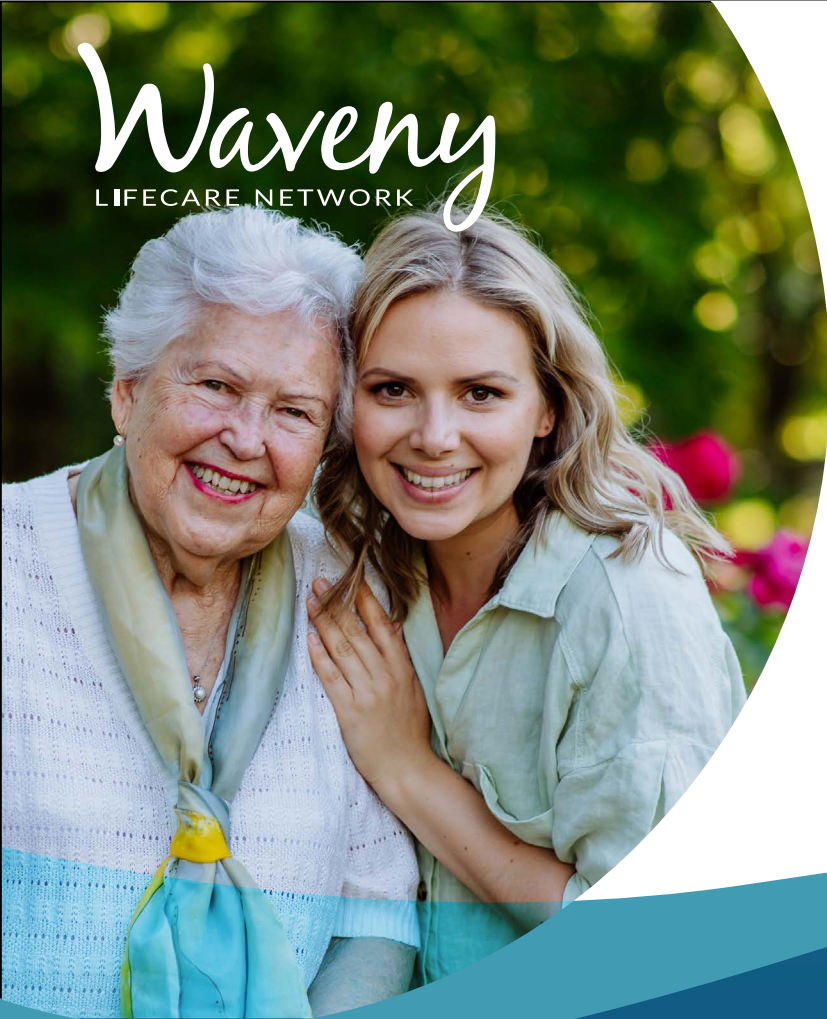


AT DOUGLAS ELLIMAN REAL ESTATE
theengelteam.com
(203) 858-0266



Let us do the caregiving so can you spend more quality time together

Our Award-winning Assisted Living/Memory Care Community Provides:

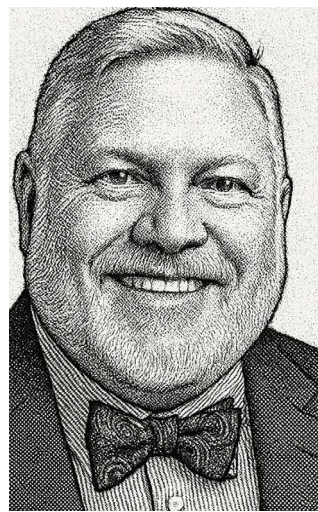
- Rich recreation programs that nurture social connections
- Patient-centered care
- Extensive guidance that supports families' peace of mind
- Compassionate staff, skilled in managing the unique challenges of memory loss

Waveny helps you enjoy more of those special moments.

Call 203-594-5308 to Schedule a Tour
The Village Community at Waveny Lifecare Network
3 Farm Road, New Canaan, CT | www.waveny.org



COLUMN
When the Curtain Rises on Political Theatre, Healthcare Is Still on Stage



BY RUSSELL BARKSDALE, PH.D.

By the time this column goes to print, one hopes the federal government is open again—and that at least two responsible adults in Washington have managed to sit across the table and simply do their jobs.

For those of us in healthcare, shutdowns are political fodder—but for patients, they're anything but abstract. We don't get continuing resolutions. Healthcare providers are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a

year, because illness doesn't wait for Congress to balance a ledger. Through pandemics, hurricanes and political stalemates, nonprofit providers like ours keep doing what we've always done: taking care of people.

But lately, healthcare feels less like an enterprise and more like a stage play — one where the script is written by people who don't understand the economics of performance. Let's call it Political Theatre: The ACA and the Art of Paying for It.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) helped. It expanded coverage to millions, ended exclusions for pre-existing conditions, and extended preventive care to people who hadn't seen a doctor in decades. As of 2025, more than 24 million Americans are enrolled through ACA marketplaces—up 113% since 2020. Roughly 93% receive federal subsidies, and about 60% pay little or nothing in premiums, thanks to expanded tax credits.

That's a public-policy success story on one level: fewer uninsured, more preventive care, better outcomes. But it also

created an economic pressure cooker for the system that delivers that care and those that pay for it. Regrettably, it has fallen on the back of those healthcare providers who operate under regulated reimbursement rates that never keep up with inflation.

Healthcare providers are now operating in a world where the vast majority of patients—whether covered by the ACA, Medicare Advantage, or Medicaid—don't pay the full cost of care, and where government-set reimbursement rates frequently fall short of the actual expense of providing it.

Medicaid reimburses providers, on average, about 73 cents for every dollar of care delivered. Medicare rates hover just above cost. Commercial insurers are asked to make up the gap—where they can. It therefore becomes an added tax on employers who offer their employees competitive healthcare coverage. The math, unsurprisingly, isn't sustainable.

Conservatives are right to worry about the fiscal sustainability of subsidized

So while Washington's actors rehearse their next act, healthcare providers will keep the lights on.

coverage, and progressives are right to argue that access to healthcare shouldn't depend on one's tax bracket. But both sides have ignored a central truth: access without adequate funding isn't equity—it's illusion.

Meanwhile, Medicare Advantage—the “managed” portion of the senior market—now covers roughly 34 million Americans, more than half of all Medicare beneficiaries, but unlike traditional Medicare, Medicare Advantage must generate healthy profits to pay their investors and stockholders. In theory, MA was designed to improve care coordination and efficiency. In practice, many providers now describe it as a reimbursement labyrinth in which delayed authorizations and denials too often substitute for cost control.

The broader consequence is structural imbalance. Healthcare providers, especially nonprofits, are carrying a growing share of uncompensated or undercompensated care. Their margins are shrinking, not because of inefficiency, but because the system rewards coverage expansion while underpricing the services required to sustain it.

During the last government shutdown, funding for key safety-net programs froze overnight. Yet our healthcare providers remained open. Nurses didn't stop showing up. Surgeons didn't cancel procedures. Healthcare workers did their jobs while Washington debated whether to do theirs.

That's the paradox of American healthcare: an industry that operates continuously on mission while policymakers operate episodically on politics.

The ACA proved that coverage expansion is achievable, but not fiscally sustainable. That requires confronting the uncomfortable arithmetic of healthcare finance — a shared recognition that the true cost of care must be paid by someone, and that providers cannot indefinitely subsidize a system that refuses to value its own labor.

Healthcare can't remain a moral obligation funded like a temporary program. If access is a right, it must be funded responsibly. If it's a market, it must be priced transparently. What it cannot be is both free and high-quality at the same time without fiscal discipline.

So while Washington's actors rehearse their next act, healthcare providers will keep the lights on. Because in this business, the show doesn't stop. But it would be nice if the policymakers remembered who's really footing the bill when the curtain rises.

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



NEW CANAAN FAMILIES:
You Are Not Alone

When someone you love is living with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia, the journey can feel overwhelming. That's why we created **The Navigator Program** — an exclusive **FREE** service for **New Canaan residents**, offering personalized guidance, comfort and support every step of the way.

Through the Navigator program, families have **PRIORITY** access to:

- 24/7 Assistance
- Adult Day Program
- Support Groups
- Resources and Services
- Respite Care



SCAN TO LEARN MORE
Call: (203) 594-5289
Email: navigator@waveny.org



3 Farm Road, New Canaan, CT | www.waveny.org

Get on Top of Your Wine Game: It’s the Holiday Season!

By CARL FRANCO

As Thanksgiving approaches, kitchen counters everywhere start to disappear under stacks of cookbooks, glossy magazines, and printouts from favorite recipe sites. Menus take shape, debates break out over side dishes, and someone inevitably insists the holiday just wouldn't be complete without the family's famous "trash casserole." Some households run like a well-oiled kitchen brigade; others embrace the chaos of too many cooks and too few oven racks.

But whether your table looks ready for a magazine cover or more like a delicious free-for-all, there's one thing every Thanksgiving feast needs, wine. And the good news? With so many foods and flavors on the table, there's almost no wrong choice.

FIRST THINGS FIRST—SHOP LOCAL

Support your neighborhood wine shop. Whether it's my shop, Francos Wine Merchants, or any of the other great shops that populate our town, these are the places where expertise lives. You won't be left wandering long aisles guided by signs and shelf talkers, you'll get real advice tailored to your taste, menu, and budget.

In this column, we'll be highlighting grape varietals, that's really the main point here. I'll mention a few specific wines for each varietal, but since every shop's selection can differ, the emphasis is on understanding the grape itself. All of the wines mentioned are from our inventory and range from about \$25 to \$80, listed from least to most expensive.

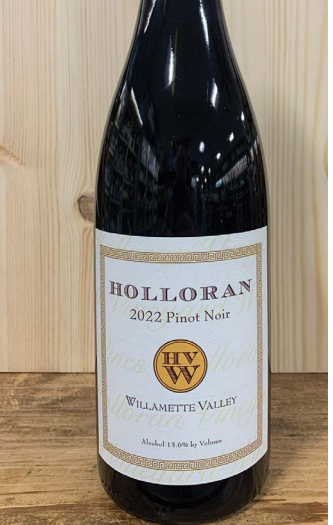


REDS FOR THE FEAST

Let's start with familiar favorites, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. California Cabernets, whether from Napa, Sonoma, or Paso Robles, are bold and structured—perfect for standing up to the big flavors of the Thanksgiving table. Merlot, on the other hand, brings a softer, rounder character. While many American Merlots have fallen out of favor, European versions, especially from Bordeaux, where Merlot blends with Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc offer more balance and depth. While the Bordeaux region often conjures images of high-end wines beyond most budgets, remember that many of the top châteaux also produce second-label wines. For those unfamiliar, a second label wine offers a glimpse into the style and craftsmanship of a great estate, made with grapes not ready for the grand vin but still reflecting the same care and character of the vineyard and winemaker.



- 2021 The Verge Cabernet Sauvignon
- 2022 Altruria Cabernet Sauvignon
- 2020 Crossbarn Cabernet Sauvignon
- 2021 Tate Cabernet Sauvignon
- 2020 Le Baron de Malleret
- 2023 Tempo d'Angelus
- 2020 Le Petit Smith-Haut Lafite
- 2016 Echo de Lynch-Bages



Moving on to other reds, we come to Pinot Noir, a perennial Thanksgiving favorite. Pinot Noir works because it is lighter in body but still structured enough to not only hold up to the entire meal, but complement it as well. Oregon and Burgundy produce elegant, restrained styles, while California's versions tend to be richer and more fruit-forward thanks to warmer climates.

- 2023 Three Otters Pinot Noir
- 2022 Holloran Pinot Noir
- 2023 Bezel by Cakebread Pinot Noir
- 2023 Moulin Aux Moines
- 2021 Louis Jadot Santenay Clos de Malte
- 2023 Louis Jadot Beaune Premiere Cru
- 2022 Enroute Les Pommiers by Far Niente Pinot Noir

Another solid choice is a red from the Rhône Valley, think Côtes

du Rhône, or Châteauneuf-du-Pape. While there are thirteen grapes allowed to be grown in the Rhone Valley, the primary grapes tend to be Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre. These grapes, along with the others, bring ripe fruit, spice, and warmth that pair beautifully with roasted vegetables and heartier dishes.

- 2022 Chateau de Monfrin Côtes du Rhône
- 2019 Chateau La Nerthe Châteauneuf-du-Pape.
- 2022 Sarl Famille Garon Côte-Rôtie
- 2021 Jean Royer Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

WHITES TO BALANCE THE TABLE



Chardonnay is always at home on Thanksgiving. California versions, especially from Sonoma and the Russian River Valley, tend to be full-bodied and oak-driven, blending beautifully with creamy sides and roast turkey. Meanwhile, Burgundian Chardonnays are more mineral and crisp, offering a leaner counterpoint that are more subtle, graceful and elegant.

- 2023 Cakebread
- 2023 Kistler Sonoma Mountain
- 2023 Far Niente
- 2022 Domaine Daniel Pollier Pouilly Fuissé 1er Cru
- 2021 Louis Jadot Meursault

Finally, let's give some love to Riesling, one of the most misunderstood wines out there.

- 2024 Domaine Schaller Chablis
- If you'd rather keep things bright and lively on your table, Sauvignon Blanc is your friend. It's like a squeeze of lemon for your meal, cutting through richness and refreshing your palate between bites. You have choices here as well, California styles tend to lean toward the crisp/clean style, while the same grape grown in the Loire Valley are more refined with gentle lemon notes. Of course you can always venture down under to New Zealand where the Sauvignon Blancs burst with bright grapefruit and tropical fruit.

- 2023 Honig
- 2023 Domaine Chavet La Cote
- 2024 Clos Henri
- 2023 Groth
- 2024 Hippolyte Reverdy Sancerre

THE UNSUNG HERO: RIESLING



Finally, let's give some love to Riesling, one of the most misunderstood wines out there. Many assume it's all syrup and sweetness, but that's selling it short. Dry Rieslings (Trocken) through slightly off-dry styles (Spätlese or Auslese) are sensational with Thanksgiving

fare. Bright with apple, pear, nectarine, and a touch of honey or jasmine, Riesling has the rare ability to match bold flavors and spicy sides. It's the secret weapon of savvy hosts—and it deserves a spot on your table.

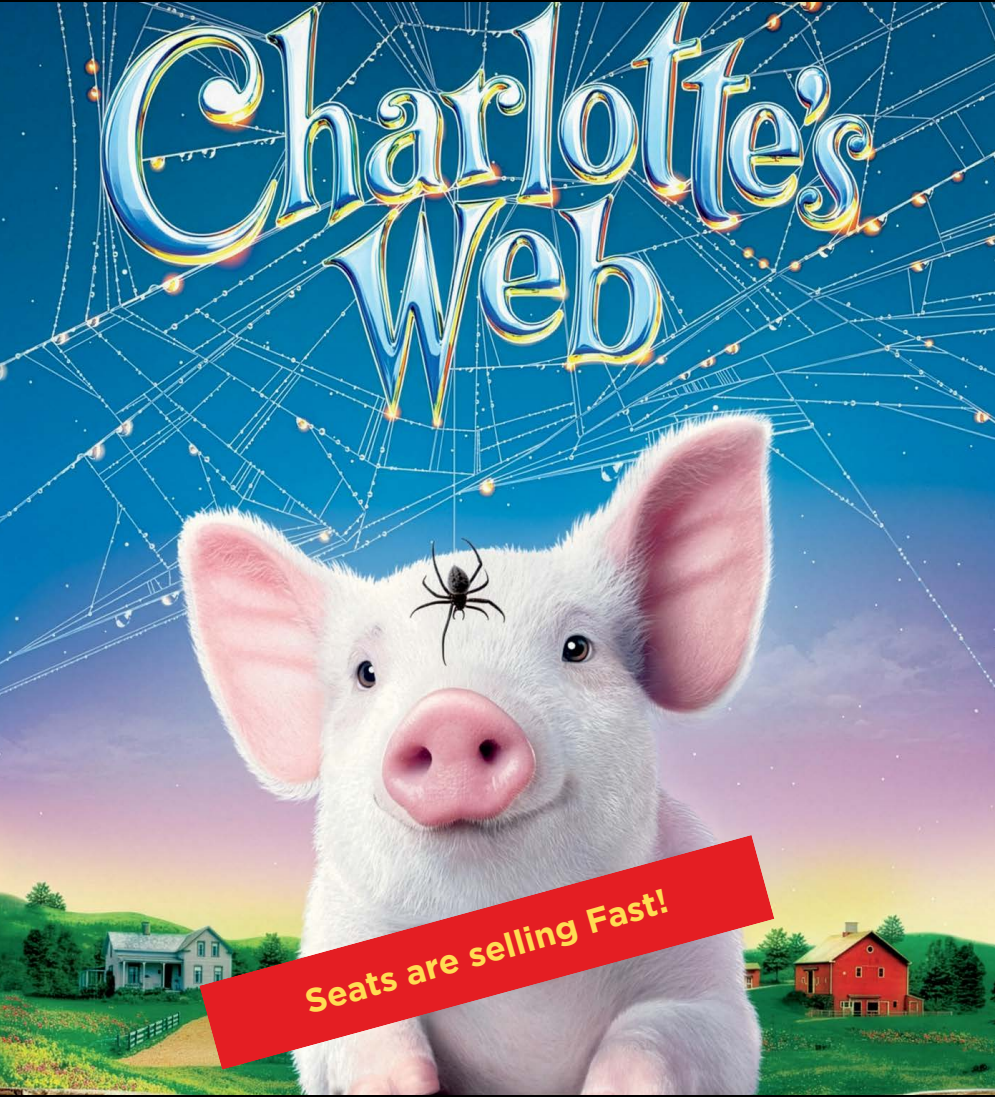
- 2022 Kruger Rumpf
- 2024 Emrich Schonleber
- 2023 Willm Grand Cru

2021 Karthausenhof Bruno
These wines are just some of the major players; there are so many more to explore. We haven't even touched on countries like Spain Portugal or Italy, and regions such as South America have plenty to offer. Then there are the offbeat spots like Croatia, Slovenia, and South Africa. We also could discuss grapes like Zinfandel, Malbec, Vermentino, and Aligoté. The list truly goes on, which brings me back to my original point: find a wine shop where your questions are answered by a knowledgeable salesperson whose expertise will make your Thanksgiving table sing. When it comes to Thanksgiving and wine, the world is your oyster stuffing.



Carl Franco is the proprietor of Francos Wine Merchants

POWERHOUSE THEATRE IN WAVENY PARK



DIRECTED BY NOVA HALL AND AMY SIMMONS, PRODUCED BY SARA LANGRICK
Based on "the best American children's book of the past two hundred years,"
Children's Literary Association

DECEMBER 4 - 14

THE TOWN PLAYERS OF NEW CANAAN

TPNC.ORG

Straight A's in the pickup line!

2025 TAHOE



Together let's drive.

KARL
CHEVROLET

karldirect.com
261 Elm Street
New Canaan
Conn. 06840
203.966.9508

Honesty. Integrity. Service. Trust. Since 1927



In a previous game on Oct. 24, New Canaan won against Greenwich in 14-7 game.
Photo taken by Gretchen McMahon



In a previous game on Oct. 24 against number 2 ranked Greenwich.
Photo taken by Gretchen McMahon

New Canaan Rams crush Trumbull Eagles in Football

By Christopher DeMuth

New Canaan delivered a strong performance this Friday night, dropping a 42-13 win over Trumbull in a non-conference matchup. The game opened evenly, with both teams scoring in the first quarter. New Canaan and Trumbull each put up seven points, and the game seemed set up for a fierce fight throughout. However, once the game past the first quarter, New Canaan began to completely dominate the Eagles. In the following two quarters, the Rams scored 28 consecutive unanswered points. By the time New Canaan added seven more in the fourth, the offense had established complete control and the defense had limited Trumbull to only one additional touchdown—a late score in the final quarter. Trumbull never put together a sustained comeback, and New Canaan closed out the night with a 29-point victory. The Rams finished with 351 yards of total offense, combining an efficient passing game with a highly productive ground attack. Several big individual efforts went into the

win, as senior running back Henry Stein, junior quarterback Maddox Hoffman, and senior receiver Andrew Esposito all put together standout nights. Stein had one of the best stat lines of the game, rushing for 188 yards on just 12 carries, a 15.7-yards-per-carry average. Almost every time Stein got a handoff, it was a big play, putting New Canaan in the kind of field position that opens up play-calling options and keeps a defense guessing. He scored two rushing touchdowns, leading the team in total points from scrimmage. Every time the ball went to him, the Rams gained steady forward motion. While Stein powered the ground attack, Hoffman led the offense with calm control, completing 13 of 22 passes for 145 yards, including two touchdowns without an interception. His 109.1 quarterback rating shows a clean, productive performance where he guided drives, efficiently moved the ball, and kept Trumbull’s defense on its heels. Hoffman added another touchdown on the ground, giving him three total

touchdowns on the night. Much of Hoffman’s success was seen in combination with senior receiver Andrew Esposito, who finished with nine receptions for 105 yards and one touchdown. Much of New Canaan’s receiving yards was through Esposito, who continued to find himself open and allowed the Rams’ offense to stay in motion. Averaging 11.7 yards per catch, he reliably found open space and converted receptions into yardage for the Rams. The Rams also received meaningful support from senior Bennett Heagle, who scored a receiving touchdown and turned in one of the most versatile stat lines of the night. Heagle totaled 117 all-purpose yards—17 receiving, 48 on kick returns, and 52 on punt returns. His presence on special teams constantly tilted the field in New Canaan’s favor, setting up the offense with short fields and extra chances to score. Those returns played a key role in the Rams’ ability to control possession and pace. Senior James McNerney added another level to New

Canaan’s offense, scoring a rushing touchdown and recording 41 all-purpose yards, most coming from a big 38-yard kick return that immediately swung field position. Junior J. Moultrie added 10 rushing yards, supporting an already strong ground effort, and junior receiver Matt Reed added 15 yards through the air. Senior Jake Valente picked up eight receiving yards, helping round out a controlled and balanced passing attack. It was one of the more complete defensive performances for New Canaan on the night. In all, the Rams combined for 86 tackles, with 54 solo stops and 9 tackles for loss. Many had standout games, but the overall effort made it hard for Trumbull to sustain drives or generate consistent offense. Senior Mikey Hiranman paced New Canaan with 14 total tackles, including eight solo stops. His presence around the ball and ability to clog up plays gave the Rams an anchor on defense. Hiranman also recorded two sacks to add critical pressure on Trumbull quarterback Caleb Wuchiski,

who finished the night with 108 passing yards and no touchdowns. Senior Ryan Brooks added 12 tackles, showing both range and consistency across the middle of the defense, while senior Grant Hickey did the same. Hickey added two tackles for loss, showing strong penetration at the line. Junior Jack Crowell and senior Michael Harris each finished with nine tackles, giving New Canaan several steady, high-impact tacklers to help control Trumbull’s rhythm. Up front, senior Grayson Ladley tallied six total tackles, made a pair of sacks, and blocked a kick. His pressure complemented Hiranman’s as they combined for all four of New Canaan’s sacks. The disruption prevented Trumbull from extending plays and played a major role in holding the Eagles to just 13 points. New Canaan also received strong defensive play from senior Dante Marsili, junior Blake Schwartz, junior Dallas George, and others across the lineup who helped keep Trumbull below 200 total yards. Senior Ryan Francis added

another key defensive moment, recovering a fumble. Special teams rounded out the night with consistent execution. Sophomore kicker Neel Arora went 6-for-6 on PATs, giving New Canaan every extra point possible. Senior Bennett Pertusiello handled punting duties, averaging 34 yards per punt with both of his kicks landing inside the 20-yard line. Kickoff work from Pertusiello and Arora averaged just over 50 yards per kick. While Trumbull found a bright spot in junior Keane Horne, who rushed for 112 yards and scored the Eagles’ only touchdown, the overall execution by New Canaan made it difficult for any Trumbull player to build sustained momentum. From start to finish, New Canaan controlled every phase of the game. Their steady rushing, sharp passing, timely receiving, strong tackling, pressure at the line, and reliable special teams work came together in a dominant 42-13 win over Trumbull.

