

LOCAL NEWS  
BRIEFING

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Spring Soccer Reallocation

The board approved reallocating \$15,708 for the Spring Soccer camp run by US Sports Institute.

Fire Commission  
Appointment

The board approved the appointment of Bob Fields to the Fire Commission through December 1, 2026, filling a vacancy left by a departing commissioner.

Postage/Printing- Tax  
Collector

The board approved a \$22,000 contract with Quality Data Service and Equality for software support and print services.

Human Services Purchase  
Orders

The board approved five purchase orders totaling \$130,000, including \$18,000 for New Canaan Cares, \$40,000 for Silver Hill Assessment Program, \$50,000 for GetAbout, \$12,000 for St. Mark's Church, and \$10,000 for the DVCC.

Volunteer Tax Abatement

The board approved a request for the abatement of real and/or personal property taxes due July 1, 2025, as per a 2020 ordinance.

Purchase Orders

The board approved purchase orders for entities including the Darien Probate Court, CCM, CliftonLarsonAllen, Munistat, Moody's, NCTV79, Pullman & Comley, Tyler Technologies, and Norwalk Hospital EMS. Several items were tabled for further review. More information is available on the agenda at [https://cms3.revize.com/revize/canaan/bos\\_agenda\\_20250722.pdf](https://cms3.revize.com/revize/canaan/bos_agenda_20250722.pdf).

Full-time/Part-time  
Employees

The board approved three internal staff transfers and three new hires, including a highway department equipment operator, an administrative assistant for recreation, and two temporary part-time clerks for the Town Clerk's Office.

Police Department Travel  
Request

The board approved up to \$1,600 in travel expenses for Sergeant Michael O'Sullivan to attend a School Resource Supervisor and Management Course from August 10-14, 2025.

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Sidewalk Sale shoppers crowded New Canaan's Downtown to enjoy the bargains, food and family fun. Photo by John Kriz

Sidewalk Sale Draws Big Crowd

By JOHN KRIZ

New Canaan's popular Village Fair and Sidewalk Sale drew large crowds on both Friday and Saturday last week, with First Selectman Dionna Carlson noting that Elm Street was

crowded on Friday with merchant tables on the sidewalks and many eager shoppers.

Saturday – the main day of the event -- was bursting with people from near and far seeking bargains and enjoying the food, sun and family

fun in New Canaan's downtown. Said Laura Budd, Executive Director of the New Canaan Chamber of Commerce which organizes the sidewalk sale, "After a strong start on Friday, the weather

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Republican Caucus

By ELIZABETH BARHYDT

New Canaan Republicans endorsed four candidates for Town Council at their caucus Tuesday evening at Saxe Middle School.

The caucus drew 311 registered Republicans. Doors opened at 6 p.m., and the meeting convened in the auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

The slate moving forward to the November municipal election includes **Scott Gress, Pavla Levin, Arvind Bajaj, and Penny Young.**

Gress, a longtime presence in town government, has served on the Park & Recreation Commission and the Board of Education. He is active in several local organizations and has been involved in community planning initiatives. Levin, a financial professional with more than two decades of investment

banking experience, holds a Master's degree in Computer Science and is a Chartered Financial Analyst. She has focused on fiscal issues and long-term budget planning during her work with town committees. Bajaj, a commercial real estate finance professional, is also an Eagle Scout and youth coach who has contributed to local civic programs. Young is a veteran member of the Town Council with extensive institutional knowledge and experience overseeing budget and policy matters.

The caucus also formally endorsed Republican candidates for other municipal offices. First Selectman **Dionna Carlson** and Selectman **Steve Karl** will seek re-election. **Claudia Weber** and **Andrew Brooks** were endorsed for Town Clerk and Treasurer, respectively. **Hugo Alves, Phil Hogan, Julie Toal** received endorsements for

the Board of Education. **Tony Calanca, and Kevin McIntosh** were endorsed for Board of Assessment Appeals, and **Gregory L. Pepe, Francisco Alberto Gonzalez, Jill Guzzetti, and Bob Naughton** were endorsed for Constable.

Republican Town Committee Chair Melany Hearne thanked both candidates and voters for participating, calling their involvement a reflection of the community's commitment to civic engagement. She urged party unity heading into the general election and encouraged voters to support the candidates in November.

The election will take place Tuesday, November 4. The Democratic Town Committee did not respond to a request for comment before press time; we will publish their slate next week.

Bold Works delight in Silvermine's Summer Salon

Silvermine Arts Center devotes its Galleries to Guild members' work every summer. The annual Summer Salon gives visitors a chance to view the artists' newest works and experience a range of new directions in contemporary art. The public is invited to the opening reception on Saturday July 19 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Summer Salon runs from July 19 through August 21.

For the seasoned or new collector, Summer Salon features a wide range of price points and styles—from

contemporary to traditional, with art for every budget and aesthetic preference. The annual exhibition also provides a glimpse of Silvermine artists experimenting and exploring the possibilities of their art. Among the works featured in the exhibition are Miggs Burrough's lenticular image of Marilyn Monroe and Princess Diana; stunning new ceramic work including pieces by Mindy Horn, Tini Pinto, Jon Puzzuoli, and Lisa Scroggins; moody and ethereal landscapes and streetscapes; new sculpture by James

Buxton, Stephen Klema, Marlene Siff, and Derek Uhman; and abstract painting and mixed media pieces that celebrate geometric and organic pattern. The Summer Salon is a feast of color and texture and a testament to art's ability to bring us into wonder and astonishment.

This exhibition can be viewed online or in person. The Silvermine Galleries are open to visitors 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Please visit [www.silvermineart.org](http://www.silvermineart.org) for more information.

Head of Staying Put to speak at Men's Club

Gina Blum, executive director of Staying Put in New Canaan, will describe the many services that enables the town's senior residents to remain in town and live independently in their own homes at this week's meeting of

the New Canaan Men's Club.

Blum, who has been in the position since 2022, has a strong background in senior services, having previously served as executive director of At Home in Darien, and before that, as assistant

director of the Stamford Senior Center.

The Men's Club meeting is Friday at Morrill Hall in St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 111 Oenoke Ridge. It will begin at 10 a.m. with Blum beginning her presentation at about 10:40 a.m.

COLUMN

Wagging Finger or Open Palm?

By JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

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

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

tongue, or maybe even a verbal hammer.

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

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

than wagging fingers.

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

*when she sensed Scott moving away.*



Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry



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# Choosing and using Spotting Scopes

By Frank Gallo

Spotting scopes allow you to see objects at greater distances than binoculars and are designed for birding and hunting. If you spend a lot of time looking at birds at great distances such as migrating hawks, shorebirds, ducks, and other waterbirds, or want closer views of any bird, spotting scopes can be quite useful. They do require a tripod and can be heavy to carry around. Carbon fiber tripods significantly lighten the load but are expensive.

Spotting scopes come with either a fixed eyepiece, usually a 20, 25, or 30x wide angle, or with a zoom usually 15-45x, 20-60x, or 25-70x. Before modern optical coatings were widely available, fixed eyepieces were the norm, but now, with newer coatings and lens manufacturing techniques, the more versatile zoom eyepieces are preferred by most birders. The image quality remains useable even at the highest magnification with good quality brands.

Spotting scope objective lens sizes vary from 55 mm to 115 mm. 77-90mm objective lens are quite popular sizes but choose the objective lens size that fits your needs. Scopes with smaller objective lenses, 55-66 mm are compact, light, and great for traveling. They perform well under most circumstances but may fall short in low light. Scopes with larger objective lenses gather more light, providing clear bright images even in low lighting where smaller scopes would struggle. Larger objective lenses do add bulk and weight. Consider your needs. Are you willing to carry it? You'll have binoculars. Do you also carry a camera when birding? Many people bird near their vehicle so the weight of a larger scope is not an issue.

Kowa and Swarovski are considered by many to be the leading brands for spotting scopes. Zeiss and Leica also make excellent scopes. Kowa scopes have a



Bald Eagle photographed through a spotting scope using a Galaxy S22 phone, by Frank Gallo. Townsend's Solitaire taken through a spotting scope using an S22 phone by Frank Gallo. The eagles were taken in Washington State and the Townsend's Solitaire (a thrush) was taken at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison, Ct. It's a rare bird in CT.



Spotting Scope in a case mounted on a Tripod. Photo credit: Frank Gallo

dual-focus system, allowing for precise focus, compact lightweight magnesium alloy bodies, and most importantly models have pure fluorite crystal glass which provides an

exceptionally sharp edge to edge image! They are weather and fog proof. Swarovski scopes have a single focus on the barrel allowing for easy focusing while

wearing gloves or mittens, have excellent image quality, are sharp edge to edge, and are weather and fog proof. They make a modular system so objective lenses can be swapped. If you go birding on your own predominantly, straight scopes make it simpler to sight on a bird. Angled scopes are easier to use with a group, making it unnecessary to constantly adjust the height of the scope for different people.

Adaptors are available for use with phones or cameras effectively creating a long telephoto lens.

Price Ranking (from highest to lowest)

1. Swarovski: Known for their premium quality and high prices, that range from around \$2,000 to over \$5,000 depending on the model and configuration. The new ATC 17-40x56 A Scope is compact and lightweight for those who travel a lot. \$2700. Good customer service.
2. Zeiss: Offers high-end models with excellent optics. High-end models like the Victory Harpia range between \$2,000 and \$4,600
3. Leica: Provides top-

notch optical performance at a premium price. The APO-Televid series ranges from \$2,500 to \$4,000.

4. Kowa: Known for great optical quality at a slightly lower price point. Prices vary widely, with high-end models like the TSN-883 costing between \$2,000 to \$3,000. If you are looking for lightweight, the new TSN 55 & 55A is tiny, but mighty. \$2000. Good customer service with fast repair times.

5. Vortex: Offers good quality at more affordable prices, with models like the Razor HD series priced between \$1,000 and \$2,400. Their Diamond series is good for beginners at under \$500 but gives up some clarity and brightness. The edge-to-edge clarity tends to decrease slightly with increased magnification from 20-60x.

6. Vanguard Endeavour HD (20-60x): Offering good performance in low light conditions, this scope is considered a solid choice under \$750. As with all less expensive models, the edge-to-edge clarity tends to decrease slightly with increased magnification from 20-60x.

7. Celestron Regal M2 80ED (20-60x): Another solid choice under \$1000, it has extra-low dispersion glass with Celestron's proprietary XLT optical coatings which help to maximize brightness. The edge-to-edge clarity tends to decrease slightly with increased magnification from 20-60x. Comes with a limited lifetime warranty. \$780.

Each brand has its strengths and weaknesses, and the choice depends on your specific needs and budget. At \$1500 or less, consider buying a used higher-end model for a similar price. Optics and construction are generally better.

Where to try and buy Spotting Scopes locally: Both the Audubon Shop in Madison and Fat Robin in Hamden have knowledgeable staff, offer a wide range of optics, and allow you to test spotting scopes on site. The Audubon shop also sells used equipment, making it possible to get higher end spotting scopes at a reduced cost. Of course, spotting scopes can also be purchased online, but if you use local expertise to choose a scope, I recommend purchasing from them.

## Spring Yard Work? Tackled.



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# New Canaan Library Named Finalist for Prestigious International Library of the Year Award

New Canaan Library has been selected as one of three global finalists for the 2025 Public Library of the Year Award, an honor presented by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and sponsored by Baker & Taylor.

The international award recognizes newly constructed public libraries that combine functional, open architecture with innovative digital solutions while reflecting local culture and community needs. According to IFLA, the award honors “a library somewhere in the world that has best managed to combine open and functional architecture with sustainable and creative IT solutions and has included both digital developments and local culture.”

New Canaan Library is the only U.S. finalist. The other two contenders are Gabrielle-Roy Library in Québec, Canada, and Heping Library in Shanghai, China.

“This international recognition is a testament to the extraordinary collaboration, vision, and dedication that shaped New Canaan Library,” said Ellen Sullivan Crovatto, Chief Executive Officer. “Our design was guided at every step by the needs and aspirations of our community. We’re deeply grateful to our architectural partners at Centerbrook for translating that vision into a beautiful and functional



reality. To be included among this global shortlist is a profound honor.”

“We are immensely proud of how our dedicated staff has brought this remarkable building to life by providing exceptional service to the community every day,” adds Cheryl Capitani, Library Director.

In its announcement, IFLA praised New Canaan Library for embodying the essence of a welcoming, modern public space:

“New Canaan Library ticks all the boxes of what makes a really great and welcoming new library for an entire community. The programming of the building gives you a feeling of a nice, light, and welcoming public living room, where the local citizens can meet up for a variety of activities. There simply seems to be something for everyone.”

Past recipients of the Public Library of the Year Award include Beijing Library, China (2024); Biblioteca Gabriel García Márquez, Spain (2023); Missoula Public Library, USA (2022); Deichman Bjørvika, Norway (2021); and Oodi Helsinki Central Library, Finland (2019).

The library, which has served as New Canaan’s cultural and intellectual center for more than a century, continues to focus on lifelong learning and community connection.

Photo: Jeff Goldberg/ Esto



COLUMN

# Why Stay in Your Hometown?



By Russell R. Barksdale, Jr.

My dear friend John Engel recently reflected in the Sentinel on the deep meaning behind “Why We Stay...” It’s a powerful reminder that our true legacy isn’t defined by what we gather and hold, but by what we give, by the purpose we live with and the values we instill in our children, grandchildren, and the communities we shape.

In today’s world, children are burdened by mounting pressures—academic expectations, social comparison, digital overstimulation, and the constant demand to achieve and belong. Imagine the emotional strength they could gain from being rooted in a multigenerational community grounded in resilience. This generation was shaped by hardship, with values anchored in service, dedication, and steady, quiet strength.

And yet, despite their profound contributions, far too many of our seniors quietly leave the towns they built. As retirement nears, these cherished residents whose children once filled our classrooms, libraries, and parks with vision and dedication

find themselves with fewer options.

Let me say this plainly and with love: We are all aging. And we are all blessed to stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. Programs like Staying Put, Meals on Wheels, and Get-About were born of gratitude, designed to help our seniors remain safe and supported in the community they called home for decades. Similarly, non-profit organizations like Waveny LifeCare continue that mission, adapting to meet the growing needs of an aging population that deserves dignity, care, and belonging.

And yet, the conversation around state-controlled zoning, NIMBY, housing and development has grown increasingly divisive. Fear creates neighborly rifts where there should be unity. State intervention looms when towns fail to act. But there is another way.

By choosing to collaborate instead of litigate, by listening instead of resisting, we can craft local solutions that support both community character and economic vitality. Towns that plan for seniors, those who actively invest in age-friendly housing, transportation, and social infrastructure see real returns: not just in dollars, but in stronger communities and well prepared children.

We are on the cusp of a demographic transformation. The Baby Boomer generation, those born between 1946 and 1964 is reshaping what it means to grow older and retire comfortably.

