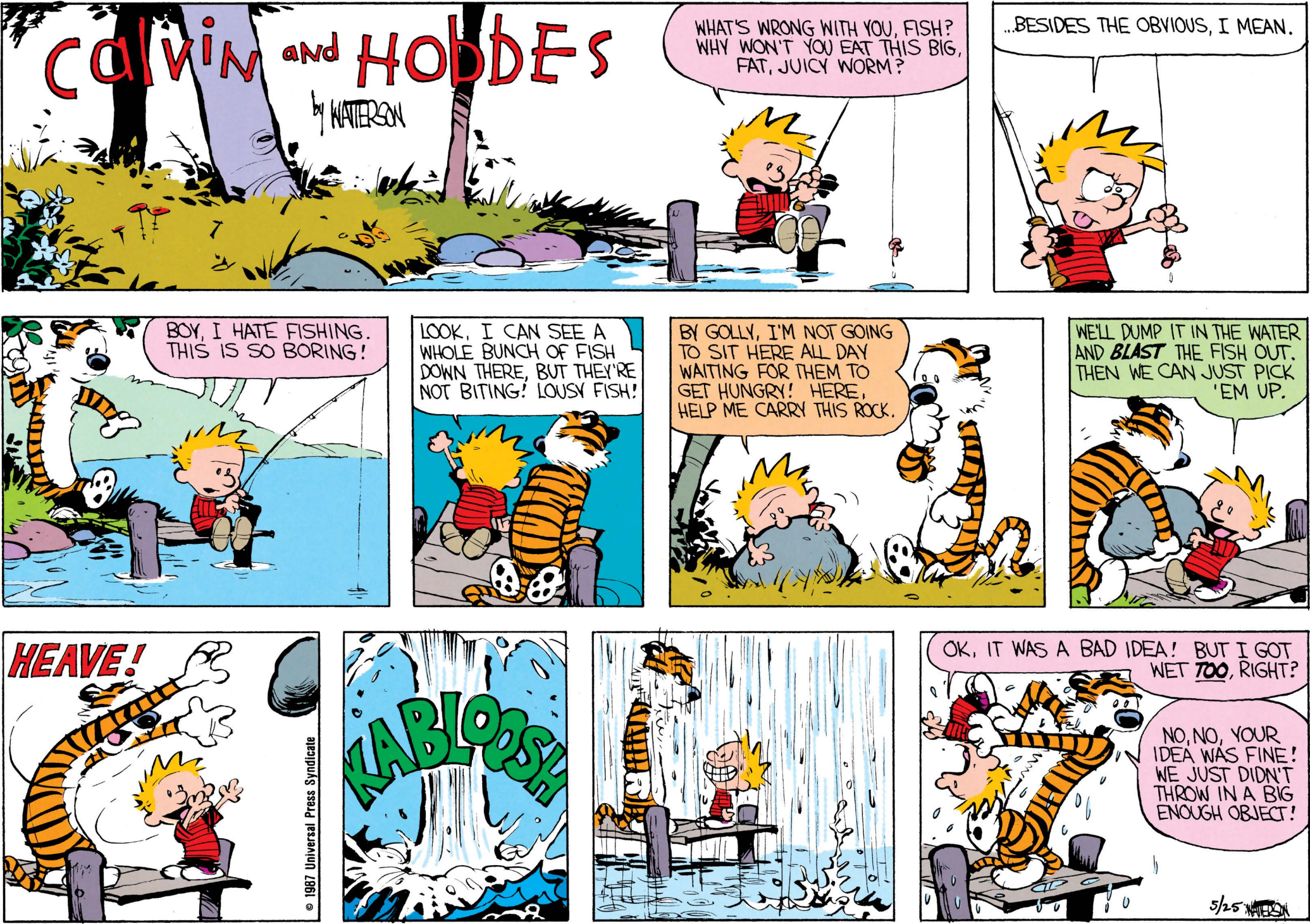
Honored Guest Please

R.S.V.P Jfruth4@gmail.com



EDUCATION

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



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COLUMN | WILDLY SUCCESSFUL: THE EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL

This Little Neighbor is Smarter than You Think!



“A black Squirrel!” my colleague called out from the passenger seat, bringing my attention to the small mammal just off the exit of the Merritt Parkway. Though the species was common, the coloration was anything but common within that multi-town range. With no way of turning around, I had to be content knowing there would always be a next sighting, and she had to be content with a fleeting glimpse of a most remarkable little creature.

The Eastern Gray Squirrel, *Sciurus carolinensis*, is one of the most common mammals in Eastern North America yet, it is also a creature that guards its secrets as well as it guards the location of its buried food. For one, although it is known as a “gray” squirrel, this arboreal mammal exhibits mutations resulting in melanism (an overabundance of melanin pigment giving the animal a black-furred appearance), albinism (a lack of melanin pigment giving the animal a white-furred appearance), and even cinnamon-colored individuals. More rarely, certain squirrels at Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo exhibit leucism (a form of albinism in which some pigment is expressed—often in the eyes), resulting in blue-eyed, whitish-furred squirrels! Typically, these tree squirrels exhibit light gray fur along their flanks and backs with whiteish fur on the belly and around the eyes, hints of buff along their cheeks and sides, and a light eye ring with a silvery frosted tail. Reaching approximately 20 inches in length and 1.5 pounds in weight, they sport a small and light frame for life high above the forest floor. As a prolific animal which can produce up to two litters a year of up to nine young, the Gray squirrel tips the scales in favor of survival from sheer abundance alone. Coupling this abundance with an average lifespan of more than six years, which exceeds longevity for many other rodent species, the Gray squirrel is well represented in



These nimble rodents have a trick or two up their sleeves. Accounting for such “thievery” Gray squirrels will employ a practice known as deceptive caching.

