

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFING

POLICE AND FIRE NCPD New Officer



The New Canaan Police Department has hired Sarina Oliveira as a new officer. She holds a degree in criminal justice, has completed military training, and serves in the U.S. Army National Guard. Oliveira will attend the Stamford Police Academy before completing at least 400 hours of field training in New Canaan. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department.

Rodrigues Graduates Police Academy



Officer Rodrigues has graduated from the POSTC Police Academy Class 388. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department.

NCPD Joins Polar Plunge



New Canaan police participated in the Penguin Plunge in Brookfield to support Special Olympics Connecticut, helping raise more than \$40,000. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS NCPD Hosts Staying Put



Last week, members of Staying Put visited the New

Experience and Resolve Carry New Canaan to the Championship



New Canaan players celebrate on the ice following their 3-1 win over Fairfield Prep in the CIAC Division I championship at Quinnipiac University's M&T Bank Arena on March 23, 2026. Courtesy CIAC / Jada Mirabelle. See the story on page 4.

PURA Reverses Course, Approves Aqurion Sale Over Fierce Local Opposition

BY SENTINEL STAFF

State utility regulators on Wednesday approved the sale of Aqurion Water Co. to a new Aqurion Water Authority tied to the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, reviving a transaction that Public Utilities Regulatory Authority commissioners had rejected in November and setting up a new round of political and legal conflict over water rates, oversight and local control.

The March 25 decision marks the latest turn in one of Connecticut's most contested utility fights. PURA had blocked the deal on November 19, 2025, after opponents argued that the proposed acquisition exposed customers to steep long-term rate increases and weakened consumer protections. But in January, Superior Court Judge Matthew Budzik sent the case back to PURA for further proceedings, ruling that the agency had erred when it relied on objections to the managerial and governance structure that the legislature had already authorized. Earlier this month, regulators signaled

the reversal in a draft decision, and on Wednesday they made it final.

That reversal immediately drew sharp criticism from state Consumer Counsel Claire Coleman, whose office has opposed the deal throughout the case. In a statement issued Wednesday, Coleman said the approval "saddles Aqurion ratepayers with approximately \$5.9 billion of acquisition debt and financing costs, including roughly \$3.646 billion in interest on a \$2.249 billion principal purchase price." She said the transaction would impose "immediate and sustained bill increases" and added that her office is "evaluating all available options to protect the Aqurion customers that will have to live through the results of this decision." The Office of Consumer Counsel identifies itself as the independent state agency charged with representing consumers before PURA, the legislature and the courts.

State Sen. Ryan Fazio, whose district includes Greenwich and New Canaan

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Charter Revision Commission Votes to Keep Planning & Zoning Appointed

Sharp debate over process and public input precedes 6-5 vote preserving current P&Z structure

BY PETER BARHYDT

The tone inside the Charter Revision Commission's (CRC) March 25 meeting was less about policy than about process — how decisions should be made, and when.

That question surfaced early, as members discussed whether to delay a vote on the future of the Planning & Zoning Commission until after additional public input.

"I really think it's sort of a violation of public trust for us to vote," said Commissioner William Parrett, urging the panel to wait until after an April public hearing.

Others rejected that view, arguing the CRC must first take positions before the public can react meaningfully.

"We're doing our work... and certainly we will hear from the public

on April 14th," Secretary Angela Jameson said.

Chair Kathleen Corbet framed the issue as part of the CRC's traditional sequence: deliberate, draft, then solicit feedback.

"The public cannot respond until they hear from us as to where we're thinking," she said.

A motion to delay votes failed 7-4, setting the stage for the CRC's first major decision of the night.

P&Z Structure at the Center

The central question — whether the Planning & Zoning Commission should remain appointed or become elected — has emerged as one of the most contentious issues in the charter review so far.

Commissioner Judy Neville

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Big, Ugly Earrings

BY JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

Imagine someone says to you, "Those are the biggest, ugliest earrings I have ever seen!" Confronting that person's rudeness directly or disagreeing with her could easily escalate into an argument. "Oh, I do have on big earrings today" is a response that avoids a confrontation.

Whenever we can agree with even a small part of what someone else is saying, it calms our nervous system and defuses the energy behind the other person's comment. It is literally disarming. The other person will feel heard—and perhaps surprised.

We all stumble into saying the wrong thing sometimes. Let's give ourselves and others



Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry

a second chance. (Of course, if the hurtful language is abusive, repetitive, or contemptuous, we need a different strategy.)

Cameron's teenaged son, Liam, complained, "You are always late to pick me up." Cameron wisely avoided reacting to the word, "always." He was late that day. Instead, he countered with, "You're right. I am late sometimes." Liam felt heard and was open to hearing the reasons why Cameron sometimes arrives late.

NCHS Scholarship Foundation Seeks \$50,000 in Giving Week Matching Challenge

BY SENTINEL STAFF

The New Canaan High School Scholarship Foundation has launched its annual Giving Week campaign, seeking to raise \$50,000 through March 28, with donations matched dollar for dollar by seven designated "RAMbassador" partners.

The structure is direct. Gifts made during the week are matched up to each partner's stated limit. The appeal is immediate. Only a limited number of days remain for contributions to qualify for matching.

The effort follows a year of expanded awards. In 2025, the foundation distributed \$250,000 in scholarships to 55 New Canaan High School graduates, an average of \$4,545

per student. The year prior, \$180,000 was awarded to 54 graduates and post-graduates.

The foundation's aim is to increase both totals in 2026.

The organization was established in 1967 to provide financial assistance to New Canaan High School students continuing their education. Its work has been sustained by local contributions, organized fundraising, and a network of donors who support both annual giving and long-term endowed scholarships.

Fundraising has taken multiple forms. The foundation's "Color Drop" event has become a central feature, with thousands of golf balls dropped over Waveny Park as part of a community-wide effort to generate scholarship funding. Additional support has come

from local organizations and targeted campaigns, including matching initiatives designed to increase participation and accelerate giving.

Giving Week reflects that model. It compresses fundraising into a defined period and pairs it with matching commitments to expand impact.

The foundation states that all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. It operates as a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID 23-7102732, and is based at 11 Farm Road in New Canaan.

As the campaign enters its final days, the outcome will determine the scale of scholarships awarded to the next graduating class.

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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>

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Birding's Big January: Collecting Data and Chasing Fun in the Depths of Winter



Bohemian Waxwing. Photo by Mark S. Szantyr.

BY FRANK GALLO

Every January, birders from around the state participate in a friendly competition to try to see as many birds as possible within Connecticut. Known as a Big January, the competition started as an incentive to get folks out looking for birds at a time where physical activity often migrates indoors, and as a means to collect data on the status of wintering birds. Many participate on a casual level, just getting out on weekends and occasionally early a.m. jaunts. This year, I fell into that category. For others, however, it is an all-out race. A chance to test one's bird finding skills against the elements and the capriciousness of luck. It's also fun... a real hoot at times... at least where finding owls is concerned.

I usually do not do Big Januarys. Rather, I look for species that I may not see again during the year; things like Pine Grosbeaks, Snowy Owls, or Northern Shrikes which are mostly seen in winter, and do not always occur annually. In a typical year, I might find 95-110 species (see chart) by randomly looking for birds during the week and chasing a few rarer species on the weekends. Normally, I see no need to drive

across Connecticut in winter to find a Baltimore Oriole or Gray Catbird when there are plenty around in the spring. But normal drives out the door when you are doing a Big January.

In 2021 when the world shut down during Covid, I was a full-time birding guide and there were no bird tours, so I decided to do a Big January. Why not? So, I raced around the state like a maniac chasing every bird I could find... and several that I could not.

Planning and strategy play important roles in a successful Big January. Knowing where to look, what to chase, and when to go are key. It's a competition, and others are watching your progress and chasing your finds, and vice versa, through eBird, a Cornell University app used to record bird sightings. eBird also tallies the daily progress of anyone using it, so participants have a sense not only of what's being seen, but where they stand in the ranking (see chart). There is also a listserv where sightings are posted run by the Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA), and a Connecticut Rare Bird Alert on GroupMe to aid the search.

Participants use all available information and their own



Male Redpoll. Photo by Frank Gallo.



Male King Eider. Photo by Mark S. Szantyr.



Female Pine Grosbeak. Photo by Frank Gallo.

experience to plan. There are many factors to consider for each species that occur. 1) Is it likely to stick around or do I have to chase it today? 2) Are there other equally rare species competing for my time? 3) How can I optimize my day? 4) If I don't or can't chase today, is it likely to occur again? 5) Distance: Is it worth the drive today or am I better off going elsewhere? 6) Timing: Arrive too late and the birds have gone to bed. 7) Weather and road conditions also play a critical role. Is your car capable of going up a snow-covered dirt road in Canaan to see a Bohemian Waxwing, or will you have to wait, hitch a ride, or try for something else? A blizzard may scuttle your last-day plan to pick up species you have missed. It's all a big game and it's great fun when strategy and planning pay off.

One memorable day during my 2021 Big January, using a tip from a friend and a hunch, I left New Canaan in the dark to arrive at White Memorial Foundation in Litchfield at dawn in hopes of hearing or seeing a Pileated Woodpecker (hunch) and Red Crossbills (tip). On a snow-covered dirt side road in the park, I was greeted by the welcoming drumming of a Pileated Woodpecker as I opened my car door. Yes! Just up the road, I found the crossbills seen

by my friend the day before.

I then drove to Morris for a second try at seeing a wintering Northern Shrike (a secretive mockingbird-looking predator). As I was nearing the road, I received a call from another friend excitedly exclaiming that a Ross's Gull (an Arctic species), Connecticut's second ever, was being seen at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison. I hurriedly pulled into the shrike site, did a quick scan (no shrike), made a U-turn, and raced across the State to Madison 1.25 hours away. (I may have gotten there in a bit less time.) I pulled into the park's east beach lot and ran to the beach where a friend had the Ross's Gull in his scope as it flew around offshore. It was close enough to identify but only stayed for a minute or two more before heading farther out into the Sound. I had just made it, and although it was not as satisfying a look as I had hoped, it counted. Oh, and I never saw that shrike.

