

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFING

POLICE AND FIRE

Officer Talks Crime Prevention



Recently, Officer Adams spoke with residents at The Inn about fraud, scams, and crime prevention. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department.

TOWN HALL

9/11 Remembrance Service

The public is invited to attend the Town of New Canaan's annual September 11th Service of Remembrance on Thursday, September 11, on the front lawn of Town Hall at 77 Main Street. The service will begin at 9:55 a.m. sharp. Attendees may arrive starting at 9:30 a.m.

Fire Department Chief Albert Bassett will lead the ceremony with participation from First Selectman Dionna Carlson, Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, a bagpiper, and St. Aloysius Church.

Refreshments will be served immediately following.

All are welcome to attend.

AROUND TOWN

Channel Shift Reversal

Optimum's parent company, Altice USA, has reversed its decision to move local government and education access channels to higher dial positions. The channels will return to their original locations, though Altice said it may revisit changes in the future.

Girl Scouts Visit Police Department



Recently, New Canaan Girl Scout Troop 50489 visited the Police Department headquarters. The stop was part of their "troop to town" scavenger hunt. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

Leo Karl Speaks About

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For Print Subscription Delivery Questions or Holds
thomas@maninmotionllc.com

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Peter@NewCanaanSentinel.com

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Vigil Unites Community Against Addiction



By AVERY COTTON

On August 27, a crowd of over six hundred visitors gathered at the 9th Annual Community Addiction Awareness Vigil. Hosted by the New Canaan Parent Support Group (NCPSPG), the Vigil featured three guest speakers, live music, and a candlelit ceremony – all of which worked in harmony to dissolve the taboos often associated with addiction.

The Vigil is the brainchild of NCPSPG founder Paul Reinhardt, who founded the group in tribute to his son Evan in 2016. Year after year, Paul has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to produce a successful program. This year's tagline – "Sharing Stories Saves Lives" – is a testament to the power of sharing and listening in helping loved ones overcome addiction.

As Paul asserted, organizing the Vigil was no small feat. "We spent around four to five months preparing, organizing a group of representatives who were concerned about the addiction epidemic and wanted to help." These ambassadors hail from a variety of local organizations, including Silver Hill Hospital and The Lighthouse, both of which provide recovery services for rehab patients.

Thanks to the NCPSPG's hard work, the Vigil has grown immensely, attracting an increasingly diverse array of visitors. "Many people come from neighboring towns like Wilton and Stamford, with others from Westchester County, New York, and even further away," Paul said. "The Vigil has now become the largest recovery event in the state of Connecticut – its

reputation keeps growing."

Besides the NCPSPG, the New Canaan Community Foundation (NCCF) is instrumental in supporting the Vigil. According to NCCF President and CEO Lauren Patterson, the Foundation has been a partner and co-sponsor of the Vigil since 2017. Additionally, the Foundation is a fiscal sponsor of the NCPSPG, providing back-office support for Paul and his team. This allows them to use their time more efficiently, delivering important programs and services as community leaders.

As a result of this long-standing partnership, NCCF has focused increasingly on addiction-related topics. "Mental and behavioral health has been a focus of our work dating back to around 2018, shortly after we started partnering with Paul and the Parent Support Group," Lauren said. "The Vigil has done a tremendous job of highlighting the issue of addiction in our community and how it has a ripple effect," Lauren said.

On Wednesday evening, visitors poured into downtown New Canaan well before the Vigil's 7:00 pm start time, enjoying classics like Fleetwood Mac's "Landslide" by New Haven band Musical Intervention. Neatly arranged white chairs faced the podium, behind which the Hope and Remembrance Wall memorialized those who had lost their lives to addiction. Volunteers, town officials, and families mingled with one another, celebrating the hard work that went into planning the event.

Under darkening skies, Paul stood at the podium, delivering his opening remarks to a silent crowd that had long



since exceeded the seating capacity. "We're all here, united, to increase our understanding as we listen to and honor each other," Paul said. Emcee John Hamilton also spoke, asking the audience if they were in recovery or knew loved ones grappling with addiction. In response, nearly every hand went up.

Following Paul and John's introductions, three speakers – Alex Smith, Gina Frazier, and Pete Thumen – shared their stories of recovery. Each of them was introduced by their parents, whose pride for their children shone through powerfully. All three speakers were originally from New Canaan, making their stories close to home for much of the audience.

Alex's story began in college, when he was introduced to drugs and found them as a way to cope as he lost his sense of identity. His addiction worsened as his substance use escalated: "I wasn't living, I was surviving, and barely, at that," Alex said. In a pivotal moment, his brother gave him a moment of clarity and inspiration, reversing the tide of his addiction. "No matter how far gone you think you are – no matter how dark it is

– change is possible, and I'm living proof of that."

Before Gina's recovery journey, she had lost her job, apartment, marriage, and filed for bankruptcy. "I didn't recognize the person I had become," Gina said. Thanks to a detox program in Bridgeport and the kindness of a stranger, Gina's course was corrected. "I've coached more than 1,000 individuals struggling with substance use disorders," Gina said. "My goal is to always plant the seeds of hope and possibility. Today, my life is full." In September, Gina will reach five years of sobriety.

Pete, too, became acquainted with drugs and alcohol at an early age. Despite being sent to a wilderness therapy program and a therapeutic boarding school, his sobriety did not last. "Drugs and alcohol solved an internal malady that had existed my whole life, and I wanted that solution forever," Pete said. After getting a DUI in 2019, Pete took action. With the support of his parents, he went to treatment and began working toward spiritual growth. "I am profoundly humbled and eternally grateful for the hope and the love in which I live

today."

Each of these three stories highlighted tremendous resolve, providing wisdom and inspiration for a crowd intimately familiar with the addiction epidemic. The impact of the speeches was not lost upon New Canaan local Jennifer Walsh: "I've been to many summits, and I always enjoy hearing the speakers – I find their testimonies very moving."

Jennifer also attested that in modern times, people are more open about the addiction epidemic. "There's less stigma talking about addiction now, and fewer taboos about sharing things with a therapist or counselor," Jennifer said. "There's more awareness among peers about struggles, which is important." That echoes the sentiment that the Vigil strives to promote – talking about one's experiences with a trusted figure can save lives.

Following Alex, Gina, and Pete's speeches, New Canaan clergymen led a candlelit ceremony. The RAM Council distributed candles to the audience, and for a few moments, hundreds of candles flickered in the still night air, honoring the lives of those lost to addiction. A sing-along and Community Pledge also accompanied the ceremony before the Vigil drew to a close.

As we look ahead to the Vigil's 10th anniversary, one thing's for certain: Paul Reinhardt is more dedicated than ever to spreading his message to a broader audience. "We're going to do something bigger and better – next year, I'll aim to have a crowd of 1,000 people," Paul said. I, for one, believe him wholeheartedly.

Mosaics & Seasons

By JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

Most people's lives and careers are more like mosaics than straight lines. All those "wasted or wandering" periods we worry about are actually part of life's beauty. Over the years, the stories we share from our most challenging seasons allow us to connect deeply with each other. There is no single path in our lives that we must "find."

However, healthy meandering is not passive. It requires actively paying attention to and accepting where we are in the moment in order to move

forward with confidence.

Rather than trying to engineer our perfect pathway and outcome, we can learn to expect twists and turns, surprises, and closed doors, as well as new opportunities as they arise.

Alex thought everything had to be done in one season, especially during her 20's and 30's. Learning to trust that the pieces would cohere when she looked back on her life was hard for her. Now that she is 60, she is surprised by the variety of things she has done. At age 21, her circuitous path would have made no sense. It does in hindsight.

Yours will, too.



Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry



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Cut the Ivy, Save the Tree

There is growing awareness in Connecticut of the damage caused by invasive plants, yet many homeowners, landscapers, and gardeners remain unaware of the serious threat posed by English ivy. Long valued as a low-maintenance and attractive ground cover, English ivy grows quickly, thrives in a wide range of conditions, stays green through winter, and adds a sense of elegance to landscapes. Ironically, these same traits make it especially destructive when left unchecked.

Like other ivies, English ivy is a vigorous climber. Its vine roots secrete a glue-like substance that allows it to cling tightly to bricks, stone, trees, and other surfaces. On buildings, ivy traps moisture, loosens masonry, and accelerates structural decay. However, on trees the harm can be far worse.

Unlike native vines like poison ivy, which typically coexist with trees, English ivy can overwhelm trees in yards or natural spaces. It forms thick woody stems that can reach a foot in diameter. The added weight from English ivy vines dramatically increases the risk of lost branches during snow or storm events. As it climbs, the ivy shades out leaves, causing branches to die and decreasing the tree’s overall health and vitality. Property owners may first notice dieback in lower branches, but over time, the entire canopy can be compromised.

This decline often goes unnoticed because it happens slowly, sometimes over many years. By the time the damage is obvious, the tree may already be beyond saving. This is why

On buildings, English ivy traps moisture, loosens masonry, and accelerates structural decay. However, on trees the harm can be far worse.



The best method to remove English ivy is to remove a portion of the vine close to the ground and let the vine above die naturally.

it is critical to intervene early. When ivy is just beginning to spread on the ground or at the base of a tree, it can be pulled by hand. Once vines have adhered to bark, however, more care is needed. Pulling vines that are strongly attached will damage the bark of a tree and can increase the risk of infection.

The safest method for removing English ivy from trees, especially larger vines, is to cut the stem close to the ground. Then, make a second cut six to twelve inches higher and remove that section of vine. Growth above this point will die and eventually fall away naturally. Applying herbicide to the rooted stem can provide extra assurance that the ivy will not resprout. Though dying ivy clinging to a tree may be unsightly for a season, it is the best way to ensure the tree’s long-term survival.

Because birds eat English ivy berries and spread the seeds through their droppings, it can appear even where it has never been planted. For this reason, it’s wise to regularly check your yard, garden, or nearby woodland for its telltale vines. In Fairfield County, several local organizations actively cut back ivy in parks and forests to protect our community trees.

Although English ivy is still legal to purchase in Connecticut, we strongly recommend homeowners and businesses choose alternatives. Many beautiful, low-maintenance ground covers exist that provide the same lush look without threatening the health of trees or the integrity of buildings. English ivy may be traditional, but it comes at too high a cost.

Kate Dzikiewicz
Executive Director, Tree Conservancy



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Steven H. Borenstein, MD, provides world-class care for all pediatric general surgery conditions, performing the full spectrum of open and minimally invasive procedures ranging from laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair to complex operative approaches required in the management of pediatric solid tumors.

In addition to seeing patients in Greenwich at Specialty Surgeons of Connecticut, Dr. Jan and Dr. Borenstein perform surgery at the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore Einstein, nationally recognized for pediatric excellence by *U.S. News & World Report*, and regionally ranked White Plains Hospital.

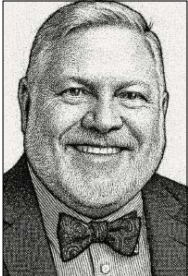


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COLUMN

Pets and Purrfect Health



By RUSSELL R. BARKSDALE, JR.

Have we ever taken a step back to consider why millions of people are unapologetic, borderline fanatical pet lovers? Maybe it's the wagging tails, the purring snores, or the way they look at us as if we're the most important person alive. But deep down, I think pets fill a very real need. They address loneliness and social isolation. They add structure to our lives and provide a kind of unconditional love that not even the most well-meaning family or friend can consistently deliver.

Let's face it: you can't come home after a terrible day, snap at your spouse, and expect them to still be thrilled to see you. Your dog, however, will greet you with a full-body wag, as if you've

just returned from being away for a week. Cats, of course, will pretend they don't care, but then they'll sleep on your head at night—love, on their terms.

And it's not just about cuddles. Research continues to show that owning a pet is good for your health. Studies have linked pet ownership to lower blood pressure, reduced cholesterol, and decreased levels of stress hormones. The American Heart Association has gone so far as to suggest that having a pet may actually reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. Translation: Fluffy might literally extend your life and wellbeing, one snuggle at a time.

We're reminded of the mythical story of Romulus and Remus, who were raised by a she-wolf. It's a mediaeval myth and urban legend that Rome was founded by human twins suckled by a wolf.

Beyond the myth, healthcare providers have taken notice to the connection. Pet therapy, once a novelty, is now a widely accepted practice in healthcare facilities, and even schools. Therapy dogs stroll down inpatient

corridors offering comfort and distraction, lowering anxiety and even boosting immune response. There's a reason a golden retriever in a therapy vest can soften the most hardened, high stress, medical setting. Unlike some relatives who "mean well," therapy animals don't offer unsolicited medical advice or argue about deductibles. They just show up, smile (or pant), and make people feel better.

And maybe the biggest surprise in all this? Employees today are increasingly asking for pet insurance as part of their benefits' package—sometimes before they ask for improvements to their own health coverage. Think about that. We're living in an era when people would rather ensure their Labradoodle has access to high cost, top-notch

veterinary care than negotiate their own co-pay. Some companies have caught on, offering "pawternity leave" for new pet parents and touting pet-friendly perks as a way to recruit and retain talent. After all, if health is wealth, then having a pet might be the ultimate 401(k).

But here's the insight worth pawing on: pets don't just make us healthier; they make us human.

In a world full of Zoom calls, endless emails, and algorithms that seem designed to test our patience, pets anchor us to the here and now. They bring structure to a random, ever-changing world. They remind us to go outside, to throw a ball and play, to laugh at their quirks, to nap unapologetically in the sun. They demand that we love

them in the moment—and that might be the healthiest prescription of all.

So yes, pets may occasionally chew the couch, hack up a furball, or leave muddy paw prints. But in exchange, they offer loyalty without judgment, presence without distraction, and companionship without conditions. When you add up the evidence, it's hard not to wonder: where a void exists, maybe our pets are the idealistic family member and friend.

After all, how many relatives have been scientifically proven to lower your blood pressure just by sitting next to you? Purrfect.

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

As football season opens, Men's Club speaker to recount league's merger

With the new season of National Football League games set to start this week, the New Canaan Men's Club will hear about the forces that caused the NFL and American Football League to merge in 1966 from this week's speaker David Shea, a long-time financial industry executive.

The club's meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in Morrill Hall, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, with Shea's presentation beginning after the business portion of the meeting around 10:40 a.m.

Today, NFL games are regularly broadcast on Sundays and Mondays, with additional days during the week as the season progresses. With the advent of streaming, games are also being shown on several streaming services and can be seen by subscription to the league. Overall, NFL revenues in 2024 amounted to more than \$23 billion in 2024, a more than \$2 billion gain from the previous year.

A New Canaan resident for more than 30 years, Shea grew up in Bronxville, New York, and graduated from Fordham University in 1978 with a BS in Accounting. He later received an MBA from Fordham in 1986.

In his career, Shea spent 12 years in Wall Street with Goldman Sachs and Salmon, before joining General Electric and XL Capital in 2004. While officially retired, Shea manages a consulting practice helping owners prepare their businesses for sale and is a business mentor at SCORE, a network of volunteer business mentors.

The New Canaan Men's Club has openings for new members, men 55-years old and above. For information about joining, email ncmens@ncmens.club.

Local Author's New Book Exposes Hidden Saboteurs

SUBMITTED BY MONA THORPE

Why do so many people work harder than ever, only to feel stuck, frustrated, or burned out?

Ridgefield entrepreneur and success strategist Mona Thorpe believes the answer lies in what she calls the "Trojan Goal" — the subconscious saboteur running the show beneath our conscious ambitions.

Thorpe has just released her new book, *The Goal Behind the Goal: Uncovering & Transforming the Hidden Saboteur Limiting Your Success*, which is already creating buzz for its fresh take on achievement. The book gives readers a practical process for uncovering hidden resistance and finally aligning with the success they consciously desire.

A longtime Fairfield County resident, Thorpe has been coaching entrepreneurs, executives, and creatives for more than 30 years. Along the way, she has founded five businesses, two of which landed on Oprah's Favorite Things and in *The New York Times* on several occasions. Now, she is channeling her decades of private breakthroughs into a roadmap for the public.

"People think if they just work harder or try another strategy, things will finally click," said Thorpe. "But it's not about doing more. It's about uncovering what's been quietly pulling the strings beneath the surface. Once you see it, the game changes — and success becomes natural instead of

forced."

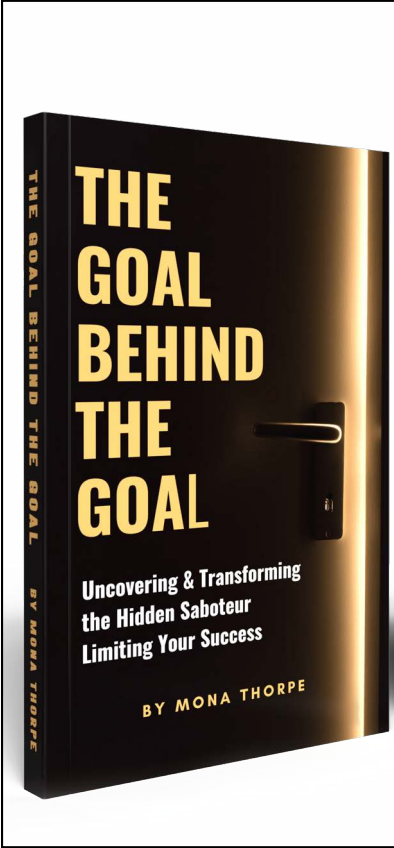
To bring the book to real life, Thorpe leads 5-day 'Hidden Goal Challenges', where participants learn how to spot the Trojan Goal in their own lives and rewire their approach to goals and success.