Drawing lesson

How to Draw a Squirrel

the forests of Eastern North America. Early explorers of the North American continent remarked as to the “dense forests that stretched from the rising sun to the setting sun.” This domain of oaks, maples, hickories, and other hardwoods provided key habitat and forage for these herbivores. In fact, it has been stated by these early explorers that a squirrel could travel from branch to branch from

the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the shores of the Atlantic to the Mississippi without ever touching ground. While it may have been scientifically possible, the Gray squirrel’s home range of 1-25 acres makes these small mammals much more localized. For those of us who have experienced these acrobatic creatures stealing bird food from our feeders, or gnawing

their way into our sheds, or even attics, they have earned the title, “bandit” or “pest.” It is this common “wildlife neighbor” status that leads us to overlook their impressive attributes. Consuming insects and other animal matter when opportunity arises, these resourceful creatures supplement their diets and boost much needed calories for energy storage. While the squirrel requires forests for

food and cover, the forests rely on the squirrels for reforestation. Employing scatter hoarding behavior to store buried nuts, fungi and other foods, these busy rodents may store hundreds, or even thousands of food caches throughout their territory. The net effect of this behavior is food for a rainy (or snowy) day. With a keen sense of smell, these industrious mammals revisit their buried hoard with great accuracy, even detecting nuts hidden beneath more than a foot of snow! With Gray squirrels losing up to 25% of their stored food to other species, their fellow mammals, birds, and other species benefit from the excess. Yet, these nimble rodents have a trick or two up their sleeves. Accounting for such “thievery” Gray squirrels will employ a practice known as deceptive caching. Researchers at Central Connecticut State University have uncovered fascinating findings which confirm that the squirrels will vigorously dig a hole, hold a nut in their teeth and place their head within the freshly dug hole while concealing the nut before covering up the empty hole and pulling leaf cover over it—as if they had buried an actual nut! By interspersing

deceptive caches with actual caches, they protect their effort and trick the tricksters. Clearly, there is a lot going on in their little heads. Acting like a mammalian Johnny Appleseed, the squirrel’s behavior results in the enhancement of fungi species diversity, improved soil health, the spreading of fruit and nut producing tree species, and forest regeneration. When considering this wild neighbor, I reflect on what we humans can learn from them. While they can at times be considered a “pest” or a “nuisance” I think it’s fair to say that we humans have our moments too. When we consider their other attributes however, they have much to offer us. They exhibit undeniable intelligence, planning, industry, adaptability, and even contribute to the health of the world around them. It’s said that from gray, comes wisdom. From what I’ve seen from our forest neighbors...I am inclined to agree. *Jim Knox is a Wildlife Conservationist and the Curator of Education at Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo, where he leads nationally recognized education and conservation initiatives. A member of the Connecticut Zoological Society and The Explorers Club, Jim has studied wildlife across the globe. As the Writer and Host of Wild Zoofari on PBS, Jim has shared his passion for wildlife with millions worldwide, with additional appearances as an on-camera wildlife expert for The Today Show, CBS Early Show, and Fox News. A graduate of Cornell University in Animal Science, he also serves as a science adviser to the Bruce Museum and contributes his wildlife column, Wildly Successful, to The Greenwich Sentinel. Jim is the co-creator of the Conservation Discovery Corps—named Outstanding Education Program in the nation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. He is a TEDx and national keynote speaker committed to inspiring audiences to protect and learn from wildlife everywhere.*

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

TOWN MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 27
[Planning & Zoning Commission](#)
7-9 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room & via Zoom

May 22
Free Medicare Counseling
By appointment at the Lapham Center
Dick Neville, a CHOICES certified Medicare counselor, provides free, objective, person-centered assistance about Medicare options and related benefits including: enrolling, choosing a supplemental plan and Part D prescription drug plan, and understanding Medicare Advantage plans. Available to New Canaan residents and Town employees. Call 203-594-3620 to schedule appointment.

May 23
NO COFFEE AND CONVERSATION
8:30 – 9:30 AM at the Lapham Center
Sponsored by the New Canaan Sentinel for a weekly community coffee and conversation.

Breakfast BINGO
10 AM at the Lapham Center
Calling all Bingo players to join Aggie, Kathy and Steph for breakfast goodies, beverages, Bingo and spring-themed prizes. \$10/person. Call (203) 594-3620 to register.

May 24
VFW Seeks Volunteers and Donations for Flag Planting
8 AM at Lakeview Cemetery, lower Veterans’ section M
Volunteers are wanted to assist VFW Post 653 to place flags at the graves of fallen soldiers in their honor for Memorial Day. All are welcome to participate. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact NewCanaanVFW@gmail.com.

Plant Clinic with UCONN Master Gardeners
10 AM- 12:30 PM at Outside the front of the New Canaan Library
Do you need help with plant identification? Insect Damage and disease diagnosis? Plant suggestions? Vegetable growing advice? Invasives management? UCONN Master Gardeners of Lower Fairfield are standing by to solve your garden issue in this weekly plant clinic.

Woodcarving
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Join Dennis Taylor to explore this time honored craft. Dennis will help you learn to carve actual projects, explain basic wood cuts, tools and safety tips. Free. Call (203) 594-3620 to register.

Sit and Stitch with Aggie
2 PM at the Lapham Center
Stuck on a stitch? Want to add dimension to your work? Join Aggie for lessons and tips on the best ways to embellish your project, and use decorative stitches. Free. Call (203) 594-3620 to register.

May 26
Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony
9:30 AM from St. Mark’s Church to Lakeview Cemetery
The Parade and Memorial Ceremony is sponsored by the Town of New Canaan and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Howard Bossa and Peter Langenus Post 653. This year’s Grand Marshal is Brian van der Heyden. The Guest Speaker is U.S. Marine combat veteran Chris Paksi, and Msgr. Robert Kinnally, pastor of St. Aloysius Church, will represent New Canaan clergy and lead the ceremony in prayer. More information is available at https://www.newcanaan.info/_T8_R607.php.

May 27
Nantucket Looms: A Legacy of Style, Author Talk & Pop-up Shop
11 AM- 3 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
The library will host a conversation with Nantucket Looms Owner, Liz Winship and her daughter Bess Clarke the current CEO/ President and book author Linda Jane Holden to discuss their legacy of stunning artistry. For more information and to register, visit <https://shorturl.at/6jErQ>.

