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LOCAL NEWS BRIEFING

POLICE AND FIRE

Police Warn of Scam Calls



New Canaan police are warning residents about scams in which callers pose as officials and claim legal issues. Victims are instructed to send money through gift cards, cash, or cryptocurrency. Police advise residents not to send money and to report these calls. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department.

TOWN HALL

Proposed 27Y Budget

The proposed 2027 budget includes a 2.3% spending increase and a projected 2.6% mill rate increase.

AROUND TOWN

New Canaan's IT services are managed by a four-person team that supports town operations and systems. The team maintains networks, manages data and cybersecurity, and provides technical support. Recent updates include an online permitting system and technology for hybrid meetings.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS



Tiger Mann, the Director of Public Works, spoke at the Staying Put Men's Coffee and provided updates on town matters. He also discussed the department's response to recent snowstorms. Photo credit: Staying Put in New Canaan.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Your Charter Your Survey

The Charter Commission has opened a public questionnaire, and residents should take the time to complete it. The survey is at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8QXBNNK>

Charter Commission Weighs P&Z Structure as Debate Expands to Ethics, Elections

By PETER BARHYDT

The Charter Revision Commission's (CRC) March 17 meeting underscored the growing complexity – and tension – surrounding a proposal to reconsider how the town's Planning & Zoning Commission is structured.

What began as a policy discussion over whether P&Z members should be elected or appointed broadened into a wide-ranging conversation that touched on ethics oversight, political influence, public participation and even questions of conflict of interest among commissioners themselves.

P&Z Chairman Dan Radman, addressing the CRC, urged members to weigh competing claims carefully and not draw conclusions from limited data.

"There's nothing specifically in there that speaks to whether it's better to be appointed versus elected. Nothing in there," Radman said, referring to materials presented to the CRC.

He also criticized reliance on early public survey results, noting that the 69 responses collected so far were "a grain of sand on the beach" compared to the town's broader electorate.

Radman emphasized that decision-making quality would not necessarily improve under an elected system, arguing that both appointed and elected commissioners would approach their roles with similar care.

"There's nothing specifically in there that speaks to whether it's better to be appointed versus elected. Nothing in there."

"I think it's equal in terms of the level of decision making, the care and consideration that P&Z members, whether they're elected or appointed, would put toward any particular application," he said.

The discussion took a sharper turn when Radman raised concerns about potential conflicts of interest, suggesting that Commissioner Jennifer Holme should recuse herself from discussions involving P&Z due to ongoing litigation tied to land-use matters.

Holme disputed that characterization, stating, "My case has been settled with you. You guys have voted and it's completed."

The exchange highlighted broader questions about how conflicts should be defined and managed. CRC Chair Kathleen Corbet later clarified that conflicts are typically "financially driven" under existing guidance, suggesting that participation decisions remain largely at the discretion of individual members.

Public comment also reflected the depth of disagreement surrounding land-

use governance.

Planning & Zoning Commissioner John Kriz pushed back against claims that the P&Z commission operates without checks and balances, describing extensive public engagement in the development of the town's Plan of Conservation and Development.

"We listen to everybody, and we listen to them without fear or favor," Kriz said.

He added that public hearings are required for zoning actions and that recommendations are evaluated based on their merits rather than their source.

Kriz also outlined how an elected P&Z Commission would effectively eliminate representation by unaffiliated voters and minor party members, noting that their chances of every being elected were difficult. He further said that many people in town are likely hesitant to run in an election, and some people are prohibited from elective office by their employers – further limiting the pool of potential

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

COLUMN

Town Budget Advances with 2.3% Spending Increase, Public Hearings Ahead



By DIONNA CARLSON

On March 5th, the Board of Finance (BOF) approved a 2.3% increase to the Town's expenditure budget and a 3.4% increase to the amount to be raised by taxation. I'd like to thank the members of the BOF for their careful review and thoughtful consideration throughout the budget process. For additional context and explanation regarding the Board's decisions, please see BOF Chair Todd Lavieri's Op-Ed letter on Page 1 of the March 12 edition of this newspaper or in the News Stories section on the homepage of the Town's website: newcanaan.info.

With the BOF's work complete, the Budget Recommendation moved to the Town Council (TC) for their review and consideration. The TC's process will include further discussion and concludes with a public hearing on April 2nd and a final budget vote scheduled for April 14th. I encourage residents to stay informed and engaged during this phase of the process. As a reminder, all budget documents are available on the homepage of the Town's website. Simply click on the "Budget Documents" icon located beneath the main photo.

America250 New Canaan

In other news, 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of our great nation. New Canaan will join communities across the country in celebrating this historic milestone. The Town has planned a series of events running from Flag Day on June 14th through Veteran's Day on November 11th. The community-wide Signature Events will be the NC250 Parade on June 27th and the Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular on July 4th.

To learn more about the exciting programs and activities being organized, please visit newcanaan.info and click the blue "America250 New Canaan" tab at the top of the homepage.

News From Town Hall

This month also marks the second full year since we began emailing the *News From Town Hall* monthly newsletter directly to those who sign up to receive it. My hope from the beginning was that the newsletter would help residents feel more informed about and engaged with local government. If you do not receive *News From Town Hall*, you may subscribe at NewCanaanAlerts.gov.

In hopes that March truly goes out like a lamb and that warmer spring days are just around the corner...

Dionna Carlson is the New Canaan First Selectman. Her leadership is guided by a respect for local decision-making and a commitment to keeping residents informed and engaged.

Board of Selectmen Approves \$560K Housing Upgrades, Advances Summer and Fall Plans

By SENTINEL STAFF

Funding supports Millport improvements; officials also back fireworks contract, sidewalk work and new recreation event

The New Canaan Board of Selectmen moved briskly through a wide-ranging agenda Tuesday morning, approving a series of spending items that, taken together, sketch a familiar portrait of local governance: incremental investments, practical concerns, and an eye toward both summer traditions and long-term maintenance.

At the center of the meeting was a \$560,000 allocation from the town's Affordable Housing Trust Fund to support capital improvements at the Housing Authority's Millport properties. The funds will be used for parking lot repaving, security upgrades and HVAC

equipment.

Housing Authority Executive Director Scott Hobbs described the request as part of a broader cycle of deferred maintenance and evolving needs.

"We need to repave," Hobbs said, noting the lots are "almost like 18 to 20 years old" and showing "serious issues." He added that upgraded security systems would improve monitoring and "protect the safety of our residents."

The funding comes from fees attached to building permits, which are directed into the town's affordable housing fund. Hobbs said those funds are typically used to "maintain" and "create" affordable housing, though large capital projects often exceed available reserves.

Selectmen approved the request

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

P&Z, Charter Revision Panel Clash Over Governance as Debate Turns Personal

Dueling letters sharpen dispute over whether New Canaan's Planning & Zoning Commission should be elected or appointed

By PETER BARHYDT

A debate that began as a structural question about governance has evolved into something more pointed -- and personal -- as the Planning & Zoning Commission and a member of the Charter Revision Commission exchanged sharply worded letters this week over the future of land-use oversight in town.

At issue is whether the Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z), currently appointed, should instead be elected -- a question raised during the Charter Revision Commission's (CRC) ongoing review of the town charter.

In a March 16 letter signed by all P&Z members, the P&Z commission pushed back forcefully against a Feb. 25 presentation by CRC Commissioner Joseph D. Palo, arguing that the case for an elected P&Z commission rests

on "analytical errors, methodological weaknesses, and material mischaracterizations."

The P&Z letter disputes several core claims from Palo's presentation, including the assertion that electing commissioners would increase accountability and representation. The P&Z commission argued that its decisions are already tightly constrained by state law and technical evidence, limiting the practical impact of elections.

"Legal requirements and evidentiary standards often limit the P&Z's discretion," the letter states, noting that those constraints apply regardless of whether members are elected or appointed.

The P&Z commission also rejected

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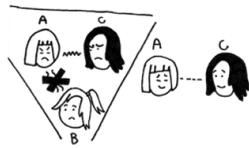
Avoiding Triangles

By JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

Amanda and Casey argue. Amanda calls Beth to complain about Casey. Beth's best bet is to duck the triangle and avoid being sucked into a "helper role." When she suggests that Amanda work it out directly with Casey, everyone benefits. Exceptions would be if Amanda is truly powerless to help herself, or if Beth has a professional responsibility to manage the relationship between Amanda and Casey.

Triangles are unhealthy in most relationships, but they are especially dangerous in nuclear families with siblings and adult children.

When you need advice or a place to vent, it's helpful to limit sharing to the smallest possible number of trustworthy friends. This limited sharing can help calm your mind and reboot your perspective. Then your work is best



Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry

done directly with the offending party.

After years of feeling obligated to help, Anthony, the eldest in a family of six, realized that he was not helping and refused to participate when his siblings called to complain about each other. His siblings continued to try to bring him in, but he was firm. When he avoided family triangles, his life became more peaceful.

Nadia believed she had to be the go-between for disputes between her adult daughter and her ex-husband. When she gave up this role, her daughter grew stronger.

Affordable housing panel weighs trade-offs at Richmond Hill, Locust and Lumberyard sites

Richmond Hill - Scheme 1



Image of a slide of one option of many from the Affordable Housing meeting presentation on March 11.

By SENTINEL STAFF

The Project Development Subcommittee of New Canaan's Affordable Housing Committee spent much of its March 11 meeting doing the slow, unspectacular work that

often matters most in local government: testing ideas against geography, traffic, drainage, parking and public temperament.

The committee reviewed conceptual site plans for

Scheme Focus:

Efficient bar building layout
Respects current building setbacks along Park Street
Structured deck required for upper level parking
Separate entries for lower and upper levels

Yield Summary

Total Units: 20

Existing Parking: 67

Provided Parking: 91

Parking Net Gain: 24 Spaces

Building 1: 20 Units

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Teresa Alasio MD
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Call for Entries for the iCreate 2026 Student Exhibition - Now Open



Lilly Messina; New Canaan High School, Grade 12; My Name's Sake
Colored ink on paper; 16.5 x 12.5 inches (2025 selection)



Rainer Kusama-Hinte; High School of Art and Design, Grade 11; A
Portrait of Layla; Oil on canvas; 22 x 28 inches (2025 selection)

The committee has opened submissions for iCreate 2026, the annual juried exhibition highlighting the work of regional high school artists. For young New Canaan artists, this has been a competition where they have excelled. The call for entries, which runs through April 6, invites students in grades 9 through 12 to submit original two-dimensional artwork for consideration.

Approaching its twentieth year, iCreate has developed into one of the region's most established forums for student visual art. Since its founding,

the exhibition has featured the work of hundreds of students from across Fairfield and Westchester counties, with participation steadily expanding as area schools have integrated the program into their visual arts curricula. What began as a smaller showcase has grown alongside the museum itself, maintaining a consistent focus on student work while adapting to a broader audience and a more formalized jury process.

Selected pieces will be exhibited from June 13 through August 23, 2026, in the Susan and Bill

Mahoney Gallery Lobby at the Bruce Museum, a space that receives a continuous flow of visitors throughout the summer season. In past years, the exhibition has drawn families, educators, and museumgoers into sustained engagement with student work, with many returning specifically to view the show as it rotates into the summer calendar.

Students may submit one work in painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, or mixed media. Each submission begins online through the museum's official entry portal, where students upload a high-resolution image of their work along with a brief artist statement of up to 150 words and basic school information. Parent or guardian consent is required for participants under 18. All entries must be received by April 6.

The jury process unfolds in two stages. Submissions are first reviewed digitally in early April. From there, selected students are invited to bring their work to the museum for in-person evaluation later in the month. This step, which

has remained central to the program over time, introduces students to the practical considerations of presenting work in a formal setting. Final selections are expected in May.

The exhibition is organized in part by high school student interns, who assist in the curatorial process—an element that has remained consistent across nearly two decades.

Awards will be presented for first, second, and third place, along with three honorable mentions. A People's Choice Award, determined by public vote during the exhibition, invites visitors to take part in the selection process throughout the summer.

Students whose work advances to the final round must be available to deliver their artwork to the museum for judging and, if selected, for exhibition. All accepted works will be displayed in a public-facing gallery space, where visitors encounter the exhibition as part of the museum's regular programming.



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Come Join Us! Lent & Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday Service March 29, 10:00am

Maundy Thursday Service April 2, 7:00pm

Good Friday Community Service @ Lutheran Church April 3, 6:00pm

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service April 5, 7:00am

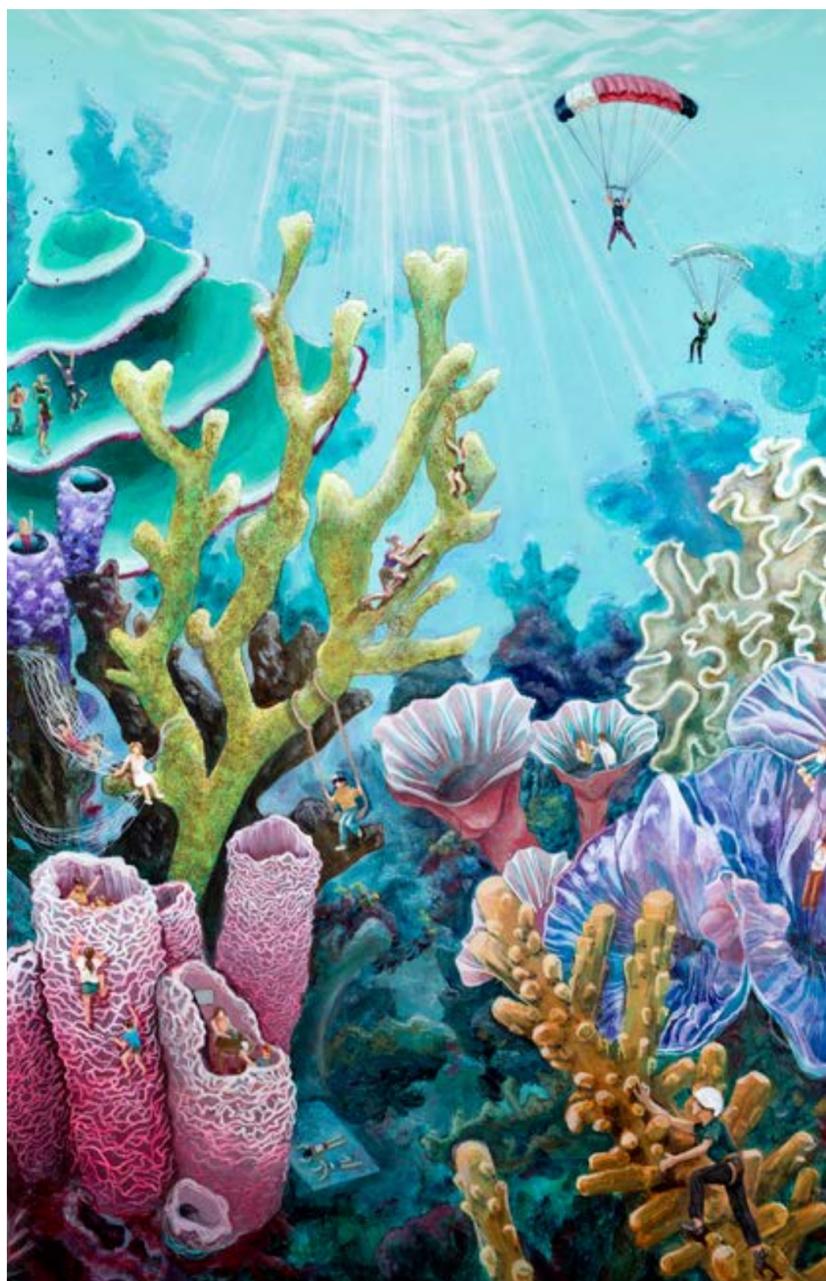
Easter Sunday Breakfast April 5, 8:00am

Easter Sunday Service April 5, 10:00am

Easter Egg Hunt April 5, 11:30am



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Caitlin Yoon; Northern Valley Regional High School at Demarest; Grade 10
Fragile Sanctuary; Acrylic on canvas; 18 x 24 inches (2025 selection)

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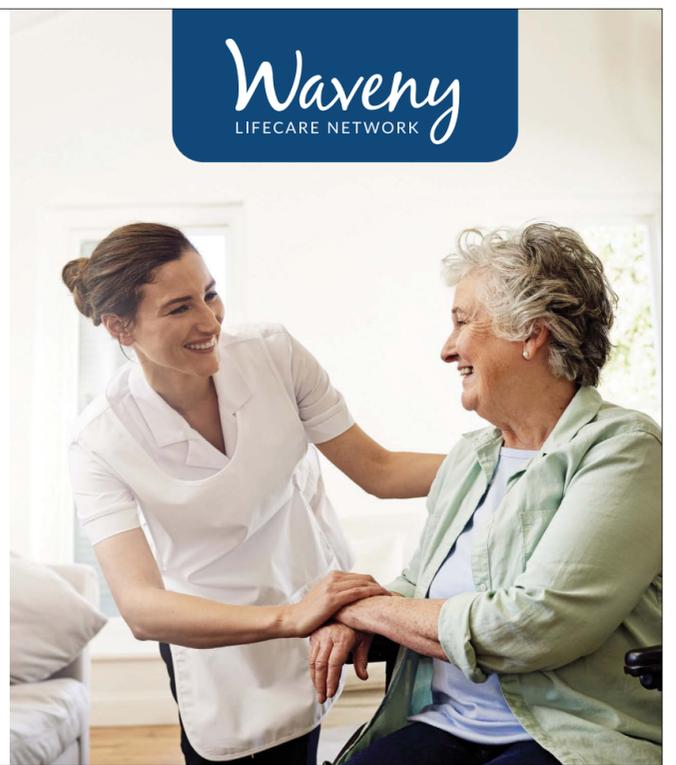
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CHARTER REVISION From Page 1

P&Z commissioners.

There was also pushback on allegations of a lack of checks and balances on the P&Z commission. Kriz said that “unless ‘checks and balances’ means all P&Z decisions must be further approved by someone, then the allegation is patently false.” He went on to note that the same lack of checks and balances could be said for the Board of Selectmen, Town Council, and Police and Fire commissions.

The CRC also heard from leaders of the

Republican and Democratic town committees, who outlined how candidates are recruited and vetted for appointed and elected roles.

Republican Town Committee Chair Melany Hearne described a multi-step appointment process involving interviews, recommendations and public review by the Board of Selectmen. She noted that, in practice, the town often struggles to fill positions, rather than facing an oversupply of candidates.

“There’s more demand for qualified volunteers than supply,” Hearne said.

Both Hearne and Democratic Town Committee Chair Tim Klimpl emphasized that many boards and commissions function in a largely nonpartisan manner, even though

political organizations help identify candidates.

Klimpl said he views service on town boards as fundamentally resident-focused. “You’re there for the town residents to be representative of them,” he said.

The discussion also touched on the challenges of running for elected office, including time commitments, fundraising and public scrutiny – factors that some participants said could discourage participation, particularly among unaffiliated voters.

At the same time, some CRC commissioners raised concerns that the current appointment system may limit transparency, suggesting that the town could do more to publicize openings and encourage broader participation.

The meeting concluded with plans to continue the debate in upcoming sessions, with a structured review of the pros and cons of elected versus appointed P&Z members expected at the CRC’s next meeting.

Chair Corbet emphasized that the issue will be debated in a public forum rather than through private communications.

“This is what a public open forum is all about where the discussion is had here,” she said.

As the charter review process moves forward, the question of how New Canaan governs land use – and who should hold that authority – remains unsettled, with both sides preparing for a more formal evaluation in the weeks ahead.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING From Page 1

a survey process intended to help shape a recommendation to elected officials.

Committee members said they are not yet asking the public to choose a final plan. Rather, they are trying to understand the strengths and liabilities of each site before bringing the options forward.

“I think that’s how we will present it to the public,” one committee member said. “Each of these site plans offers a series of trade-offs.”

Those trade-offs came into focus quickly.

At Richmond Hill, discussion centered on two smaller concepts, one with a single apartment-style building and another with a townhouse-style design. Staff and committee members returned repeatedly to one theme: Richmond Hill may offer a more manageable first step, even if it does not produce as many affordable housing units as the larger sites.

Town Planner Sarah Carey said the townhouse-style option “could be a really attractive site for that type of development” if the town chose a project that would not by itself deliver a full state affordable housing moratorium. She also said the design appeared more compatible with nearby buildings.

Tiger Mann, the town’s public works director,

went further, calling it “very elegant; it could be an elegant design for this location.”

Parking remained a live issue. Committee members noted the existing lot often appears underused in practice, though Jane Williams reported that parking manager Stacy Bass had said Richmond Hill still has an active waiting list for permits. Williams said Bass reported a wait list of 18 for Richmond Hill, and said new permits have been put on hold as more commuters return to offices.

There was also discussion of whether an adjacent property with unused subsurface parking capacity could someday help offset disruptions.

Drainage did not appear to alarm staff about Richmond Hill. Town Engineer Maria Coplit P.E. said engineering solutions were available and that the area is already “a substantially impervious lot.”

The Locust Avenue site drew a more mixed response. Its central location and higher unit counts make it attractive on paper, but staff raised sharper concerns about traffic, historic district impacts and the visual effect of a large structure in a sensitive downtown setting.

Carey said one Locust concept “also having some like public issues,” adding that the site is close to downtown, the historic district, Husted Lane apartments and newer Forest Street development. She warned that committee members should be candid if the project

“Each of these site plans offers a series of trade-offs.”

would exceed the density of other major local developments.

Traffic and parking circulation were a major focus. Coplit noted that earlier reviews had found that putting more cars onto Locust could stress fire department operations. She suggested one possible solution: using topography to split parking access between Locust and Heritage Hill, with separate levels feeding from each side.

That, she said, might improve efficiency because “ramps actually are what make parking garages and parking levels inefficient.”

The Lumberyard site inspired the broadest ambition and the greatest caution. Because of its size and proximity to the train station, it offers the clearest opportunity for transit-oriented development and the largest number of units. One concept discussed would yield 156 units; another, 163 units.

But the scale of the project, and the requirement to replace 354 existing parking spaces while also parking new residents, led to

talk of garages with more than 500 spaces and costs that could exceed \$100 million.

Committee members and staff seemed to admire the possibilities while doubting the politics.

“It’s pretty big garage, not going to lie,” one committee member said.

Carey suggested the town may be wiser to begin with a smaller parcel. “My gut is that one of the other two parcels would be a better, a smaller bite,” she said. “It would be a good way to kind of cut your teeth.”