Affirmed

Home Care

Private Skilled Nursing

Providing skilled, hands-on care by RNs & LPNs. Including, but not limited to:

- Wound Care
- Infusion Care
- Feeding Tubes
- Post-Surgical Care
- Trach & Vent Care
- Medication Management
- RN WellCare Checks at Home

Certified HHA & CNA

- Bathing, Dressing, and Grooming
- Meal Preparation
- Housekeeping
- Medication Reminders
- Appointments
- Errands



Home Healthcare license with the state of CT
www.AFFIRMEDHOMECARE.com
Serving New York, New Jersey & Connecticut

Compromise Nothing!





Call today to schedule your complimentary consultation

ERIN MEANEY

(475) 766-5575

Mon Rovia Performs Concert to Sold-Out Audience at Grace Farms

Grace Farms presented Afro Appalachian singer-songwriter Mon Rovia in a concert of peace and healing on November 16, coinciding with the United Nations International Day of Tolerance. The performance took place in Grace Farms’ glass-enclosed Sanctuary with a sold-out audience of nearly 700.

Mon Rovia reflects journeys of humanity through his music and from his own experiences moving from Liberia during the country’s civil war to the United States. He was named as one of Spotify’s 2024 Juniper Artists to Watch, has been featured in the GRAMMY Museum’s New York City program series, and has sold out every headline show to date, including Bonnaroo,

Austin City Limits, and Newport Folk Festival. The concert was part of Grace Farms’ Music at Grace Farms series, which invites audiences to experience acoustic performances against the backdrop of 80 acres of natural landscapes. Season highlights include a recital by internationally acclaimed cellist and 19-time GRAMMY® winner Yo-Yo Ma, GRAMMY® Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell, and a special recital by Grace Farms Artist-in-Residence and GRAMMY®-winning Canadian cellist Arlen Hlusko. For more information about upcoming events at Grace Farms, visit gracefarms.org.

South School Turns 75! Join the Celebration!

South Elementary School is proudly celebrating 75 years of learning, laughter, and community since opening its doors in 1950. For generations, South has been a place where students grow, families connect, and New Canaan comes together—and this milestone year will honor all of it! Kickoff Event: Community Holiday Sing-Along Friday, December 19th • 5:00–6:00 p.m. • Gower Road Parking Lot We’re inviting all of our South School community—and especially South School alumni, former staff and parents—to join us for a festive evening of music, hot cocoa, cookies and memories. Please RSVP by Friday, December 12 so we can plan accordingly:

South School 75th Anniversary Sing-A-Long RSVP or email us at Southschool75@ncps-k12.org and let us know how many will be in your party. Share Your South School Memories! To help tell the story of South’s 75 incredible years, we’re collecting old photos, yearbooks, memorabilia, and personal stories from alumni, former staff, and longtime families. Items will be displayed throughout the year and returned in June. If you have photos, artifacts, or event ideas, please contact the school office at 203-594-4300 or email Southschool75@ncps-k12.org. Here’s to 75 years of inspiring students—and many more to come!

New Canaan Fire Commission Postpones Budget Vote as Chairman Jack Horner Announces Retirement

By SENTINEL STAFF

The New Canaan Fire Commission approved minutes from two recent meetings, received operational and fire-prevention updates from department leadership, postponed a budget vote pending further clarification from the finance department, and heard an announcement from Chairman Jack Horner that he will retire when his appointment expires on Dec. 1. The commission approved the minutes from its Oct. 14 regular meeting and the Nov. 4 special meeting without changes. Commissioners Robert Fields and Beth Apy-Jones joined Horner for the session at headquarters. Chief Albe Bassett delivered the operational report for October, highlighting 22 fire-prevention details completed during the month, including visits to schools and multi-unit residences. Bassett noted several communications sent to the department, including appreciation from Phil Treglia, who thanked firefighters for assisting him with a disabled vehicle outside the firehouse, and a message from EMS acknowledging cooperation during a recent traumatic incident. The department handled 119 calls in October, including three fires. Fire Marshal Paul Payne reported on each incident. He said a ceiling-mounted fixture fire was contained due to appropriate fire-resistant construction around the unit. A second incident at 107 Woodridge Circle involved a lithium-ion battery fire in a garage. Payne said investigators completed two site visits and determined the cause was related to battery equipment charging. The third incident, a brush fire at 33 Weeburn Drive, began in a pine grove and was traced to landscape lighting that had ignited accumulated debris. Payne also reported on a recent alarm activation at 212 Elm Street, where the town has

leased space for the relocation of the alternative high school. Dust from ongoing work had triggered the fire alarm system, which was adjusted following the response. Assistant Chief Bob Parrett provided updates on department training, noting continued focus on refining incident-command procedures and first-arriving operations. Parrett told the commission that the department has been emphasizing the initial phases of response, including hose deployment and officer development programming. Bassett reviewed the status of the apparatus fleet, reporting several vehicles scheduled for repair and maintenance. He confirmed that work is being staggered to keep adequate equipment in service. The commission then reviewed the preliminary draft of the FY26–27 budget. Several payroll-related line items submitted by the finance office shortly before the meeting required clarification. Horner said the commission could not proceed with a vote until the department received the corrected figures. Commissioners agreed to table the matter until the December meeting. Before adjourning, Horner delivered a statement outlining major departmental accomplishments during his tenure, which spans two decades. He cited the hiring of full-time leadership positions, restructuring of the Fire Marshal’s Office, expansion of daily staffing, upgrades to the apparatus fleet, and growth of public education programs. After listing those achievements, he informed the board that his service will conclude next month. “My appointment expires December the first of this year. I am announcing my retirement,” he said. The commission will next meet on Dec. 9 at 5:00 p.m. at headquarters.

Magnificent Mendelssohn

One of the most celebrated works of chamber music ever written -- Felix Mendelssohn’s String Octet in E-flat Major -- will be featured in New Canaan Chamber Music’s December concerts. Artistic Director Andrew Armstrong has assembled a unique group of musicians to present the Octet - a quartet of internationally acclaimed musicians plus a quartet of outstanding rising stars - for a performance that is sure to be dazzling for the musicians to play and enchanting for our audiences to hear. The concerts will be held Thursday, December 11, at 3pm, and Friday, December 12, at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church in New Canaan at 178 Oenoke Ridge. Tickets are available at www.newcanaanchambermusic.org. Our audiences are in for a rare experience when this season’s largest ensemble performs the Mendelssohn Octet that blends Classical elegance and Romantic expressiveness. With eight string players, the sound is fuller than a quartet but still intimate—like a miniature orchestra. The concert also includes Maurice Ravel’s String Quartet in F Major, one of the most popular and frequently performed works in chamber music known for its elegance, emotional depth, and technical brilliance. The world class musicians are stellar professionals who have individually performed in international concert halls including Carnegie Hall

and the Kennedy Center, with famous conductors, multiple chamber groups, and are prize winners in challenging competitions. They are Nathan Meltzer and Simone Porter, violin, Melissa Reardon, viola, and Alice Yoo, cello. Joining them for the octet are “Rising Stars” sought after in the world of classical music who are performing professionally while pursuing master’s degrees at The Juilliard School and Yale School of Music. They are Virgil Moore, violin, and Carlos Walker, viola, Luna Hayoung Choi, violin, and Sara Scanlon, cello. Armstrong, Founder and Artistic Director of New Canaan Chamber Music, is a virtuoso pianist, and is also Artistic Director of the USC Beaufort’s Chamber Music Series as well as Columbia’s “Andy & Friends,” presented by the South Carolina Philharmonic. He was recently interviewed and played live on WSHU public radio based in Fairfield, CT, and his performances are heard regularly on stations across the country and on National Public Radio, and WQXR, New York. In just five years, New Canaan Chamber Music has become a thriving new addition to the concert scene. It also provides growing and inclusive programs of outreach with the Children’s Concerts and programs during the year that bring great music to seniors, youth orchestras, and local schools in New Canaan, Stamford, and Norwalk. NCCM is a 501c3 non-profit organization.



New Chairman Phil Hogan with his family at the BOE meeting on November 17.

Campbell Resigns as New Board Organizes and Hears \$250 Million Facilities Warning

By SENTINEL STAFF

The New Canaan Board of Education’s first regular meeting after Election Day combined ceremony, internal conflict and a sober fiscal warning about the condition of the town’s schools. On November 17, newly elected and re-elected members were sworn in by Town Clerk Claudia Weber in the Wagner Room at New Canaan High School, then walked through ethics, Freedom of Information and public records requirements before reorganizing the board’s leadership for the new term. First Selectman Dionna Carlson, herself a former multi-term board chair, presided over the organizational segment. A proposed motion to suspend the bylaw limiting the chair to two consecutive years drew no support and died without debate. The board then elected Phil Hogan as chair, Lara Kelly as vice chair and Erica Schwedel as secretary in separate votes. The leadership reshuffle came days after voters returned Hogan and Schwedel to the nine-member board and added Democrats Kate Brambilla and Joshua Kaye, while Republican incumbent Julie Toal lost her seat. Republicans now hold a 5–4 majority on the board.

Dramatic resignation on the dais

The calm procedural start gave way to tension when member Matt Campbell, elected in 2023, used the secretary nomination to deliver a prepared statement accusing Hogan and Schwedel of “colluding” with the local Democratic Town Committee to shape the outcome of the recent election at Toal’s expense. He said he viewed the alleged arrangement as “unethical and antithetical to values I hold dear,” and described attempts “to viciously defame me and my family and to isolate me just for opposing them,” before announcing his immediate resignation from the board and leaving the room. Campbell’s allegations have been publicly disputed, but his departure leaves a vacancy that, under state law, will be filled by the remaining board members until the next regular town election. After Campbell exited, the board proceeded with the secretary vote and approved Schwedel, 6–2, with Kelly and Matt Wexler opposed. Hogan’s election as chair drew a larger majority earlier in the evening, reflecting his four years on the board, prior service as vice chair and experience leading the facilities committee.

The episode underscored the sharper partisan edges that have emerged around school governance in New Canaan and elsewhere. But it also clarified the lineup that will steer upcoming decisions on facilities, budgets and a long-term building program that could reshape the district’s physical footprint for decades.

Quarter-billion-dollar maintenance bill

The most consequential presentation of the night came from Studio JAED, an architecture and engineering firm that conducts facility condition assessments for districts and states across the country. Principal Philip Conte told the board that an inspection of New Canaan’s five school buildings identified more than \$250 million in deferred maintenance and system replacements over the next 15 years, with roughly \$100 million of that need falling in the next seven. The work ranges from roofs, windows and masonry to mechanical, electrical, plumbing and site systems. Conte stressed that the number does not reflect neglect so much as scale. New Canaan Public Schools operates more than one million square feet of space across East, South and West Elementary, Saxe Middle School and New Canaan High School, serving over 4,100 students. Much of that space dates from the 1950s and 1960s and was last comprehensively renovated in the 1990s. According to the assessment: Mechanical systems (heating, ventilation and, where present, cooling) account for the largest share of projected cost. Electrical upgrades are substantial, in part because older buildings were not designed for today’s power demands or for full-building air conditioning. At Saxe Middle School, building envelope needs—roofing and exterior systems—are especially significant. New Canaan High School, at roughly 375,000 square feet, faces major mechanical and interior

investments if the district chooses to replace systems in kind. Conte said the assessment is based primarily on useful life of equipment, not on observed failures. Many systems can continue operating beyond their theoretical life if they are carefully maintained, he noted, but doing so carries risk and rising maintenance costs. “This is situational awareness,” he told the board. The report, he said, is not a set of work orders but “one piece of a larger planning tool” that should be revisited regularly by facilities staff and board members as they weigh program changes, additions or potential school reconfigurations. Tied to a larger building plan The timing of the assessment is not accidental. The district has been working on a multi-phase Future Facilities Plan, including a proposed “North School” on the Clark property to relieve projected elementary overcrowding by 2028 and to modernize all three existing elementary buildings. That broader plan, which also contemplates moving fifth grade back to the elementary level and reconfiguring Saxe to expand pre-K, carries an estimated total cost between \$194 million and \$328 million, depending on design choices and state reimbursement. SLAM, the firm supporting the district’s master planning work, told board members that the new condition assessment provides the “do-nothing” baseline: what it would cost simply to keep existing buildings functional without changing grade configurations or adding a new school. Any final recommendation on North School, elementary expansion or Saxe reconfiguration will now be measured against that baseline. Board members pressed Conte and the SLAM team on how to avoid spending money twice—for example, by replacing roofs or electric service in areas that might later be expanded or demolished under a long-term plan. They also questioned whether replacing gas-fired equipment with all-electric systems, as some municipalities are doing, would drive up operating costs even as it reduces fossil-fuel use. Conte replied that these choices are policy and budget decisions for the town, not technical mandates of the assessment. The report, he said, is designed so the district can prioritize projects by time horizon, building and system, and coordinate those choices with larger capital projects. The analysis places New Canaan in a familiar discussion for Connecticut districts. Bridgeport, for example, recently received a study showing up to \$709 million in needed school repairs and upgrades over a decade, underscoring how aging mid-century buildings and modern expectations for ventilation, technology and security are driving costs statewide. Finances, donations and what comes next Director of Finance Sean O’Keefe reported that district operating expenditures through October are slightly below the prior year as a share of budget, suggesting that spending is tracking as expected early in the fiscal year. The food service program is running a surplus, with lunch sales ahead of budget. The board also accepted two donations: 57 Windows 11 laptops from a local firm for district use, valued at \$14,750, and \$10,000 from the New Canaan High School PFA for fall grants to support classroom supplies and student activities. Those items, while modest next to a quarter-billion-dollar maintenance estimate, point to a continuing theme in New Canaan: the district’s day-to-day strength rests on a mixture of town funding, parent support and careful stewardship of facilities that are now reaching the age where capital needs arrive in clusters rather than one at a time. The board will meet next on December 1, with a planned legislative update from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, a first look at 2026–27 budget assumptions and a first reading of the 2027–28 district calendar. By then, members will also be confronting the practical implications of Campbell’s vacancy and the political crosscurrents revealed in this meeting. The new leadership team—Hogan, Kelly and Schwedel—will have to manage both: a divided board and a facilities agenda that could reshape school buildings, and tax bills, for years to come.



THE PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS

ENCORE

SEE A MOVIE • ENJOY A DRINK • GRAB A BITE • MEET A FRIEND

• Unlimited Movies

• 20% off Concessions
(excluding alcoholic beverages)

• No Online Booking Fees

• Plus More!

\$24/mo

JOIN NOW

A CINEMA LAB Experience

CinemaLab.com

HB8002

CONTINUED From Page 1

the transit-density framework would return in other forms.

Fair Share: A Statewide Housing Formula Sparks Widespread Resistance

When Fair Share entered the debate, it introduced a different model. Borrowed from New Jersey’s Mount Laurel doctrine, Fair Share assigned each municipality a calculated number of housing units based on statewide need, median income, land availability, and job proximity. Towns would then be responsible for zoning to meet their assigned number.

Municipal leaders, including Carlson and selectmen from Ridgefield, Westport, Darien, and Wilton, raised concerns that the formula bypassed the local planning process entirely. Residents noted that Connecticut’s geography varied dramatically, from dense coastal cities to hilly inland towns, and asked how a single formula could account for limitations in infrastructure, water supply, and land use.

Senator Ryan Fazio, then serving his first term, publicly opposed the proposal. He argued that statewide quotas failed to consider community-specific constraints and could impose financial burdens on towns. Fazio’s early objections reflected a broader sentiment across southwestern Connecticut: residents wanted more affordable housing, but not through rigid state mandates.

Despite significant pushback, Fair Share remained a priority for advocacy groups and lawmakers who argued that Connecticut’s housing challenges required comprehensive reform. The concept reappeared, in various forms, during each legislative session that followed.

The Existing Landscape: How 8-30g Shaped the Discussion

Behind every debate was Connecticut’s long-standing affordable-housing statute, 8-30g, enacted in 1989. The law applies to towns

where less than 10 percent of housing stock qualifies as deed-restricted affordable. In those towns, developers may bypass certain zoning restrictions if they set aside a portion of units as affordable. Local commissions can reject such applications only on narrow health and safety grounds.

Supporters of new mandates argued that 8-30g had not produced enough affordable housing and that additional statewide rules were needed. Opponents countered that 8-30g had already reshaped development patterns in many towns and that layering new mandates on top of the existing law would intensify pressures without providing infrastructure support.

The result was a complex legislative landscape: 8-30g continued operating across the state, while new proposals sought to impose additional statewide zoning requirements, leading many municipalities to argue they were being asked to manage overlapping, and sometimes conflicting, standards.

HB 5002: The Most Comprehensive Housing Bill in Years

In 2024, the long-running policy debate culminated in HB 5002. The bill combined several earlier concepts, including:

- Statewide housing planning requirements
- New zoning mandates around transit areas
- Provisions resembling Fair Share
- Penalties for non-compliance

Expanded oversight for the Department of Housing

HB 5002 drew substantial statewide attention. Public hearings spanned many hours and generated a flood of testimony. Local officials argued the bill’s scope was too broad, too prescriptive, and too detached from municipal conditions.

Supporters said the bill was necessary to address the state’s housing shortage and provide predictability for developers.

Senator Fazio continued to oppose the bill, pointing to affordability concerns, infrastructure constraints, and the impact on working families already facing rising living costs. His position aligned with many constituents, and he continued to raise these concerns in

statements, press interviews, and committee debates.

After the legislative session closed, Governor Ned Lamont vetoed HB 5002. His statement emphasized that the bill required further refinement and indicated he believed the proposals needed additional consensus. Because the veto came months before municipal elections, some legislators and local officials publicly noted the timing, suggesting the bill’s provisions had drawn sustained public resistance that might have affected local races.

Their statements did not claim motive but reflected the political context: HB 5002 was highly debated, and many municipalities—regardless of political party—had formally opposed it.

A Strategic Reappearance: HB 8002 in Special Session

After the November elections, supporters advanced a new bill: HB 8002, a 104-page proposal introduced during a special session primarily called for unrelated legislation. HB 8002 included multiple components that resembled or directly continued elements of HB 5002, alongside new provisions.

For towns, planners, and local zoning officials, the timing raised questions. Many noted that HB 8002 appeared shortly after elections concluded, and some lawmakers—including Fazio—commented publicly on the contrast: a broad housing bill vetoed before municipal elections, then a similar one brought forward immediately after voters went to the polls.

During the House debate, which lasted nearly seven hours, Representative Tina Courpas and Representative Stephen Meskers voted against the bill. Senator Fazio announced he would oppose it in the Senate, describing HB 8002 as a continuation of the mandates that had drawn substantial public pushback in the earlier session.

Local leaders across Fairfield County echoed similar concerns. Some characterized HB 8002 as “arguably more sweeping” than HB 5002, though the bills differed in structure. Public commentators questioned whether expedited legislative timing limited public input. What is directly verifiable is that HB 8002’s special-session process moved much more quickly than a standard session would have allowed.

The bill passed the House 90–56. Supporters said the new version addressed housing shortages and provided towns with planning flexibility. Opponents argued it imposed statewide mandates that communities had repeatedly opposed during earlier public hearings.

Why Public Pushback Remained Consistent

Across each stage—Work Live Ride, Fair Share, HB 5002, and HB 8002—public testimony raised the same core objections:

1. Infrastructure and Services

Town officials noted that schools, roads, sewers, and emergency services could not absorb rapid, state-directed population growth without corresponding funding.

2. Fiscal Impacts

Finance boards warned of repercussions for municipal budgets, including education and capital planning.

3. Local Planning and Zoning Authority

Many argued that municipalities were already developing affordability strategies tailored to local needs, and that statewide mandates could disrupt or duplicate those efforts.