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

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

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.

May 28
Billiards for Everyone with Mike Bacon
2-4 PM at the Lapham Center
If you’re looking to have some fun, learn to play pool, or just play a game, join Mike.

Yale Science: Exploring Scientific Innovation in Art and Music
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Community Room
Join three Yale scientists will discuss what we know about the hidden beauty (and potential consequences) of science and its contributions to the world of art and music. You’ll learn about the golden ratio, the sorcery of the theremin, and the new age of AI art. Register at <https://shorturl.at/6L8FH>.

SAVE THE DATE

May 29
Publisher’s Book Buzz Wine & Cheese Reception
6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Anderson Terrace
Join for an evening of wine & cheese, prizes and exciting book talk from the representatives of the big 5 - Simon & Schuster, Penguin Random House, McMillan, Hachette and Norton and more. A great night of fun for book groups, book lovers, family & friends. Get your TBR pile ready for more juicy summer (and some fall) reads. RSVP at <https://shorturl.at/oEVv2>.

May 30
COFFEE AND CONVERSATION
8:30 – 9:30 AM at the Lapham Center
Sponsored by the New Canaan Sentinel for a weekly community coffee and conversation.

Celebrate New Canaan: Annual Gala 25
10 AM at the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society
Join under moonlight for the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society's annual gala and fundraiser. Dance to the music of Fake ID Band and dine on delicious food prepared by Diane Browne Catering. There will be cigars and spirit tastings on the Historic Trail. Register at <https://nchistory.org/celebrate-new-canaan-annual-gala-25/>.

Being Seen: What Our Kids Need Most from Us Today
12 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Join Dr. Selena Bartlett, world-renowned neuroscientist and bestselling author of Being Seen: Master Parenting in the Digital Age, for a powerful community conversation on how brain science can reshape the way we parent. Register at <https://shorturl.at/zrh0G>.

Downtown Celebration of Creativity
4-6 PM in Downtown New Canaan
The Carriage Barn and New Canaan Chamber of Commerce, along with other community organizations and business partners, are hosting a downtown celebration of creativity. Art-inspired window displays, wine tastings, artist receptions and refreshments in stores.

NCHS Theatre Presents: The Wedding Singer
7 PM at New Canaan High School
The Wedding Singer takes us back to a time when hair was big, greed was good, collars were up and a wedding singer might just be the coolest guy in the room. This hilarious musical comedy is filled with dancing and a ton of heart! Tickets are available at <http://www.newcanaanhighschooltheatre.com>.

May 31
Last Saturday on the Trail: Bird Walking Event
8 AM at the Apple Cart Concession Stand in Mead Park
Join for a guided Bird Walk through Bristow Park Bird Sanctuary, led by Newell Cotton. Whether you’re an experienced birder or just starting out, this is a great opportunity to explore the beauty and diversity of local bird species in their natural habitat. Please bring binoculars. Register at <https://shorturl.at/0sHni>.

Plant Clinic with UCONN Master Gardeners
10 AM- 12:30 PM at Outside the front of the New Canaan Library
Do you need help with plant identification? Insect Damage and disease diagnosis? Plant suggestions? Vegetable growing advice? Invasives management? UCONN Master Gardeners of Lower Fairfield are standing by to solve your garden issue in this weekly plant clinic.

Open Morning for Writers
10:30 AM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
Bring your pens and your notebooks, or computers (with power cords) to write for one and a half hours without distractions. New and emerging writers are welcome; prompts will be on hand in the room for anyone needing inspiration on a new project. Register at <https://shorturl.at/jCSsX>.

NCHS Theatre Presents: The Wedding Singer
2 & 7 PM at New Canaan High School
The Wedding Singer takes us back to a time when hair was big, greed was good, collars were up and a wedding singer might just be the coolest guy in the room. This hilarious musical comedy is filled with dancing and a ton of heart! Tickets are available at <http://www.newcanaanhighschooltheatre.com>.

Art in Nature | Bookmaking
2 PM at Grace Farms
Join for a creative workshop where you’ll learn how to craft your own nature journal. Spend an afternoon making a unique hand-bound nature journal. Adults of all levels are welcome. Materials will be provided. Tickets are \$40/members, \$50/non-members, and available at <https://shorturl.at/llnG4>.

New Canaan’s Got Talent
3 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
New Canaan's got talent--and this is your chance to see it. From magic tricks to playing an instrument, children in grades 1 to 12 will show off their special talents. Register at <https://shorturl.at/BC4IC>.

200 Anniversary of New Canaan Masonic Lodge
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society
The Masonic Lodge of New Canaan, Harmony Lodge #67 will be host its 200 Anniversary Dinner. Entertainment by local Band “Not my Problem” and the New Canaan Town Brass. Tickets are open to the public and are \$25. More information is available at <https://shorturl.at/EQ9na>.

June 1
Ice Cream Social
1-3 PM at the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society
Join the Ice Cream Social for old fashioned games, an antique car show, ice cream cake and more. The New Canaan Town Band will play at the event. This is a free event.

June 2
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-117465>.

June 3
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.

June 4
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for New NCPD Building
10 AM at 174 South Avenue
Join the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly renovated New Canaan Police Department.

Billiards for Everyone with Mike Bacon
2-4 PM at the Lapham Center
If you’re looking to have some fun, learn to play pool, or just play a game, join Mike.

Sewn Stuffed Animals: An Adaptive MakerLab Workshop
6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Anderson MakerLab
In this adaptive sewing class led by Carrie Werning, participants will create their own unique stuffed animal or monster out of felt. Skills used will include cutting, simple hand sewing, and stuffing. Register at <https://shorturl.at/G6xGT>.

College Safety and Tips: Know Before You Go
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
This presentation is geared toward students

preparing to graduate and is designed to help them navigate life on a college campus. This conversation will cover the prevalence of sexual violence in college settings, how to find support resources when researching schools, and how to report incidents if they occur. Register at <https://shorturl.at/7aznS>.