Early readers are calling the book transformational. "I never realized how much my subconscious was holding me back until I read this," said one executive client. "The shift was so immediate that within weeks, I landed opportunities I had chased for years. This is unlike anything else I've read."

About Mona Thorpe
Mona Thorpe is a Ridgefield-based entrepreneur, author, and success strategist who has spent more than 30 years helping clients achieve breakthrough results. Known for her ability to uncover the unseen blocks to success, she has guided high achievers, entrepreneurs, and creatives to transform hidden resistance into forward momentum. Her entrepreneurial ventures have been spotlighted on Oprah's Favorite Things and in *The New York Times*.

The *Goal Behind the Goal* is available now on Amazon in both print and Kindle editions.

For review copies, interviews, photos, or a media kit, please contact:
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New Canaan's Mormons: Family & Charity

By JOHN KRIZ

Walk into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in New Canaan (colloquially known as the Mormon church) on South Avenue, situated a bit south of the YMCA and across the street from the entrance to Waveny Park, on a Sunday and you'll be met with an eclectic array of mostly 'Sunday best dressed' people – including youth – who will make it a point to come up to say hello and welcome you. After the Sacrament Meeting (main worship service), which lasts about an hour, there is another hour of adult and youth Bible study and discussion. But after that, instead of rushing off to brunch, people linger, they chat, reinforcing the bonds that brought them there in the first place.

The church was built in the early 1980s and hosts two wards – the Mormon term for a congregation. One is New Canaan and the other is Darien. The two wards worship and are run separately, as wards tend to be geographically focused. The New Canaan ward has around 170 congregants attending on any given Sunday, nearly half being children, figures that have been steady for many years.

LDS Church History

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' (the church's formal name -- LDS Church for short <http://www.churchofjesuschrist.org>) beginning is commonly dated from the publishing of the Book of Mormon in 1830, one of its two core scriptural texts, the other being the Bible, with its Old and New Testaments. The Book of Mormon is an account of the religious and social history of ancient peoples of the Americas. This history was collected, edited and inscribed on golden plates by a military leader and historian named Mormon, who lived in the Americas in the fourth century AD, with the plates buried by his son Moroni in a hill in what is now Palmyra, New York.

In this history, a man named Lehi, a prophet in Jerusalem, was told by God in a dream to leave that city as it was to be destroyed. So he left with his family, sailing to the Americas around 600 BC. Lehi's oldest sons, Lemuel and Laman, were not very pious, but his youngest son, Nephi, was. Conflict arose between Nephi and his two brothers because of this, and eventually two distinct groups were formed: Lamanites and Nephites. They were often at war.

After His resurrection, as told in the New Testament Gospels, Jesus of Nazareth visited the Americas and preached, establishing peace among the peoples there, with that peace continuing for many years. However, over time, that faith and peace atrophied, war broke out again, and the Nephites were destroyed. The surviving Lamanites are among the ancestors of the pre-Columbian peoples of the Americas, per the Book of Mormon.

In the words of the LDS Church's first Prophet, Joseph Smith, who according to LDS Church history found, translated and publicized the text on the plates, "The Book of Mormon is a record of the forefathers of our western tribes of Indians; having been found through the ministration of an holy angel, and translated into our own language by the gift and power of God, after having been hid up in the earth for the last fourteen hundred years, containing the word of God which was delivered unto them."

Clergy & Structure

All LDS Church clergy are laymen who are unpaid and hold 'day jobs.' The clergyman for a ward is called a bishop, with New Canaan's ward headed by Bishop Allen Zimmerman. In addition, there are geographical groupings of wards, called stakes, which are headed by a President, with President James Roddy holding that role for the Fairfield County stake, which comprises six wards. Bishops and stake presidents each have two counselors to support them.

Bishop Zimmerman works as head of the Americas business for a Denmark-based securities analytics firm. He is the father of four. President Roddy heads the global corporate bank for one of the largest banks in the world, and is the father of six. Their church



Bishop Allen Zimmerman at the pulpit in the chapel where Sacrament Meetings are held in the LDS Church.

The New Canaan ward also participates in an annual food drive – this year's effort starts on September 27.



LDS Church children collecting trash and helping beautify Mead Park as part of a late May civic charity project.

roles are not permanent, with the role of bishop generally lasting five years, and stake president nine years, after which new people are chosen.

Stake presidents choose ward bishops, and a more senior LDS Church group called the Quorum of the Seventy chooses stake presidents. Above the Quorum of the Seventy is the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, which is headed by a member deemed to be the Prophet who, with two counselors, comprise the First Presidency, which is the LDS Church's highest governing body.

Besides these higher offices there are various priesthood roles, such as the Aaronic Priesthood and the Melchizedek Priesthood, held by 'rank and file' adult and older teen men. They are able to perform such acts as giving blessings and distributing communion.

In addition to chapels, such as the one in New Canaan (the building as a whole is called the 'church' and the sanctuary in the church is called the 'chapel'), the LDS Church has temples, which are far fewer in number, and in which certain religious rites, such as marriages, are performed.

Family & Youth

Family and youth are centerpiece of the New Canaan ward's activities.

Bishop Zimmerman notes that often people consider their "spiritual learning to be church-centered." In contrast, he emphasizes the statement of the LDS Church's current Prophet, President Russell M. Nelson, who shifted the emphasis in 2018 when he said, "We want it [spiritual learning] to be home-centered, church-supported." By this is meant regular scriptural reading, discussion and prayer in the home, among family members. In the bishop's household, "that ends up being a little bit more of the topic around the dinner table. But it keeps the conversation going in the home throughout the week, which we tend to find as very

powerful."

This home focus was helpful during COVID, when gathering for Sunday services was limited at best. Says Stake President Roddy, "I think we stayed really well connected. Family is such a huge part of the church that basically it became 'you're doing church at home,' and was somewhat natural to be totally honest with you." He goes on to note that "if you look at a lot of the literature that the church has, it's really centered around how do you teach the gospel of Jesus Christ in your home. And the church itself is really designed to be a support to the family."

As part of this shift a new scriptural study program was developed called 'Come Follow Me.' This comprises various scriptural passages to be studied among the family during the week, with the post-Sunday services Bible study being a larger group discussion among congregants and, in the words of Bishop Zimmerman, an opportunity to "talk about all the cool things that people studied that week at home."

The New Canaan ward is very youth-oriented, a point both Stake President Roddy and Bishop Zimmerman repeatedly stress. Not only are many older male teens holders of priesthoods and prominently participating in Sunday services, but after high school many of the males and females will volunteer to be missionaries either in their own country or overseas, with around 80,000 serving as missionaries globally. Stake President Roddy served as a missionary in Ecuador, and Bishop Zimmerman served in Lithuania when they began their early college years.

There is an (almost) regulation-size basketball court at the church, with frequent sports activities for church and other town youth. It's one of the "ways to engage the youth" that is a constant focus of Bishop Zimmerman. "We appreciate that we've got a lot of very diverse youth across all these different high school kids. And

the challenge is they all need to engage slightly differently." One means to do this is "we're always trying to find ways to be creative." He endeavors to spend 80% of his time "talking to the kids."

In addition, New Canaan's LDS Church was purposely sited where it is on South Avenue because it is near New Canaan High School. On school days at 6:45 in the morning the church's high school-age youth gather for around 45 minutes of Bible study and discussion, then head off to school.

Charity

Running an LDS Church ward is an 'all hands on deck' exercise, with seemingly every congregant having some job or role. Even cleaning the church facilities is performed by members of the congregation. And that participation is very much valued by Stake President Roddy and Bishop Zimmerman with their big day jobs, big families and important church responsibilities. "It takes a village." It's literally in practice," stresses President Roddy.

A big part of that participation is charity.

Stake President Roddy notes that "If you call a member of the congregation and you say 'I need help with the following things' the response is beautiful. It is unbelievable to see the volunteer nature of the church really come to life." He illustrates this point with the damage Hurricane Sandy wreaked in the region, and the busloads of New Canaan ward congregants, among others, who went to The Rockaways and supported affected families.

Another example cited by President Roddy was a lightning strike on a congregant family's new home which caught fire and burned down. It's pouring rain, the middle of the night and a soaked family is standing in their yard. They promptly called the church and the stricken family moves into a member's home, with other congregants swiftly organized to provide clothes, food, rides to

school and other assistance.

In late May, about thirty children from the church ranging in ages from 2 to 11, plus parents, took part in a clean-up project at Mead Park. Why Mead Park? According to Michael Anne Bailey, who has charge of the youngest children in the congregation and organizes their events, "we felt like Mead Park was a place that all of the children in New Canaan congregate. That's a great place for families. And so we wanted to help the town and help the children just to make it a little more beautiful."

One major task was picking up trash and generally beautifying the park. But that was not all. "There are these massive flower beds [by the pickleball courts] and they were completely overrun with weeds. So we weeded all of the flower beds and then the town had dropped off mulch and we spread mulch throughout the flower beds. And the children really did help with pulling all the weeds," notes Mrs. Bailey.

"I think sometimes with the really young kids, we don't give them enough credit for how capable they are," says Mrs. Bailey. "And so this was kind of our first foray into 'how much can they really do?' And they definitely showed up and it was really wonderful." The town supplied all the tools, trash bags, trash 'grabbers' and mulch, with Mrs. Bailey stressing "it was so easy to work" with John Howe, Director of Parks and Recreation, and the town.

One girl who participated in the Mead Park clean-up had this to say: "It was really fun to do something with my friends that helped the community."

The Relief Society is one of the LDS Church's major charitable groups. Founded in 1842 and women-led and -run, it is designed to give assistance to those who need it, its motto being 'Charity Never Fails.' In its early days, the Relief Society helped fund medical training for women and build

hospitals. Stake President Roddy says "it's really the bedrock for all that we do."

According to the ward's Relief Society president Maryanne Baker, the group participates in a range of outreach, often through partnering with other local groups. Examples include assisting St. Mark's Episcopal Church set up for May Fair, attending Interfaith Council of New Canaan meetings, and supporting the New Canaan Parent Support Group's annual Addiction Vigil. The Relief Society is always seeking ways to liaise with other civic and charitable groups to leverage capabilities.

Various individual members of the sixty-woman New Canaan ward's Relief Society are also directly active in community support, from school-related organizations, to volunteering at the New Canaan Library to assisting with grief support groups. Former Relief Society President Jenny Zwick sums it up with "We love our communities. We love to be part of them."

Former President Zwick also highlights the 'Pink Parties' the Relief Society has held. The goal here is to generate gifts of feminine products for donation to local schools. She notes that some girls cannot afford these essential items, and end up missing school during their menstrual periods. While some public school nurse offices supply these items gratis to students in need, some schools do not provide them at all. The 'Pink Parties' help these girls stay in school.

In addition, there is a Ministering Program, whereby women in the congregation check in with fellow congregants because "we don't want anyone's needs to fall into the cracks," says President Baker. She cites the recent example of a young mother whose appendix burst suddenly and the family needed immediate assistance. Meals and babysitting help quickly arrived.

The New Canaan ward also participates in an annual food drive – this year's effort starts on September 27. Around 10,000 pounds – five tons – of food and household items are distributed on average each year, which are donated to food banks and humanitarian organizations in Fairfield County.

Chris Bailey, one of the lead volunteer organizers, notes how broadly participatory this project is. Dozens of youth and adult congregants organize, sort and prepare pallets of items for distribution to recipient organizations, then help those organizations to organize the donated food for further distribution to those in need. Mr. Bailey notes that congregants will even load their cars with food donations, and drive it themselves to recipient organizations.

In addition, congregants skip two meals for one day per month, and donate the money they would have spent on food to the church to support short-term needs of people in distress, such as someone short of funds and in need of an emergency car repair.

Other charity efforts have included a clothing drive, and school backpacks packed with supplies in support of refugees. Last Christmas the high school-age boys held a concert at Waveny LifeCare, and helped make gingerbread houses with the residents. The church has also been involved in tree planting in New Canaan.

The church's parking lot is available -- and full -- every Fourth of July fireworks, and is a favorite practice spot for people learning to drive. The church also offers its facilities to local scouts for their Pinewood Derby. Well over fifty boys from New Canaan's ward have earned Eagle scout badges over the years, with their Eagle scout projects supporting the community.

"80% of the service we do will be focused in the community and these types of events," notes Bishop Zimmerman. The focus is "not worrying about our needs and our problems, but helping others."

Matthew 7:16 "Ye shall know them by their fruits."

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

A Town That Lights Candles Together

For nearly a decade now, late August in New Canaan has carried with it a certain ritual. People gather in the heart of town, candles in hand, to speak of loss and of recovery, to pray, and to remember. It is the Community Addiction Awareness Vigil, and it has become one of the defining evenings of the year.

Each time, the Vigil reminds us of the hidden struggles in our midst. Families who look like every other family on Elm Street or South Avenue are carrying burdens that are hard to speak about. And yet, one evening each year, they do speak. From the podium come words of heartbreak and words of redemption. The tagline, repeated over the years, is right: shared stories do save lives. They pierce the silence that allows shame to grow.

There is something profoundly countercultural about it. So much of public life is noise and distraction. Here, the emphasis is on listening. A neighbor stands and tells the truth, and six hundred others stand with them in solidarity. That, too, is recovery.

“The Vigil is not only remembrance, but a declaration of community: that here, in this town, we face these struggles side by side, and that compassion is stronger than stigma.”

We have written about the Vigil many times in these pages. Last year, we wrote of the quiet courage of young speakers who admitted their darkest hours in order to help someone else find a way out. This year was the same, but the names and faces change. What does not change is the pattern: music, prayer, testimony, a pledge. A town taking an evening to acknowledge pain, and to affirm hope.

Henri Nouwen once wrote, “When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand.” The Vigil is that spirit lived out in public. It is not about quick fixes but about standing with one another, about sharing burdens so that no one is left to carry them alone.

For the *Sentinel*, which has emphasized mental health and wellness as core community concerns, the Vigil is a visible reminder that these are not abstract issues. They are human ones, rooted in families, friendships, and neighborhoods. Addiction is not a statistic; it is the child you coached in Little League, the neighbor who waved across the driveway, the colleague whose absence you noticed. These struggles, when left in silence, isolate. Brought into the light, they invite help, healing, and the possibility of recovery.

The Vigil matters not only because of what is said, but because of who is there. Clergy and coaches, parents and teenagers, local officials and volunteers. When they stand together, the message is clear: no one fights alone. And that is what makes the gathering more than symbolic—it is, in itself, an act of care. The presence of hundreds of neighbors is proof that a person’s worth is not lost in their struggle, and that the town they call home will not abandon them.

As New Canaan looks ahead to the Vigil’s tenth anniversary in 2026, the lesson endures. The candles held up against the dark each August are not only symbols of remembrance. They are declarations of community: that here, in this town, we face these struggles side by side, and that compassion is stronger than stigma.

The Vigil has grown each year because the need for it has not gone away. And so long as that need remains, New Canaan will gather again, carrying its candles into the night, determined that stories will be told, lives will be remembered, and hope will not be extinguished.

Editorial Page



“You all deserve a personal pat on the back.”

Thank You from New Canaan Parent Support Group

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the New Canaan Parent Support Group and our co-Host New Canaan Community Foundation, I’d like to thank all those who made our August 27th Community Addiction Awareness Vigil a success.

We had 600 people in attendance on a beautiful evening at the corner of South Avenue and Elm Street. Our goal was to show, through heartfelt testimonials, that recovery from addiction is possible, and we succeeded with our amazing line-up of Alex, Gina, and Pete, all who grew up in New Canaan.

Our tagline this year was Shared Stories Saves Lives, because each time a recovery story is shared openly, there are life-changing impacts.

I want to thank our Emcee John Hamilton (back for the 9th year); our local clergy participants led by Pastors Gilbert Burgess and Scott Herr; Adam Christoferson and his Musical Intervention band; the Pivot Ministries Choir; and NCHS Ram Council’s Gray Handler for leading us in the event-ending Community Pledge.

Kudos go to our Team Orange planning committee: Colleen, Cyra, Denise, Eric, Francesca, Jacqueline, John, Leo,

Liz, Liza, Meg, Melissa, Rich, Robert, and Tracy. You are the best!

We could not have successfully pulled off our New Canaan Vigil without the following partners: the Town of New Canaan (Lou Boice, Tucker Murphy, Marcy Rand, Mike Succi), Team Liberation and the Wellness Van, NCHS Ram Council, NCHS SLOBs (including parents Steve Santiago and Carolyn Susanin), NCHS NCL mothers & daughters, Cain Management dba Dunkin’, and Karp Associates.

Our generous Sponsors made our event financially possible, namely: Ascendant NY, Caron Treatment Centers, Center for Motivation & Change; CT Center for Recovery, Harmony Health Group, High Watch Recovery, Mountainside, New Canaan CARES, Paramount Wellness Retreat, Release Recovery, Silver Hill Hospital, The Lighthouse CT, NC Human Services, Turnbridge, Walter Stewart’s Market and several anonymous donors with big hearts.