Others worried that the Lumberyard lot, long the subject of competing visions in town, could again become a magnet for conflicting demands. Carey said the perception persists that the site has too many possible uses for any single one to prevail. Another participant warned that even a strong plan could face “death by a thousand cuts.”

By the end of the meeting, there was no consensus around a preferred site. But there was a subtle narrowing of mood.

Richmond Hill appeared to emerge as the most realistic near-term option. Locust remained plausible but difficult. Lumberyard, for all its promise, looked like the kind of grand project towns admire from a distance and struggle to bring to life.

The committee is scheduled to meet again March 25 to discuss its public process.

BOS MEETING From Page 1

unanimously after confirming the projects would be competitively bid.

Public safety and staffing

The board also approved a police department request to send an officer to a sniper training course in Granby, Massachusetts, at a cost not to exceed \$1,905. Police Chief John DiFederico said the department currently has one trained officer in that role who is “cycling out.”

“Typically it’s one or two,” the chief said of specialized personnel.

A separate request to increase a uniform purchase order by \$3,000 was tied to the hiring of a new officer.

In another personnel move, the board approved the hiring of John Amarilios as assistant to the town clerk. Amarilios, a longtime resident, previously served as a registrar of voters and has been working part time in the clerk’s office.

Officials emphasized his institutional knowledge and public-facing demeanor. “He’s been a great addition to the staff,” one selectman said during discussion.

Fireworks, fees and logistics Looking ahead to the summer, the board approved a \$36,000 contract with

International Fireworks Mfg. Co. for the town’s July 4 display at Waveny Park. The company has handled the event for roughly 15 years.

Officials also approved an increase in the entrance pass fee, raising it from \$35 to \$40 in advance and \$50 on the day of the event. The fee is charged per car or group and is intended to offset costs.

“There’s no profit here. This is just to cover cost,” one official said.

In a notable operational shift, the fireworks launch location will be moved further east within Waveny Park. Officials said the change is designed to improve traffic flow and safety.

“The number one complaint last year was getting out of the park,” a representative said, adding the adjustment should “significantly increase the speed at which cars will be leaving.”

The board also approved closing the park for the full day on July 4 to prepare for the event.

Infrastructure and maintenance

Several infrastructure items reflected the quieter but persistent work of maintaining town assets.

The board approved nearly \$488,000 for sidewalk reconstruction on Butler Lane, Danvers Lane and Whiffle Tree Lane. The work will replace

aging sidewalks estimated to be decades old.

Public Works Director Tiger Mann noted strong community response to similar work completed last year.

“It’s amazing when you put those in how much use they get,” Mann said, describing increased pedestrian activity.

Additional approvals included:

- \$47,575 for design and oversight of exterior repairs at Lapham Community Center, where water infiltration has caused damage.
- \$20,000 to supplement ongoing HVAC repairs across town buildings after a “rough winter.”
- \$11,421 for new

picnic tables at the Waveny playground, including one ADA-compliant unit.

A new fall event The board also backed a new recreation initiative: a “Labor Day Weekend Bash” planned for Sept. 4, featuring food trucks and live music. The event will be ticketed, with organizers initially planning for about 200 attendees.

Recreation officials said they will promote the event through town channels and social media, while also seeking broader outreach.

The meeting closed with approval of legal bills, contracts under \$10,000 and the appointment of a new member to the Ethics Committee.

P&Z LETTERS From Page 1

the notion that residents lack a voice in land-use decisions, calling that claim “factually incorrect.” Public participation, it said, is “structurally embedded” in its work through hearings, zoning updates and long-range planning processes such as the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Palo, in a separate March 16 response, dismissed the P&Z rebuttal as lacking substance. He wrote that the P&Z commission’s arguments were “long on speculation, hypothesis and wishful thinking but short on facts.”

His presentation, he said, was built on “20 references, plus 7 charts and graphs,” drawing from sources including state statutes, court decisions, census data and local documents.

At the center of the dispute is a fundamental disagreement about how land-use authority should be structured – and how much weight should be given to public sentiment versus legal and technical standards.

The P&Z letter emphasizes that its role is quasi-judicial, requiring impartial decision-making based on the record. It warns that elections could introduce political pressures incompatible with that function.

“Public participation is not incidental to our [P&Z’s] work: it is structurally embedded in it at every level.”

“Campaign donors, party endorsements, and electoral promises are far more visible and binding political pressures than appointment politics in a small town,” the P&Z commission wrote.

Palo counters that the current system lacks meaningful checks and balances. While acknowledging the existence of public hearings, he argues that they do not provide sufficient recourse for residents dissatisfied with outcomes.

“Public participation he describes still does not include any checks or balances for decisions P&Z makes. None!” Palo wrote.

He also pointed to the option of appealing decisions in court, but said that route is prohibitively expensive for most residents.

The exchange also revisits broader questions about data and methodology. The P&Z letter criticizes Palo’s reliance on a small public survey sample and questions conclusions drawn from comparisons with other Fairfield County towns.

Palo, in turn, maintains that the data – including the fact that many nearby towns elect their commissions – “speaks for itself.”

Beyond policy differences, the tone of the debate has drawn attention.

In his letter, Palo objected to remarks made by P&Z Chairman Dan Radman at a March 9 meeting, describing them as “a scurrilous attack on my character” and “beneath the dignity of the position he occupies.”

That escalation underscores how a technical governance question has taken on broader implications about trust, transparency and civic discourse.

The Charter Revision Commission has not yet made a final recommendation on whether to propose a change to voters. The question, as framed by the competing letters, is not simply whether elections would be more democratic, but whether they would improve – or complicate – a system already comprehensively shaped by legal constraints and procedural safeguards.

For now, both sides appear dug in. The P&Z has called for the Charter Revision Commission to conduct its “own independent analysis” of the claims before moving forward, while Palo has argued that residents ultimately be given the opportunity to decide the issue at the ballot box.

The debate is expected to continue as the charter review process advances in the coming months.

paralyzed by polarization and a lack of trust in basic institutions Geopolitics and Global Economics

BY BOB GIAQUINTO

The atmosphere was thick with the weight of global instability as Neal Wolin, the chief executive of the Brunswick Group and a veteran of the Treasury Department, took the stage to navigate a world that seemed to be tilting off its axis.

Wolin did not offer the comfort of simple answers. Instead, he presented a landscape defined by what he called an extraordinary moment in history. Wolin, who served as the deputy secretary of the Treasury under President Barack Obama and held key roles in the National Security Council, brought the perspective of a man who had seen the inner workings of power during the 2008 financial crisis. He argued that while the headlines were dominated by a sudden war in Iran and the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, the most troubling issue was something more domestic and insidious: the fraying of democratic norms in the United States.

Wolin explained that the inability of the American political system to function—paralyzed by polarization and a lack of trust in basic institutions—made it nearly impossible to solve any other problem effectively. He noted that this institutional decay was not just a matter of “coarse” political speech but a fundamental “hollowing out” of the government that affected everything from healthcare to basic research.

The conversation quickly turned to the “gorilla in the room”—the escalating hostilities with Iran. Wolin observed

that while a policy of strength was justifiable, the current administration’s objectives remained a moving target. He noted that the president and his top advisers, including the defense secretary and secretary of state, had at various times suggested goals ranging from destroying Iran’s missile and nuclear capabilities to outright regime change. Wolin was skeptical of the latter, reminding the audience that such ambitions often lead to long, unsustainable entanglements. He pointed to the immediate economic fallout, specifically the volatility in energy markets and the spike in gasoline prices, which he suggested would eventually force the president to declare a victory short of his original rhetoric.

Wolin’s background as a national security lawyer informed his critique of how the war was being conducted. He spoke at length about the 1974 War Powers Resolution, a post-Vietnam era statute designed to check executive overreach. He argued that the current administration was operating under a “maximal understanding of executive power,” bypassing Congress even when the situation was not a direct reaction to aggression against the United States. This trend, he warned, was part of a broader shift toward a “unitary executive” theory, an idea building for many years and currently being tested in the federal courts and the Supreme Court. Wolin emphasized that the founders intended for three co-equal branches of government to act as a system

of checks and balances, a structure that distinguishes American democracy from the parliamentary systems common in Europe.

Turning to the global stage, Wolin described a world of “frayed nerves” among traditional allies. Having traveled extensively to Europe and Asia in his role at the Brunswick Group, a firm that advises global companies on geopolitical risk, he reported that countries like Australia, Germany, and the United Kingdom were beginning to “hedge” their strategies. They no longer view the United States as the steadfast partner it once was. He criticized the “America First” style of diplomacy, suggesting that “poking our finger in the eye” of the prime minister of Spain or the chancellor of Germany was counterproductive to long-term American interests.

On the subject of China, Wolin proposed a framework of “managed rivalry.” He acknowledged that while the United States must compete in technology—specifically in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and semiconductors—it must also maintain cooperative lines with Xi Jinping, the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, on global threats like climate change and nuclear proliferation. He noted that Xi Jinping’s serious rhetoric regarding Taiwan must be taken at face value, even as the U.S. remains “overstretched” in other theaters.

The session concluded with a warning about the



Former Deputy Treasury Secretary Neal Wolin fielded questions about the state of American political institutions, the expansion of executive branch powers, and the disruptions of foreign alliances and acts of war by the current administration.

The inability of the American political system to function—paralyzed by polarization and a lack of trust in basic institutions—has made it nearly impossible to solve any other problem effectively.

American economy. Wolin noted that the federal debt had crossed into the “rarefied air” of 100 percent of the gross domestic product. He warned that while the dollar’s status as the global reserve currency provides a cushion, the political system’s inability to address the deficit prophylactically would eventually lead to a crisis. As Neal Wolin hurried off to catch a flight, he left the room with the impression of a man who understands the fragility of the world and fears that the tools once used to steady it are being discarded.

The Retired Men’s Association’s (RMA) next presentation, “Shipwrecks and U-Boats: Amazing New England Coastal Sea Stories” by Eric

Wiberg, is scheduled for 11 AM on Wednesday, March 25, 2026. RMA presentations are held at Christ Church in Greenwich.

In this compelling presentation historian Eric Wiberg relates the story of two German submarines dispatched to evade a blockade and obtain valuable war materiel from the United States in 1916—when the U.S. was still officially neutral in the European conflict. One was highly successful, and the other not. The British and its allies had imposed a strict blockade in the Atlantic and around ports of the Central Powers. The privately-funded German cargo submarines Deutschland and Bremen were designed to evade this blockade. On its first voyage to America the Deutschland

carried a mixed cargo valued at \$17.5 million to Baltimore, while on the second she reached New London with \$.25 billion worth of gems, securities, and medicines, returning to Germany with at least six-and-a-half tons of silver bullion. It was then converted to a warship by the Imperial German Navy, sank forty-two Allied ships and cut telegraph cables at St. John’s and Nantucket. The Bremen was not so lucky. En route to Norfolk in 1916 with funds to start a submarine-building program in the U.S., she is believed to have been sunk by the Royal Navy off the Shetland Islands. These are but two stories of seaborne warfare during World War I.

Eric Wiberg is a sea captain and maritime historian, the author of over 45 non-fiction books largely on World War II. He has over 40 years’ experience in maritime, aviation, and military history, and has worked with the national archives of Bahamas, Bermuda, USA, Germany, Norway, Australia, and many others. A former resident of Connecticut, he now lives and writes in Boston.

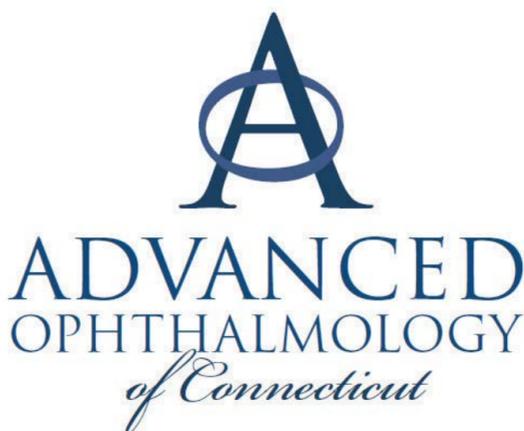
To stream the presentation by Eric Wiberg at 11 AM on Wednesday, March 25, click on <https://bit.ly/30IBj21>. This presentation will also be available on local public access TV channels, Verizon FIOS channel 24 and Optimum channel 79.

Note: The views expressed in these presentations are those of the speakers. They are not intended to represent the views of the paper or RMA or its members.

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New Canaan Aquianas Artistic Swimming Team Shines at the 2026 Competition

By JACK BANEY

March 17, 2026 – The New Canaan Aquianas Artistic Swimming Team delivered a standout performance at the 2026 East Zone Championships, earning the High Point Trophies For Both Youth And Junior Teams at the prestigious zone competition held March 5-8 in Tonawanda, New York.

Competing against top artistic swimming programs from across the Northeast, the Aquianas impressed judges and spectators with their precision, athleticism, and creative choreography. The team's collective effort across figures, solos, duets, and team routines propelled them to the top of the standings and secured their position as one of the premier artistic swimming programs in the region.

"This victory reflects the dedication and resilience of every athlete on our roster," said the Aquianas' coaching staff. "Their

commitment to excellence—both in and out of the pool—was on full display throughout the weekend. We are incredibly proud of their achievement."

The East Zone Championships serve as a key qualifying event for national-level competition, and the Aquianas' success positions them strongly for the upcoming championship season. The team will continue training in preparation for the U.S. Junior and Youth National Championships later this spring.

The New Canaan Aquianas, founded in 1977, are recognized as one of the longest-standing and most accomplished artistic swimming programs in the country. The team continues to foster a culture of teamwork, discipline, and creativity, inspiring young athletes throughout Fairfield County and beyond.



A Smoothie Called "The Cure" That Just Might Live Up to Its Name

By ELIZABETH BARHYDT

A smoothie developed by Darien integrative medicine physician Dr. Katie Takayasu promises more than a refreshing drink. Known as "The Cure," the blend combines organic fruits, vegetables and plant-based ingredients designed to support gut health and balance the body's microbiome. The smoothie is offered through Barvida and was developed in collaboration with Dr. Takayasu.

I tried one this week. The first surprise was the flavor. Despite a list of ingredients that reads like a nutrition seminar, the drink tastes closer to dessert than a health tonic. Barvida describes it as a "strawberry-pineapple mint julep." Either way, it is refreshing, slightly sweet and layered with bright fruit and mint.

The morning after trying it, I woke up feeling terrific—clear headed, energetic and in a notably good mood. Whether coincidence or careful nutritional

design, the experience made the drink's name feel less like marketing and more like a hypothesis worth testing again.

The smoothie is built to function as a meal replacement. It delivers about 20 grams of plant protein and roughly 15 grams of fiber. According to the product description, the goal is to provide a macro-balanced option that nourishes digestion while keeping people satisfied.

Protein plays a particularly important role as people age. Nutrition researchers have noted that older adults do not synthesize protein as efficiently as younger people, meaning we often need higher-quality and more of it to maintain muscle mass and metabolic health. A smoothie delivering 20 grams of protein helps meet that need.

The ingredient list is extensive but intentional. Organic strawberries provide vitamin C, antioxidants and fiber. Pineapple contributes bromelain, an enzyme associated with digestion and anti-inflammatory

effects. Avocado adds monounsaturated fats and potassium, creating a creamy texture that balances the sharper fruit flavors.

Vegetables round out the base. Cucumbers and celery add hydration and nutrients including vitamins K and C while keeping the drink light. Fresh mint sharpens the flavor and is often associated with digestive support.

Fiber plays a central role in the formulation. Psyllium husk, known for its soluble fiber, supports regular digestion and may help stabilize blood sugar. Mesquite powder, derived from mesquite tree pods, contributes protein, fiber and minerals including calcium and magnesium while adding a subtle nutty sweetness.

Natural sweetness comes from organic maple syrup and tart cherry juice. Tart cherry juice is associated with antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties and has been studied for benefits in sleep and muscle recovery.

The smoothie's creamy base comes from almond milk and coconut yogurt, both dairy-free ingredients that provide additional nutrients.

Protein comes from a blend of plant sources which provide a complete amino acid profile while remaining free of common allergens.

Dr. Takayasu, who practices integrative medicine, focuses much of her work on the relationship between nutrition and overall health. Her practice combines traditional Western medicine with complementary approaches including nutrition, botanical medicine, acupuncture and lifestyle medicine.

"The Cure" reflects that philosophy. For those looking for a practical takeaway, the drink manages a rare balance. It reads like a wellness formula but tastes like a treat.

Barvida is located in Darien, New Canaan, and Greenwich. www.thebarvida.com

Abilis to Hold Diamond 75th Anniversary Gala on April 25

Abilis, the nonprofit organization providing services and support to more than 800 individuals with disabilities and their families, including offering several programs and services in New Canaan, will celebrate a monumental milestone with the Abilis Diamond 75th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich in Old Greenwich, Connecticut. This special evening commemorates 75 years of Abilis' leadership for the community throughout lower Fairfield County, while also looking ahead to an exciting future. Gala guests will enjoy dinner, live entertainment by ETA Music, a silent auction hosted by Ryco Fundraising, and a live auction led by auctioneer Caitlin Davis and more! Tickets are available at abilis.us or 2026abilisgala.givesmart.com.

"For 75 years, we have been honored to stand alongside our community members, supporting independence, dignity, and opportunity," said Amy Montimurro, CEO and president of Abilis. "The Abilis Diamond 75th Anniversary Gala will be a celebration of our history and our future. It is about the thousands of lives enriched, the barriers broken, and our continued commitment to building a more inclusive community for generations to come. It is about celebrating how much Abilis has grown, from its early roots serving a handful of school-age children with disabilities in Greenwich, to supporting more than 800 individuals and their families throughout lower Fairfield County."

Abilis supports individuals and their families at every stage of life, from birth through adulthood, offering a comprehensive array of programs and services that positively impact a person's entire lifespan. As one of only 11 providers in the state offering autism diagnostic services, Abilis helps families obtain an autism diagnosis and access intensive supports for children. Through its Birth to Three program, young learners reach critical milestones while parents gain confidence, education and guidance. The Therapy Center at Abilis further

For 75 years, we have been honored to stand alongside our community members, supporting independence, dignity, and opportunity," said Amy Montimurro, CEO and president of Abilis.

enables the organization to offer ongoing therapeutic support for individuals of all ages.

Abilis also proudly provides recreational, vocational and social opportunities for school-aged children and adults, teaching essential life skills and employment skills. Through its social enterprises, including Gardens & Gifts and its Cafés, Abilis creates meaningful job training and employment opportunities. In addition, the organization provides a wide range of residential services, always meeting each individual where they are and supporting their unique goals and abilities.

"We do all of this through the generous support of our community," noted Montimurro. "This 75th Anniversary Gala celebrates everything we have accomplished and every individual who has helped make it possible. The support generated from the Diamond Anniversary Gala will enable us to strengthen and expand opportunities for the individuals and families who rely on Abilis every day. The impact of this milestone celebration will be long lasting. Together, we can help continue to



shape the future of Abilis and ensure the individuals and families we support experience the a sense of belonging that makes life wonderful, full and rewarding."

The Abilis Diamond 75th Anniversary Gala is being hosted by the Abilis board of directors. Tickets are available at abilis.us and 2026abilisgala.givesmart.com. For more information or to become a sponsor, contact Abby Hunt at hunt@abilis.us.

Special thanks to the Abilis Diamond 75th Anniversary Gala. Presenting 7.5 Carat Sponsors: Friend of Abilis (anonymous), Deborah Hilibrand & Lawrence Hilibrand; Marquise Cut Sponsors: Anonymous; Radiant Cut Sponsor: Holland & Knight; Emerald Cut Sponsors: The Stuart Family, Belvedere Wealth Partners, Margot Michalski, New England Total Landscaping; Odyssey Group; The Shapiro-

Vitali Family Pear Cut Sponsors: The Altamore Family, The Leslie Clarke Team at Compass, The Leskin Family, Connecticut Pharmacy; The Mann Family and Media Partner: Fairfield County Look.

Abilis is a 501c3 non-profit organization that supports more than 800 individuals with disabilities and their families from birth through the senior years. Founded in 1951, Abilis is a leader in providing meaningful support to the community in Fairfield County, Connecticut, in towns including Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Westport and Wilton. The organization has a long-standing reputation for individualized, high-quality supports. For more information, visit www.abilis.us, or follow on Facebook @Abilis, Inc., or Instagram @abilis_us.

A New Chapter of Sacred Music



Temple Sholom is proud and exhilarated to announce the appointment of Sheldon Low – one of the most widely recognized names in contemporary

Jewish music and pop-folk today – to the congregation's pop-folk team as – the new chapter's director of Sacred Music beginning this July.

For nearly two decades, Low has been an integral part of Temple Sholom's story – shaping the synagogue's spiritual soundtrack and inspiring the community with his creative spirit and extraordinary voice. Professionally, he has sold over 100k albums worldwide over the course of his career and performed hundreds of concerts, 'Light Up Shabbat' services, seminars, and Artist-in-Residency weekends in Jewish communities throughout North America each year.

"Today, we take a bold and joyful step forward by formalizing and deepening that relationship in a transformative way," said Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz.

In his new full-time position at Temple Sholom, Low will serve in the cantorial capacity and help guide the temple's musical vision. He will mentor the musical team, expand musical programming,

and introduce innovative musical offerings designed to enrich and energize congregational life.

Current Cantorial Soloists Mikhal Weiner, Ella Joy Meir and Dan Frankel will continue to enrich sacred music throughout the year and during the High Holy Days, ensuring a vibrant and collaborative musical experience for the synagogue.

Low will continue to lead the beloved High Holiday Family Services while broadening his presence throughout the year. He will play an enhanced role in B'nai Mitzvah services, deepen his involvement in religious school, and bring dynamic musical Shabbat experiences to the bimah on a more regular basis.

Joining him in this exciting new chapter is his wife, Hadar Orshalimy, who will serve as Temple Sholom's Artist-in-

Residence in a part-time capacity. A gifted and soulful musician, Orshalimy will lead and co-lead select Shabbat services alongside Low, adding her artistry and warmth to the growing list of musical offerings.

Beyond their exceptional musical talent, they bring a deep commitment to community-building and Jewish life. Their presence will strengthen connections across the congregation – on the bimah, in the classroom, and throughout the rhythms of temple life.

"This is a defining moment for Temple Sholom," said Meryl Sole, Temple President. "We are entering a new era of expanded musical leadership, spiritual depth, and creative possibility."

To learn more about Temple Sholom, call 203-869-7191 or visit www.templesholom.com.

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The Virtue of Appointment

Different responsibilities require different forms of selection. New Canaan's Charter Revision Commission is considering whether to convert appointed boards into elected ones. The impulse is democratic and therefore respectable. It is not invariably prudent.