The Attwood Lecture: Ari Fleischer and the Daily Briefing
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
The 2025 Attwood Lecture speaker, Fleischer will discuss the famed daily briefing and the state of our politics today. As former White House press secretary, Ari Fleischer was the primary spokesperson for President George W. Bush and delivered the daily White House briefings from 2001 to 2003. He served as spokesman during the historic presidential recount, September 11th, two wars, and the anthrax attack. Register at <https://shorturl.at/uooEH>.

June 5
Gardens in Bloom Garden Tour hosted by the New Canaan Garden Club
10 AM at Irwin Park
This year, the tour features an exclusive, self-guided tour of four of New Canaan's finest private gardens. Each one provides a different vision of beauty, sustainability, and design. Spend a delightful day exploring these beautiful gardens and learn from knowledgeable experts at each location. This year's tour supports the NCGC's Irwin Park initiatives, which help to preserve and enhance this beloved community space. More information and tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/bV4Gc>.

Staying Put in New Canaan’s Summer Soiree
5-7:30 PM at Waveny House
Enjoy appetizers, a catered bbq buffet from Chef Jeff and refreshments. To benefit Staying Put in New Canaan, helping seniors live confidently at home and stay engaged in the community. Tickets are \$75 and available at <https://stayingputnc.org/summer-soiree/>.

June 6
COFFEE AND CONVERSATION
8:30 – 9:30 AM at the Lapham Center
Sponsored by the New Canaan Sentinel for a weekly community coffee and conversation.

Opening Night: The Shawshank Redemption
7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
Based on the novella by Stephen King, The Shawshank Redemption brings the story of resilience made famous by the acclaimed film to the stage. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

June 7
Plant Clinic with UCONN Master Gardeners
10 AM- 12:30 PM at Outside the front of the New Canaan Library
Do you need help with plant identification? Insect Damage and disease diagnosis? Plant suggestions? Vegetable growing advice? Invasives management? UCONN Master Gardeners of Lower Fairfield are standing by to solve your garden issue in this weekly plant clinic.

The Shawshank Redemption
7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
Based on the novella by Stephen King, The Shawshank Redemption brings the story of resilience made famous by the acclaimed film to the stage. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

June 8
Draw Until You Drop
10 AM at the Silvermine Arts Center
Join for a day of non-stop drawing, open to the public. This is an opportunity for continuous, intensive figure drawing with a model(s) in sustained poses and still life set-ups. This is open to adults 16+ and will take place in the school building as well as various locations outside on campus. All skill levels are welcome. Register at <https://shorturl.at/stmLF>.

The Shawshank Redemption
2 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
Based on the novella by Stephen King, The Shawshank Redemption brings the story of resilience made famous by the acclaimed film to the stage. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

Pops in the Park
6-8 PM at the Waveny Great Lawn
Join the 4th annual Pops in the Park concert featuring the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra. This year, the theme is “Rule Britannia!”, with an emphasis on music linked to the

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

British Isles. Join with your blankets and picnic baskets for a summer evening of lively Broadway music.

June 9

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-117466>.

Finding Olmsted: A Search for a Practice of Landscape Architecture in Cotton’s Kingdom
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted Brothers firm were some of the most influential and prolific landscape architects of the 19th and 20th centuries and were responsible for many of our local treasured parks and landmarks, such as Waveny Park. After an introduction, Zewde will discuss selected projects from her firm of Studio Zewde, including the recent project to re-imagine the south gardens at Dia Beacon. Register at <https://shorturl.at/vJu4y>.

Evening Deep Sleep Meditation
6:30 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Listen to the tranquil visual and guided imagery as you gently relax and restore. One hour equals 3-4 hours of deep sleep and you will feel genuinely refreshed and reinvigorated after the session. There will be no yoga poses. Tickets are \$40 per person and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/evening-deep-sleep-meditation/>.

June 10

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.

June 13

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

June 14

Plant Clinic with UCONN Master Gardeners
10 AM- 12:30 PM at Outside the front of the New Canaan Library
Do you need help with plant identification? Insect Damage and disease diagnosis? Plant

suggestions? Vegetable growing advice? UCONN Master Gardeners of Lower Fairfield are standing by to solve your garden issue in this weekly plant clinic.

Learning with Nature: Start a Beehive
11 AM at Grace Farms
Learn everything you need to know about starting a beehive in your backyard. This lecture and workshop, which highlights community agriculture, will cover the basics of beginner beekeeping, from the essential equipment, hive location, tools, methods and sourcing your bees. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/clo0j>.

The Glass House Summer Party
12-4 PM at the Glass House
Join the Glass House for their annual Summer Party, presented by Max Mara. Tickets will be available at <https://theglasshouse.org/whats-on/the-summer-party-2025/>.

Everyday AI
2 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
Explore commonly used AI programs like Siri and Alexa, smart home fixtures, and enhanced word-processing features. Participants will also learn more about what AI is and how to responsibly use it. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/everyday-ai-147635>.

June 16

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-117467>.

Author James Frey in Conversation with Gina Gershon
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
James Frey takes readers on a satirical thrill ride through the dark heart of privilege in his latest novel, *Next to Heaven*. Fans of *The White Lotus* and *Big Little Lies* will be captivated by the twists and turns of a narrative that exposes the treachery behind the American Dream. Register at <https://shorturl.at/u6L6u>.

June 17

The Light Eaters with Best-Selling Author Zoë Schlanger: Pollinator Pathway Lecture
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Atlantic staff writer Zoë Schlanger speaks about her groundbreaking work of popular science that probes the hidden world of the plant kingdom, called “a masterpiece of science writing”. Register at <https://shorturl.at/ezGhI>.

June 19

S.T.A.R.’s 4th Annual Juneteenth Community Celebration
3 PM on the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society Lawn
Prepare to be entertained by the incredible local band, The Misfits, and enjoy a vibrant celebration of culture and community. More information and registration is available at <https://shorturl.at/1vU29>.