*“We are on the cusp of a demographic transformation. In many towns, seniors will soon outnumber school-aged children.”*

In many towns, seniors will soon outnumber school-aged children. This shift in demographics can also have economic benefits.

- Why it matters:
- Economic Strength: Seniors bring in federal dollars through Social Security, pensions, and Medicare. They spend money locally—on dining, healthcare, culture, and leisure—supporting businesses and boosting tax revenues.
  - Housing Market Vitality: Without downsizing options, seniors remain in homes they no longer need or can safely manage. This bottleneck suppresses inventory and opportunities. Thoughtfully designed housing for active adults frees up family homes and supports healthy turnover while maintaining historical knowledge and volunteerism; thereby, benefiting everyone.
  - Health and Wellbeing: Isolation is dangerous, even fatal. Aging in place without support increases risks of depression, self-neglect, and medical complications. Creating communities that welcome and engage seniors

- promotes longer, healthier lives.
- Volunteerism and Mentorship: Seniors give back. They mentor, they organize, they serve. They lead nonprofits, sit on boards, run food pantries, and share decades of wisdom with younger generations. Their knowledge, compassion, and continuity are the heartbeat of our towns.
  - Cultural Legacy: Seniors are storytellers. The keepers of local history. The ones who remember when that field became a park, or that school was first built. They tie us to our history and guide us toward a wiser, kinder future.
  - Tax Base Sustainability: Seniors often pay more than their share of local taxes. Their continued presence supports schools, infrastructure, and essential services.

Imagine a town where generations live side by side—where playgrounds and walking trails are shared by toddlers and octogenarians alike. Where wisdom and energy intertwine in our libraries, community centers, and cafés. Where no one feels they must leave their town they spent a

lifetime building. Learning from our previous generations can be invaluable as they offer a wealth of wisdom, life experience, and cultural knowledge that spans decades. Their stories and lessons can teach us about resilience, hard work, and the values that shaped our families and communities. Seniors often provide perspectives that differ from modern ways of thinking, helping us appreciate how the world has changed and what has remained constant. By listening attentively, we not only preserve important traditions and family history but also strengthen our emotional bonds across generations. In a fast-paced world, their guidance can be a grounding force that reminds us of what truly matters.

Arguably, we owe it to our prior generations, our neighbors, our mentors, and one day, to ourselves. Because if we’re lucky, we’ll all become seniors. And we’ll all hope for a town that sees and celebrates our worth..

*Russell R. Barksdale, Jr., PHD, MPA/ MHA, FACHE is President and CEO Waveny LifeCare Network.*

## From New Canaan to Greenwich: Rev. Dr. Justin Crisp Installed at St. Barnabas

By Elizabeth Barhydt

After more than a decade serving the Episcopal community in New Canaan, the Rev. Dr. Justin E. Crisp has taken the next step in his ministry. On June 8, Crisp was formally installed as the fifth rector of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Greenwich, capping a meaningful transition that began in early 2023.

Crisp, who first arrived at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in New Canaan as a seminarian while studying at Yale Divinity School, quickly became a beloved member of the clergy team. He was later appointed associate rector and theologian-in-residence, contributing to parish formation, youth ministry, and pastoral care.

“Our congregations teach us how to be priests. St. Mark’s has done this for me,” Crisp reflected upon his departure. “The love, the needs, and the gifts of the people drew out my spiritual gifts.”

Known for blending deep theological insight with pastoral warmth, Crisp became a fixture of parish life in New Canaan—officiating weddings, baptizing children, and supporting families during times of grief and joy alike. His thoughtful sermons and work with teenagers in confirmation class left a lasting impression on the

congregation.

During his tenure, Crisp also earned his Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Yale University, specializing in Christian theology. But his calling always remained rooted in the local church.

“Justin has a rare combination of brainpower and the heart of a pastor,” said the Rev. Peter Walsh, rector of St. Mark’s. “He’s holy-headed and holy-hearted.”

His move to Greenwich was bittersweet for many in New Canaan. In a farewell celebration at St. Mark’s, parishioners expressed gratitude for his ministry with music, food, and laughter—including a surprise send-off modeled after his favorite TV chef, Ina Garten.

### Installation at St. Barnabas

Crisp began his ministry at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Greenwich on Palm Sunday 2023. His installation, held on June 8, 2025, was officiated by the Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello, Bishop Diocesan of Connecticut. The ceremony featured traditional Episcopal liturgy, symbolic gifts of office, and remarks from clergy across the state.

Bishop Mello addressed the congregation with a reminder of the true center of Christian leadership.

“Justin is your rector. He’s not your savior,” the bishop said.



With wife Jewelle and baby Beatrice at his side and Bishop Mello looking on, Rev. Crisp receives a stole from children of the parish as they speak the words, “Be among us as a pastor and priest.”

### God is the subject of the sentence, not us

“That job’s already been taken.” During the service, Crisp was presented with the Bible, water, a stole, keys to the church, bread and wine—each symbolizing a part of his new role. In a prayer following the ritual, Justin offered these words:

“Make me an instrument of your salvation for the people entrusted to my care... In

preaching, give me readiness of thought and expression. And grant that by the brightness of your Word, all the world may be drawn into your blessed kingdom.”

The preacher for the service, the Rev. Fleming Rutledge, titled her sermon “Justin Gets It,” drawing on Paul’s letters to the early church. She reminded the

gathered that Crisp’s leadership would be grounded not in charisma but in theological clarity:

“God is the subject of the sentence—not us—to our joy and His glory.”

### A Growing Parish

Since Crisp’s arrival, attendance at St. Barnabas

has nearly doubled, and the children’s ministry has expanded rapidly. An average of 40 children now participate in programming each Sunday, led by Crisp’s wife, Dr. Jewelle Bickel, who serves as the parish’s new Director of Children’s Ministry. The couple’s daughter, Beatrice, and their pug, Val—known affectionately as the “dog in charge”—have also become part of church life.

Crisp now leads a staff that includes Associate Rector the Rev. Phoebe Oler, a Greenwich native, Director of Music Marnus Greyling, and a full choir and operations team. The church recently added a concert series, family events, and Sunday school outreach, deepening its role in the Greenwich community.

Despite the new setting, Crisp has brought a spirit formed in New Canaan.

“St. Mark’s taught me how to be a priest,” he said. “The clergy and people of St. Mark’s showed me what Christian community really means, how powerful it is when we seek to love one another and bring each other to Jesus.”

His former parishioners in New Canaan may now be watching from a short distance, but the impact remains near. And for Crisp, the path forward—rooted in tradition, enriched by scholarship, and guided by grace—is just beginning.

## Waveny Holds Community Blood Drive



The recent blood drive organized by Waveny LifeCare Network and the Red Cross was a remarkable success, showcasing our dedication to community engagement and collaboration. Over 37 generous donors preregistered, contributing vital blood supplies during the critical summer months. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our staff, volunteers, and community members who played an essential role in this initiative. Together, we continue to support the Red Cross and those in need.



YOUR NEWS BRIEF  
CONTINUED From Page 1

**Bottle Filler Installation**

The board approved a \$6,250 contract with Hussy Bros. for the installation of bottle filler stations and ground prep for the installation of an ADA complaint Porta-John.

**Turf Product Application Services**

The board approved a contract with Championship Turf/Flowers Landscaping not to exceed \$35,000 for applying town-purchased turf products at various locations in town.

**Saxe Athletic Field Well Pump Replacement**

The board approved a \$40,928.12 contract with Foley’s Pump Services to replace the well pump and related components at Saxe Athletic Fields.

**Electrical Contractor**

The board approved transferring an existing contract to Darien Electric LLC, cancelling the previous purchase order with Darien Electrical Contracting, and issued a new blanket purchase order for \$25,000.

**Waveny Park Lamp Post Project**

The board approved contract increases totaling \$117,315 with DiFulvio Construction and Darien Electric for the removal and installation of 45 new lamp posts in Waveny Park.

**Sewer Plant Mobile Generator**

The board approved a \$119,154.63 contract with Energy Systems for the purchase of a mobile generator to be used at sewer pumping stations.

**Janitorial Services Contract Increases**

The board approved contract increases of \$4,250 for P&M Partners and \$5,850 for Jan Pro/AT&T Franchise for building cleaning services.

**Convault Fuel Tank Project**

The board approved a contract with United Concrete to install new Convault Tanks at the parks garage for \$134,120 and sewer treatment plan for \$50,095.

**Fire Alarm System Upgrade**

The board approved a \$88,656 contract with Silent Watchman for upgrades to town building fire alarm monitoring systems and inspections, pending approval by the Board of Finance.

**Elm Street Paving**

The board approved a \$186,879.75 contract with Burns Construction to mill and repave Elm Street in the downtown business district.

**Tree Warden Contract**

The board approved a \$40,259 contract with Almstead Tree and Shrub Company for pruning, removal, and stump grinding services at various locations across town.

AROUND TOWN

**Updating Merritt Parkway Exit Numbers**

Merritt Parkway  
Exit Number Changes

NEW EXIT NUMBERS:

Exit  
13

(Old exit 36)

Exit  
14

(Old exit 37)

Exit  
15

(Old exit 38)

Starting July 28, exit numbers on the Merritt Parkway will be updated to align with mile markers under federal and state guidelines. The work is expected to last four to five weeks. In New Canaan, exits will change to 13, 14, and 15, with temporary

signs showing both old and new numbers to assist drivers. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department.

**LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS**

**Fall Storytime Registration Opens Soon**

REGISTRATION FOR  
FALL STORYTIMES  
**OPENS**  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 1  
8:00 AM

Registration for Fall Storytime programs at the New Canaan Library will open at 8 am on August 1st. More information is available at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/> or call (203) 594-5000. Photo credit: New Canaan Library.

**Norwalk Hospital President Visits Rotarians**



Recently, Norwalk Hospital President Peter Cordeau spoke to the New Canaan Rotary Club about plans to elevate the hospital to a Level I trauma center, including the construction of a new seven-story tower. The project follows the May merger of NuVance Health with Northwell Health, which has committed \$1 billion to six hospitals. Pictured are Rotarian Kathleen Corbet, President Tom Ferguson, and Norwalk Hospital President Peter Cordeau. Photo credit: the New Canaan Rotary Club.

**New Waveny Program Launching Soon**

Waveny LifeCare Network is partnering with CT State Norwalk, Open Doors, and Career Resources, Inc. to launch a pilot program that helps Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) become Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs). The program offers a structured path for working CNAs to advance their credentials while remaining on the job. Set to begin later this year, it builds on Waveny’s existing tuition-free nursing school and aims to address healthcare workforce needs.

**Silver Hill Luncheon**



Recently, Silver Hill Hospital hosted a luncheon with Dr. Ryan Wade and Jill Sweeney to highlight the Dialectical Behavior Therapy for Substance Use (DBT-S) Program. The program is designed for individuals with substance use disorders. The luncheon focused on explaining the program’s structure and clinical approach. Photo credit: Silver Hill Hospital.

**Garden Club Visits Provincetown**



Last Sunday, members of the New Canaan Garden Club attended the Provincetown Art Association and Museum’s Annual Secret Garden Tour. Photo credit: New Canaan Garden Club.

PEOPLE IN TOWN

**Passios Committed to Tufts**



Senior field hockey captain Cara Passios has committed to Tufts University. Photo credit: New Canaan Field Hockey.

**Hering Committed to Northeastern**



Junior Anna Hering has committed to Northeastern University. Photo credit: New Canaan Field Hockey.

ACROSS CT

**Pool Strap Recall**

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has recalled over five million above-ground pools from Bestway, Intex, and Polygroup due to a safety issue with an external strap that allows children to climb into the pool. The recall applies to various models sold since 2002 in the U.S. and Canada. Consumers should visit the brands’ websites to request a free repair kit and remove the strap before using the pool again.

Over 60,000 cases of Power Stick roll-on deodorant have been recalled nationwide due to violations of federal manufacturing standards. The affected products, in three 1.8-ounce varieties, were distributed across the U.S. and sold at major retailers including Walmart, Dollar Tree, and Amazon. More information is available at <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/ires/?Event=97211>.

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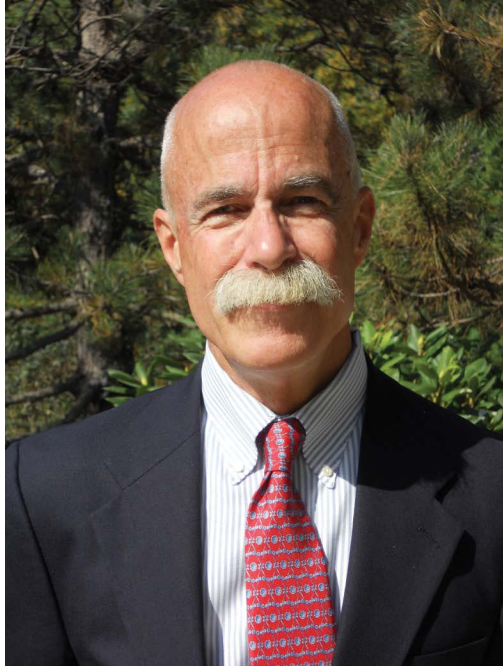


# Obituaries

*The New Canaan Sentinel does not charge for obituaries. Every member of the community deserves to be remembered and honored without families facing added financial burdens. Obituaries may be sent to [Caroll@GreenwichSentinel.com](mailto:Caroll@GreenwichSentinel.com).*

*The cost of publishing obituaries is covered by The Sentinel Foundation, a nonprofit that supports the local Top 5 Things to Do Today daily email, obituaries, education and entertainment pages, worship pages, and sponsorship of charitable organizations and events.*

## John Emert



John Paul Emert, of New Canaan CT and Nantucket MA, died July 17, 2025, at age 82. The son of E. Paul Emert, a stockbroker, and Mary Shields Emert, a homemaker, John was born September 5, 1942, and grew up in Chatham, NJ.

He received a BA with honors from Amherst College, an LLB from Stanford Law School, and an LLM from New York University Law School. He became interested in political and economic issues relating to developing countries, and while in college and law school participated in study groups travelling in Chile, Mexico, and Brazil. He learned to speak Spanish and Portuguese. During law school in 1965, John participated in a civil rights campaign in Mississippi to integrate public facilities, such as libraries

and restaurants.

After law school, John joined the Peace Corps and was assigned to Uganda, an East African country that had recently gained independence and needed teachers. John’s tasks included teaching law and commercial law at the Uganda College of Commerce in the capital city, Kampala, reviewing and abstracting files of decided cases with a view to publishing those cases as the Uganda Law Reports, and working with residents of a village outside Kampala on the construction of an elementary school for children in the village.

After returning home, John passed the New York bar exam and worked for a number of banks in their legal departments, including Manufacturers Hanover Trust, J. Henry Schroder, Citibank, and Bank of America, working with US corporations as well as international businesses. He spent a year in Sao Paulo, Brazil working on legal issues of multinational companies’ subsidiaries in Brazil.