An electoral system would also constrict the pool of service. Unaffiliated voters, who constitute a substantial share of the electorate, would face structural barriers in partisan contests.

Elections confer legitimacy, and those who stand for office accept burdens that are neither light nor ceremonial. They function, in effect, as chief executives of the public trust—answerable to voters not only for their own decisions but for the quality of those they empower. That accountability is real. It is also sufficient.

Elections impose a particular set of incentives. They reward fluency, resilience, and the important ability to simplify and explain complex issues. Those are political virtues. They are not synonymous with the virtues required to govern land use or municipal finance, where the work is granular, technical, and frequently resistant to simplification.

Planning & Zoning and the Board of Finance are not easy platforms for politics. They are instruments of judgment. Their members must read closely, listen at length, and decide carefully. They must evaluate stormwater reports, housing statutes, bond structures, and pension obligations—tasks that demand patience and, at times, a necessary distance between public sentiment and regulatory application. That distance is not indifference; it is discipline.

James Madison, in Federalist No. 51, warned of the enduring tension between power and human nature: "If men were angels, no government would be necessary." The architecture of governance must therefore account for human incentives. Elections, by design, tether officials to public sentiment. That tether is appropriate for legislative bodies. It is less appropriate for quasi-judicial ones.

Members of Planning & Zoning operate under obligations akin to those of judges. They are expected to weigh evidence without prejudice, even when public opinion is pronounced. A candidate who campaigns on predetermined outcomes—approving or rejecting categories of development—enters office with a record that can be construed as bias. The campaign itself becomes a form of pre-judgment.

Experienced local officials have observed the consequences elsewhere. In municipalities where land-use boards are elected, decisions can drift toward electoral calculation. The evidentiary record competes with the next ballot. That competition corrodes public confidence. Law becomes contingent, and predictability—a cornerstone of property rights—diminishes.

The present appointment system, by contrast, is deliberate. It subjects candidates to interviews, scrutiny, and evaluation of their technical aptitude and temperament. It allows for balance—professional, intellectual, and personal—so that boards function as cohesive bodies rather than assemblages of individual brands. Appointment is not the absence of accountability; it is accountability exercised through elected officials who must answer for their choices.

There is precedent for insulating certain functions from immediate political pressure. Federal Reserve governors are appointed to long terms to preserve monetary stability. Federal judges receive lifetime appointments to ensure judicial independence. These arrangements are not repudiations of democracy; they are refinements of it, recognizing that some decisions require distance from electoral urgency.

Local governance has its analogues. The Board of Finance must deliberate on debt, taxation, and long-term obligations with a view extending beyond the next election cycle. Planning & Zoning must apply statutes consistently, even when consistency frustrates popular preference. These are disciplines of restraint.

An electoral system would also constrict the pool of service. Unaffiliated voters, who constitute a substantial share of the electorate, would face structural barriers in partisan contests. Professionals with relevant expertise—lawyers, financiers, engineers—may be restricted from holding elective office or deterred by its demands. The town would forfeit experience precisely where it is most needed.

Reform is not precluded. Terms can be lengthened; training expanded; disclosure requirements strengthened; measures which improve performance without altering the character of the roles.

The Commission is also examining the Charter's requirement that members of the Board of Finance be "taxpayers of the town." The phrase is imprecise and exclusionary. Renters contribute to property taxes through rent; residents contribute in varied, measurable ways. To condition eligibility for public service on a narrow definition of taxpayer status risks inequity and invites legal challenge.

John Adams wrote that the aim of government is "a government of laws, and not of men." That aim is served when roles are matched with the method of selection best suited to their function. Elections have their place. So do appointments. The responsibility of elected officials is to make those appointments wisely—and to answer to the public when they do not.

For boards whose work is exacting, unglamorous, and indispensable, the method of selection should favor competence, independence, and steadiness.

Editorial Page



"It goes back to being pulled out of the hat."

Come for a Walk with Us

To all Grandmothers, Mothers, and Daughters,

If you are unhappy with what is happening in the world, and feeling helpless what to do, come walk with us. We'll start at Houlihan Lawrence and walk down Elm St. on the sidewalk, to Rosies, 9:30 am starting Tuesday April 7. No lectures, no judgements,

Just join us, any Tuesday you care to,

Peggy Risom Bull

Cleaner Air for New Canaan

To the Editor -

One of the great strengths of New Canaan is our commitment to the health and well being of residents, including vulnerable groups such as children, seniors and people with chronic health conditions. For this reason, I'd like to highlight an overlooked health risk that we as a town have a great opportunity to address - gas powered leaf blowers.

Many people assume the environmental impact of a gas powered leaf blower is minimal. In reality, the small two-stroke engines used in gas-powered blowers produce astonishingly high levels of air pollution. Unlike modern automobiles or lawn mowers, these engines burn a mixture of gasoline and oil and release a significant portion of it unburned into the air. The result is toxic exhaust that contributes to smog forming emissions and local air pollution, increasing the prevalence of asthma and other respiratory diseases. Even worse, the unburned hydrocarbons from leaf

Many people assume the environmental impact of a gas powered leaf blower is minimal. In reality, the small two-stroke engines used in gas-powered blowers produce astonishingly high levels of air pollution.

blower motors are medically proven carcinogens. When multiple landscaping crews operate blowers for hours across a neighborhood, as they frequently do in New Canaan, the cumulative effect on air quality is significant. Residents and workers alike are exposed to the toxic exhaust fumes.

Communities across the country, including many in Fairfield and Westchester Counties have begun addressing this issue by restricting gas leaf blower use and transitioning toward quieter, non-polluting electric equipment for routine landscaping tasks.

Restricting the use of gas leaf blowers during the summer season, as written in New Canaan's current draft ordinance under consideration, represents a practical step toward cleaner air and a healthier environment for everyone who lives and works in our town.

Residents who support action to protect the health of our families and our community members should contact the New Canaan Town Council at tcdistribution@newcanaanct.gov and encourage them to adopt the proposed leaf blower ordinance.

Irene Hendricks

An Invitation to New Canaan

To the Editor,

To our neighbors in New Canaan—this is your official invitation. No RSVP required, just show up.

On Sunday, March 22 at 2 p.m., the 50th annual Greenwich St. Patrick's Day Parade takes over Greenwich Avenue. And yes, it's exactly as fun as it sounds. Maybe more.

Come early. Walk the Avenue. Claim your spot like it's beachfront property in July. Feel that buzz—people chatting, kids fidgeting, everyone pretending they're not checking the weather every five minutes.

Then the parade starts. And here's the important part: do not stand there like you're watching a documentary.

Cheer. Loudly.

Wave like you know everyone marching.

Laugh. Talk. High-five someone.

A parade is not a quiet activity. This is not golf.

Bring your children. Let them experience that moment when they hear the drums before they see them.

So come.

Come because it's fun.

Come because it's easy.

Come because this is

community too.

Greenwich will be ready.

We're saving you a spot

on the Avenue.

Bring your neighbors. Text that friend who "might be busy" and tell them they're not. The more people who show up, the better it gets. That's not theory—that's parade math.

Yes, it will be sunny. Yes, it will be about 42 degrees. Yes, that means you will say, "It's not that cold," and then immediately wish you wore another layer. Plan accordingly.

For a few hours, something unusual happens. People talk to each other. Strangers become temporary friends.

The usual edge softens. And somehow, without a meeting or a memo, everyone agrees to have a good time.

And for one day—just one—everyone is a little bit Irish. The music, the laughter, the openness—it spreads. No passport required.

You'll see it all. Bands. Irish dancers. Fire trucks. The Shriners in those tiny cars that somehow never get old. The shops and restaurants will be open, full, and part of the whole thing.

And just when you need it most, it feels like winter is finally letting go. People linger. No one rushes. The day stretches a little longer than expected.

So come.

Come because it's fun.

Come because it's easy.

Come because this is community too.

Greenwich will be ready.

We're saving you a spot on the Avenue.

*Respectfully,
Your Greenwich Neighbors
and Parade Lovers!*



Freedom That Grows Up



BY REV. MAXWELL GRANT

Even when we don't have a big national anniversary coming up, we Americans talk a lot about freedom. It's stitched into our history and is fundamental to our self-understanding. When I was younger, the bumper sticker reminding us that "Freedom isn't Free" seemed to be everywhere for a while.

But for all our enthusiasm, most of us don't seem to know as much about it as we may think. Surprisingly, what we've meant by freedom hasn't always been what we sometimes assume today.

For much of our history, freedom wasn't mainly about being left alone. It was about becoming the kind of people who could live well together. It was freedom for responsibility.

You can hear that early

on. When the signers of the Mayflower Compact promised to "covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic," they weren't declaring rugged independence. They were making a promise to one another. They chose to bind themselves together so that their shared life would have shape and stability.

That word — covenant — matters.

A key concept for the early Congregationalists, covenant was not just a deal you could walk away from when it stopped benefiting you. It was a promise that formed you while you kept it. It asked something of you. And in asking something, it gave something: direction, trust, belonging.

In early New England, many Congregational churches were organized with this in mind. That meant decisions were made locally, by gathered communities, rather than imposed from afar. People debated. They voted. They held one another accountable. Conscience mattered deeply — but so did the community. You were free, yes. But you were free within promises you had chosen.

The covenant tradition of early New England reminds us that liberty and responsibility belong together. Promises don't suffocate freedom; they sustain it. They create the trust that allows disagreement without collapse.

Those habits spilled over into civic life. The town meeting wasn't just a procedural necessity; it was a school for self-government. Neighbors showed up. They argued. They listened (all too often, imperfectly). And they made decisions together. Freedom wasn't passive. It required participation and a certain moral maturity.

This helps explain a line from John Adams that still has the power to startle people. He wrote, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Don't misunderstand: he wasn't calling for forced belief. Adams was recognizing a simple truth: a free society assumes citizens who can govern themselves. If we lack

self-restraint, patience, and a sense of responsibility to one another, even the most eloquent and inspiring written document won't be able save us.

Such a view may sound old-fashioned, but to me, it feels surprisingly relevant.

Today, we often think of freedom as the absence of limits — the ability to define ourselves without interference. Any talk of moral formation can sound like control. Any boundary can feel like a threat.

But what if the older instinct was wiser?

Think about it personally. A musician becomes truly "free" to improvise only after years of discipline. A marriage grows deeper not by avoiding promises, but by keeping them. In the same way, a society's freedom matures when its people have been formed by

commitments — in families, congregations, schools, and neighborhoods — that teach patience, honesty, and care for the common good, not to mention the need to keep listening, even when the voices and the perspectives are all too familiar.

It's about hanging in. Hanging on.

Freedom, in other words, doesn't shrink when it has moral shape. It grows up.

The covenant tradition of early New England reminds us that liberty and responsibility belong together. Promises don't suffocate freedom; they sustain it. They create the trust that allows disagreement without collapse. They restrain power so that the strong do not overwhelm the weak. They make room for neighbors to live side by side.

We don't have to share all, or even much of the theology of the seventeenth century to see the wisdom in that.

A people committed only to autonomy will struggle to remain free. A people formed for responsibility just might.

Freedom for responsibility. Freedom deepened — not diminished — by moral formation.

That vision may be demanding. But it is also hopeful.

And it is still very much worth recovering.

Rev. Dr. Maxwell Grant has been the Senior Minister of Second Congregational Church since 2012. He is also the Board Chair of the Congregational Library and Archive in Boston, and the Moderator of the Fairfield West Association of the United Church of Christ.

Worship Directory and Services

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

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

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

Congregational Church

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

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

Recurring Events:

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

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

Upcoming Events:

March 29 at 8 AM (chapel) & 10 AM (Meeting House): Palm Sunday Worship Service

First Church of Christ, Scientist

49 Park Street 203.966.0293
christiansciencet.org/newcanaaan

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

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

First Presbyterian Church

178 Oenoke Ridge Road 203.966.0002
fpcnc.org

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

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

Upcoming Events:

Now through March 29: Lenten Food Drive. You can pick up a brown grocery bag with a list of items from the back of the church. All items will be donated to the New Canaan Food Pantry.

March 26 at 7-8:30 PM: Open Mic Night. Join for Live Music & Jam Session. Featured Performance by Shawn Taylor.

March 29 at 10 AM: Palm Sunday Service.

Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Church

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

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

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

Saturday: 7:00 am

Recurring Events:

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

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

Upcoming Events:

March 20: Stations of the Cross at 11 AM and Living Stations of the Cross led by St. Aloysius Youth Ministry at 7 PM

March 28 at 5 PM & March 29 at 7, 8:30, 10, 11:30, and 5 PM: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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

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

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

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

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

Recurring Events:

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

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

Upcoming Events:

March 29, Palm Sunday: 8 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I (Chapel), 9 AM Outdoor Holy Eucharist, 10 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir (Church), 5PM Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

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.

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. Child care is available for children from infancy through age 5.

Recurring Events:

First Sunday at 8:45 AM: All men are invited to our monthly Men's Breakfast — a time of warm fellowship, good food, and meaningful conversation as we grow together in faith and friendship.

March 17, 24, and 31 at 7 PM: Lenten Study. "Finding Jesus in the Psalms: A Lenten Journey". Dinner served at 6:15 PM. Please contact Pastor Martha.

Upcoming Events:

March 20 from 4:30-6:00 PM: An evening of service and reflection for families with children in grades K-8. Our project will be making stuffed animals for Norwalk hospital pediatric emergency care patients and sharing time for music and reflection. Dinner will be served. Free to attend.

March 21 at 2 PM: Dear women, we invite you to take part in a special Easter project to help bring joy to children in need. We will be preparing Easter baskets for children served by Stamford Norwalk United with Immigrants Mutual Aid.

March 29 at 10 AM: Palm Sunday Service

Community Baptist Church

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

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZ2UNa8aHI30_Syp_XOKDg

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CBCNewCanaan/>
Sunday School at 10:00am

Worship Service at 11:00am
Live Facebook Broadcast 11:30 am

Upcoming Events:

March 22 at 11 AM: As part of Women's History Month, which celebrates the successes and sacrifices of women, Community Baptist Church will hold a special Sunday service, 'The Courage to Make History.' The Church's First Lady Kim Bianca Burgess will lead the discussion, with other women in the congregation invited to share their stories. All are welcome.

Grace Community Church

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

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

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

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

March 29 at 10 AM: Palm Sunday Service.

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.templeainaistamford.org

Service Schedule:

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

Recurring Events:

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

Temple Sholom

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

www.templesholom.com

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

Recurring Events:

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



Obituaries

PATRICIA MORGAN



Patricia "Colleen" Morgan, 81, of Stamford, CT, passed away on Saturday, March 14, 2026.

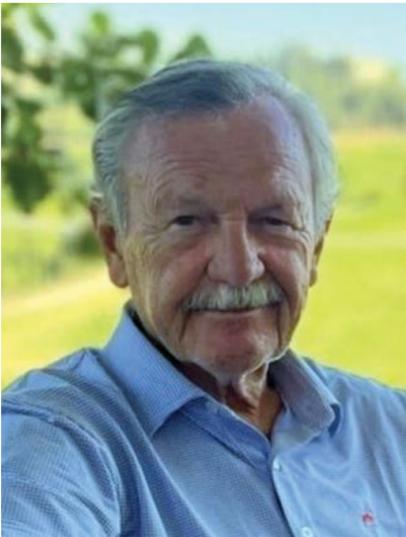
She was born in 1945 in Jonesboro, Louisiana. In 1964, while attending Louisiana State University, she met her husband of 60 years, Evander J. "EJ" Morgan. Colleen was studying geology, and EJ was studying petroleum engineering. They were married in August 1965, in New Orleans. They lived in Jackson, Mississippi, Colleen's hometown of New Orleans, and later the San Francisco Bay Area and Calgary, Canada. They retired in Baton Rouge and Mountain Air, North Carolina. Eventually, they relocated to New Canaan, CT, to be near family and their grandchildren, living there for 16 years before moving to a senior residence in Stamford.

Throughout their many moves, Colleen and EJ traveled widely and shared many adventures together, but her favorite way to spend time was at home, surrounded by family. Colleen is survived by her two daughters, Kristin E. Morgan Edgerly and her husband, Justin, and Michelle R. Morgan Harrison and her husband, Marc, both of Connecticut; three grandchildren, who were the light of her life, Madeline Morgan Edgerly of Boston, John "Jack" Morgan Harrison of Hudson, New York, and Charles "Charlie" J. Harrison of Boston; and her sisters, Catherine R. Smith and Lorene E. Smith of Baton Rouge. She was predeceased by her parents, the late Edward F. Smith and C. Lenora Harper Smith of New Orleans.

Colleen had sparkling pale blue eyes and a strong, lifelong devotion to the Lord. She had a great love for people, music, and singing throughout her life. A talented soprano, she was an active leader and member of the church choir. She was a strong, independent, and kind woman and will be greatly missed.

Family and friends are invited to attend a reception on Saturday, March 21, at Waterstone, on High Ridge Rd., in Stamford, from 2:00 - 4:00pm. The family is being compassionately cared for by the staff at Hoyt Funeral Home, 199 Main Street, New Canaan, CT 06840.

PAUL WEAVER



Paul Elwood Weaver of Naples, FL and New Canaan, CT passed peacefully on March 12, 2026 in Naples, FL due to complications from Parkinson's disease.

Paul began his extraordinary life on November 3, 1945. He was born in Lancaster, PA to Charlotte and Robert Weaver and was the middle of 5 children. He attended local schools in Lancaster and graduated from J.P. McCaskey High School in 1963. A gifted student and athlete, Paul was the first in his family to attend college, and was awarded a soccer scholarship to Elizabethtown College, in Elizabethtown, PA, from which he graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science.

Immediately following graduation, Paul began what would become his lifelong career with Price Waterhouse. In 1969, Paul was drafted and served in the Army. After his service, Paul earned an MBA from the University of Michigan Business School, graduating first in his class in 1972. His blood forever ran a little Maize & Blue thereafter.

Paul met the love of his life, Kathleen Adams of Lancaster, in June of 1965. Their "ride of a lifetime" began on Hershey Park roller coaster, a blind date suggested through his dear sister, Carol. Their incredible story together officially began when they were

married on August 27, 1967. Paul and Kathy shared almost 59 wonderful years of marriage. Paul's accomplished and distinguished career with Price Waterhouse took them all over the world, and included moves to Germany, London, England, Philadelphia, Austin, Dallas, Connecticut & New York. Some of Paul and Kathy's closest friends were the partners, and their spouses, whom Paul worked alongside to help shape the future of Price Waterhouse, now PwC.

Paul's professional accomplishments were many. Highlights include the founding and management of the Austin PW office, driving exceptional growth and management of the Dallas office, and serving as lead client partner for some of the firm's largest global accounts. In 1994, Paul joined the PW Chairman's office as Vice Chairman and went on to serve as Vice Chairman of Global Technology & Infocom from 1999 to 2006. Paul took great joy in all aspects of his work, and had a career-long passion for client service in every capacity. He also found great satisfaction in helping aspiring young professionals achieve their full potential.

Following his retirement, Paul continued to contribute his leadership and insight on corporate boards including Chairman of the Board for Unisys, AMN Healthcare, WellCare Health Plans, Idearc, and a 20 year term, including a decade-long position as Chairman of the Board, of the Ellis Island-Statue of Liberty Foundation. During his tenure at the latter, he spearheaded the fundraising for the Statue of Liberty museum, now open to the public, and was named Chairman Emeritus upon his retirement from the Board in 2023.

Education transformed Paul's life, and as a result he was actively involved in his alma maters. J.P. McCaskey High School honored him with the Distinguished Alumni Scholar Award in 2018. He served on the Board of Trustees for Elizabethtown College, which also recognized him with its Educate for Service Professional Achievement Award in 2000 and an Honorary Doctorate of Science in 2022. At the University of Michigan Business School, Paul served on the Corporate Advisory Board, helped endow a Professorship in Accounting, and was named a Big Ten Distinguished Scholar in 2009.

Paul's accomplishments were not only professional. He and Kathy shared an enviable love and approached their life with a sense of adventure. While his career took them across the globe, family was always at the center. Together, they raised three children, balancing work, personal & professional travel, and time with extended family and friends. They created lasting memories through family trips, holidays, and everyday moments that reflected their love and shared values.

Paul had a gift for making everyone around him feel seen and valued. He was the ultimate gentleman—kind, humble, witty, and welcoming to all. He used his talents to serve others, sitting on nonprofit boards such as the Austin Ballet, the Lyric Opera Company, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the American Diabetes Foundation, among others.

Paul took great delight in life's simple pleasures including a nice long walk, sitting on a sunny beach, a strenuous hike, a great glass of wine (or two), a beautiful sunset, a cold beer on a hot day, tending to his vegetable & flower gardens, a fresh tomato sandwich, an extra salty hard pretzel, and caring for his chickens, ducks & horses at the family Vermont Farm. Paul was an exceptional fisherman; he loved to ski and relished adventuresome travel. Among family & friends he was known for his humorous storytelling, his love of music and dancing, including his signature move, affectionately known as "the Puppy."

Above all, Paul was an exceptional father and an extraordinary role model to his children: Amanda Meiler (G. Jeffrey) of Bryn Mawr, PA; Jocelyn Jandovitz (Thomas) of Naples, FL; and Bradley Weaver (Kaisa) of Rowayton, CT. His legacy continues in his eight beloved grandchildren: Katharine Meiler, Victoria Meiler, Kathleen Jandovitz, John Jandovitz, Nathaniel Jandovitz, Madeline Meiler, Meredith Jandovitz, and Zachary Weaver. Paul also leaves behind other extended family members, all of whom meant the world to him.

If so inclined, in lieu of flowers, a donation in Paul's memory may be made to the Paul E Weaver Scholarship Fund:

Elizabethtown College - Institutional Advancement, 1 Alpha Drive

Elizabethtown, PA 17022." Weaver Memorial" on the memo line or online at: <http://www.etc.edu/give> (Choose Paul E Weaver Scholarship Fund in designation box)

A celebration of life will held on June 13 at the Congregational Church in New Canaan, CT.

CLAUDETTE KELLEY



It is with profound sadness, but with a deep sense of gratitude for a beautiful life well lived, that we announce the passing of Claudette (Muraro) Kelley on March 8, 2026.

Claudette was born on August 11, 1936 in the bustling heart of Brooklyn, NY and spent her final days surrounded by her devoted family, leaving this world peacefully and cherished by many. Claudette was born to the late Angelo and Caroline (Muraro) Moreno. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband William Kelley with whom she shared a beautiful 64-year marriage. Together they raised a loving family and created a legacy of love and kindness. She was also predeceased by her sister Caroline Kelley, her brothers Ralph (Maria) and Fred Moreno and her precious son James Kelley whom she joyfully joins in eternal peace.