4. Process and Transparency

Public hearings frequently reflected frustration that housing mandates kept returning in amended form despite sustained local opposition.

Senator Fazio’s Role Across the Legislative Cycle

Throughout the five-year debate, Senator Ryan Fazio became one of the most consistent and visible opponents of statewide zoning mandates. His work included:

Publishing detailed policy analyses on affordability, utility costs, and local control

Pressing for transparency on each new housing proposal

Challenging specific provisions related to infrastructure strain, family budgets, and fiscal impacts

Coordinating with municipal officials, including Carlson and others, to assess local implications

Highlighting concerns in committee debates and floor discussions

Opposing the legislative push that produced HB 8002

Fazio’s arguments often centered on affordability and governance. He emphasized that rising living costs in Connecticut already burdened working families and argued that top-down mandates would increase those pressures. His statements also pointed to local planning expertise, asserting that municipalities were capable of pursuing housing solutions without state-imposed formulas.

Throughout the debate, Fazio’s position aligned with the majority of public testimony submitted by municipalities in Fairfield County.

Where the Housing Debate Stands Now

With HB 8002 now approved in the House and expected to advance in the Senate, Connecticut enters a new phase in its long-running housing policy debate. The bill’s passage marks the first significant statewide housing legislation after several years of stalled proposals. It also highlights a persistent tension between statewide goals and local governance—a tension that shows no sign of diminishing.

Many local officials say the next months will be critical as towns analyze HB 8002’s requirements, assess planning impacts, and consider how to comply with new statewide expectations. Supporters believe the bill will encourage new housing supply. Opponents say the state must still confront the fiscal and infrastructure challenges raised during every public hearing.

What remains clear is that the journey to HB 8002 was not sudden. It was the product of five years of legislative reintroductions, policy restructuring, and persistent advocacy—despite ongoing opposition from towns, local leaders, and residents who said the proposals did not match on-the-ground realities.

Connecticut has entered a new chapter. Whether HB 8002 becomes the foundation of long-term policy or the next step in an evolving debate will depend on how towns, legislators, and residents respond in the months ahead.

Legal Advertising

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 November 18, 2025 duly adopted the following resolution(s). Approved Applications become effective upon the filing of a copy thereof in the office of the Town Clerk.

1. RESOLVED, discussion and consideration of the Planning and Zoning Commission to amend the Zoning Regulations dated June 16, 2007, amended July 7, 2025 to amend Section(s) 3.2.C.14 Permitted Principal Uses and Structures to further clarify where Religious Institutions are permitted in Residential Zones is approved, effective date December 8, 2025.

KRISTA NEILSON, SECRETARY
DATED NOVEMBER 18, 2025

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN
ACTION TAKEN BY THE
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
Monday, November 17, 2025

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands Commission of the Town of New Canaan, at its meeting on 11/17/25 made the following decisions:

1. Application IW-25-43 – 1541 Oenoke Ridge, Anna Knowles Rogers and Colin Smith, Map 28 Block 30 Lot 13. Partial pond maintenance dredging using hydraulic operated machine to remove accumulated sediment. Agent: Matt Vogt, New England Aquatic Services. APPROVED with Conditions.

2. Application IW-25-44 – 52 Indian Rock Road, Robert A. Young, Map 33 Block 34 Lot 38. Partial pond maintenance dredging using hydraulic operated machine to remove accumulated sediment. Agent: Matt Vogt, New England Aquatic Services. APPROVED with Conditions.

3. Application IW-25-45 – 223 Michigan Road, PelagicOne, LLC, Map 34 Block 38 Lot 53. Install additional erosion controls. Remove fill from wetlands and within ten (10) feet of wetland line, then re-grade at 3:1 slope to current elevation. Install subsurface stormwater detention facility and associated piping; replace existing pipes as needed; re-vegetate wetlands and Upland Review Limit per planting plan; install irrigation lines and place topsoil outside of 50-foot Upland Review Limit; sod all disturbed areas outside of Upland Review Limit; remove erosion controls. Agent: Rob Frangione, Frangione Engineering LLC. APPROVED with Conditions.

LEGAL AD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENT HAS
APPROVED THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION:

Permit Number (IW-25-50) issued to Joby A. Harold Trustee, 1 Echo Hill Road, Map 48 Block 109 Lot V15. Prepare site for construction activities and install soil and erosion controls. Perform tree removal as noted on plans. Regrade a 50x100'± area as noted on the plan. Remove 2285± SF of existing service driveway from the upland review area and replant with trees and lawn. Plant 12 Green Giant Arborvitae and 10 Norway Spruce in the upland review area. Install a new driveway with a pervious gravel base. Fine grade, seed and stabilize all disturbed areas upon completion.

LEGAL AD

NEW CANAAN CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
NOTICE
SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Charter Revision Commission of the Town of New Canaan will hold a Special Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Board Room and via Zoom, to hear public comment as to potential additions, deletions, modifications or retention of certain articles of the Town Charter.

The Charter Revision Commission will hold a Special Meeting immediately following the Public Hearing which is expected to begin by 5:30 pm in the Town Hall Board Room and via Zoom.

Hartford’s Mandate Mill

Connecticut’s habit of legislating first and thinking later has again revealed its cost. Within days of the General Assembly’s passage of House Bill 8002 – a sweeping assertion of bureaucratic housing supervision over 169 municipalities – the state’s utilities regulator issued a decision that exposes a broader pattern: Hartford creates problems faster than towns can clean them up. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority’s unanimous rejection of the proposed sale of Aquarion Water Company was a rebuke not only to the transaction but to the improvised legislative maneuvering that enabled it.

“The essence of government is power; and power, lodged as it must be in human hands, will ever be liable to abuse.” – James Madison

PURA found that the legislative structure forced upon towns produced a governance scheme riddled with incompatible fiduciary duties, an erosion of local representation, an underpowered consumer-advocacy system, and financial designs that would have burdened ratepayers with years of steady increases. In the record, town officials, including those from New Canaan, Ridgefield, Fairfield and Westport, demonstrated how the law that created the Aquarion Water Authority was crafted in haste, folded into an omnibus bill, and sent through a special session without public scrutiny. The result was a structure abundant in lofty rhetoric and deficient in workable oversight.

The pattern matters. For years, Hartford has deployed its supermajority not to refine governance but to accelerate it, rushing through complex mandates whose defects are left to municipalities to litigate, reinterpret, or simply endure. PURA’s decision details how the enabling legislation created a representative board in which more than half the affected municipalities would have held no effective votes at all, replaced the independent Office of Consumer Counsel with an entity lacking staff and independence, and installed an interlocking board of directors unable to resolve conflicting loyalties. PURA concluded that these flaws were so elemental that they rendered the entire structure unfit for public stewardship.

Towns know this pattern well. When the legislature enacts sweeping directives – whether in utilities, zoning, education mandates or municipal reporting – the state announces ambition while municipalities absorb the consequences. Millions of dollars and thousands of work hours are diverted from local needs to unwinding the state’s missteps. Towns hire counsel, commission studies, file testimony, and attend hearings simply to correct errors produced by legislating without deliberation.

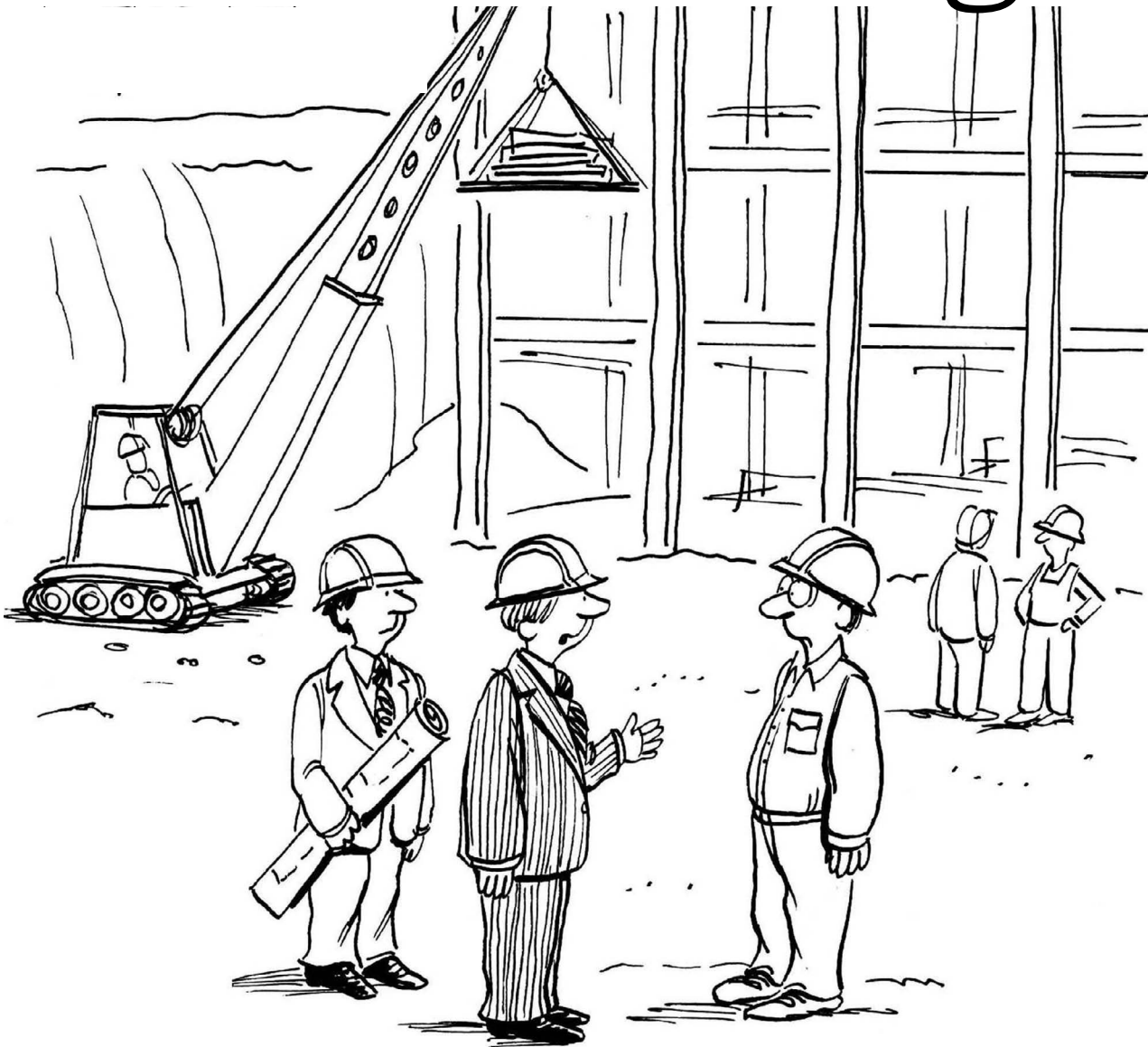
House Bill 8002 follows the same script. It requires every municipality to produce state-compliant housing growth plans or join regional ones. It binds zoning commissions to a series of incentives and penalties, dictates parking and density rules, and conditions relief from developer appeals on adherence to Hartford’s framework. Its aspirations are tidy; its mechanisms are indifferent to local knowledge. The bill was advanced as if uniformity were a virtue rather than an imposition, and as if a central authority were better positioned to adjudicate the differences between towns than the residents who live in them.

The PURA proceeding demonstrated the cost of such presumptions. Towns emphasized that Aquarion is among their largest taxpayers, and that the proposed PILOT structure would cause declining municipal revenue over time. They noted that RWA’s rates exceed Aquarion’s by wide margins and that the acquisition premium and debt structure would have produced steady rate increases. PURA agreed, finding the transaction contrary to the public interest and inconsistent with the statutory requirement to promote local control.

The lesson is that governance by supermajority can drift into governance by velocity: bills drafted quickly, passed quickly, and corrected slowly at great public expense. When the legislature treats towns as administrative branches rather than equal participants in the state’s civic order, it sets in motion the very conflicts PURA was forced to resolve.

New England’s strength has never been centralization. It has been the steadiness of local judgment exercised at human scale. The state should resist its impulse to manufacture solutions from above and then leave towns to repair the debris. Authority is not wisdom, and speed is not competence. The public interest is best served not by legislative improvisation but by restraint, clarity, and respect for local government.

Editorial Page



Is it too late to triple the height... oh
and get rid of the parking garage?

OPED

Transparency in Schools Was Never Optional And Now the Law Confirms It

Transparency in public education isn’t optional. It never was. The Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission just made that crystal clear.

In October, the Commission ruled that New Canaan Public Schools and the Board of Education violated the law by holding Curriculum Leadership Council (CLC) meetings behind closed doors. The district has been ordered to open them to the public, as state law requires.

This ruling should serve as a wake-up call to all school districts across Connecticut. State statute requires every district to have a curriculum committee to “recommend, develop, review and approve curriculum.” And those meetings must be public. For too long, New Canaan’s CLC has met privately, keeping families and taxpayers in the dark about decisions that shape what our students learn, only unveiling programs well after implementation.

When curriculum decisions happen behind closed doors, problems are inevitable. Last year, New Canaan required a reading selection that many parents found inappropriate for its racist and sexual references leading to an after-the-fact review by the Administration. Another

example involved a Brown University program where students created Nazi propaganda posters as part of a classroom unit, which was later removed after complaints. These controversies might have been avoided if curriculum work had been done in public from the start.

In 2020, I filed a complaint with the Freedom of Information Commission arguing that the CLC was violating the open-meetings law. The Superintendent and Board of Education disagreed, hiring two attorneys and a Retired Connecticut Supreme Court Justice to make their case. After hearings, testimony and years of delay due to COVID and legal maneuvering, the Commission ruled decisively: the law requires transparency.

This decision isn’t just a win for one person or one town. It’s a victory for the public’s right to know. Open meetings give families the ability to understand and comment on what’s being taught. They also give Boards of Education the tools to manage costs tied to curriculum such as staffing, training, materials, and space before programs are implemented, not after.

There are good examples to follow. Despite New Canaan’s testimony that an open process is very unusual, and is not followed in other

towns in Connecticut, it has been a practice in Greenwich for years. It can even be found right in nearby Darien where the curriculum committee meets publicly and evaluates new courses holistically by looking at content, cost, and logistics before adoption. This practice is just common sense.

The law requires New Canaan’s CLC to operate with transparency. In short, the curriculum committee must post agendas and minutes, hold meetings in public, and discuss curriculum plans openly before Board of Education adoption, not after. This level of transparency isn’t a burden; it’s accountability in action.

Every district in Connecticut should take note. Curriculum decisions must be made in the open. Parents and taxpayers deserve to see how programs are developed and to weigh in before they’re finalized.

The public’s right to know isn’t just about process—it’s about trust. And trust in our schools begins with transparency.

Maria Naughton

Full Final Decision: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/foi/finaldecisions/2025/oct22/2020-0503.pdf>

Town Council Holds Organizational Meeting

By SENTINEL STAFF

The New Canaan Town Council held its organizational meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025, at Town Hall, convening at 6:30 p.m. to elect new leadership and conduct introductory business for the incoming term.

The council moved swiftly into nominations for executive positions:

Chairman:

Michael Mouro was nominated and elected chairman with broad support. Members cited the value of continuity and stability as the council welcomes numerous new faces.

Vice Chairman:

Hilary Ormond was unanimously elected vice chair. Several members highlighted the strong working relationship between Ormond and Morra, who have served in these roles for the past two years.

Secretary:

Janet Fonss was elected secretary without opposition. Brief discussion touched on the seating arrangement and a member’s procedural question regarding FOIA compliance for the executive committee—an issue expected to be addressed with town legal counsel.

Following elections, Council Member

Penny Young delivered somber news: longtime community volunteer and Health and Human Services leader Jim Lisher passed away earlier in the afternoon.

Lisher was widely regarded for his commitment to senior services, his work with the Commission on Aging, and his advocacy for making New Canaan a model community for older residents. Several council members offered heartfelt tributes, noting his passion, humility, and decades of service.

“He never put himself before the needs and concerns of others,” Council Member Eric Thunem said. “New Canaan will miss his model citizenship.”

Retirement Plans Advisory Committee

By SENTINEL STAFF

New Canaan’s Retirement Plans Advisory Committee reported strong third-quarter investment performance and reviewed the structure and history of the town’s scholarship fund during its meeting Tuesday at Town Hall.

Chairman Chris LeBris called the session to order at 5:30 p.m. with all members present: Steve Doka, Bob Hamill, James Yao, and LeBris. The meeting included First Selectman Dionna Carlson, Chief Financial Officer Anne Kelly-Lenz, Comptroller Diane Wilson, and two representatives from Russell Investments, Justin Owens and Zachary O’Grady.

The committee approved minutes from the May 13 special meeting before receiving a detailed presentation from O’Grady on economic trends and fund performance through September 30.

According to the figures presented, the Funded Retirement Plan held \$191,591,890, the OPEB Trust \$25,745,699, and the Myledred F. Marceley Memorial Scholarship Fund \$1,815,414, for a combined total of \$219,153,003. Year-to-date

returns were 14.4 percent for both the pension and OPEB funds and 13.3 percent for the Marceley Fund.

O’Grady told the committee that equity markets reached new highs in the third quarter. Owens said the asset reallocation approved in May strengthened performance, noting that adding Emerging Markets, Global Equity, and Infrastructure “contributed positively to returns across all three portfolios.”

Members asked a series of questions regarding fund history, performance, inflows, and risk over time. Several comments focused on the Marceley scholarship portfolio, which has grown while providing annual awards to New Canaan High School graduates. In the discussion, a member stated, “The recipient who’s getting money this year is getting a \$42,000 scholarship.” Another member noted the fund’s long-term growth since its creation, saying, “It was seeded... \$750,000 to start in this.”

Committee members also discussed how scholarship distributions are structured. One

official explained, “Whatever it’s generating goes out as a scholarship,” while another observed that despite tuition costs at many institutions, “It’s a heck of a scholarship for a high school” student.

The committee asked Russell Investments to provide additional long-term historical data and performance context at a future meeting. Owens and O’Grady also described how the firm models future funding needs and conducts periodic asset-liability studies for municipal plans.

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m. following a motion by Doka and a second by Yao, approved unanimously. To keep the fund focused on producing spendable income, officials said the scholarship amount each year is based on interest and dividend income rather than unrealized market gains.

Before adjourning at 6:21 p.m., the committee agreed to ask O’Grady and Owens to give a brief overview of the funds’ performance and recent allocation changes to the full Board of Finance later that evening.

A Town Filled With Thanks: New Canaan Speaks From The Heart This Week

By Peter Barhydt

New Canaan residents offered a wide range of reflections on gratitude this week, highlighting service, community trust, shared history, and the quiet generosity that defines the town. The Sentinel gathered these thoughts as part of its annual Thanksgiving roundup, drawing directly from the voices of residents, faith leaders, officials, and community organizations.

What the Sentinel Is Grateful For

The Sentinel is grateful for the character of this town, for the way New Canaan carries itself with generosity and steadiness. Falling in love with New Canaan has been made easy, wonderful.

The paper exists because of you. We are grateful for the readers who make time each week to follow the life of the town, for the neighbors who send in a photograph or a note because they want others to know something good has happened here, and for those who offer corrections or context. We are grateful for the volunteers who keep the civic engine running, for the small businesses that choose to stand with us, and for the people who gather at our coffees talk about the place we share; for every subscriber, every advertiser, every

writer, every photographer.

In every corner of New Canaan, there is a quiet loyalty to community; the *Sentinel* is grateful to be a part of it.

Representative Tom O’Dea

“As we gather this year in the spirit of Thanksgiving during these turbulent times, let us pause to recognize how blessed we are to live in such a wonderful community. Our town is extraordinary because of our outstanding employees and volunteers whose dedication and kindness make this place so special. “This year, we mourn the recent loss of three amazing public servants—Keith Richey, Stuart Sawabini, and Jim Lisher. Their selfless service, compassion, and tireless commitment to New Canaan set an inspiring example for all of us.

“So this Thanksgiving, I am thanking God for my wonderful family and friends and for the honor to represent this outstanding community in Hartford.

“To all our employees and volunteers —past and present— please know how deeply we appreciate your service, compassion, and dedication.

“On behalf of our entire town, thank you!

“Wishing everyone a safe, joyful,

and gratitude-filled Thanksgiving.”

Greg Reilly

I am thankful that, while working on a New Canaan Thanksgiving report years ago, I learned that expressing thanks has real, positive effects physically as well as emotionally. Since then, I give thanks to God many times a week for good health, strong family, and abilities to contribute to the public good.

Also, I remain grateful to New Canaan Public Schools Superintendent Bryan Luizzi, who shared with me The Happiness Advantage, which was part of the NCPS Emotional Intelligence program. Author Shawn Achor posits that, contrary to popular opinion, happiness is not the result of success; it is the cause of it.

Scott Hobbs

“I just had my 40th NCHS reunion with many classmates coming back to town. I was incredibly thankful to have been part of such a great group of people and for having been given the opportunity to grow up in New Canaan. My sense of gratitude was magnified by how much all of those who returned were impressed by what a simply wonderful place New Canaan was. While I know this, I experience it on a daily basis and

have likely lost the perspective as to how special it is.”

First Selectman Dionna Carlson

“This Thanksgiving, I am deeply grateful for the remarkable spirit of generosity that defines New Canaan. Every day, I’m inspired by the hundreds of volunteers who give their time, talents and energy to our schools, nonprofits, faith communities, and town programs. Their dedication strengthens the fabric of our community and adds to the vibrancy that makes New Canaan such a special place to call home. As we gather with family and friends, I extend my sincere thanks to all who contribute to the wellbeing of our town and embody the values we hold dear. Happy Thanksgiving.”