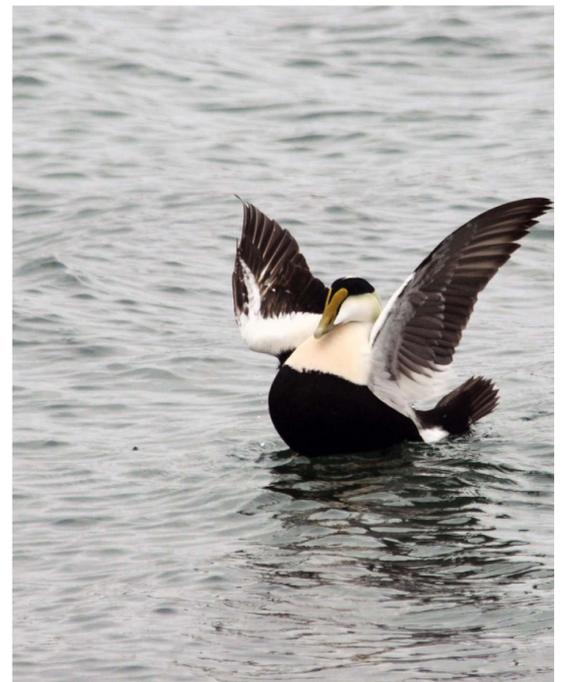
Golden Eagles are uncommon in Connecticut. Several migrate through each year, and a few may overwinter. However, there is a mountain in New York opposite the town of Kent where Golden Eagles regularly winter. The previous January, a friend saw one circling a nearby ridge in Connecticut, so I

decided to try my luck. I staked out a safe spot off the main road with a view of the ridgeline and waited. My first attempt failed. No raptors at all. I timed my second visit on a warm sunny day hoping thermals would get the raptors up soaring. A few minutes after I arrived, an eagle popped over the ridge. Excitedly, I lifted my binoculars only to spy a young Bald Eagle. Rats. I settled back to watch and a few minutes later another eagle came into view. Cautiously, I lifted my binoculars and saw a beautiful adult Golden Eagle! It circled lazily over the ridge for a while before gliding over my head just above the trees. I really love it when plans come together.

I made successful trips to the northeast and northwest corners of Connecticut in search of Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Red and White-winged Crossbills, Pine Siskins and Redpolls. I traveled nearly to Rhode Island to tally Common and King Eiders, and to see a rare Black-headed Gull, and an Eared Grebe that often overwinter in Stonington each year. I found a Harlequin Duck (rare) off the Branford coast while looking for other sea ducks, Razorbills (think puffins) off the New London Ferry, and I hiked 2 miles out to the tip of Bluff Point, Groton, to see the State's 4th modern



Snowy Owl. Photo by Frank Gallo.



Male Common Eider. Photo by Frank Gallo.



Male Red Crossbill. Photo by Frank Gallo.

record of Black Guillemot (think puffin again). It was a fun and rewarding experience. I saw a record 164 species. I learned a good deal about the winter habits of our local birds, visited areas new to me, and had the support of old and new friends, and of Connecticut's wonderful birding community that shares and encourages one another. It couldn't have been done without them.

This year by January 15th, I had logged just ninety-five species – a bit behind my average. However, that day the two leaders were tied at an astonishing 152 species with two others tied at 143. The frontrunners were an astounding ten birds above my record-setting total of 142 at this date in 2021. And, although things get harder from here (fewer new birds left to find), they seem poised to set a new record. I was curious to see how it all would go. No one sees them all!

Record-breaking totals are dependent on the weather and on the total number of species that occur each January, which can vary dramatically. In some years, Connecticut sees influxes of irruptive more-northern species such as Bohemian Waxwing (rare), Pine (rare) and Evening Grosbeaks, Snowy Owls, and Rough-legged Hawks that are absent in other years. This year was exceptional, with 172 species already sighted statewide by January 15th.

By the 16th one of the top two competitors was up to 157 species while the other remained at 152 and was likely out of the running due to work commitments. By the twentieth, the front runner had surged ahead to an astonishing 163 species, one behind my record, but another person had reached 152 and there were still plenty of species still around to find.

On 24 January, my 2026 total of 101 species was well behind my 159 species in 2021. The front runner was now at 164, tying my record, followed by a new challenger with 156 species. This was still a race, but time was running out...

On the 25th, a blizzard dumped more than a foot of snow across Connecticut, so on the 26th the leader was still at 164. On the 27th the frontrunner was at 165, a record, adding Snow Goose. By January 31, the winner had recorded two more species for a total of 167 out of 176 species seen statewide (95%); including a Common Gull (Asian) that has been returning to Cove Island Park, Stamford since 2019. (Note: 176 species are more than half of the total bird species reported in Connecticut for the entirety of 2025.) The second-place finisher ended their run with a respectable 161 species, and the third-place winner tallied 155 species. Out of one hundred participants, only seven saw 150 species or more. It was a banner year. Congratulations to everyone and to the top three finishers, Shori Velles, Sara Zagorski, and David Mathieu!

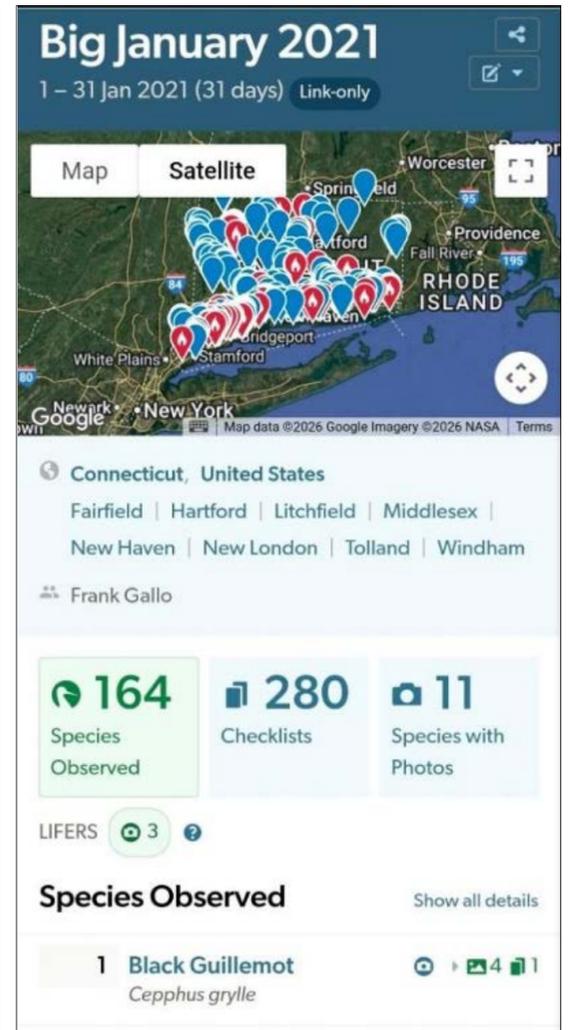
Frank Gallo, the Senior Naturalist the New Canaan Nature Center, has led birding expeditions all over the world. He is a member of the Connecticut Avian Records Committee and is a federally licensed master bird bander.



Final Score for the Big January 2026. (Note: Shori's last bird had not posted yet.)



My average is 106 species each January - minus the high and low.



A typical Big January showing where I birded (2020) vs my Big January (2021). Also note the number of checklists.



Male Barrow's Goldeneye. Photo by Mark S. Szantyr.



Male Evening Grosbeak. Photo by Frank Gallo.

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10:00am Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship Church Lawn
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*Church School Chapel is offered at the 9:00am service. Nursery Care is available at both the 9:00 and 11:00am services.

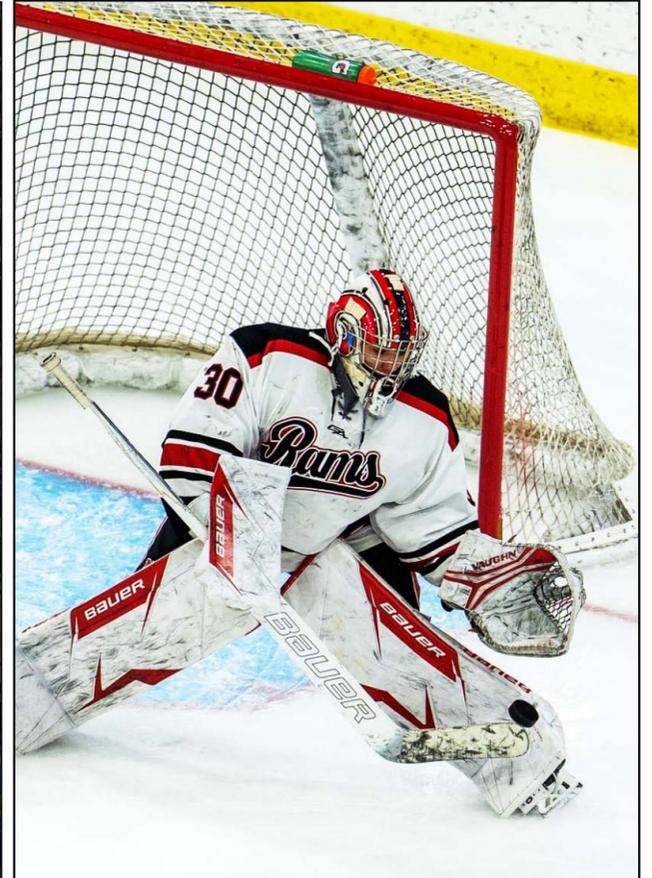
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New Canaan's Championship Game



New Canaan's section, packed with fans, stands and cheers during the game. Courtesy CIAC / Jada Mirabelle



New Canaan goaltender Blake Pozatek makes a save during the CIAC Division I championship. Courtesy CIAC / Jada Mirabelle

BY SENTINEL STAFF

New Canaan seized its moment with clarity and control, defeating Fairfield Prep 3-1 to win the CIAC Division I championship Monday night at Quinnipiac University's M&T Bank Arena.

The Rams established their presence early. They controlled possession, dictated tempo, and forced Fairfield Prep into extended defensive shifts. The crowd responded with energy, as both student sections filled the arena and sustained a constant, rising noise.

New Canaan carried play through the first period. The Rams generated chances, directed pucks on net, and maintained pressure in the offensive zone. Fairfield Prep relied on goaltender Chris Carr, who delivered a series of steady saves to keep the game scoreless.

New Canaan created its breakthrough immediately in the second period. Skating

short-handed, Anthony DelCarmine recognized an opportunity and acted decisively. He capitalized on a loose puck after Carr played it, scoring just 33 seconds into the period to give the Rams a 1-0 lead.

Fairfield Prep responded with precision. Andrew McCoy completed a passing sequence midway through the period, lifting a forehand shot past Blake Pozatek to tie the game at 1-1.

New Canaan continued to apply pressure. The Rams outshot Fairfield Prep 22-8 through two periods, sustaining offensive zone time and forcing repeated defensive stands. Carr's 23 saves preserved the tie and allowed Fairfield Prep to remain within reach.

Fairfield Prep opened the third period with urgency. The Jesuits generated the first five shots and created several scoring opportunities. Pozatek met each attempt with control and strong positioning, stopping

all nine shots he faced in the period.

New Canaan responded with discipline. The Rams maintained structure, supported the puck, and continued to generate chances. With 2:02 remaining, they converted sustained pressure into the decisive moment.