Back in the US, John became interested in derivatives and related trading products. He was part of the first generation of derivatives lawyers, who developed documentation and trading practices for these transactions. He was a Charter Member of the Financial Markets Lawyers Group, a committee of derivative lawyers established by the New York Federal Reserve Bank to promote best legal practices in the foreign exchange markets. John was the coordinator of the development of the IFEMA (International Foreign Exchange Markets Agreement) which validated netting of trading positions in a bank’s foreign exchange portfolio, and worked on the development of the ICOM agreement, a similar agreement for FX options.

John and his family moved to New Canaan in 1993. He was a marathon runner and became active in local organizations, including the Knights of Columbus, Saint Aloysius’s Pastoral Council, New Canaan

Interfaith Council, The Democratic Town Committee, and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). He served two terms on the New Canaan Town Council, one term on the New Canaan Board of Finance, one term on what is now the Inland Wetlands Commission and was formerly a Member of the Board of Governors of the New Canaan Museum and Historical Society.

John met his wife, Ellen (Mary Ellen Gaw), at J. Henry Schroder Bank in New York. They married in 1982 and had one child, Kate (Mary Catherine Emert Gleason), who is a lawyer in the Philadelphia area. The family loved Nantucket, vacationing there during the summer season for several years and owning a house there since 2000. John was a summer volunteer in the Research Library of the Nantucket Historical Association and was an avid birder and beachgoer.

John is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, by his daughter Kate (James David Gleason) of Wynnewood PA, by his brother James Hugh Emert of NJ, by best friends, Golden Retrievers Gracie and Jake, and by sisters-in-law Shannon Breiningner, Betsy Schmerge, and Susan McDonnell (Jim). He expressed his wish that he could have stayed longer—to see how the story of life was turning out and to be able again to exchange greetings with his many friends and acquaintances. He is at peace in the hands of his Lord and asked that you pray for him, as he will pray for you.

John’s family wish especially to thank the staff and volunteers of Waveny Care Center and the Village at Waveny for the care that they provided to John during his extended struggle with Parkinson’s Disease and Lewey Body Dementia.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Aloysius Church, New Canaan, CT on Thursday, July 24, 2025, followed by burial at Lakeview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please contribute to the charity of your choice.

The Emert family is being compassionately cared for by the staff at Hoyt Funeral Home Funeral 199 Main Street New Canaan CT 06840. For Online condolences please visit, [www.hoytfuneralhome.com](http://www.hoytfuneralhome.com)

## Shashi Shah



Shashi K. Shah, a long-time New Canaan resident and former professor at the US Merchant Marine Academy, passed away at Stamford Hospital on June 21, 2025 after a long illness. He was 90 years old.

Professor Shah was born in Calcutta, India, and came to the United States in 1954 with the intention of studying to become a chemical engineer. He made his way westward and eventually landed in Provo, Utah. While there, Professor Shah enrolled at Brigham Young University, receiving his Bachelor’s Degree in 1957 and his Master’s Degree in 1959. Although he left Utah after he finished his studies, Professor Shah was forever grateful to the BYU community for welcoming him with open arms and providing him with the means to launch a successful career in business and academia.

Arriving in New York City at the beginning of the 1960s, Professor Shah worked at a number of companies, including CBS, McGraw-Hill and Lever Brothers. During this time, he met the love of his life, Sumitra Shah, a graduate student of economics at Columbia University. Shashi and Sumitra were married on February 7, 1963, and moved to Rego Park, Queens, where they started a family. The Shahs’ son, Sanjit, was born in 1965.

In the 1970s, Professor Shah became CEO and a director of Information Centers of America, Inc., popularly known as “Travel.” He received his MBA from NYU in 1979, and his Ph.D. in business from the City University of New York in 1986. These

degrees provided Professor Shah with the foundation to transition from the business world to academia. He taught at Rutgers University, St. John’s University, Hofstra University and Seton Hall University before he found his true home at the US Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

During his time at the USMMA, Professor Shah was instrumental in helping the Academy modernize its teaching facilities. He also started an IT security program for the midshipmen and worked with the NSA and the US Military Academy to raise funds to develop two IT security labs. Professor Shah retired from the Academy as a full professor in December 2010. Upon retirement, Professor Shah and his wife moved full-time to New Canaan.

Professor Shah remained active in retirement. He served as a business mentor at SCORE in Norwalk and was a member of the Men’s Club of New Canaan. Following his wife’s passing in 2014, he compiled her writings into a book titled “Mostly Poems for Family and Friends.”

In addition to his son, Sanjit, and daughter-in-law, Mary, of South Salem, Professor Shah is survived by his grandchildren, Dr. Mina Shah and Vikram Shah.

## George Valchar



George Valchar, husband of Mary Louise Valchar (deceased) and father of six daughters (one deceased), thirteen grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren, died at the age of 99 on January 11, 2025.

George was born in Klecuvka, Czechoslovakia, on April 15, 1925, and, like many in the early 20th century, his life was affected by geopolitics and war. During the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia, as a teenager, he supported partisans fighting in the low-level mountains surrounding his home. After the war, George studied at Charles University in Prague, but his studies were interrupted by the 1948 communist coup, forcing him to flee Czechoslovakia. He escaped, crossing several borders, ending up in Stuttgart, Germany, where he and other students and professors from Charles University had gathered in a displaced persons camp. While there, he met his wife, Mary Louise, who was working at the US Consulate at the time.

George received a scholarship to finish his master’s studies at Wharton, University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and graduated 3rd in his class, despite not yet being fluent in English. From there, he and his wife moved to Queens, NY. He initially worked for the Bank of New York and then moved to General Motors, which remained his employer until he retired in 1983, at the age of 58. George had many roles at GM, which took him and his family all over the world. The family lived in several European and South American countries, finally settling in New Canaan in 1977. Once retired, George became active in the local community as a member of the New Canaan Men’s Association, as well as designing and implementing plantings in and around the town of New Canaan. He also actively participated in the “Get to Know Your Property”-program, originally initiated in 1977, helping new homeowners understand how best to design their gardens with the local environment in mind.

George spoke five languages, was fascinated by history, and greatly enjoyed home-improvement projects. But his true love was gardening. He wrote a book about his gardening philosophy which was well received. Through his book he came to the attention of many would-be gardeners in New Canaan and New England. George’s second book, Moravian Gardens was a personal passion. This labor of love brought together the little-known history of Greater Moravia and the beautiful gardens, both large and small, in today’s Moravian region of Czechia. In more recent years, George mainly focused on helping care for his wife until her death in 2019. Over the last 6 years, although George’s health declined, his strong interest in the world and world politics never stopped.

George is survived by his five remaining daughters, thirteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



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COLUMN

By Rev. Gilbert Burgess

Deuteronomy 5:32-33, So Moses told the people, “You must be careful to obey all the commands of the LORD your God, following his instructions in every detail. 33 Stay on the path “Travel In The Way,” that the LORD your God has commanded you to follow.

The theme of the text is that God through Moses exhorts the new generation of Israelites to live in the promised land as His obedient people.

Moses and the Israelites, are in the territory of Moab, and the kingdom of Moab's people was a land, across from Jericho located east of the Dead Sea in what is now the kingdom of Jordan, the region was a green, valley of rich vegetation, and the Moabite people were historically regarded as the perpetual enemy of the Israelites.

Here where the Jordan river flows into the dead sea. Is where the transferring of leadership from Moses, ministry as God's spokesman and official representative, is now past to Joshua who now takes Moses, place, we find Moses here now

delivering his farewell address, as he emphasized the laws of God that were essential or needed to prepare the people of God for their entry into the promised land, of Canaan

Moses says to Israel, you must carefully obey The Lord's commands. 33 Follow them, because they make a path that will lead to a long successful life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

The Hebrew word for “Way”, in the Old Testament is Derek, Derek referred to a physical road or pathway,” in the text “Way”, refers to the course of your life's journey.

In the New Testament Jesus applied the word “Way,” to himself in John 14:6 were you hear him say “I am the way the truth and the life. No man comes to the father except through me”. and followers of Jesus were subsequently identified as (Those Of The Way), by either themselves or others.

Paul identified Christians during that time as the way he said, in Acts 22:4 from The Message Bible; I went after anyone

connected with this ‘Way,’ he says I went at them with all my might, ready to kill for God. I rounded up men and women right and left and had them thrown in prison.

Throughout the book of Acts people who were followers of Jesus weren't called Christians we were called followers of The Way or people of The Way”, which in the early church was more widely known than the term Christian. Believers of Christ weren't called “Christians” until Acts 11:26 in Antioch.

And the people “Of The Way,” were not simply committed to a cultural practice or obligation, but lived in complete devotion to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We, the people of the Way were committed in ministry.

I submit to you on this day in the year 2025 July 22, that far too many Christian have fallen from The Way, there are those who have become complacent and a vast majority of our society, feel that church has become irrelevant, ineffective, mainly in the area of spiritual maturity, and that our worship centers and

houses of worship have become more concerned about quantity of membership and less about the quality of stewardship, and that opposing threats to the kingdom of darkness isn't a priority, allowing themselves to be deceived by lies, yielding to fleshly desires, therefore being ill equipped and unprepared for spiritual warfare.

It's become evident there is an increasing level of denying the truth, and less resistance to being persuaded to pursue falsehood, just take a listen to our nations leaders and across the globe, struggling with right and wrong. However, we shouldn't be surprised because the Bible is very clear, we've been forewarned.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 You can be certain that in the last days there will be some very hard times. 2 People will love only themselves and money. They will be proud, stuck-up, rude, and disobedient to their parents. They will also be ungrateful, godless, 3 heartless, and hateful. Their words will be cruel, and they will have no self-control or pity. These people will hate everything good. 4 They will

be sneaky, reckless, and puffed up with pride. Instead of loving God, they will love pleasure. 5 Even though they will make a show of being religious, their religion won't be real. Don't have anything to do with such people.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 describes a future time when people will not endure sound teaching, but will gather teachers who will tell them what they want to hear. They will turn away from truth and be captivated by fables. A fictitious improbable lie.

And so Moses said to the people of God then and to all of us now, you must carefully obey the Lord's commands, you must be careful to follow his instructions in every detail. 33 Stay on the path “Travel In The Way,” that the LORD your God has commanded you to follow.

Every one of us should want to make wise decisions, in order to receive the blessings God has in stored flows who will trust him and follow his will.

This new generation of Israelites were entering into the promised land, a land flowing with

milk and honey, a brighter future awaiting all who would live before God as his righteous people.

I submit to you on today that if we're going to make it as a nation, we're going to have to put our trust in God, for future generations to thrive, we must live righteous before God.

We must continue to let our light shine that everyone who comes into our presence, will see the goodness of the Lord breaking through, with the prayer that they will come to the saving knowledge of God's grace and mercies for their life journey.

So let me encourage you to encourage others, be compassionate be trustworthy, be a good neighbor be patient, be kind, be under standing, always being careful to follow Gods instructions., because there are two ways of approaching any objective, a right and a wrong, so keep in mind that the course of action you take, can you lead you down the road to destruction, your behavior can disrupt both you and your neighbor.

# Worship Directory and Services

UPDATE SERVICES AND ADD SPECIAL EVENTS TO THIS CALENDAR AT  
[www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/worship-calendar-updates](http://www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/worship-calendar-updates)

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**

682 South Avenue 203.966.5849  
[www.ComeUntoChrist.org](http://www.ComeUntoChrist.org)  
Sunday Service: 12:00 PM

**Congregational Church**

23 Park Street 203.966.2651  
[office@godsacre.org](mailto:office@godsacre.org)  
[www.godsacre.org](http://www.godsacre.org)

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

**Recurring Events:**

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

**Wednesdays at 9:30 AM:** Bible Study

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

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**

49 Park Street 203.966.0293

[christiansciencet.org/newcanaan](http://christiansciencet.org/newcanaan)

**Sunday 10:30 AM**, in person only. Sunday School is available during Sunday Service and is open to children and young people up to the age of 20. There is also childcare available for children too young for Sunday School.  
**Wednesday Testimony Meeting:** 1st Wednesday of each month, join by zoom or by phone 646 558 8656.  
Reading Room Hours: Open Mondays 11-2, Call to confirm hours 203-966-0293. All are welcome to the Sunday and Wednesday services, Sunday School, and the reading room.

**First Presbyterian Church**

178 Oenoke Ridge Road 203.966.0002  
[fpcnc.org](http://fpcnc.org)

**Sunday Service: 10am** in person or via LocalLive. All are welcome. Coffee Hour after the service is also available in person or via Zoom. Dedicated childcare is available for all children via Wee Care Nanny Agency from 8:45-11:30am in the Nursery School. Transcripts of previous sermons are also available via the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan's website. Recurring Events: Every Saturday 9:15am (closed) and 10:30am (open): Alcoholics Anonymous. Every Tuesday 8pm: Men's A.A.  
**Third Wednesday from 6-7:30 PM:** Wednesdays at the Well are intergenerational opportunities to learn and grow in faith together. Dinner will be served and all ages are invited.

**Upcoming Events:**

**September 7 at 11:30 AM:** Rally Day Picnic. Join for food, fellowship and fun directly following worship service.

**Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Church**

21 Cherry Street 203.966.0020  
[www.starcc.com](http://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](mailto:churchoffice@stmarksnewcanaan.org)  
[www.stmarksnewcanaan.org](http://www.stmarksnewcanaan.org)

**Sunday Services: 8:00am:** Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite I; **9:00am:** Outdoor Holy Eucharist Rite II; **10am:** Indoor

Holy Eucharist Rite II (Live Stream also available on the St. Mark's website). Coffee Hour follows the 10am service. Church School during the 10am service: Godly Play for children in kindergarten through second grade; Holy Moly for third and fourth grades; Meet in the Middle for fifth, sixth and seventh grades. Professional childcare is offered for children ages four and under. Families with children who are not yet ready to separate for childcare are invited to use the rocking chairs at the rear of the chapel.  
**Weekday Services: Monday-Friday, 8:30am:** Morning Prayer Rite II by Zoom.  
**Wednesday at 12:05pm:** Noonday Eucharist in the chapel.

**Recurring Events:**

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

**St. Michael's Lutheran Church**

5 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.3913  
[office@stmichaelslutheran.org](mailto:office@stmichaelslutheran.org)  
[www.stmichaelslutheran.org](http://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](mailto:info@trinitychurch.life)  
[www.trinitychurch.life](http://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](http://www.trinitychurch.life).

**United Methodist Church**

165 South Avenue 203.966.2666  
[frontdesk@umcofnewcanaan.org](mailto:frontdesk@umcofnewcanaan.org)  
[www.umcofnewcanaan.org](http://www.umcofnewcanaan.org)  
**Join us for Sunday Worship!**  
**Sunday Service begins at 10:00 a.m.**

Come for uplifting music and a relevant, inspiring message – and stay after for coffee and conversation during Fellowship Time.  
Child care is available for children from infancy through age 5.