Msr. Robert Kinnally, St. Aloysius Church

“I’m grateful for my amazing parish family in these days of giving thanks. Their faithfulness, prayerfulness, and generous spirits make it a joy to walk with them on our journey of faith. They teach me to trust in God, endure the storms of life, and celebrate blessings with great joy. They keep me humble and make me work harder to offer them consolation and peace. They are patient with me as I find the words and actions to bring them closer to God and one another. I look forward to joining them in the psalmist’s challenge: ‘Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love is everlasting!’”

Eric Thunem

“Of course, I’m thankful for the many blessings I’ve enjoyed in life – family, friends, humor, joy, kindness, peace. I’m thankful for food, a home, and freedom. I’m also thankful for the challenges life has thrown my way, because they have taught me a bit about patience. I’m thankful for people who disagree with me, because they stretch my thinking. I’m thankful for everyone who has ever said to me in times of distress, ‘breathe’. I’m thankful for all my yesterdays and all the tomorrows ahead.”

State Representative Savet Constantine

“Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday because it reminds us to pause and gather with loved ones, sharing time over a meal to connect with one another. More than anything, I am grateful for the people who choose conversation, solutions, and understanding over division. This great American holiday reminds me that we can move forward together by learning, listening, and working toward a future we can all share with hope and gratitude.”

Paul Reinhardt, New Canaan Parent Support Group

“I’m amazed by the people I’ve run across in New Canaan who say, ‘let me know how I can help’, and mean it. Lately, I wanted to start a new website. My budget was miniscule. Yet magically, a person I respect, with over 25 years of tech experience, raised her hand. She believes in our mission and is offering her services for free. ‘Yes’ is the answer I get—time and time again—in our town.”

Geri Rhoades

“I’m not sure where to begin in expressing my gratitude this year. As I turn 65, I feel thankful for Medicare and grateful for the opportunity to have lived this long. I appreciate having found New Canaan and the wonderful people who live and play here. I’m also thankful for the goodness and kindness that surround me, as well as the friends and family who love me. I’ve gained wisdom

in recognizing all of this, and I am truly grateful.”

Laura Budd, Executive Director, New Canaan Chamber of Commerce

“I am especially thankful for the strong partnerships that make the Chamber’s work possible, from Public Works and the Police Department to the dedicated team at Town Hall. Their collaboration and support ensure we can work together to serve our community effectively every day. I’m equally grateful for the incredible businesses I represent, whose creativity and passion truly make New Canaan such a vibrant and unique place.”

Tucker Murphy

“In New Canaan, there is so much to be grateful for. Our town is unique in the way it fosters a strong sense of pride, and in how many people truly show up each and every day. Whether through volunteering, supporting local organizations, or simply helping a neighbor, countless residents contribute to making this a community we are all proud to call home.”

Chief John DiFederico, New Canaan Police Department One Thing in New Canaan I Am Grateful For

As Chief of Police, people often ask me what keeps me going after 30-plus years in law enforcement. My answer is always the same, and it has never been more true than it is today:

I am profoundly grateful for the trust that the people of New Canaan place in their police department – and, by extension, in every one of us who wears the badge.

That trust is not something we inherit; it is something we earn every single day. It shows up when a parent waves us down on Elm Street just to say thank you for keeping an eye on the schools. It shows up when a teenager feels comfortable enough to call a school resource officer because a friend is struggling. It shows up when residents leave their doors unlocked (please don’t, by the way) because they genuinely believe nothing bad can happen here – and then, when something does, they call us first, without hesitation.

In a time when many communities across the country are wrestling with fractured relationships between the public and the police, New Canaan stands apart. Our officers are invited to read to kindergarten classes at East School, coach youth sports, have coffee at Zumbach’s on Saturday mornings, and sit on panels at the Library discussing everything from traffic safety to mental health.

That mutual trust is the single most powerful crime-fighting and community-building tool we have. It is why our crime rate remains among the lowest in Connecticut. It is why our officers can focus on helping rather than just responding. And it is why, when I drive through Waveny or around God’s Acre on a crisp November afternoon, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the privilege of serving a town that still believes — truly believes — that we are all in this together.

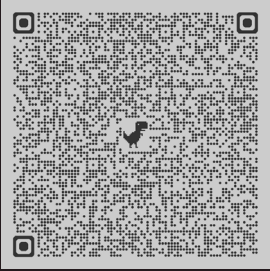
So to every resident, business owner, student, and visitor who has ever offered a kind word, a plate of cookies at headquarters, or simply a nod of appreciation: thank you. Your trust is the one thing in New Canaan for which I will never stop being grateful.

Stay safe, look out for one another, and have a happy Thanksgiving.

With respect and gratitude.

The Rob Mathes Holiday Concert

December 20-21
The Purchase PAC
ArtsCenter.org/events







New Canaan Council Names 11-Member Charter Revision Panel, Sets May 3 Draft Deadline

By Peter Barhydt

The New Canaan Town Council on Wednesday night formally created an 11-member Charter Revision Commission, setting a May 3, 2026 deadline for the panel's draft report as the town begins a once-a-decade review of its governing document.

The action came during a special meeting at Town Hall on Nov. 12, following roll call and with no public comments offered in person or online.

11 residents appointed to Charter Revision Commission

Council Chairman Mike Morra outlined the months-long process that led to Wednesday's vote. After the council initiated the charter revision process in mid-October, residents were invited to apply, submit résumés and respond to a one-page questionnaire on their interest, qualifications and availability.

Not all applicants returned the questionnaire; those who did not were deemed ineligible for appointment.

Morra said council members in both parties reviewed the materials, caucused separately and ultimately agreed on a bipartisan slate of 11 commissioners rather than the maximum 15 allowed by state law.

"We did not want the full complement of 15 — it was too many cooks in the kitchen," Morra said, adding that too few members would unfairly burden those serving. Eleven, he said, struck a balance between workload and diversity of viewpoints.

The council then voted unanimously to appoint the following residents to the 2025 Town of New Canaan Charter Revision Commission:

- Kathleen Corbet
- Angela Jamieson
- Todd Lampert
- Chris Rizza
- Karen Willett
- Steve Case
- Jennifer Holme
- Russell Kimes
- Judy Neville
- Joe Palo
- Bill Peet

Several council members praised both the appointees and the larger pool of residents who expressed interest.

"These are all excellent candidates," one member said, noting that the group reflects "a really good cross section of age and abilities and gender."

Another councilor called it a "deep bench" of applicants and urged those not selected to stay involved in town government and seek out future service on other boards and commissions.

Former Council Chair Penny Young also reminded unsuccessful applicants that the commission's work will include public hearings, giving them another chance to share their ideas on charter changes.

The council spent much of the discussion on timing — specifically how quickly the commission must work to get proposed charter changes in front of voters during the November 2026 general election.

Town Attorney Ira Bloom, attending via video, walked the council through the state statute that governs charter revision. The process includes:

- The commission holding at least two public hearings — one at the outset and one after it develops draft recommendations.
- Submission of a draft report to the town clerk, which then goes to the Town Council.
- A period of review and potential back-and-forth between the council and commission, including a council public hearing.
- A final package of recommendations to be placed on the ballot for voter approval.

Bloom said aiming for November 2026 made fiscal and civic sense — attaching proposed changes to a regularly scheduled election rather than a standalone referendum that would cost the town extra money and likely attract lower turnout.

He described the May 3 draft deadline as "fairly aggressive" but achievable if the commission is willing to meet frequently and begin work quickly, even with holiday schedules in December.

"There's a lot of work for the commission to be done in a relatively short period," Bloom said, "but I think if everybody's committed and they're willing to work at a fairly fast pace, it can all be done."

Several council members voiced concern about public input if too much of the process spills into the summer, when many residents are away, but ultimately agreed the best path was to set a firm deadline and reassess later if necessary.

Council member Hillary Ormond, who read the resolution into the record, framed the May 3 date as a serious but reasonable expectation.

"I had deadlines all the time and you make it," she said, referring to her work as an attorney. "It's going to be a lot of work, which is what we proposed, and I think we just stick with the May 3 date and we'll evaluate as we go along."

No formal list of topics from council State law allows the Town Council to give the Charter Revision Commission a list of specific topics to examine. On Wednesday, however, the council deliberately chose not to do so.

Morra said the "prevailing view" was to allow the commission to gather input and set priorities independently, rather than risk appearing to steer the process toward particular issues or partisan agendas.

"We want to stay away from anything that could be seen as trying to put our thumb on the scale," he said.

An earlier draft of the resolution contemplated formal council recommendations, but by unanimous agreement those references were struck before the final vote.

Bloom confirmed that while the council as a body will not send an official list of charter topics, individual members — like any resident — remain free to submit ideas to the commission, speak at its public hearings, and offer feedback during interviews.

Young noted that during the last charter revision effort, commissioners conducted roughly 80 interviews with elected officials, department heads and residents.

"The commission is going to get tons of information," she said.

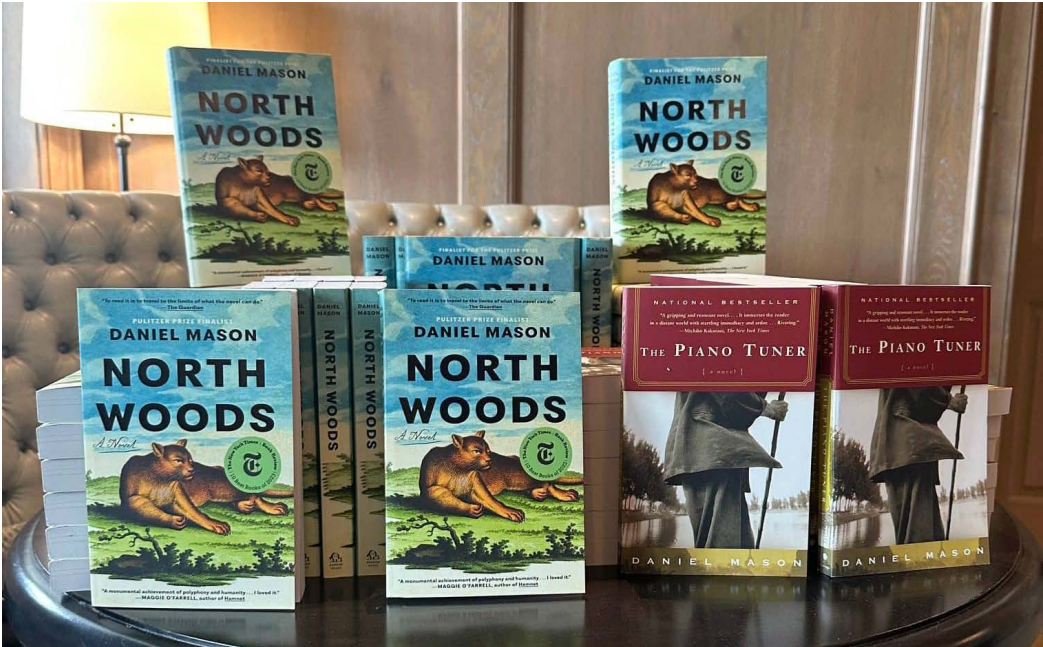
Next steps for the commission With the resolution adopted unanimously, the 11 newly appointed commissioners will be notified and sworn in. They are expected to hold an initial organizational meeting, elect their own leadership, and begin scheduling public hearings and work sessions, all subject to standard public notice requirements.

"They are a municipal body at this point," Morra said, noting that the commission will follow the same open-meeting rules that apply to the council itself.

Before adjourning, Morra reminded residents that this kind of full charter review "happens every decade" and encouraged broad community participation as the process unfolds.

He also noted that the council's next regular meeting will include more formal recognition for newly elected members, inviting them to bring family and friends for what he called a "really special" swearing-in experience.

The council then voted to adjourn the special meeting.



Ellen Sullivan Crovatto, Library CEO, and author Daniel Mason on stage.

New Canaan Library Visits “North Woods” with Author Daniel Mason

By Julie O'Brien Deasy

Author Daniel Mason discussed the inspiration for his 2023 New York Times bestselling book, *North Woods*, at the New Canaan Library's 18th Annual Literary Luncheon at New Canaan Country Club.

North Woods, Mason's sixth book, is a work of historical fiction that tells the story of a single house in New England over the course of several centuries, from the early American colonies to the present day. The home's inhabitants and visitors include a Puritan couple, twin sisters, a crime reporter, a landscape painter, and even a cougar.

In 2023, The New York Times named *North Woods* one of the best 5 fiction books of the year.

The book examines "looking at a place over time, and wondering what has gone there before," noted Mason during the Literary Luncheon on Friday, November 7.

Mason, who lives in Northern California, shared that during the pandemic he and his family came out to New England to live for a year. While he was here he would take nature walks with his children. He began to notice apple trees, a species not native to the area, growing randomly in the woods and fields, which made him wonder about their origins. "Somebody planted them, and there was probably a house there too at some point," Mason said, describing his initial inspiration for *North Woods*.

"Every house I've lived in has been younger than me," noted Mason, and that spending the year in New England made him reflect on the passage of time, and the layering of different people's experiences over time.

Much of the story follows not only the history of the people who live in the house but also their interactions with the apple trees planted around the house. The apple trees become a symbol of continuity, history, and the connection between human lives and nature.

"The book is the story of a house on the same spot, and how architecture can layer itself, how history can layer itself, and how nature can layer itself."

Mason was born and raised in Northern California. He received his BA in Biology at Harvard and earned his MD at the University of California, San Francisco. In addition to writing fiction, he is currently an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Stamford University.

Mason described how he integrates his science and medicine background with his love for the humanities. He explained that while "Stamford is very hooked into modernity" and focused on the latest technological and scientific breakthroughs, he believes that reading and literature are just as central to his understanding of psychiatry.

He described telling his students, "We're not going to be reading the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual in this class. Instead, we will be reading

Nabokov and Philip K. Dick. It's not a criticism of medicine; rather, we need this other perspective to truly understand psychiatric conditions."

Mason has used his medical knowledge in several of his books, including *North Woods*, where one character has schizophrenia, and another suffers mental decline after a traumatic event.

His science background also helped him develop a character, a graduate student in biology, who could articulate all the themes of the book, including how ecosystems, species, ecosystems, and even human succession plays out over hundreds of years.

Such discussions are a hallmark of the annual Literary Luncheon, which since 2008, has brought the community together to celebrate a renowned author and strengthen the Library's mission: to be an essential place for lifelong learning, culture and connection.

The Luncheon is also the Library's single biggest fundraiser, helping support library activities for the entire upcoming year.

For this year's program, New Canaan Country Club was transformed into a New England apple orchard for the afternoon. A collection of gourds and pumpkins welcomed guests outside the front door, wildflowers and apple centerpieces decorated the table settings, and eucalyptus and other greenery hung from the ceiling. A large fall scene featured apple trees in the process of being picked and made into cider.

The event also honored Eileen Thomas, Vice Chair of the Library Board. Thomas is a "life-long library lover" who has dedicated countless hours of time to the Library, including as a Co-Chair of the capital campaign that raised \$40 million to build the new New Canaan Library.

Many volunteers and organizations came together to make the Literary Luncheon possible. The planning committee was headed by Allison Zinczenko, New Canaan Library Events & Marketing Consultant, and Michael Canoro, Luncheon Design Lead. Sponsors included M&T Bank, Manfredi Jewels, Yozo Studio, William Raveis, Bankwell, Lampert Toohey & Rucci LLC, Connecticut Breast Imaging, Howard & Gay Insurance, Springboard Travel, and Moffly Media. In addition, Elm Street Books was on site selling signed copies of Daniel Mason's books, some of which are still available for purchase at their store.

Towards the end of his remarks, Mason described how he wrote *North Woods* over the course of a year, drafting one chapter per month to match the book's twelve sections. He would go outside and observe the world around him to confirm the accuracy of each detail, using his own firsthand experience and his own photos for many of the book's nature descriptions. So it's fitting when one of his characters reflects, "History haunts him who does not honor it" - a reminder of the thoughtful attention given that afternoon to both place and past.

YMCA to Launch Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program

The New Canaan YMCA is excited to bring the National YMCA Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring program to the community this month. The program is the newest addition to the organization's current chronic disease support programs, including the Y's Diabetes Prevention Program for individuals with prediabetes, LIVESTRONG at the YMCA for cancer survivors, and multiple programs for individuals managing Parkinson's Disease.

According to the American Heart Association, nearly half of all American adults have hypertension, known as high blood pressure, which is a key and modifiable risk factor for both heart disease and stroke—two of the leading causes of death in the United States.

In response to this critical health issue, YMCA of the USA designed the Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring program to help adults with hypertension lower and manage their blood pressure. New Canaan YMCA staff who have been trained and certified as "Healthy Heart Ambassadors" will lead the four-month program focuses on regular home self-monitoring of one's blood pressure using proper measuring techniques, one-on-one consultations, individualized support, and group-based nutrition education for better blood pressure management.

Through the duration of the program and with support from a trained Healthy Heart Ambassador,

participants will aim to:

- Measure and record their blood pressure at home at least two times per month, gaining increased awareness of triggers that elevate blood pressure.
- Attend two personalized consultations per month with a Healthy Heart Ambassador.
- Attend monthly nutrition education seminars to develop healthier eating habits.

Research has shown that the process of recording blood pressure at least twice per month over a period of four months has been shown to lower blood pressure in many people with hypertension.

The Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring program is currently accepting participants and is open to individuals ages 18 and older who have been diagnosed with high blood pressure. Participants must not have experienced a recent cardiac event, atrial fibrillation, or other arrhythmias, and must not be at risk for lymphedema. The program is open to the entire community and is currently available at no cost thanks to a grant from YMCA of the USA.

Those interested in participating in and learning more about the program may contact Eva Saint, New Canaan YMCA Wellness Director, to learn more at 203-920-1623 or esaint@newcanaanymca.org. To learn more about the Y's chronic disease support programming, visit www.newcanaanymca.org.

Exchange Club Tree Lighting Kicks off Christmas Season

The Exchange Club of New Canaan will open its annual Christmas tree lot at Kiwanis Park this season with a special tribute to a leader remembered for his warmth, service, and love of community.

On Saturday, November 22, at 5 pm, First Selectman Dionna Carlson will lead a tree lighting ceremony dedicating the lot's Christmas tree to the late Lou Moreno, who served as New Canaan's First Selectman during the 1990s.

"The Exchange Club tree lot is one of New Canaan's most iconic holiday traditions," Carlson said. "It not only brings the community together, but also supports some of the most impactful service programs in town."

The Exchange Club tree lot has been a cherished town tradition for more than 50 years. Families return annually not only

for fresh-cut trees and holiday cheer but to support the Club's charitable mission. Last year, the lot helped the Exchange Club award more than \$150,000 in grants to over 40 local nonprofits, including Meals-on-Wheels, Staying Put in New Canaan, GetAbout, Food Rescue US, and many others serving Lower Fairfield County.

The lot will once again feature photos with Santa visits in a special Christmas setting, rides on "Old Faithful" the antique fire truck, hot chocolate, holiday music, wreaths, garlands, and trees of all sizes. Tree sales run November 22 through December 22.

For schedule details and volunteer opportunities, visit newcanaanchristmastrees.com.

To learn more about the Exchange Club: newcanaanexchangeclub.com.

Obituaries

Anthony Sillo



Anthony Sillo, a seventy-year resident of New Canaan, CT passed away at home after a long, wonderful, full life on November 13, 2025, at the age of 87.

Anthony was born in the province of Frosinone, Italy in the town of Sette Frati, just 20 miles north of Montecassino, on January 8, 1938, to Michele Sillo, a stone mason and Maria Donata Sillo (nee Volante). At the age of 17, he accompanied his father to New Canaan, CT in 1955 and were joined by his mother and brothers a few years later. On April 4, 1959, Anthony married his childhood sweetheart, Alessandra (Sandy) Massarella. Anthony continued to work alongside his father, and then as a landscaper, fine-tuning his knowledge of sitework and building. In the 1960s, Anthony attended night school in New Canaan to study English and obtain a better understanding of American society and culture.

Anthony and Sandy went on to raise their family of four children in New Canaan while building their business. In 1972, he formed a residential home building company, Anthony Sillo Incorporated, which was well known for old world craftsmanship and consistently demonstrated a strong dedication to hard work and quality construction. Over many years his three sons worked for him and learned business and gained valuable experience. They all subsequently went on to form their own building businesses carrying on the important values, traditions and ideals. Anthony Sillo built over 80 homes for New Canaan families during his career. He showed tremendous pride in “his houses” and remained great friends with his customers for years to come.

Anthony and Sandy were truly committed to their family and extended families. They worked together to enjoy and perfect several interests and skills which they learned as young people in Italy. “Tony’s wine” and winemaking was a source of great pride and ultimately, inspiration for his sons and grandsons who carry on the tradition. Anthony and Sandy also made homemade prosciutto, sausages, “jarred tomatoes”, and other Italian delicacies which were, and are, integral to their upbringing and culture. They were avid and prolific gardeners whose fig trees, vegetable plants, flowers and beautiful landscaped yard

provided a wonderland for their eleven grandchildren to enjoy over the years.

In addition to his commitment to his family and to the New Canaan community, Anthony maintained a close connection with his hometown and his heritage over the years by visiting Italy several times and participating in the 700-year-old historical religious festival (Festival in honor of Madonna di Cannito) which reveres the Assumption of Mary each year in August. He also contributed to the local Italian American community by serving as President of the Columbus Center of New Canaan. Anthony was very interested in politics, and followed world economies, current events and business as evidenced by his interest in news casts and nightly news shows.

Anthony and Sandy were very proud to have become citizens of the United States of America.

Anthony is survived by his wife of 66 years Alessandra Sillo of New Canaan, son Michael Sillo of New Canaan, son Rocco Sillo (Johanna) of New Canaan, daughter Donna Socci (Joseph) of New Canaan, son Anthony Sillo Jr. (Rachele) of New Canaan, brother Dominick Sillo (Leslie) of New Canaan, brother Joseph Sillo (Marnie) of New Hampshire, sister in law Marie Massarella of New Canaan, grandchildren: Anthony M. Sillo (Alexandria), Katheryn Vittoria (Joseph), Robert Sillo, Philip Socci (Taylor), Alessandra Socci, Alexander Sillo, Emma Sillo, Sandy Sillo, Ricky Sillo, Christie Sillo and Kimberly Sillo; as well as eight great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; and other beloved extended family. Anthony was predeceased by his parents, a brother Joseph Sillo in Italy, his mother-in-law and father-in-law Loreto and Donata Massarella, and his brother-in-law and best man Anthony Massarella.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at St Aloysius Roman Catholic Church, New Canaan, followed by internment at St. John Cemetery Norwalk, Norwalk.