Rogan Lowe controlled the puck along the boards and moved into open space. He directed the puck toward the net, where a deflection created a rebound. Drew Harmon positioned himself at the crease and finished the play, giving New Canaan a 2-1 lead.

New Canaan closed the game with authority. The Rams controlled possession in the final seconds, limited opportunities, and executed cleanly. Lowe added an empty-net goal with 7.7 seconds remaining to secure the 3-1 victory.

New Canaan's senior group led the performance. Lowe, DelCarmine, Cam Lyden, and Jackson Crowell brought experience

from multiple championship appearances and applied it with precision. They managed pace, maintained structure, and executed in critical moments.

The Rams controlled the statistical margin. They outshot Fairfield Prep 26-17 and sustained pressure across all three periods. Pozatek recorded 16 saves, delivering a steady performance that matched the team's structure.

Fairfield Prep advanced to the championship through a strong finish to its season. The Jesuits competed with discipline, generated key opportunities, and pressed throughout the third period. Their performance reflected cohesion and resilience.

New Canaan delivered a complete performance. The Rams combined sustained pressure, defensive discipline, and late execution to secure the championship.



New Canaan's Anthony DelCarmine (14) and Rogan Lowe (18) react during the CIAC Division I championship game. Courtesy CIAC / Jada Mirabelle



New Canaan's Anthony DelCarmine (14) scores on March 23, 2026. Courtesy CIAC / Jada Mirabelle



The New Canaan boys ice hockey team poses with the championship trophy following its 3-1 victory over Fairfield Prep in the CIAC Division I final. Courtesy CIAC / Jada Mirabelle

Chronic Pain and Depression: When the Body and Mind Carry the Same Burden



By TERESA ALASIO MD

One thing I hear from patients is something like this: “I just don’t feel like myself anymore.” Sometimes they are talking about pain. Sometimes they are talking about mood. Most of the time, they are talking about both.

Chronic pain and depression are deeply connected. They often travel together, and each one can make the other worse. Yet many people think of them as completely separate problems. They assume pain belongs to the body and depression belongs to the mind. In reality, the brain sits right in the middle of both.

In fact, studies show that people with chronic pain are about three times more likely to develop depression than the general population. At the same time, people who struggle with depression are far more likely to develop chronic pain conditions. Researchers estimate that nearly half of patients with long term pain also experience significant symptoms of depression.

When someone lives with chronic pain, the brain is constantly processing signals that something is wrong. Over time that changes how the nervous system functions. The brain becomes more sensitive to pain signals in a

process scientists call central sensitization. In simple terms, the nervous system becomes more reactive. Signals that once would have felt mild can begin to feel intense.

At the same time, areas of the brain involved in mood and motivation also begin to shift. Imaging studies have shown changes in regions such as the prefrontal cortex, amygdala, and anterior cingulate cortex in both chronic pain and depression. These are the very areas responsible for emotional regulation, attention, and how we interpret physical sensations.

That overlap is one reason these two conditions often appear together.

When patients live with pain day after day, the brain begins to adapt in ways that are not always helpful. Sleep becomes disrupted. Energy drops. Activities that once felt enjoyable start to feel like work. Over time, the brain’s reward system can become less active. Dopamine, a chemical that helps drive motivation and pleasure, may decrease.

It is not surprising that many people who live with chronic pain begin to feel discouraged, exhausted, and withdrawn.

At the same time, depression itself can make pain worse. When the brain is struggling with low mood, the body often becomes more sensitive to discomfort. Muscles tighten. Stress hormones like cortisol can remain elevated. Inflammatory signals in the body may increase.

Pain is always real. The brain is simply where the experience of pain is processed. Understanding this relationship actually opens the door to more effective treatment.

Pain that might have been manageable before begins to feel overwhelming.

Researchers have even found that many of the same brain chemicals involved in depression also influence pain perception. Serotonin, norepinephrine, and dopamine all help regulate how strongly pain signals are transmitted through the nervous system. When these systems are out of balance, both mood and physical discomfort can suffer.

This is why treating only one side of the equation rarely works.

I see this often in my office. Someone has been dealing with neck pain, back pain, headaches, or joint pain for years. They have tried physical therapy, medications, maybe even injections or procedures. Some treatments help temporarily, but the problem keeps returning. At the same time, they start to notice that their mood has changed. They feel less motivated. They sleep poorly. They feel mentally foggy or emotionally flat.

They begin to wonder if something deeper is going on.

In many cases, the brain itself has become part of the problem.

The brain is not just a

passive receiver of pain signals. It is an active participant in how pain is experienced. The networks in the brain that regulate mood, attention, and emotional resilience also influence how strongly we perceive pain. When those networks are functioning well, the brain can filter and dampen discomfort. When they are under stress, pain signals can become amplified.

This is one reason chronic pain often shows up alongside depression and anxiety.

Patients sometimes worry that acknowledging this connection means their pain is “all in their head.” That could not be further from the truth.

Pain is always real. The brain is simply where the experience of pain is processed. Understanding this relationship actually opens the door to more effective treatment.

When we address both the body and the brain, outcomes often improve dramatically.

For some patients, that means combining physical therapies with treatments that support the brain’s ability to regulate mood and stress. Exercise can be powerful. Research consistently shows that regular physical activity

increases brain derived neurotrophic factor, or BDNF. This molecule supports brain cell health and helps the brain form new connections. Higher levels of BDNF are associated with improved mood and greater resilience to stress.

Sleep is another critical factor. During deep sleep, the brain clears metabolic waste products and resets many of its regulatory systems. Poor sleep worsens both pain and depression. When someone finally begins to sleep deeply again, their body often becomes more resilient to pain signals.

Nutrition also plays a role. Chronic inflammation has been linked to both depression and persistent pain. Diets rich in whole foods, healthy fats, and adequate protein help support the nervous system and immune system at the same time.

Over the past decade, new treatments have also emerged that directly target the brain’s regulatory networks. Noninvasive magnetic stimulation of specific brain regions has been shown in clinical studies to improve symptoms of depression and reduce certain types of chronic pain. By gently activating underactive brain circuits, these treatments may help the brain restore healthier communication patterns.

Patients are often surprised to learn that when the brain begins functioning more efficiently, their physical discomfort frequently improves as well.

Perhaps the most important thing I want people

to understand is that chronic pain and depression are not signs of personal weakness. They are signs that the nervous system has been under strain for a long time.

The good news is that the brain is remarkably adaptable. Neuroscientists call this neuroplasticity, which simply means the brain has the ability to reorganize and form new connections throughout life. With the right support, many people are able to restore balance to their nervous system and reclaim a sense of energy, clarity, and resilience.

I encourage patients not to suffer in silence. If you have been living with chronic pain and you notice that your mood, motivation, or sense of well being has also changed, it may be worth looking at the bigger picture. Treating both the body and the brain together can make a tremendous difference.

Healing often begins with a simple realization. The mind and the body are not separate systems. They are part of the same conversation inside us.

When we learn to support both, we give ourselves the best chance to feel well again.

The information presented is for educational purposes only. If you have a specific health concern please consult your medical provider.

Dr. Teresa Alasio is the Owner and Medical Director of Intentional Self Aesthetics, located in Downtown New Canaan. She is a resident of New Canaan and lives with her husband, two teenage boys, two guinea pigs and a dog.

Charter Commission Grapples with Changing P&Z Structure

By PETER BARHYDT

Editor’s Note: This story covers a meeting that took place prior to the meeting reported on the front page, titled “Charter Revision Commission Votes to Keep Planning & Zoning Appointed.”

Debate reveals deeper tensions over governance, public trust, and the limits of local control

At a meeting that unfolded less like a procedural exercise and more like a civic reckoning, the New Canaan Charter Revision Commission (CRC) spent more than two hours wrestling with a deceptively simple question: Should the town’s Planning & Zoning Commission remain appointed, or become elected?

What emerged was not consensus, but something more revealing — a portrait of a community trying to reconcile its tested traditions with shifting political and civic approaches.

The CRC, meeting on March 24, opened with routine business before turning quickly to what Chair Kathleen Corbet described as “the meat of what we’re here to discuss.” The issue at hand — whether to alter the structure of Planning & Zoning — has become one of the most closely watched and debated elements of the broader charter review process.

Corbet framed the discussion around a compiled set of arguments submitted by commissioners on both sides of the issue. She noted that many residents have expressed a familiar sentiment: “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” But she added a note of caution — “it might not be broke, but you can make it better.”

That tension — between stability and change — ran through nearly every comment that followed.

Several commissioners stressed that the current appointed system has served New Canaan well, emphasizing expertise, continuity and insulation from political pressure.

Angela Jameson said that after reviewing testimony and studying other towns, she had grown wary of elections.

“It seems to me that we would be taking risks with the fabric of New Canaan were we to move to elections,” she said, citing concerns that political cycles could influence land-use decisions.

Others echoed that view, noting that Planning & Zoning decisions are often constrained by state law, particularly Connecticut’s affordable housing statute. Russ Kimes emphasized that commissioners are “interpreting mostly Connecticut laws,” suggesting that elections would not fundamentally change outcomes.

But a competing argument emerged: that the current system may lack sufficient public accountability.

William Parrett questioned whether an appointed body should wield such influence without direct electoral oversight, particularly in a town where land-use decisions shape daily life.

“This is the only thing our town is, is land use,” Parrett said, arguing that residents deserve a stronger voice in those decisions.

Others countered that argument, noting representation. Karen Willett pointed to the growing number of unaffiliated voters — now more than a third of the electorate — and warned that an election system could make it harder for those residents to participate.

“It’s very, very difficult for an unaffiliated voter to get elected in this town,” she said, while still supporting reforms to make the appointment process more transparent.

The process today is that applications to join the Planning & Zoning Commission are made to the First Selectman, who then proposes a member to the full Board of Selectmen, with all the Selectmen individually interviewing and vetting the candidate before discussing the candidate as a group at a Board of Selectmen meeting, and then voting. The Planning

& Zoning Commission today has Republican, Democrat and Unaffiliated members.

That idea — reform without wholesale change — gained traction as a potential middle ground. Several commissioners suggested improvements such as formalizing the appointment process, increasing transparency, or requiring additional training for members.

Still, a third perspective began to take shape: that the commission itself should not resolve the question, but instead send it to voters.

Jennifer Holme argued that the issue has generated enough public interest to warrant a broader decision.

“Why not send this to the voter?” she said. “I think the town of New Canaan voters are extremely intelligent.”

That proposal, however, raised procedural difficulties. Corbet reminded the group that the commission’s charge is to make recommendations — not defer decisions.

“Our job is to make a recommendation,” Corbet stressed.