**Community Baptist Church**

174 Cherry Street 203.966.0711  
[cbcnnewcanaan@gmail.com](mailto:cbcnnewcanaan@gmail.com)  
[www.cbcnewcanaan.org](http://www.cbcnewcanaan.org)

Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZ2UNa8aHI3O\\_Syp\\_X0KDg](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:**

**August 2 from 12-4 PM:** Friends & Family Picnic. Everyone is welcome to join.

**Grace Community Church**

**9:30am Service @ New Canaan High School,**  
**11 Farm Road, New Canaan**  
**203-966-7600**  
[info@gracecommunity.info](mailto:info@gracecommunity.info)  
[www.gracecommunity.info](http://www.gracecommunity.info)

Welcome to Grace Church, where we strive to build a church of action, founded on Biblical truth, characterized by faith, grace, community, service, authenticity, clear thinking, and cultural relevance. Grace Community Church is an exercise in knowing God, knowing truth, and building community that extends to our full lives, not just to our Sunday mornings.

Join us **Sunday mornings at 9:30am** or via GCC's Facebook page or YouTube page. Nursery care and Sunday school/teen programming is available for babies through 12th grade. Coffee and bagels available in the lobby after the service, all are welcome.

**Upcoming Events:**

**July 26 from 4-6 PM: Join for an afternoon of pickleball in Mead Memorial Park. Questions or to RVSP, email Bo at [bo@gracecommunity.info](mailto:bo@gracecommunity.info).**

**Talmadge Hill Community Church**

870 Hollow Tree Ridge Road; Darien, CT  
203.966.2314  
[talmadgehillchurch@gmail.com](mailto:talmadgehillchurch@gmail.com)  
[www.talmadgehill.org](http://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](mailto:info@chabadnewcanaan.org)  
[www.newcanaanjewish.org](http://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](http://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  
[www.templesholom.com](http://www.templesholom.com)

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

**Recurring Events:**

**Saturdays at 9 AM:** Shabbat Study via zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/94358392426?pwd=bFJQem9HWFcxU0EzZUM2VENEZmgyUT09#success>



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# It’s How We Treat Each Other

If you wish to live to 100, you might follow the hillside shepherds of Ikaria, Greece, where naps and wild herbs sustain long lives. Or move to Okinawa, Japan, where purple sweet potatoes and lifelong friendships called moai are daily fare. Or—you could stay here in New Canaan and learn what these places already know.

In the early 2000s, journalist Dan Buettner identified five “Blue Zones”—pockets of the world where people live markedly longer, healthier, and happier lives. Their secret was not kale or gym memberships, but the quiet design of their days: meals built on plants, purposeful routines, natural movement, close-knit relationships, and communities built for connection rather than convenience.

“The key,” Buettner observed, “is not discipline—it’s design.”

Which brings us home. New Canaan boasts excellent schools, preserved open space, scenic trails, and medical care that rivals any in the region. But we also harbor what Blue Zones avoid: chronic stress, creeping isolation, and a rising tolerance for unkindness—online and in person. This is more than unpleasant. It is dangerous.

Medical research affirms what grandparents and philosophers have long known: cruelty erodes health. Sustained emotional stress—from bullying, gossip, or public contempt—elevates cortisol, disrupts immunity, and accelerates cellular aging. Inflammation rises. Memory falters. Brain scans reveal cognitive decline among those steeped in negativity. As Buettner warns, “If you want to ruin your own memory later in life, spend a decade being angry.”

A sharp tongue, then, is no mere personality quirk; it shortens lives. Constant derision corrodes trust. A culture of contempt undermines the mental and physical health of an entire town.

So let us do something rare: ask one another to stop. Calmly. Kindly. Firmly.

We can say: *That’s not how we speak to one another in New Canaan.* We can say it in our schools and churches, at town meetings, and even on social media threads. We can say it at our dinner tables and in our own hearts. For this is not merely about niceness; it is about wellness.

You need not move to Sardinia to find a Blue Zone. You can create one here—by reshaping your pantry, your schedule, your friendships, and the tone of your conversations. Buettner offers simple starts: cook plant-based meals a few nights a week; walk after dinner with someone you love; keep healthy foods visible; meditate briefly; nap without guilt; invite a friend for tea; eat slowly.

But perhaps the greatest habit is kindness itself. Let it permeate your tone, your assumptions, your daily choices. Let it be the atmosphere your children breathe and the spirit that defines New Canaan.

In *The Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle wrote that “the whole is greater when its parts are in harmony.” We can make this town not only one of the safest in America, but one of the strongest in spirit and clarity of mind. Chronic hostility—lived in, witnessed, or absorbed—does not simply wound feelings; it degrades the brain itself, eroding memory, dulling thought, and hastening decline. Choosing civility, then, is not merely about being nice. It is about preserving the very faculties that let us love, reason, and belong. To reject meanness is to protect each other’s futures. To live kindly is, quite literally, to keep each other whole.

We cannot out-medicate loneliness. We cannot out-exercise bitterness. But we can, through daily acts of civility, make New Canaan a place where people do not merely live longer—but live better.

# Editorial Page

## Thank You for Participating in the Caucus

Dear Fellow Republicans,

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the 311 Republicans who participated in our recent Caucus. Your time, energy, and commitment to the democratic process are a testament to the strength and values of our Republican community.

I also want to sincerely thank the candidates who stepped forward to serve. Your willingness to lead and your deep respect for our constitutional system and the enduring values of our representative democracy reflect the highest sense of civic duty.

As we look ahead to the general election, let us move forward

with unity and purpose. Together, we can continue to strengthen our communities, uphold the values we share, and ensure that our democratic institutions remain strong for future generations.

Let’s stand side-by-side to support our nominees led by Dionna and Steve and ensure Republican victories up and down the ballot this November.

Thank you again for your engagement and commitment.

With gratitude,  
Melany Hearne  
RTC Chair

PLAYING THIS WEEK AT

THE PLAYHOUSE



SMURFS

FANTASTIC FOUR:  
THE FIRST STEPS

93 Elm Street  
New Canaan

And Join Us in the Pub !

CINEMALAB.COM  
for showtimes and tickets

LEGAL AD

The Town of New Canaan, Connecticut  
Department of Public Works  
Request for Proposal

The Public Works Department of the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut, will receive sealed Proposals for “NEW ROOF INSTALLATION LOCATED AT THE TOWN HALL ANNEX” until 10:00AM Local Time on Tuesday August 12, 2025 at the Department of Public Works Office, Town Hall, 77 Main Street, New Canaan, CT, 06840, at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud.

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

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

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

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

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

1) The approval of such governmental agencies as may be required by law.

2) The appropriation of adequate funds by the proper agencies.

Tiger Mann, Director of Public Works  
Town of New Canaan, Connecticut



# WILLIAM RAVEIS



**OPEN HOUSE • SUNDAY 1-3PM**  
84 PARADE HILL ROAD #84, NEW CANAAN  
3 Bedrooms | 1.1 Baths | 1,361 sq. ft  
Listed at \$760,000

84 Parade Hill Road is a great entry point into New Canaan and ideal for downsizing or as an investment property. The condo offers all the conveniences of living in close proximity to the village of New Canaan with easy access to exceptional amenities including: shopping, restaurants, New Canaan Library & Metro North Train to NYC.



The main floor offers an open floor plan for living room, kitchen and dining room with access through sliders to a rear deck to enjoy your morning coffee. Three bedrooms and a full bath complete the upstairs. The partially finished heated lower level offers a playroom/rec. room with laundry in the storage area. The backyard includes a small garden and there is a brand-new roof and recently repaved driveway.



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TO LEARN  
MORE



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Luxury Properties Specialist  
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## New Canaan Legal Ads

### LEGAL AD

#### TOWN OF NEW CANAAN ACTION TAKEN BY THE INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION Monday, July 21, 2025

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands Commission of the Town of New Canaan, at its meeting on 07/21/25 made the following decisions:

1. Application IW-25-10 – 676 Laurel Road, A. Halan, Map 40 Block 101 Lot 58. Excavate a pond within the existing stream channel and associated wetland area. Create a plunge pool to capture sediment before it enters the pond.

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN.

2. Application IW-25-31 – 9 Rippowam Road, Jeffrey B. Dobbs, Map 27, Block 25, Lot D2 and 1497 Ponus Ridge, Edward Bassett Bretschger, Jr. and Elizabeth M. Jenkins Bretschger, Map 27, Block 25, Lot 9. In the area adjacent to the existing dam, temporarily drain a portion of Collins Pond, in order to assess upstream face and features of the existing dam for repair designs.

APPROVED with One Special Condition.

3. Notice of Violation- 93 Buttery Road, Michael Lowry-Cease and Desist, request to appear to discuss unauthorized activity.

Cease and Desist – Released.

### LEGAL AD

#### STATE OF CONNECTICUT TOWN OF NEW CANAAN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS of the Town of New Canaan will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 4, 2025 this hearing is scheduled to be a hybrid meeting and will be both in person in the Board Room at Town Hall, 77 Main Street and virtually via zoom at 7:00 p.m. Zoom link will be posted on the calendar at newcanaan.info.

1. 45 Brushy Ridge Road – Zoning Variance – Upon application of David Rucci, Lampert, Toohey & Rucci, LLC, Authorized Agent for Gavin J. and Melissa G. Parker, owner(s) for a Variance of Section(s) 3.5.F.5.b to allow 12.5 sq. ft. of a second floor area to exceed the side yard height of 20' (27') and total height 25' (31.8') in the Half Acre Zone at 45 Brushy Ridge Road (Map 38, Block 93, Lot 748).

Luke T. Tashjian, Chairman  
Dated: July 24, 2025

Members of the public are invited to

### CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**State Project No. Project No. 0173-0544**  
**Installation of Centerline Rumble Strips on**  
**Route 123 (Smith Ridge Rd) and Route 124 (Oenoke Ridge Rd)**  
**in New Canaan**

**Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**

**Learn more & Register:**  
**<https://portal.ct.gov/DOT2025CLRS-NewCanaan>**

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the community with an opportunity to learn about the proposed project. A Q&A session will immediately follow the presentation.

The purpose of this project involves systemically installing centerline rumble strips (CLRS) to reduce the number of roadway departures and head-on crashes.

Right-of-way impacts with the proposed project are not anticipated.

Construction is expected to start in 2026, depending on funding, right-of-way acquisition, and permits. The estimated cost is \$13,000, with 100% state funds.

The public can submit comments and questions during the two-week public comment period following the meeting. Direct comments and questions by Tuesday, August 26, 2025, to **[DOT2025CLRS-NewCanaan@ct.gov](mailto:DOT2025CLRS-NewCanaan@ct.gov)** or (860) 594-2020.

#### ACCESSIBILITY

Non-English translation options will be available on Zoom. The recording will also be posted immediately following the meeting in the list of CTDOT virtual public meetings at **[portal.ct.gov/ctdotVPIMarchive](https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotVPIMarchive)**.

For limited internet access, call (877) 853-5257 with Meeting ID 825 6773 3363. Project information can be mailed within one week by contacting Balazs Szoke at **[TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov](mailto:TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov)** or (860) 594-2745.

For hearing/speech disabilities, dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). Request language assistance from CTDOT's Language Assistance at (860) 594-2109 at least five business days before meeting.





YMCA Family Fun area featured a Robo-Surfer and also offered crafts and airbrush tattoos.

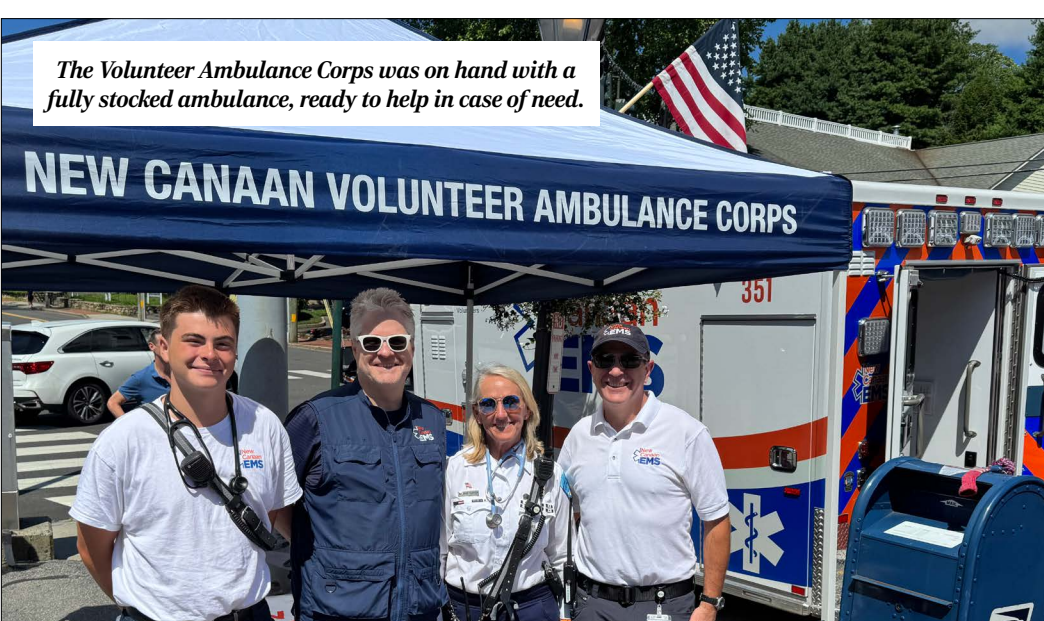
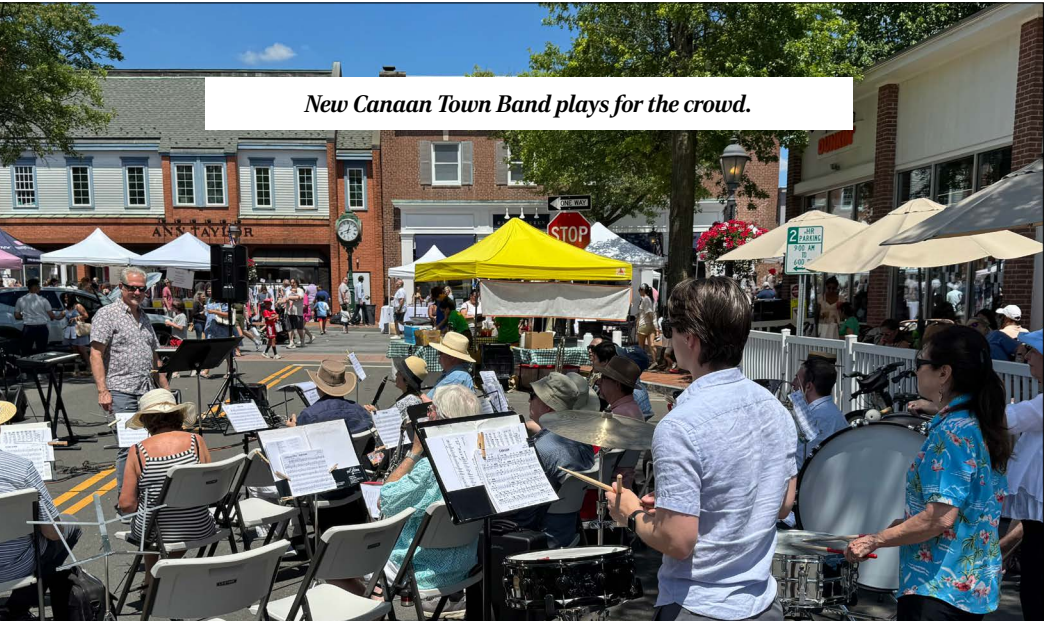
READY/FIRE ENGINE  
CONTINUED From Page 1

gods smiled down on all the merchants and organizations who lined Elm, Main and Forest Streets on Saturday. People enjoyed getting a great bargain as well as meeting representatives from some of New Canaan's nonprofit organizations. People seemed to enjoy the food, music and catching up with friends and neighbors.”