June 22

Caffeine & Carburetors
7-11 AM in Downtown, New Canaan
Caffeine & Carburetors is a gathering of automotive enthusiasts, meeting four times a year to enjoy our rides and share them with like-minded gear heads. More information is available at <https://cbo.io/bidapp/index.php?slug=ccjune2025>.

June 28

Plant Clinic with UCONN Master Gardeners
10 AM- 12:30 PM at Outside the front of the New Canaan Library
Do you need help with plant identification? Insect Damage and disease diagnosis? Plant suggestions? Vegetable growing advice? Invasives management? UCONN Master Gardeners of Lower Fairfield are standing by to solve your garden issue in this weekly plant clinic.

Last Saturday on the Trail: Magic of the Fireflies
10 AM at the Firefly Preserve, 33 Sleepy Hollow Road
Join a special guided walk with Chris Schipper who will share expert conservation practices used to protect and enhance this unique habitat and allow these special creatures to thrive. It’s a great opportunity to learn all about fireflies – why their preservation matters, and how you can help support firefly populations in your own backyard. Register at <https://shorturl.at/ITnm7>.

The Great American Campout 2025
3:30 PM at the New Canaan Nature Center
Join for an evening full of camp tunes, animal show, a night hike, and s’mores. Take part in the Great American Campout – NCNC’s 16th year participating in the National Wildlife Federation’s Great American Campout, a nation-wide celebration of camping as a way to connect to nature & wildlife. The event will run through June 29th at 9:30 am. Tickets are \$110 per family. Register at <https://newcanaannature.org/the-great-american-campout/>.

July 21

Golf Tournament & Touchdown Dinner
3:30 PM - at the Country Club of New Canaan
Join the New Canaan Football Team at their Golf Tournament and Touchdown Dinner. At a later date, more information will be available.

BLOOD DRIVES

Thursday, May 22

Stamford Police Department
725 Bedford St
Stamford, CT 06901
8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Friday, May 23

American Legion
60 County Road
Norwalk, CT 06851
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Saturday, May 24

The Rowayton Community Center
33 Highland Ave
Norwalk, CT 06853
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Sunday, May 25

Greenwich Blood Donation Center
99 Indian Field Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
7:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Monday, May 26

Greenwich Blood Donation Center
99 Indian Field Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
7:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Tuesday, May 27

Greenwich Hospital
5 Perryridge Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

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

Wednesday, May 28

Agudath Sholom Synagogue
301 Strawberry Hill Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Christ and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church of Westport
75 Church Lane
Westport, CT 06880
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Thursday, May 29

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

Greenwich Blood Donation Center
99 Indian Field Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
7:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Friday, May 30

VFW
465 Riverside Avenue
Westport, CT 06880
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Saturday, May 31

The Stamford Hotel
700 E Main St
Stamford, CT 06901
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Support Services & Meetings

May 30

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 This training will certify you as a QPR gatekeeper. Register at <https://shorturl.at/VXzMv>.

June 4

Alzheimer’s Support Group with the Waveny LifeCare Network
2 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Family members, caregivers, and friends are invited to meet for informative and supportive group sessions to help navigate changes related to memory loss and cognitive decline. Register at <https://shorturl.at/VQQS2>.

June 12

Parent Connection Circle - Walking the Journey Together
12:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Arlene H. Grushkin Children's Program Room
Join The Twice-Exceptional Network each month for a supportive gathering where parents of twice-exceptional children can connect, share, and find community. Twice-exceptional (2e) children are those who are both intellectually gifted and face learning, developmental, or behavioral challenges – they experience the world with unique intensity and complexity. Register at <https://shorturl.at/Knqmy>.

June 26

Tips for Dementia Caregivers
12:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Florissa Zinghini presents tips for dementia caregivers from the Positive Approach to Care Method developed by world renowned dementia expert Teepa Snow. The tips will help care partners when those they care for are overwhelmed, anxious, nervous or scared. More information and registration is available at <https://shorturl.at/XbvLv>.

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

May 24

Metropoitan Opera Encore in HD – Salome
12:55 PM at the Ridgefield Playhouse
Met Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin takes the podium on May 17 to conduct Strauss’s one-act tragedy, which will be transmitted live from the Metropolitan Opera stage to cinemas worldwide. Tickets are \$25/ person and available at <https://shorturl.at/5lnWp>.