Underlying the debate was a quieter but persistent question: how much of this issue is truly local, and how much is shaped by state law beyond the town’s control?

Several commissioners noted that controversial decisions often end up in court regardless of who serves on the commission. As one member put it, “the final answer comes from the courts.”

By the end of the meeting, no vote was taken. Corbet urged commissioners to reflect before reconvening the following day, signaling that a decision — or at least a formal recommendation — would soon be required.

What the discussion revealed, however, was less about the mechanics of appointment versus election, and more about a community grappling with trust: trust in expertise, trust in institutions, trust in the Board of Selectmen and trust in the electorate itself.

Town Council Reviews Budget and Library Capital Request

By SENTINEL STAFF

Discussion focuses on fiscal details, process questions, and future capital planning

The Town Council reviewed portions of New Canaan’s proposed fiscal year 2027 budget Tuesday, covering general government spending, parking policy and a capital request from the New Canaan Library.

The meeting followed a standard agenda that included budget presentations and discussion of specific line items.

Finance Director Ryan Stacy presented the general government budget, outlining changes across departments. He cited modest increases in areas such as salaries, software subscriptions and accounting adjustments.

“We’re seeing anywhere from five to 15% increases year over year for software,” Stacy said.

He also described efforts to align budget categories with the state’s Uniform Chart of Accounts, including reclassifying expenses into more specific categories.

“I like it to be kind of regimented,” Stacy said.

Council members asked questions about staffing levels, software costs and the process for reclassifying expenses. Stacy said changes are based on state guidelines and reviewed with staff.

The discussion later turned to parking policy, including existing meters on Elm Street and a potential future expansion to Main Street.

Council members raised questions about whether the Elm Street meters were consistent with existing ordinances and whether the Town Council had sufficient opportunity for review before implementation.

There was discussion of how

some parking ordinances date back to the 1960’s and that there is clear need to review given how town use of the downtown has changed since then.

First Selectman Dionna Carlson said the current parking ordinance are outdated and do not reflect current practices.

Council members discussed the need to review and update parking-related ordinances. Some members also suggested evaluating the impact of the Elm Street meters before considering additional locations.

“I think it would be good to quantify the success,” said Council member Maria Naughton.

The council then heard a presentation from New Canaan Library Executive Director Ellen Crovatto on the library’s operating and capital budget.

The proposed operating budget includes a 3.5% increase, primarily for cost-of-living adjustments.

Crovatto said the library has increased usage and demand for services, including meeting space and programming.

She also presented a request for \$1 million in capital funding to renovate the library’s “legacy building,” a preserved 1913 structure that is currently not in use.

Crovatto said the building is structurally stabilized but

unfinished.

“It’s dry, but it’s empty,” she said.

The proposed project would convert the space into a flexible meeting and programming area. Crovatto said the library currently hosts a high volume of meetings and has limited space, particularly for events outside normal operating hours.

“One of the things we can’t offer them is the opportunity to really stay late,” she said.

The total project cost is estimated at \$1.5 million to \$2 million. Crovatto said the library plans to seek state grant funding and that local funding would

support those efforts.

Council members asked about project costs, timing and funding sources. Some suggested phasing the town’s contribution or waiting for additional information on grant funding and final estimates.

Library officials said the project timeline depends on funding and approvals and that delays could postpone use of the building.

“It will be unused,” Crovatto said.

Council members also discussed the purpose of the legacy building and its alignment with the library’s operations. Crovatto said the space would support programming, meetings and community use.

The council did not take formal action on the budget items during the meeting. Further review is expected as part of the budget process.

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Local Constitutional Grammar

Edmund Burke's measure of public prudence remains apt for New Canaan's present deliberations: "A disposition, to preserve, and an ability to improve, taken together, would be my standard of a statesman." That standard should govern the Charter Revision Commission's consideration of two questions now before it: the qualifications for service on the Audit Committee and the recurrent proposal of term limits. Burke's formulation is useful because it honors reform without confusing it with motion, and improvement without severing it from experience.

Talented appointees rarely present themselves in abundance. They are identified, approached, persuaded, and often coaxed into service that competes with work, family, and the other claims of adult life.

A town charter is the constitutional grammar of local government. Its office is to provide structure, continuity, accountability, and the conditions under which sound judgment may be exercised by fallible people entrusted with public responsibilities. Revisions to such a document therefore ought to proceed not from impatience with the old, but from a discriminating understanding of what the town most needs preserved and what it can genuinely improve.

The Audit Committee deserves that sort of exacting attention. At present, the charter requires that its members be "financial experts," defined as persons with "substantial audit experience in the corporate or government sectors" who possess or obtain a basic understanding of governmental financial reporting and auditing. That requirement is sensible, serious, and plainly preferable to vagueness. Yet the committee's own enumerated duties suggest that audit experience, while indispensable, may not be sufficient as the sole or dominant credential.

The committee is charged not only with oversight of the annual independent audit and the selection, independence, and performance of external auditors. It also is assigned responsibilities touching the integrity of the town's financial statements, compliance with legal and regulatory requirements that could materially affect those statements, the evaluation of enterprise risk issues, and the supervision of corrective action. These responsibilities are contiguous, but they are not identical. Audit expertise is central to some of them; others call for adjoining but distinct forms of competence.

Regulatory compliance, for example, often requires the habits of mind cultivated by those experienced in controls, procedure, and legal exposure. Risk oversight often belongs to those trained to identify institutional frailty before it flowers into cost or embarrassment. Skilled financial analysts, meanwhile, bring a different but useful skepticism to public accounts: they know how to examine statements closely, recognize anomalies, and distinguish lucidity from presentation. A well-constituted Audit Committee would benefit from such breadth. New Canaan would be well served by refining the definition of "financial expert" so that it preserves rigor while permitting a wider range of relevant expertise.

The question of term limits requires a similarly temperate disposition. The appeal is understandable. Fresh faces and fresh energies are not negligible goods. Longevity in public office can, in some instances, produce complacency or habit elevated into entitlement. But public prudence requires a deeper look.

For elected officials, term limits already exist in their proper form: elections. The electorate retains the sovereign authority to dismiss those whom it judges inattentive, exhausted, or no longer equal to the office. To superimpose an automatic rule upon that civic judgment is, in effect, to suggest that the people cannot be trusted to exercise the power they already possess.

For appointed boards and commissions, the case for rigid term limits is weaker still. New Canaan relies on bodies such as Planning and Zoning, Finance, and Inland Wetlands, where competence is specialized and institutional memory is operational. Much of what makes a member valuable is learned only through time, repetition, and acquaintance with precedent. A rule that compels departure precisely when mastery has matured is not reform. It is waste.

There is, moreover, the inescapable problem of recruitment. Talented appointees rarely present themselves in abundance. They are identified, approached, persuaded, and often coaxed into service that competes with work, family, and the other claims of adult life. Accelerated turnover would not enlarge the pool of civic talent. It would make heavier demands upon it.

The sounder course is disciplined supervision by those who appoint. Selectmen should evaluate performance seriously, correct deficiencies candidly, and replace the ineffective when replacement is warranted. They also should encourage long-serving members, when appropriate, to seek other forms of usefulness. Self-government depends less on formulas than on judgment, and less on restlessness than on the intelligent stewardship of institutions.

Editorial Page



"Wish me luck. I'm going in there and not coming out until all conflicts are resolved."

SEBAC Contracts Being Negotiated Now



Connecticut has long been known as the land of steady habits. Across the state, people rise early, often before dawn, to build lives for themselves and their families. From short order cooks, plumbers, and schoolteachers to investment professionals catching the train into the city, their work is disciplined, consistent, and rooted in responsibility.

That same spirit should define state government.

Connecticut residents contribute significantly to support public services. Our state ranks near the bottom (47th) in tax competitiveness, with a complex income tax system and one of the highest property tax burdens in the nation. The high taxes should secure a government that is accessible, accountable, and fully engaged in serving the public.

At its best, public service means responsiveness, efficiency, and presence. It means that when a resident calls a state agency, someone answers or calls back promptly. It means public offices are active, not empty, and that government functions in a way that enables it to fulfil its responsibilities.

Current practice falls far short of that standard. Connecticut labor agreements (established by the

State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition, or SEBAC, contracts) actually permit state employees to work from home four days per week. As a result, residents frequently encounter unanswered calls and delayed responses. Expensively maintained state buildings sit largely vacant.

Meanwhile, state worker compensation continues to rise. Since 2018, average state employee pay has increased by 35% to \$94,675, outpacing inflation by around \$3,000. Over the same period, private-sector wages in Connecticut grew by 11.3% to around \$76,000; that's approximately \$9,000 below inflation. Public-sector compensation now exceeds both private-sector averages within the state and average state employee wages of comparable states, like Massachusetts, by almost \$10,000.

None of this reflects malicious intent. But it does suggest a set of policies and agreements that no longer align with the expectations of the people who fund them.

The solution is simple, but it isn't easy. Current SEBAC contracts are being negotiated now and will be re-established in 2027. The governor has an opportunity to reestablish basic management authority and set expectations that reflect residents' needs – but only if he is willing to take on Connecticut's dominant special interest: the state workers' union. These expectations include consistent in-person service, office attendance, and clear standards for responsiveness.

The legislature should hold itself to the same standard. During the pandemic, the Joint Rules of the House

and Senate (which govern legislative operations) created workarounds to permit remote participation in hearings and votes. Those accommodations made sense at the time (and for members of the public, they still do). But five years later, they remain in place for legislators, and in-person participation is still optional.

But legislating is not a purely transactional process. It depends on relationships, trust, and real-time negotiation, which happens most effectively through face-to-face interaction. A system built around remote participation risks diminishing the quality of deliberation and, over time, weakens representative government itself.

Yet state legislators also are receiving more money for working fewer hours in person. They received a 4.5% increase last year and are slated for another 4.5% increase again this year.

Connecticut's residents show up: to work, to care for their families, and to fund their state. They deserve a government that shows up, too.

A renewed commitment to presence, responsiveness, and accountability doesn't require new programs or higher spending. It simply requires aligning public servants with the same steady habits that characterize the hardworking people they serve.

Responsible governance demands nothing less.

Carol Platt Liebau is the president of Yankee Institute, a Connecticut-based public policy organization advancing practical solutions to keep our state affordable, livable, and workable.

200 Mark World Down Syndrome Day at the New Canaan YMCA

The New Canaan YMCA hosted its 14th annual World Down Syndrome Day celebration on Sunday, March 22, in partnership with 21 Strong and the Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut. This year, 200 attendees came together to celebrate the lives,

abilities, and inclusion of kids, teens, and adults with Down Syndrome. Participants enjoyed family-friendly activities, including sports, music, dance, tumbling, karate, a photobooth, snacks, and more. World Down Syndrome Day is honored annually on

March 21, signifying the uniqueness of the triplicated 21st chromosome in individuals with Down Syndrome. To learn more about inclusion and support programs at the New Canaan YMCA, visit www.newcanaanymca.org.