The Sidewalk Sale is a group effort with local Public Works, Fire and Health departments to ensure a safe and enjoyable day for all.



L-R Selectman Steve Karl, Fire Chief Albert Bassett, First Selectman Dionna Carlson and Fire Marshal Paul Payne at the water bottle filler at New Canaan Fire Company No. 1's fire safety booth.





# REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

## REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD EDITOR

John Engel | John.Engel@Elliman.com

## REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD CONTRIBUTORS

Christa Kenin | Christa.Kenin@Elliman.com

Robyn Bonder | Robyn.Bonder@Elliman.com

### NEW LISTINGS

| Address                   | List Price  | SqFt  | Price/SqFt | AC   | BR | FB |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------|------------|------|----|----|
| 12 Shady Knoll Lane       | \$995,000   | 1,232 | \$808.00   | 1.02 | 3  | 2  |
| 412 Main Street           | \$1,075,000 | 1,952 | \$551.00   | 0.31 | 5  | 2  |
| 113 Harrison Ave. Unit #A | \$2,495,000 | 3,923 | \$636.00   |      | 4  | 4  |
| 513 Main Street           | \$3,795,000 | 5,487 | \$692.00   | 0.75 | 5  | 5  |
| 40 Oenoke Ridge           | \$5,995,000 | 6,097 | \$983.00   | 2.21 | 7  | 6  |

### FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

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

| Address             | Price       | Day | Time        | Broker         |
|---------------------|-------------|-----|-------------|----------------|
| 1580 Ponus Ridge    | \$3,998,000 | SAT | 1:00-3:00PM | William Raveis |
| 84 Parade Hill Road | \$760,000   | SUN | 1:00-3:00PM | William Raveis |
| 106 Kimberly Place  | \$1,895,000 | SUN | 2:00-4:00PM | William Raveis |

### NEW SALES

| Address                  | Original List | List Price  | Sold Price  | DOM | BR | FB | Acres |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----|----|----|-------|
| 49 Jelliff Mill Road #41 | \$1,549,000   | \$1,549,000 | \$1,549,000 | 9   | 2  | 2  |       |
| 400 White Oak Shade Road | \$2,395,000   | \$2,195,000 | \$2,000,000 | 96  | 4  | 4  | 1.4   |
| 23 Benedict Hill Road    | \$2,899,000   | \$2,899,000 | \$2,800,000 | 83  | 5  | 6  | 3.3   |
| 123 Talmadge Hill Road   | \$2,795,000   | \$2,795,000 | \$3,200,000 | 5   | 6  | 6  | 2.07  |
| 50 Chichester Road       | \$4,495,000   | \$4,495,000 | \$4,927,000 | 9   | 6  | 5  | 1.13  |
| 485 Laurel Road          | \$7,250,000   | \$7,250,000 | \$6,750,000 | 112 | 8  | 8  | 17.5  |

## \*Catfishing in Real Estate



BY JOHN ENGEL

Twice this week, builders have asked me, “Why isn’t my new house selling?” It’s painful and expensive.

With monthly carrying costs around \$25,000, mistakes get expensive fast.

I’ve written plenty about buyer psychology, staging, showing strategy, copy that sells, and the role of photography.

Houses don’t sell themselves; they need choreography.

Staging matters, and virtual staging misses the mark. It’s a budget-friendly lure that might get buyers in the door, but it can’t compete with the sensory pull of real staging — touch, sound, scent — that turns a house into a home.

Decades of catalogs and online shopping teach us that third-person visuals don’t create the same emotional connection as first-hand experience.

Physical staging draws buyers in. They can sit down, sense the flow, and picture life there. That makes them want to stay.

In 1955, department stores learned that furnished model rooms increased dwell time by 15% and sales by 12%. Shoppers needed to touch the fabric to imagine living there.

By 1987, fast food chains saw that cozy seating kept people 15% longer than sterile layouts. Comfort makes people linger.

In 2013, researchers found that furnished spaces created 25% stronger emotional attachments than empty ones.

You don’t fall in love with a house by pacing an empty box; you need a couch to sink into and a vibe to feel.

Virtual staging, like catalog shopping, may dazzle online, but it disappoints in-person, where sensory gaps leave buyers cold.

In 1958, catalog research found that three to five images per page held attention, but eight or more cut purchase intent by 10%. So why do most MLS listings still stuff in the full 40? This isn’t commodity sales on Amazon, and more photos often hurt more than they help.

In 2018, researchers found third-person visuals, such as catalog photos, reduced emotional connection by 20% compared to first-hand experiences, like walking through a staged home.

In 2023, researchers found online visuals boost views by 40%, but they often backfire when buyers show up to empty rooms. Virtual staging sets expectations it can’t meet. It’s a digital fairy tale with a bad Tinder ending.

Empty homes echo like caverns and smell like a hardware store, while physical staging’s soft acoustics and cozy scents tend to make buyers stay.

In 2017, retail studies showed that soft acoustics from furnishings increased comfort by 12%, while echoey spaces made it drop by 15%.

In 1974, marketers found that food scents, such as fresh-baked bread, increased dwell time by 12% to 20%. It’s a trick of physical staging, and a good Realtor can easily replicate it.

In 2020, researchers found that warm, homey smells, such as wood or candles, created 15% stronger emotional connections than sterile ones.

An empty home’s echo screams ‘construction site,’ not ‘cozy nest.’ And don’t get me started on the paint-fume perfume.

Video? It’s disappointing when that just means a slideshow set to music. *Where am I? Which room is this?* If you’re not surprising and delighting, they’re clicking out. A slideshow might’ve passed ten years ago. Today, expectations are higher.

Drone footage? It’s a tool: effective in the right hands but not always useful for telling the story. Most homes were not designed to be viewed from above. However, a good drone shot can add drama.

We’re exposed to 5,000 ads a day, ten times more than in the 1970s. To break through, as marketers, we have to raise our game.

*“Virtual staging sets expectations it can’t meet. It’s a digital fairy tale with a bad Tinder ending.”*

Last week, I toured a condo with an older couple. They noticed things they’d missed online, like the first-floor powder room. But when they sat down in the living room with the agents, the conversation shifted to why they’re



Top to bottom: A sterile, echoey, disorienting space; a deceptively smart virtual stage; and a cozy and inviting staged room with real textiles, smells, and physical sensations.

moving and what really matters in their next home.

Couples don’t always agree. You also start to see who’s really making the decisions. And you hear what they think renovations will cost and where they might be wrong.

There’s always that question: *Will there be enough room for everything, even after we let go of what we don’t really need?*

In this case, the couple owns more than one home, so they won’t have to live through a renovation.

It mattered that they lingered, allowing them to notice the gas fireplace, the angle of the afternoon sun, the quiet, and the privacy, and to talk about where they’d eat: kitchen island or dining table.

I spoke with one of the builders who decided not to stage his new construction listing. He agreed the photos and video leave buyers wondering, *Where’s the furniture? Where am I?*

I asked who he thought the buyer would be, and we talked about whether the design choices matched that vision.

Some of the design choices feel like repeats from his playbook 10 or 15 years ago, straight out of a catalog, while others lean modern and edgy. The result is a house that doesn’t quite commit to a point of view, and that makes it harder for buyers to connect.

Staging would have helped to bring coherence and intention to the space. But then, so would an interior designer.

One of our current listings illustrates the other side of the presentation dilemma. The seller hired a great stager, and the result was a noticeable improvement, but the home still carries the weight of personal art and family presence. It’s a halfway presentation: curated but not fully committed. I get it. With a large family, living in a 100% staged home isn’t easy. But for buyers, it sends a mixed signal. It suggests the family isn’t ready to let go, not quite ready to sell. It also suggests a reluctance to fully trust the professionals. And buyers feel that. Presentation isn’t just furniture; it’s permission. It’s telling someone, *This home is ready for you, not still waiting for us.*

We all like to think we make rational decisions when it comes to buying a home. We look at comps, calculate cost per square foot, and analyze the market trends. But let’s be honest: Most buyers fall in love. No spreadsheet can explain why one house feels right and another doesn’t. And that’s okay.

In fact, it’s essential. We’re not buying homes like we buy stocks, off charts and ratios. We’re buying the place we want to live our lives. And that starts with how it makes us feel.

In the end, we’re not just selling bedrooms and bathrooms; we’re selling the possibility of a new life.

A buyer doesn’t choose a home with a checklist. They choose the one that makes them pause. That feels right. That quiets the noise and lets them imagine their future there. The sooner we accept that real estate is as emotional as it is financial, the sooner we’ll stop treating homes like spreadsheets. You don’t buy a house the way you buy a stock. Charts and comps matter, but only after the heart gets involved.

Our job, whether agent, builder, or seller, is to invite that emotion in.

*John Engel is Douglas Elliman’s top broker in Connecticut, a weekly columnist, a weekly podcaster, a daily Instagrammer, a Rotarian, and town-hall volunteer. Last night John Engel and fellow Town Council alum and Engel Team member Christa Kenin participated in New Canaan’s election caucus, connecting with voters, giving and hearing speeches. The good news is that New Canaan defies the trend and keeps it positive, never relying on negative campaigning. The bad news is that only one race was contested this time, turnout was only 311, and the race was decided by 9 votes. John and Christa have experienced the pain of losing elections and it made us better. We want to congratulate Kim Norton on a positive campaign, thank her for her service and hope we’ll see her again in another capacity.*

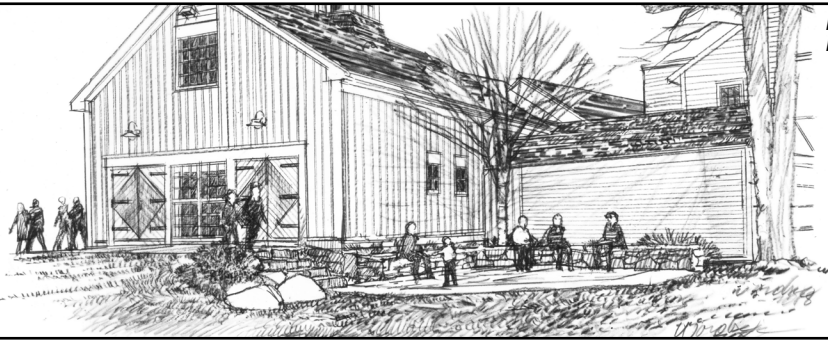
*\*Catfishing is the art of deception, when the online photos are better than the reality.*

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



Keith E. Simpson  
Associates

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# 9th Annual Community Addiction Awareness



# Vigil

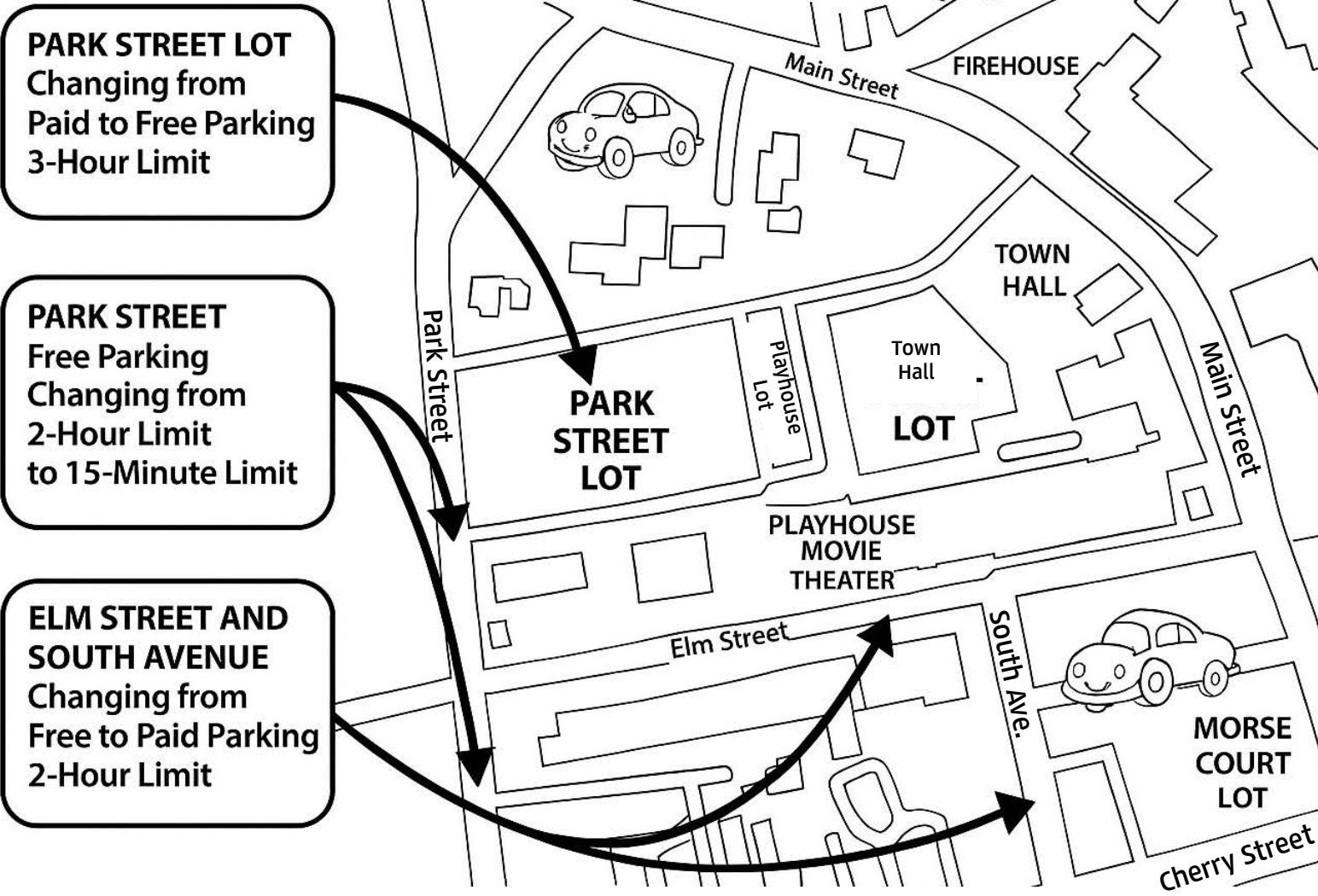
Wednesday, Aug. 27  
7:00 pm

6 South Avenue, New Canaan

Music starts: 6:15pm | Rain date: Aug. 28



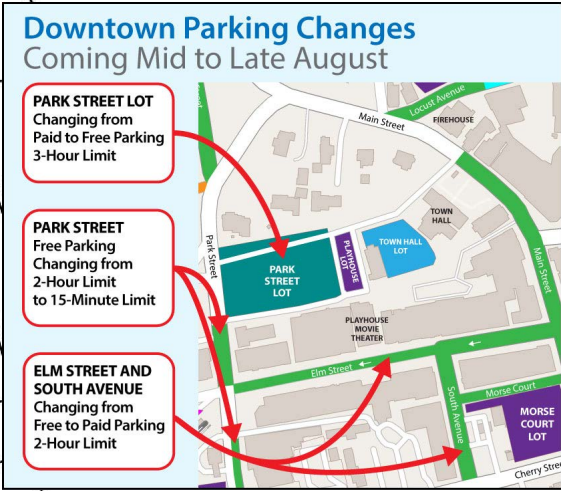
## Downtown Parking Changes Coming Mid to Late August



Downtown parking changes are coming this August to help reduce traffic congestion. Elm Street, we'll be implementing paid parking along Elm Street and South Avenue. These spaces will continue to have a two-hour limit and visitors can now pay in convenient 30-minute increments.