Please mark your calendars for our 10th Annual New Canaan Vigil: Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

With appreciation to all, Paul Reinhardt, Founder, New Canaan Parent Support Group, ncparentsupportgroup.org, #sharingstories saves lives

OPED

Bill 5002 & Parking Truths

The op-ed articles published in the CTMIRROR on August 26 and August 27, 2025, promote a misleading narrative concerning a key provision of mega housing bill HB 5002, which was wisely vetoed by Governor Lamont. The bill has been sent back to the legislature and residents should continue to be vigilant as an emergency legislative special session is expected sometime this fall.

Although HB 5002 is deeply flawed and represents bad public policy for a multitude of reasons, this article will focus on the Draconian provision which eliminates the ability of local zoning commissions to enact minimum parking regulations. This one size fits all catastrophe negatively impacts urban, suburban and rural Connecticut communities alike, undermines local control of zoning, and places a straight jacket on the ability to plan and zone.

CT169 seeks to promote constructive dialogue and an exchange of ideas in search of solutions. Unfortunately, an upcoming conference sponsored by Desegregate CT seeks to stifle discussion and the free flow of information. Why else would that organization go out of its way to insult Governor Lamont by making it clear that “he is not invited” to the conference because of his refusal to sign HB5002.

This close-minded intolerance displayed by Desegregate CT and its allies must be rejected, if meaningful legislation is the ultimate goal.

Now for the discussion on parking.

1. Unprecedented Statewide Mandates.

HB5002 eliminates minimum parking requirements statewide, a misguided policy which no other state has adopted. While advocates cite cities like Seattle or Minneapolis and smaller towns, those are local decisions tailored to specific conditions. Connecticut’s diverse towns—facing challenges like narrow roads, flood zones, and the absence of mass transit—need flexibility, not a one-size-fits-all rule. CT is already one of the most congested and 4th most densely

populated state. A statewide mandate ignores these realities and sets a dangerous precedent.

2. Eroding Local Control

It is false logic to assume that HB5002 as written creates more flexibility for towns and cities. It does the exact opposite. In 2021, developer advocates pushed for, and Connecticut lawmakers imposed parking maximums, limiting spaces developers could build, but allowed for an opt-out provision as a compromise for the loss of local decision making from that mandate. Many municipalities opted out by the December 31, 2023, deadline. HB5002 eliminates these parking maximums and revokes the opt-out option, forcing all towns into a rigid framework where developers alone decide. This isn’t “towns taking the lead,” as advocates sometimes claim. It is state overreach that strips municipalities of autonomy with an unworkable State mandate “pulling them by the nose.”

3. Misplaced Trust in Developers

It is flawed logic to assume that all developers will set the precise amount of parking that is actually needed on all new developments under 24 units as HB5002 mandates. It is also naive to assume as HB5002 does, that on projects over 24 units the developer paid for studies will be impartial. The consultants developers pay will just back into the predetermined number of parking spots that the developers intend to offer.

Developers prioritize profit, often cutting costs like parking to maximize returns. Just as building inspectors verify plumbing and electrical work, parking needs oversight to prevent corner-cutting. Without checks and balances, residents risk under-parked developments that harm livability and impact quality of life.

As an alternative, we suggest that towns may update their parking policies based on objective and reputable nationwide traffic and parking reports. This allows for flexibility and accounts for local circumstances. Traffic standards may change and adapt.

This is what Governor Lamont has endorsed by his “towns

taking the lead “approach. By adopting this approach, there will be real reliance on the scientific method, rather than the pseudo-science rhetoric employed by the supporters of HB 5002.

4. No Guarantee of Affordability

It is false logic to assume if developers eliminate some or all onsite parking spots that developers will pass those savings onto a project’s end users. Advocates suggest reducing parking will lower costs for renters or buyers, but HB5002 includes no such affordability requirements while being allowed to provide no parking on projects under 24 units. Developers can pocket savings from fewer parking spaces or even offering none at all without passing the cost saving benefits onto residents. This mandate is a giveaway to developers, not a solution for housing affordability or creation of affordable units.

5. Burdening Residents

Under-parked developments disproportionately harm vulnerable groups—elderly residents, families with young children, and service workers with late-night or irregular schedules—who rely on cars due to inadequate public transit at those off hours. HB5002’s “health and safety” provisions added as a last-minute compromise by the legislature, are toothless, as the bill explicitly states no project—residential, commercial, or mixed-use—can be denied solely for insufficient parking. This is not an effective compromise solution for workable parking policy.

6. Stop State Laws that Limit parking flexibility

State regulations (one of the 5 factors that impact development costs) like no impact fees or prohibiting “fee in lieu” of parking prevent municipalities from having greater flexibility around parking and local zoning decision making. This ends up hurting development, municipalities and residents in the long run. Legislators should allow for impact fees, yet the majority leaders continue to wrongly obsess only on zoning.

7. Blocking Municipal Solutions

Unlike other states, Connecticut prohibits impact fees, which could allow towns more flexibility on parking requirements and allow funding for municipal parking lots near transit hubs. Those who benefit from the development (the developers) should incur the true costs, not the residents. HB5002 further restricts municipalities by banning fees in lieu of parking. This forces residents to bear the cost of parking shortages through higher property taxes—already the second highest in the U.S.—or pay for private parking. As Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff noted, this shifts costs directly onto residents to “subsidize the cost of parking for developers.” That is not sound policy making to improve affordability for CT’s residents, it’s just a handout to developers.

Elimination of minimum parking mandates is only one provision in HB5002. This legislation, taken as a whole, represents a top down, central planning approach, which is at odds with Connecticut’s tradition of local control and home rule. Despite the rhetoric of its supporters, HB 5002, in the form adopted by the General Assembly, places profits over people.

Truth matters. CT169Strong is providing links to HB5002’s to read and draw your own conclusions, no talking points spin, just the written language in the bill. <https://www.cga.ct.gov/.../PDF/2025HB-05002-R000973-FC.PDF> Refer to Section 2, lines 186-191; Section 3; Section 42 and a summary of these bill sections on pages 102-104).

CT169 applauds the Governor’s veto of this ill-conceived bill and stands ready to work in a collaborative fashion to obtain real solutions to Connecticut’s housing and affordability needs. Our call to action is for residents to continue to reach out to the Legislative Leadership and to Governor Lamont to let them know CT needs real workable and collaborative solutions, not narratives and talking points.

CT169Strong.org: *Maria Weingarten, Co-Founder, Kirk Carr*

Letters to the Editor may be sent to cordelia@sentinelhometownnews.com or submitted through the website at NewCanaanSentinel.com

COLUMN

The Deficit Albatross is Demographics, Not Wasteful Spending



By PATRICIA CHADWICK

When it comes to the matter of debt—be it Government, corporate, or consumer—one can read endless tomes on the subject regarding both its value and its risks. Countries, empires and dynasties have risen and fallen on account of the wise and the not-so-wise use of borrowing. As an affordable mortgage, debt has proven to be an invaluable means to home ownership; on the other hand, as a mechanism to acquire goods beyond one’s financial means, debt—credit card or equity line of credit or borrowing from sweet Auntie Mame—has proven so often to be disastrous.

The ever-growing level of U.S. debt is, and should be, a matter of concern. As a percentage of GDP, the total debt of the Federal Government now stands close to 125%. It was last that high over 75 years ago, during World War II—a time when defense spending comprised 40% of the nation’s GDP and a whopping 90% of the U.S. budget. Some fifteen years later, at the height of the Cold War in 1960, defense spending was still the largest component of the federal budget, at just above 50%, although only about 9% of GDP, as the U.S. economy expanded rapidly during the 1950s. By the time the Cold War was ruptured by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, defense spending had declined to 28% of the budget and only 6% of GDP and today it is a mere 3% of the economy and about 16% of the federal budget. That is all good news within the context of managing the size of Government spending. So why is the deficit expanding?

The Federal budget can be broken into two parts—nondiscretionary, i.e., mandatory spending, and discretionary spending.

Interestingly, while defense spending is a critical and essential responsibility of the Federal Government, it is not a mandatory obligation, as its budget, together with those of numerous other federal services, must be approved annually by Congress through appropriation. Nondiscretionary spending, on the other hand, includes programs that the government is obligated to fund annually. Today, the largest two items in that nondiscretionary bucket are (1) Medicare and (2) Social Security and over the last fifty years, they have comprised the lion’s share of the growth in the entire Federal budget and thus to the size of the deficit.

The Social Security Act, signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935, during the depth of the Great Depression, introduced into the American economic system the concept of “social insurance.” In order to fund that retirement program, Congress established a 1% tax to be paid by both the employer and the employee (for a total of 2%) on the first \$3000 of an employee’s wages. At that time, Congress established the national retirement age at 65, and it’s interesting to note that the average life expectancy at birth in 1935 in the U.S. was 61.7 years. So, simply put, an “average” baby born in 1935 was not expected to have to call on the resources of the social security system, despite having paid into it. Once reaching the age of 65, life expectancy was between 12 and 13.5 years—depending on where one was male (12 years) or female (13.5 years). Those statistics generated a model that was notionally self-funding for Social Security funds.

In 1935, the U.S. population stood at 127 million and there were approximately 7.6 million people—about 6% of the population—who were aged 65 and older. Today, the U.S. population stands at 340 million, an almost three-fold increase from 90 years ago. There are now more than 58 million residents over the age of 67 (Congress raised the age from 65 in an attempt to reduce the cost of the program)—a nearly 8-fold increase from 1935, comprising about 18% of the population. Furthermore, life expectancy at birth today

The combination of Social Security and Medicare can be viewed as one giant virtuous cycle—good medicine leads to healthy longevity; healthy longevity leads to the ability to enjoy life more fully. However, from the point of view of a fiscal analyst, the two programs that are joined at the hip, might be viewed as part of a vicious cycle—medical science is bankrupting the Federal Government.

is 80 years, some 19 years more than it was when Social Security was signed into law in 1935. And when one reaches the “young” age of 67 today, one can expect to live an additional 18 years to the age of 85. I think we all have more than a few friends who are 85 and looked destined for 90. It is unlikely that the existing trend will suddenly make a U-turn.

With data like those cited above, it’s easy to see why the basic Social Security arithmetic has spiraled out of control, little by little, year by year, over nearly a century. So what’s the secret sauce that has allowed for such an extraordinary trend in longevity? It can be described in two simple words: “medical science” that has steadily found ways to improve health and enhance the quality of life for millions of Americans. That brings me to the second program in the non-discretionary Federal Budget, namely, Medicare. The program was enacted into law by President Lyndon Johnson as an attachment to the Social Security Act. Its purpose was to provide health care for retired Americans, many of whom could not afford to purchase private insurance. In 1970, the program spent \$7.5 billion, approximately 3.8% of the Federal budget. In 2024, its outlay was \$1.12 trillion, nearly 14% of the budget.

As a seventy-seven year old who has benefited from what medical science has had to offer, I think of the combination of Social Security and Medicare as one giant virtuous cycle—good medicine leads to healthy longevity; healthy longevity leads to the ability to enjoy life

more fully. Bring it on! Let’s get to the year one hundred! However, were I a green eye shade Government employee (with no offense to the position) I more likely might wring my hands and describe the two programs that are joined at the hip as a vicious cycle—medical science is bankrupting the Federal Government.

It is not politically expedient for anyone running for office, regardless of party affiliation, to attack either Medicare or Social Security. The fastest growing age bracket in the country today is the group that is 85 years and older. They number 6.5 million people today and are expected to reach 19 million in 35 years. At the other end of the age spectrum lies the issue of fertility. From a post-war high of 3.8 in 1957 (at the peak of the baby boom), the fertility rate in this country has dropped to around 1.6 today, well below the 2.1 that is necessary to maintain the size of the population without the stimulant of an immigration policy. Food for thought that might provide some serious indigestion even for an optimist.

Patricia Chadwick is a businesswoman and an author. Her first book (2019): Little Sister: A Memoir, tells the story of her growing up in a religious community-turned cult in the 1950s and 1960s. Her most recent memoir (2024), Breaking Glass, with the subtitle: Tales from the Witch of Wall Street, came out last May. It is a sequel to Little Sister and tells of her starting out on the lowest rung of the corporate ladder and succeeding in what was then the all-male bastion called Wall Street. www.patriciachadwick.com

Town Players of New Canaan Opens 79th Season with The Effect

The Town Players of New Canaan will open its 79th season with The Effect, Lucy Prebble’s award-winning romantic drama that asks one provocative question: Would you trust love if it came from a pill?

The play, which won the 2012 Critics’ Circle Theatre Award for Best New Play, runs September 4–14 at the Powerhouse Performing Arts Center in Waveny Park. Performances are Thursday through Sunday, with a special talk-back following the September 7 matinee.

Set during a four-week clinical drug trial for a dopamine-based antidepressant, The Effect follows Connie and Tristan, two volunteers who fall in love under questionable circumstances. Their relationship disrupts the study and forces the supervising doctors, Dr. Lorna James and Dr. Toby Seeley, to confront questions about ethics, science, and emotional authenticity.

“This is a play that challenges the audience to grapple with the ethics of the times we live in,” said director Tyler Small of Norwalk, who recently starred as Andy Dufresne in The Shawshank Redemption on the same stage. “Are we overmedicating without concern for the effects? We spike our dopamine constantly in a world that’s fighting to keep us glued to our distractions. Is the joy they give us real or manufactured? Audiences are sure to leave



Connie and Tristan (Audrey Burns and Liam Sweeney) are feeling *The Effect* of the drug kicking in. Are they in love or are their feelings medically induced? Find out at The Powerhouse Theatre!

Photo credit: Tyler Small.

thinking about this show for a long time.”

For Small, The Effect marks his directorial debut with the Town Players. Producer Nova Hall of Darien, who also serves as co-president of the organization, said the choice to open the season with Prebble’s play was deliberate. “As a community theatre, we are committed to producing bold and compelling theatre that reflects current issues and occasionally challenges cultural norms,” Hall said. “In a world increasingly reliant on medication for mental wellness, The Effect feels especially urgent. It resonates with current debates around mental health treatment, emotional

authenticity, and the role of science in our daily lives.”

The cast brings together local talent: Audrey Burns of Fairfield plays Connie Hall; Liam Sweeney of Stamford takes the role of Tristan Frey; Candice Sisbarro of Stratford portrays Dr. Lorna James; and Paul Johnson, also of Stamford, plays Dr. Toby Seeley. The production team includes set designer Sophie Bardos (Greenwich), lighting designer Jessie Lizotte (Derby), and Joel Reynolds (New Canaan), who built the set with his crew. Celine Montaudy of Norwalk serves as stage manager.

In addition to the performances, audiences

What to Know: The Effect

Presented by: Town Players of New Canaan

Venue: Powerhouse Performing Arts Center, Waveny Park

Dates: September 4 – 14, 2025
Performances Thursday–Sunday

Talk-back Event:
Sunday, September 7 matinee, followed by discussion with the director, cast, and Dr. Andrew Gerber of Silver Hill Hospital

Run Time: About 2 hours, including intermission

Audience: Recommended for mature audiences

Tickets & Info: TPNC.org
Questions? TICKETS@tpnc.org
Voicemail: 203-594-3636

will have the opportunity to join a discussion on the play’s themes. A talk-back with the director, cast, and Dr. Andrew Gerber, president and medical director of Silver Hill Hospital, will follow the Sunday matinee on September 7.

The Effect runs approximately two hours, including intermission, and is recommended for mature audiences due to its subject matter. Tickets and additional information are available at TPNC.org

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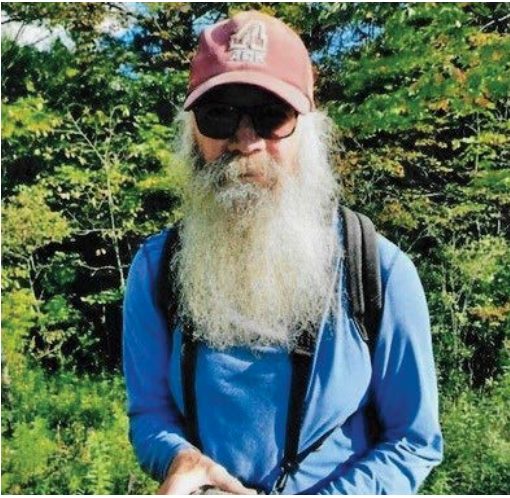
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Obituaries

Donald Sweeney, Jr.