James Lisher



James L. Lisher (“Jim”) passed away on November 12, 2025 at the age of 87. He lived a long and vibrant life and was an active and engaged leader in the New Canaan community for over 40 years.

Born in Topeka, Kansas on March 17, 1938 to Claude and Eula Lisher, he was raised in Kansas with his brother Ray. He graduated from Kansas State

University in Manhattan, KS before serving in the Army as a Second Lieutenant in the signal corps in Fort Monmouth, NJ.

After his Army service, Jim went on to pursue a career in brand management and marketing, starting his career at Proctor & Gamble (“P&G”) in Cincinnati, Ohio. After several years at P&G, he moved to Chicago and then to New York City with RJR Nabisco, where he founded Lisher & Company, his own brand management and marketing consulting firm.

Post his successful business career, Jim became extremely active and engaged in various non-profits in the State of Connecticut, and the New Canaan community, more specifically. He served for 10-years as Chairman of the Town Health & Human Services Commission and also served as Chair of the Aging Commission. He also chaired several studies for the Board of Selectmen on Senior Health Care & Housing needs, which resulted in the New Canaan Optimal Livable Community Plan. As part of the plan, he helped create the iSTEP Tele-Health Program. This program was recognized as a CT Livable Community Best Practice and Jim was recognized with the Silver Source Fairfield County Innovation Award. In parallel to the Tele-Health program, Jim also served on a multi-state team securing funding for a CT low-income seniors health program called TIPS.

Jim was also extremely active in workforce development and career support in Fairfield County and the state of Connecticut, more broadly. Jim previously served as Board Chairman of Career Resources, Inc. (“CRI”), a job training non-profit serving low-income unemployed people with offices across the state. In 1998 he founded the STRIVE job training program in CT for the hardest-to-employ (merging with CRI in 2003). He also founded CaTS, the Career Transition Support group to help support others in Fairfield County with their job searches.

Jim was an active and long-standing member of the New Canaan Men’s Club and was named their 2019 Distinguished New Canaan Man. He also served on the Boards of several local organizations, including Waveny LifeCare Network, The New Canaan Inn, The World Affairs Forum and The Bridge Fund of New York. He was also an active member of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, The Gridiron Club, the New Canaan Roundtable and The Lake Club.

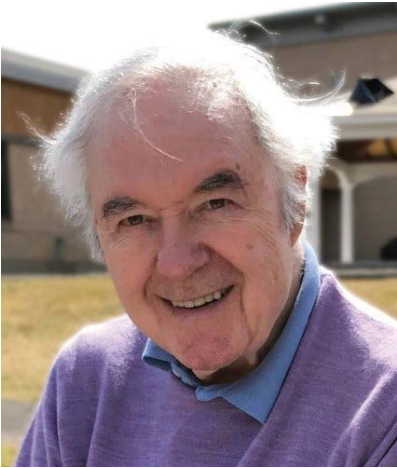
When not serving the community he loved, Jim could be found on various tennis courts throughout Fairfield County. Tennis was a lifelong passion which he pursued until the very end. He will be remembered fondly for his generosity, humility and the countless lives he touched through friendship, mentorship, faith and service.

He is survived by his loving family: his wife of 53 years, Eleanor; daughter Lauren; daughter-in-law Gwen;

son Erik; daughter-in-law Andrea; granddaughters Alexa and Avery; and grandsons Jack and Jamie. Jim loved his family dearly and was a constant presence at his grandkids’ sporting events, dance competitions and school concerts.

A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2025 at 11 a.m. at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 111 Oenoke Ridge in New Canaan, CT. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Jim’s memory to St. Mark’s Episcopal Church or Career Resources, Inc.

Thomas Creighton



Born in London, England, Thomas F. Creighton passed away on November 8, 2025, at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife, Joanne; his son, William, and his wife, Lisa, of New Canaan, CT; his grandchildren, Wesley and Rose; and his sister-in-law, Judith May, of Washington, DC. He was predeceased by his brothers William and Henry.

Tom spent his first 30 years in the UK, where he earned an LLB degree from the London School of Economics and served as a solicitor with a London law firm. In early 1968, he met Joanne and accompanied her back to the United States when she assumed a teaching position at Wayne State University in Detroit. They married and spent the first 17 years of their 57-year marriage in Detroit, where Tom worked for the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

In 1976, they joyfully welcomed their son, William, into the world. Ever supportive of Joanne’s career, the family moved to Greensboro, NC in 1985, and five years later to Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. In 1995, they began a 15-year sojourn at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA, followed by two years at Haverford College in Pennsylvania. Through every move, Tom was unfailingly flexible, accommodating, and good-humored. Always ready to travel, the couple enjoyed frequent trips back to London and journeys to many European countries, as well as to Kenya, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Hong Kong, and the UAE.

In 2018, Tom and Joanne settled in Ridgefield, CT. Tom often spoke of the pleasure he found in being in Ridgefield, close to family, and relaxing in his comfortable chair with a good book, a laptop, and a nice cup of tea. British to the core and yet happy to be an American, he entertained family and friends with his witty

commentary on the political turmoil of both countries.

He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, quiet strength, and loyalty. He was deeply beloved by family and friends.

Services will be held privately. Kane Funeral Home is in care of arrangements.

Pamela Martine



On September 6, 2025, Pamela Jay Martine quietly drew her last breath, her difficult struggle with Alzheimer’s disease was finally over. She died at home in New Canaan with the things she cherished.

Pam’s love of beautiful things led her to the world of antiques and eventually to become an antiques dealer. Her eye, while informed by many, was natural and uniquely her own. Pam was drawn to an object by its design, form, often its surface, sometimes by its colors – from rusted iron to painted wood, from soft textiles to carved stone, arranged by her hands they blended to a harmonious whole.

Pam spent the last five and a half decades living life alongside her husband and best friend, Gene. Pam also leaves her brother Kim Rynier Prall and her niece Pamela Prall Fontaine and her niece’s three children.

Born July 18, 1946, Pam’s parents were Robert Claude Prall and Jacqueline Brown Prall of Greenwich, CT. She was predeceased by her brothers Robert Prall and Lucian Prall and her nephew James Prall.

In her final years Pam was cared for by loving people from Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Services of Fairfield County (Elsie, Josseline, Sherline, and Nadege) and Waveny LifeCare Network/Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County (Amanda and Lori).

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.

VFW Seeks Volunteers and Donations for Wreath Laying at Lakeview

Volunteers are wanted to assist VFW Post 653 in New Canaan to lay wreaths at the graves of deceased veterans at Lakeview Cemetery in order to honor and remember their service. All are welcome to participate on Saturday, November 29, from 8am to 10am at the Lakeview Cemetery on Main Street in New Canaan. Please gather at the lower veterans section no later than 7:50am (from the Millport Avenue/Main Street entrance, over the bridge and straight forward). Refreshments will be served.

The annual effort is supported financially by the Exchange Club, which provides the wreaths at cost, money raised from poppy sales over Memorial Day weekend and private donations. Post 653 uses fundraising proceeds to pay for wreaths and flags that are laid during the Christmas season and on Memorial Day on all known veterans’ graves at Lakeview and other cemeteries in New Canaan.

If you know of a recently deceased veteran buried in New Canaan or if you would like to contribute to the annual cost of purchasing over 1,200 wreaths and bows, please contact

Mike McGlinn at 203-962-1302 or email at Michael@mcglinnins.com.

Donations to the New Canaan VFW (a 501(c)3 non-profit) can be made via check to: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 653 P.O. BOX 653 New Canaan, CT 06840 Or use the following link to Donate: <https://vfwpost653.square.site> Historical Background

On a cold night in late February 1921, a handful of young veterans of World War I met in New Canaan town hall to organize their newly chartered Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. At the time, it was one of the earliest Posts in Connecticut.

A century later, the Post, now known as the Howard M. Bossa and Peter C. Langenus Post 653, remains active in promoting and organizing civic and patriotic programs for New Canaan, including organizing and leading the annual Memorial Day Parade and ceremony at Lakeview, Veteran’s Day services at the Wayside Cross on God’s Acre and the placing of flags and wreaths on the almost 1,200 graves of veterans in New Canaan’s

many cemeteries. Post 653 also engages with local students and provides support and resources to community veterans.

Today, the Post is led by Francis “Mike” McGlinn as Commander. Serving with him are Aaron Hall, Sr. Vice Commander, John Kowalski, Quartermaster, Paul Gjuraj, Junior Vice Commander, Brian van der Heyden, Chaplain, Adjutant Russ Kimes and Trustees, Scott Barnard, Frank Gallo and Leon Krolikowski. The Post meets at the Masonic Lodge at 231 Main Street on the second Tuesday each month at 7PM.

Mr. McGlinn, who served as an Artillery Officer during the Vietnam War, commented “The VFW never forgets a veteran and we will continue to honor and respect all veterans, living and deceased, here in New Canaan. Our community projects help strengthen the respect for the flag and honor all our local deceased veterans with a wreath at Christmas, and a flag at Memorial Day, on every veteran gravesite. Being a member of the VFW is an honor, and the members share a special bond because of their combat experience.”

The Post is named after two of New Canaan’s most celebrated veterans – Howard M. Bossa, a standout athlete at New Canaan High School who died in 1918 while serving in the U. S. Army in World War I; and Peter C. Langenus, a veteran of both the Vietnam War and Desert Storm and long-time community leader with the VFW and Boy Scouts. Colonel Langenus was the commander of Post 653 until he passed away in 2020.

The VFW traces its roots to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection formed local organizations to assist them in securing medical care and other benefits. The main veteran’s group at the time, the Grand Army of the Republic, catered exclusively to Civil War veterans. These independent groups banded together in 1914 to form the VFW which received a congressional charter in 1936. Today, there are 1.6 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in 6,200 Posts worldwide.



By Scott Herr

In 1557, Spaniards besieged the small French town of St. Quentin, in Picardie. Admiral Gaspard de Coligny, the Huguenot leader (whose statue you can see in front of the Église réformée de l'Oratoire du Louvre in Paris) was able to defend the town from the Spanish invaders for a while, but the city walls were in ruins; fever and famine plagued the people. The Spaniards shot over the walls a shower of arrows to which they had attached little slips of parchment promising that if the townspeople surrendered, their lives and property would be spared. The mayor of the town was a devout French Protestant. He responded by tying a piece of parchment to a javelin and hurled it back to the Spaniards. On the parchment was a message: *Regem habemus* — “We have a King!”

That true story comes to mind every year around this

time. Sunday, Nov. 23, marks the end of the Christian liturgical year and is called “Christ the King Sunday.” This year is the 100th anniversary of the most recent “feast day” of the Christian calendar and its history and meaning is more relevant than just another religious anecdote or holiday.

“Christ the King Sunday” was established in 1925 by Pope Pius XI to give witness against growing fascism and nationalism in Europe. Benito Mussolini founded the National Fascist Party (PNF) and served as Prime Minister of Italy as of the “March on Rome” in 1922. Mussolini established a totalitarian regime and inspired the rise of other fascist movements across Europe. Pope Pius XI also noted Adolph Hitler’s release from prison and return to Munich to revive the Nazi Party in December of 1924. The Nazis had been banned following the Beer Hall Putsch in November of 1923, a failed coup d’état by Hitler and other nationalist leaders in Munich. After his release, Hitler

We Have a King!

Christ the King empties himself of worldly power. Christ the King gives up his life so that others might live.

and the Nazis established new organizations, including the infamous Schutzstaffel (SS) in 1925, which initially served as his personal bodyguards until he took power in January of 1933.

The feast day was moved by Pope Paul VI to the last Sunday before Advent in 1970, and the Anglican Church, Lutherans, Presbyterians and Methodists all joined in adding this Feast Day to our calendars. “Christ the King” serves as a reminder to all Christians that *Regem habemus* — “We have a King!”

The papal encyclical “Quas Primas,” in which the “Christ the King” holiday was introduced, merely echoes the bold claims of the New Testament. For example, in Paul’s letter to the Philippians, he writes about Jesus, “...though he was in the form of God, did

not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:6-10).

And we read in the Revelation of John that at the conclusion of history, Christ will be “King of kings, and Lord of lords” (Rev. 19:16). It should be noted, especially with respect to people of other faiths or no

faith at all, throughout the New Testament, we learn that Christ is a spectacularly different kind of “King.” Christ the King empties himself of worldly power. Christ the King gives up his life so that others might live.

Sadly, we still live in a world besieged with hardship, suffering, and evil attacks. Polish poet and Nobel Prize winner Czeslaw Milosz used the word “cruel” to describe the 20th century. Cruel indeed! The 20th century saw more deaths by human cause than in all the rest of history, thanks to the likes of Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, and Mao, to name a few of the more infamous recent despots. Sadly, we still live with the threat of leaders who want to assert absolute power. And we know, “power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

Although many people see faith as a personal issue, who rules in a society is a matter that affects us all. I believe Christians need to take our faith more seriously, and commit our allegiance and actions to align

with the character and priorities of Christ the King revealed in the Scriptures, the one who declared, “I came not to be served, but to serve.”

Our future depends on it. Just ask an atheist! Christopher Caldwell, in his book *Reflections on the Revolution in Europe*, published in 2009, quotes the prominent German philosopher Jürgen Habermas (an atheist), as acknowledging, “Christianity, and nothing else, is the ultimate foundation of liberty, conscience, human rights, and democracy, the benchmarks of Western civilization. To this we have no other options. We continue to nourish ourselves from this source. Everything else is postmodern chatter.”

As awkward as it may be to talk about kings in our current political climate, for Christians anyway, it’s a moot point: *Regem habemus!*

The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr is one of the pastors at the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan.

Worship Directory and Services

UPDATE SERVICES AND ADD SPECIAL EVENTS TO THIS CALENDAR AT

www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/worship-calendar-updates

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

682 South Avenue 203.966.5849

www.ComeUntoChrist.org

Sunday Service: 9:00 AM

Congregational Church

23 Park Street 203.966.2651

office@godsacre.org

www.godsacre.org

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

Recurring Events:

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

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM: Bible Study

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

First Church of Christ, Scientist

49 Park Street 203.966.0293

christiansciencect.org/newcanaan

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

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

First Presbyterian Church

178 Oenoke Ridge Road 203.966.0002

fpcnc.org

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

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

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:

December 14 at 5 PM: A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols. Carols and hymns are sung by the Choir and by all.

Followed by a festive reception. No ticket or registration required.

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

Upcoming Events:

November 26 at 7 PM: Thanksgiving Eve Worship.

Trinity Church

New Canaan | Darien

1800 E. Putnam Ave, Old Greenwich

203.618.0808

info@trinitychurch.life

www.trinitychurch.life

Join us **Sundays at 10 a.m.** at Greenwich Hyatt Regency 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. The service is also available on livestream via Youtube, Sundays at 10:00 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.

Recurring Events:

Mens Breakfast at 8:45 AM: The United Methodist Church invites all men to our Men's Breakfast, held on the first Sunday of every month. Enjoy fellowship, good food, and meaningful conversation as we share time together in faith and friendship.

Community Baptist Church

174 Cherry Street 203.966.0711

cbcnewcanaan@gmail.com

www.cbcnewcanaan.org

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZ2UNa8aHI3O_Syp_X0KDg

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

Sunday School at 10:00am

Worship Service at 11:00am

Live Facebook Broadcast 11:30 am

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.templestainaistamford.org

Service Schedule:

1st, 3rd & 5th Friday – 6pm in person and via zoom

2nd & 4th – 7:30pm

Recurring Events:

Fridays at 12 PM: Torah Study

Second Saturday at 10:30 AM: Mussar

First and Third Fridays at 5:30 PM: Shabbat Service for Families with Young Children

First Saturday at 8 AM: Avodat Halev Discussion Group

Temple Shalom

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>

Health Director Outlines Town’s Health Priorities

Director of Health, New Canaan Health Department



An assessment of New Canaan's current health, any illnesses headed our way, getting vaccinated, and available health services and resources.

By SENTINEL STAFF

New Canaan's new director of health, Amy Lehaney, used a Nov. 7 talk to the New Canaan Men's Club to sketch the town's overall health profile and explain how a small staff monitors everything from septic systems and wells to restaurant kitchens, disease outbreaks and mental health trends.

Lehaney, who joined New Canaan in June after serving as health director in Monroe and working in Bridgeport, Stamford and Fairfield, told members she is “super excited to come and be in New Canaan” and has “really enjoyed” her first five months. Trained in environmental science at St. Bonaventure University with a master's in public health from Southern Connecticut State University, she described herself as a “working director of health” who still conducts inspections in the field.

She outlined a lean department headquartered at Vine Cottage on Main Street: herself as director, medical director Dr. Jaime Ruszkowski, administrative assistant and Phase I sanitarian Debra Katz, sanitarians and health program planners Shannon Vallerie and Kelsi McCarthy, and part-time public health nurse Ellen Samai. The team, she said, aims to function “behind the scenes” so that most of its work is invisible

unless something goes wrong.

Much of the department's effort falls under environmental health, which Lehaney called “the backbone of a small local health department.” In 2024, staff handled 92 septic permits, 142 septic plan reviews and 429 building-permit reviews tied to on-site sewage systems. For the many New Canaan homes on septic, the department conducts soil testing, percolation tests and inspections, and must sign off on building projects to ensure existing systems can handle additional bedrooms or finished space.

The department also regulates private wells and public drinking-water wells that serve multiple users, such as schools and camps. When a new well is sited, staff check that it can be protected within a 75-foot radius from nearby septic systems. Lehaney urged homeowners on wells to test their water at least every year or two, reminding the audience, “You are the water company when you own your well.”

Food and personal-care establishments form another large part of the workload. The Health Department licenses 104 food service establishments in town, from full-service kitchens to pharmacies that sell limited groceries, and inspects them between once and four times a year depending on risk level

and population served. Each visit, she said, is “a snapshot in time,” and trends over multiple inspections give a truer picture of how an establishment operates. Inspectors focus on food temperatures, hand-washing, sourcing and storage, and spend extra time on cooling and reheating procedures, where serious errors are most likely. The department also oversees 43 licensed salons and 22 public pools, and responds to complaints about rental housing conditions, rodents, garbage, mosquitoes and hoarding, often in partnership with other town departments.

Community health programs are the public-facing side of the department's work. Staff lead monthly Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) suicide-prevention trainings at Lapham Center and the library, with McCarthy joining Vallerie as a certified instructor. The department runs health-education programs at Lapham and other venues on topics such as health literacy and understanding medical studies, and has expanded its presence on Facebook and Instagram to deliver timely guidance.

Lehaney highlighted a newer service: tick identification. Residents can bring ticks to Vine Cottage, where staff use a microscope to determine whether they are dog ticks,

deer ticks or Asian longhorned ticks. Only deer ticks are sent to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for lab testing, which helps avoid overwhelming the state lab with samples that do not carry Lyme disease.

The department also offers basic clinical services. The public health nurse conducts screenings at Lapham and Vine Cottage for blood pressure, blood sugar, pulse oximetry and A1C, with the goal of early detection and referral to primary-care providers. Through the federal Vaccines for Children program, the town provides free vaccines for anyone under 18 so students can meet school requirements. Adult COVID-19 vaccination clinics that operated during the pandemic have ended because the town cannot bill insurers.

Disease surveillance occupies much of the department's background work. Lehaney showed members a national wastewater surveillance map now tracking measles, one of several tools that grew out of COVID-19, and pointed to the state's weekly respiratory disease report, which helps local health departments monitor COVID-19, influenza and RSV trends and hospital strain. Staff also use a secure state database to follow up on reportable conditions,

especially foodborne illnesses such as salmonella, E. coli, campylobacter and norovirus.

When a resident is diagnosed with a foodborne illness, health officials interview them about what they ate and where they shopped in the days before becoming sick. Combined with lab comparisons of bacterial strains, those interviews help investigators link scattered cases to a single product, such as the recent listeria outbreak tied to frozen pasta. Locally, the department also investigates outbreaks linked to catered events or parties, interviewing guests and staff, reviewing menus and food handling, and sometimes collecting food samples.

Emergency preparedness and communication remain central responsibilities. The Health Department maintains plans for bioterrorism scenarios such as anthrax or smallpox, pandemic influenza and weather-related disasters. Lehaney said the department works closely with New Canaan's emergency management officials and conducts drills to test call-down procedures and plans for New Canaan Alerts and to follow Health Department messages on town channels and social media.

Looking ahead, Lehaney said public health faces three notable challenges: erosion of trust, the return of preventable diseases and declining federal funding. Vaccine hesitancy, spurred by shifting guidance and misinformation, has spread beyond COVID-19 to long-standing interventions such as fluoridated drinking water. As an example, she cited Calgary, Canada, where officials removed fluoride from the water supply in 2011 and later saw a sharp rise in dental problems among children before voting to restore it this year. She also

said measles cases have risen to more than 1,600 across 42 jurisdictions and that 2024 whooping cough cases were six times higher than in 2023, including two infant deaths in Louisiana.

During a question-and-answer session, Lehaney said New Canaan posts restaurant inspection reports in the town's Documents on Demand system and urged residents to look at patterns over time rather than judging a single visit. She confirmed that Aquarion public water supplies are regulated and tested by the state, while private well owners should continue to rely on certified laboratories and use the Health Department for guidance.

She also outlined Connecticut's current school vaccination rules. The religious exemption ended in 2021, with only medical exemptions now allowed for new students, and recent kindergarten and seventh-grade data show New Canaan schools above 95 percent coverage for the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. Lehaney described close collaboration with Human Services, New Canaan CARES, the New Canaan Community Foundation and the New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance on hoarding cases, short-term counseling and training in mental-health first aid.