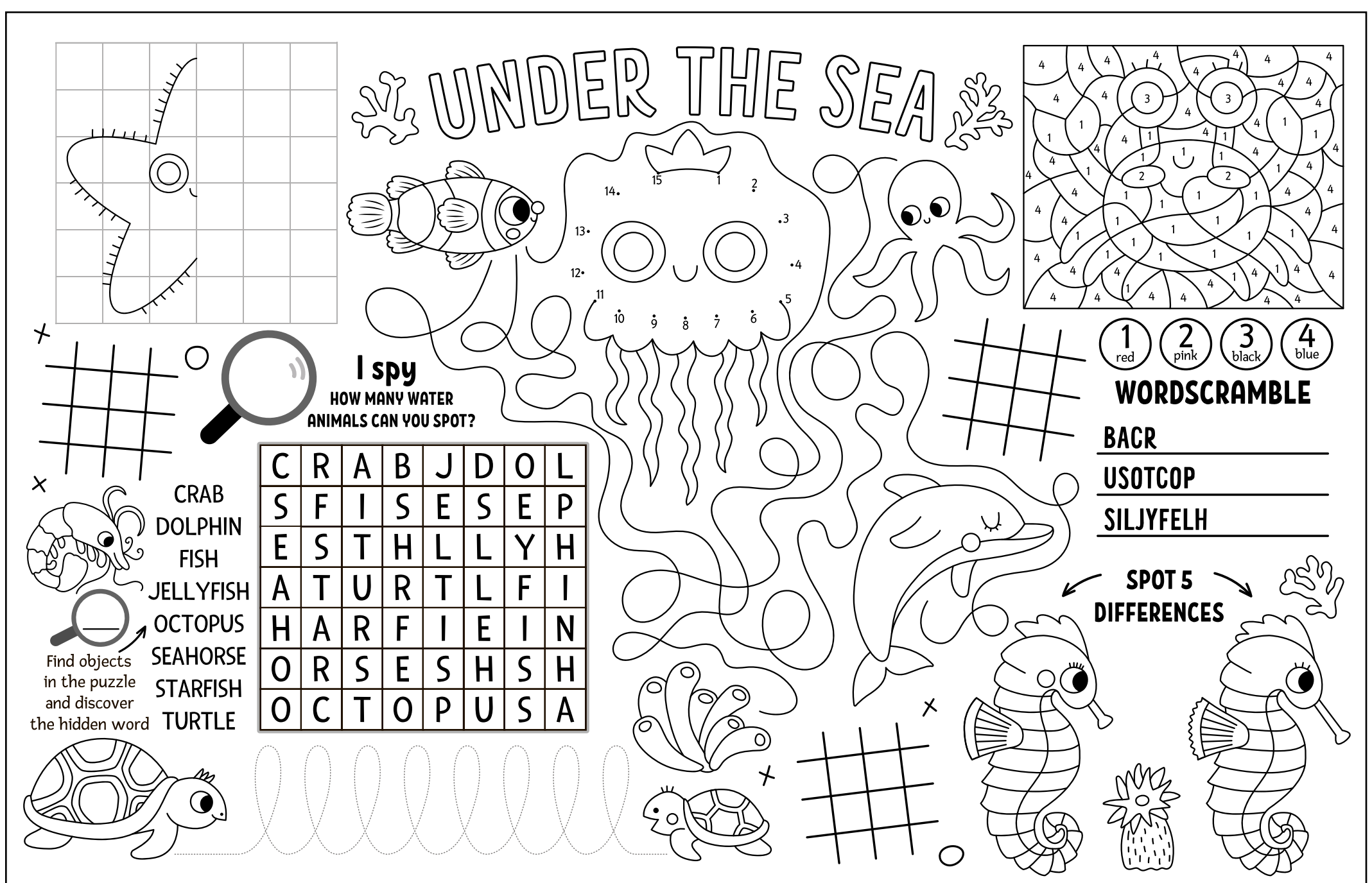
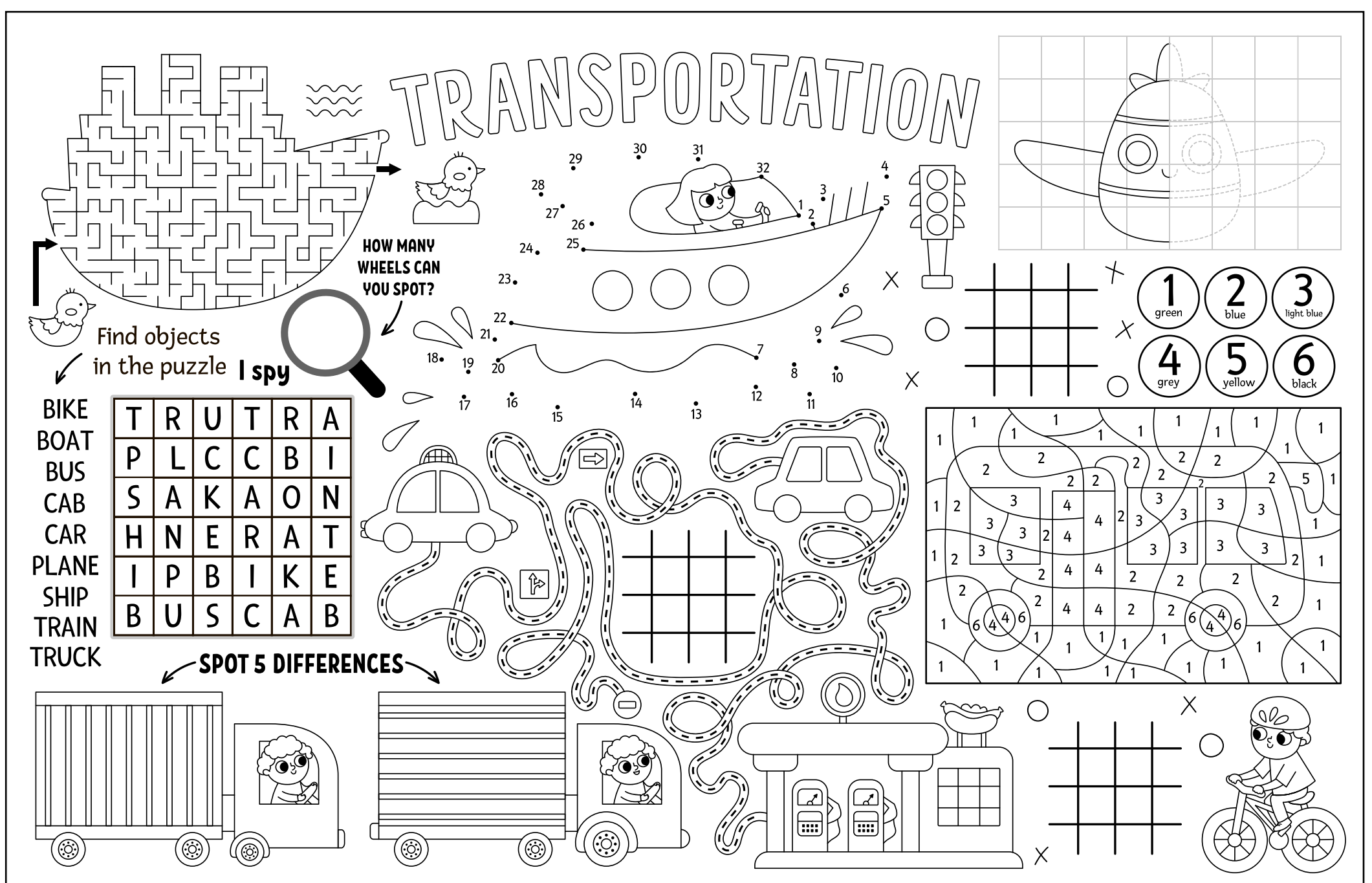
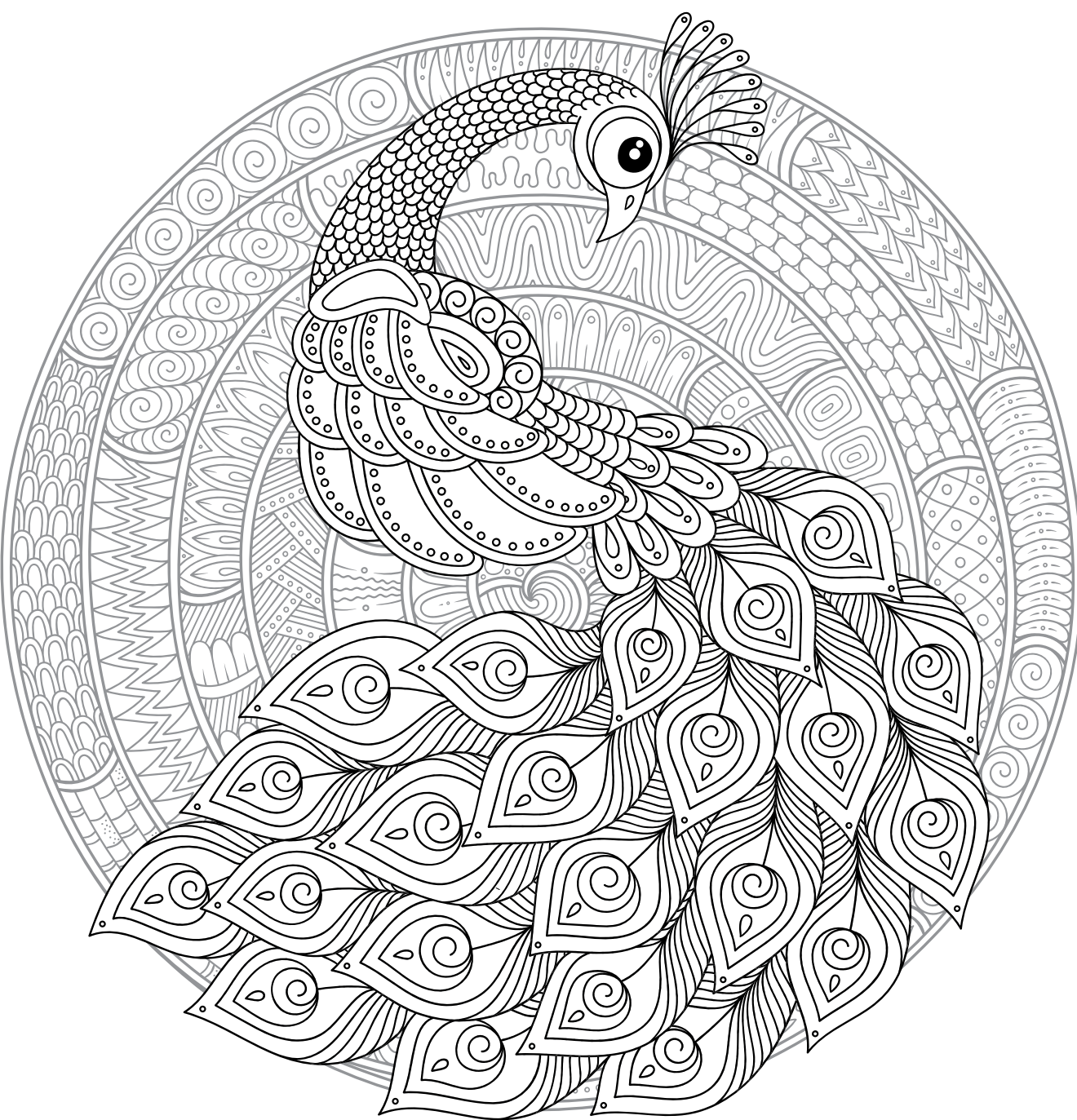
May 31