August 18, 1950 - August 25, 2025

Donald P. Sweeney Jr., 75, passed away on Monday, August 25, 2025, at his home, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on August 18, 1950, in Stamford, CT, he was the son of the late Donald Sweeney Sr. and Dorothy (Reynolds) Sweeney. He was a proud Eagle Scout and a graduate of Norwalk High School, Class of 1968. Donald had his associates degree in Business from Norwalk Community College, where he graduated in 1970. A former cross-country runner, he was also honored as “Mayor of the Day” in Norwalk, Connecticut. For 20 years, Donald worked at New Canaan Field Club in New Canaan, CT, as the Operations Manager. He supervised and hired the ground crew and maintenance personnel for grounds, which included the tennis courts, paddle tennis courts, pool, and social events. He mentored the young employees under his care and made a major impact on their lives. He enjoyed spending time with friends and family, tending to his garden, fishing, camping,

boating and cooking. Donald was an avid NY Giants, NJ Devils, and NY Yankees fan. He especially enjoyed listening to all genres of music. In addition to his parents, Donald was predeceased by his grandson, Liam P. Shaw, and his brother, Dennis P. Sweeney. Left to cherish his memory, include his wife of 42 years, Peggy Sweeney; his children, Mary A. Sweeney of Hartford, NY, Patrick F. Sweeney and his wife, Heather of Argyle, NY; his grandchildren, Callum P. Shaw, Avery Lynn Sweeney and Maggie Mae Sweeney; his brother, Douglas Sweeney and his wife, Jocelyn; his nephew and nieces, Sean, Hannah, Katie Rae and Ella; and several great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins. Services and burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Arrangements are in the care of M.B.

Kilmer Funeral Home, 82 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828. To leave online condolences, please visit www.kilmerfuneralhome.com *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. 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.*

YOUR NEWS BRIEF CONTINUED From Page 1

EV Market



Leo Karl of Karl Chevrolet recently spoke to the New Canaan Rotary Club about electric vehicles, highlighting improvements in range, charging access, cost, and grid capacity. Karl estimated EVs could grow from 10% of the market in 2024 to 25% by 2030. Pictured L-R: Tom Ferguson and Leo Karl. Photo credit: New Canaan Rotary Club.

Inn Residents Road Trip



Recently, Waveny Inn residents traveled to Norwalk, where they took a walk and had lunch at Prime Seafood. Photo credit: Waveny LifeCare Network.

Silver Hill Names New Marketing & Communications Director



Lynn Schlesinger has been appointed Executive Director of Marketing & Communications at Silver Hill. She has experience in marketing across technology, media, and professional services. In her new role, she will manage the organization’s communications and marketing strategy. Photo credit: Silver Hill Hospital.

SCHOOLS

SLS Students Attend Leadership Institute



Recently, thirty-three Upper School students attended the St. Luke’s Leadership Institute at Camp Woodstock YMCA. They worked on leadership methods, group dynamics, and personal action plans. Photo credit: St. Luke’s School.

NCHS Theatre Picnic



On August 25, NCHS Theatre held their annual picnic and met incoming theatre members. Photo credit: New Canaan High School Theatre.

SPORTS

NCHS Field Hockey Captains



New Canaan High School named its 2025 field hockey captains: Jane Kenny, Charlotte Lee, Cara Passios, and Natalia Cota. Photo credit: New Canaan Field Hockey.

ACROSS CT

Fake Job Scam Alert

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong warned that scammers are targeting students with fake job offers sent by text and email, often using the names of well-known companies. The scams may involve fraudulent email addresses, inflated pay promises, requests for personal information, or counterfeit checks. Tong urged people to verify opportunities through official channels and report suspected scams at <http://www.ct.gov/agcomplaints>.

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, September 8, 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 and Melissa Parker, owner(s) for a Variance of Section(s) 3.5.F.5.b to a 12.5 sq ft. portion of the home to have a side yard height of 27’and a total height 31.8’, where 20’ and 25’ are the maximum permitted, respectively. In the Half Acre Zone at 45 Brushy Ridge Road (Map 38, Block 93, Lot 748).

Luke T. Tashjian, Chairman
Dated: August 28, 2025

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

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

Permit Number (IW-25-36) issued to Adam Dunn, 100 Toby’s Lane, Map 27 Block 25 Lot 34. Perform landscaping and slope stabilization activities within the 50’ upland review area. Prepare site for activities and install all soil and erosion controls. Add bluestone on gravel walkway w/cobblestone edging. Construct bluestone and paver patio; and add stone steps w/ boulder border. Install trees, shrubs and perennials. Replace existing iron railing along existing flagstone patio. Perform slope stabilization by installing geocell, as depicted. Remove existing wooden wall upon installation of geocell. Topsoil, seed and/or mulch all disturbed areas upon completion.

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission at a regular meeting held via hybrid and in person on August 26, 2025 duly adopted the following resolution(s). Approved Applications become effective upon the filing of a copy thereof in the office of the Town Clerk.

1. RESOLVED, 11 Burtis Avenue – that the application of Jaime Sneddon, Authorized Agent for Ventana 11 Burtis, LLC, owner(s), for a Special Permit approval pursuant to Section(s) 6.3.C.3 to allow a temporary real estate sign larger than 3 square feet in size in the Business A Zone at 11 Burtis Avenue (Map T, Block 236, Lot 642) is approved.

2. RESOLVED, 180 Jonathan Road – that the application of Rob Frangione, Frangione Engineering, LLC, Authorized Agent for Matthew J. Farrell, owner(s), for a Special Permit approval pursuant to Section(s) 3.4.C.1.b to allow construction of a detached garage in the front yard within 75 ft. of the street in the Four Arce Zone at 180 Jonathan Road (Map 29, Block 30, Lot 28) is approved with conditions.

Krista Neilson, Secretary
Dated August 26, 2025

New Canaan
Legal Ads

COLUMN



By SCOTT HERR

Last week I returned from a family reunion in Oregon. I got to see my parents and noticed that both of them have aged significantly even since the last time I saw them in February for my dad’s 90th birthday celebration. My father has always been sociable, but I was getting frustrated this trip because he would stop and talk with just about everyone he met. I’m used to moving along through my day and keeping a schedule. Chop! chop! It was exasperating at times to have to wait as he stopped to engage the people around him. I assumed this is just part of the aging process...

In a recent podcast, David Brooks, one of my favorite social critics and journalists, lists as one of his core values what he calls “epistemological modesty.” I love that phrase, which means Mr. Brooks leans toward humility about what he knows and what he can know. It reminds me of

the adage that the opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty! I would suggest “epistemological modesty” as a value worth employing as we move from summer and into a new season. It requires an open mind and a desire to be a learning leader (don’t we all think we’re leaders in New Canaan?), to approach each day with curiosity and an expectation that there is new knowledge and truth to be discovered.

Brook’s approach is particularly helpful advice for those of us with religious faith. In the Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin there is an interesting quote from correspondence between Michael Welfare and Benjamin Franklin. Welfare was one of the leaders of the Dunkers, a German Anabaptist sect who were berated in the 1700s by vicious critics who were spreading lies about the Dunkers’ beliefs and practices. Benjamin Franklin suggested that Welfare publish the core doctrines and disciplines of the Dunkers for the public to understand better what they were really about. Welfare replied with these words:

“When we were first drawn together as a society, it had

pleased [God] to enlighten our minds so far as to see that some doctrines, which we once esteemed truths, were errors, and that others, which we had esteemed errors, were real truths. From time to time God has been pleased to afford us farther light, and our principles have been improving, and our errors diminishing. Now we are not sure that we are arrived at the end of this progression, and at the perfection of spiritual or theological knowledge; and we fear that, if we should feel ourselves as if bound and confined by it, and perhaps be unwilling to receive further improvement, and our successors still more so, as conceiving what we their elders and founders had done, to be something sacred, never to be departed from.”

Franklin describes this sentiment as a “singular instance in the history of mankind of modesty in a sect.” Ha! Indeed, too many religious people are better described as arrogant

religious zealots or fanatics. It’s sad that religious folks are not famous for our “epistemological modesty” or simple humility, but rather dogmatic stubbornness and moral arrogance. I confess I have often confused overconfidence with conviction, and argumentation with giving witness to my faith. I have been too slow to learn that true spirituality requires that we change our minds, and remain flexible to the new truths that God seeks for us to learn and that others can teach us as we move through life.

Jesus said, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35). Loving anyone, whether from your faith community, or your neighbor, or even your enemy (the high bar for Christian morality), requires “epistemological modesty.”

Loving another person is not about evaluating the right or wrong of their politics, sex life, work ethic, marital (or legal) status, or level of education or income. Love requires seeking common ground (often times through asking questions) that allows you to recognize the humanity of the other, and to learn what it is they need in order to become more the person God created and calls them to be.

In her book, The Sovereignty of Good, British philosopher Iris Murdoch says too often we only look at people with egotistical and self-serving eyes. We look in order to figure out what we can extract from others, not how we can invest in them. Our goal, Murdoch argues, is to try and cast “a just and loving attention” on others. In fact, she says the act of looking at someone is itself the essential moral act. For Murdoch, paying attention is the central moral act, and I take that to mean by extension that asking questions and showing curiosity

about what (or who) one is noticing is an equally important moral and life-giving act. This may sound too simple, but a great way to start the new academic year is to notice and talk with the people around you. On the commuter train, strike up a conversation. In the grocery store as you move through the aisles, stop to talk with a neighbor. Engage people at your work or school over a coffee. Resist being consumed by your smart phone text messaging, email or latest game. Pay attention to the people around you, and show curiosity about what is going on in their lives. Ask simple questions, like, “How are you?” or “How is your day going?” and genuinely listen. Surprise: University of Chicago professor Nick Epley’s research shows people are happiest when they are talking to one another!

So, maybe my dad hasn’t simply lost his inhibitions, he’s discovered the simple wisdom for a happier life... and maybe we should too?

Worship Directory and Services

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

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

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

Congregational Church

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

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

Recurring Events:

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

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM: Bible Study

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

Upcoming Events:

September 19 at 7 PM: Fellowship Fall Social

First Church of Christ, Scientist

49 Park Street 203.966.0293
christiansciencect.org/newcanaan

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

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

First Presbyterian Church

178 Oenoke Ridge Road 203.966.0002
fpcnc.org

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

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

Upcoming Events:

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

September 17 from 7-9 PM: Join Open Mic Night to share music and/or poetry. Featured Performance by Frank Critelli. Walk-ins Welcome.

September 21 at 10 AM: Join guest preacher and adult forum speaker Chris Hays. He will be discussing the Widening of God’s Mercy: Sexuality Within the Biblical Story.

Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Church

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

Saturday: Vigil for Sunday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Sunday 8:30 a.m. mass is live-streamed and recorded.

Monday-Friday: 7:00 am and 5:30 pm

Saturday: 7:00 am

Recurring Events:

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

Fridays 7:30am-6pm: Eucharistic Adoration (September-June)
Saturday 8:30am: St. A’s Healing Rosary Prayer Group

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

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

Sunday Services: 8:00am: Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite I; **9:00am:** Outdoor Holy Eucharist Rite II; **10am:** Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite II (Live Stream also available on the St. Mark’s website). Coffee Hour follows the 10am service.

Church School during the 10am service: Godly Play for children in kindergarten through second grade; Holy Moly for third and fourth grades; Meet in the Middle for fifth, sixth and seventh grades. Professional childcare is offered for children ages four and under. Families with children who are not yet ready to separate for childcare are invited to use the rocking chairs at the rear of the chapel.

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

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

Recurring Events:

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

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

Upcoming Events:

October 4 at 6 PM: Morrill Hall will be a candle-lit and delicious venue for some of the most enduring and familiar works of the 20th century master of his genre, George Gershwin. Reserve seats by calling the St. Mark’s office.

St. Michael’s Lutheran Church

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

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

Recurring Events:

Thursday 12 PM: Alcoholics Anonymous

Trinity Church
New Canaan | Darien

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

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

United Methodist Church

165 South Avenue 203.966.2666
frontdesk@umcofnewcanaan.org
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.

Sunday School for ages 3 through high school resumes September 7. Child care is available for children from infancy through age 5.

Upcoming Events:

September 7: Rally Day. Join after the Sunday service for a family picnic with great food, a bounce house, and games! Everyone is welcome.

Community Baptist Church

174 Cherry Street 203.966.0711
cbcnewcanaan@gmail.com
www.cbcnewcanaan.org

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZZUNa8aHI3O_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:

September 21 at 3-5 PM: Women’s Day

September 24-26 at 7 PM Nightly: Fall Revival with Rev. Winton Hill.

Grace Community Church

9:30am Service @ New Canaan High School,
11 Farm Road, New Canaan
203-966-7600

info@gracecommunity.info
www.gracecommunity.info

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

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

Talmadge Hill Community Church

870 Hollow Tree Ridge Road; Darien, CT
203.966.2314

talmadgehillchurch@gmail.com

www.talmadgehill.org

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

Recurring Events:

Thursdays at 9:30am: Bible Study

First Saturday at 8am: Men’s Group

Second Saturday at 10am: Women’s Circle

Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center

137 Putnam Rd

info@chabadnewcanaan.org

www.newcanaanjewish.org

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

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

Temple Sinai (Reform Synagogue)

458 Lakeside Drive; Stamford, CT 06903
203.322.1649

www.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

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>

COURAGE & FAITH

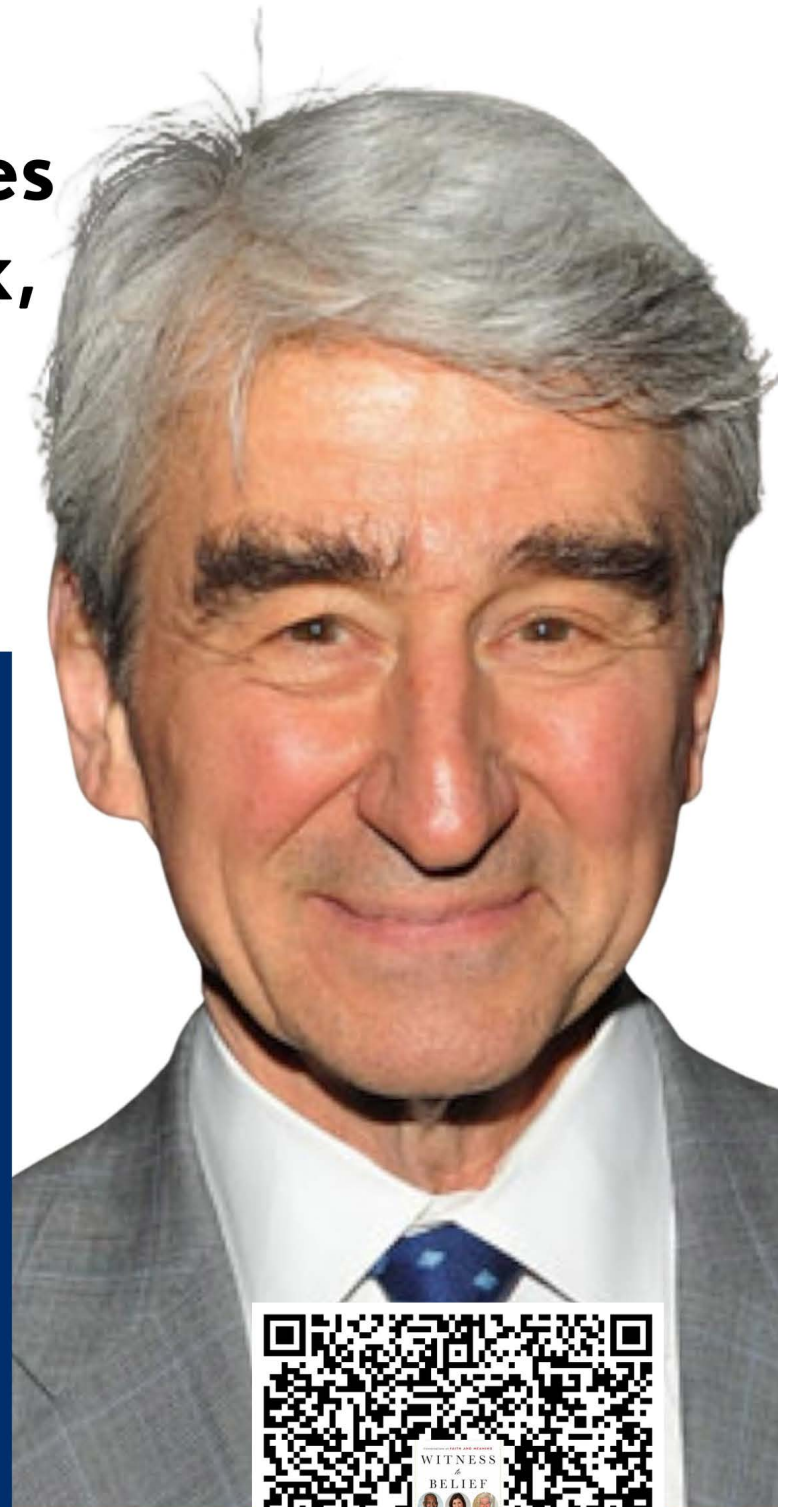
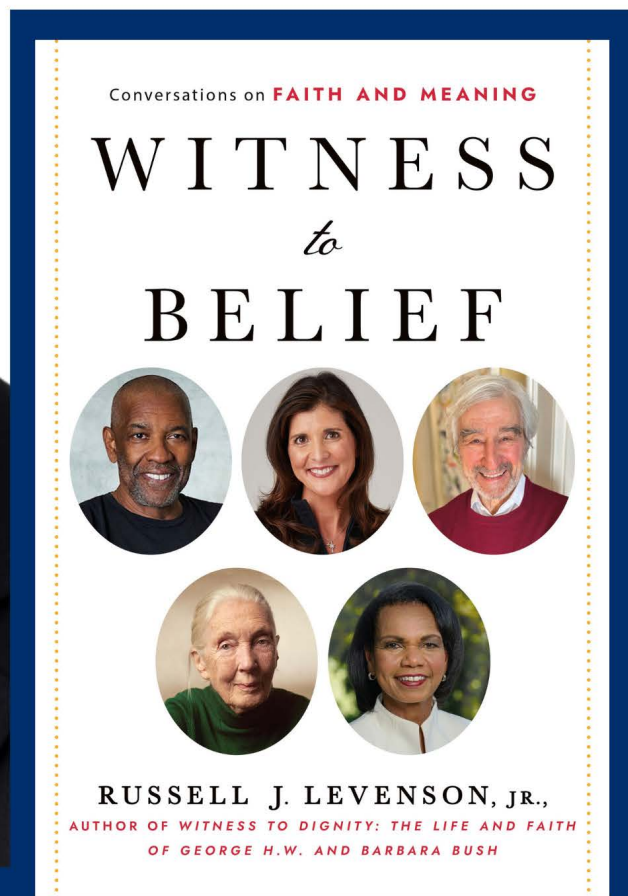
SPEAKER SERIES

“Witness To Belief”

**Author Talk in-person with
Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson
& Actor Sam Waterston**

**Saturday, Oct. 4
6:00 pm**

**\$35 ticket includes
the talk, the book,
Q&A
& wine/cheese
reception**



**Tickets online:
christchurchgreenwich.org**

**Event location:
Christ Church
254 East Putnam Ave.,
Greenwich, CT**



Go Gold for Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month

Vivienne would have turned 17 on August 31st and would be starting 11th grade at Sacred Heart — a year that should have been filled with planning, dreaming, and deciding where her next steps in life would take her. At her essence, Vivienne was an artist, a writer, a fashionista, and above all, a soul who cared deeply for others. Her light, creativity, and compassion touched everyone around her. But a cruel disease — diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG)— took her from us far too soon. An inoperable brain cancer ended her life at the age of 11 years.