Responding to questions about drought and lawn chemicals, she emphasized that wells in town vary greatly in depth and draw from different aquifers, making routine well testing important, particularly when irrigation is heavy or nearby properties use fertilizer. Asked about seasonal illness, Lehaney told members that respiratory disease activity was only beginning to rise but reiterated standard advice: the Health Department continues to recommend annual flu shots for all eligible residents, available through primary-care offices and local pharmacies.

YOUR NEWS BRIEF CONTINUED From Page 1



Photo credit: Town of New Canaan Office of Emergency Management.

AROUND TOWN

Downtown Project



New Canaan is completing a project to improve the walkway between Elm Street and the rear parking lots, including a new staircase, accessible ramp, and dumpster enclosure. The rebuilt walkway is expected to be finished by late November. Call the Department of Public Works at (203) 594-3054 with any questions. Pictured: Dumpster enclosure as of November 12th. Photo credit: Town of New Canaan.

Leaf Collection

New Canaan's Public Works Department is collecting curbside leaves from properties of one acre or less through November 30, with no pickups after that deadline. Residents in two- and four-acre zones must compost their leaves on their own, but all residents and contractors can bring leaves to the town composting site on Lapham Road through December 13.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

Holiday Baking Class



On November 12, New Canaan Library partnered with Inclusive Together and Sweet P Bakery to offer an adaptive holiday cookie-baking class. Participants prepared and decorated cookies as part of the program. Photo credit: New Canaan Library.

SLOBs Help Staying Put

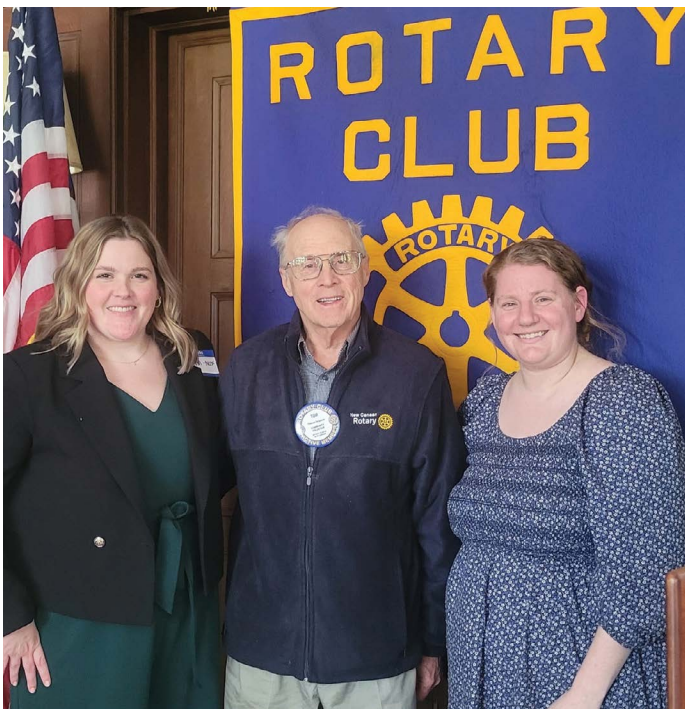


Recently, the New Canaan High School SLOBs helped Staying Put members store their patio furniture for the winter. Photo credit: Staying Put in New Canaan.

Greenspan Discussed Book

On November 16, author and baker Dorie Greenspan discussed her book Dorie's Anytime Cakes with Anna Francese Gass. Greenspan outlined the stories and process behind the recipes.

NCCF Presents to Rotary Club



Recently, Ann Rodwell-Lawton, VP of finance and operations, and Meg Soffen, program coordinator at the New Canaan Community Foundation, briefed the Rotary Club on current challenges facing local nonprofits. Rising costs, reduced funding, and staffing difficulties were identified as key issues in a survey of sixty organizations. Pictured L-R: Ann Rodwell-Lawton, Tom Ferguson, and Meg Soffen. Photo credit: New Canaan Rotary Club.

New Parking Explained to Staying Put

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Lina Lee Joins Rotary Club



Recently, the New Canaan Rotary Club welcomed

SCHOOLS

Aladdin Jr at Saxe



SLS Grennan Presents in Chicago



SLS Food Drive Donations



NCCS Beginners P.E. Program

SPORTS

NCHS Seniors Commit



ACROSS CT

Trek Bike Recall

Trek has recalled certain bicycles and replacement rear wheels after discovering that their coaster brakes may fail, posing a crash risk. The recall affects about 74,820 bikes sold in the U.S. and Canada between August 2023 and September 2025. Riders should stop using the affected models, check their serial number at https://www.trekbikes.com/us/en_US/coasterbrake-recall-inquiry/.

Picture yourself at the pinnacle of senior living.

A photograph of three residents in a large, bright atrium with a glass ceiling. A man in a patterned shirt stands between two seated women, all smiling and looking at each other. Lush green plants are visible in the background.

"The atrium is a beautiful place to read, enjoy the plants and socialize—there's a party here almost every week."

— Residents Doug D., Bob M. & Bezo M.

A photograph of a resident, Bob T., sitting at a table in an art class, looking at a painting on an easel. A woman, likely an instructor, stands next to him, pointing at the artwork.

"I enjoy the art classes at Meadow Ridge, where we receive helpful guidance on things like color schemes and layout."

— Bob T., Resident

A photograph of a resident, Joy S., standing in a room with blue walls, holding a small object. She is surrounded by various bottles and a framed abstract painting, suggesting an interior design or wine-tasting class.

"I studied interior design in New York, and when I moved in, I used that knowledge to make this apartment feel just right. It suits me perfectly."

— Joy S., Resident

A badge from U.S. News & World Report awarding Meadow Ridge as the "Best Continuing Care Retirement Community" for the year 2025.

Experience distinctive Independent Living.

Meadow Ridge residents enjoy a refined, maintenance-free lifestyle enriched with spacious apartment homes, impeccable service, locally sourced cuisine and a holistic approach to wellness.

The Meadow Ridge logo, which includes a stylized illustration of a bird perched on a branch.

**Meadow
Ridge**

A Distinctive Lifecare Community

To learn more or schedule a tour, call 203-456-8868 or visit LifeAtMeadowRidge.com

Three small icons: the Equal Housing Opportunity logo, the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) logo, and a "Pet-Friendly" logo with a paw print.

Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care | Sub-Acute Rehabilitation & Skilled Nursing

100 Redding Road | Redding, CT 06896 | Managed by Benchmark Senior Living



World-eminent surgeons caring for you, their neighbors

Robert E. Michler, MD

Surgeon-in-Chief, Chairman & Professor, Surgery and Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery, Montefiore Einstein

Robert Michler, MD, is an internationally acclaimed heart surgeon who specializes in complex heart surgery, aortic and mitral valve repair, and management of the failing heart. He has lived in Greenwich, Connecticut, for over 30 years.

Dr. Michler has focused his career on the development of new knowledge and surgical techniques for the treatment of complex heart disease. Dr. Michler lectures extensively, both nationally and abroad; is a regular expert opinion author; and has provided regular commentary

to NBC’s *Nightly News*, the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. Dr. Michler is a frequent contributor to the finest medical journals, including the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and he has long been an NIH-funded investigator.

Dr. Michler has been named a “Mitral Valve Repair Reference Surgeon” by the American Heart Association and the Mitral Foundation for the quality of his mitral valve surgery. This commendation is held by only a handful of U.S. heart surgeons.



REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD EDITOR

John Engel | John.Engel@Elliman.com

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD CONTRIBUTOR

Robyn Bonder | Robyn.Bonder@Elliman.com

FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

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

Address	Price	Day	Time	Broker
26 Pequot Lane	\$5,495,000	SUN	1:00-3:00	Coldwell Banker

NEW LISTINGS

Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
12 Lincoln Drive	\$1,095,000	2,156	\$508	.32	4	2

NEW SALES

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
85 Locust Ave #516	\$434,900	\$434,900	\$455,000	9	1	1	
254 Park Street	\$949,000	\$949,000	\$949,000	23	3	2	
592 Laurel Road	\$1,199,000	\$1,199,000	\$1,205,000	13	4	2	3.5
213 Marvin Ridge Road	\$2,350,000	\$2,199,000	\$2,100,000	61	4	3	2.14
66 Seminary Street	\$2,395,000	\$2,295,000	\$2,225,000	93	3	3	0.21
49 Ludlowe Road	\$2,695,000	\$2,695,000	\$2,700,000	22	4	3	2
72 Wellesley Drive	\$2,750,000	\$2,750,000	\$2,875,000	5	4	4	2.01

What If Your Mortgage Could Move With You?



BY JOHN ENGEL

For two years, the U.S. housing market has been defined by one stubborn fact: **Nobody wants to give up a 3% mortgage.**

Even as interest rates climbed above 7% this fall, the “lock-in effect” kept listings low and inventory throttled. Now that rates have drifted back toward 6% — with credible forecasts suggesting 5% mortgages sometime in 2026 — you might think sellers would finally loosen their grip.

They haven’t.

Across Fairfield County, would-be sellers are still doing the math: *If I move, my monthly payment doubles.* So, they stay put. Downsizing delayed. Job relocations postponed. That “move-up” plan put off indefinitely.

And while sellers are frozen by rates, policymakers are scrambling. New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani just ran — and won — on an *affordable housing* platform. In Connecticut, HB8002 dropped Friday, another attempt to tackle affordability. And on the national stage, Donald Trump floated 50-year mortgages, a tool Japan uses to lower monthly payments. The idea is not new, but the political timing is telling.

My favorite solution: there is early talk of portable mortgages, loans you carry with you from house to house, preserving your original interest rate. That one innovation alone would end the lock-in effect overnight.

Meanwhile, the rest of the world plays a completely different mortgage game. Japan stretches repayment periods to 50 years and, during the bubble years, even toyed with 100-

year, multi-generation loans. But that’s the outlier. In Europe, Canada, and Australia, a “fixed rate” usually means **five years**, not thirty. Most countries don’t offer 30-year fixed mortgages at all. Those short terms force people to refinance, move, and stay flexible. Our long-term fixed loans do the opposite: they create stability — and now, stasis.

The U.S. is the only major country where the 30-year fixed is mainstream, government-backed, widely available, and consumer-friendly. Why? Because other countries don’t have Fannie and Freddie, their banks won’t take decades of rate risk, and their central banks discourage ultra-long fixed terms.

This week on *Boroughs & Burbs* (Episode 209, “Creative Titles”), we heard a story out of Colorado that illustrates how all this pressure shows up at the household level. A homeowner accepted an offer, used it to purchase their next home, and went under contract. Then their buyer walked. Suddenly they owned two houses, two mortgages, and had no path forward.

Rather than default, they brought in a “partner” — a private individual who took title and made the payments until the home could be sold or rented. **Perfectly legal. Clearly a violation of the mortgage.** But faster and cheaper than foreclosure, and far less damaging to a credit score.

This is the gray zone a growing number of owners find themselves in: caught between a failed sale and a foreclosure, with no bridge product — financial or legal — that moves fast enough. It’s why “creative title”

companies are thriving in states where the system itself is more flexible.

And the same pressures that push homeowners into gray-area fixes also invite something darker. Fairfield County has seen a rise in impersonation attempts, including the well-known Fairfield case where a scammer sold a doctor’s land for \$350,000 and a \$1.45 million home

in cautious, attorney-driven states like Connecticut.

All of this raises a bigger question: **Why don’t we see more “creative” financing in Connecticut?**

The answer is simple.

Connecticut (and New York) are attorney states. Every transaction funnels through two lawyers whose job is to prevent anything that looks like risk, ambiguity, or rule-bending. Colorado, Florida, Texas, and much of the country are title company states. Their system is built for speed, not conservatism. If someone wants to add a silent partner, subordinate a lien, or engineer an unconventional workaround, the title system is more accommodating.

But the underlying pressures are the same everywhere:

1. Rates are still too high for mobility.

Even with current rates at 6%, a homeowner with a 3% loan is economically trapped. Until mortgage portability or creative products emerge, the lock-in effect will persist.

2. Failed sales require a true bridge solution.

When a buyer walks, the seller may still be on the hook for the next house. Bridge loans and HELOCs don’t always solve it. “Partners” and gray-market workarounds exist because the market is demanding them.

3. Affordability is now a political issue.

From Mamdani in New York to HB8002 in Hartford to the sudden appearance of 50-year mortgages in the national conversation, the pressure to

create new tools is building.

4. Fraud is rising because the incentives are rising.

A frozen market is fertile ground for impersonation scams. Criminals understand the value of land in this region — and the friction that slows the system is also what creates openings.

5. The system itself needs modernization.

Attorney closings provide due diligence and protection, but they also add cost, time, and rigidity. In a tighter, more volatile market, consumers need flexibility as well as protection.

Notes from the Monday Meeting:

We reduced the price on our Darien listing last week (one of only 20 houses for sale townwide) and saw 20 groups through the open house. Was it the price reduction? Or the Mamdani effect — people suddenly feeling that affordability is back on the table? Only one couple blamed Mamdani for the move. Momentum matters.

John Engel is a broker with the Engel Team at Douglas Elliman. This week, he is stacking logs and building fires. When he lived on a fifth of an acre, he bought his wood from Carlo, an 80-year-old from Redding who makes his own wine. Now, John lives on four acres. Trees fall all the time, about two cords each winter. John’s house, built c.1800, would have consumed somewhere between 20 to 40 cords a year in Colonial times, which meant maintaining a wood lot of 15 to 20 acres just for heating and cooking. Think about cutting 20 acres by hand with an axe! Today, we complain about high utility bills, when all we need is a sharper axe.

WHY MORTGAGES AREN’T PORTABLE

1. Fannie and Freddie don’t allow it.

Portable mortgages break their securitization model

2. The collateral changes.

If the home changes, the lender’s risk profile changes

3. The U.S. underwrites the property.

Mortgages here are designed to follow the home, not the borrower

4. Mortgage-backed securities require predictability.

Prepayment models assume selling or refinancing — not transferring mortgages

5. The legal ecosystem is property-specific.

A new title search and title insurance policy are required to move

was built before anyone realized what had happened. The developer had both an attorney and a title policy — but the policy covered only the land. It was a reminder that even conservative systems have blind spots.

These scams aren’t isolated incidents. I’ve personally witnessed four impersonation attempts, including one here in New Canaan just last month. None of them closed, but the frequency tells us something important: Fraud is becoming more sophisticated, even

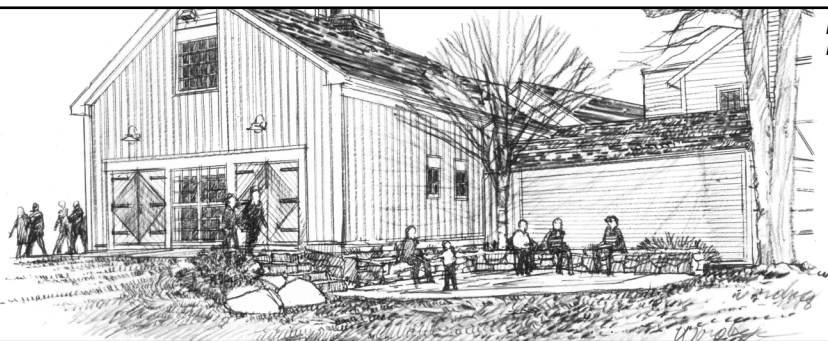


Submit questions and comments to John.Engel@Elliman.com



Keith E. Simpson
Associates

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
RESIDENTIAL DESIGN
PROJECT COORDINATION
LAND PLANNING



New Canaan
Historical Society



203.966.7071

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



Winter Out, *Bermuda In!*

**100% off* flights on
Bermuda getaway
packages from
New York.**

*Book by Dec. 6 and travel
Dec. 1, 2025 - Mar. 31, 2026.
Taxes and fees apply.

BOOK NOW

BERMUDA AIR + BERMUDA Δ
Holidays TOURISM AUTHORITY

*Offer valid for new bookings only. Airfare is 100% off from base fare. Promotional airfare is applicable on a 3 night stay minimum. Taxes and fees are the responsibility of the purchaser and are included in the total package price. This offer is only valid and applicable with the purchase of roundtrip airfare and one of the participating hotels. Valid on Economy Classic Fare. Routes include BDA-LGA, BDA-EWR, BDA-HPN, Offer valid for travel between December 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026. Book by December 6, 2025 11:59 PM AT. Subject to availability. Offer may be changed or withdrawn at any time.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN

Deck the Halls Advent Party

Sunday, November 30,
4:30 - 6:00 pm



Join us for Holiday Family Fun,
including Advent Wreath Making,
Gingerbread House Decorating,
Caroling and More!

Hot Cocoa & Refreshments Served!

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



SENTINEL
FOUNDATION



GAMES AND
PUZZLES



CROSSWORD
PUZZLES



YOUR
HOROSCOPE
FOR NEXT 2
WEEKS



WHAT TO DO:
COMPREHENSIVE
COMMUNITY
CALENDAR

Thursday, November 20, 2025

SPOTLIGHT on FAMILIES

brought to you by the Sentinel Foundation and its generous donors.

COLUMN WILDLY SUCCESSFUL: TURKEY

A Bird Peculiar to Our Country



By JIM KNOX

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



conservation measures for the bird within five years of the colony’s founding.

The wild turkey (meleagris gallopavo) is some bird! With a four-foot length, wingspan up to

five feet, and weight of up to 24 pounds, it impresses. Boasting a powder blue head, scarlet wattle, a long, silky feather “beard,” iridescent feathers of copper, green, and mahogany, and an eye-catching

tail fan, the males, or toms, are boldly marked. The females, or hens, are only slightly less colorful and smaller, adaptations to avoid detection while incubating their nests. These ground-dwelling birds are amazingly adaptable creatures represented by five subspecies throughout the United States, southern Canada, and Mexico. A native of forests, scrubland, grasslands, and swamps, the wild turkey thrives in a variety of habitats and climates. A true omnivore, the swift and sharp-eyed wild turkey subsists extremely well on what the land affords. Nearly any small living thing that grows or crawls frequently ends up on the menu. Preferred food items include grasses, seeds, bulbs, buds, stems, nuts, fruit, tubers, cacti, insects, worms, amphibians, lizards, fish, and even snakes.

A gregarious bird, the wild turkey’s success hinges upon that of its social structure, the flock. Fanning out and stalking the forest floor like a pack of velociraptors, the flock forages for plant matter and hunts for any small creature they can gobble down (you didn’t think I was going to pass on that one). This highly effective foraging behavior ensures that the collective keen eyes of the flock, mounted on the sides of the bird’s head for an astounding 270-degree field of

vision, miss few opportunities for prey. This also amounts to a great defense. Many eyes can detect the slightest movement of a crouching bobcat or a leaping coyote, while acute hearing – which can detect the sound of a hunter drawing a bow – serves the flock well. When danger is detected, the birds issue a putt, or alarm call, and run at 25 miles per hour, take flight to the safety of the nearest tree, or fly cross country at 50 miles per hour.

The chicks hatch with black-spotted buff, tan, and cream plumage – highly effective camouflage for their life along the forest floor – while the ever-vigilant adult members of the flock scan their environs for predators.

Should the mast (nut) production of the forest dip in a given year, these remarkably adaptable creatures simply shift gears to focus on other food items. As predators, these birds provide a restorative equilibrium to the landscape. (Juvenile turkeys, or poults, eat up to 76% of their diet in insect protein). Their seed dispersal properties are equally essential. Wild turkeys are known to disperse – and fertilize – more than 100 native species of grasses, fruit and nut trees!

They are indeed creatures worthy of environmental praise, yet they also impressed our founding fathers. It is true that Benjamin Franklin praised the wild turkey for its qualities, worthy of consideration as our national symbol. He asserted that the wild turkey would, “... not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his farm yard with a red coat on.”

In 1784, Mr. Franklin went on to describe the bird in a letter to his daughter, Sarah: “In truth, the turkey is in comparison [to the eagle] a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America. Eagles have been found in all countries, but the turkey was peculiar to ours.”

Additionally praised by laypeople for its good hunting and good eating qualities, the bird’s demand exceeded its population. As nonmigratory, flock-roosting birds, turkeys became big targets with an everhungry and eager market. Unfortunately, the bird’s

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

While many admire the turkey for its pluck, I admire it for its resilience. It is a poster species for robust recovery through conservation. Due in large part to the PittmanRobertson Act of 1937, which put a tax on sporting arms and ammunition that funded wildlife conservation efforts, the birds began to slowly yet inexorably rebound.

Learning from the successes of our New England neighbors in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire, Connecticut released 356 birds at 18 sites statewide between 1975 and 1992. Today, every one of Connecticut’s 169 towns and cities has a flock of wild turkeys. I have observed them in parks in Hartford, neighborhoods in Bridgeport, and along the I-95 corridor in New Haven.

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

To me, the Wild turkey provides living proof that conservation can, and does, work. When we protect a species, we protect far more than a single creature or its population. We are protecting the land, its waters, and the wishes and rights of all citizens to enjoy the natural world. *Jim Knox serves as the Curator of Education for Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo and as a Science Adviser for The Bruce Museum. Jim shares his passion for working with the world’s wildlife with audiences and readers of all ages.*

HOYT'S HERE®

Hoyt Livery

(203) 966-LIMO (5466)

Book our world class limosines, car services, and airport transportation.

Reserve online at **HoytLivery.com**

Or call our client management team 24/7

(800) 342-0343



“Ms. Clampett, this personal check for \$3,000,000 is my thanks for teaching me algebra.”

This week's Calvin and Hobbes is in the print edition only.