Julie Benko: Standby, Me
7:30 PM at the Norwalk Concert Hall
Join Curtain Call's Annual Fundraiser with Julie Benko. Standby, Me offers an evening of spectacular vocals, theatrical lore, and inspiration for all the greatest stars-to-be. Tickets are available at <https://www.curtaincallinc.com/tickets/special-events/>.



June 14

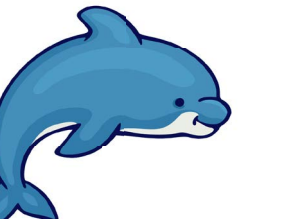
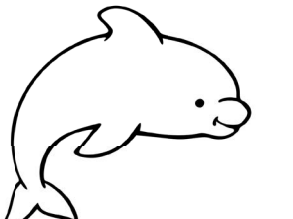
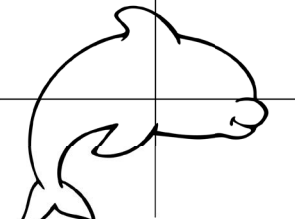
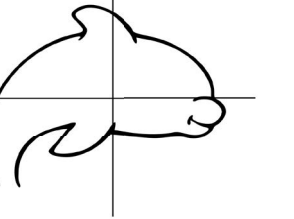
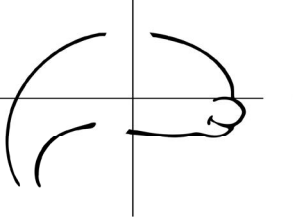
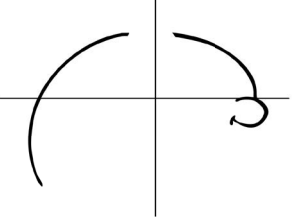
The Serenity Project Annual Fundraiser
6 PM at Marchant Farm
55 Chestnut Woods Road, Redding
The Serenity Project, a 501c3, is hosting their annual fundraiser, a Night at the Farm. The evening will feature a catered dinner, live music by New Canaan resident and artist, Griffin House and a silent auction, all in support of their equine therapy programs for people recovering from trauma. More information is available at <https://www.theserenityprojectct.org/annual-fundraiser>.