To balance this change, the Park Street Lot will be FREE for three-hour parking. All other parking lots will remain unchanged.

Additionally, seven Park Street spaces are being converted to free 15-minute spots, and combined with the existing 15-minute spaces in Morse Court, visitors will have quick-stop access at both ends of Elm Street. The town is also creating a loading zone at the top of the stairs between the Playhouse and Le Pain Quotidien to reduce truck traffic and double-parked trucks on Elm Street, and converting half the stairway from the Playhouse Lot into a ramp to improve accessibility for wheelchairs, strollers, and deliveries.







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# Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

**Submit your events at:**  
[newcanaansentinel.com/submit-an-event/](http://newcanaansentinel.com/submit-an-event/)

## TOWN MEETINGS

**Tuesday, July 29**

Planning & Zoning Commission  
7-8 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room & via Zoom

**July 24**

**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.

**Sewing Project for Adults: Folded Portfolio Pouch**  
4 PM at the New Canaan Library, Anderson MakerLab  
Using fake leather, create a distinctive folded portfolio pouch, unlined with snap or wind button closure. All materials and equipment provided. Participants must have been certified or already familiar with a sewing machine. For adults. Register at <https://shorturl.at/S8irK>.

**July 25**

**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.**

**July Summer Picnic**  
5:30 PM at Grace Farms  
Enjoy an inspired picnic dinner. Inspired by the year's theme, Architecture Moves Us, each iteration of the picnic series will reveal how these incredible insects contribute to the natural landscape enjoyed at Grace Farms. These small insects often go unnoticed, but contribute significantly to a healthy ecosystem. The picnic will also feature lawn games, trail access, and summer activities for the whole family. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/ILNJb>.

**The Summer Theatre of New Canaan presents Disney's The Little Mermaid**  
7 PM at Il Farm Rd  
Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film, Disney's The Little Mermaid is a classic story of love and adventure for the ages. Tickets are available at <https://stonc.org>.

**J. Edmond Live**  
7:30-9 PM at the Spice & Tea Exchange  
Join for an evening of music and entertainment with J.Edmond. He will be performing live, bringing his unique blend of soulful tunes and energetic beats. Tickets are \$12.51 and available at <https://shorturl.at/fgITY>.

**July 26**

**Last Saturday on the Trails: Butterfly Walk**  
10 AM at Livingston-Higley Preserve  
Join for a guided Butterfly Walk with guest lepidopterist Victor DeMasi, an expert in butterfly conservation and ecology. Learn about local pollinators, enjoy a walk through the preserve, and experience butterflies in their natural habitat. Please wear closed-toe shoes and dress appropriately for the trails. Register at <https://newcanaanlandtrust.org/events/>.

**Learning with Nature | Walk with Dragonflies**  
11 AM at Grace Farms  
Dragonflies have been around for over 300 million years and are still considered nature's masters of the sky. Able to fly over 30 miles per hour, dragonflies are one of the fastest flying insects in the world. Follow Grace Farms Horticulture Director Kimberly Kelly on a guided summer walk to experience the awe and wonder of the natural world, dragonflies and all. Tickets are \$16/members, \$20/non-members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/learning-with-nature-walk-with-dragonflies>.

**The Summer Theatre of New Canaan presents Disney's The Little Mermaid**  
1 and 5 PM at Il Farm Rd  
Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film, Disney's The Little Mermaid is a classic story of love and adventure for the ages. Tickets are available at <https://stonc.org>.

**Art in Nature | Pigment Pastels**  
2 PM at Grace Farms  
Join for a hands-on workshop where you'll create your own pastels using brick, slate, and gypsum. Participants will mix their own pigments and craft unique pastels to take home. Tickets are \$50/non-members, \$40/members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/art-in-nature-pigment-pastels>.

**Night of 1,000 Fireflies**  
7:15 or 8:30 PM at New Canaan Nature Center  
Go and enjoy the magic of a midsummer night. Join the NCNC Naturalists as you search for woodland creatures (wiggly worms & aquatic amphibians) and other enchanted mysteries of the night. Delight in the awe-inspiring beauty of the meadows aglow with the soft light of 1,000+ fireflies. Tickets are \$15/person and available at <https://www.classy.org/event/night-of-1000-fireflies-july-26-2025/e692663>.

**July 27**

**The Summer Theatre of New Canaan presents Disney's The Little Mermaid**  
2 PM at Il Farm Rd  
Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film, Disney's The Little Mermaid is a classic story of love and adventure for the ages. Tickets are available at <https://stonc.org>.

**July 28**

**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://shorturl.at/XgNyp>.

**July 29**

**Crafty Tuesdays**  
9:30 AM at the Lapham Center  
This group works on a variety of crafts, including Landmark Ornaments, to be sold to benefit local charities. Free. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

**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.

**Fairfield County Dance Festival on the Green**  
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Merrill Event Lawn  
Join for a glorious evening of dance. The Thomas/Ortiz Dance Company and East Coast Contemporary Ballet are coming to the library as a part of a series of free outdoor dance performances throughout Fairfield County to enable greater access to the arts and arts education. Please bring your own chairs, blankets, and food. Register at <https://shorturl.at/ujNrA>.

**July 30**

**Journey into the World of Tea | Tea 101**  
3 PM at Grace Farms  
Tea aficionados are invited into the Pavilion to sample teas while learning about the basics of tea varieties from across the globe. Tickets are \$20/members, \$25/non-members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/tea-101-2025>.

**Waveny Summer Concert | The Geoff Hartwell Band**  
7:30-9:30 PM on the lawn behind Waveny House  
Bring a chair or blanket and go enjoy a free Waveny summer concert featuring the Geoff Hartwell Band (Rock and Roll).

**August 1**

**NO COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**  
8:30-9:30 AM at the Lapham Center

**August 2**

**Family Field Trip to Weir Farm National Historical Park**  
10 AM at Weir Farm  
Weir Farm National Historical Park is a National Park for Art, a place that has been inspiring artists since 1882 when America's most beloved Impressionist, Julian Alden Weir, made this his summer home. Families are welcome to pack a picnic lunch and stay after the activities to have lunch and explore the park more if they wish. Registration will be available July 1 at <https://shorturl.at/gUGru>.

**August 5**

**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.

**Charles Ives Music Festival Chamber Music Concert**  
7 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center  
Opening with a beautiful piece by Ralph Vaughan Williams, "Vocalise", and the first movement of Beethoven's String Quartet No. 14, Op. 131, CIMF Artist-Faculty will perform additional solo and chamber works by Nina C. Young and Aleksandra Vrebalov. The CIMF Artist Chamber Orchestra, led by Jacob Joyce will perform works by Paul Frucht and John Adams, all of which traverse multiple musical and emotional spaces. Register at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/charles-ives-chamber-music/>.

**August 6**

**Shop Smarter With Consumer Reports**  
1 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room  
This class will show you how to use Consumer Reports to take your shopping skills to the next level. You'll learn how to access the database from anywhere, browse reviews, compare products, read informative articles, find helpful guides for major purchasing decisions, and more. Register at <https://shorturl.at/bCWCD>.

**Waveny Summer Concert | Dreamin'**  
7:30-9:30 PM on the lawn behind Waveny House  
Bring a chair or blanket and go enjoy a free Waveny summer concert featuring Dreamin' (50's and 60's songs).

**August 8**

**NO COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**  
8:30-9:30 AM at the Lapham Center

**August 9**

**Learning with Nature | Extend the Harvest**  
11 AM at Grace Farms  
Join in the Garden to learn which crops to sow for fall harvest, as well as methods of extending the growing season with winter hoops, row covers, and fall plantings. Stroll through the vegetable beds to discover ways to overwinter plants and learn about the variety of cover crops that can aid in preparing the garden for next year. Tickets are \$16/members, \$20/non-members, and available at <https://shorturl.at/U4v4t>.

**August 10**

**Chef's Palate | Global Groceries**  
3 PM at Grace Farms  
Join Pastry Chef and Educator Leah Jones to look at and explore everyday ingredients through a global perspective and learn why shopping for groceries locally and cooking seasonal meals can bolster your community while having a greater global impact. Tickets are \$12/members, \$15/non-members, and available at <https://shorturl.at/lxwbr>.

**August 12**

**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.

**August 13**

**Waveny Summer Concert | Otis and the Hurricannes**  
7:30-9:30 PM on the lawn behind Waveny House  
Bring a chair or blanket and go enjoy a free Waveny summer concert featuring Otis and the Hurricannes (New Orleans Funk, Delta Blues).

**August 15**

**NO COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**  
8:30-9:30 AM at the Lapham Center

**August 19**

**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.

**August 20**

**Waveny Summer Concert | Fairfield Counts Band**  
7:30-9:30 PM on the lawn behind Waveny House  
Bring a chair or blanket and go enjoy a free Waveny summer concert featuring Otis and the Fairfield Counts Band (Miller, Dorsey, Goodman, Big Band).

**August 22**

**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.**

**August 23**

**Creatures of the Night...Hike**  
7:30-9 PM at New Canaan Nature Center  
Join for an interactive sensory night hike adventure and try your hand at our naturalist-led challenges. This program will also include the opportunity to meet a couple of the nature center's nocturnal animal ambassadors up close and personal. The night will wrap up with roasting marshmallows around the campfire. Registration will be available at <https://newcanaannature.org/night-hikes/>.

**August 26**

**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.

**August 27**

**9th Annual Addiction Awareness Vigil**  
6:15 PM at 6 South Avenue, New Canaan  
This outdoor event features live music, tributes, recovery testimonials, resources, and a candlelight vigil led by local faith community leaders. Speeches will begin at 7 pm. Town parking available at both Morse Court and Park Street lots.

**Waveny Summer Concert | Royal Kings**  
7:30-9:30 PM on the lawn behind Waveny House  
Bring a chair or blanket and go enjoy a free Waveny summer concert featuring Royal Kings (Doo Wop Music).

**August 29**

**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.**

## SAVE THE DATE

**September 3**

**Waveny Summer Concert | The Short Bus Band**  
7:30-9:30 PM on the lawn behind Waveny House  
Bring a chair or blanket and go enjoy a free Waveny summer concert featuring The Short Bus Band (70's songs to Today's Hits).

**September 5**

**Guided Tour of The Armory Show with LG Art Advisory**  
10:45 AM- 1 PM on the lawn  
Join for an exclusive 2-hour guided tour of The Armory Show with Lauren Gargiulo, founder of LG Art Advisory and a respected contemporary art specialist. Held annually at the Javits Center, The Armory Show is one of the most significant international art fairs—bringing together leading galleries, artists, and collectors from around the world. Meet at the check-in desk at the Javits Center. Tickets are \$110/members, \$125/non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/armoryshow/>.

**September 9**

**The Frick Re-Opens: An In-Depth Zoom Lecture with Page Knox**  
6:30 PM on Zoom  
Join art historian Page Knox for a one-hour Zoom lecture on the long-awaited reopening of The Frick Collection in New York City. Closed since 2020, the Frick has reopened its doors with a beautifully renovated building and an exciting expansion. Registration is \$15/Carriage Barn members, \$20/non-members, and available at <https://>





# Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

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carriagebarn.org/event/thefrickreopens/  
**September 17**

**Chelsea Gallery Tour with Merrily Kerr of New York Art Tours**  
10:45 AM, location will be announced one week before event  
Join for an inspiring two-hour walking tour of Chelsea’s premier contemporary art galleries with NYC art insider Merrily Kerr, founder of New York Art Tours. On this private tour, visit approximately seven of the most important and talked-about exhibitions in New York. Tickets are \$85/Carriage Barn members, \$100/non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/chelseagalleries/>.

**September 24**  
**Glass House Presents Women, Modernism, and Philip Johnson**  
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium  
Learn about architect Philip Johnson's overlooked associations with some of the women who embraced and promoted modernism from the 1930s through the 1950s. Register at <https://shorturl.at/xLEiQ>.

**September 25**  
**The Rotary Club of New Canaan’s 40th Annual Lobsterfest**  
4-8 PM at Waveny House  
How would you like to enjoy your lobster and other meals? Dine in at the Waveny House veranda or order curb-side take away. The menu will include lobster, lobster rolls, beef tenderloin, chicken, vegetarian cheese lasagna and a kid’s meal. More information and tickets are available at <https://www.newcanaanrotarylobsterfest.org>.

**September 26**  
**The Rotary Club of New Canaan’s 40th Annual Lobsterfest**  
4-8 PM at Waveny House  
How would you like to enjoy your lobster and other meals? Dine in at the Waveny House veranda or order curb-side take away. The menu will include lobster, lobster rolls, beef tenderloin, chicken, vegetarian cheese lasagna and a kid’s meal. More information and tickets are available at <https://www.newcanaanrotarylobsterfest.org>.

**September 28**  
**Waveny Park Arts Festival**  
10 AM- 4 PM in Waveny Park  
The Waveny Park Arts Festival will feature 50 artist & artisan vendors, live music & entertainment, food trucks, and more. For more information visit <https://carriagebarn.org/2025-artsfest-application/>.