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

TOWN MEETINGS
<u>Thursday, November 27</u>
Town Hall Closed for Thanksgiving
<u>Friday, November 28</u>
Town Hall Closed

November 21

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

Open Bridge with the Men’s Club
11:30 AM at the Lapham Center
Join for fun and friendly bridge games. Les Kurian and Phil Evensen will provide supervision and guidance for all skill levels. Whether you're an experienced player or completely new to the game, you are welcome to join. You do not have to be a member of the Men’s Club to play. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Blossom Hill Holiday Bazaar
5:30-9 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
This festive evening brings together the community for an evening of holiday shopping, seasonal refreshments, cocktails, and live music—all in support of Blossom Hill’s work providing education to displaced and at-risk children around the world. Tickets are \$50 and available at <https://blossomhill-foundation.org/bazaar>.

Legally Blonde the Musical
7 PM at New Canaan High School
Join for an unforgettable night of music, laughter, and girl-power energy as Elle Woods takes the stage on her journey from sorority queen to Harvard Law star. Tickets will be available at <https://shorturl.at/ks5Uh>.

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 their Holiday Market! There will be unique gifts items including jewelry, candles, and much more.

Legally Blonde the Musical
2 & 7 PM at New Canaan High School
Join for an unforgettable night of music, laughter, and girl-power energy as Elle Woods takes the stage on her journey from sorority queen to Harvard Law star. Tickets will be available at <https://shorturl.at/ks5Uh>.

November 23

Drop in Holiday Calligraphy Series
4-6 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Get holiday-ready with a festive, hands-on calligraphy course designed for adults of all levels. You can join the full series (November 23, 30, December 7 & 14) or drop in for individual sessions. More information is available at <https://carriagebarn.org/holiday-calligraphy-series/>.

November 24

Fall Yoga Session II
9:15 AM at the New Canaan Nature Center
Designed to connect movement with breath, her teaching fosters strength, flexibility, and mindfulness. Whether you’re a beginner or seasoned yogi, her class offers a rejuvenating journey for the body and mind, leaving you feeling grounded, energized, and centered. Join to connect, release tension, enhance focus, and leave feeling empowered and refreshed. Register at <https://shorturl.at/ypLKd>.

Open Bridge with the Men’s Club
10 AM at the Lapham Center
Join for fun and friendly bridge games. Les Kurian and Phil Evensen will provide supervision and guidance for all skill levels. Whether you're an experienced player or completely new to the game, you are welcome to join. You do not have to be a member of the Men’s Club to play. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Chair Yoga
11:30 AM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
With the support of a chair, this gentle Chair Yoga class will help you improve postural alignment, maintain pelvic mobility, reduce muscle tension and gain strength through flowing movements and focused breathing. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/chair-yoga-166685>.

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

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

Sit and Stitch with Aggie
2 PM at the Lapham Center
Learn tips on the best ways to embellish your project and how to use decorative stitches. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Film Screening: The Ice Storm
6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim and Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Join for a screening of Ice Storm. Runtime: 1hr, 52 minutes. Rated R. Register at <https://shorturl.at/iuhn7>.

November 25

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

Cooking & Crafting: Thanksgiving Edition
4 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday at this special afternoon cooking class with Jane Mossa of The Pink Rhubarb. Kids ages 7 & up will make 6” apple crumb pies from scratch to take home and bake. Guided by Jane, this fun and educational experience goes beyond just following a recipe — kids will explore creativity and learn the balance of flavors and textures. Tickets are \$55/members, \$60/non-members, and available at <https://shorturl.at/xriBa>.

November 28

THERE WILL BE NO COFFEE AND CONVERSATION
8:30 AM at the Lapham Center

Seasonal Music
2 PM at Grace Farms
Drop into the Sanctuary during your visit to enjoy improvisational performances of seasonal music from local artists, suited for the whole family. Registration is not required.

November 29

Weekend Waddle| Last Saturdays on the Trail
10 AM at the New Canaan Nature Center, Visitor Center
Join the NCNC and NCLT for a brisk, post-holiday walk through the NCNC trails and the scenic Greenlink Trail. Enjoy light refreshments after the walk. This is a free program and registration is required at <https://shorturl.at/sgToL>.

Seasonal Music
2 PM at Grace Farms
Drop into the Sanctuary during your visit to enjoy improvisational performances of seasonal music from local artists, suited for the whole family. Registration is not required.

Classical Piano Holiday Concert
7 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Join a special evening of holiday and classical music. Pianist Joe Bush returns for an evening featuring Tchaikovsky, Beethoven and Rachmaninoff and holiday tunes. Tickets are \$35/adults and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/joe-bush-holiday/>.

November 30

The Silhouette Lady
11 AM- 3 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Deborah O’Connor crafts exquisite, heirloom-quality silhouette portraits with breathtaking detail—all in just minutes. Each intricately cut profile captures the essence of its subject, creating a timeless piece of art that will be treasured for generations. Make an appointment to have beautiful hand-cut silhouette portraits created for your family. Register at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/silhouette/>.

Opening Day of Deck the Walls | Artists Sunday
12-4 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Join opening day of the Deck The Walls Exhibition and artists sunday. Shop for artwork, and a selection of handmade holiday ornaments, cards and gifts. More information is available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/deck-the-walls-opening-sunday/>.

Drop in Holiday Calligraphy Series
4-6 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Get holiday-ready with a festive, hands-on

calligraphy course designed for adults of all levels. You can join the full series (November 23, 30, December 7 & 14) or drop in for individual sessions. More information is available at <https://carriagebarn.org/holiday-calligraphy-series/>.

SAVE THE DATE

December 1

Fall Yoga Session II
9:15 AM at the New Canaan Nature Center
Designed to connect movement with breath, her teaching fosters strength, flexibility, and mindfulness. Whether you’re a beginner or seasoned yogi, her class offers a rejuvenating journey for the body and mind, leaving you feeling grounded, energized, and centered. Join to connect, release tension, enhance focus, and leave feeling empowered and refreshed. Register at <https://shorturl.at/ypLKd>.

Open Bridge with the New Canaan Men’s Club
10 AM at the Lapham Center
Join for fun and friendly bridge games. Les Kurian and Phil Evensen will provide supervision and guidance for all skill levels. Whether you're an experienced player or completely new to the game, you are welcome to join. You do not have to be a member of the Men’s Club to play. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Chair Yoga
11:30 AM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
With the support of a chair, this gentle Chair Yoga class will help you improve postural alignment, maintain pelvic mobility, reduce muscle tension and gain strength through flowing movements and focused breathing. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/chair-yoga-166686>.

Advanced Excel for Data Analysis: Pivot Charts and Tables
6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
This advanced, hands-on session will show you how to organize large data sets, create dynamic summaries, and design clear visualizations using slicers, filters, and formatting tools to uncover key insights. Beginning Excel knowledge is required to participate fully in this class. Register at <https://shorturl.at/3LkI3>.

December 2

Holiday Wreath Workshop
10:30 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Design and decorate your 20-inch handmade, organic and seasonal wreath made of greens like cypress, fir, eucalyptus, and boxwood topped with natural elements. Light refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$135/members, \$150/non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/wreath-workshop-wild-iris/>.

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

Tom Freston presents Unplugged
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Join for an evening with Tom Freston in conversation with Holly Parmelee. Unplugged: Adventures from MTV to Timbuktu is a freewheeling and riveting memoir from founder Tom Freston. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/tom-freston-hold-163478>.

December 3

Drop in Holiday Calligraphy Series
12-2 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Get holiday-ready with a festive, hands-on calligraphy course designed for adults of all levels. You can join the full series (November 12, 19, December 3 & 10) or drop in for individual sessions. More information is available at <https://carriagebarn.org/holiday-calligraphy-series/>.

Candlelight Yoga and Movement with Pilin Anice
3:30 PM at Grace Farms
This special candlelight class aims to inspire tranquility and provide a moment of reflection through a breath-centered yoga practice that incorporates live music. Accessible for all levels.Participants may bring their own mats, towels, props, and water. Tickets are \$20/members, \$25/non-members, and available at <https://shorturl.at/fh9tv>.

Classical Holiday Favorites
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Enhance your enjoyment of classical holiday favorites including Handel’s Messiah, Bach’s Christmas Oratorio, Mozart’s Magic Flute, and Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker by learning about these composers and their music. Register at <https://shorturl.at/N4QDZ>.

December 4

Clever and Crafty Workshops | Gingerbread Houses
1 PM at the Lapham Center
Learn new skills while creating beautiful, handmade gingerbread houses with Tricia from Clever and Crafty. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Paint & Sip | Holiday Ornaments Workshop
6:30 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Craft 2-3 unique ornaments using vibrant paints, sparkling glitter, colorful ribbons, and other decorative materials. All supplies provided, BYO beverage of choice. Tickets are \$35 and available at <https://shorturl.at/nTh8V>.

Opening Night of Charlotte’s Web
7 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
The Children’s Literature Association named Charlotte’s Web "the best American children’s book of the past 200 years". Joseph Robinette, working with the advice of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. This is a beautiful, knowing play about friendship. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

Dream School: Finding the College That’s Right for You
7-8:30 PM in the New Canaan High School Auditorium
Discover insights directly from Jeffrey Selingo as he offers families guidance on finding the best-fit college in today’s rapidly changing admissions landscape. Learn how to evaluate schools beyond prestige, focusing on value, hands-on learning, mentorship, and a sense of belonging. This event is free for the community to attend and will conclude with a Q&A session for audience questions.

Holiday Live Wreath Decorating Workshop
7-9 PM at the New Canaan Nature Center
Join for a festive evening of wreath decorating! A live balsom wreath will be provided to create a unique, one-of-a-kind holiday treasure, using a delightful array of nature’s bounty. Tickets are \$90 (includes all materials required for class) and available at <https://shorturl.at/YuF0D>.

December 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.

Open Bridge with the Men’s Club
11:30 AM at the Lapham Center
Join for fun and friendly bridge games. Les Kurian and Phil Evensen will provide supervision and guidance for all skill levels. Whether you're an experienced player or completely new to the game, you are welcome to join. You do not have to be a member of the Men’s Club to play. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Gifting for Good
4 & 6 PM at Grace Farms
In the spirit of giving, gather with friends, family, and fellow community members to assemble care packages. This night offers festive music, warm tea, and engaging winter crafts for all ages to enjoy. Register at <https://shorturl.at/F6IMn>.

Holiday Stroll
5:30-8:30 PM in Downtown New Canaan
The Stroll functions as New Canaan’s answer to “Small Business Saturday”. Walk under the lights, browse in the stores, watch a show performed by young local talent, eat delicious food, and take a selfie with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The Little Plucky’s 2 Year Anniversary
6 PM at the Little Plucky
Go stop by during the New Canaan Holiday Stroll for cocktails and delicious bites. Shoppers will receive a complimentary gift with purchase PLUS 10% off on all sales made.

Charlotte’s Web
7 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
The Children’s Literature Association named Charlotte’s Web "the best American children’s book of the past 200 years". Joseph

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

Robinette, working with the advice of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. This is a beautiful, knowing play about friendship. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

December 6

Holiday Stroll
10 AM- 3 PM in Downtown New Canaan
Catch up with Santa who will be at Houlihan Lawrence. While the children wait to share their wish list with Santa, they will be entertained by a magician making balloon animals.

Family Drop-In: Winter Wonderland
10 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Join for a Winter Wonderland of crafts, stories, and seasonal fun for all ages. There will be festive crafts and a special winter story with Miss Rebecca from the library. Register at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/familydropin/>.

Charlotte’s Web
7 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
The Children's Literature Association named Charlotte's Web "the best American children's book of the past 200 years". Joseph Robinette, working with the advice of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. This is a beautiful, knowing play about friendship. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

December 7

Cookie Decorating
1 PM at Grace Farms
Decorate winter-inspired cookies with the entire family. Cookies will be provided. Tickets are \$12/ members, \$15/non-members, and available at <https://shorturl.at/8nt2L>.

Charlotte’s Web
2 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
The Children's Literature Association named Charlotte's Web "the best American children's book of the past 200 years". Joseph Robinette, working with the advice of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. This is a beautiful, knowing play about friendship. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

Holiday Concert with Whim n’ Rhythm
3 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Join a festive afternoon of music & wine to kick-off the Holiday season. The NCHS Madrigal Ensemble will open the concert and perform three numbers to kick off the afternoon. Tickets are \$35/members, \$40/non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/holiday-whim-n-rhythm/>.

Drop in Holiday Calligraphy Series
4-6 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Get holiday-ready with a festive, hands-on calligraphy course designed for adults of all levels. You can join the

full series (November 23, 30, December 7 & 14) or drop in for individual sessions. More information is available at <https://carriagebarn.org/holiday-calligraphy-series/>.

December 8

December Candlelit Sound Bath
6:30 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
After a brief grounding meditation, you’ll be enveloped in a symphony of harmonious vibrations, produced by an assortment of crystal and Himalayan singing bowls, chimes, gongs, drums and more. Tickets are \$40/person and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/candlelit-sound-bath-6/>.

December 9

Yale Alley Cats A Cappella Performance
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Get in the spirit with a holiday performance by the Yale Alley Cats, the globally-renowned cappella singing group from Yale University that has been making music around the world since their founding in 1943. Register at <https://shorturl.at/BNQo2>.

December 10

Drop in Holiday Calligraphy Series
12-2 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Get holiday-ready with a festive, hands-on calligraphy course designed for adults of all levels. You can join the full series (November 12, 19, December 3 & 10) or drop in for individual sessions. More information is available at <https://carriagebarn.org/holiday-calligraphy-series/>.

United Nations Lecture
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
The program will begin with a recorded message from the United Nations Development Program’s Head of Office for Gaza, followed by a presentation by Dr. Maija Cheung, Assistant Professor of Surgery at Yale University and Chief Medical Officer for KidsOR. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/United-Nations-Action-in-Conflict>.

Annual Holiday Party
Waveny House
Save the date for the Lapham Center's Holiday Party. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

December 11

Holiday Card Making Workshop
10:30 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Join a watercolor holiday card making workshop. Get into the holiday spirit by crafting stunning watercolor holiday cards, gift tags or place cards. Register at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/holiday-card-making/>.

Ask the Attorney with Nedder and Associates
2-4 PM at the Lapham Center
An attorney from Nedder and Associates, LLC will be available for a free, private, fifteen-minute consultations to answer your legal or financial questions. Please call (203) 594-3620 to schedule your appointment.

New Canaan Chamber

Music | “The Magnificent Mendelssohn Octet”
3 P M at the First Presbyterian Church
The concert will be a veritable showcase of seasoned professionals and a quartet of rising stars. Tickets are available at <https://newcanaanchambermusic.org/tickets/>.

Charlotte’s Web
7 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
The Children's Literature Association named Charlotte's Web "the best American children's book of the past 200 years". Joseph Robinette, working with the advice of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. This is a beautiful, knowing play about friendship. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

December 12

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.

New Canaan Chamber Music | “The Magnificent Mendelssohn Octet”
7 P M at the First Presbyterian Church
The concert will be a veritable showcase of seasoned professionals and a quartet of rising stars. Tickets are available at <https://newcanaanchambermusic.org/tickets/>.

Charlotte’s Web
7 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
The Children's Literature Association named Charlotte's Web "the best American children's book of the past 200 years". Joseph Robinette, working with the advice of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. This is a beautiful, knowing play about friendship. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

The New England Academy of Dance Presents the Nutcracker Ballet
7 PM at the New Canaan High School Auditorium
Attend the New England Academy of Dance's Nutcracker Ballet, featuring the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are available at NEADance.com.

December 13

Winter Wonderland 2025
10 AM - 1 PM at the New Canaan Nature Center
Join and be transported into a whole new world as the New Canaan Nature Center transforms into a Winter Wonderland filled with fun and exciting winter holiday activities for the entire family. Registration will be available at <https://newcanaannature.org/winter-wonderland/>.

Grace Farms Holiday Market
10 AM & 5 PM at Grace Farms
Enjoy a festive day of shopping with a curated

selection of gifts. Register at <https://gracefarms.org/event/grace-farms-holiday-market>.

Sustainable Holiday Décor
11 AM at Grace Farms
Make one-of-a-kind holiday décor from living plants and other natural materials with the Grace Farms Garden Team. Tickets are \$50/ person and available at <https://shorturl.at/X9f2Z>.

The New England Academy of Dance Presents the Nutcracker Ballet
11 AM & 4 PM at the New Canaan High School Auditorium
Attend the New England Academy of Dance's Nutcracker Ballet, featuring the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are available at NEADance.com.

Charlotte’s Web
7 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
The Children's Literature Association named Charlotte's Web "the best American children's book of the past 200 years". Joseph Robinette, working with the advice of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. This is a beautiful, knowing play about friendship. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

December 14

The New England Academy of Dance Presents the Nutcracker Ballet
1 & 4 PM at the New Canaan High School Auditorium
Attend the New England Academy of Dance's Nutcracker Ballet, featuring the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are available at NEADance.com.

Charlotte’s Web
2 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
The Children's Literature Association named Charlotte's Web "the best American children's book of the past 200 years". Joseph Robinette, working with the advice of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. This is a beautiful, knowing play about friendship. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

December 15

Chair Yoga
11:30 AM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
With the support of a chair, this gentle Chair Yoga class will help you improve postural alignment, maintain pelvic mobility, reduce muscle tension and gain strength through flowing movements and focused breathing. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/chair-yoga-l66688>.

April 17, 2026

Breeches & Bowties Spring Gala
Time to be announced at the Wee Burn Country Club
Join the New Canaan Mounted Troup at their 2026 Spring Gala with guest speaker Drew Doggett. Tickets will be available at <https://newcanaanmountedtroupe>.

org.
May 7, 2026
NCNC Annual Lecture & Luncheon
11:30 AM- 2 PM
Additonal details will be provided as the event approaches.

BLOOD DRIVES

Friday, November 21

United Church of Rowayton
210 Rowayton Ave
Norwalk, CT 06853
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sunday, November 23

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

Monday, November 24

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

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

Tuesday, November 25

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

Wednesday, November 26

Stamford Church of Christ
1264 High Ridge Road
Stamford, CT 06903
8:00 AM – 1:30 PM

St. Philip's Church
25 France Street
Norwalk, CT 06851
7:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Green's Farms Church
71 Hillandale Road
Westport, CT 06880
8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Greenwich Hospital
5 Perryridge Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Support Services & Meetings

December 1

First Aid Training by New Canaan EMS
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim and Dede Bartlett Auditorium
First aid training is designed to teach people the basic principles and techniques for providing immediate help if and when they witness a serious injury or illness. The goal of first aid is to preserve life and prevent the condition from worsening in the safest way possible until professional medical help is available. Register at <https://shorturl.at/CrnsH>.

December 3

Smart Steps for the Future: Long-Term Care Demystified
1 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Join Lou and Jessica Pelletier for a dynamic session designed for today’s active planners in their 50s and 60s. With long-term care needs on the rise—and more options than ever—it’s time to rethink how we prepare.

Register at <https://shorturl.at/qlnrh>.

Alzheimer and Dementia Support Group with the Waveny LifeCare Network
2 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
Family members, caregivers, and friends are invited to meet for informative and supportive group sessions to help navigate changes related to memory loss and cognitive decline. Register at <https://shorturl.at/Rsa5X>.

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

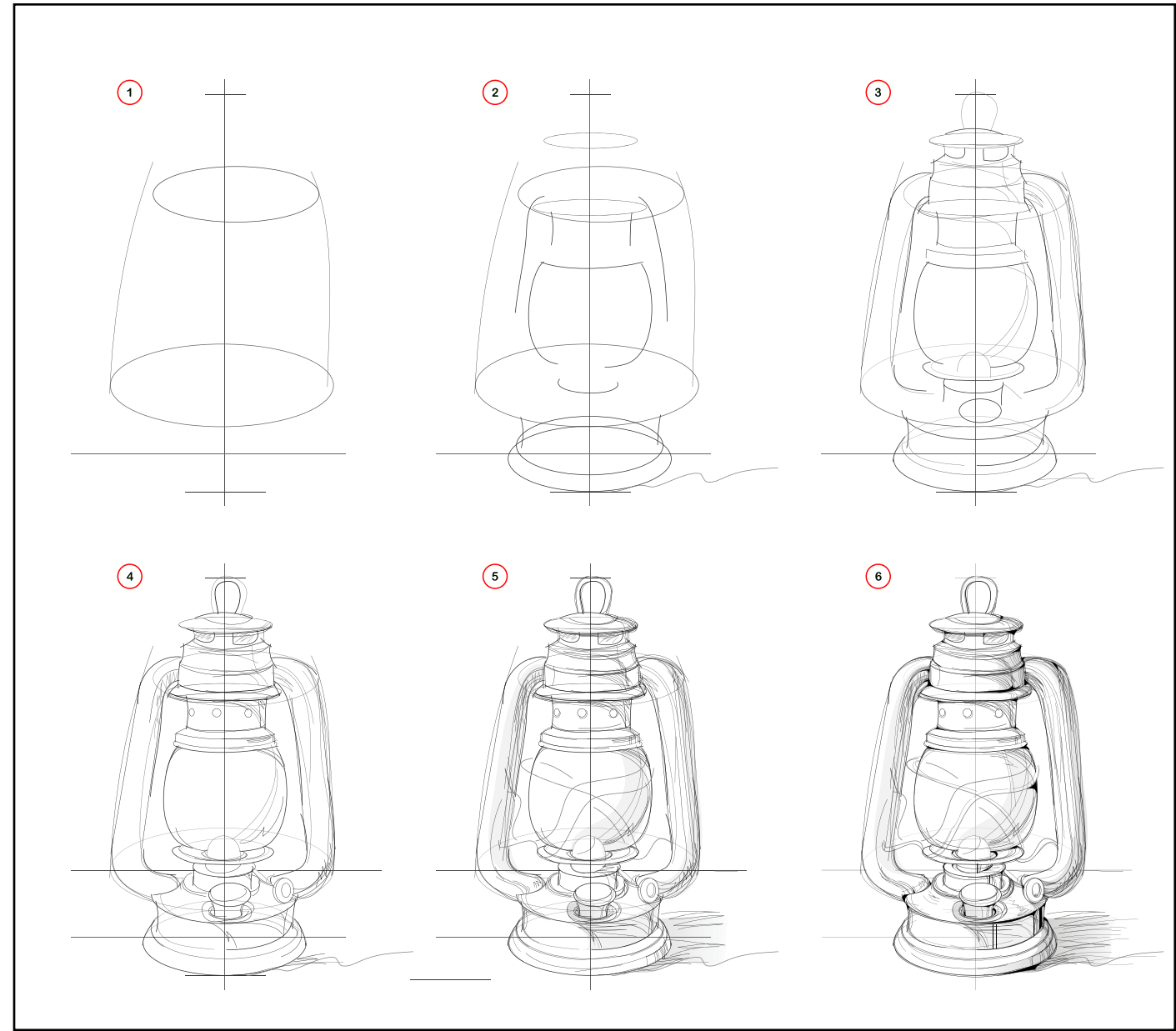
AA Big Book Meeting.
Wheelchair Access
Thursdays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan

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

OUR NEIGHBORS

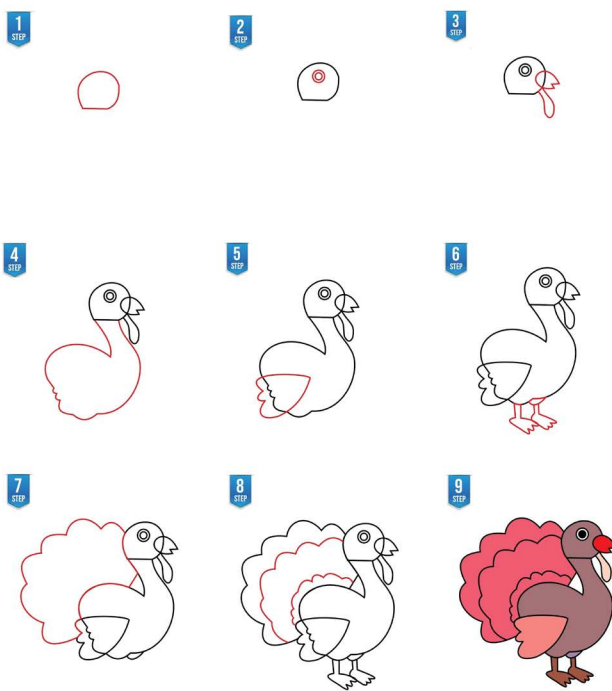
December 2

Sustainability Holiday Pop Up Shop
4-8 PM at HAYVN
320 Boston Post Road
Socialize, network, support local businesses, sustainable brands/products, and a women's clothing sale. Enjoy light bites and drinks while shopping. Admission is \$15/ person and available at <https://shorturl.at/xfu20>.