After graduating from New Canaan High School, Claudette pursued a lifelong vocation in nursing, a career she embraced with passion and dedication for over 50 years after graduating from the Norwalk Hospital School of Nursing. Her protective touch, soothing presence and bubbly personality brought comfort to countless lives. Her colleagues and patients alike felt the warmth and sincerity of her care, as she welcomed everyone with open arms and an open heart. She was the anchor of her family, steadfast and true, and the one who everyone ran to for honest words of love, comfort, and care.

Claudette's life was anchored by her deep faith and commitment to church and God. A

devoted member of St. Aloysius in New Canaan, CT, she found strength and solace in her spiritual community, which she served with humility and grace. In her youth, Claudette was an avid athlete, her love of sports taking root in the streets of Brooklyn where she played stickball with spirited enthusiasm and rollerskating wherever she could. Her talent for music was equally remarkable, her singing voice was a source of joy to all who had the privilege of hearing it.

Claudette's greatest joy however was her family. She leaves behind a legacy of love in her surviving children, Claudia Traina (Anthony), Toni Costa, William Kelley, and daughter-in-law Lisa Kelley. Her sisters, Mildred Florentine, Ada McGrail (Dennis), Lois Muraro (CJ), and Joan Moreno (Joe), shared a bond of sisterhood that was as enduring as it was loving. And her precious niece and Godchild Lorraine was truly a loving, devoted daughter to her in her eyes. Her dear friend Agnes Violette Danzer was a steadfast and loving companion throughout life's journey. Her ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren who affectionately called her GG, were the light of her life. She doted on them with boundless affection and laughter leaving them with memories to cherish forever. Treasured nieces and nephews were loved and embraced as her own. And countless cousins were all a part of the extended family that Claudette adored.

A Mass of Christian Burial to celebrate Claudette's life will be held on March 23, 2026 at 11:00a.m. at St. Aloysius in New Canaan, CT with a burial to follow at Lakeview Cemetery in New Canaan. There will be no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a cause very close to Claudette's heart. The family extends their heartfelt thanks to Deb, Elaine, and Lisa for their unwavering care and devotion and to Pioneer Valley Hospice for their care and support.

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.

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NOTICE AND WARNING TOWN OF NEW CANAAN

Town Council Public Hearing on 2026-2027 Budget

Notice is Hereby Given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Council of the Town of New Canaan in the Town Hall Meeting Room and via Zoom, on **Thursday April 2, 2026 at 5:30 PM** on the tentative budget recommendations for the Town and the Sewer Utility for Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Notice is Also Hereby Given that pursuant to Section C5-10 of the Town Charter, a Town Council meeting will be held at the Town Hall, in the Town of New Canaan, CT on **Tuesday April 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM**, to hear and act upon a Report and Recommendation made by the Board of Finance under date March 5, 2026, relating to Town Appropriations for the budget period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 the following being a full and complete copy thereof:

LEGAL NOTICE

| Expenditures | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 PROPOSED | 26 to 27 \$ | 26 to 27 % |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| General Government | | | | |
| Selectmen | 677,798 | 721,129 | 43,331 | 6.4% |
| Finance | 1,209,906 | 1,237,716 | 27,810 | 2.3% |
| Assessor | 425,451 | 412,411 | (13,040) | -3.1% |
| Tax Collector | 188,688 | 251,877 | 63,189 | 33.5% |
| Legal | 425,000 | 465,000 | 40,000 | 9.4% |
| Human Resources | 474,884 | 482,475 | 7,591 | 1.6% |
| Information Technology | 756,925 | 816,105 | 59,180 | 7.8% |
| Town Clerk | 520,158 | 524,724 | 4,566 | 0.9% |
| Registrar of Voters | 200,461 | 199,825 | (636) | -0.3% |
| Parking | 391,161 | 411,657 | 20,496 | 5.2% |
| Town Commissions | 68,250 | 3,145 | (65,105) | -95.4% |
| Non-Departmental | 80,000 | 110,028 | 30,028 | 37.5% |
| Expenses - General Government | 5,418,682 | 5,636,094 | 217,412 | 4.0% |
| Benefits and Insurance | | | | |
| Health & Security Benefits | 6,672,778 | 6,674,678 | 1,900 | 0.0% |
| Pensions & Other Post Employment Benefits | 612,465 | 507,878 | (104,587) | -17.1% |
| Insurance Liability | 1,572,924 | 1,621,112 | 48,188 | 3.1% |
| Expenses - Benefits and Insurance | 8,858,167 | 8,803,668 | (54,499) | -0.6% |
| Public Safety | | | | |
| Police | 8,063,967 | 8,373,157 | 309,190 | 3.8% |
| Animal Control / Park Ranger | 95,179 | 93,491 | (1,688) | -1.8% |
| Fire & Fire Marshal | 4,789,020 | 4,844,000 | 54,980 | 1.1% |
| EMS | 640,805 | 647,903 | 7,098 | 1.1% |
| Emergency Management | 154,737 | 171,067 | 16,330 | 10.6% |
| Building | 543,813 | 540,772 | (3,041) | -0.6% |
| Land Use | 611,445 | 617,256 | 5,811 | 1.0% |
| Expenses - Public Safety | 14,898,966 | 15,287,647 | 388,681 | 2.6% |
| Public Works | | | | |
| Administration | 353,997 | 342,822 | (11,175) | -3.2% |
| Highway | 3,981,635 | 4,134,531 | 152,896 | 3.8% |
| Engineering | 504,160 | 515,090 | 10,930 | 2.2% |
| Town Buildings | 1,489,261 | 1,563,266 | 74,005 | 5.0% |
| Town Utilities | 600,460 | 564,275 | (36,185) | -6.0% |
| Transfer Station | 1,903,461 | 1,731,643 | (171,818) | -9.0% |
| Parks | 2,385,475 | 2,462,183 | 76,708 | 3.2% |
| Expenditures | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 PROPOSED | 26 to 27 \$ | 26 to 27 % |
| Public Works cont. | | | | |
| Nature Center | 69,057 | 78,008 | 8,951 | 13.0% |
| Tree Service | 539,489 | 539,489 | - | 0.0% |
| Expenses - Public Works | 11,826,995 | 11,931,308 | 104,313 | 0.9% |
| Recreation | | | | |
| Administration / Programs | 590,276 | 695,488 | 105,212 | 17.8% |
| Waveny | 103,978 | 118,760 | 14,782 | 14.2% |
| Paddle Tennis | 26,900 | 26,350 | (550) | -2.0% |
| Park Buildings | 289,800 | 301,304 | 11,504 | 4.0% |
| Lapham Community Center | 370,558 | 377,419 | 6,861 | 1.9% |
| Pool Operations Kiwanis | 82,996 | 67,246 | (15,751) | -19.0% |
| Expenses - Recreation | 1,464,508 | 1,586,566 | 122,058 | 8.3% |
| Health & Human Services | | | | |
| Health | 582,921 | 545,397 | (37,524) | -6.4% |
| Human Services | 448,225 | 338,648 | (109,577) | -24.4% |
| Expenses - Health & Human Services | 1,031,146 | 884,046 | (147,100) | -14.3% |
| Human Services Agencies | | | | |
| Getabout | 25,000 | 25,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Kids In Crisis | 70,000 | - | (70,000) | -100.0% |
| New Canaan Cares | 5,000 | 2,000 | (3,000) | -60.0% |
| Domestic Violence Crisis Centre | 10,000 | 10,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Meals On Wheels | 5,000 | 5,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Community Program Mental Wellness | 1,500 | - | (1,500) | -100.0% |
| New Canaan Urgent Assessment | 15,000 | 15,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Expenses - Human Services Agencies | 131,500 | 57,000 | (74,500) | -56.7% |
| Other Agencies | | | | |
| Health/Welfare | 250,000 | 250,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Day Care Center | 32,000 | 32,000 | - | 0.0% |
| New Canaan Historical Society | 25,000 | 25,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Trans Private Schools | 280,000 | 310,000 | 30,000 | 10.7% |
| Channel 79 TV | 40,500 | 40,500 | - | 0.0% |
| Probate Court | 12,000 | 12,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Expenses - Other Agencies | 639,500 | 669,500 | 30,000 | 4.7% |
| Library | | | | |
| Library Operating | 3,013,500 | 3,119,000 | 105,500 | 3.5% |
| Expenses - Library | 3,013,500 | 3,119,000 | 105,500 | 3.5% |
| Town Only Operating Expense | 47,282,964 | 47,974,828 | 691,864 | 1.5% |
| Contingencies | | | | |
| Contingencies | 691,084 | 723,171 | 32,087 | 4.6% |
| Expenses - Contingencies | 691,084 | 723,171 | 32,087 | 4.6% |
| BOE Benefits | | | | |
| BOE Pension | 168,427 | 106,192 | (62,235) | -37.0% |
| BOE 401A Match | 208,060 | 235,000 | 26,940 | 12.9% |
| Expenses - BOE Benefits | 376,487 | 341,192 | (35,295) | -9.4% |
| Total Operating Expense | 48,350,535 | 49,039,191 | 688,656 | 1.4% |
| Expenditures | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 PROPOSED | 26 to 27 \$ | 26 to 27 % |
| Tax Supported Capital Projects | | | | |
| Transfer to Tax Funded Capital Projects | 472,500 | 476,343 | 3,843 | 0.8% |
| Expenses - Tax Supported Capital Projects | 472,500 | 476,343 | 3,843 | 0.8% |
| Debt Service | | | | |
| Town | 12,834,742 | 13,192,123 | 357,381 | 2.8% |
| School | 4,904,029 | 4,904,029 | - | 0.0% |
| School IT Lease | 646,401 | 434,000 | (212,401) | -32.9% |
| Expenses - Debt Service | 18,385,172 | 18,530,152 | 144,980 | 0.8% |
| Board of Education | | | | |
| Operating Expense | 95,385,365 | 99,232,391 | 3,847,026 | 4.0% |
| Health Internal Service Fund Transfer | 18,411,906 | 17,951,374 | (460,532) | -2.5% |
| Expenses - Board of Education | 113,797,271 | 117,183,765 | 3,386,494 | 3.0% |
| Total Town Operating, All Debt Service, All Capital Expenditures, and Board of Education Operating Exp | 181,005,478 | 185,229,451 | 4,223,973 | 2.3% |

LEGAL NOTICE

| Revenues | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 PROPOSED | 26 to 27 \$ | 26 to 27 % |
|---|--------------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| General Government | | | | |
| Parking Permits, Fees, Tickets | 918,700 | 974,200 | 55,500 | 6.0% |
| Investment Income | 1,800,000 | 1,800,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Conveyance Fees | 1,600,000 | 1,600,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Tax Collections - Prior Yrs | 300,000 | 300,000 | - | 0.0% |
| BOE Excess Cost Grant | 916,577 | 1,000,000 | 83,423 | 9.1% |
| Building Permits | 900,000 | 900,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Educational Cost Sharing | 473,399 | 473,399 | - | 0.0% |
| Tipping Fees | 415,000 | 350,000 | (65,000) | -15.7% |
| Other State Aid | 188,985 | 188,985 | - | 0.0% |
| Bond Premium | 1,800,000 | - | (1,800,000) | -100.0% |
| Transfer from Other Funds | 380,000 | 1,390,000 | 1,010,000 | 265.8% |
| All Other Revenues | 1,513,627 | 1,575,877 | 62,250 | 4.1% |
| Total Estimated Revenue | 11,206,288 | 10,552,461 | (653,827) | -5.8% |
| Contribution from Fund Balance | | | | |
| Contribution from Fund Balance | 5,750,000 | 5,000,000 | (750,000) | -13.0% |
| Expenses - Contribution from Fund Balance | 5,750,000 | 5,000,000 | (750,000) | -13.0% |
| Amount to be Raised by Taxation for General Fund (Budgeted Expenses less Est. Revenue) | 164,049,190 | 169,676,990 | 5,627,800 | 3.4% |
| Capital Projects - Town | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 Recommended for Bonding | 2027 Recommended for Tax Funding | 2027 Recommended Other Funding |
| Non-Departmental | | | | |
| Affordable Housing Committee | - | 225,000 | - | - |
| Information Technology | | | | |
| IT-Hardware/Software | 40,000 | 30,000 | - | - |
| WAN Software / Hardware | 30,000 | 20,000 | - | - |
| Parking | | | | |
| Parking Pay Machines - Elm Str | 91,100 | - | - | - |
| 8 Machines - Main St | - | 90,774 | - | - |
| Police | | | | |
| Police vehicles | 213,500 | - | - | 300,000 |
| Bullet Proof Vest Replacement | 8,000 | - | - | 10,000 |
| Portable radio replacement | 15,200 | 12,000 | - | - |
| Mobile Radio Replacement | 10,000 | - | - | - |
| Taser Replacement and Equipmen | 17,000 | 150,000 | - | - |
| Mobile Data Terminal Replaceme | 4,800 | 30,000 | - | - |
| Duty Firearm Replacement | 60,000 | - | - | - |
| Patrol Rifle Parts and Replace | - | - | - | 35,000 |
| Defibrillators (AEDs) and Medi | 7,500 | - | - | 12,000 |
| Body Cameras | 3,100 | - | - | - |
| Fire | | | | |
| Personal Protective Clothing | 47,500 | - | - | 25,000 |
| Radio Replacement/Repair | 12,000 | 40,000 | - | - |
| Fire Hose Replacement | 10,000 | - | - | - |
| Firefighting Tools and Equipme | 15,000 | - | - | 20,000 |
| Water Supply Improvement | 10,000 | - | - | - |
| SCBA Replacement | 450,000 | - | - | - |
| Utility (Pick up Truck) replac | 105,000 | - | - | - |
| Security Cameras | 15,000 | - | - | - |
| Rescue Tools and Equipment | - | 75,000 | - | - |
| Pumper Replacement | - | 1,500,000 | - | - |
| Plumbing and Electrical for th | - | - | - | 15,000 |
| Ambulance Corps | | | | |
| Ambulance | 390,000 | - | - | - |
| Paramedic Vehicle, Replacement | - | 85,000 | - | - |
| Emergency Management | | | | |
| Motorola Radio Hardware & Soft | 143,403 | 179,217 | - | - |
| Public Works - Admin & Engineering | | | | |
| Pavement Management Program | 3,500,000 | 3,320,904 | - | 179,096 |
| ADA Improvements - Townwide | 250,000 | 350,000 | - | - |
| Sidewalks - Improvements & New | 500,000 | 750,000 | - | - |
| Parking Lots | 150,000 | - | - | 300,000 |
| Pavement Preservation | 250,000 | - | - | - |
| Drainage | 100,000 | - | - | - |
| Guide Rails | 50,000 | - | - | 50,000 |
| Signage and Striping | 25,000 | 25,000 | - | - |
| Vehicle Replacement - Administ | 50,000 | - | - | - |
| Bridges < 20' - Engineering & | - | 250,000 | - | - |
| Capital Projects - Town | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 Recommended for Bonding | 2027 Recommended for Tax Funding | 2027 Recommended Other Funding |
| Public Works - Admin & Engineering cont. | | | | |
| Traffic Signal Replacement - E | - | 100,000 | - | - |
| Intersection Improve - Various | - | - | - | 50,000 |
| Intersection Improve - Various | - | - | - | 1,500,000 |
| Town Parcel Surveys - Various | 50,000 | - | - | 50,000 |
| Tree Replacement | 25,000 | - | - | - |
| Schoolhouse Apartments Patio C | - | - | 50,000 | - |
| Public Works - Highway | | | | |
| 2 WD Dump/Sander Truck | - | 290,000 | - | - |
| Combination Vacuum/Jet Truck | 640,000 | - | - | - |
| Highway Garage Cold Storage Bl | 475,000 | - | - | - |
| Low-Boy Dump Truck | - | 95,000 | - | - |
| Skid Steer w/ Accessories | - | 135,000 | - | - |
| 20 ton Tag-along Trailer | - | 52,000 | - | - |
| Equipment refurbishing | 25,000 | - | - | 25,000 |
| Road Striping | 25,000 | 25,000 | - | - |
| Salt Brine Tanks | - | - | - | 10,000 |
| Highway Garage Fuel Dispensing | - | 87,000 | - | - |
| Public Works - Town Buildings | | | | |
| Town Hall Repairs and Upgrades | 50,000 | 135,000 | - | - |
| Town Hall Annex Deck Replaceme | - | - | - | 10,000 |
| Town Hall Annex HVAC Replaceme | 154,000 | - | - | - |
| Town Hall Annex Roof Replaceme | 313,500 | - | - | - |
| Vine Cottage Window Repairs/St | - | - | 30,000 | - |
| EMS Building Exterior Repairs | 15,000 | - | - | - |
| Parks Garage Saxe Interior Rep | 35,000 | - | - | - |
| Waveny House ADA Upgrades | 200,000 | - | - | - |
| Waveny House Exterior Repairs/ | 2,450,000 | - | - | - |
| Waveny House Exterior Doors | - | 360,000 | - | - |
| Waveny House Abatement | - | 300,000 | - | - |
| Waveny Park Powerhouse Theatre | - | 875,000 | - | - |
| Waveny Park Potting Shed (fron | 65,000 | - | - | - |
| Waveny Park LCC, Douglas Room | - | - | 50,000 | - |
| Waveny Park LCC, Floors & Soun | 83,000 | - | - | - |
| Waveny Park LCC, Garage | 26,000 | - | - | - |
| Waveny Park LCC, Drainage & Ch | 685,000 | - | - | - |
| Waveny Park Lamp Post Replacem | 280,000 | - | - | - |
| Highway Garage Building Interi | 50,000 | - | - | - |
| Irwin Park Main House-Demo | 400,000 | - | - | - |
| Irwin Gores Pavilion | 10,000 | - | - | - |
| Nature Center Education Buildi | 150,000 | 200,000 | - | 350,000 |
| School House Apartments Patio | 50,000 | - | - | - |
| Old Incinerator Buildings Demo | - | 375,000 | - | - |
| Center School Parking Lot Lamp | 130,000 | - | - | - |
| Public Works - Transfer Station | | | | |
| Loader Tire Replacement - Foam | - | - | 30,000 | - |
| Replace Railings in Commercial | 35,000 | - | - | - |
| Public Works - Parks Infrastructure | | | | |
| Field Improvements | 50,000 | 55,000 | - | - |
| Irrigation Upgrades | 175,000 | 400,000 | - | - |
| Playground Safety Inspections | 30,000 | - | 14,000 | - |

LEGAL NOTICE

| Capital Projects - Town | ADOPTED | Recommended for Bonding | Recommended for Tax Funding | Recommended Other Funding |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Public Works - Parks Infrastructure cont. | | | | |
| Fence/ Backstops Replacement | - | 65,000 | - | - |
| Water fountains | 9,000 | - | - | - |
| Paddle Tennis Heater Update | - | - | 26,000 | - |
| Bleacher Repairs | 100,000 | - | - | - |
| AED's Outdoors | 30,000 | - | - | - |
| Waveny Trail Reconstruction | 60,000 | - | - | - |
| Picnic Tables and Benches | 25,000 | - | - | - |
| Track Resurface Topcoat - Clea | 15,000 | - | - | - |
| Pickleball Courts Waveny | 200,000 | - | - | - |
| Clay Infield Replacement w/Bac | - | 75,000 | - | - |
| Pavilion Waveny Park | 110,000 | - | - | - |
| Dunning Stadium Enterprise Zon | 200,000 | - | - | - |
| Public Works - Parks Equipment | | | | |
| Vehicle w/accessories | 85,000 | 170,000 | - | - |
| Utility Carts | - | 52,000 | - | - |
| Ride on Mowers | - | - | 14,000 | - |
| Misc Equipment and Attachments | - | 43,000 | - | - |
| Standup Machine | 42,000 | - | - | - |
| Brush Cutters | - | - | 17,000 | - |
| Artificial Field Groomer/ swee | - | 55,000 | - | - |
| 10' Front Mower | 92,500 | - | - | - |
| Snow plow tractor mount | - | 30,000 | - | - |
| Tractor | 84,000 | - | - | - |
| Library | | | | |
| Preservation of Old Building | - | 1,000,000 | - | - |
| Recreation Administration | | | | |
| New Technology for Lapham Cent | - | 35,000 | - | - |
| Audio System and Installation | - | 45,000 | - | - |
| Total Town Capital Expenditures | 14,302,103 | 12,186,895 | 231,000 | 2,941,096 |

| Capital Projects - Board of Education | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 Recommended for Bonding | 2027 Recommended for Tax Funding | 2027 Recommended Other Funding |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Subtotal BOE - District | 1,435,000 | 1,150,000 | 53,780 | - |
| Subtotal BOE - East | 305,000 | 80,000 | 30,000 | - |
| Subtotal BOE - South | 100,000 | 320,000 | 50,000 | - |
| Subtotal BOE - West | 50,000 | 80,000 | 53,500 | - |
| Subtotal BOE - Saxe | 810,000 | 940,000 | 35,000 | - |
| Subtotal BOE - HS | 1,345,000 | 80,150 | 23,063 | - |
| Subtotal BOE - Vehicles | 245,000 | 255,000 | - | - |
| Total BOE Capital Expenditures | 4,290,000 | 2,905,150 | 245,343 | - |