Quiet grief will never be enough to find a cure, so this year, we choose to celebrate Vivienne's life through action. We have launched The Vivienne C. Finn Foundation, Inc. in her name, with a mission to honor her memory and create change for other families facing this devastating reality. Through the foundation, we are:

- Supporting families navigating childhood cancer
- Championing legislative change to expand access to lifesaving treatments and clinical trials
- Accelerating pediatric cancer research so that children in Fairfield County and beyond can receive the care they need close to home

September is Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month

Unless you've been personally affected, you may not know how urgent this fight is:

- 1 in 264 children and adolescents will be diagnosed with cancer before age 20
- In 2025, an estimated 9,550 children (ages 0–14) and 5,140 adolescents (ages 15–19) will receive a cancer diagnosis
- On average, 14% of children die within five years of diagnosis
- There are 12+ major types of pediatric cancers and 100+ subtypes

Breakdown of Pediatric Cancer Diagnoses by Type

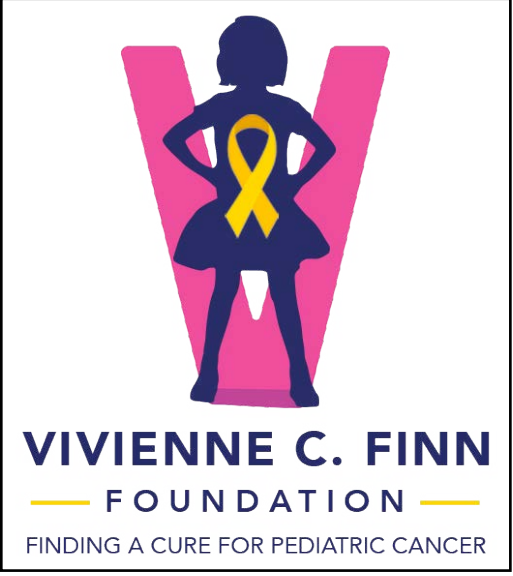
Cancer Type	% of Pediatric Cases
Leukemia	28%
Central Nervous System Tumors	27%
Lymphomas	12%
Neuroblastoma	6%
Wilms Tumor	5%
Germ Cell Tumors	5%
Rhabdomyosarcoma	3%
Retinoblastoma	3%
Osteosarcoma	3%
Ewing Sarcoma	1%

Pediatric brain and central nervous system tumors are now the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among children and adolescents under 19.

Across the U.S., there are more than 2.1 million cancer survivors who were diagnosed during childhood and are now ages 15–39 years — yet, despite these numbers, pediatric cancer research remains significantly underfunded. Only 4% of the National Cancer Institute's budget — approximately \$288 million in 2024 — was spent on childhood cancer.

The Harsh Reality After Diagnosis

The days and weeks after diagnosis move at



lightning speed — a blur of fear, decision-making, and urgent action. One moment, you are living in your familiar world, and the next, you are thrust into a reality you never imagined. Almost instantly, you're assigned a team of specialists — pediatric oncologists, surgeons, radiation oncologists, nurses, psychologists, and social workers — all speaking a new language you've never had to understand before.

Diagnostic testing begins immediately: blood work, genomic testing, MRIs, and biopsies to confirm the tumor's profile and aggressiveness. Then, in what feels like a nightmare, you're asked to make impossible choices — selecting a clinical trial or treatment plan your child can best tolerate and endure, hoping it offers a chance at a cure.

Meanwhile, a constant worry lingers: Will our insurance cover this? Will my child even have access to the treatment they need?

- 1 in 4 families lose 40% or more of their annual income due to treatment-related work disruptions
- 1 in 3 families face job loss, reduced hours, or are forced to quit altogether

The Fight for Time

Imagine being ushered into a small consultation room and hearing the unthinkable: your vibrant 10-year-old daughter — who just yesterday was doing cartwheels and skateboarding — has nine months to live. She might not even reach her next birthday.

In that moment, everything changes. What matters most becomes painfully clear: time together. For Vivienne, that meant staying close to home — continuing school, sharing family dinners, and living each day surrounded by the people and places she loved.

We chose Yale New Haven and Memorial Sloan Kettering for her trials, but sadly, they were not successful. Still, we fight on — for Vivienne, and for every child facing this unimaginable journey.

Policy Threats Put Children at Risk

The newly approved “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” poses an urgent threat to children battling cancer:

- \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts could strip healthcare coverage from 186,580 Connecticut



Young Vivienne enjoying a friends birthday



Vivienne handing flowers out to a senior at SHG a graduation she didnt live to have herself.

residents, including thousands of children on HUSKY and Access Health CT

- Many children could lose access to out-of-state clinical trials that represent their only hope

Additionally, the 15% cap on indirect costs for NIH research grants threatens the infrastructure that sustains lifesaving innovation. These funds aren't “overhead” — they support labs, trial coordination, technology, and patient navigation. Slashing them means slower drug development, fewer innovative treatments, and lost scientific talent.

A Crisis of Innovation

In the past 30 years, only seven drugs have been approved by the FDA specifically to treat childhood cancers, compared to 200+ drugs for adults. The gap exists because developing pediatric treatments is expensive, the population is smaller, and drug companies lack incentives.

As Sam Blackman, co-founder of Day One Biopharmaceuticals, explains, the fastest way forward is adapting promising adult therapies for kids — but this requires financial incentives and legislative action.

What We Can Do — Together

1. Fuel Research Through Philanthropy

Vivienne's own journey makes this personal. When she qualified for ONC201 — now known as Modeyso, FDA-approved as of August 2025 — the Finn Foundation had to invest directly in Chimerix to open a trial arm at Yale New Haven. No family should ever have to fund lifesaving access. Simply put the company had run out of money. It couldn't fund the production of any more drugs. So they reached out to private investors to continue their operations and in return Vivienne gained access to the trial.

Half of pediatric cancer research funding comes from private philanthropy. Without it, promising trials stall.

2. Drive Change Through Federal Advocacy

We proudly support the Give Kids a Chance Act, which incentivizes companies to develop pediatric-specific treatments giving them review vouchers to expedite the process for FDA approval , expands access to combination therapies, and protects

families by tightening orphan drug loopholes.

Special thanks to Rep. Jim Himes, the first Connecticut representative to co-sponsor this vital bill. But we need more voices. Contact your representatives. Share Vivienne's story. Stand with us.

3. Act at the State Level

Connecticut can lead the fight by creating a Pediatric Cancer Research Fund, investing \$2–5 million annually in Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, UConn Health, and partner institutions.

- Establish a Pediatric Oncology Research & Innovation Hub at Yale
- Provide a state tax check-off to fund research
- Pass legislation modeled after New Jersey's Grace Eline Foundation Act to improve trial access, strengthen HUSKY/Medicaid coverage, and require annual reporting on incidence, enrollment, and family impact.
- Expand family support services like housing stipends, transportation aid, and Pediatric Cancer Navigator programs

Eight other states have already taken similar action, unlocking \$99+ million in funding. Connecticut must not fall behind. Tina Courpas will lead efforts to explore the legislative path forward.

We Go Gold for Vivienne — and for All Kids


Childhood cancer is not rare. Every day, 47 children are diagnosed. These kids face endless surgeries, biopsies, harsh treatments, and often lifelong side effects. Too many lose their lives — not only to cancer itself but to outdated, toxic treatments.

Vivienne's light drives us forward — fighting for better treatments, better options, and better futures. Her creativity, love, and generosity live on through The Vivienne C. Finn Foundation Inc..

We invite you to learn more and join us: www.vcfnnfoundation.org

Sources

Statistics and pediatric cancer data cited above come from the Coalition Against Childhood Cancer (CAC2): <https://cac2.org>




EXPERIENCE SUNDAY Polo

GREENWICH POLO CLUB | SUMMER POLO SEASON

Join us in Greenwich, CT for world-class high-goal polo, Sundays from June to September. Enjoy thrilling matches, luxury hospitality, and a unique social experience—just minutes from NYC.

TICKETS & VIP PACKAGES AT GREENWICHPOLOCLUB.COM



GREENWICH POLO CLUB



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Rally Day Picnic & Celebration!

Sunday, September 7

11:30am

Please join us for worship, fun, food, live music, lawn games, and Ol' Faithful rides directly following the worship service at 10 am!

All are welcome!

Visit fpcnc.org or call us at 203-966-0002 ext 1

AI Is Changing the Job Market: 3 Things We Must Do to Prepare Our Students



By JENNIFER OPENSHAW

When I speak with employers today, one theme comes up again and again: the job market is shifting faster than our students are prepared to keep up. Artificial intelligence (AI) is driving much of that change. While some fear AI will eliminate jobs, the bigger risk is that young people will enter the workforce without the skills needed to adapt, compete, and lead alongside it.

In case you missed the latest hiring trends, in June, new job postings dropped by 7% month-over-month and 2% year-over-year, while open positions fell 8% from May. Real-time data from LinkUp shows active U.S. job listings declined 3%, with new openings falling from 1.54 million to 1.37 million. Businesses are increasingly cautious—one in five companies plan to slow hiring in the second half of 2025, nearly double last year’s level.

What’s behind this?

- Productivity gains: Many companies are investing in AI to automate routine tasks, which means they can maintain output with fewer hires.
- Cautious hiring: Employers are pausing or reducing entry-

The future is coming fast. Let’s make sure our kids are ready.

level hiring until they see how much AI can replace or augment roles. This is especially true in finance, marketing, customer service, and legal support—fields already experimenting with AI-driven efficiencies.

- Skill mismatch: Companies increasingly want candidates with AI literacy and problem-solving skills, but many graduates don’t have them. This creates a gap: jobs exist, but applicants aren’t seen as ready.

This has me worried not only about my own kids (who have yet to enter college), but the thousands we at GWI served this past year alone... and the many Greenwich parents I talk to, worried about their student landing successfully.

As parents, we spend decades and often hundreds of thousands of dollars preparing our kids for the future. Even graduates of top universities struggle to translate classroom learning into workplace performance.

Without thoughtful planning, our investment can fall short.

Here are three things parents must consider now to help their children succeed in the AI-driven workforce.

1. Hard Skills Aren’t Enough

Yes, students need exposure to AI and technology. Employers increasingly expect young professionals to understand how AI tools can improve productivity,

efficiency, and innovation. But technical skills alone won’t cut it.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce found that 74% of hiring managers say new hires lack basic work readiness.

Employers say the biggest gaps are in critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication—skills AI can’t replace. Students who can lead teams, navigate ambiguity, and apply judgment will rise to the top. Parents should seek opportunities—whether through leadership programs, debate clubs, or internships—that help their kids practice these human-centered skills.

2. Career Pathways Will Look Different

The World Economic Forum reports that 50% of skills in today’s jobs will change within five years.

The “safe” careers of yesterday—law, medicine, accounting—are being disrupted. AI is writing contracts, scanning medical images, and managing financial data faster than people can. But that doesn’t mean opportunity disappears—it shifts. New jobs are emerging in AI ethics, human-machine collaboration, and industries that blend technical and creative skills.

Parents should encourage flexibility and expose kids to a range of fields. What matters

most is building adaptability—the ability to pivot, learn, and grow in a constantly evolving landscape.

3. Access and Networks Will Define Success

Perhaps the greatest risk is that the AI economy will widen the gap between the “haves” and “have-nots.” Students with well-connected parents may land internships and mentors who open doors. But talented students without those networks risk being left behind.

That’s where parents can play a crucial role—connecting their children to real-world experiences, mentors, and programs that build both skills and confidence. Even modest investments can transform outcomes. For example, in our Girls With Impact program, a \$1,000 sponsorship has led to students securing six-figure college scholarships, paid jobs, and even starting small businesses.

The bottom line: AI is scary; its impact will be huge.

But it also represents opportunities for young people who are put into the right situation.

Without preparation, our students risk being outpaced by change. Parents can—and must—step in to ensure their children graduate with more than knowledge. They need the leadership, adaptability, and resilience to thrive in a world where AI will be everywhere.

The future is coming fast. Let’s make sure our kids are ready.



Joined by GWI Chair Jennifer Openshaw (L), and leaders from Amazon, Bristol Myers Squibb, and Salesforce at GWI’s Leadership Forum, VISA’s Audra Furer (far right) says she leveraged AI to hone her year-end report. “Not only did it improve my year-end report itself, but it had me express myself with greater confidence in an appropriate way,” she said.

WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 8, 2025
8:30 - 10:00 AM
BREAKFAST
THE YALE CLUB, NYC

Uncover how Gen Z and AI are reshaping the future of work and what companies are doing to stay ahead

AMANDA SCHNEIDER
Founder, ThinkLab & TED Speaker

SAMEERA SABHERWAL
Global Head of Talent Acquisition, Bloomberg

LAUREN LOPEZ
Chief People & Community Officer, NWSL

JENNIFER OPENSHAW
CEO, Girls With Impact

SHREYA PRABHU
Podcast Host, Female Factor & GWI Graduate

MORE POWERHOUSE VOICES TO BE ANNOUNCED

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“When The Road Narrows” A Debut Coming-of-Age Novel

SUBMITTED

As LGBTQ+ rights face mounting threats in Washington and around the globe, author Richard Sgaglio announces the release of his timely and emotionally charged debut novel, “When The Road Narrows”—a searing coming-of-age story exploring identity, faith, live, loss and the desire to live authentically. Published by Spectrum Books (London), the novel launches worldwide on August 30, 2025, and will be available on Amazon.

Set against the backdrop of 1980s conservatism and the emerging AIDS crisis, “When The Road Narrows” follows Nick, a teenager caught between the expectations of his traditional Catholic upbringing and the

quiet, growing truth of his sexuality. Through silence, sacrifice, and moments of hard-won courage, Nick begins a painful but powerful journey toward self-acceptance and redemption.

“Stories like When The Road Narrows must not only be told—they must be protected,” says Sgaglio. “We’re witnessing a disturbing return to the rhetoric and policies of exclusion that defined the 1980s. LGBTQ+ individuals are being erased from classrooms, banned from bookshelves, and denied basic human rights. These aren’t just political issues—they’re deeply personal. We must ensure that young people know they are not alone and that their stories matter.”

There is a clear link between the past and the present, reminding readers that history has a way of repeating itself when voices are silenced. This novel is both a tribute to the resilience of queer youth in decades past and a beacon of hope for those coming of age in today’s turbulent climate.

About the Author
Richard Sgaglio is a communications executive, LGBTQ+ advocate, and lifelong storyteller. Over the course of a 30-year career, he has served in leadership roles across healthcare, education, and the nonprofit sector. He is currently the Executive Director of Marketing at Waveny LifeCare Network and President of the Board of Friends of Karen, a nonprofit supporting children with life-

Richard Sgaglio, Author of “When The Road Narrows,” Spectrum Books, London © 2025

threatening illnesses. He is also on the faculty of Purdue University where he is an instructor in their Purdue Global communications department.

Book Details

- Title: “When The Road Narrows”
- Author: Richard Sgaglio
- Publisher: Spectrum Books, London
- Release Date: August 30,

2025

- Availability: Amazon.com or your favorite retailer.