Regardless of age, the act of coloring a mandala provides a rare intersection of structure and freedom.



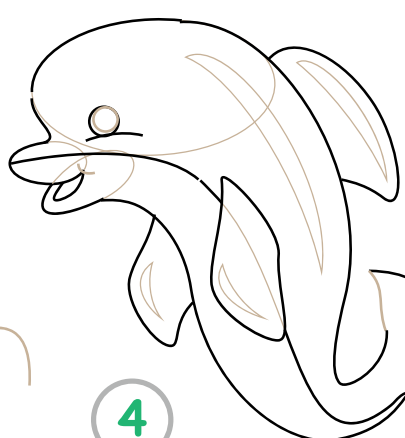

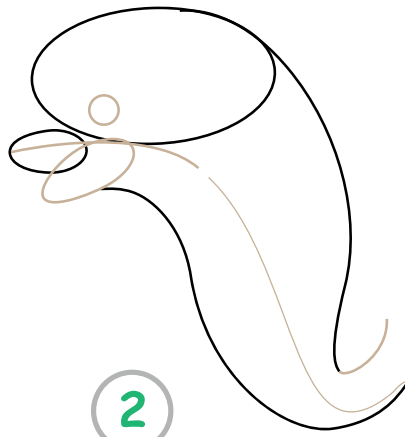
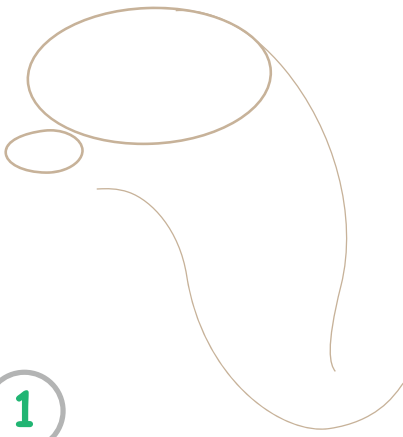


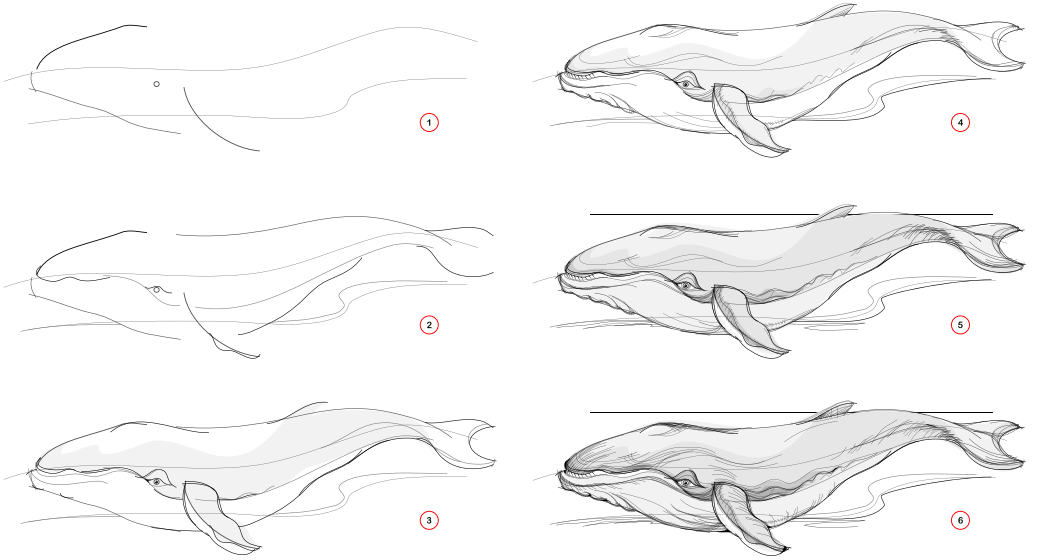
How To Draw Many Ways: step by step

 Drawing lesson 



How to Draw a Dolphin





Sudoku for Kids

		4		6	
	3	6		5	1
	4		2	1	
	2	1			4
4	6		1		5
	5			4	

		6	1		
1		2	5		4
5	2		6	1	
		3			5
	4		3		6
	6	5		2	

	5		6		4
4		6	2		
	6		3		2
	2	5	4		
6				4	
	4	3	1		6

	3			4	5
4		2	6		
	2				3
	4	5	1		6
2	6		5	1	
	1				2

SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sudoku answers

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

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

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

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

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

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

‘Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning’ Receives Global Acclaim Following Cannes Debut

“Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning” debuted to global fanfare last week, premiering at the Cannes Film Festival to a five-minute standing ovation. The eighth installment in the long-running action franchise, directed by Christopher McQuarrie and headlined by Tom Cruise, was showcased as one of the festival’s most anticipated non-competition features.

According to coverage from Variety and The Hollywood Reporter, the audience response in Cannes was immediate and sustained, with applause beginning before the credits rolled. The ovation marked one of the festival’s strongest receptions this year, underscoring Cruise’s enduring appeal and the franchise’s consistent delivery of high-stakes spectacle.

Paramount Pictures, the studio behind the film, expanded its promotional campaign with high-profile premieres in Tokyo and London. In both cities, red carpets featured Cruise alongside co-stars Hayley Atwell, Simon Pegg, and Vanessa Kirby, drawing substantial international media attention.

While standing ovations are rare at American premieres, the New York City audience reportedly broke form. At the U.S. debut screening, attendees stood and applauded as the credits began, offering loud cheers for Cruise and the returning cast. This enthusiastic reaction echoes the franchise’s steady box office performance and loyal global fanbase.

The film, a continuation of the 2023 entry “Dead Reckoning Part One,” is expected to conclude the narrative arc involving Ethan Hunt’s battle against rogue AI factions and espionage syndicates. Critics at Cannes cited the film’s practical stunts, high-speed chases, and emotional stakes as central to its success. Cruise, now in his early sixties, again performed many of his own stunts, including a climactic helicopter sequence reportedly filmed in the Norwegian fjords.

You can see “Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning” in New Canaan this weekend while supporting our local theater!