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Total Town-Wide Capital Expenditures | 18,592,103 | 15,092,045 | 476,343 | 2,941,096 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|

| Sewer Fund Expenditures | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 PROPOSED | 26 to 27 \$ | 26 to 27 % |
|--|------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Administration (Tax Collector sewer expense) | 48,808 | 59,463 | 10,655 | 21.8% |
| Operation of Plant | 1,561,446 | 1,549,778 | (11,668) | -0.7% |
| Insurance | 91,035 | 94,676 | 3,641 | 4.0% |
| Contingency & Transfers | 424,000 | 494,482 | 70,482 | 16.6% |
| Total Sewer Operating Expense | 2,125,289 | 2,198,400 | 73,111 | 3.4% |

| Capital Projects - Sewer Fund | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 Recommended for Bonding | 2027 Recommended for Tax Funding | 2027 Recommended Other Funding |
|---|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Submersible Pump | 36,000 | - | 36,000 | - |
| Horizontal Grinder Pump | 30,000 | - | - | - |
| Motor Control Electrical Rehab | 20,000 | - | 20,000 | - |
| Engineering Services (Zn, P, WP) | 20,000 | - | 20,000 | - |
| Sewer Rehab | 30,000 | - | 30,000 | - |
| Sensor Replacements | 23,000 | - | - | - |
| Course Bar Screen Replacement | - | - | - | - |
| Tuthill Waste Pump | 50,000 | - | - | - |
| Inflow and Infiltration - Sewer | 400,000 | 400,000 | - | - |
| Inflow and Infiltration - Sewe | 500,000 | 500,000 | - | - |
| Sewer Relining | 100,000 | 100,000 | - | - |
| Trailer Generator | 110,000 | - | - | - |
| Polymer System #1 | 100,000 | - | - | - |
| Polymer System #2 | - | 100,000 | - | - |
| Control Building (Replace furn | 15,000 | - | - | - |
| Pump Station Control Panel Rep | - | 50,000 | - | - |
| Total Sewer Capital Expenditures | 1,434,000 | 1,150,000 | 106,000 | - |

| Sewer Fund Expenditures | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 PROPOSED | 26 to 27 \$ | 26 to 27 % |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Total Sewer Expenditures | 3,559,289 | 3,454,400 | (104,889) | -2.9% |

| Sewer Fund Revenues | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 PROPOSED | 26 to 27 \$ | 26 to 27 % |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Tax Collections - Prior Yrs | 3,000 | 3,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Lien Fees And Interest | 6,000 | 7,000 | 1,000 | 16.7% |
| Sewer Impact Fee | - | 50,000 | 50,000 | - |
| Sewer Connection Permits | 400 | 400 | - | 0.0% |
| Nitrogen Credit | 8,000 | 8,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Disposal Fees | 195,000 | 195,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Total Sewer Revenues | 212,400 | 263,400 | 51,000 | 24.0% |

| | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Amount to be Raised by Sewer Billing (Budgeted Expenses less Est. Revenue) | 1,927,526 | 2,041,000 | 113,474 | 5.9% |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|

| Other Fund Budgets | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 PROPOSED | 26 to 27 \$ | 26 to 27 % |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Dog Fund | | | | |
| Total Revenues | - | 24,500 | 24,500 | - |
| Total Operating Expenses | - | 22,900 | 22,900 | - |
| Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures | - | 1,600 | 1,600 | - |

| Parking Fund | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 PROPOSED | 26 to 27 \$ | 26 to 27 % |
|---|-----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Total Revenues | 135,000 | 135,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Total Operating Expenses | 150,000 | 300,000 | 150,000 | 100.0% |
| Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures | (15,000) | (165,000) | (150,000) | 1000.0% |

| Railroad Fund | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 PROPOSED | 26 to 27 \$ | 26 to 27 % |
|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Total Revenues | 169,600 | 179,600 | 10,000 | 5.9% |
| Total Operating Expenses | 123,174 | 179,600 | 56,426 | 45.8% |
| Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures | 46,426 | - | (46,426) | -100.0% |

| Waveny Pool Fund | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 PROPOSED | 26 to 27 \$ | 26 to 27 % |
|---|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total Revenues | 586,615 | 630,700 | 44,085 | 7.5% |
| Total Operating Expenses | 581,115 | 630,700 | 49,585 | 8.5% |
| Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures | 5,500 | - | (5,500) | -100.0% |

| Movie Theater Fund | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 PROPOSED | 26 to 27 \$ | 26 to 27 % |
|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Total Revenues | 123,600 | 132,550 | 8,950 | 7.2% |
| Total Operating Expenses | 78,000 | 132,550 | 54,550 | 69.9% |
| Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures | 45,600 | - | (45,600) | -100.0% |

| Recreation Fund | 2026 ADOPTED | 2027 PROPOSED | 26 to 27 \$ | 26 to 27 % |
|---|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total Revenues | 1,424,880 | 1,420,500 | (4,380) | -0.3% |
| Total Operating Expenses | 1,418,170 | 1,305,720 | (112,449) | -7.9% |
| Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures | 6,710 | 114,780 | 108,069 | 1610.5% |

*Please note that the figures presented in this budget represent the Board of Finance recommended FY27 Budget, and are subject to change pending the final Town Council review.

Ranked Choice Voting Advances in Legislature

Senate Bill 386, which would allow Connecticut municipalities to adopt Ranked Choice Voting for local elections and party primaries, advanced out of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, as a bipartisan group of municipal leaders called on state lawmakers to approve the measure.

The legislation would not require statewide adoption. Instead, it would permit cities and towns to implement Ranked Choice Voting on a voluntary basis, a structure supporters say preserves local control while offering an option to address declining voter participation.

In a joint letter to Governor Ned Lamont and legislative leaders, officials from Stamford, Norwalk, Norwich, Bridgeport, Hartford and other municipalities described the proposal as a limited reform. "This is a practical, incremental reform that respects local control," the municipal leaders wrote. "It gives communities the freedom to strengthen democratic participation in ways that best reflect their residents' needs."

The letter cites turnout declines in recent municipal elections. Bridgeport recorded 19.98% turnout in 2023, down from 21.98% in 2019. Hartford fell to 13.74%, down from 18.14%, according to the coalition. Leaders argue that such figures reflect disengagement and concern that election outcomes do not always reflect majority support.

Ranked Choice Voting allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference. If no candidate receives a majority, lower-ranked candidates are eliminated and their votes redistributed until one candidate surpasses 50%.

Norwalk Mayor Barbara Smyth said the system could improve representation. "Ranked Choice Voting offers a

way to encourage broader participation and ensure that winners in multi-candidate races have true majority support," Smyth said.

Norwich Mayor Swarnjit Singh emphasized voter choice. "Providing municipalities the option to adopt RCV would give local leaders the flexibility to strengthen democratic participation and give voters more voice in their communities," Singh said.

Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons described the proposal as consistent with incremental reform. "Allowing municipalities to adopt Ranked Choice Voting voluntarily ensures that communities can evaluate and implement reforms that strengthen participation," Simmons said.

Former Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin said the system could improve campaign dynamics and voter confidence. Governor Lamont also endorsed the opt-in approach, stating that allowing municipalities to adopt Ranked Choice Voting "respects local control while giving communities a tool to increase participation and ensure majority support in local elections."

Supporters said the proposal aligns with recommendations from the Governor's Working Group on Ranked Choice Voting and applies only to municipal elections and party primaries.

Advocates also cited research presented at a public hearing indicating turnout gains in jurisdictions using the system. In Minneapolis-St. Paul, turnout increased by 9.6% after adoption, with larger gains in higher-poverty areas.

SB 386 now moves forward in the legislative process as lawmakers consider whether to authorize municipalities to adopt the system.

Smoke Detectors Save Lives

A New Canaan family is safe today because of working smoke/carbon monoxide detectors.

It is important to have enough smoke alarms for your home. Fire research as demonstrated that with today's modern furnishings, fires can spread much more rapidly than in the past when natural material were used.

Follow these simple instructions when installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors:

- Choose smoke/carbon monoxide alarms that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory such as UL.

- Install smoke alarms inside each sleeping room and outside of each sleeping area (typically in the bedroom hallway) and on every level of the home including basement.

- Carbon monoxide detectors should be installed outside of each

sleeping area (again the bedroom hallway) and on every level of the home including basement. Combination smoke/carbon monoxide detectors are available for these locations.

- In addition to smoke detectors, the Fire Marshal's Office recommends the use of heat detectors in areas where naturally occurring smoke or fumes would cause an alarm with a regular smoke detector. Places like kitchens and garages will benefit from heat detectors.

The Fire Marshal's Office offers complimentary Home Safety Inspections to all New Canaan residence. Please contact the office to schedule an appointment by sending an email to donna.hutter@newcanaanct.gov or calling 203-594-3030.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

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

Permit Number (IW-26-5) issued to Timothy H. and Maria F. Orr, 5 Hidden Meadow Lane, Map 40 Block 105 Lot 106. Install erosion controls. Construct retaining walls, ranging from 1 to 4 feet in height for a total of 78' long. Construct 16'x28' swimming pool with patio. Install pool equipment and pad and make connections. Install stormwater management system and make connections. Fine grade and stabilize all disturbed areas with vegetative cover.

LEGAL AD

REGULAR MEETING TOWN OF NEW CANAAN INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

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

Permit Number (IW-26-7) issued to Megan DeMichiel Schinella and Joseph Schinella, 40 Lakeview Avenue, Map N Block 80 Lot 627. Install soil and erosion controls. Remove overhead electrical service to both the main house and rear cottage and CL&P pole #2264. Excavate trench to install underground electrical from street and make connections to existing structures by installing a Silo at the current electrical pole and installing 4 conduit sleeves to the main house and to the cottage. Construct retaining wall, approximately 81' long and no greater than 4' high. Repave driveway in its current location. Fine grade, topsoil and seed disturbed areas upon completion.

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 31, 2026 this hearing is scheduled as a hybrid meeting to be held in the Board Room at Town Hall, 77 Main Street at 7:00 p.m. with access available in person or via an on-line system to hear and decide the application(s) as follows:

1. 30 Parade Hill Road – Upon application of Amy E. Souchuns, MacDermid; Reynolds & Glissman, P.C., Authorized Agent for GHF Parade Hill Road, LLC, owner(s), for Site Plan approval pursuant to Sect. 8-30g of the CT General Statutes to construct a 14- residential unit structure in the B Residence & Half Acre Zones at 30 Parade Hill Road (Map P, Block 42, Lot 852).

Dated: March 19, 2026
New Canaan, Connecticut
Daniel Radman, Chairman

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission at a special meeting held via hybrid and in person on March 9, 2026 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, 21 South Avenue – that the application of Zigrida Parubi, Authorized Agent for 21 S Avenue Property, LLC, owner(s), for a Site Plan approval pursuant to Section(s) 4.2.C to allow a change of use from a retail store to a personal service establishment on the first floor in the Retail A Zone at 21 South Avenue (Map T, Block 44, Lot 924) is approved.

2. RESOLVED, 94 Park Street – that the application of Robert Mallozzi, III, Authorized Agent for Caroline Realty, LLC, owner(s), for a Site Plan approval pursuant to Section(s) 4.4.C to allow a change of use from general to medical office in the Business A Zone at 94 Park Street (Map T, Block 44, Lot 914) is approved.

Krista Neilson, Secretary
Dated March 9, 2026

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

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

Permit Number (IW-26-2) issued to Eugene and Odette Kablinsky, 142 White Birch Road, Map 36 Block 53 Lot 22. Install soil and erosion controls. Construct 20'x40' pool with patio. Install 12'x13' pad for pool equipment and generator and make connections. Construct 24" high retaining wall as depicted. Install landscaping. Fine grade, topsoil, seed/sod all disturbed areas.



WOMEN'S HEALTH FORUM

Evidence-Based Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT)

MARCH 31st | 5:30 - 7:30PM | THE J HOUSE GREENWICH

This Women's History Month, The J House Greenwich and The First Bank of Greenwich invite women of all ages to an evening of community, conversation, and education on hormone replacement therapy (HRT)—one of the most controversial and misunderstood topics in women's health.

Led by a panel of leading women's health experts, this forum is designed to provide an environment for women to ask questions, learn more about HRT, and leave feeling empowered to make more informed decisions about their personal health.

Guests will enjoy light bites, beverages, a live Q&A session with the experts, curated giveaways, and more!

A portion of proceeds will be donated to the Greenwich YWCA.

MEET THE EXPERTS



Isabel Bogdan, DNP, WHNP, MSCP

Women's Health Nurse Practitioner & Founder of Belev.co

Dr. Bogdan has 20+ years of experience specializing in women's metabolic health and aesthetic medicine. She received her Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) from Columbia University and serves as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner at the Emilia Fazzalari Women's Health Center of Excellence. She is also the author of "Decoding Vitality," which she wrote to empower women's health in a world where the well-being of women is often overlooked or misunderstood.



Katie Takayasu, MD

Integrative Medicine Physician & Founder of Wellness Insights

Dr. Takayasu is an Integrative Medicine Physician, author of "Plants First: A Physician's Guide to Wellness Through a Plant-Forward Diet," and prominent speaker in the holistic health space, bridging the gap between traditional Western medicine and evidence-based health tools such as nutrition, acupuncture, meditation, botanicals, and lifestyle optimization. She received her B.B.A. from the University of Michigan, her M.D. and M.B.A. from Wright State University, and conducted her Family Medicine Residency at Columbia University/New York Presbyterian.



Kathleen Cannon, ND

Naturopathic Physician

Dr. Cannon is a Naturopathic Physician and firm believer in the innate intelligence within all of us. After overcoming her own health crisis, she left a job in financial services to pursue helping other people on their health journeys and became a naturopathic doctor. She specializes in supporting people experiencing a variety of health concerns, including autoimmune and chronic conditions, and is trained in functional medicine as well as HeartMath, which uses biofeedback to improve the body's psychophysiological stress response.

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Springing Into Bermudian Cuisine



BY GARETH EDMONDSON-JONES

As winter eventually starts to loosen its grip on North America, Bermuda eases into spring with a subtle shift in light, scents and appetite. The Atlantic turns a brighter blue, the bougainvillea begin to show off, and restaurant chalkboards across the island start to reflect the season's quiet abundance. Spring in Bermuda is less about thawing out and more about tuning in – to the sea, to Easter traditions and to a calendar dotted with food-focused festivities.

Any conversation about Bermudian cuisine begins with the ocean. Long before visitors arrived on the pink-sand beaches, local tables were defined by what could be hauled from the water. The national dish, codfish and potatoes, is a case in point: salt

cod simmered with onions and spices, served with boiled potatoes, sliced banana and a generous splash of olive oil or tomato-based sauce. It is a hearty breakfast but also a historic reminder of the island's seafaring ties to the North Atlantic.

Spring brings a renewed affection for seafood. Easter also brings special treats to the spring table. On Good Friday, Bermudians fly homemade kites in pastel colors, and afterwards gather for fish cakes tucked into hot cross buns – a sweet-savory combination that surprises first-timers and delights regulars. The buns, fragrant with spice and dotted with currants, are a British inheritance; the fish cakes, crisped in a skillet, speak to the island's maritime heart. Together, they form a sandwich that feels both devotional and uniquely local.

Across Hamilton and into the parishes, spring menus begin to feature loquats, one of the island's most beloved seasonal fruits. Introduced centuries ago and now frequently included in back gardens, loquats ripen from late winter into early spring. They find their way into chutneys served alongside grilled pork, into glossy tarts displayed in café windows, and, inevitably, into small-batch loquat liqueurs. Bartenders shake them into rum cocktails that taste like sunshine with a citrus edge. Goslings even produce a Bermuda Gold Loquat Liqueur. It's only sold in Bermuda but it is available to take home duty-free from their flagship store on Front Street.

No discussion of Bermudian food would be complete without mentioning fish chowder, dark and deeply spiced

with black rum and sherry pepper sauce. While it is available year-round, spring's breezy evenings make it especially appealing – a bowl of warmth after a day spent exploring the South Shore. And for those seeking a celebratory beverage, chowder pairs well with the island's signature tippie, the Dark 'n' Stormy, combining Goslings Black Seal Rum rum with ginger beer and a lime wedge.

More than a cocktail, the Dark 'n' Stormy is a social shorthand for island life. It appears at beach bars along the South Shore, at yacht clubs during regattas, and at backyard gatherings where the grill is heavy with wahoo or spiny lobster (and it's lobster season through the end of March). The Dark 'n' Stormy is both everyday refreshment and ceremonial toast.

Travelers from Westchester and

Fairfield counties don't even have to wait for their arrival in Bermuda to join in on that toast. The country's flag carrier BermudAir flies three times a week from Westchester Regional Airport on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and offers Dark 'n' Stormies onboard – and in a proper cocktail glass, no plastic allowed.

What distinguishes Bermudian spring cuisine is not dramatic seasonality – the climate is too gentle for that – but a sense of occasion around Easter rituals reinforce continuity and seasonal delights such as backyard loquat trees offer a fleeting taste of the months ahead. Spring in Bermuda offers the island's culinary identity, ready to be savored with the first warm breezes off the Atlantic.

NEWS BRIEFS From Page 1

SCHOOLS

SLS Serve NYC Homeless

St. Luke's Midnight Run Club traveled to New York City to provide food, drinks, and clothing to people experiencing homelessness. They collected supplies and raised funds through school-year drives and fundraisers, then distributed about 90 meals during the trip. Photo credit: St. Luke's School.

Saxe Students Perform



Twenty-eight Saxe students performed solo pieces at a music event at New Canaan High School, where they received feedback from judges. Photo credit: New Canaan Public Schools.

NCCS Fundraiser

Horizons at New Canaan Country School will hold a fundraiser on April 24, 2026, to

support its tuition-free programs for about 400 students. The event will include dinner, fundraising activities, and entertainment led by program alumni. It is supported by local and corporate sponsors.

SPORTS

Walter Camp Football Foundation

Awards



The New Canaan football team was named Walter Camp Football Foundation Team of the Year, and Lou Marinelli was named Coach of the Year. Andrew Esposito, Adrian Delicata, and Ryan Brooks earned First Team All-State honors, with Esposito also named a finalist for Connecticut Player of the Year. Photo credit: New Canaan Football.

ACROSS CT

Hyundai Palisade Recall

Hyundai is recalling over 60,000 2026 Palisade vehicles due to a rear seat defect that may not detect occupants or objects. The company is also investigating a fatal incident involving a child. A free software update and additional safety fixes are in development.

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REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD EDITOR

John Engel | John.Engel@Elliman.com

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD CONTRIBUTOR

Robyn Bonder | Robyn.Bonder@Elliman.com

NEW SALES

| Address | Original List | List Price | Sold Price | DOM | BR | FB | Acres |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----|----|----|-------|
| 139 Jelliff Mill Road | \$2,375,000 | \$2,375,000 | \$2,315,000 | 258 | 5 | 5 | 1.16 |
| 77 Winfield Lane | \$2,495,000 | \$2,495,000 | \$2,620,000 | 42 | 5 | 5 | 2.88 |
| 226 Putnam Road | \$2,999,000 | \$2,999,000 | \$3,500,000 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 1.01 |
| 317 Park Street | \$3,895,000 | \$3,750,000 | \$3,700,000 | 250 | 5 | 6 | 0.47 |
| 111 Parish Lane | \$4,950,000 | \$4,950,000 | \$4,500,000 | 29 | 6 | 6 | 3.81 |

FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

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

| Address | Price | Day | Time | Broker |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|---------|
| 119 Harrison Ave | \$4,195,000 | SAT & SUN | 1-3 pm & 2-4 pm | Compass |
| 28 E Maple Street | \$2,295,000 | SAT & SUN | 2:00 -4:00 pm | Raveis |

NEW LISTINGS

| Address | List Price | SqFt | Price/SqFt | AC | BR | FB |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------|------------|------|----|----|
| 59 Shady Knoll Lane | \$1,650,000 | 1,824 | \$905 | 1.18 | 4 | 2 |
| 83 South Ave Unit C | \$395,000 | 518 | \$763 | | 1 | 1 |
| 205 Main Street #33 | \$1,395,000 | 1,831 | \$762 | | 3 | 3 |
| 705 Weed Street Unit #7 | \$1,700,000 | 2,044 | \$832 | | 3 | 2 |
| 107 Parade Hill Road | \$2,295,000 | 3,715 | \$618 | .41 | 5 | 4 |
| 28 E Maple Street | \$2,295,000 | 1,979 | \$1160 | | 3 | 3 |
| 302 Gramercy Park | \$2,595,000 | 2,417 | \$1074 | | 3 | 3 |
| 374 Michigan Road | \$2,795,000 | 4,074 | \$686 | 3.2 | 5 | 4 |

The Top 10 Reasons Wilton Is Unique



BY JOHN ENGEL

“Land is the only thing in the world that amounts to anything, for ‘tis the only thing in this world that lasts.”

That observation comes from Gerald O’Hara in *Gone with the Wind*. If he had been looking for a town in Fairfield County, he might have chosen Wilton.

Among the towns of lower Fairfield County, Wilton is the one most defined by land. Large, wooded lots, winding roads, and deep setbacks still shape daily life there. While Darien and New Canaan have gradually grown more compact over the decades, Wilton remains organized around acreage and privacy.

Yet Wilton homes consistently sell for much less than comparable properties in those neighboring towns.

Why?

Wilton shares many of the same fundamentals that drive real estate demand in Fairfield County: strong schools, high household incomes, and reasonable commuting options to New York.

So why does the market value Wilton differently?

To answer that question, it helps to look at what makes Wilton unique.

1. Elbow room

Wilton covers about 27 square miles (New Canaan 22; Darien 13) and has roughly 19,000 residents (New Canaan about 21,000; Darien about 22,000). The town contains about 7,500 taxable parcels. Roughly three quarters of Wilton’s residential land is zoned for two-acre lots or larger.

New Canaan includes zones ranging from one-third acre to four acres. Darien is mostly quarter-acre and half-acre suburban lots. Wilton’s zoning produces a different landscape: meandering roads, sylvan lots, deep front yards, and houses separated by land rather than sidewalks.

The Norwalk River Valley runs north-south through town along Route 7, which functions as Wilton’s commercial spine much the way the Post Road organizes Darien. Development follows that corridor, while the surrounding hills remain heavily wooded with large residential parcels.

Open space reinforces the same pattern. Wilton maintains more than 1,300 acres of protected parks and conservation land.

The largest is the 300-acre Trout Brook Valley Preserve, managed by the Aspetuck Land Trust, with miles of trails, wetlands, and forest habitat.

Along the Norwalk River sits Merwin Meadows Park, a 27-acre town park with athletic fields, picnic areas, swimming, and summer concerts that draw residents from across town.

Wilton is also home to Weir Farm National Historical Park, a 60-acre property that preserves the home and studio of American Impressionist painter J. Alden Weir and the pastoral landscape that inspired his work.

Additional conservation areas such as the Gregg Preserve, Skunk Lane, and Sharp Hill extend the network of trails,

forests, and wetlands throughout the town.

Together, these landscapes create a town where open land appears repeatedly between neighborhoods rather than being confined to a single park. In a region where development has steadily reduced lot sizes, Wilton still operates at the scale of land.

2. Real estate value

The strongest argument for Wilton is numerical.

As of February 2026, the median sale price in Wilton is \$1,333,000. In New Canaan, the median is \$2,310,000. In Darien, it is \$2,350,500. That is a difference of \$977,000 compared with New Canaan and \$1,017,500 compared with Darien.

Price per square foot tells the same story. Wilton averages \$406 per square foot. New Canaan averages \$586. Darien averages \$714.

That gap has persisted during the last three years of rising prices. Since early 2023, Wilton’s median sale price has increased 15.4%. New Canaan has risen 22.4%. Darien has risen 21.5%. Price per square foot has followed the same pattern. Wilton is up 8.3%, New Canaan 9.3%, and Darien 10.2%.