More information available at:

<https://richardsgaglio.com>

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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 SALES

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
46 Norholt Drive	\$1,495,000	\$1,495,000	\$1,650,000	9	4	3	1.04
25 Gower Road	\$1,495,000	\$1,495,000	\$1,759,000	2	3	2	0.29
2 Hampton Lane	\$1,749,000	\$1,749,000	\$1,950,000	12	4	2	0.6
392 Hoyt Farm Road	\$2,695,000	\$2,695,000	\$2,797,000	9	5	3	2
289 Wahackme Road	\$2,750,000	\$2,750,000	\$2,700,000	9	4	3	1.21
291 Laurel Road	\$3,715,000	\$3,715,000	\$4,512,500	16	4	4	2.26
931 Ponus Ridge	\$3,995,000	\$3,995,000	\$3,922,500	54	5	4	2
637 Valley Road	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000	\$3,895,000	116	6	7	7.04

FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

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

Address	Price	Day	Time	Broker
38 Fitch Lane	\$3,695,000	SAT & SUN	12:00-2:00PM	William Raveis
59 Snowberry Lane	\$1,695,000	SAT & SUN	1:00-3:00PM	William Raveis
48 Silver Ridge Road	\$2,495,000	SAT & SUN	2:30-4:30PM	William Raveis
39 Running Brook Lane	\$3,750,000	SAT & SUN	12-2PM & 1-3PM	Houlihan Lawrence
50 Harrison Ave	\$2,200,000	SUN	12:30-2:30PM	William Raveis
152 Long Lots Road	\$3,395,000	SUN	1:00-4:00PM	Houlihan Lawrence
1038 West Road	\$2,150,000	SUN	1:00-4:00PM	William Raveis

NEW LISTINGS

Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
592 Laurel Road	\$1,199,000	2,900	\$413	3.5	4	2
12 Gerdes Road	\$2,000,000	2,671	\$749	1	4	3
1038 West Road	\$2,150,000	3,362	\$640	4.04	4	3
105 White Oak Shade	\$2,495,000	3,744	\$666	1.26	4	3
152 Long Lots Road	\$3,395,000	6,357	\$534	2	5	4
1580 Ponus Ridge	\$3,499,000	6,388	\$548	2.54	5	4
39 Running Brook Lane	\$3,750,000	6,392	\$587	2.67	6	6
38 Fitch Lane	\$3,695,000	4,968	\$744	2.39	5	5
340 Turtle Back Road	\$4,495,000	7,361	\$611	2.28	6	5

From Whaleboats to Wall Street: What Drives Connecticut Values

How Wars, Railroads, and New Economies Shape Real Estate in Fairfield County



BY JOHN ENGEL

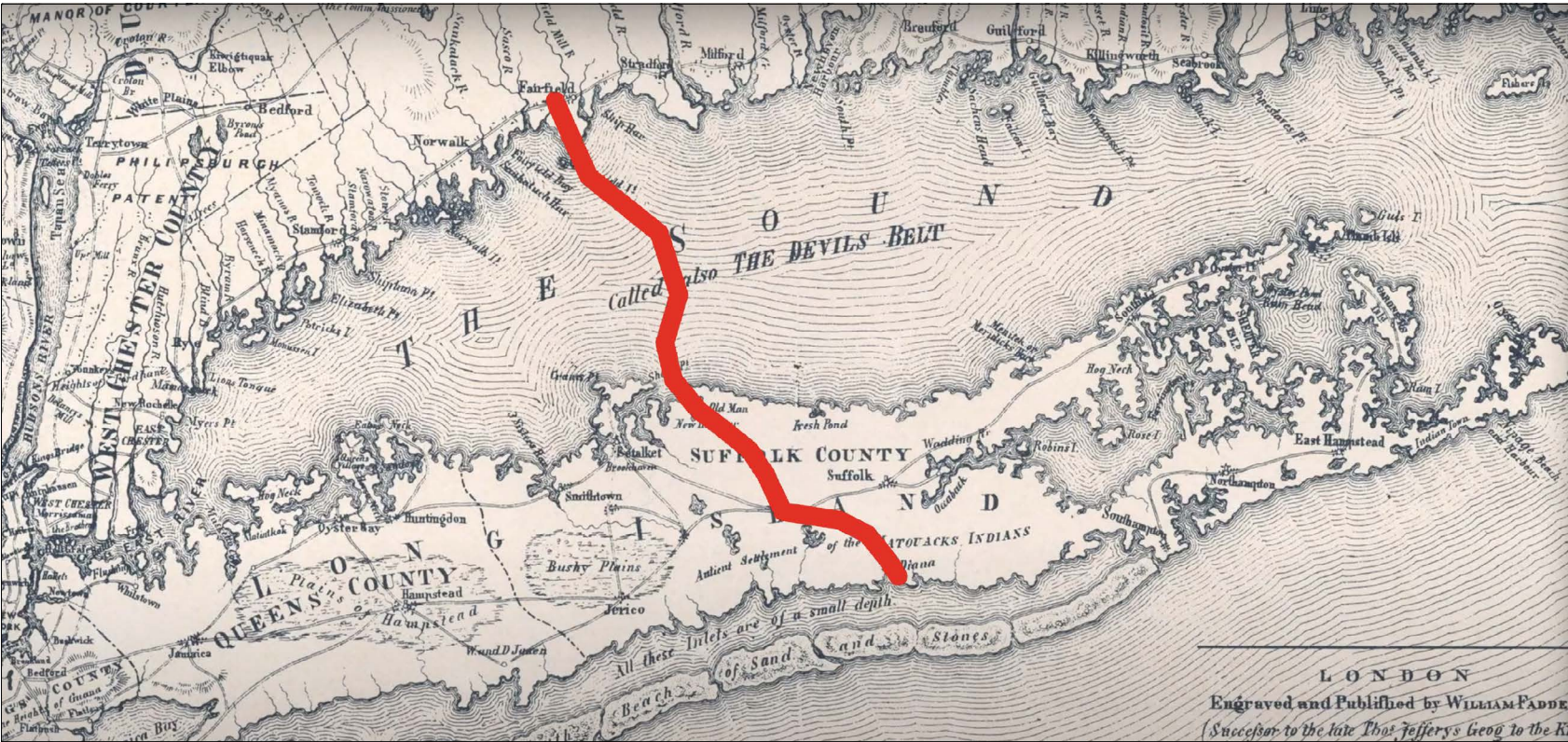
Now that it's September, we in Connecticut inevitably turn our eyes toward New York. It's a season of rivalries, and while the Yankees and Red Sox may dominate the headlines, the deeper rivalry has always been with New York itself. Just as baseball loyalties run hot in September, our shared history, economy, and politics have stirred divisions and forged bonds that continue to shape real estate values here. This article traces that story: how war once divided us, how the railroad later united us, and why tomorrow's drivers of value will be different. To understand today's values, we need to look back at how conflict, infrastructure, and innovation defined this region.

The Connecticut vs. New York rivalry first took root during the American Revolutionary War, when loyalties were tested not on a ball field but on the battlefield. In 1776, a 19-year-old Yale graduate, Benjamin Tallmadge (think Talmadge Hill), working as headmaster of Wethersfield High School, was called to replace Nathan Hale, Washington's best spy, who had been executed by the British for espionage. Tallmadge's assignment was to infiltrate British headquarters in New York City while also coordinating guerrilla raids across Long Island — raids that gave rise to what became known as the “whaleboat wars.”

From 1776 to 1781, bands of Connecticut teens rowed across Long Island Sound in 30-foot whaleboats, torching buildings, seizing supplies, capturing local officials, and hauling hostages back across the water. The British, of course, retaliated with larger armies, burning Norwalk to the ground and sending their own whaleboats to raid Connecticut shores.

Geography was politics. To live on Long Island was to side with the Crown; to live in Connecticut was to lean toward rebellion. Letters from the time even describe neighbors across the Sound as living on “the other side,” each coast defining the other as enemy territory. Washington himself exploited this divide, drawing heavily on Connecticut militias and Tallmadge's Culper Ring of spies, whose success depended on the alignment of shoreline and allegiance. The cost of that alignment was steep: Loyalist families in New Canaan and Norwalk, such as Israel and James Hoyt (think Hoyt Farms), saw their ships destroyed and their property plundered.

Independence brought peace but not prosperity. Fairfield County emerged fragile, its farmland exhausted and its markets limited. Once again, the economy leaned on New York.



During the Revolutionary War, Benjamin Tallmadge led whaleboat raids against British loyalists on Long Island.

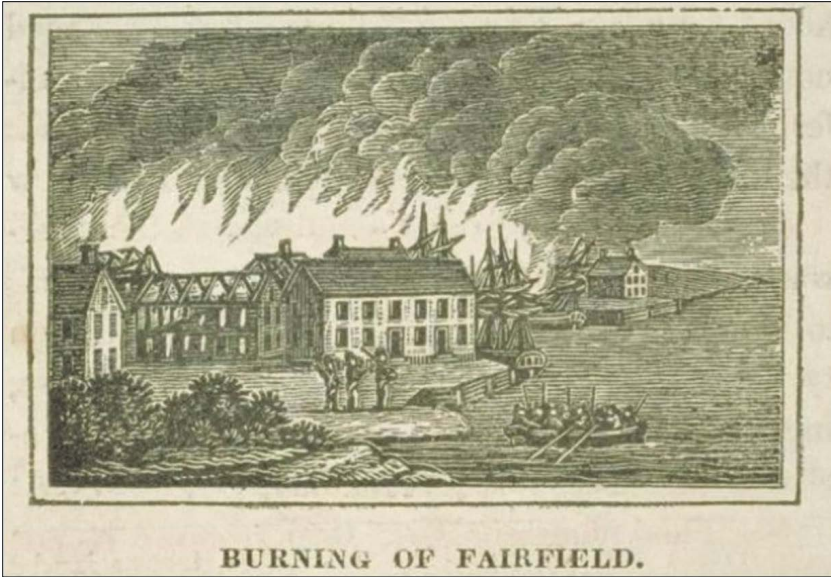
In the decades that followed, Connecticut slowly transitioned from a farming base to a manufacturing economy. Mills and factories rose along our rivers, harnessing water power to produce goods, while shipbuilding and coastal trade thrived out of harbors like Southport and Black Rock. This was a community reinventing itself, adapting from subsistence agriculture to a role within a regional economy increasingly defined by industry and commerce.

Yet even with new mills and coastal trade, Connecticut's economic fortunes remained constrained until a single innovation rewrote the map: the railroad. No stagecoach or packet steamer matched the railroad's impact when it linked Connecticut to New York in 1849.

At first, the railroad ran on freight — nearly 70% of its revenue — powering local industry and connecting Connecticut goods to New York markets. But it was the remaining 30%, the passenger business, that reshaped our communities. The ability to travel quickly to and from New York gave Connecticut towns a new identity and made proximity to a station a powerful driver of land values. Parcels near depots jumped to five or even ten times their former worth.

The effect was immediate and dramatic: Stamford's population doubled between 1840 and 1860 to 8,000 residents, then swelled by another 50% by 1880. The railroad didn't just move freight; it carried people, ambitions, and entire communities into a new era.

The numbers tell the story even more vividly. In Glenbrook, as they laid track in 1866, J.M.B. Whitton of Philadelphia paid \$7,000 for 19 acres beside the upcoming line, roughly \$370 an acre, just five miles from Stamford's downtown. A year later, John Konvalika purchased an adjacent 15-acre parcel for \$6,000. For perspective, average



Connecticut farmland at the time was worth only about \$30 an acre. The railroad created more than a tenfold premium overnight.

New Canaan saw a parallel transformation. Once, a modest farm of 22 acres could be had for \$800 in 1783, and even as late as 1837, a small farm still sold for \$6,000. Then prices skyrocketed once the trains arrived. By 1869, land was commanding \$800 to \$1,500 per acre. Shops and homes quickly sprang up to serve the growing population, and what had been a quiet farming town took the shape of a commuter suburb.

For more than a century, the one-hour train ride to Manhattan was Fairfield County's greatest advantage, shaping not just our growth but our very identity. The railroad didn't just carry freight and passengers — it carried the promise of a life balanced between city opportunity and suburban refuge.

But what happens when that balance shifts? If daily commuting once defined us, what is New Canaan's relationship to New York now, when so few make the five-day journey into the city? Can we still be called a “bedroom community” if the bedrooms are full

but the trains less so? The question forces us to consider whether proximity alone still drives value, or if other forces have taken the lead.

If commuting once defined New Canaan, schools have long sustained it. For generations, families have chosen Connecticut for the excellence of its public and private schools, and those schools in turn have been funded by the prosperity of Wall Street and midtown Manhattan jobs. The formula was clear: Parents came for the schools, developed roots, and stayed for the quality of life.

But in an era of decentralization — when finance, media, and technology are no longer tethered solely to Manhattan — can we count on those same jobs to support our greatest legacy? The question is more than academic: New Canaan is contemplating a new school at a multi-hundred-million-dollar cost, one that will more than double the town's debt. It forces us to ask whether the historic advantages of education and quality of life will continue to sustain property values in the decades ahead. Can we afford it? Can we afford not to?

At the same time, the broader definition of advantage is shifting.

While many residents eventually leave for warmer or less expensive parts of the country in retirement, those who can afford Connecticut often keep a foothold here, precisely because of the lifestyle and schools. And increasingly, location is not only about commuting to New York but also about connectivity to the wider world. Living between four major airports has become a modern advantage in its own right, reshaping how buyers think about value in a global economy.

Just as war once divided us and the railroad once united us, today another force is reshaping our future: artificial intelligence. AI is driving the stock market and promises to fuel the economy for decades to come, much as the microchip and the Internet did before it. The question is whether New Canaan is positioned to benefit.

The challenge is real. Connecticut pays the highest electricity rates in the nation, and an AI-powered economy is energy-hungry. Data centers will find cheaper homes elsewhere, and the cost of living here will remain high. But the opportunity lies not in housing the machines; it lies in housing the people who own and finance the machines. To capture the upside of AI, towns like New Canaan must remain magnets for the knowledge workers who design, build, and deploy this technology.

And that brings the story full circle. Our real strength has never been in freight or factories, nor in data centers, but in attracting families who value education, quality of life, and global connectivity. That is where New York, and New Canaan, continue to shine — not as rivals, but as partners in shaping the next chapter of prosperity.

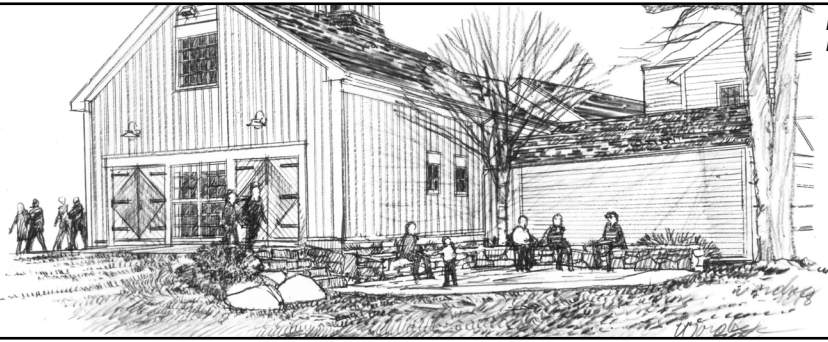
John Engel is a broker on the Engel Team at Douglas Elliman in New Canaan. This week, a Florida custom suit maker asked John's help opening shops in Greenwich, Westport, and New Canaan. Retail. Men's suits. Tailoring. Downtown. Excellence is always in style.