YMCA World Down Syndrome Day Karate



YMCA World Down Syndrome Day Tumbling Area

The Cross as Tree of Life



By Msgr. Robert Kinnally

One of the many beautiful features of the church where I serve is the larger-than-life crucifix that hangs in our sanctuary. So many have remarked about how much that wonderfully imposing cross means to them: how it helps them pray, how it gives them peace, how it reminds them of God's love made manifest in the suffering and dying of His Son. In my

own reflection on the Cross of Christ, I have always been struck by a verse from the Liturgy of the Hours: "See how the Cross of Christ becomes the tree of life." It makes sense: the suffering and dying of Christ is the sacred path to Resurrection. Good Friday is not the end of the story; Sunday is coming. Therefore, the cross, an instrument of death during the Roman occupation of Palestine, becomes the means for a profound hope and glory on Resurrection Day.

St. John Chrysostom, a fourth century priest, wrote eloquently about this, referring to the Cross as "The Tree:"

The Tree is my eternal salvation. It is my nourishment and my banquet. Amidst its roots, I cast my own roots deep. Beneath its boughs I

If we imagine Christ walking with us and bearing some of the weight, we are brought closer to the reality that the One who suffered for our sake on that Friday we call "Good" is united to us in our own struggles.

grow. Flying from the burning heat, I have set up my tent in its shadow and have found there a resting place, fresh with dew. I flower with its flowers. Its fruits bring perfect joy, fruits which have been preserved for me since time began, fruits which now I freely eat. This tree is food, sweet food, for my hunger and a fountain for my thirst; it is

clothing for my nakedness; its leaves are the breath of life. If I fear God, this is my protection; if I stumble this is my staff; this is the prize for which I fight, the reward of my victory. This is my straight and narrow path; this is Jacob's ladder, where angels go up and down, and where the Lord himself stands at the top.

If you are looking for an

image that speaks eloquently to this understanding of the Cross, I recommend the mosaic in the apse of the Basilica of San Clemente in Rome. The Crucified Christ rests on a cross that is decorated with doves, and the roots at the foot of the cross extend far and wide. The suffering of Christ is not diminished, but the life-giving truth of the Cross is beautifully portrayed.

The crosses that we carry in life seem far from life-giving. However, if we imagine Christ walking with us and bearing some of the weight, we are brought closer to the reality that the One who suffered for our sake on that Friday we call "Good" is united to us in our own struggles. Christ's suffering and dying on the Cross is an act of deep

love. The only way we can survive the crosses that come our way is to know that we are deeply loved by God and others. To journey from our Good Fridays to our Sundays of Resurrection we need love. And when our dear ones are struggling, we must walk with them to help them rise from darkness and revel in the light. We must love one another through our cross-bearing.

As we look ahead to Holy Week, I pray that the Cross of Christ may fill your heart with the knowledge of Christ's mercy and redeeming love. I pray also that the Cross may be a Tree of Life that leads you to a glorious Easter.

Monsignor Rob Kinnally is the pastor of Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Parish in New Canaan and the Vicar General of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

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

April 5: Sunrise Service at 6:15am, Worship Service at 9 am, Easter Egg Hunt at 10 am, Worship Service at 11 am

First Church of Christ, Scientist

49 Park Street 203.966.0293
christiansciencect.org/newcanaa

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
fpnc.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 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 Healing Rosary Prayer Group

Upcoming Events:

April 2 at 7 PM: Mass of the Lord's Supper.

April 3 at 3 PM: Celebration of the Lord's Passion.

April 4 at 8 PM: The Vigil of Easter

April 5: Easter Sunday Mass will be held at 7am, 8:30am, 10am, 11:30am

Mark's Episcopal Church

111 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.4515
churchoffice@stmarksnewcanaa.org
www.stmarksnewcanaa.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)

April 3 at 12 & 6 PM: Good Friday Holy Eucharist Rite II.

April 4 at 7:30 PM: Great Vigil of Easter.

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.

Upcoming Events:

April 3 at 6 PM: Good Friday Community Service.

Special Seven Minister Good Friday Service

An ecumenical, multi-minister one hour Good Friday Service will be held on April 3 at 6pm, hosted by St. Michael's Lutheran Church on God's Acre. Seven local ministers will each preach a brief sermon on one of the last seven words of Christ, with music from St. Michael's excellent organ. In addition to St. Michael's rector Rev. Mark Grorud, clergy include Rev. Gilbert Burgess of Community Baptist Church, Rev. Martha Epstein of the United Methodist Church of New Canaan, Rev. Scott Herr and Rev. Mary Marple Thies of First Presbyterian Church, Chaplain Daniel DeLoma, Spiritual Care, Bereavement and Volunteer Services Coordinator with Waveny Lifecare Network, and Rev. Harvey Weitzel, retired pastor with St. Michael's. Ample parking is available (enter between the church and the Historical Society) and all are welcome.

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@umcofnewcanaa.org
www.umcofnewcanaa.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 29 at 10 AM: Palm Sunday Service

April 2 at 7 PM: Maundy Thursday Service

April 3 from 12 to 6PM: Good Friday Vigil at the United Methodist Church of New Canaan. Sign up for half-hour slots.

April 5 at 10 AM: Easter Sunday Service with Special Music. After service - Easter Egg Hunt and Petting Zoo

Community Baptist Church

174 Cherry Street 203.966.0711
cbcnewcanaa@gmail.com
www.cbcnewcanaa.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

Grace Community Church

9:30am Service @ New Canaan High School, II 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.

Upcoming Events:

April 5: Easter Service at 9:30 AM followed by an Easter Egg Hunt at 11 AM.

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

Recurring Events:

Thursdays at 9:30am: Bible Study

First Saturday at 8am: Men's Group

Second Saturday at 10am: Women's Circle

Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center

137 Putnam Rd

info@chabadnewcanaa.org

www.newcanaajewish.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.

Upcoming Events:

April 1 & 2 at 8 PM: Join for uplifting, joyous, delicious and spiritual Community Seders. Register on the Chabad website.

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 Shalom

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

www.templeholom.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=bFJQem9HWfCcxU0EzZUM2VENEZmgYUT09#su> ccess



Obituaries

ANNE-MARIE KNIFFIN



Anne-Marie Kniffin a longtime resident of New Canaan passed away on March 6, 2026 at the age of 89. She was born in Brussels,

Belgium on March 9, 1936 to the late Hubert Collart and Ilza Hoffman Collart.

Anne-Marie graduated high school earned a Bachelor's degree and then married Edgar (Skipper) Kniffin who passed away in 1998. Together they lived in New Canaan and raised two children. Anne-Marie was a Librarian in the Children's room at the New Canaan Library for 30 years where she enjoyed watching young people enrich their minds with books. She also enjoyed played tennis loved Humanity and was a faithful parishioner of the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan.

Anne-Marie is survived by her two children Edgar Kniffin and Catherine Kniffin Armstrong. She is also survived by three grandsons, three granddaughters, three great granddaughters and one great grandson.

Memorial Service was held on Saturday March 21, 2026 at First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan, New Canaan, CT. A Graveside service was held on Tuesday March 10, just one day after Anne-Marie's 90th Birthday.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan, 178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan CT 06840.

CLARENCE KORKER



Clarence F. "Korky" Korker, aged 101, passed away peacefully on March 13, 2026, in Vero

Beach, Florida. Born on March 9, 1925, in New Canaan, Connecticut, the son of Clarence F. Korker, Sr and Irene Dean Murphy. Korky lived a remarkable life that spanned over a century and left an indelible mark on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Korky was predeceased by his cherished wife Geraldine in 2015. He is survived by his son Paul F. Korker; daughter-in-law Elisabeth; many distant cousins; and numerous relatives who will forever hold him close in their hearts.

Funeral was held on March 25, at Brookside Historical Cemetery, in Sebastian FL. The Sebastian Area Veterans Honor Guard performed final military honors. A Celebration of Life will be held on April 11, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Fellsmere City Hall, 22 South Orange St., in the Clarence F. Korker Auditorium.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County, hsvb.org

AQUARION DECISION From Page 1

and who is running for Governor, also renewed his attack on the transaction Wednesday. "For nearly two years, since this issue arose out of nowhere, I have said that this deal stinks for utility customers across Connecticut," Fazio said in a statement released after the ruling. "From the beginning, it was clear this was a bad deal for ratepayers and transparency." He said he had introduced legislation in 2024, 2025 and 2026 to undo the legal authorization for the merger, and faulted Gov. Ned Lamont and Democratic lawmakers for allowing it to proceed. Those legislative efforts came against the background of a larger debate this month over whether PURA should continue to regulate rates if Aquarion moves into a quasi-public structure.

Fazio's Wednesday statement sharpened the political argument that he and other opponents have made since the sale first surfaced. "Permission for this deal was rushed through the legislative process without a public hearing, without proper vetting, and without giving the public a meaningful voice," he said. He added that the sale "will take away consumer protections, lead to increased costs for consumers, and it will also put RWA customers at risk of greater operational liabilities of a quasi-governmental body that is now tripling in size." He closed by saying, "Now that this decision has been finalized, I will continue to fight for relief for utility consumers while the governor and Democratic leadership sit on their hands." Fazio had previously described the proposal as a threat to PURA oversight and warned that customers in western Connecticut could face unchecked water-rate increases if the company left the traditional investor-owned utility model.

First Selectman Dionna Carlson responded in more restrained but still pointed terms. "We are disappointed with PURA's reversal on this critical issue, and we believe that the court and now PURA

First Selectman Dionna Carlson responded in more restrained but still pointed terms. "We are disappointed with PURA's reversal on this critical issue, and we believe that the court and now PURA improperly limited the scope of PURA's review - while also ignoring the unanimous opposition of the impacted towns."

improperly limited the scope of PURA's review - while also ignoring the unanimous opposition of the impacted towns," Carlson said in a statement Wednesday. "We are working with our attorneys to consider next steps." Her statement follows nearly two years of organized resistance from municipalities that argued the deal could strip them of tax revenue, diminish local representation and leave residents exposed to larger future rate increases. According to the Town of New Canaan, Carlson testified at a 2024 public hearing with concerns about the possible negative effects on the town, and New Canaan later said Carlson joined leaders from Fairfield, Ridgefield and Westport in leading opposition to the sale.