Sales activity does not explain the difference. Wilton recorded 225 closed sales over the past year. New Canaan recorded 271 and Darien recorded 240. Wilton is not a thin or inactive market. Homes sell regularly, but they sell for less.

Taxes are part of the explanation, but not the entire explanation. Wilton’s current mill rate is 24.4054. New Canaan’s is 16.691 and Darien’s is 15.48. Wilton’s tax rate is therefore about 46% higher than New Canaan’s and roughly 58% higher than Darien’s.

But the difference in housing prices is larger still. Median prices in New Canaan and Darien are roughly 75% higher than in Wilton. Taxes account for some of the gap, but not all of it.

Buyers purchasing in Wilton generally receive more house and more land for the same money than they would in neighboring towns. The tradeoff is a longer commute and a town that is less oriented around a single downtown center.

For buyers who prioritize space, Wilton can look like a relative bargain within lower Fairfield County.

3. A less NYC-centric commute

Wilton is less rail-centered than Darien or New Canaan, and the difference shows up clearly in the train schedules.

Wilton has two stations on the Metro North Danbury Branch, Wilton and Cannondale. During the peak commuting window between 6:00 and 8:00 a.m., four trains depart Wilton station toward Grand Central: 6:02, 6:45, 7:24, and 7:59. Those trips typically require a transfer at South Norwalk and take between 1 hour 23 minutes and 1 hour 44 minutes to reach Grand Central Terminal.

South Norwalk, by contrast, sits on the New Haven main line. Between 6:00 and 8:00 a.m., eleven trains depart South Norwalk for Grand Central. Travel times on those trains generally range from 56 to 74 minutes.

That difference in frequency and

travel time shapes commuting behavior. Many Wilton residents use the branch line stations in town, while others drive ten to fifteen minutes south to South Norwalk in order to access the faster and more frequent main line service.

Census commuting data shows that Wilton’s workforce is less tied to Manhattan than neighboring towns. Roughly 900 Wilton residents commute to New York County for work, about 10% of the town’s employed population. By comparison, Stamford employs roughly 1,900 Wilton residents and Norwalk about 1,200, making those two cities the largest employment destinations for people who live in Wilton.

The employment mix reflects the regional economy. Wilton residents work heavily in professional fields such as finance, consulting, law, technology, and corporate management, with jobs concentrated in the Stamford-Norwalk business corridor and in Manhattan.

The result is a different commuting pattern than the one found in Darien or New Canaan. Those towns sit directly on high frequency rail lines that run straight into Grand Central. Wilton commuters often combine driving and rail, choosing between branch line service in town or the faster trains leaving South Norwalk.

For buyers deciding where to live, the numbers are straightforward. The commute from Wilton is workable, but the train service is thinner and the trip is longer.

4. Multiple town centers

New Canaan revolves around a classic downtown. Darien has the Post Road and the Corbin District. Wilton developed differently.

The town is unusual in that it has no single dominant town center. Instead, it developed as a collection of small historic neighborhoods – Wilton Center, Cannondale, Georgetown, Silvermine, and North Wilton – each with its own identity. Without a major highway, only the Route 7 corridor tying these areas together, Wilton grew outward rather than inward, leaving the town spread across wooded hills and valleys rather than concentrated around a single downtown. That pattern reinforces Wilton’s quieter and more dispersed character.

5. Schools among the best in Connecticut

If Wilton had weaker schools, the pricing gap with New Canaan and Darien would make sense. It does not.

Wilton Public Schools enrolled 3,782 students in 2024-25 (New Canaan 4,060; Darien 4,673), with a student-teacher ratio of 11.71 to 1 (New Canaan 11.37; Darien 10.87). Wilton High School enrolls 1,202 students (New Canaan High School 1,257; Darien High School 1,382). The three districts operate at nearly identical scale and staffing levels.

Independent rankings place Wilton squarely in the top tier of Connecticut public schools. Niche ranks Wilton fourth among Connecticut school districts with an A+ grade (New Canaan second; Darien third). U.S. News ranks Wilton High School fifth in Connecticut and within the top three hundred high schools nationally. GreatSchools assigns Wilton High School a 10 out of 10 rating, the same headline score held by New Canaan

High School and Darien High School.

The academic indicators behind those rankings are equally strong. Wilton High School’s graduation rate is about 94%. District testing results show approximately 73% of students proficient in math and 79% proficient in reading. At this level, the difference between a district ranked first, third, or fifth in the state is largely symbolic. Wilton sits in the same academic tier as its neighbors.

Athletics reinforce that culture of excellence. Wilton High School fields 22 varsity sports teams competing in the Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference, one of the most competitive high school leagues in Connecticut. The school’s championship history includes state and conference titles in sports such as field hockey, cross country, girls soccer, gymnastics, swimming, tennis, and skiing.

Lacrosse is one of the signature programs. Both the boys and girls lacrosse teams have appeared repeatedly in CIAC state tournaments and FCIAC championship games, placing Wilton in the same competitive conversation as New Canaan and Darien, towns long known for lacrosse dominance.

Football has also remained competitive in recent seasons, with the Warriors reaching the CIAC state playoffs multiple times in the past decade while playing in the same conference as Darien and New Canaan.

The result is a school system where academic performance and athletic competition operate at the same level seen across the most desirable towns in Fairfield County. For families evaluating education alone, Wilton is not a second choice; it is a deliberate choice within the same top tier.

6. Highly visible civic debate

One thing that stands out when reading Wilton’s local news, especially Good Morning Wilton, is how intensively local government issues are covered. Budget debates, zoning questions, development proposals, and governance decisions often dominate the headlines.

That level of scrutiny can create the impression of constant conflict. It reflects a highly engaged citizenry.

Darienite.com and NewCanaanite.com tend to read more like a daily record of town activity. Good Morning Wilton’s coverage often highlights the process and debate surrounding decisions.

7. Steady but modest sales activity

Closed sales in Wilton typically hover around 225 homes per year. New Canaan averages about 270. Darien averages around 240.

That smaller transaction volume reinforces the town’s quieter housing market. It also means that when demand increases, as it did during the pandemic, prices can move quickly.

8. Architecture

Wilton also hides several notable architectural gems. The 1867 wire mill of the Gilbert & Bennett Manufacturing Company in Georgetown, Connecticut is a classic example of New England brick industrial mill architecture, while nearby Cannondale preserves a rare 19th-century railroad hamlet

built around the Danbury Branch Line. Wilton is also home to one of Connecticut’s most unusual modernist houses, Foster’s Round House, designed by architect Richard Foster in the early 1960s and the subject of this column last year. Other architectural standouts include the artist studios and barns of Weir Farm National Historical Park, preserved as a working Impressionist landscape.

9. Population and migration patterns

Wilton is smaller than many buyers realize. The town’s population is about 18,800 residents. New Canaan has roughly 21,500 and Darien about 22,000. That difference may not sound dramatic, but it shapes the housing market.

Wilton simply has fewer people competing for homes.

Migration patterns reinforce that dynamic. During the pandemic years, Fairfield County saw a surge of buyers relocating from New York City. Much of that demand flowed into towns with the fastest rail access to Manhattan, particularly Darien and New Canaan on the New Haven Line.

Wilton participated in that migration wave, but to a lesser degree. Its position on the Danbury Branch, with fewer trains and longer travel times, made it less of a first stop for buyers whose primary goal was a daily commute to Grand Central.

Instead, Wilton has attracted a somewhat different group of residents: households tied to the Stamford-Norwalk corporate corridor, professionals who commute only part-time, and families who prioritize space and privacy over train convenience.

That distinction helps explain part of the pricing gap. Wilton shares many of the same economic fundamentals as its neighbors, but its buyer pool is shaped by slightly different priorities.

10. Fairfield County’s best value?

Put everything together, and the conclusion is hard to ignore.

Wilton offers large wooded properties, excellent public schools, reasonable commuting options, strong household incomes, and a beautiful natural landscape.

Yet its median home price remains roughly one million dollars lower than its closest neighbors.

Some buyers prioritize proximity to the train or a walkable downtown.

Others value privacy, land, and quiet surroundings.

For them, Wilton may be the best real estate value in lower Fairfield County.

Darien sells convenience. New Canaan sells village life. Wilton sells land.

And for many buyers today, land may be the most compelling luxury of all.

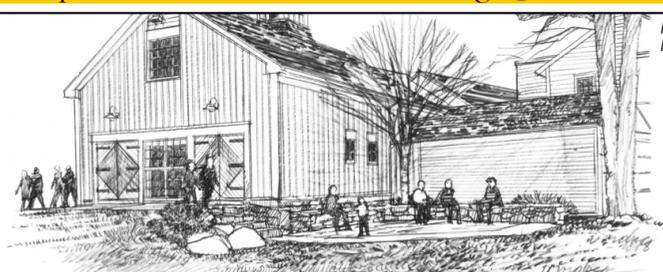
John Engel is a broker with The Engel Team at Douglas Elliman in New Canaan. One of his favorite memories of Wilton is the annual turkey shoot held along Route 7, where members of the New Canaan Town Council join the police department for target practice against the side of a mountain. It is a small tradition, but a memorable one, and a reminder of how closely the towns of Fairfield County are connected.

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



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NEW CANAAN

Open Mic Night

FPCNC Open Mic: Diverse Expressions
Featured Performance by Shawn Taylor

You are invited to an evening to share
music and/or poetry (originals and
covers welcome)!

Thursday,
March 26

Open Mic, 7-8:30 pm
Featured Performance,
8:30-9 pm

178 Oenoke Ridge,
New Canaan CT

Signups required, please
email Nick Depuy at
nickdepuysite@gmail.com
to sign up and for more
information





SENTINEL FOUNDATION



GAMES AND PUZZLES



CROSSWORD PUZZLES



YOUR HOROSCOPE



WHAT TO DO: COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, March 19, 2026

SPOTLIGHT on FAMILIES

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

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

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

TOWN MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 24

Pension Committee

11 a.m.- 12 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room

Town Council

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

Thursday, March 26

Town Council

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

Friday, March 20

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.

Saturday, March 21

2026 Instructors Salon: Artists Reception

2-4 PM at the Silvermine Arts Center

Join the artists reception for the Instructors Salon. This exhibition will hold the current work of over 30 instructors, showcasing the breadth and vitality of their artistic practices. The exhibitions will run from March 21 through April 23. For more information, call (203) 966-9700.

Sunday, March 22

Treetops Chamber Music Society Concert: Balourdet Quartet

4 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center

Attend a Treetops concert featuring the Balourdet Quartet. The program includes Schubert's Quartettsatz in C minor, D. 703, Ravel's String Quartet in F major, and Brahms's String Quartet No. 3 in B-flat major, Op. 67. Tickets available at <https://www.treetopscms.org>.

Monday, March 23

Ways of Listening: The Consoling Beauty of Music Presented by David Stein

1 PM at the Lapham Center

Join David Stein and listen to the masterpieces of Beethoven, Mozart and others in which composers encounter their grief and shape it into musical experiences. Using performance clips and illustrations at the keyboard David will explore what we can understand and harvest from their music. Free. To register, call 203-594-3620.

NC Focus: Paths to Affordable Housing

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

This presentation by Town officials will explore the paths New Canaan has taken to meet its Affordable housing needs and State requirements by focusing on three specific projects. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/nc-focus-affordable-housing>.

www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/nc-focus-affordable-housing.

NC Focus: Testing Your Well Water

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

Alec Janis, Visiting Educator at UConn Extension from the Connecticut Institute of Water Resources, will talk about why testing is advised, what contaminants are problematic, and how to choose maintenance that is effective but not excessive. This program is being sponsored by the New Canaan Conservation Commission, which will hold a mobile water testing service in May. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/testing-well-water>.

Tuesday, March 24

Medicare and You - Medicare Basics and How To Use Medicare.gov

11 AM at the Lapham Center

This presentation is for Medicare beneficiaries, caregivers, and individuals approaching retirement who want to gain a better understanding of their Medicare coverage options and learn how using Medicare.gov can help them compare plans, and manage their benefits. Free. To register, call 203-594-3620.

The Art of American Independence: Beyond the Declaration

12 PM at the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society

Bring your sandwich, soup or snack and learn from Robin Hoffman, of ArtScapades. ArtScapades has developed a special lecture which ties in with the 2026 celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/THR43>.

A History of the Sonnet: Lecture and Discussion

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room

This talk will provide an overview of the form's origins followed by a discussion of significant examples from the English Romantics, the Harlem Renaissance, and the current practitioners who have reinvigorated the form. Register at <https://shorturl.at/0lhEz>.

CARES Spring Community Program: Raising Curious Kids

6:45 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

Attend Raising Curious Kids with Rebecca Winthrop. Rebecca is the author of *The Disengaged Teen: Helping Kids Learn Better, Feel Better,*

and *Live Better*, a widely discussed book examining why many students today feel disconnected from school and learning. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/raising-curious-kids-198366>.

Wednesday, March 25

Yale Science: Cosmos to Compost

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room

Join for this month's Science in the News talk where two Yale scientists will address this question and discuss what makes up the world around us, from the cosmic to the microscopic. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-staying-put-167563>.

Thursday, March 26

Japanese Gardens

1 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

Award-winning landscape designer and photographer Emily Kelting presents a journey through the rich history and design of Japanese gardens, including its connection to Buddhism, significance of tea houses, and concepts of water, moss, pine. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-japanese-gardens>.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 7



Come Join Us! Lent & Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday Service March 29, 10:00am

Maundy Thursday Service April 2, 7:00pm

Good Friday Community Service @ Lutheran Church April 3, 6:00pm

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service April 5, 7:00am

Easter Sunday Breakfast April 5, 8:00am

Easter Sunday Service April 5, 10:00am

Easter Egg Hunt April 5, 11:30am



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Calvin and Hobbes
by WATTERSON

HOW COME YOU DON'T PUT ON ANY PAJAMAS?

FACT IS, I NEVER TAKE 'EM OFF!

DID YOU WASH YOUR FACE AND BRUSH YOUR TEETH?
YEP! WE BOTH DID!

OK THEN, GOOD NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT.

MOVE OVER, WILL YA?
I'M ALREADY OVER! YOU SHOULD BE OVER THERE!

QUIT PUSHING, FUZZ-FOR-BRAINS! YOU'RE ON MY SIDE!
CALL ME NAMES, WILL YOU?!

YEAH! WHUMPP!

YAAAAA! OH NO!

3/16
OK! OK! YOU WIN!

PHOO... I WISH YOU HAD BRUSHED YOUR TEETH!
YECCH... I WISH YOU HAD WASHED YOUR FACE!

WATTERSON 1987 Universal Press Syndicate

ADDITION & SUBTRACTION

3 = yellow

4 = black

5 = brown

6 = gray

7 = light blue

8 = green

9 = white

10 = red

MULTIPLICATION

x 2

| |
|-------------|
| 2 x 2 = 4 |
| 2 x 3 = 6 |
| 2 x 4 = 8 |
| 2 x 5 = 10 |
| 2 x 6 = 12 |
| 2 x 7 = 14 |
| 2 x 8 = 16 |
| 2 x 9 = 18 |
| 2 x 10 = 20 |

KIDS games

HOW MANY LEFT & RIGHT?

LEFT

?

RIGHT

?