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



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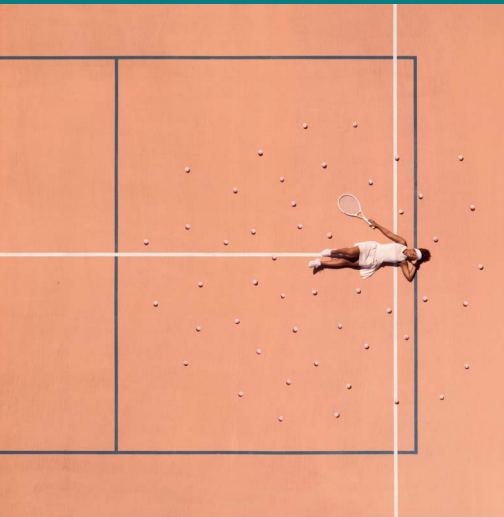
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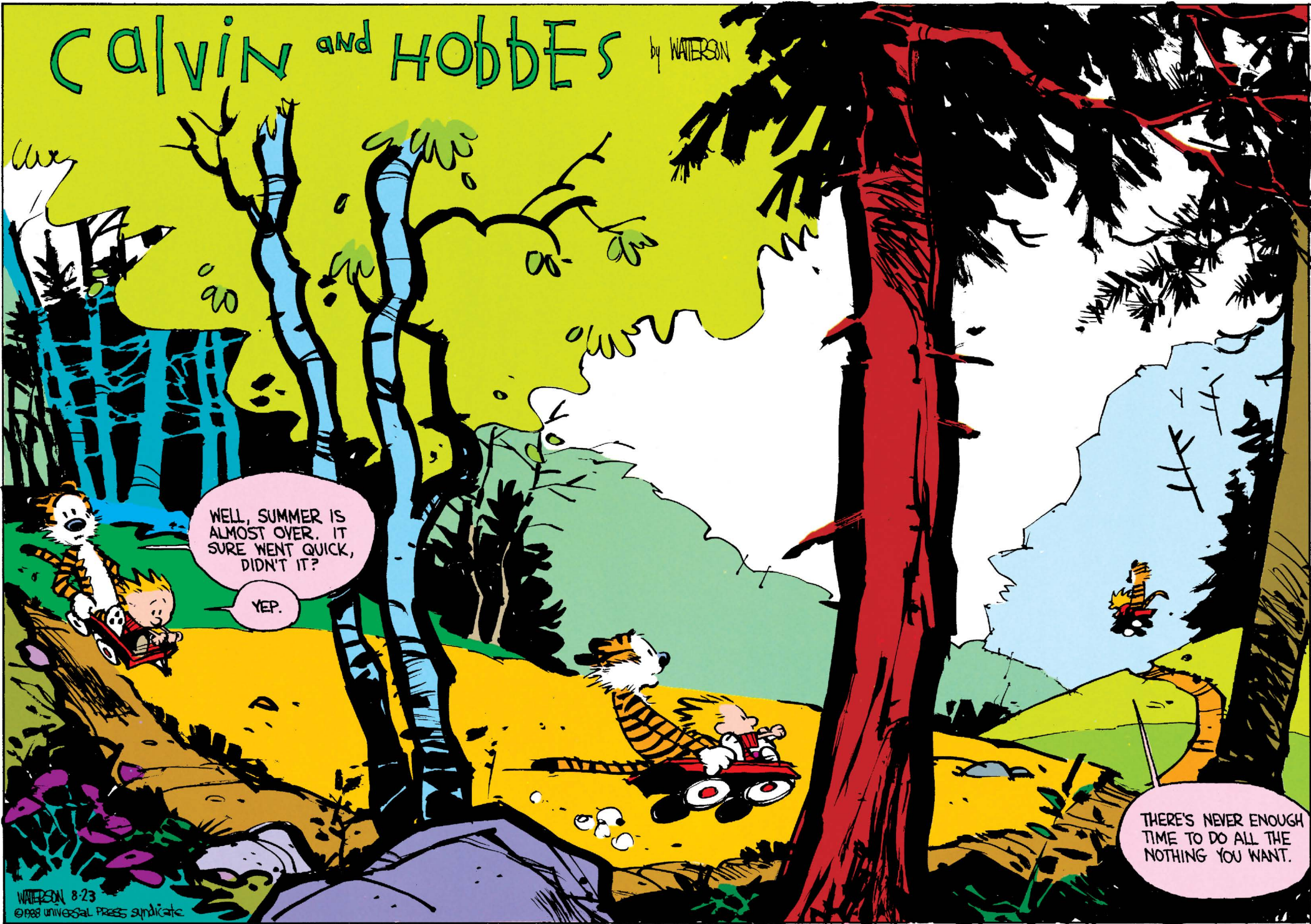
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EDUCATION

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



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WILDLY SUCCESSFUL: Mantis Shrimp

An Ambush Predator



By JIM KNOX

When it comes to speed, the animal kingdom has its all-star team. From the Pronghorn's 60 mile per hour sprint, to the Sailfish's 68 mile per hour burst, to the Cheetah's 70 mile per hour blur, animal speedsters impress us with a swiftness we track with amazement. Yet, what if there were a creature which could move with a swiftness beyond our capability to see? What would we call such a creature, and how would we begin to unravel its mysteries?

The Zebra Mantis Shrimp, *Lysiosquillina maculata*, is a species with startling abilities. Known as Stomatopods, the Mantis Shrimp superfamily comprises nearly 500 known species. At the top of the heap sits the 16-inch-long Zebra Mantis Shrimp, the largest known Mantis Shrimp, and a creature to reckon with. With a worldwide range encompassing a wide swath of the shallow regions of the Indo-Pacific, from East Africa to the Galapagos, to the Hawaiian Islands, this extra-large crustacean reigns. Not a true shrimp, yet sporting a hard shell made of chitin and calcium carbonate, like their crab and lobster cousins, the Zebra Mantis Shrimp possesses a suit of flexible body armor. With a black and whitish striped elongate body, a fanned tail for rapid propulsion, and an infamous complement of spearing raptorial claws, the shrimp is an ambush assassin without equal.

As an ambush species hiding in shallow sandy crevices and burrows, this Mantis Shrimp's need for speed lies not in the sprint, but in the lunge. It's very design reflects this. The shrimp's elongated, raptorial claws are lined with long, sharp spines which can stab, grip, or impale prey—literally before they know what hit them. Possessing a spring, latch, and lever structure, the shrimp boasts a spring-loaded strike. With energy stored within the folded, resting posture of the

“This speed delivers more than lighting strike capability to its fish or crustacean prey. Such nearly instantaneous displacement of water generates a hydrodynamic process known as cavitation; generating enough power to kill prey without contact. Now that’s speed!”

spearing claws, the unfolding motion triggers the muscle-assisted spring mechanism which launches the claws forward at nearly 3 meters per second. Factoring in the drag of water, this is remarkably fast and yet, just 1/10th the speed of its smaller Mantis Shrimp smashing cousins which crush their hard-shelled crustacean and mollusk prey with calcified club appendages. Let's consider this superpower more closely. The Mantis Shrimp's crossbow-like spring confers the fastest punch in the animal kingdom. Striking out with velocities approaching that of a speeding bullet, Mantis Shrimp hit their prey at up to 30 meters per second. This blistering speed generates power on the magnitude of a tiger's bite—1,500 Newtons of force. With portions of the strike exceeding 3 thousandths of a second, and our ability to track motion, the Mantis Shrimp is truly quicker than the human eye!

This speed delivers more than lighting strike capability to its fish or crustacean prey. Such nearly instantaneous displacement of water generates a hydrodynamic process known as cavitation. This formation of vapor bubbles within liquid at low pressure leads to the expansion and collapse of the bubbles which generate massive amounts of energy in the form of an actual underwater shock wave. Whether we're talking spears or smashers, we're talking acceleration which generates enough power to kill prey without contact. Now that's

speed!

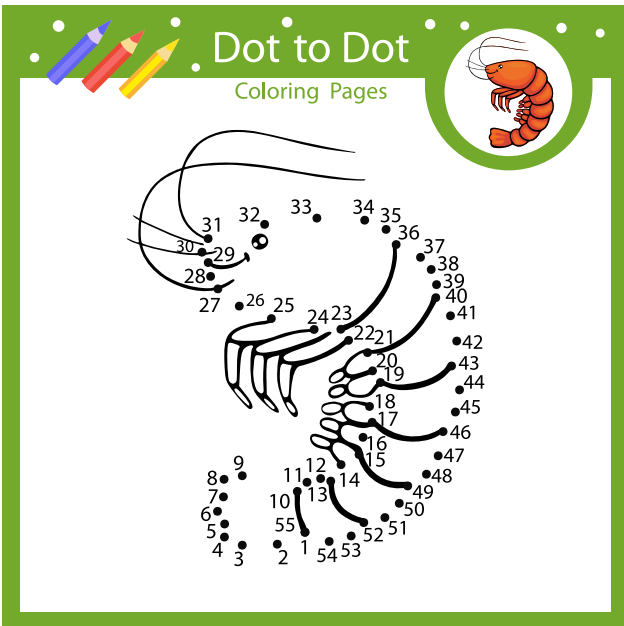
Yet a superweapon of such speed requires a targeting system to deliver its power. That's where the Mantis Shrimp's complement of amazing abilities is truly revealed. With the unmatched ability to express up to 16 visual pigments, as well as the ability to detect a far wider range of light and color than humans—including ultraviolet and polarized light, Mantis Shrimp possess the most complex visual receptors in the animal kingdom. Coupled with advanced independent upper and lower corneas separated by photoreceptors known as ommatidia, which aid in providing visual contrast, the Mantis Shrimp can move its eyes independently to track prey. Upon entering the field of view of the shrimp, the eyes lock into place, focusing on the prey.

With a lineage going back 340 million years in the fossil record, these creatures have both benefited from Mother Nature's research and development, and stood the test of time. Such impressive abilities confer a huge survival edge to the Mantis Shrimp. With adaptations which match, and even exceed our technology, these primeval creatures show us that advanced capabilities may reside in ancient life forms. In order to discover what may be possible in our future, we must get better acquainted with species tracing their origins to the distant past. With movements approaching



the speed of a bullet, and the most advanced vision in the animal kingdom, the Mantis Shrimp is a creature without equal. An underwater speedster which exceeds the ability of all terrestrial creatures, this small beast warrants a closer look...if only we could see the creature behind the blur.

Jim Knox serves as the Curator of Education for Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo and as a Science Adviser for The Bruce Museum. A member of The Explorers Club, Jim enjoys sharing his passion for wildlife conservation with audiences throughout Connecticut and beyond.





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Open Mic Night

FPCNC Open Mic: Diverse Expressions
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7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
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Contact Nick Depuy at
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to sign up and for more information



Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

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

TOWN MEETINGS
<u>Monday, September 8</u>
<u>Affordable Housing Committee</u> 7-8 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.
<u>Zoning Board of Appeals</u> 7-8 p.m., Town Hall Board Room
<u>Tuesday, September 9</u>
<u>Pension Committee</u> 11 a.m.- 12 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.
<u>Board of Finance</u> 7-8 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.
<u>Wednesday, September 10</u>
<u>Parks and Recreation Commission</u> 7-8 p.m., the Lapham Center
<u>Tourism and Economic Development Advisory Committee TEDAC</u> 7-8 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.
<u>Thursday, September 11</u>
<u>Conservation Commission</u> 12-1 p.m., Town Hall Board Room

September 5

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.

The Effect
7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
THE EFFECT, by Lucy Prebble, centers on two volunteers, Tristan and Connie, who fall in love during a clinical trial for a dopamine-based antidepressant. Their romance disrupts the trial, leaving their doctors, Dr. James and Dr. Toby, to grapple with ethical questions about their work. The play explores identity, love, and the limits of medicine. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

September 6

Opening Reception for 75th A•ONE
5-7 PM at the Silvermine Arts Center
Join the opening reception for the 75th A•ONE Exhibition. Established in 1949 as the New England Exhibition, a regional exhibit, it later became known as Art of the Northeast and is now a national exhibition.

The Effect
7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
THE EFFECT, by Lucy Prebble, centers on two volunteers, Tristan and Connie, who fall in love during a clinical trial for a dopamine-based antidepressant. Their romance disrupts the trial, leaving their doctors, Dr. James and Dr. Toby, to grapple with ethical questions about their work. The play explores identity, love, and the limits of medicine. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

September 7

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September 8

Beethoven: Ways of Listening Presented by David Stein
2:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Focusing on a single masterpiece as a doorway into a great composer’s mind and music. Using performance videos and illustrations at the piano, we delve into the emotional and spiritual meanings expressed in the work. Listeners will gain a deeper understanding of the music. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

September 9

AARP Safe Driving Course with Phil Swan
9:30 AM- 1:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Refresh your driving skills with The AARP Smart Driver™ course. Learn more about driver safety strategies, accident avoidance, and defensive driving. Completion of the course may help you save on your auto insurance! Class size limited to 15. Pre-registration may be made online at aarp.org/

drive (which allows credit card payment). Or, register by calling 203-594-3620 and pay the day of by cash or check made payable to AARP.

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.

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://carriagebarn.org/event/thefrickreopens/>.

September 10

Stay Safe, Play Smart–Pickleball Tips for Injury-Free Fun
Presented by Carl M. Cirino, MD, Sports Medicine Surgeon
11 AM at the Lapham Center
Playing pickleball is a great way to stay active and boost both your physical and mental health—but like any sport, it comes with its fair share of bumps and bruises. Join Dr. Cirino as he shares expert tips to help you stay injury-free and safe. Coffee and breakfast treats will be served. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Mac vs. PC
3 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
Want to learn the differences between a Mac and a PC? Join Reference librarian James to compare and contrast both computer types. Register at <https://shorturl.at/7kCsq>.

Author Alka Joshi and Six Days in Bombay
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Bestselling author of The Henna Artist Alka Joshi returns with Six Days in Bombay, a sweeping story of identity and self-discovery inspired by the iconic Indian painter, Amrita Sher-Gil, known as the “Frida Kahlo of India.” Joshi delves into her subject with a riveting presentation that teases filmed scenes from this epic novel. Register at <https://shorturl.at/vs2Gw>.

September 11

Make Mocktails
6:30 PM at Grace Farms
Enjoy an evening of crafting and sipping delicious mocktails. Follow Chef Leah’s recipes to create three seasonal beverages, while discovering connections between food, culture, and community. Tickets are available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/mocktails-2/2025-09-11>.

The Effect
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September 12

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The Effect
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September 13

Be in the Humans of New Canaan Portrait
10-11:30 AM & 2:30-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, Kontulis Family Storytime Room

Celebrate the transformative power of human connection by participating in this community portrait. During these sessions, local photographer Dutch Doscher will first capture you alone or with others, and then you’ll fill out a brief questionnaire of fun and meaningful writing prompts to accompany your image. Finished pieces will be displayed in our pop-up photo show at the Library. To register for the morning slots, visit <https://shorturl.at/tabCm>. For the afternoon, visit <https://shorturl.at/IFzGF>.

Nature Workshops with Kimberly Kelly | Slow Flower Bouquets
11 AM at Grace Farms
Adults of all experience all invited to learn about the various cultural practices that rely on nature, including flower bouquets, the impact of seeds, permaculture, and holiday décor. This hands-on workshop promotes seasonal and sustainable cut flowers and emphasizes the importance of knowing the origin of your flowers. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/paegK>.

Art as Identity: Exploring Personal Experiences, Dreams, and Memories
12-3 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
In this immersive workshop, participants will delve into the intricate relationship between art and identity. Through engaging activities and discussions, explore how art is a powerful metaphor for encapsulating who we are. Workshop fee includes all materials. Tickets are \$130/members, \$145/non-members, and available at <https://shorturl.at/X3F7k>.

Alicja Kwade | ParaPosition Sculpture
3 PM at Grace Farms
Experience the opening of ParaPosition, a remarkable sculpture by Alicja Kwade, made of slim interlocking steel frames supporting four boulders and a blue chair made of bronze, in celebration of Grace Farms’ 10 Year. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/KBvEP>.

The Effect
7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
THE EFFECT, by Lucy Prebble, centers on two volunteers, Tristan and Connie, who fall in love during a clinical trial for a dopamine-based antidepressant. Their romance disrupts the trial, leaving their doctors, Dr. James and Dr. Toby, to grapple with ethical questions about their work. The play explores identity, love, and the limits of medicine. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

September 14

The Effect
2 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
THE EFFECT, by Lucy Prebble, centers on two volunteers, Tristan and Connie, who fall in love during a clinical trial for a dopamine-based antidepressant. Their romance disrupts the trial, leaving their doctors, Dr. James and Dr. Toby, to grapple with ethical questions about their work. The play explores identity, love, and the limits of medicine. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

New Canaan Dems Family BBQ
4-7 PM at the Carriage Barn
Join the NC Dems annual BBQ fundraiser with live music and kids activities. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/2ZexJ>.

September 15

Social Security Basics: What Every Individual Should Know presented by Benjamin Rhodes, Social Security Administration, via Zoom
1 PM at the Lapham Center
Join us for answers to your questions about social security. The Zoom presentation will be available for viewing only at Lapham. Registration required. To register, call (203) 594-3620. Free event.

September 16

Lunch & Learn: Jake Gorst, on his grandfather, Andrew Geller
12 PM at the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society
Bring your brown bag lunch, snack or soup and learn from film maker and frequent Museum presenter, Jake Gorst, who will talk about his grandfather, Andrew Geller. Geller was an American architect, painter and graphic designer and was credited for bringing modernism to the masses. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/SN67S>.

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.

Understanding AI: What It Is, What It Isn’t, and Why It Matters | Dinner and Program
5-7 PM at the Lapham Center
Join for an engaging overview of the current state of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This presentation will explore what AI is—and what it isn’t—while looking at how different socio-demographic groups are using it, its expected impact on jobs, its everyday applications, and its risks, particularly around fraud and misuse. To register, call (203) 594-3620. Free.

September 17

Trivia Bingo, Appetizers, and Drinks with Mike Bacon
5-7 PM at the Lapham Center
Back by popular demand, Mike returns with his fun and fast-paced nine-category Trivia Bingo. If you’ve played before, you know it’s always a great time. Bring your friends, test your knowledge and enjoy some laughs—you might even win a prize. To register, call (203) 594-3620. Free.

Cozy Crafting for Adults
6:30-8 PM at the New Canaan Library, Anderson MakerLab
Bring your current project and join for a cozy evening of crafting. Whether you knit, crochet, needlepoint, or sketch, this is a perfect opportunity to work on your latest creation in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Register at <https://shorturl.at/yRGPV>.

September 18

Food Influencer Diane Morrissey Presents "You Got This!"
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Diane Morrissey is coming to the library to demo some of the recipes from her new cookbook, You Got This!: Recipes Anyone Can Make and Everyone Will Love. The cookbook is designed for novice cooks who need confidence and for seasoned home cooks who need new ideas and inspiration. Register at <https://shorturl.at/n6X0P>.

September 19

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.