**October 4**  
**“Unleash the Artist In You” Painting Workshop with Melissa Benedek**  
12 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center  
Join this small group workshop to explore self-expression and a deeper connection with your creative side. It is not about creating a perfect piece of art, it’s about creating from within and finding your own style and direction. Materials included, BYO lunch. Spaces are limited—sign up early to reserve your spot. Tickets are \$135/members, \$150/non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/unleash-the-artist-in-you/>.

**October 11**  
**Faster Things – Allman Brothers Tribute**  
7 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center  
If you love the music of the original Allman Brothers Band, you will love Faster Things – the Allman Brothers Tribute Band. Faster Things conjures the twin guitar harmonies and searing slide guitar sounds, hammond organ, harmony guitar and unusual time signatures of the original Allman Brothers band with passion. Advance tickets are \$25 and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/faster-things/>.

**October 12**  
**Library Orientation with Inclusive Together**  
11 AM at the New Canaan Library, Kontulis Family Storytime Room  
New Canaan Library is partnering with Inclusive Together to offer an exclusive Library Orientation for parents/caregivers and their children. This event is designed for those who appreciate a quieter, less crowded environment. Register at <https://shorturl.at/LNcky>.

**October 18**  
**“Exploring Your Vision**

**In Paint” Workshop With Landscape Artist Jonathan McPhillips**  
10 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center  
Join renowned landscape artist Jonathan McPhillips for a one-day workshop that is open to artists of all levels working in any paint medium. Spaces are limited—sign up early to reserve your spot. Tickets are \$155/members, \$180/non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/jonathanmcpPhillips/>.

**October 19**  
**Caffeine & Carburetors**  
7 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>.

## BLOOD DRIVES

**Thursday, July 24**  
Greenwich Blood Donation Center  
99 Indian Field Road  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
7:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Friday, July 25**  
American Legion  
60 County Road  
Norwalk, CT 06851  
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Temple B'nai Chaim  
82 Portland Avenue  
Georgetown, CT 06829  
12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**Saturday, July 26**  
Union Baptist Church  
805 Newfield Avenue  
Stamford, CT 06905  
8:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Greenwich Blood Donation Center  
99 Indian Field Road  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
7:00 AM – 3:15 PM

**Sunday, July 27**  
Greenwich Blood Donation Center  
99 Indian Field Road  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
7:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Monday, July 28**  
Norwalk Hospital  
34 Maple Street  
Norwalk, CT 06856  
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
  
Agudath Sholom Synagogue  
301 Strawberry Hill Avenue

Stamford, CT 06902  
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Tuesday, July 29**  
Greenwich Blood Donation Center  
99 Indian Field Road  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

**Wednesday, July 30**  
New Canaan Town Hall  
77 Main Street  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

VFW  
465 Riverside Avenue  
Westport, CT 06880  
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Greenwich Blood Donation Center  
99 Indian Field Road  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
9:00 AM – 5:15 PM

**Thursday, July 31**  
Stamford Church of Christ  
1264 High Ridge Road  
Stamford, CT 06903  
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Greenwich Town Hall  
101 Field Point Road  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

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

## Support Services & Meetings

**August 6**  
**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://tinyurl.com/2mcpwxme>.

**September 3**  
**Back-to-School Resource Fair with Inclusive Together**  
12-2 PM at the New Canaan Library,  
Join Inclusive Together and New Canaan Library at a Back-to-School Resource Fair for parents and caregivers of neurodiverse children. Meet representatives from local organizations that offer valuable services and programming for children with disabilities and neurodivergent children. Ask

questions, make connections, and learn what these organizations can do for you. Arrive any time between 12 and 2, and stay as long as you are able. Register at <https://shorturl.at/k2doA>.

**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

**August 13**  
**Women and Money Roundtable: How to Make Sense of Today’s Financial Markets**  
1 PM via Zoom  
Join Financial Advisors Julia Strayer and Liz Maccarone for a series of easy-to-follow discussions on how to make sense of today’s financial markets. They will cover the latest market news and how that might affect your financial decisions. Register at <https://shorturl.at/rBZqB>.

**August 15**  
**VOICES Preparedness Workshop: Preparing Individuals and Families for an Emergency**  
1 PM Founder Hall  
193 Danbury Road, Ridgefield  
VOICES is offering regularly scheduled, online workshops to provide individuals and families with strategies to prepare in advance of an emergency. Participants will learn the basic components of how to be better prepared at home, work and in the community, whether sheltering in place or evacuating. Register at <https://voicescenter.org/events/preparedness-workshop/08-15-2025>.

**September 5, 6, & 7**  
**2025 Norwalk Seaport Association Oyster Festival**  
Times Vary at Veteran's Memorial Park and Marina  
42 Seaview Avenue, Norwalk  
Three days of fun, food, and entertainment on multiple stages, plus a myriad of special events for families and friends. More information and tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/U9LAI>.

**September 10**  
**Women and Money Roundtable: How to Make Sense of Today’s Financial Markets**  
1 PM via Zoom  
Join Financial Advisors Julia Strayer and Liz Maccarone for a series of easy-to-follow discussions on how to make sense of today’s financial markets. They will cover the latest market news and how that might affect your financial decisions. Register at <https://shorturl.at/HA9EO>.





Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1 Generous helpings of 1-Down  
6 Dish soap brand  
10 \_\_\_ Air (tablet)  
14 Ready for a renter  
15 Indonesian honeymoon destination  
16 Forbidden act  
17 Exit's opposite  
18 Reason for a hung jury  
20 New \_\_\_ music  
21 Brainstorming output  
23 Makes angry  
24 "Slaughter-house-Five" novelist  
28 Attended, or departed  
29 Punishment for a toddler  
33 Type of flute  
36 Lady \_\_\_ (singer at Biden's inauguration)  
37 Basis for some vaccines, briefly  
38 Prominent members of orchestras  
43 Only just get, with "out"  
44 Poker holding  
45 Popular e-reader  
46 Savoy Theatre's London district  
48 Like Beethoven, late in life
- 51 Spirit with Peppar and Mandrin flavors  
56 "Lo and behold!"  
59 Predator of the deep  
60 Take sides?  
61 Inflatable river ride, and what 18-, 24-, 38- or 51-Across contain?  
64 "Let me run that errand"  
66 Consumer price index subj.  
67 Binary digits  
68 "Back to Me" singer  
69 Lindsay Message status  
70 Partner of "turn"  
71 Pigs, collectively
- DOWN**  
1 Porterhouse, e.g.  
2 Cute sound?  
3 Make tweaks to  
4 Honey source  
5 Try hard  
6 Part of AWOL  
7 Marie Kondo's country of birth  
8 Against \_\_\_ odds  
9 Top number on a sundial  
10 Beckon, as trouble  
11 Where you might see a noodle or a float

- 12 Cost of a 44-Across  
13 Accomplishes  
19 President elected in 1948  
22 "White Noise" novelist  
25 What the animals boarded  
26 Noah's Ark in Citation abbr.  
27 Model  
28 Hadid  
30 Roughly  
31 "... \_\_\_ us a son is given" (Isaiah)  
32 Chore  
33 Three or four, say  
34 Social media approval  
35 \_\_\_ leches cake  
36 Shiva, e.g.  
39 What lawyers pass  
40 Vehicles for moving
- 41 Intro to Chinese?  
42 Facts and figures  
47 Knack  
48 Being under it is threatening  
49 "I could keep going, but I won't": Abbr.  
50 Is of benefit  
52 Frontal and occipital  
53 New \_\_\_ (world capital)  
54 Elena of the court  
55 Set things right  
56 Competes (for)  
57 The second "O" of YOLO  
58 Privy to  
62 Tater \_\_\_  
63 Cinco - cuatro  
65 Down in the dumps

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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Family Time Crossword  
The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

1. Agreement between nations, in writing  
5. (K) Robin's accommodations  
9. Hotel amenity  
12. (K) Great Salt Lake state  
13. (K) Scout's promise  
14. (K) Folder feature  
15. (K) Additional  
16. (K) Cashew source  
17. "The Catcher in the \_\_\_"  
18. (K) Determines the value of  
20. (K) Suffix with "smart"  
21. (K) "The list continues" abbr.  
22. One-sixth of an inch, in printing  
24. Takes for granted  
28. (K) Massive vehicles
31. (K) Like a lawn that does not need cutting  
32. Your bro, for one  
34. City that's an apt rhyme for "casino"  
35. Aristotle's teacher  
37. Personal opinion statements  
39. Pampered little ones?  
41. (K) River diverter  
42. (K) Ball club?  
44. Bald-no-more application  
49. (K) "Where \_\_\_ all these frogs coming from?"  
50. Bird hidden in "eagerness"  
51. Certain Celt  
52. (K) Massive fishing spot  
53. Creatures that might solve a maze  
54. (K) "And \_\_\_ what did you do?"
55. (K) Sandwich meat  
56. (K) Injection  
57. Pepsi, for one
- DOWN**  
1. (K) Cougar  
2. Place for peak performers?  
3. Nagging fish?  
4. To that, in contract legalese  
5. (K) Bulletin board posts  
6. (K) Things used at concerts  
7. (K) Like a hillside that's tough to climb  
8. Vital thing for a third degree?  
9. Narrow pennant or Amazon Prime, at times  
10. (K) Treats everyone  
11. Support in wrongdoing  
19. (K) It can show you how much cash you've got  
23. Some pottery wheel users
24. (K) Thing used at concerts  
25. Sun, in Spain  
26. Police emergency force (2 words)  
27. (K) Mister  
29. (K) Hard thing to erase  
30. Mayday alternative  
33. Doctor's order for the overworked (2 words)  
36. (K) "Do unto \_\_\_ ..."  
38. (K) Thing used before GPS  
40. Wife of Abraham  
42. Big, loud party  
43. Code needed for calling  
45. (K) Word in division problems  
46. Cave sound  
47. Dorm dweller  
48. Lab burner, back in the day

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?  
It's a master piece?  
Look for the answer in next week's paper.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

Previous riddle answer:

Play It?  
37-A) SEEK

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5/12

Set List by Julian Lim

|    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 | 5  |    | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |    | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |    |    |
| 14 |    |    |   |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |   |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 20 |    |    |   |    | 21 | 22 |    |    |    |    | 23 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 24 |    |    |   | 25 |    |    |    |    | 26 | 27 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |   | 28 |    |    |    |    | 29 |    |    |    | 30 | 31 | 32 |    |
| 33 | 34 | 35 |   |    |    |    |    | 36 |    |    |    |    | 37 |    |    |    |
| 38 |    |    |   |    | 39 | 40 | 41 |    |    |    |    | 42 |    |    |    |    |
| 43 |    |    |   |    | 44 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 45 |    |    |    |    |
| 46 |    |    |   | 47 |    |    |    |    | 48 | 49 | 50 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |   | 51 |    |    |    |    | 52 |    |    |    |    | 53 | 54 | 55 |
| 56 | 57 | 58 |   |    |    |    |    | 59 |    |    |    |    | 60 |    |    |    |
| 61 |    |    |   |    |    | 62 | 63 |    |    |    |    | 64 | 65 |    |    |    |
| 66 |    |    |   |    |    | 67 |    |    |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |    |
| 69 |    |    |   |    |    | 70 |    |    |    |    |    | 71 |    |    |    |    |

Horoscopes

Key Astrological Events:

Sun in Leo (since July 22): Focus on creativity, courage, and authentic self-expression.

Mercury Retrograde in Leo (continues all week): Reflection, rethinking plans, and potential miscommunications.

Venus conjunct Jupiter in Leo (peaks July 27-28): Expansive, joyful, creative energy, but watch for excess.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

This week brings vibrant Leo energy to your creative sector. Expect inspiration and opportunities for fun, especially around July 27-28 as Venus and Jupiter align. But Mercury retrograde asks you to check your plans twice before sharing them. Revisit old hobbies or unfinished projects.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

Home and family matters come into focus. The Venus-Jupiter conjunction encourages warm, celebratory gatherings, but Mercury retrograde can complicate plans. Clarify expectations and be patient with domestic repairs or family conversations.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Your communication zone is lit up with Leo's fire, inviting confident self-expression. Venus and Jupiter offer charm and persuasion, but Mercury retrograde warns of crossed wires. Double-check travel details and be clear in discussions.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Financial themes intensify. The Venus-Jupiter conjunction could bring opportunities for abundance but also tempt overspending. Use Mercury retrograde to review budgets, debts, and shared resources carefully. Prioritize long-term security.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Your season is in full swing. Venus and Jupiter conjoin in your sign, offering magnetic attraction, generosity, and growth. You may feel seen and appreciated. Mercury retrograde advises reflection on your personal goals before making big declarations.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

The Leo energy is centered in your hidden sector. Introspection, dreams, and rest are vital. Venus-Jupiter can boost creativity behind the scenes, but Mercury retrograde

suggests clearing old emotional baggage. Take solitude to recharge.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

Your social life flourishes under the Venus-Jupiter conjunction, ideal for reconnecting with old friends or groups. But Mercury retrograde suggests old misunderstandings may resurface. Clarify intentions, and lean into forgiveness.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Career and reputation receive a powerful boost with Venus-Jupiter shining in your public sector. Recognition is possible, but Mercury retrograde means reputational risks if you rush announcements. Plan carefully, polish presentations.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Adventure calls. The Venus-Jupiter conjunction favors learning, travel, and philosophical pursuits. But Mercury retrograde may delay plans or lead to mixed messages. Reconfirm tickets and revisit study goals.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Shared resources, debts, and intimacy are highlighted. Venus-Jupiter can deepen bonds and bring financial support, but Mercury retrograde cautions against new joint commitments. Review existing agreements instead.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Relationships are center stage. Venus and Jupiter bring warmth, expansion, and potential reconciliation, but Mercury retrograde can revive old disagreements. Focus on listening, clarity, and mutual understanding.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

Work, health, and routines benefit from Venus-Jupiter's optimism—great for reviving stalled projects. But Mercury retrograde may cause scheduling snags or miscommunications with colleagues. Be thorough and patient.

Summary for July 24-30:

This is a week for big-hearted Leo energy and creative joy—but Mercury retrograde asks us to slow down, review, and avoid assumptions. Venus conjunct Jupiter offers opportunity and abundance, best enjoyed with careful planning and genuine generosity.