English

AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS

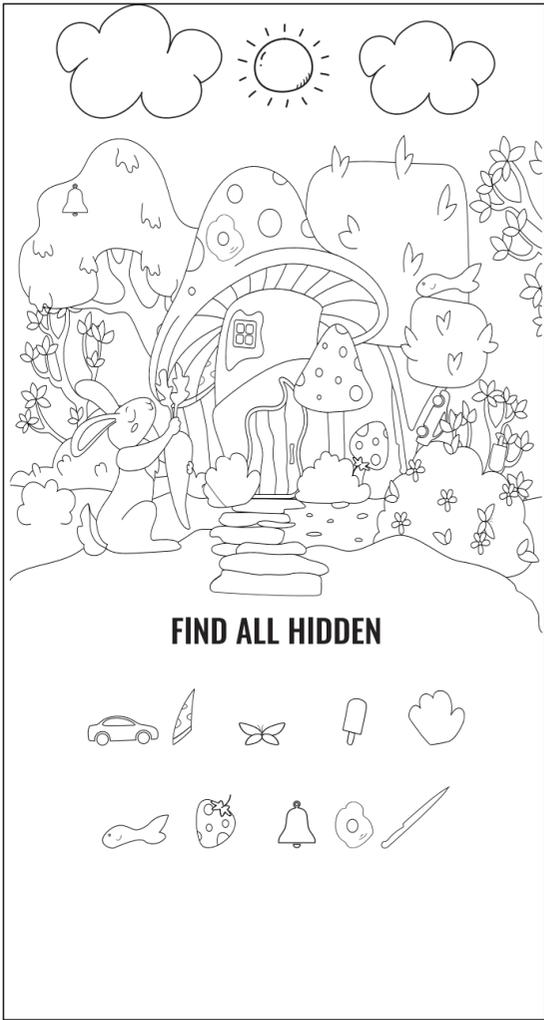
CRACK THE CODE

..... Musical Instruments

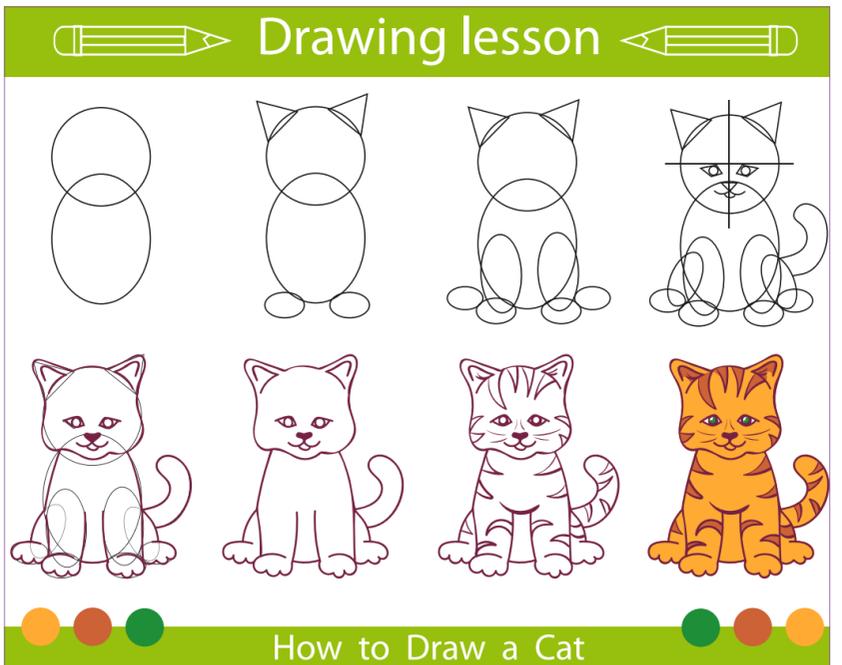
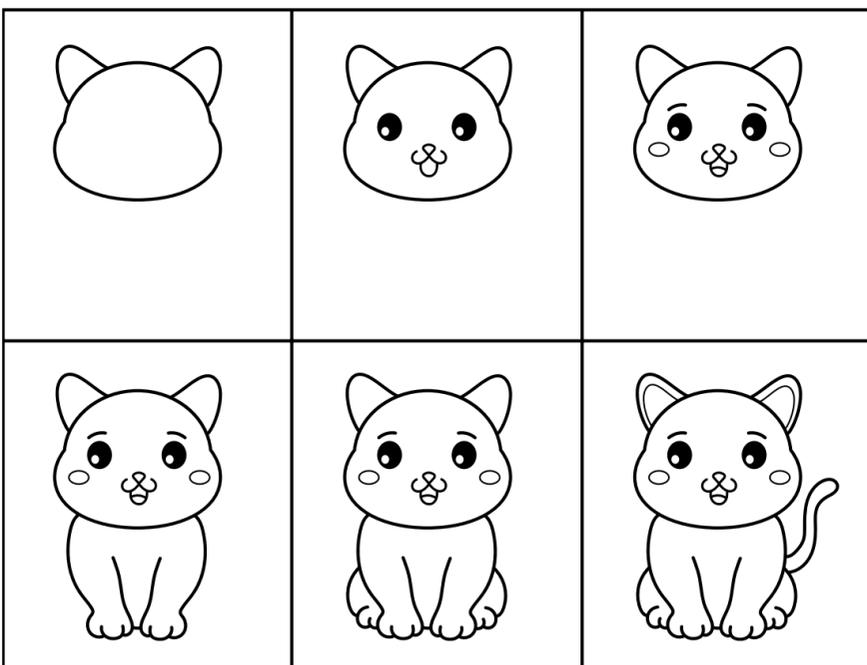
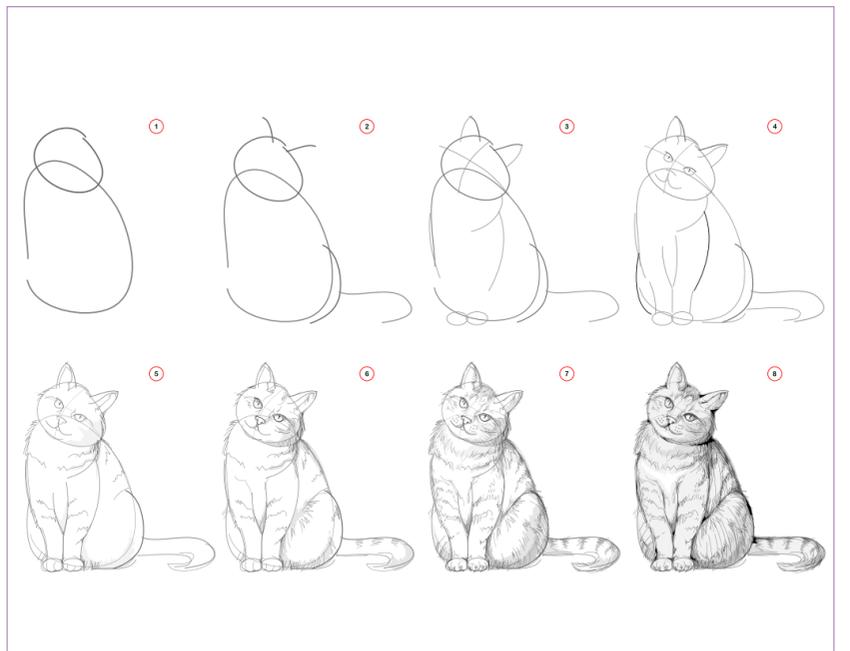
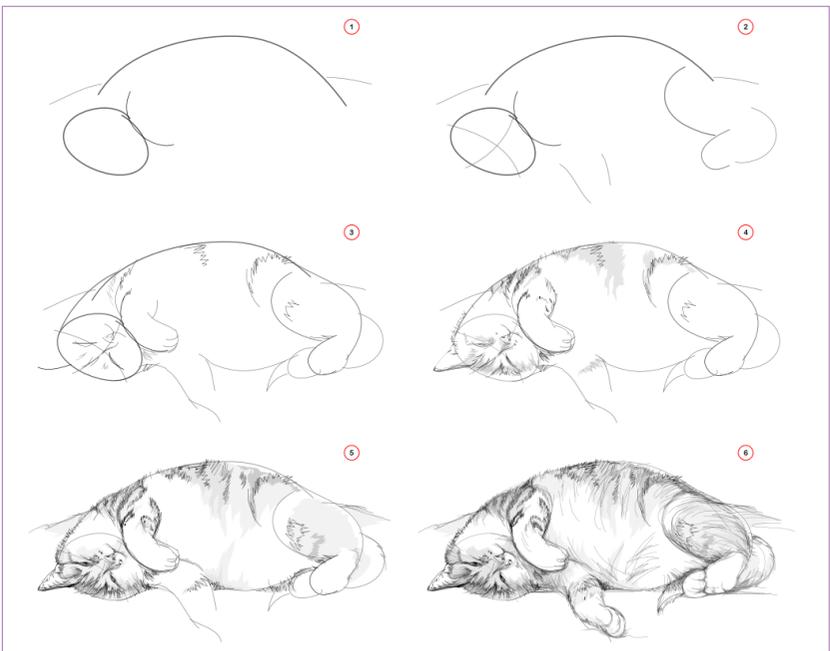
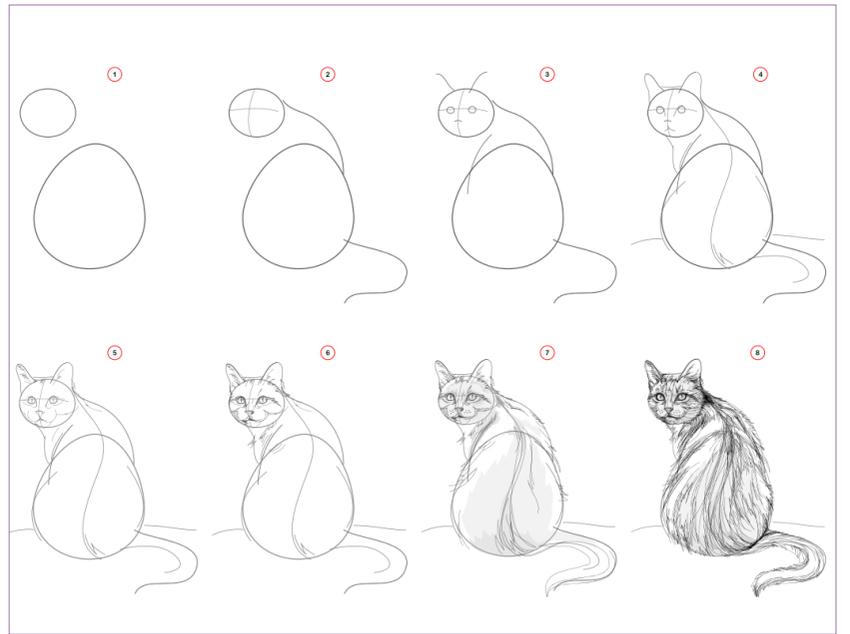
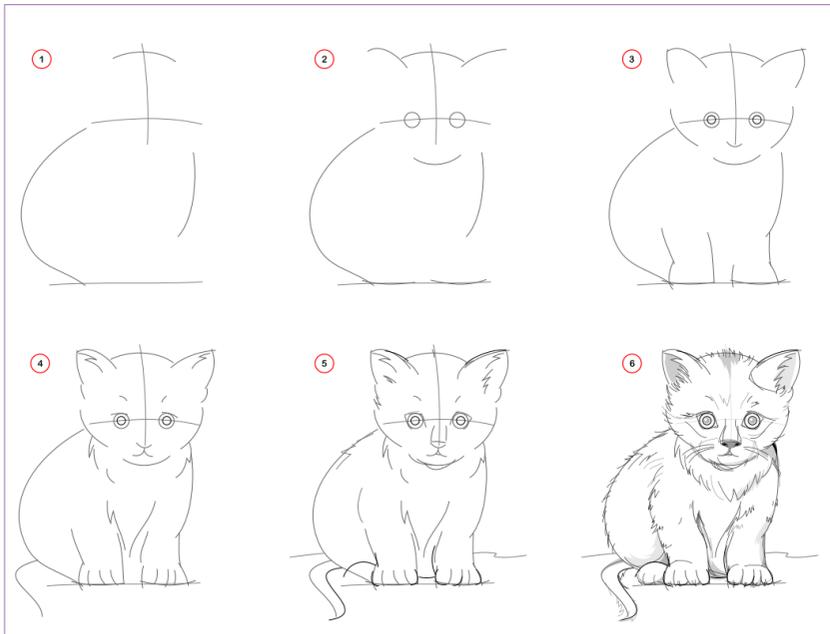
Crack the code to reveal the names of 23 more musical instruments.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 12 | |
| | | | | | | D | R | U | M | | | | | | |
| 13 | 14 | 14 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 15 | 12 | 11 |
| 14 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 16 | 8 | 2 | 11 | 13 | 7 | 11 | 8 | 17 | 13 | |
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| 17 | 13 | 5 | 21 | 3 | 15 | 2 | 13 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 16 | 13 | 5 | |
| 20 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 14 | 13 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 3 | 17 | 3 | 12 | |
| 19 | 22 | 4 | 3 | 15 | 20 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 8 | 23 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 4 | 12 |
| 14 | 4 | 13 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 17 | 3 | 5 | 12 |
| 20 | 13 | 7 | 15 | 16 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 23 | 12 | 5 | 18 | 15 | 2 | 12 | 4 |
| 14 | 22 | 9 | 17 | 13 | 4 | 18 | 10 | 4 | 13 | 16 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 11 |

Find and color.



Learn to Sketch Cats Like a Pro



Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg

- ACROSS**
- 1 "You've convinced me!"
 - 7 Amt. in a recipe
 - 10 Final Four game
 - 14 Green Bay pro
 - 15 Downed
 - 16 Actor Alda or Arkin
 - 17 "Carmen" and "Norma," for two
 - 18 Sounding like a stream
 - 20 Pester
 - 21 "Acid"
 - 22 Moving about
 - 23 Chicken ___ king
 - 25 Land north of Mex.
 - 27 Tel Aviv native
 - 29 Comfy clog brand
 - 32 Feeling low
 - 33 Name found in "whole milk"
 - 34 Manipulate
 - 35 "Say ___ to the Dress" (TLC show)
 - 37 Bustling New Orleans thoroughfare
 - 42 Disorderly crowd
 - 43 Reaction to fireworks
 - 44 Sneaker maker
 - 46 Sold-out show letters
 - 49 Rich French wine sauce
 - 52 ...
 - 54 ORD org.
- DOWN**
- 1 NYSE debut
 - 2 Cartographer's creation
 - 3 Hypothetical series of events
 - 4 Vegetable common in Cajun cooking
 - 5 "A ___ of Their Own" (1992 film)
 - 6 Hosp. figures
 - 7 They're run up in bars
 - 8 Small apartment
 - 9 The "p" in kph
 - 10 Taco topper
 - 11 High-society types
 - 12 Philippines' capital
 - 13 Bergman of "Casablanca"
 - 19 Carnival figure
 - 21 "Ted ___" (Apple TV+ show)
 - 23 Homer's dad on "The Simpsons"
 - 24 Arm or leg
 - 26 Didn't nominate for an Oscar, say
 - 28 Reapers' implements
 - 30 Supermodel Heidi
 - 31 Choir voice above baritone
 - 36 Animal with elephant and leopard varieties
 - 38 "Mr. ___" (1983 hit by 69-Across)
 - 39 Puts in order
 - 40 First lady played by Madonna
 - 41 Fork prong
 - 45 Section of a musical
 - 46 Blanks between words
 - 47 Mutiny
 - 48 By mouth
 - 50 Guides to a seat
 - 51 Melon scoop
 - 53 Back-of-book section
 - 58 Vogue editor
 - 60 Holiday season
 - 62 Bit of wit
 - 63 Relaxation location
 - 64 Anti-bullying ad, e.g.
 - 65 Venus, to Serena, briefly

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | I | M | S | C | R | A | P | T | E | R | R | I | |
| A | C | A | A | R | O | M | A | A | T | E | A | T | |
| M | A | R | I | N | A | D | E | S | T | R | A | M | S |
| S | N | I | T | V | E | N | T | A | R | I | A | | |
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7/21

Cool Head by Emily Carroll

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Horoscopes

Horoscope: March 19-25, 2026

This week marks a turning point. Mercury stations direct in Pisces on March 20, bringing clarity after weeks of confusion, while the Sun enters Aries the same day, signaling the start of a new astrological year. The energy shifts from reflection to action. Conversations begin to move forward, plans regain momentum, and decisions feel clearer. Still, with Pisces influence lingering, intuition remains as important as logic. Move ahead—but thoughtfully.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

The Sun enters your sign, marking your personal new year. Energy returns and confidence builds. This is your moment to set intentions for the months ahead. Take the lead—but don't forget the lessons learned during recent delays.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

You may feel the need to slow down just as others speed up. That's not a weakness—it's preparation. Use this week to tie up loose ends and reflect quietly before stepping into new commitments.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Communication improves noticeably as Mercury turns direct. Conversations that stalled begin to move again. Reach out, reconnect, and revisit ideas—you'll find others more receptive now.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Career matters gain momentum. If something has been delayed, expect movement soon. Be ready to act when opportunity appears—but stay grounded in what feels emotionally right.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Optimism returns. Travel, learning, or new perspectives call to you. This is a good week to make plans that expand your world. Trust your instincts—but confirm the details.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

Financial or shared matters begin to clear up after recent uncertainty. If confusion lingered, answers are now within reach. Take a practical approach and avoid overcomplicating decisions.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

Relationships move forward. A conversation that was stalled may finally reach resolution. Be open and honest—progress comes through clarity, not avoidance.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Work and routines fall back into place. You may feel more focused and productive than in recent weeks. Use this momentum to organize and streamline your responsibilities.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Creative energy returns with force. If inspiration felt blocked, it begins to flow again. Take advantage of this shift and move forward with projects that excite you.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Home and family matters settle. If there has been tension or confusion, clarity now allows resolution. Focus on stability and creating a sense of order in your personal life.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Communication becomes clearer and more direct. Plans that were uncertain begin to solidify. Take initiative in conversations—you'll find others ready to listen.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

Mercury moving direct in your sign lifts a mental fog. You may suddenly understand something that confused you before. Trust your insight and move forward with quiet confidence.

Thought for the Week:

After a period of reflection, the path ahead becomes visible. Move forward—but carry the wisdom you've gained.

Family Time Crossword

The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

- ACROSS**
- 1. "Go, team, go!"
 - 4. Small earrings
 - 9. (K) Volcanic output
 - 12. Squeeze (out)
 - 13. Communion plate
 - 14. (K) Up-to-date antelope?
 - 15. Scatter
 - 17. (K) Decay
 - 18. (K) Vegetable to cry over?
 - 19. (K) Donkey sounds
 - 21. (K) Number of sides on a dime
 - 22. Farm unit
 - 23. Health resort
 - 25. (K) Ariel or Comic Sans
 - 27. (K) Tour de France, for example
 - 31. (K) "___ Panda" (animated movie) (2 words)
 - 33. (K) Like an exit ramp (2 words)
 - 35. "... ___ the wild blue yonder"
 - 36. "Comin' ___," the Rye'
 - 38. (K) "How ___ you doing that?"
 - 39. Part of the seeing organ
 - 41. (K) "A ___ Called Christmas" (Netflix animated movie)
 - 43. Ministers
 - 46. Lawful, informally
 - 49. (K) Less than 21-Across
 - 50. Outlaw
 - 52. JFK guess
 - 53. Curly-leafed veggies
 - 54. (K) What did your cow just say?
 - 55. 'Twas right now?
 - 56. (K) "These ___ the same socks I wore yesterday!"
 - 57. Large deer
- DOWN**
- 1. (K) Make over, from the start
 - 2. Alike
 - 3. Lacking decisiveness
 - 4. (K) "Rubble & Crew," to "PAW Patrol"
 - 5. (K) Hit lightly
 - 6. (K) Salt Lake City resident
 - 7. Word after "lie" or "metal"
 - 8. Villain's expression
 - 9. Taj Mahal city
 - 10. (K) Wintry downfall
 - 11. Grass-and-mud shacks
 - 16. (K) Piglet's mom
 - 20. (K) "Present"
 - 23. Kind of lift, pole or jump
 - 24. Like many crossword clues ending in "?"
 - 26. (K) Part of the hearing organ you can see (2 words)
 - 28. Reason for a sports team to take the bus (2 words)
 - 29. (K) Sedan
 - 30. (K) Ball in a skull
 - 32. Joint problem
 - 34. Most honorable
 - 37. Big inconvenience
 - 40. Russian spirit
 - 42. "Above," in the U.S. anthem
 - 43. (K) Shel Silverstein or A.A. Milne
 - 44. Pro's opposite
 - 45. (K) Arabian and Caspian
 - 47. (K) "American ___" (TV show)
 - 48. (K) Confiscated
 - 51. (K) Writing instrument

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

"I'm on a roll!"

Look for the answer in next week's paper.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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Previous riddle answer:

Flipped under? 32-A) OVER

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| 55 | | | | 56 | | | | 57 | | |

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 chic and graceful (7)
- 2 all over, all the time (11)
- 3 tells someone what to write (8)
- 4 slimmer (6)
- 5 drink or ice cream cone size (5)
- 6 animals (6)
- 7 loud, explosive noise (4)

SOLUTIONS

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| LE | ES | NT | EL | NI |
| EGA | TAT | STS | ENT | AN |
| PR | ER | ES | OM | RGE |
| LA | NG | BEA | BA | DIC |

Previous Answers: 1. KRISTEN 2. SINUS 3. MARRYING 4. PERMISSION 5. FAILINGS 6. LIBRARIANS 7. GAUZE

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

www.GreenwichSentinel.com/subscribe

www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/subscribe

THE TALE OF BENJAMIN BUNNY BY BEATRIX POTTER, AUTHOR OF "THE TAIL OF PETER RABBIT"



One morning a little rabbit sat on a bank.

He pricked his ears and listened to the trit-trot, trit-trot of a pony.

A gig was coming along the road; it was driven by Mr. McGregor, and beside him sat Mrs. McGregor in her best bonnet.



As soon as they had passed, little Benjamin Bunny slid down into the road, and set off—with a hop, skip, and a jump—to call upon his relations, who lived in the wood at the back of Mr. McGregor's garden.



That wood was full of rabbit holes; and in the neatest, sandiest hole of all lived Benjamin's aunt and his cousins—Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail, and Peter.

Old Mrs. Rabbit was a widow; she earned her living by knitting rabbit-wool mittens and muffatees (I once bought a pair at a bazaar). She also sold herbs, and rosemary tea, and rabbit-tobacco (which is what we call lavender).



Little Benjamin did not very much want to see his Aunt.

He came round the back of the fir-tree, and nearly tumbled upon the top of his Cousin Peter.



Peter was sitting by himself. He looked poorly, and was dressed in a red cotton pocket-handkerchief.



"Peter," said little Benjamin, in a whisper, "who has got your clothes?"

Peter replied, "The scarecrow in Mr. McGregor's garden," and described how he had been chased about the garden, and had dropped his shoes and coat.



Little Benjamin sat down beside his cousin and assured him that Mr. McGregor had gone out in a gig, and Mrs. McGregor also; and certainly for the day, because she was wearing her best bonnet.



Peter said he hoped that it would rain. At this point old Mrs. Rabbit's voice was heard inside the rabbit hole, calling: "Cotton-tail! Cotton-tail! fetch some more camomile!"

Peter said he thought he might feel better if he went for a walk.



They went away hand in hand, and got upon the flat top of the wall at the bottom of the wood. From here they looked down into Mr. McGregor's garden. Peter's coat and shoes were plainly to be seen upon the scarecrow, topped with an old tam-o'-shanter of Mr. McGregor's.



Little Benjamin said: "It spoils people's clothes to squeeze under a gate; the proper way to get in is to climb down a pear-tree."

Peter fell down head first; but it was of no consequence, as the bed below was newly raked and quite soft.

It had been sown with lettuces.



They left a great many odd little footmarks all over the bed, especially little Benjamin, who was wearing clogs.



Little Benjamin said that the first thing to be done was to get back Peter's clothes, in order that they might be able to use the pocket-handkerchief.

They took them off the scarecrow. There had been rain during the night; there was water in the shoes, and the coat was somewhat shrunk.

Benjamin tried on the tam-o'-shanter, but it was too big for him.



Then he suggested that they should fill the pocket-handkerchief with onions, as a little present for his Aunt.

Peter did not seem to be enjoying himself; he kept hearing noises.



Benjamin, on the contrary, was perfectly at home, and ate a lettuce leaf. He said that he was in the habit of

coming to the garden with his father to get lettuces for their Sunday dinner.

(The name of little Benjamin's papa was old Mr. Benjamin Bunny.)

The lettuces certainly were very fine.



Peter did not eat anything; he said he should like to go home. Presently he dropped half the onions.



Little Benjamin said that it was not possible to get back up the pear-tree with a load of vegetables. He led the way boldly towards the other end of the garden. They went along a little walk on planks, under a sunny, red brick wall.

The mice sat on their doorsteps cracking cherry-stones; they winked at Peter Rabbit and little Benjamin Bunny.



Presently Peter let the pocket-handkerchief go again.



They got amongst flower-pots, and frames, and tubs. Peter heard noises worse than ever; his eyes were as big as lolly-pops!

He was a step or two in front of his cousin when he suddenly stopped.



This is what those little rabbits saw round that corner!

Little Benjamin took one look, and then, in half a minute less than no time, he hid himself and Peter and the onions underneath a large basket....



The cat got up and stretched herself, and came and sniffed at the basket.

Perhaps she liked the smell of onions!

Anyway, she sat down upon the top of the basket.



She sat there for five hours.

I cannot draw you a picture of Peter and Benjamin underneath the basket, because it was quite dark, and because the smell of onions was fearful; it made Peter Rabbit and little Benjamin cry.

The sun got round behind the wood, and it was quite late in the afternoon; but still the cat sat upon the basket.



At length there was a pitter-patter, pitter-patter, and some bits of mortar fell from the wall above.

The cat looked up and saw old Mr. Benjamin Bunny prancing along the top of the wall of the upper terrace.

He was smoking a pipe of rabbit-tobacco, and had a little switch in his hand.

He was looking for his son.



Old Mr. Bunny had no opinion whatever of cats.

He took a tremendous jump off the top of the wall on to the top of the cat, and cuffed it off the basket, and kicked it into the greenhouse, scratching off a handful of fur.

The cat was too much surprised to scratch back.

When old Mr. Bunny had driven the cat into the greenhouse, he locked the door.

Then he came back to the basket and took out his son Benjamin by the ears, and whipped him with the little switch.

Then he took out his nephew Peter.



Then he took out the handkerchief of onions, and marched out of the garden.

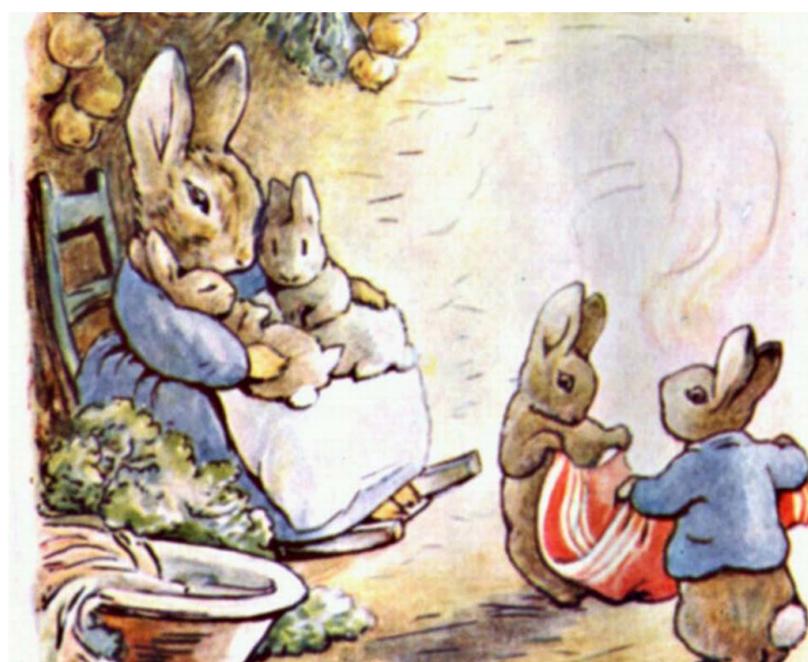


When Mr. McGregor returned about half an hour later he observed several things which perplexed him.

It looked as though some person had been walking all over the garden in a pair of clogs—only the footmarks were too ridiculously little!

Also he could not understand how the cat had managed to shut herself up inside the greenhouse, locking the door upon the outside.

When Peter got home his mother forgave him, because she was so glad to see that he had found his shoes and coat. Cotton-tail and Peter folded up the pocket-handkerchief, and old Mrs. Rabbit strung up the onions and hung them from the kitchen ceiling, with the bunches of herbs and the rabbit-tobacco.



"The Tale of Benjamin Bunny" Continues Potter's Beloved Rabbit Chronicles

Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Benjamin Bunny*, first published in 1904, remains a classic of early 20th-century children's literature. As a sequel to *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, the story follows Peter and his cousin Benjamin as they return to Mr. McGregor's garden to retrieve Peter's lost clothing—left behind in his earlier, hasty escape.

The narrative introduces Benjamin's father, Mr. Benjamin Bouncer, and extends Potter's gentle commentary on obedience, mischief, and the consequences of childhood impulsiveness. The cousins' adventure is met with familiar peril when they are trapped under a garden

basket by Mr. McGregor's cat, only to be rescued later by Benjamin's stern father.

Potter, who both wrote and illustrated the tale, continued to pair precise language with naturalistic watercolor illustrations. According to the Victoria and Albert Museum, her depictions of English gardens and countryside creatures were drawn from real-life observation on her family's estate.