The heart of the dispute has been simple to describe and difficult to resolve. Supporters of the sale have argued that public or quasi-public ownership would remove the profit motive, allow lower-cost financing and place a major water system under more local control. Opponents have argued that the purchase price is too high, the debt burden too large and the oversight structure too weak to protect customers from years of rising bills. According to recent reporting on the PURA proceedings, critics of the sale pointed to projections showing annual rate increases of as much as 8.35 percent through 2035, while supporters responded that customers would not bear the transaction's financing burden in the way critics claimed and promised no rate increases for at least six months after closing.

The court remand in January did not settle that policy dispute. It

narrowed the legal ground on which PURA could act. According to the Superior Court ruling, the agency could continue to evaluate whether the deal served the public interest, but it could not reject the transaction solely because it disapproved of a governance structure already authorized by the General Assembly. That legal constraint appeared to drive the agency's change in direction this month. In the March 6 draft decision, PURA said the proposed transaction was "reasonably aligned with the public's interest," while also making clear that regulators still had serious concerns about its potential effects. Coleman seized on that tension in her Wednesday statement, noting PURA's own finding that the purchase price placed the deal on "the knife's edge of a public interest finding."

What happens next is no longer a question of whether the sale can clear PURA. It now turns on whether opponents can stop or alter the transaction through the courts, through legislation, or through added oversight after the fact. This month, lawmakers floated House Bill 5249 as a late effort to preserve PURA authority over a large quasi-public water utility, a sign that even as the regulators were preparing to approve the sale, concern remained strong in Hartford over rates and accountability. Carlson said Wednesday that New Canaan is weighing legal options. Coleman said her office is reviewing all available paths to protect ratepayers. Fazio said he will continue pressing for relief. The approval closed one chapter of the Aquarion fight. It did not end it.

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL AD

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 full and complete copy thereof can be found at www.newcanaan.info.

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

VOICES 2026 Building Bridges Luncheon

VOICES Center for Resilience will hold its 2026 Building Bridges Luncheon, "Honoring Stewards of Memory," on Friday, April 17, at the Country Club of New Canaan. This September marks the 25th anniversary of 9/11 and the founding of VOICES in response to the attacks.

The annual event recognizes individuals who make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. This year's luncheon will focus on the enduring importance of remembrance, the commemoration of the lives lost, and the resilience of those who survived.

Brian Williams will serve as master of ceremonies.

The 2026 Building Bridges Award will be presented to Alice Greenwald, former president and chief executive officer of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, and James E. Young, world-renowned historian of memory and professor emeritus at the

University of Massachusetts Amherst. VOICES said their distinguished careers and leadership, together with their contributions to creating the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, reflect a deep commitment to preserving history for future generations.

Mary Fetchet, VOICES executive director, said, "The milestone of the 25th Anniversary is an important time to recognize those whose dedication and stewardship honors the memory of those who died, the resilience of those who survived, and the way our country came together. In the face of unspeakable tragedy, Alice and James have devoted their careers to this sacred work."

Dede Bartlett will speak about the impact of Voices Center for Resilience. Craig Schubert, who was working in the South Tower at the WTC on 9/11, will reflect on evacuating the building and his enduring path of resilience.

Ciarán Sheehan will provide a musical performance. He is known for his performances as the Phantom in The Phantom of the Opera on Broadway and in Toronto.

Sponsorship opportunities and tickets are available at voicescenter.org. Inquiries may be directed to Sarah Green at sgreen@voicescenter.org or 203-966-3911.

Proceeds from the luncheon will support VOICES' commitment to provide long-term support for victims' families, responders, and survivors, as well as community-based programs that assist those affected by loss and grief.

VOICES, formerly Voices of September 11th, was co-founded in 2001 by Mary Fetchet, whose son Brad died in the attacks, and Beverly Eckert, whose husband Sean Rooney perished. From 9/11 to today, the organization has provided long-term support and access

VOICES CENTER FOR RESILIENCE
Building Bridges Luncheon
 HONORING STEWARDS OF MEMORY
 Friday, April 17th, 2026 | Country Club of New Canaan

MASTER OF CEREMONIES	BUILDING BRIDGES HONOREES	MUSICAL PERFORMANCE	
Brian Williams	Alice Greenwald	James Young	Ciarán Sheehan

Reflections by Special Guests: Dede Bartlett and Craig Schubert

to resources for thousands of victims' partners to help communities prepare families, responders, and survivors. It for, respond to, and recover from tragedy is also committed to collaborating with in the United States and abroad.

Palace Theatre Gala to Honor Rob Mathes, Support Arts Education and Historic Landmark

By SENTINEL STAFF

The Stamford Center for the Arts will host its 14th Annual Gala on April 16 at the Palace Theatre, honoring Greenwich musician and producer Rob Mathes while raising funds for arts education programs and the preservation of the historic venue.

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a pre-show reception, followed by a performance by Smokey Robinson at 8 p.m. Gala tickets include premium orchestra seating, a cocktail reception with food and open bars, and access to a silent auction. Organizers have positioned the event as both a celebration of the arts and a principal source of funding for the organization's community programs.

Mathes will receive the 2026 Arts Ovation Award, which "recognizes individuals whose work demonstrates the power of the arts to strengthen community, expand access, and inspire connection," according to event materials. His selection reflects a career that has combined professional achievement with sustained local engagement.

Over more than four decades, Mathes has worked as an Emmy Award-winning, Tony- and Grammy-nominated arranger, composer, producer, and musical director. Raised in Greenwich by Yale-trained musicians who taught in both private and public settings, his early exposure to arts education has shaped his approach to music and community work. For more than 25 years, his annual holiday concerts in Fairfield County have drawn regional audiences while supporting Food Rescue US, linking performance with service.

The gala's fundraising structure underscores that connection between artistic recognition and community investment. Sponsorship levels range from \$350 to \$15,000, with benefits that include event access, advertising, and public recognition. At the highest level, the presenting sponsorship includes funding for two named Arts Education Opportunity Scholarships tied to the organization's 2026 Triple Threat Performer Intensive program, along with seating and participation for 18 guests.

Other sponsorship tiers—Miracles Sponsor, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Sponsor, Gold Record Sponsor, King of Motown Sponsor, and Soul Sponsor—offer varying levels of access and visibility, including backstage tours of the theatre, parking, and placement in gala materials. Across all levels, the structure directs support toward a common purpose: sustaining arts programming and maintaining the venue itself.

That purpose extends beyond a single evening. Proceeds from the gala help fund a range of arts education initiatives that serve more than 1,500 students annually, nearly all at no cost. The Stamford

Center for the Arts defines its mission as "To engage, motivate, and energize by creating opportunities that build confidence, instill passion, and transform lives," with a vision of "a vibrant and diverse community where EVERY person is empowered and inspired through self-expression to embrace Arts Education and lifelong appreciation of the Performing Arts."

Those goals are implemented through programs that emphasize participation over observation. A Sense of Direction, for example, is a four-week course for high school students focused on directing and artistic leadership. Participants work through script analysis, casting, rehearsal techniques, and performance under the guidance of a professional teaching artist. The program is limited in size and offered at no cost, reflecting a model that prioritizes depth of experience and accessibility.

The Emerging Young Artist Awards shifts the focus to writing, inviting students to submit original one-act plays for staged readings. The program culminates in a public presentation, offering young writers the opportunity to see their work interpreted and performed. The 2026 readings will be led by Luis Salgado, a director and choreographer with credits spanning Broadway and international productions, whose work emphasizes the role of the arts in community building.

For younger students, the Global Arts program introduces cultural study through performance. Developed in partnership with Symphony Space, the initiative engages students in grades three through five in a four-day curriculum that includes storytelling, dance, music, and visual art traditions from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Activities range from African drumming to Japanese Taiko and Bharatanatyam dance, with the aim of using the arts to explore both cultural differences and shared human experiences.

The organization also offers the Triple Threat Performer Intensive, a two-week summer program for students ages 9 to 16 that integrates acting, singing, and dance. Directed by Salgado and taught by professional artists, the program emphasizes technical training alongside character development. Scholarships are available based on financial need, reinforcing the organization's commitment to access.

These programs operate within a building that carries its own historical weight. The Palace Theatre, designed by architect Thomas Lamb and opened in 1927, is approaching its 100th anniversary. Originally constructed as a vaudeville house, the theater has been restored and adapted over decades to serve contemporary audiences while retaining its architectural character.

Maintaining the venue requires ongoing investment. The structure demands continual

THE PALACE'S 14TH ANNUAL GALA

ANNOUNCING OUR

2026 ARTS OVATION AWARD HONOREE

ROB MATHES

restoration and upkeep even as it functions as an active performance space. That dual responsibility—preserving a historic building while supporting current programming—shapes much of the organization's fundraising priorities.

The Stamford Center for the Arts operates the Palace Theatre as part of a broader campus that includes the Rich Forum, positioning the organization as a central cultural institution in downtown Stamford. Its programming spans concerts, theater, film, and community events, drawing audiences from across Fairfield County and the surrounding region.

As the theater approaches its centennial, the April gala reflects both continuity and obligation. It celebrates an artist whose career bridges professional success and community engagement, while directing resources toward programs that expand access to the arts and sustain a historic venue.

Artwork for the gala program is due April 3 and must be submitted in high-resolution digital format. Sponsorship opportunities remain available.

For additional information, contact Laurel Lea at llea@palacestamford.org or Stephanie Getchell at sgetchell@palacestamford.org.

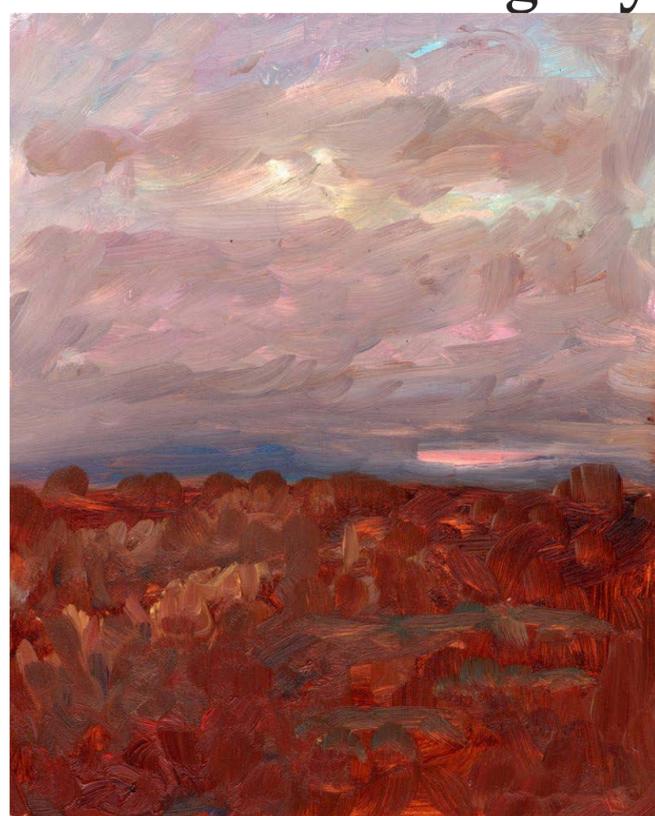
Silvermine Instructors Exhibition and Solo Exhibition of Paintings by Narelle Sissons

The spring season at Silvermine Galleries brings the annual Instructors Exhibition, which features special selections and new work from the Silvermine School of Art's distinguished artist educators, as well as Under Wraps, a solo exhibition of paintings by Narelle Sissons. These two exhibits bring dazzling colors and compositions to the Gallery spaces. The public is invited to the opening reception on Sat., March 21, from 2-4 p.m., and both exhibitions run through April 23.