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

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

SOLUTIONS

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

8/1

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

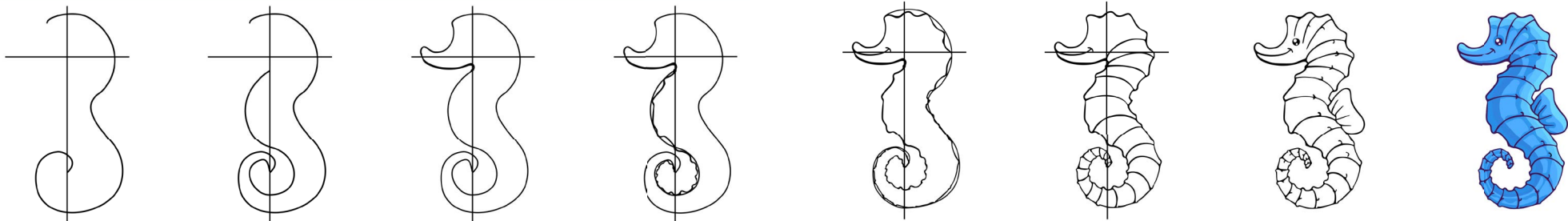
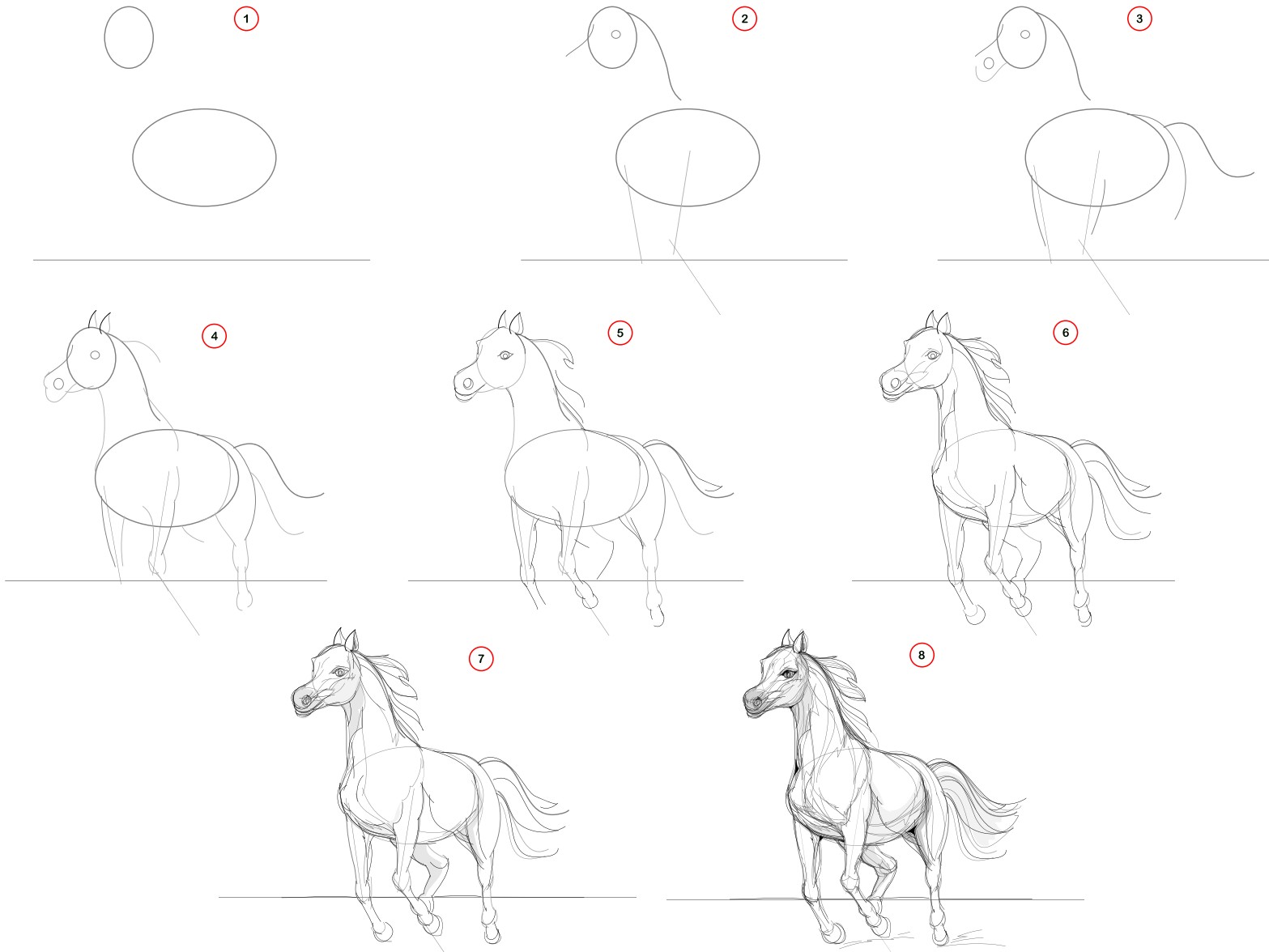
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# How To Draw: step by step



## Sudoku for Kids

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | 2 | 3 |   |
|   | 4 |   | 1 |
| 4 |   | 1 |   |
|   | 1 | 4 |   |

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 |   | 1 |   |
| 3 |   |   | 4 |
|   | 4 |   |   |
| 2 |   | 4 | 1 |

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | 2 |   |   |
|   | 4 | 3 | 2 |
|   |   | 1 |   |
| 4 | 1 |   | 3 |

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | 3 |   | 4 |
|   | 4 |   | 3 |
| 3 |   | 4 |   |
|   | 1 |   | 2 |

## SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sudoku answers

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

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

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

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

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

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





# MANDALA

coloring mandalas is good for your brain!



## FIRST LETTERS

### CODEBREAKER (or CODEWORD, or CODE CRACKER) PUZZLE

The number in each square corresponds to a letter. The same number represents the same letter. Crack the code and fill the grid by determining which letter relates to which number. To help you get started three word entries have picture clues, and four letters are already in place.

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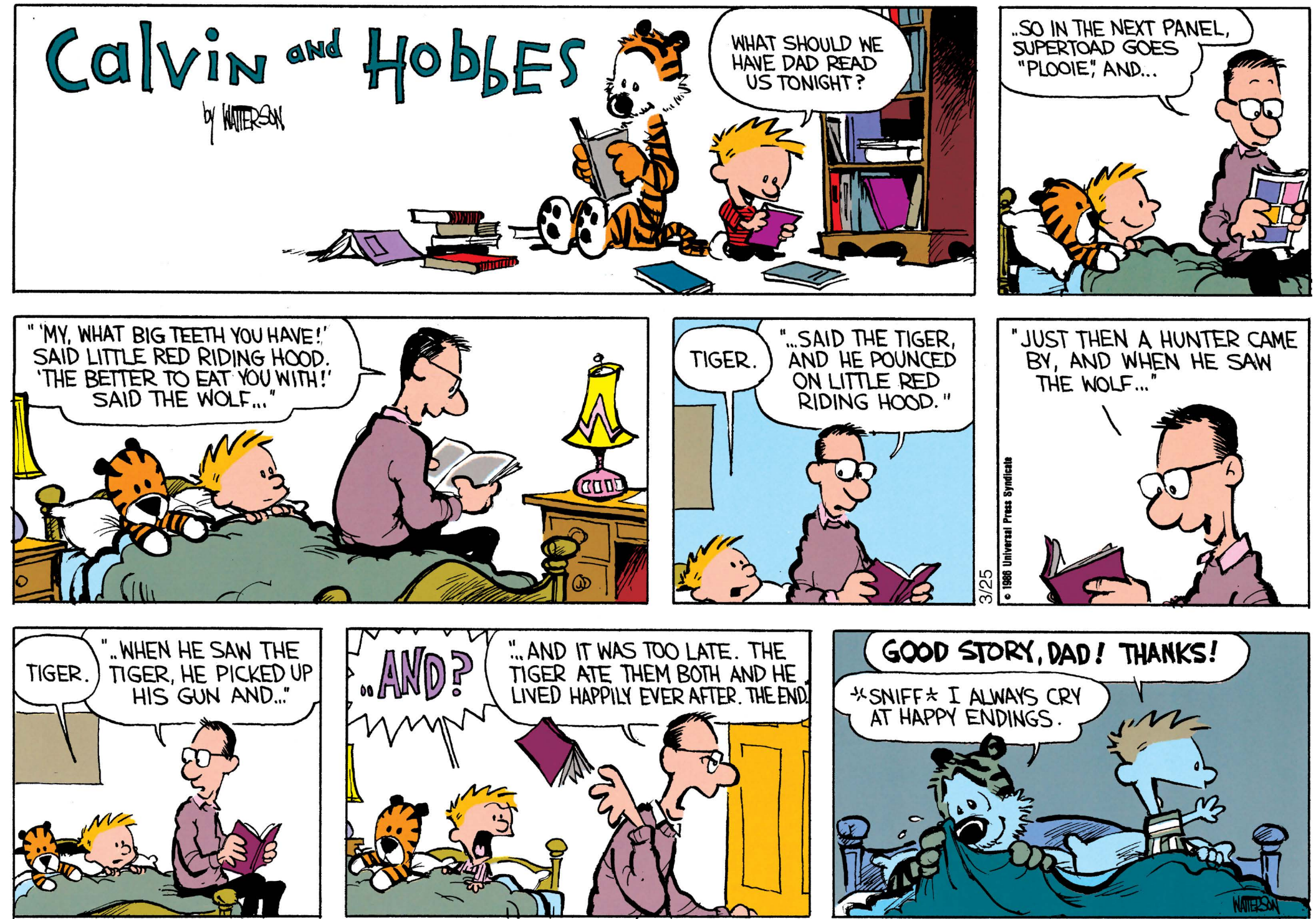
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EDUCATION

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



WILDLY SUCCESSFUL: WILD TURKEY

This Conservation Story Will Surprise You

By JIM KNOX

With the possible exception of the Atlantic Cod, there is no other animal more closely tied to our colonial past than the Wild turkey. While “fowl” was certainly served in 1621 at the three-day autumn feast that marked a successful harvest for the Plymouth Colony, those “fowl” could have been any number of bird species including ducks, geese, swans or even the extinct Passenger pigeon. This feast—the predecessor of modern Thanksgiving, also likely included: clams, mussels, eels, venison, corn and even lobster. Yet, within that calendar year, Governor William Bradford’s journals speak of the great abundance, table value and palatability of the Wild turkey. In fact, the turkey became so popular with the colonists that the colony’s leaders recognized the need for conservation measures for the bird within five years of the colony’s founding.

The Wild turkey (Meleagris gallopavo) is some bird! With a four foot length, wingspan up to five feet and weights of up to twenty four pounds, it impresses. Boasting a powder blue head, scarlet wattle, long silky feather “beard”, iridescent feathers of copper, green and mahogany and an eye-catching tail fan, the males or toms, are boldly marked. The females or hens are only slightly less colorful and smaller, adaptations to avoid detection while incubating their nests. These ground dwelling birds are amazingly adaptable creatures represented by five subspecies throughout the United States, southern Canada and Mexico. A native of forests, scrubland, grasslands and swamps, the Wild turkey thrives in a variety of habitats and climates. A true omnivore, the swift and sharp-eyed Wild turkey subsists extremely well on what the land affords. Nearly any small living thing that grows or crawls, frequently ends up on the menu. Preferred food items include: grasses, seeds, bulbs, buds, stems, nuts, fruit, tubers, cacti, insects, worms, amphibians, lizards, fish, and even snakes.

A gregarious bird, the Wild turkey’s success hinges upon that of its social structure, the flock. Fanning out and stalking the forest floor like a pack of Velociraptors, the flock forages



for plant matter and hunts for any small creature they can gobble down (you didn’t think I was going to pass on that one). This highly effective foraging behavior ensures that the collective keen eyes of the flock, mounted on the sides of the bird’s head for an astounding 270 degree field of view, miss few opportunities for prey. This amounts to great defense. Many eyes can detect the slightest movement of a crouching bobcat or a leaping coyote, while acute hearing—which can detect the sound of a hunter drawing a bow—serves the flock well. When danger is detected, the birds issue a putt, or alarm call, and run at 25 miles per hour, take flight to the safety of the nearest tree, or fly cross country at 50 miles per hour.

The chicks hatch with black-spotted buff, tan and cream plumage as highly effective camouflage for their life along the forest floor while the ever-vigilant adult members of the flock scan their environs for predators. Should the mast (nut) production of the forest dip in a given year, these remarkably adaptable creatures simply shift gears to focus on other food items. As predators, these

birds provide a restorative, equilibrium to the landscape (juvenile turkeys or poults account for up to 76% of their diet in insect protein). Their seed dispersal properties are equally essential. Wild turkeys are known to disperse—and fertilize—more than 100 native species of grasses, fruit and nut trees!

They are indeed creatures worthy of environmental praise, yet they also impressed our founding fathers. It is true that Benjamin Franklin praised the Wild turkey for its qualities, worthy of consideration as our national symbol. He asserted that the Wild turkey would,

“...not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his farm yard with a red coat on.”

In 1784, Mr. Franklin went on to describe the bird in a letter to his daughter, Sarah thusly,

“In truth, the turkey is in comparison [to the eagle] a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America. Eagles have been found in all countries, but the turkey was peculiar to ours.”

Additionally praised by laypeople for its good hunting

and good eating qualities, the bird’s demand exceeded its population. As non-migratory, flock-roosting birds, the big birds became big targets with

an ever hungry and eager market. Unfortunately, as with the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the bird’s popularity among hunters and other citizens led to its decline throughout North America. From a population estimated at 1.3 million birds, Eastern Wild turkey numbers dropped precipitously to a low of just thirty thousand birds by the late 1930’s—a number smaller than current populations of endangered Polar bears, Orangutans and Asian elephants. In fact, the bird’s were hardest hit at the epicenter of colonial America’s expansion, with them being hunted to extinction in Connecticut in 1813 and Massachusetts by 1851.

While many admire the turkey for its pluck, I admire it for it’s resilience. It is a poster species for robust recovery through conservation. Due in large part to the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 which put a tax on sporting arms and ammunition that funded wildlife conservation efforts, the birds began to slowly, yet inexorably rebound. Learning from the progressive successes of our New England neighbors in Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire, Connecticut released 356 birds at 18 sites statewide between 1975 and

1992. Today, every one of Connecticut’s 169 towns and cities has a flock of Wild turkeys. I have observed them in parks in Hartford, neighborhoods in Bridgeport and along the I-95 corridor in New Haven.

Nationwide, we have seen the turkey’s numbers swell. In fact, it is one of the very few species which has, with rigorous protection, surpassed its pre-colonial population numbers. Today, an estimated seven million birds inhabit 715 million of 720 million acres of suitable habitat throughout North America.

To me, the Wild turkey provides living proof that conservation can, and does, work. When we protect a species, we protect far more than a single creature or its population. We are protecting the land, its waters and the wishes and rights of all citizens to enjoy the natural world.

**Jim Knox serves as the Curator of Education for Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo where he directs education efforts for Connecticut’s only zoo. A proud Member of The Explorers Club, Jim enjoys sharing his passion for wildlife conservation with audiences in Connecticut and beyond.**