September 20

Chess Fest
10 AM- 2 PM at the New Canaan Library, Arlene H. Grushkin Children's Program Room
Chess Fest is a celebration where players of all ages and skill levels come together to watch, learn, play, and enjoy chess. More information is available at <https://www.32pieces.com/home>.

Autumn Stroll
11 AM at Grace Farms
Notice nature as seasons change with a guided fall walk among the trees at Grace Farms. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/Nrs0F>.

September 24

Prospective Member Lunch | Staying Put
12 PM at Waveny
Join Staying Put for their prospective members lunch. To register, call (203) 966-7762.

The Art of Home Organizing and Downsizing | Lunch and Learn Program
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Join for an informative and engaging panel discussion featuring three local experts. Whether you’re decluttering, downsizing, or preparing your home for sale, this session will offer valuable insights and practical tips. To register, call (203) 594-3620. Free event.

Journey into the World of Tea | Oolong and Pu-erhs
3 PM at Grace Farms
Explore the fascinating world of oolongs and pu-erh, tasting samples of green oolongs, dark oolongs, and compare the stark differences between a raw and a cooked pu-erh. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/Cokei>.

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

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

1950s. Register at <https://shorturl.at/xLEiQ>.

September 25

Shorebirds—Sharing the Shoreline
1 PM at the Lapham Center
Which birds nest on Connecticut beaches? Several endangered species raise their chicks on the shoreline, and they face may threats. This program will teach you about shorebirds such as the Piping Plover, Least Tern, and American Oystercatcher. To register, call (203) 594-3620. Free event.

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>.

Author Jane O’Connor and illustrator Robin Preiss Glasser: Fancy Nancy Besties for Eternity
4:15 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Join to celebrate the launch of Fancy Nancy Besties for Eternity with author Jane O’Connor and illustrator Robin Preiss Glasser. More information and registration is available at <https://tinyurl.com/mr394y97>.

September 26

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.

Lunch with a Purpose | Citizens of Humanity and west-bourne
11 AM- 2 PM at Grace Farms
Join for a lunch and conversation featuring Amy Williams, CEO of Citizens of Humanity Group and Camilla Marcus, chef and founder of west-bourne. They discuss how the essential pillars of food, clothing, and shelter are driving change toward a more sustainable and ethical future in a conversation moderated by Karen Kariuki. Lunch will be a 4-course vegetarian meal. Register at <https://shorturl.at/4tpYg>.

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/>.

September 29

A Visit to “The Dome” | New Canaan High School’s Planetarium and Theater
3 PM at the Lapham Center
This cutting-edge immersive and interactive learning theater will astound you. The Dome provides an educational experience you will not want to miss. Take the short drive or walk over to the high school to witness this spectacular venue. Call now to register: 203-594-3620.

SAVE THE DATE

October 1

Movie Screening, Dinner and Conversation with Claire Ayoub
5 PM at the Lapham Center
Join for dinner, a screening of Empire Waist, and conversation with New Canaan’s own Claire Ayoub. Empire Waist is a heartfelt comedy about teens learning to love their bodies through fashion design and friendship. Claire will discuss the film after the viewing. Registration required, call 203-594-3620.

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 9

Staying Put Annual Meeting
4:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Join Staying Put for their annual meeting. Step Into Wellness: Foot Care Essentials with Dr. Tauber. To register, call (203) 966-7762.

October 10

Opening Night of Witch
7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
A charming devil arrives in the quiet village of Edmonton to bargain for the souls of its residents in exchange for their darkest wishes. Elizabeth should be his easiest target, having been labeled a "witch" and cast out by the town, but her soul is not so readily bought. More information is available at <https://tpnc.org>.

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 15

Lunch and Learn with Tiger Mann | State of the Streets and Future Public Work Projects 2025/26
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Tiger Mann, Director of Public Works, will present an update on the current condition of our streets and share details on upcoming infrastructure projects. This is a great opportunity for residents to hear directly from the department, ask questions, and learn about improvements planned for our community. A lunch and learn program. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

October 16

Sip and Paint with Clever and Crafty | Appetizers and Drinks
5-7 PM at the Lapham Center
Join for a fun evening of painting, appetizers and wine. Space limited, reserve early. \$10/person at the door. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

October 18

Modern House Day Tour + Symposium
9:15 AM- 4:30 PM at the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society
This year’s tour includes homes by Philip Johnson, John Johansen, Bimel Kehm, and a newly-built residence reflecting mid-century ideals through modern innovation, open plans, and nature integration. Attendees will tour in small buses, guided by knowledgeable architects. A catered boxed lunch will be provided. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/hDVcf>.

“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/jonathanmcphillips/>.

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>.

October 22

Breakfast with the New Canaan Sentinel
10:30 AM at the Lapham Center
Join for breakfast with the Sentinel! In an era where facts matter more than ever, the New Canaan Sentinel, is committed to delivering trust-worthy news, compelling stories, and diverse perspectives—more than just a publication—it’s a platform built on the principles of integrity, transparency, and public service. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

October 29

Preserving Nature Close to Home: An Intro to the New Canaan Land Trust Presented by Robin Bates Mason, Executive

Director
12 PM at the Lapham Center
Discover the New Canaan Land Trust: Past, Present, and Future. Join Executive Director Robin Bates-Mason for an insightful lunch and learn detailing the history of the NCLT and its strategic vision for the future. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

October 30

Halloween Bingo
12-2 PM at the Lapham Center
Join for lunch, BINGO, and prizes for the best costume! Costumes encouraged. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

November 6

Fraud Prevention Tips with the New Canaan Police Department Presented by Officer Adams and Officer Coughlin
11 AM at the Lapham Center
Financial scams and identity theft are constantly evolving. Staying informed helps you recognize and avoid the latest schemes. Reduce your risk of becoming a victim by attending this presentation. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

November 22

Holiday Market
10 AM- 5 PM at the New Canaan Nature Center
The New Canaan Nature Center will kick off the holiday season by hosting our Holiday Market! There will be unique gifts items including jewelry, clothing, candles, and much more. School of Rock will also be playing some holiday cheer!

BLOOD DRIVES

Friday, September 5

UCONN
One University Place
Stamford, CT 06901
11:00 AM – 4:45 PM

Saturday, September 6

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

Sunday, September 7

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

Monday, September 8

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

Tuesday, September 9

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

W e d n e s d a y , September 10

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

Thursday, September 11

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

Friday, September 12

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

Support Services & Meetings

September 10

VOICES 24th Annual Symposium for 9/11 Victims’ Families, Responders, Survivors, and Providers
9 AM- 4 PM online
The program underscores VOICES mission to provide long-term support for victims’ families, responders, and survivors and offer important updates on ongoing issues, including mental health and medical care, litigation, and compensation. Register at <https://voicescenter.org/events/nyc-symposium/2025/09-10>.

September 17

Parents Helping Parents Peer Support Group
9:30 AM- 11 AM at 80 Main St, New Canaan
Parents Helping Parents is a peer-to-peer support group for those who have suffered the loss of a child. Group members offer encouragement and comfort, discuss topics relevant to grief and loss, and provide information and helpful resources. Register at <https://voicescenter.org/support-groups/parents-helping-parents/09-17-2025>.

Navigating Inpatient Care for Mental Illness
6-7:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Mark J. Russ, MD, a 40-year veteran in the field whose professional experience has been deepened by his own journey with mental health care as a young man, will share what to expect and why, what matters most, and how you as a family member or friend are a critical part of the ‘treatment team.’ Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/navigatinginpatientcare>.

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>.

November 4

Medicare: What’s New for 2026 | Presented by Southern Connecticut Agency of Aging
11 AM at the Lapham Center
Join if you would like to learn more about your Medicare options, including changes and updates for 2026. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

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

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>.

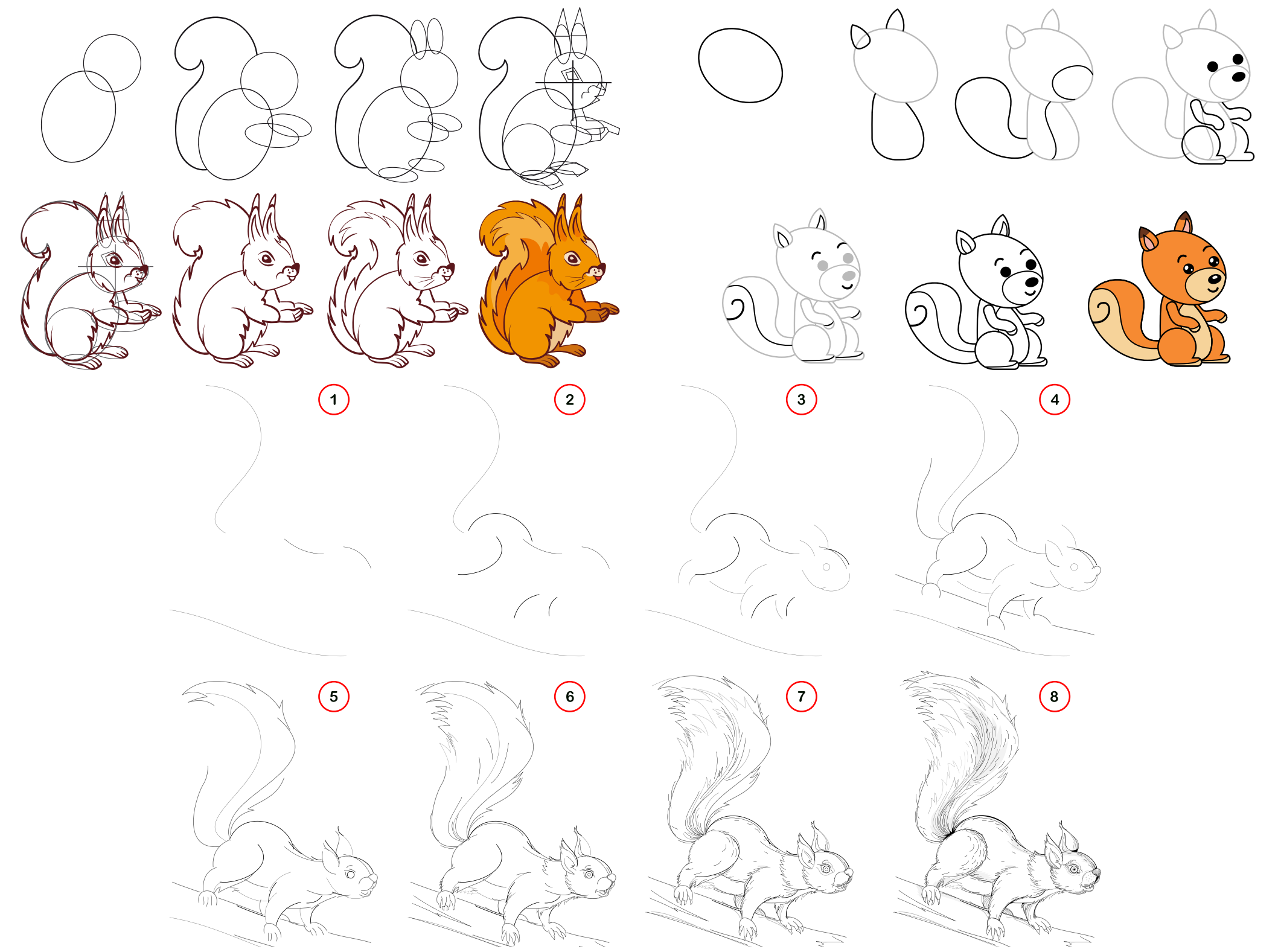
September 25

Art With A Purpose Fundraiser for the Alzheimer’s Association
5-7 PM at Atria Darien, 50 Ledge Road
Join a special art show and wine reception showcasing the talents of featured resident artists, partnering with the Alzheimer's Association. For more information, please contact monica.lynn@atriaseniorliving.com.

September 27

Plates with Purpose
5-7 PM at Serafresca at the IC, 1620 Newfield Ave. Stamford
Join Filling in the Blanks for food, fun, and festivities. Enjoy specialty cocktails, a silent auction, and celebrate their Philanthropist of the Year, Shonda Rhimes. The evening will help raise funds to support Filling in the Blanks’ mission to fight childhood hunger in local communities. Tickets are available at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/ji0/>.

How To Draw: step by step



Sudoku for Kids

	3		
1	2	3	
	1	4	
		1	3

2		4	3
		2	
		3	2
	2		4

1	4		
2		4	1
	1	3	
			4

1			
		1	
4		2	3
3	2		1

SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sudoku answers

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

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

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

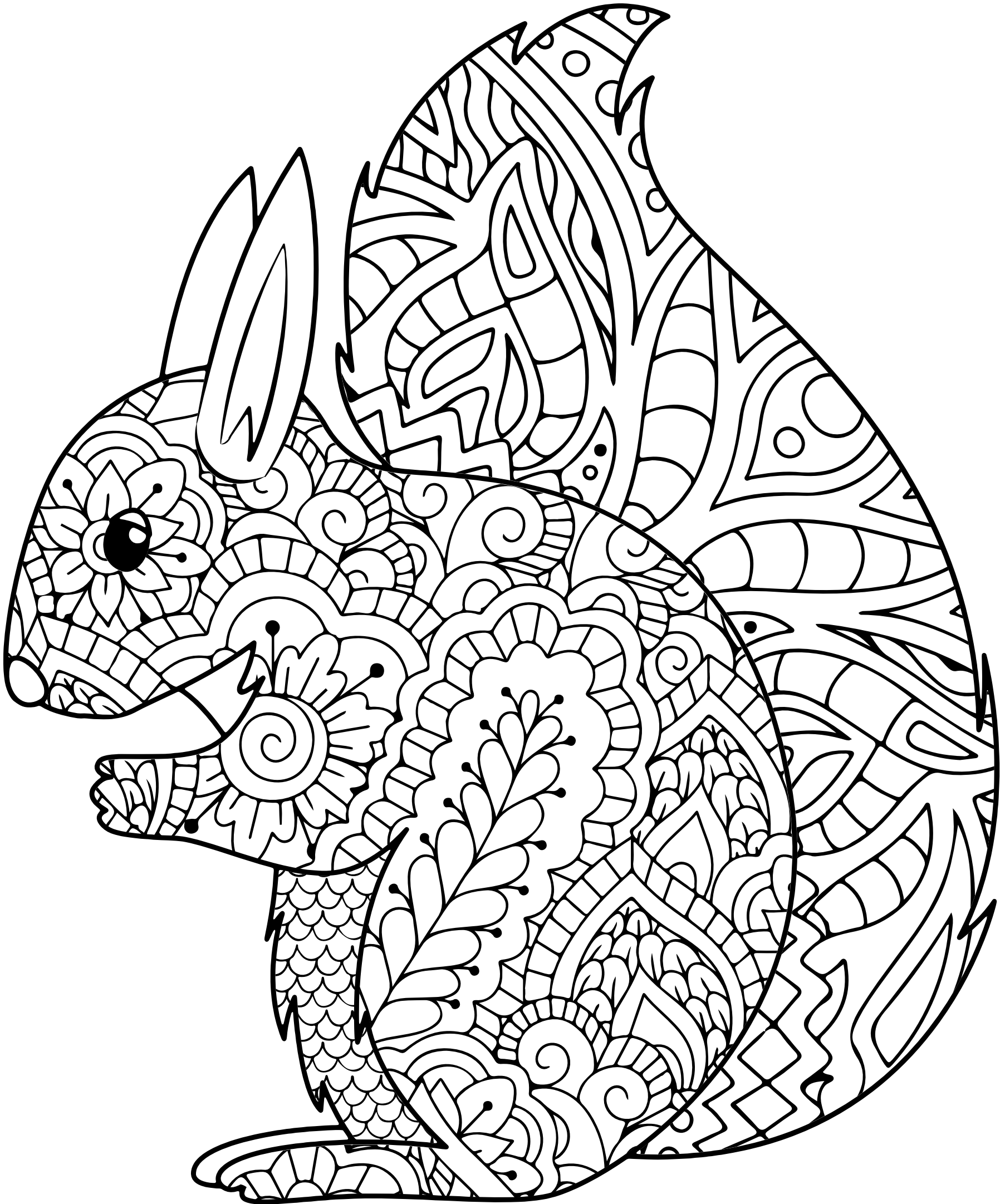
7	9	6	1	5	3	4	8	2
4	3	1	9	6	5	2	7	8
8	2	4	3	7	5	1	6	9
6	5	9	8	4	7	1	3	2
1	6	3	5	2	8	4	7	9
9	7	2	8	1	9	6	5	3
3	6	9	7	5	1	8	2	4
5	1	4	3	8	2	6	9	7
2	7	8	6	9	4	1	3	5

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

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

MANDALA

Coloring mandalas is good for your brain! Send us a picture of yours completed Cordelia@SentinelHometownNews.com





BLACK

GREEN

BROWN

ORANGE

PINK

WHITE

= 8

= 9

= 10

= 11

= 12

= 13

COLOR BY ADDITION





How many?



★ ADDITION FOR KIDS ★

 +  = **6**

 +  = **5**

 +  = **7**

 +  =

?

Write the Missing Numbers

1	2	3	4	
6	7		9	10
11		13	14	15
16	17	18		20

 =

 =

 =

 =

★ ADDITION FOR KIDS ★

 +  = **2**

 +  = **4**

 +  = **7**

 +  =

?