The Tale of Benjamin Bunny helped cement the popularity of Potter's fictional universe, with its blend of charming anthropomorphism and understated moral lessons. More than a century later, the book remains a fixture in nursery libraries, preserving the legacy of a writer whose rabbits are still widely read and recognized.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS continued

Medicare 2026: Understanding Changes and Coverage Options

1 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room

Lou and Jessica Pelletier will help you navigate the complexities of Medicare in 2026, including the Parts and the important new changes to Medicare drug plans rolling out in 2026. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-medicare-200593>.

Tech Workshop with Cooper Young and George Geist of Good Kid Tech

2 PM at the Lapham Center

The program will begin with a fifteen-minute presentation on a tech-related topic, followed by time to answer your personal tech questions. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

ONS Presents: Transitioning to Spring Sports

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room

Join Dr. Megan Gleason of Orthopaedic & Neurosurgery Specialists, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon with subspecialty certification in sports medicine, as she discusses common spring injuries. Meghan Hufziger, DPT, will discuss preparing for spring sports to reduce the risk of injury and improve recovery if you do get sidelined. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-ons-200513>.

Fostering Teen Success presented by RAM Council

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

Join the RAM Council Foundation for a community conversation on supporting 8-12th grade students on their path to success. Panelists will address how the power of positive decision making during these formative years can enhance academics, social, and emotional well-being. The event is free with light refreshments. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/ram-council-03262026>.

Friday, March 27

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.

Saturday, March 28

Ribbit Rhapsody

10 AM at Still Pond Preserve, 763 Silvermine Road

Join for this incredible program led by Sarah Breznan, Director of Education at Woodcock Nature Center. Walk the trail hunting for Red-backed Salamanders, learn about native amphibians, listen for the call of spring peepers and even explore frog egg masses up close. Dress for the weather and natural uneven terrain. Free, family friendly event.

Please register at <https://shorturl.at/7jZUG>.

Introduction to LinkedIn Learning

1 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room

In this class, learn how to get started with LinkedIn Learning, the library's newest resource that you can use to learn new skills at your own pace, with over 16,000 professionally designed courses available for free. Register at <https://shorturl.at/YG2SF>.

Sunday, March 29

Author Amity Gaige Presents: *Heartwood*

1 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

You're invited to hear bestselling author Amity Gaige discuss her new novel, *Heartwood*, in conversation with Daisy Alpert Florin. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/>

hold-amity-gaige-196207.

Tuesday, March 31

Open Mic Night by Especially Everyone

6:30-8:30 PM at Gates Restaurant & Bar

Join for a welcoming night of live music and community, led by a 3-piece house band. Go share a song, try something new, or cheer someone on.

Haley Cohen Gilliland Presents *A Flower Traveled in My Blood*

7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

A New York Times best book of the year: An oppressive authoritarian regime tries to terrorize Argentina, but a group of grandmothers prevails in *A Flower Traveled in My Blood*, the product of extensive archival research and meticulous, original reporting. Register at <https://shorturl.at/73k6i>.

Wednesday, April 1

Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinic

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center

Ellen Samai, RN, from New Canaan's Department of Health provides in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommend you fast for four hours prior to testing. Free.

Pink Moon Deep Sleep Meditation

6:30 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center

Join for a pink moon yoga Nidra and deep rest session to cultivate renewal. This class will focus on calming the mind and body, using the April full moon's themes of growth, spring, and rejuvenation to promote deep sleep and relaxation. Tickets are \$40/person and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/pink-moon-sleep-meditation/>.

Thursday, April 2

Free Medicare Counseling

By appointment at the Lapham Center

A CHOICES certified Medicare counselor, provides free, objective, information about Medicare options and related benefits. Available to New Canaan residents and Town employees. Free. Call (203) 594-3620 to schedule an appointment.

NC Focus: Time for Town Charter Revision

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

Join to learn about your local government and what issues are being discussed for this current revision, from term limits, appointed vs elected positions, community representation, and more. The Town Charter determines how responsibilities are distributed, decisions are made and accountability is enforced in New Canaan's municipal government. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/nc-focus-charter-revision>.

Tuesday, April 7

Movie Screening: The Running Man (2025)

6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room

Join for a screening of *The Running Man* (2025). Directed by Edgar Wright, this sci-fi thriller will knock your socks off with action, action, action! A desperate father joins a deadly competition for a chance to save his daughter's life and must survive an onslaught of dangerous Hunters. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/rwvf4sr>.

Wednesday, April 8

Hearing Aids: More Than Just Better Hearing

1 PM at the Lapham Center

Hearing loss is highly treatable, and addressing it early is essential. Left untreated, hearing loss has been linked to cognitive decline, increased risk of dementia, social isolation,

depression and balance issues. Join Robert Katz and Lori Pokladowski to explore ways to amplify your life through better hearing. Free. To register, call 203-594-3620.

Intergenerational Spring Bingo

2-3:30 PM at the Lapham Center

Spend a fun-filled afternoon playing spring bingo with Special Guest NCPD Officer Castro. Cookies will be served. Prizes for all ages. Free. To register, call 203-594-3620.

Thursday, April 9

STAR, Inc.'s 12th Annual Speakers Luncheon & Spring Boutique

10:30 AM- 2 PM at the Country Club of New Canaan

Join the upcoming STAR Luncheon featuring acclaimed photographer and visual storyteller Stacy Waldman Bass. Tickets are available at <https://secure.ggiv.com/event/star2026luncheon/>.

Name that Brand with Mike Bacon

1 PM at the Lapham Center

Test your recall and have some fun with this fast paced identification game of big company LOGOs. Free. Call to register: 203-594-3620.

History and Mythology of The Trojan War

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room

Join reference librarian Flannery to explore the mythology and history behind the war that gave us Homer's Iliad and Odyssey. Register at <https://shorturl.at/f7UHP>.

Friday, April 10

Health Talks with Shannon and Ellen

11 AM at the Lapham Center

Join Shannon and Ellen from the Health Department for conversation on various health topics. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Her Brush, Our Future Benefit

6-8 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center

Join for an evening where creativity and compassion collide. Enjoy bubbly, mingle with friends, and immerse yourself in a night of art, all while making a positive impact. 100% of all purchases will directly support LiveGirl and the Carriage Barn Arts Center. Admission is free, register at <https://shorturl.at/My8PR>.

Sunday, April 12

Chef's Palate | Shaping the American Palate

3 PM at Grace Farms

Explore how regional traditions, ingredients, and historical events have helped to define today's American palate—and gain a deeper understanding of how food reflects our collective history. Register at <https://gracefarms.org/event/chefs-palate-global-groceries-2>.

Monday, April 13

TODAY Show's Sheinelle Jones Presents: *Through Mom's Eyes*

7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

Today show host Sheinelle Jones shares heartfelt life-lessons in her book, *Through Mom's Eyes*. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/sheinelle%20jones%20-192017>.

Tuesday, April 14

History of New Canaan and Surrounding Area

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center

Local historian and landscape architect Keith Simpson provides in-depth insights into New Canaan's development, focusing on its evolution from 18th-century rural roots to a modern suburb. A lunch and learn sponsored by Staying Put in New Canaan. Free. To register, call: 203-594-3620.

An Evening with Libby

Ward & Caitlin Murray

6 PM at Elm Street Books

Join for an evening author talk with Libby Ward, in conversation with Caitlin Murray, here to chat about Libby's new book, *Honest Motherhood: On Losing My Mind and Finding Myself*. Register at <https://shorturl.at/QC1b2>.

Moneco Advisors Present: Tax Planning Strategies

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim and Dede Bartlett Auditorium

Join for a Tax Planning Strategies workshop where you'll be given specific strategies to consider for helping you and your family secure a better financial future. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-moneco-171959>.

Wednesday, April 15

Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinic

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center

Ellen Samai, RN, from New Canaan's Department of Health provides in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommend you fast for four hours prior to testing. Free.

Thursday, April 16

Free Medicare Counseling

By appointment at the Lapham Center

A CHOICES certified Medicare counselor, provides free information about Medicare options and

related benefits. Available to New Canaan residents and Town employees. Call (203) 594-3620 to schedule an appointment.

Friday, April 17

Breeches & Bowties Spring Gala

6:30-10:30 PM at the Wee Burn Country Club, Darien

Join the New Canaan Mounted Troup for their 2026 Spring Gala with guest speaker Drew Doggett. Enjoy a night of community, inspiration, and purpose - and help ensure their horses and programs continue to serve those who need them most. Tickets are available at <https://newcanaanmountedtroupe.org>.

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, April 20

New Canaan Nature Center: Past, Present, and Future

11 AM at the Lapham Center

The Executive Director of the Nature Center, will share his enthusiasm for the natural world around us, with a presentation about all the ways in which the Nature Center has supported the local environment and the flora and fauna that inhabit it. This lively interactive discussion will include a Q&A – as well as a visit from a live animal or two from the Center. Free. To register, call 203-594-3620.

Tuesday, April 21

US Embassies of the Cold War: The Battle of the Curtain Wall vs. the Iron Curtain

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

David B. Peterson, author of *US Embassies of the Cold War: the Architecture of Democracy, Diplomacy and Defense*, will expand on the US State Department's bid to win international hearts and minds through strategic use of cultural diplomacy, as those embassies are being decommissioned and sold today. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/us-embassies-cold-war>.

Wednesday, April 22

Genealogy Using Ancestry.com presented by Gail Junion-Metz

1 PM at the Lapham Center

Find out everything you wanted to know about your rich history with Gail's help. Learn how to

navigate Ancestry.com, in order to unlock the story of your family. Free. Space is limited, call 203-594-3620 to register.

Thursday, April 23

64th Annual Gridiron Dinner

6 PM at the Country Club of New Canaan

The Gridiron Club of New Canaan will honor Robert (Bob) Doran for his many years of service to the community. The event is open to the public, with tickets available at <https://gridironclubofnc.org/registration/>.

Friday, April 24

64th Annual Gridiron Dinner

6 PM at the Country Club of New Canaan

The Gridiron Club of New Canaan will honor Robert (Bob) Doran for his many years of service to the community. The event is open to the public, with tickets available at <https://gridironclubofnc.org/registration/>.

Wednesday, April 29

Yale Redhot & Blue Sing A Cappella

7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

Celebrate America 250 with the sounds of classic American jazz, together with newer sounds that chase the bounds of musical possibility. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/yale-red-hot-blue-singers>.

Thursday, April 30

Chess, Chats and Tech an Afternoon with Saint Luke's Students

2-4 PM at the Lapham Center

Join students from Saint Luke's for an afternoon of fun, sharing and learning. Students will be on-hand to

play chess, chat and provide tech support. Beverages and treats will be served. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

The Merritt: Masterpiece of Design and Planning Opening Reception and Lecture

6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

The Executive Director of the Merritt Parkway Conservancy will discuss the history of the Merritt Parkway's complex design and the Conservancy's role in preserving Connecticut's iconic landmark for the enjoyment of future generations. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/merritt-opening-lecture>.

Saturday, May 2

Planet New Canaan's Fix-It Café

By appointment at the Lapham Center

Planet New Canaan is hosting a "Fix-It Café" to repair, rather than discard, household items. Featuring repair stations for lamps, small appliances, electronics, small furniture, bikes, and clothing; providing free, expert, volunteer-led repairs. Free. You may register at: www.Planetnewcanaan.org/events.

Next to Normal

7 PM at the New Canaan Library

With an electrifying pop/rock score and an honest, gut-wrenching script, *Next to Normal* explores how one suburban household copes with crisis and mental illness. Tickets are available at <https://www.connecticutstagecompany.org/tickets>.

Sunday, May 3

Next to Normal

2 PM at the New Canaan Library

With an electrifying pop/rock score and an honest, gut-wrenching script, *Next to Normal* explores how one suburban household copes with crisis and mental illness. Tickets are available at <https://www>.

connecticutstagecompany.org/tickets.

Monday, May 4

Revolutionary Connecticut presented

by the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History

11 AM at the Lapham Center

This presentation will draw from the Museum's rich collection of artifacts and documents to tell the story of the struggle for American independence through the eyes of ordinary citizens, and discuss the various ways Connecticut residents have commemorated our independence over the past 250 years. Coffee and treats will be served. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Wednesday, May 6

Let's Take a Trip to Spain with Marc Wollin

1 PM at the Lapham Center

Join for a tour of Spain and experience its culture and history with breathtaking photos of Moorish, Gothic and Gaudi architecture and stunning natural landscapes. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Trivia Night with Host Mike Bacon

5-7 PM at the Lapham Center

Test your knowledge and have some fun, you might even win a prize. Categories: Geography, History, Entertainment, People and Sports. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Thursday, May 7

NCNC Annual Lecture & Luncheon

11:30 AM- 2 PM at the Country Club of New Canaan

Join for the 9th Annual Lecture & Luncheon to benefit the New Canaan Nature Center. Kathryn Herman will be the featured speaker. Register at <https://newcanaannature.org/lecture-luncheon/>.

Wednesday, May 13

Watch Hamilton, the Movie

4 PM at the Lapham Center

Lin-Manuel Miranda's award-winning show blends hip-hop, R&B, pop, and traditional show tunes to tell the story of American Founding Father Alexander Hamilton and his experiences. Pizza, salad and cookies will be served. Run time: 2 h 59 m. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Thursday, May 21

Sip and Paint

5-7 PM at the Lapham Center

Unleash your inner artist and have some fun! Space is limited. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Friday, May 22

Breakfast BINGO

10 AM at the Lapham Center

Join Aggie, Kathy and Steph for breakfast goodies, beverages, Bingo and spring themed prizes. \$10/person. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Saturday, June 27

NC250 Parade

9:30 AM from South Avenue to NCHS

The parade is part of the town's 250th Independence Day celebration.

BLOOD DRIVES

Tuesday, March 24

Norwalk Hospital

34 Maple Street

Norwalk, CT 06856

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Support Services & Meetings

Friday, March 20

Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade and Refer

Ghost Cats

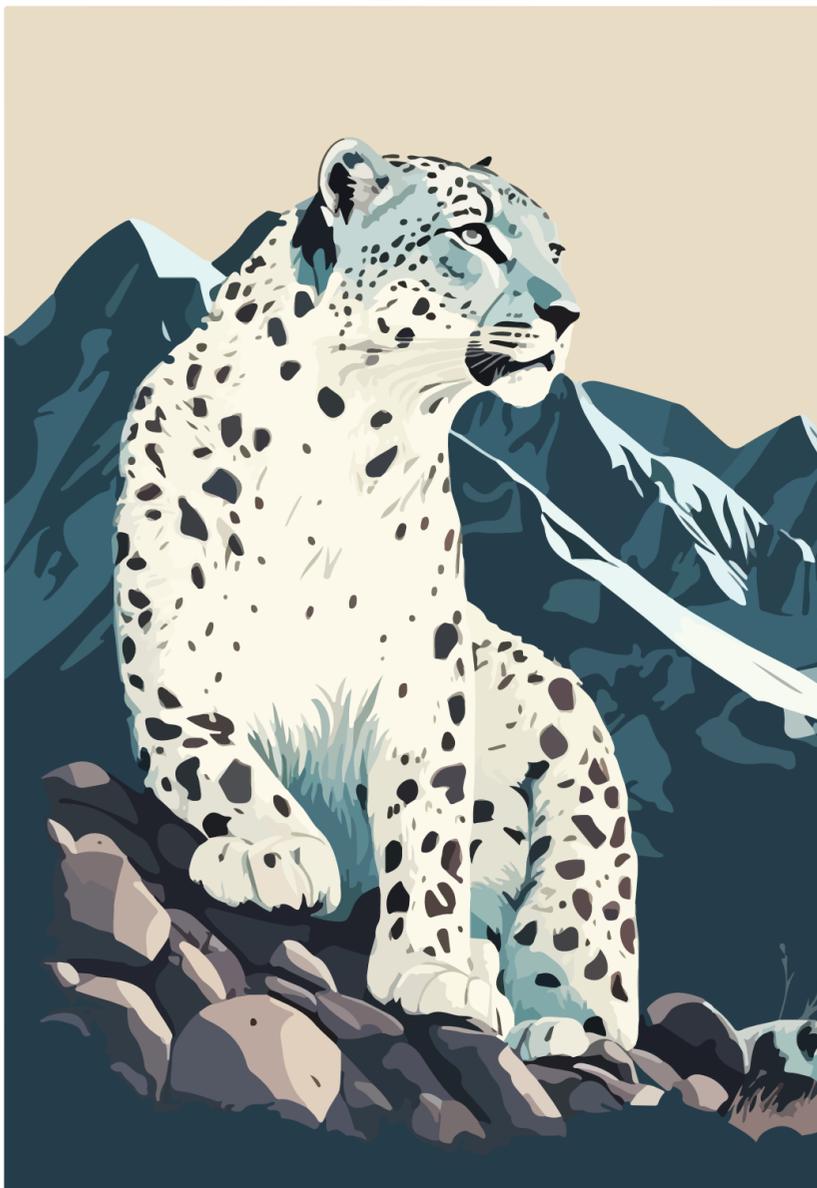
High above the clouds in the Karakoram Range, four ghostlike figures moved in harmony with the wind. Elusive, powerful, and draped in snow-spotted camouflage, a mother snow leopard and her three cubs scaled sheer cliffs in northern Pakistan—living proof that wild magic still pulses in this world. These cats are not just surviving; they are quietly conquering one of the planet's most rugged, inhospitable domains.

Snow leopards (*Panthera uncia*), long known as the "ghosts of the mountains," roam some of the highest elevations on Earth—between 9,800 and 17,000 feet above sea level. Their habitat spans 12 nations from China to Nepal to Russia, but it's in the northern reaches of Pakistan, near K2, that one of the most awe-inspiring sightings in recent memory took place.

In the snowbound Karakoram Mountains of northern Pakistan, a breathtaking encounter has brought global attention to these most elusive creatures. Sakhawat Ali, a gamekeeper and wildlife enthusiast from the remote village of Hushe, captured rare footage of a female snow leopard accompanied by her three nearly full-grown cubs—four apex predators moving in quiet unison through the cliffs of Central Karakoram National Park.

"For the past 15 days, I had been noticing leopard pawmarks," Ali told the "Good News Network". "While I was on the roof of my house, I used binoculars to observe the mountains and spotted a female snow leopard along with her four cubs." ([GNN story link](https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/rare-sighting-of-four-snow-leopards-together-sparks-frenzy-of-excitement-watch/))

Ali filmed the animals from a distance of about 150 meters. His footage—now widely shared—offers a



Snow leopards remain listed as "Vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List. According to the United Nations Environment Program, threats include shrinking habitat, retaliatory killings from livestock predation, and poaching. Yet, as this sighting proves, progress is being made.

Dr. Zakir Hussain, Chief Conservator of Parks and Wildlife for Gilgit-Baltistan, called the footage a victory for community-driven conservation. "Eighty percent of the region's communities are engaged in the tracking, monitoring, and reporting of snow leopard populations," he told "CNN", noting how local knowledge and citizen science have become essential tools in protecting these animals.

Local villagers celebrated the sighting—even as they remain mindful of potential livestock conflicts. Their involvement in preservation efforts demonstrates a growing understanding that healthy predator populations are indicators of ecological resilience, not threats.

The snow leopard's range crosses national boundaries, and so does its future. The Global Snow Leopard Forum, an alliance of the 12 range countries, works to coordinate conservation strategies across borders through science, education, and policy.

And what can humans learn from this master of high places? The snow leopard survives not through dominance, but discipline. It succeeds through patience, stealth, and stillness. These animals teach us that strength isn't always loud—it can be silent and surefooted.

As the mother leopard guides her three young through the sheer cliffs of northern Pakistan, she exemplifies what it means to persist, protect, and prevail. For those who watch with wonder from below, she offers another lesson: true greatness leaves no trail, only inspiration.

rare glimpse into the family life of a species so elusive it's been dubbed "the ghost of the mountains." ([Watch the video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doaQDGdS-2Y))

Snow leopards (*Panthera uncia*) are supreme high-altitude predators, ranging across 12 countries including Russia, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. Perfectly adapted to life above 10,000 feet, their wide paws distribute weight on snow like natural snowshoes, while their powerful hind limbs allow them to leap nearly 50 feet in pursuit of prey such as Siberian ibex and argali. Their long, thick tails offer balance and warmth, and their patterned coats blend seamlessly with ice and stone.

What makes this sighting remarkable is not only its rarity, but what it reveals: a thriving maternal unit in an unforgiving ecosystem. Healthy cubs signal strong prey populations, which in turn reflect healthy high-altitude habitats—an encouraging sign in a region where climate change, infrastructure development, and habitat degradation threaten biodiversity.

stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer - the 3 simple steps anyone can use to help prevent suicide. This training will certify you as a QPR gatekeeper. Register at <https://shorturl.at/i6y9G>.

Wednesday, March 25

Supporting Aging Parents Successfully with Janet Simpson Benvenuti

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

In this practical conversation about what matters as families age, we will focus on legal, financial, medical, housing, and caregiving decisions that help older adults live well as they age. This program is co-sponsored by Staying Put, New Canaan Library, and the New Canaan Community Foundation. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/supporting-aging-parents>.

Wednesday, April 22

Caring and Support for Your Loved Ones

10 AM at the Lapham Center

Designed to be practical, and relevant to today's aging families—especially those navigating the growing gap between independence, affordability, and long-term care options. Free. To register, call 203-594-3620.

Thursday, April 30

Navigating the New Landscape of Long-Term Care

1 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room

Join Pelletier Senior Planning as they delve into the evolving world of long-term care planning, especially the growing need for care among seniors and baby boomers. Discover how the long-term care insurance landscape has

changed, introducing more choices than ever before. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-long-term-care-202270>.

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 AI-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

AI-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

Saturday, April 11

Habitat CFC's Annual Gala

6-10:30 PM at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich

1800 East Putnam Avenue

Old Greenwich, CT

Come dressed in your favorite designer-haute couture or casual style is welcome. A special evening with cocktail, dinner, dancing, an auction and more! Proceeds from the evening support Habitat CFC's mission to create affordable homeownership opportunities in Coastal Fairfield County. Tickets are available at <https://habitatcfc.org/news-events/event-calendar/gala.html>.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN**

Come Join Us! Lent & Holy Week Services

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Palm Sunday Service | March 29, 10:00am |
| Maundy Thursday Service | April 2, 7:00pm |
| Good Friday Community Service @ Lutheran Church | April 3, 6:00pm |
| Easter Sunday Sunrise Service | April 5, 7:00am |
| Easter Sunday Breakfast | April 5, 8:00am |
| Easter Sunday Service | April 5, 10:00am |
| Easter Egg Hunt | April 5, 11:30am |



All Are Welcome!
178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT
www.fpcnc.org 203-966-0002 ext. 1