The Instructors Exhibition

Silvermine's annual Instructors Exhibition celebrates the exceptional artists who shape its renowned School of Art. These instructors—many of whom have gained regional and national recognition—bring their expertise, creativity, and passion into the classroom, inspiring students of all levels. The annual exhibition offers a unique opportunity to experience their recent works. For those who might be considering a course in painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, or jewelry-making, the exhibit showcases the many styles, materials, and methods that can be explored at Silvermine.

This year's exhibition is a feast of color and composition that includes Karen Siegel's play of brilliant color and pattern; Jill Nichols' landscapes, which serve as lush containers of light; Kate Casner's ceramics, which explore form and shadow; and Sabrina Skinner's intricate ceramic sculptures that the artist calls reliquaries. From jewelry



Jill Nichols, Italy Reds

makers Maureen Henriques and Gail Bradshaw come subtle workings of organic and geometric forms and stunning settings and hues. Viewers will not want to miss new work and new

directions from long-time instructors or the skilled work of Silvermine's newest teachers. The Instructors Exhibition highlights the depth of talent and artistic vision that make Silvermine a leading



Kate Casner, Double Hyperbolic Vase

center for visual arts.

Narelle Sissons, Under Wraps

Under Wraps, also opening on March 21, features the large-scale paintings of Narelle Sissons. In her work, she explores personal experience, memory, and formal structure. Her paintings bring luminous movement to shape, color, spatial relationships, and the expressive qualities of surface. To view them is to experience a generous quality of light and a physical presence that is both gentle and extravagant. Her work has been shown widely in New



Narelle Sissons, Inside with Eaters

York City galleries, and she was the Grand Prize winner in Silvermine's 2024 A•ONE Exhibition.

Sissons received an MFA in painting from the New York Studio School [NYSS] in 2024. She recently completed the selective NYSS artist-in-residence one-year program in DUMBO, Brooklyn. Her residency solo exhibition, Not Just AnyBody was on view at the NYSS Project Space in 2025. Sissons is also a renowned stage designer, whose award-winning designs for theater and opera have taken her around the U.S. and abroad. For fifteen years, she was a professor of design at Carnegie Mellon University in the School of Drama. Her credits include being a three-time exhibitor at the Prague Quadrennial for theatre and performance. She is a Fulbright Specialist, as well as Drama Desk and two-time Helen Hayes award nominee.

Friends of Irwin Park to Host Pickleball Fundraiser

Friends of Irwin Park will host a community pickleball fundraiser on April 24 at the Country Club of New Canaan, with proceeds directed toward the Irwin Park Restoration Project.

The event, titled “Dink for Daffodils,” is organized as a daylong fundraiser featuring multiple play sessions, refreshments, and spectator access. According to the event announcement, the initiative is intended to support ongoing efforts to restore and preserve Irwin Park, a public landscape in New Canaan.

Participants may register for one of three two-hour sessions scheduled throughout the day: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Event organizers describe the program as a social and recreational gathering centered on pickleball, with light food and beverages provided during play.

Registration is priced at \$100 per player for a two-hour session. Spectator tickets are available for \$50. All attendees will receive a commemorative event cap.

The event will take place at the Country Club of New

Canaan.

Organizers state that the fundraiser will proceed without a rain date. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be canceled, and refunds will not be issued due to its fundraising nature.

The Irwin Park Restoration Project is described as a community-driven initiative under the New Canaan Garden Club. The project focuses on restoring and preserving Irwin Park, which organizers identify as one of the town’s established public spaces. Funds raised through the pickleball event will support continued efforts to replant and improve the park. Event organizers are directing interested participants and supporters to an online registration page hosted by the New Canaan Garden Club.

The event represents a coordinated effort by local volunteers and organizations to raise funds through recreational programming. By combining a structured schedule of play sessions with ticketed access for both participants and spectators, the event is positioned as both a community gathering and a fundraising mechanism.

Friends of Irwin Park has

not previously held this specific event, which is described in the announcement as a first-time fundraiser.

The structure of the day allows for staggered participation, accommodating multiple groups of players while maintaining a consistent format across sessions.

The New Canaan Garden Club, which is supporting the restoration initiative, has framed the project as an effort to maintain and improve a public landscape for long-term community use. The fundraising component is intended to provide financial support for planting and broader restoration work within the park.

Media inquiries regarding the event are directed to Suzy Lavieri, whose contact information is included in the announcement.

The April 24 event is expected to draw local participants and spectators interested in both pickleball and community-based conservation efforts. Organizers have emphasized the connection between recreational engagement and funding for public space improvements.



CHARTER REVISION From Page 1

proposed sending the question directly to voters, arguing it required broader input than the CRC alone could provide.

“I just think it’s bigger than 11 people,” Neville said.

But legal counsel Ira Bloom cautioned that such a move was not permissible under state law.

“You do have to make a choice... you do not have the option of waiting for some vote by the public,” he said.

Neville ultimately withdrew her motion.

The CRC then proceeded to a direct vote on whether to retain the current appointed structure. That motion passed 6-5, a narrow margin that reflected the underlying divisions.

Several members who voted “no” indicated support for alternative structures, including elected members or hybrid systems.

“I’m voting no on this proposal to leave everything the same,” Commissioner Steven

Case said.

A Debate About Trust – and Data

Underlying the procedural fight was disagreement over how to interpret public feedback.

Some commissioners emphasized survey responses suggesting interest in change. Others questioned the representativeness of those results.

Commissioner Karen Willett noted that survey responses were mixed, with many participants offering no opinion at all.

“About 50%, they didn’t comment on that at all,” she said.

The exchange highlighted a broader tension: whether testimony from community members, survey data, or elected officials’ views should carry the most weight.

Moving Beyond P&Z

After resolving the P&Z question, the CRC shifted to more technical matters – and found more consensus.

Members voted unanimously to standardize terms for appointed boards and commissions at three years, replacing

“We would be taking risks with the fabric of New Canaan were we to move to elections.” – Angela Jameson

several existing two-year terms.

“I think two is too short,” Jameson said, citing the learning curve required for many roles.

The CRC also voted to keep alternate members at two-year terms, reflecting their more flexible, apprenticeship-like role.

“It was really more in the interest of learning, but not committing,” Neville said of the original rationale.

Term Limits Still Unresolved

One issue left unsettled was whether to impose term limits on appointed officials.

Views varied widely.

Some members argued limits would encourage fresh perspectives.

“We need people with new perspectives,” Commissioner Joseph Palo said.

Others warned that strict limits could deprive boards of valuable experience.

“It can take a number of years before you have enough expertise,” Jameson said.

The CRC agreed to gather more data before revisiting the issue.

What Comes Next

With several major topics still pending – including the status of other boards, minority representation rules, and appointment procedures – the CRC plans to continue its work in a pair of meetings next week.

If the March 25 session is any indication, the path forward will not be simple.

The debate is not just about governance structures, but about how a town balances expertise, accountability and public voice – and who gets to decide.

NEWS BRIEFS From Page 1

Canaan Police Department, where officers shared information on burglary trends and home safety. The group also toured the new Police Department. Photo credit: Staying Put in New Canaan.

SLS Alum Won Academy Award



St. Luke’s alumna Anna Bick Rowe ‘08 won an Academy Award for All the Empty Rooms, which was named Best Documentary Short Film. She is an Emmy Award-winning

executive producer and head of production at Smarty Pants Pictures. Photo credit: St. Luke’s School.

SLS WISE Visit DC



St. Luke’s WISE club students visited NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C., where they met with women in STEM and astronaut Matthew Dominick. The group also toured the University of Maryland’s aerospace and engineering departments. Photo credit: St. Luke’s School.

NC Girls JV Tennis Coach



New Canaan Girls Tennis named Coach Sabele as the new JV coach. Photo credit: New Canaan Girls Tennis.

Frigidaire Gas Range Recall

Electrolux is recalling more than 100,000 Frigidaire gas ranges after reports that a delayed ignition defect has caused 62 incidents, including 30 injuries. Consumers are advised to stop using the ovens and contact Electrolux for a free repair, though the cooktop burners can still be used. A list of recalled model numbers is available at <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2026/Electrolux-Group-Recalls-Frigidaire-Gas-Ranges-Due-to-Burn-Hazard>.

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

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FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

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

Address	Price	Day	Time	Broker
1421 Oenoke Ridge	\$4,995,000	SAT	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Compass
27 Raymond Street	\$2,895,000	SAT & SUN	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Compass
84 Parade Hill Road	\$799,000	SAT & SUN	2-4 pm&12:30-3 pm	Raveis
28 E Maple Street	\$2,295,000	SAT & SUN	1:00 -4:00 pm	Raveis
258 Dans Highway	\$2,600,000	SUN	1:00 -4:00 pm	Raveis

NEW LISTINGS

Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
84 Parade Hill Road	\$799,000	1,161	\$688		3	1
100 South Avenue	\$1,199,000	1,300	\$922		2	2
45 Jelliff Mill Road	\$1,795,000	2,952	\$608		3	3
258 Dans Highway	\$2,600,000	3,598	\$723	2.02	4	3
35 Canoe Hill Road	\$2,795,000	4,018	\$696	2.27	5	4
27 Raymond Street	\$2,895,000	4,164	\$695	.36	6	6
73 Lake Wind Road	\$4,199,000	8,162	\$514	2.74	5	7
584 West Road	\$6,395,000	8,214	\$779	4.04	7	7

NEW SALES

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
95 Heritage Hill Road	\$675,000	\$675,000	\$690,000	15	2	1	
719 Valley Road	\$2,150,000	\$2,150,000	\$2,150,000	34	5	4	3.69

New York Reacted to Bad News. Connecticut Shrugged.



BY JOHN ENGEL

Manhattan reacts like a stock market. Fairfield County behaves more like private equity.

Manhattan reacts like a stock market. Deals are made or pulled in real time, so when uncertainty hits, you see it immediately in contract data. Fairfield County behaves more like private equity. Transactions depend first on what is available to buy, and supply has been consistently tight. That means external shocks like war or rising rates do not show up as a sudden break. They show up, if at all, as fewer deals relative to last year within an already constrained market.