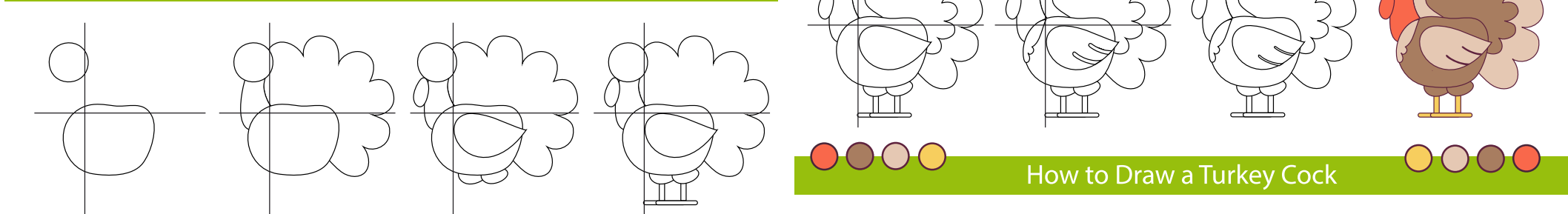
DRAW!

How to Draw Turkey



Step-By-Step Drawing

Drawing lesson



How to Draw a Turkey Cock

Sudoku for Kids

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

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

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

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

SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sudoku answers

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

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1 Good or bad sign
5 Remnant at a tree farm
10 Amt. of sugar for coffee, maybe
13 It wasn't built in a day
14 Stately homes
16 Guess on an ORD board
17 Promotional image?
19 Mess up
20 Medium-sized sofa
21 Dry red wine
23 Bambi, for one
24 Part of the lake acronym
25 Award such as Best Female Athlete
26 Spicy image?
29 Icy mass
32 Tool with teeth
33 Put up, as a building
36 Purpose
37 It's sometimes called a napkin
38 Devoured
40 Number that birthday candles represent
41 Earth's environment?
43 Goal
44 The body's biggest organ

- 45 Blown-up image?
49 Fancy German autos
51 Mont Blanc's range
52 Verbal exam
55 "Check out this trick I can do!"
57 "Pong" consoles
59 What a listener "lends"
60 Close race's ending, or a hint to 17-, 26- and 45-Across
62 "Black Jeopardy!" show, for short
63 More unsettling
64 Entryway with a latch
65 Glum
66 Old-style yet cool
67 Idina voices her in "Frozen"
DOWN
1 Spheres
2 Communi-cated like a cow
3 Ham it up
4 Rainy-day fund
5 "Peter Pan" boatswain
6 Paving substance
7 Remove, as a lightbulb
8 Angora goat's coat
9 Delves (into)

- 10 Certain Gen-Z jargon
11 Throat ailment, informally
12 Luau or rave
15 Sault ____ Marie
18 Hatcher of "Desperate Housewives"
22 Trunk's position, on many cars
24 Old-fashioned "Oh, my!"
27 Org. that provides signals intelligence
28 Previously known as
29 Clear tables
30 "Sixth sense": Abbr.
31 Longtime MTV show about young adults in a new city, with "The"
34 Movie FX

- 35 Hang ____ (do a surfing stunt)
37 For each
38 Broadcasts
39 Texter's "I really didn't need to know that"
42 Wine barrel
43 "Bon ____!" ("Dig in!")
44 Weird
46 Congregate
47 Crime novelist Leonard
48 "It isn't me!"
49 Sanctify
50 Disney film starring The Rock
53 Plain font
54 Submissions to Santa
56 Gorilla or gibbon
57 Natural hairdo
58 Kind of butter in lotions
61 Across, in a "Jingle Bells" lyric

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

1/10 © 2022 Andrews McMeel Universal
www.upuzzles.com

Family Time Crossword
The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

1. Guacamole and salsa
5. (K) Dallas-to-Baltimore direction letters
8. (K) Big rig
12. Running in neutral
13. (K) "Have a nice ____!"
14. "Get over here"
15. Responding to a stimulus
17. (K) Belonging to all of us
18. (K) Sunbathing goal
19. (K) Had pickled onions with relish
20. Initial stage
21. (K) Bird beak
23. (K) Division of a highway
25. Massive gulp
27. (K) Like remains from a fire
28. (K) Informal "Hello"
31. (K) Place to park your plane

33. (K) U-turn from inhale
35. Energy unit
36. Unit of paper
38. (K) Tries to find answers
39. A large amount
40. "Gross!"
41. (K) Slow-moving animal
44. (K) That dude's
46. Make a choice
49. (K) Stop sleeping
50. (K) NFL pass catcher
52. (K) Bit of land
53. (K) "____ we getting close?"
54. Flat-topped elevation
55. (K) Grizzly creature
56. (K) Go from bachelor to groom
57. (K) Thing for an actor to hold
DOWN
1. (K) Stuff needed to make mud
2. (K) Thought
3. (K) Mapping out

4. (K) One of 3,600 in an hr.
5. (K) Correct the spelling in an essay
6. (K) Bellybuttons
7. (K) Thing sometimes covered by a lens
8. Biscuit relative
9. (K) Birds that can weigh over 100 pounds
10. (K) "But wait, there's ____!"
11. Smithsonian, e.g. (Abbr.)
16. Caps Lock neighbor
20. Gem with alternating black and white bands
22. (K) Thing you may crack to eat
24. "Did you dare forget about me?"
25. "____-Ra and the Princesses of Power" (TV show)

26. Horrific conflict
27. Rug variety
28. Review in detail
29. (K) Huge northern deer
30. (K) "Yay!"
32. (K) Monument shape in St. Louis
34. ____ fish
37. Stick like glue
39. (K) Creature on a ranch
40. (K) "____ as directed"
41. Q-Tip, for one
42. (K) Part of a well-tied sneaker
43. Creole cookery ingredient
45. Like cupcakes and wedding cakes
47. (K) Coin of Mexico
48. (K) Lobster catcher
50. (K) Like uncooked meat
51. Mischievous child

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

Creature with a lot inside?

Look for the answer in next week's paper.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

Previous riddle answer:

You, long ago
19-D) THOU

© 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication
syndication.andrewsmcmeel.com

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
					21	22			23	24		
25	26					27			28	29	30	
31						32			33		34	
35						36			37		38	
						39					40	
41	42	43				44	45			46	47	48
49						50				51		
52						53				54		
55						56				57		

1/11

Say Cheese! by Carly Schuna

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

Horoscopes

Astrological Overview

This roughly two-week span covers the final days of the Sun's ingress into Sagittarius (which begins on November 21) and runs while many key planets remain in reflective or retrograde phases (for example Mercury in its post-retrograde shadow and Jupiter retrograde in Cancer) according to current transit analysis. The energy is about transition: expectation of fresh starts, yet requiring that you finish or release what is due. Activity begins to shift from inward-review toward outward aspiration.

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

You're entering a period where belief systems and long-term vision matter more than quick wins. With the Sun moving into Sagittarius, your zone of higher purpose lights up. Simultaneously, Mercury's lingering retrograde shadow warns: don't launch new ventures yet—refine your goals instead. Focus on aligning what you want with the meaning behind it. Advice: Write down your "why" and trim the "how" until clarity arrives.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Shared resources, emotional debts and the hidden corners of partnership come into sharper focus. Jupiter retrograde still in Cancer prompts you to look inward: what you owe, what you own, and how you feel about both. As Sagittarius energy rises for you, consider where loyalty crosses into self-sacrifice. Advice: Make one honest conversation about "give and take" this week.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

This is a time of recalibration around your daily life: health, routine, presence. With the Sun entering Sagittarius, your "work" zone brightens—and your need to feel purposeful in routines grows. Mercury's shadow suggests refining rather than adding new habits. Advice: Choose one micro-adjustment now that supports a broader purpose later.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Your foundations—home, family, emotional base—are getting a boost. Jupiter in your sign (retrograde) still urges you to inner-grow rather than outward-expand. The Sun in Sagittarius stimulates what you believe about your roots. Advice: Spend quiet time rewriting your internal narrative about "where you come from" and "where you go."

Leo (July 23 – August 22)

Creativity, romance, personal expression: these sectors are warming up. Sagittarius energy invites you to dare more, but retrograde remnants caution you to polish rather than push. Work with existing projects instead of starting fresh. Advice: Revisit that

"half-done" idea and give it 90 minutes this week.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

Communication, learning, and your immediate environment gain momentum. The Sun in Sagittarius boosts your voice; Mercury's influence suggests review and readiness rather than broadcasting. Consider how your daily interactions reflect your values. Advice: Rewrite one email you've been avoiding—say what's true rather than what's expected.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Finances, value systems, and what you cherish shift under the spotlight. With Sagittarius energy in play, you're learning to ask, "What do I value and why?" Jupiter retrograde invites review of both your material base and emotional worth. Advice: Inventory five things you own for productivity vs five for comfort—are they balanced?

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Happy solar season winds down—but your energy is elevated. With the Sun entering Sagittarius, your zone of transformation moves toward vision and expression. Use this time to envision the next chapter. Advice: Write a letter to yourself dated six months from now: what do you hope you will have become?

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Your season begins in earnest. With the Sun entering your sign on November 21, you're stepping into your next self. But because many planets are still in review mode, this is less about launch, more about preparation. Advice: Clarify the theme of your upcoming year before you chase the details. Hold off on big moves.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Friendships, groups and long-term ideals invite revision. The Sagittarius Sun lights up your community zone and invites you to ask: "Who am I becoming with whom?" Mercury's influence suggests you revisit social contracts. Advice: Write a "community manifesto" with no more than three commitments that matter to you.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Career and public image see a subtle shift. You're being asked to balance what you show with what you feel. With retrograde energy still active, seek clarity in your role before scaling it up. Advice: Spend one afternoon this week updating your bio—make it reflect your truth, not just your title.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

Intimacy, hidden matters and psychological roots are forefront. The Sun in Sagittarius encourages you to take inner truths and weave them into your outer life. Jupiter retrograde urges gentle unveiling. Advice: Write for 20 minutes in low light, asking: "What I hide from others is" Then pick one piece to share.

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

- 1 failing miserably (7)
2 cooked briefly on high heat (6)
3 pirate, generally (8)
4 deep-seated (9)
5 giving off a little light (10)
6 they recognize pathogens (10)
7 query with a ring attached (8)

SOLUTIONS

- _____

MME

GADE

SEA

BOM

RE

BING

ED

OP

INGR

RING

NE

AN

GLI

RED

DIES

TIBO

AL

PR

OS

AIN

Previous Answers: 1. TALKER 2. HAIRSPRAY 3. CHARTLESS
4. UNTETHERED 5. TABLECLOTH 6. LEVER 7. ERRANDS 8/23

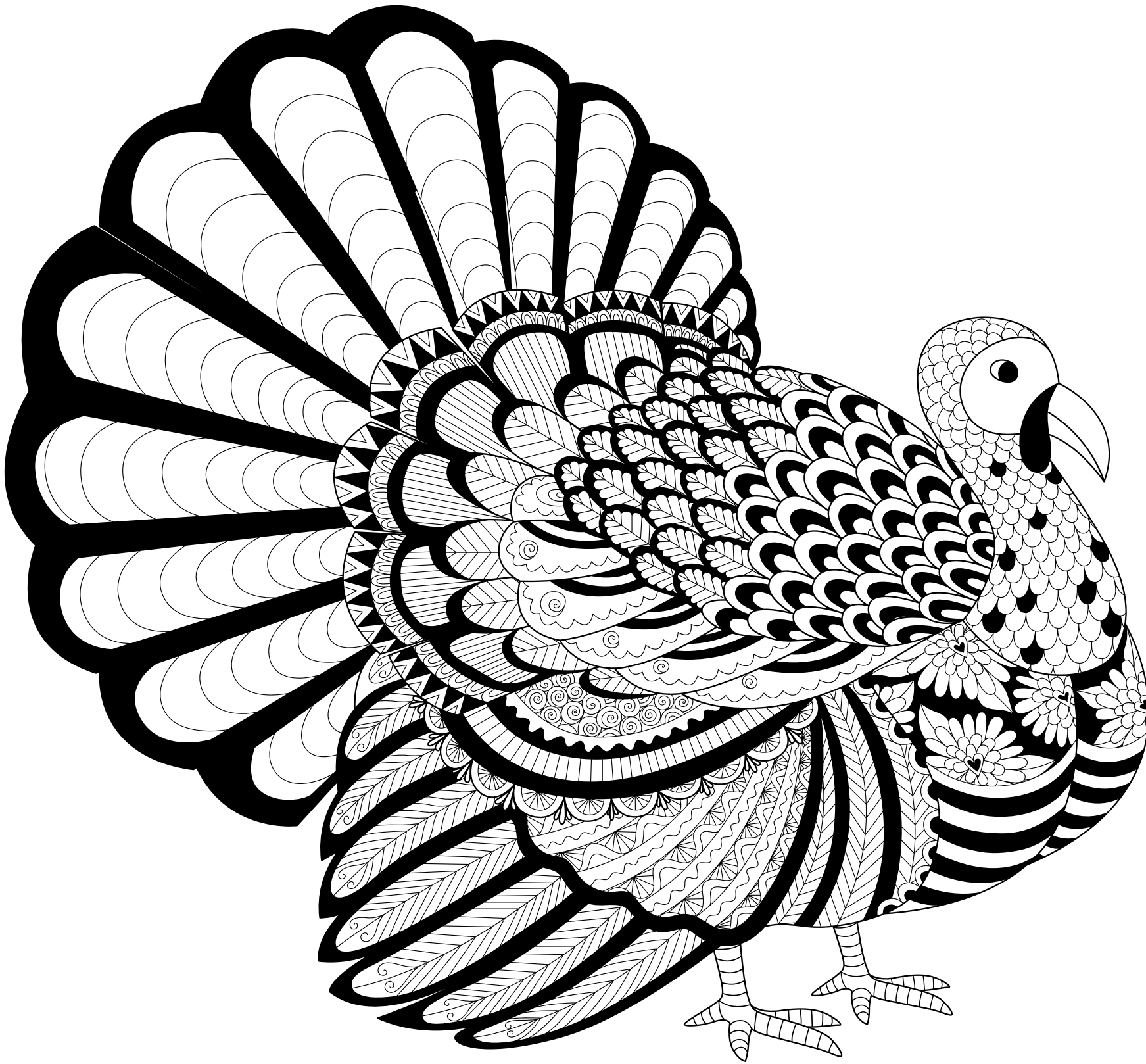
© 2023 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

The answers to this week's puzzles can be found in the next issue on December 5.

www.GreenwichSentinel.com/subscribe

www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/subscribe

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



..... Thanksgiving Day

Find and cross out all the listed words. The words may go horizontally, vertically, diagonally, not backwards. Ignore spaces, dashes and diacritics, if any.
The remaining letters will spell a secret word.

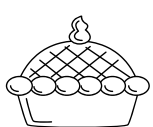
ANNUAL
AUTUMN
BLESSING
BOUNTY
COOKING
CORN
CRANBERRY SAUCE
DINNER
FAMILY
FEAST
FRIENDS
GIVING THANKS
GREETING
HARVEST
HISTORY
HOLIDAY
HOUSEFUL
KIN
MASHED POTATOES
MAYFLOWER
MEAL
NOVEMBER
PARADE
PIE
PILGRIMS
PLYMOUTH
PRAYERS
PUMPKIN

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

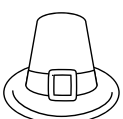
SETTLERS
SHARING
SQUANTO
THURSDAY
TRADITIONS
TURKEY
VOLUNTEERING
YAMS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		1	9	2	10	11	9	4	12
4	13	3	14	2	5	15	16	11		12	17	6	13	18	7	5
12	16	7	7	2	16	11	12		19	2	16	12	12	9	18	10
S	E	T	T	L	E	R	S									
13	6	7	6	4	18	20	5	11	18	6	20	5	1	9	13	
18	5	21	16	4	19	16	11		7	8	6	11	12	22	13	3
7	11	13	22	9	7	9	5	18	12		14	13	4	9	2	3
4	16	13	2	21	5	2	6	18	7	16	16	11	9	18	10	
1	6	4	1	23	9	18	20	11	13	18	19	16	11	11	3	
20	5	11	18	1	5	7	13	7	5	4	13	1	2	16		
1	13	11	22	5	18	9	18	10	7	6	11	23	16	3	12	

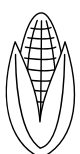
pleap _____



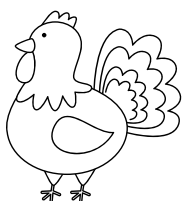
epi _____



tha _____



ncor _____



yetukr _____

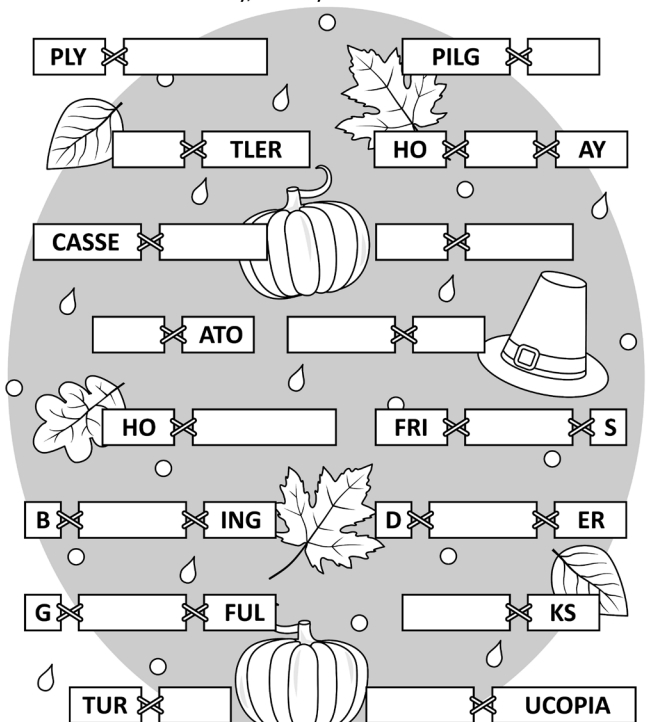
AU	TU	M	N	AU HA FA DI	MI TU RV N	M E N L	ST Y ER N

				H HO PI MA	LI IS LG YF	TO RI LO D	AY WER MS RY

				C PU P CO	OT RNU O MP	R K A CO	IN PIA TO N

				FE PA SH T	AR A R HA	A N S IN	KS G T DE

Fill in the blanks with the words COO, CORN, END, INN, KEY, KIN, KING, LESS, LID, MOUTH, POT, PUMP, RATE, RIM, ROLE, SET, THAN, USEFUL to reveal 16 words related to Thanksgiving Day holiday, history and traditions!



ANSWER:

FRIENDS, BLESSING, DINNER, GRATEFUL, THANKS, TURKEY, CORNUCOPIA.



**Your child's eyes
mean everything
to us.**

Your child's eye health and vision quality play an essential role in physical, cognitive, and social development.

Our team is here to provide comprehensive care and support for all your family's eye health needs.



ADVANCED
OPHTHALMOLOGY
of Connecticut

Robert J. Fucigna, M.D.

1445 East Putnam Ave., Old Greenwich

(203) 348-7575 AOCT.CO

Puzzles and Coloring for the Weekend: Have Fun!