Jonathan Miller's Manhattan data (housingnotes.com) demonstrates how quickly the Manhattan market reacts. For seven straight weeks, signed contracts were running ahead of last year, climbing from 204 to a peak of 247 in early March. Then momentum reversed sharply. Contracts fell to 221, and then to 198 in the week ending March 22, turning negative year over year. The move wasn't a one-week anomaly. It was a two-week drop that broke the upward trend.



5.98% on Feb. 26 to 6.22% by March 19, a roughly 24-basis-point move. Against that backdrop of higher uncertainty, higher energy costs, and rising borrowing costs, Manhattan contract activity turned. War and its knock-on effects had an immediate effect on deal volume.

Jonathan compared the luxury market with the overall market and noted that luxury market contracts (the top 10%, roughly \$4mm+) dipped 7 points and recovered 2 because they are less dependent on those elevated interest rates. What I see is a fragile top end.

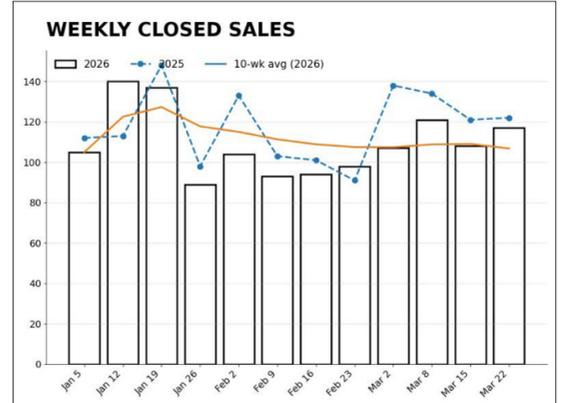


We then looked at Fairfield County to see if the same sequence showed up here. It did not. Manhattan shows a clear break in real time. Fairfield County does not. What Fairfield County shows is that all four March weeks ran below last year: 107 closings versus 138 in the week ending March 2, 121 versus 134 on March 8, 108 versus 121 on March 15, and 117 versus 122 on March 22. That is not a sharp break tied to a single week. It is a March market that consistently underperformed last year.

That difference comes from how the two markets function. Manhattan's chart is built on signed contracts, which capture decisions as they are made. Fairfield County's chart is built on closings, which reflect deals agreed to weeks earlier. Add to that a smaller number of transactions and a much tighter inventory environment, and the result is a series that does not move

sharply from one week to the next.

That leaves a narrower conclusion than Manhattan, but a more precise one. In March, Fairfield County did not accelerate. It did not break. It simply failed to match last year's pace.



It's Always Something

Roberto Cabrera's look back at seven years of disruptions to the Manhattan market is worth a read (robertocabrera.com). He says this isn't noise; it's a defining feature of the real estate cycle:

- 2019: Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019
- 2020: COVID-19 pandemic
- 2022: Russia-Ukraine War + rate spike
- 2023: 2023 Regional Banking Crisis
- 2024: persistent 7% rates
- 2025: "Liberation Day" (market shock)
- 2026: Iran conflict + rate reversal

Volume is down in Manhattan, but value is intact, leading him to the conclusion that the market is transactionally weak but fundamentally stable. It is based on data showing deal volume has been suppressed for years without a meaningful decline in prices. And, he attributes this to the constancy of demand in the world's greatest city.

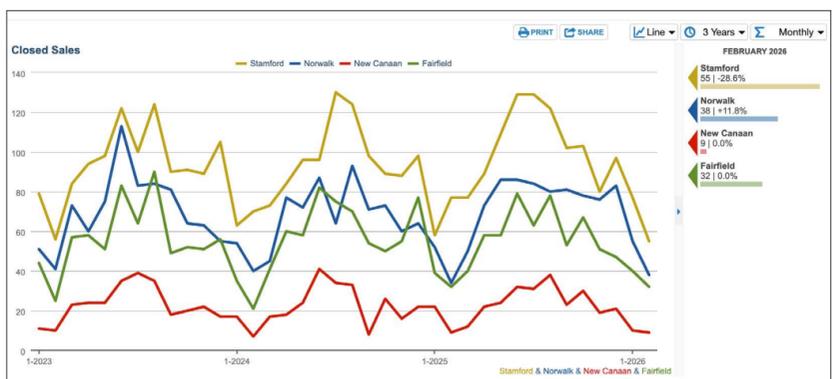
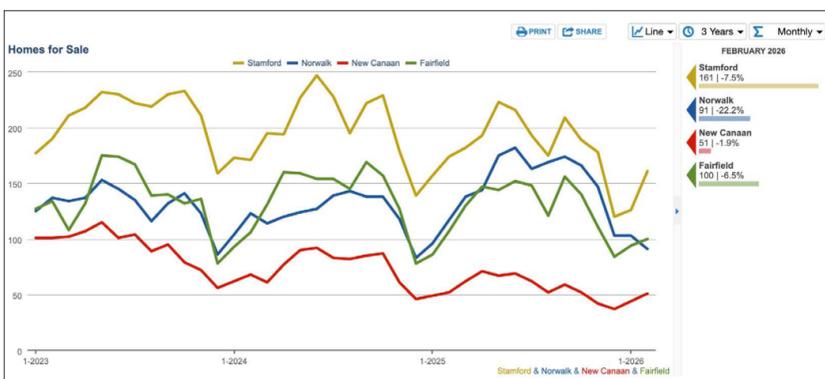
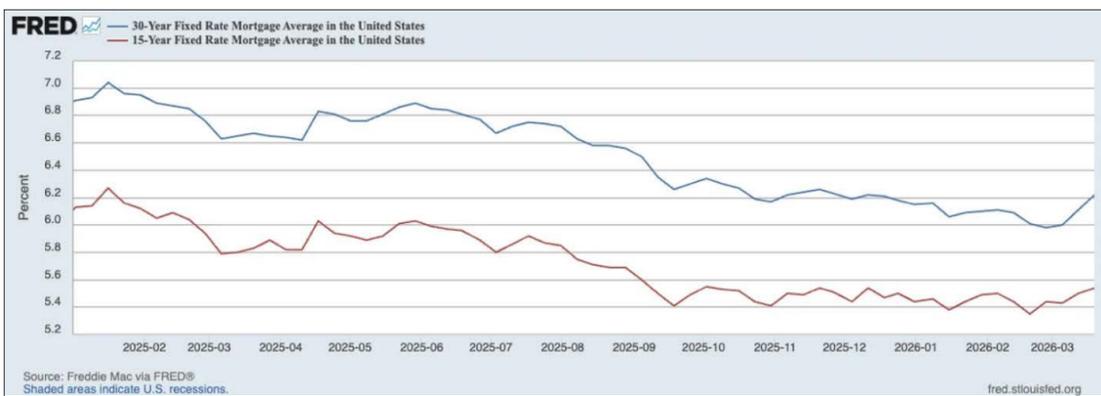
"The market feels weak because fewer deals are happening, but it is not weak in pricing terms."

As in Fairfield County, inventory constraint is the root cause of reduced deal volume because sellers can't find replacement homes, higher rates make moving more expensive, and the lock-in-effect of rates results in the supply-side freeze, not a demand collapse. The takeaway is that repeated external shocks suppress activity, but the underlying market remains stable because demand persists and inventory is constrained.

Notes from the Monday meeting:

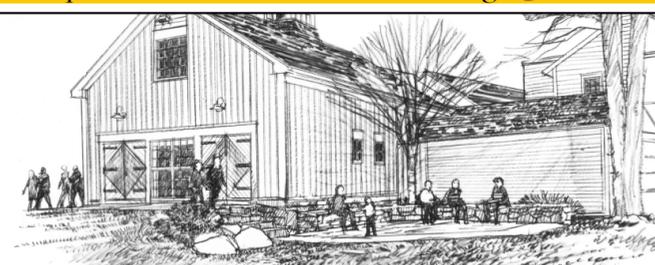
February snow disrupted the first month of the Spring market, always the lowest month for sales every year. Fairfield County recorded 395 sales, down 10% from each of the last three years.

John Engel is a broker on The Engel Team at Douglas Elliman in Connecticut. He got three calls to "list my house" this week, all empty nesters. One is moving to Manhattan. Another to northern Europe. A third to London. Two are thinking about trading in the townhouse for single-level living, and another left when his wife accepted a job in Asia. It's nice when sellers come to this decision on their own time, in their own way, and not because life threw them a curveball. John hopes that when the time comes, he will have the courage to move on, and that we're in a decent market cycle.



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

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Good Friday: Community Service

April 3, 6:00 pm
5 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan

Join us for worship, reflection,
and prayer at St. Michael's
Lutheran Church

Sponsored by: Community
Baptist Church, First Presbyterian
Church, St. Michael's Lutheran
Church, United Methodist
Church of New Canaan, Waveny
Lifecare Network

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



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
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GAMES AND PUZZLES



CROSSWORD PUZZLES



YOUR HOROSCOPE



WHAT TO DO: COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPOTLIGHT on FAMILIES

Thursday, March 26, 2026

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 31

Charter Revision Commission Meeting
5-6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room

Town Council

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

Wednesday, April 1

Parking Commission

7-8 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

Thursday, April 2

Town Council

5:30-8 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room

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 Gaike Presents: Heartwood

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

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

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(800) 342-0343

gauge-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.

The Great Egg Hunt 2026

Times Vary at the New Canaan Nature Center

Perfect for children, ages 2-10, the egg hunts are designed for smaller groups (approximately 25 per hunt). In addition to the hunt, enjoy an animal meet & greet and self-guided spring scavenger hunt. Just bring your own basket for collecting eggs (which contain nature-themed prizes and nut-free sweets). Register at <https://newcanaannature.org/great-egg-hunt/>.

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

CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

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>.

Friday, April 3

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

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

The Great Egg Hunt 2026

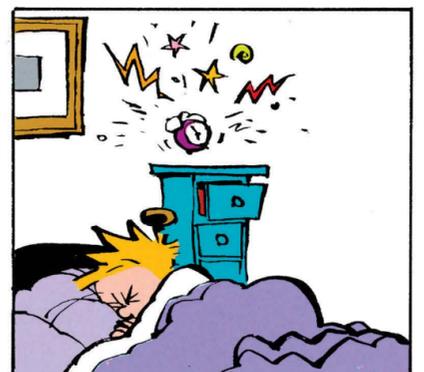
Times Vary at the New Canaan Nature Center

Perfect for children, ages 2-10, the egg hunts are designed for smaller groups (approximately 25 per hunt). In addition to the hunt, enjoy an animal meet & greet and self-guided spring scavenger hunt. Just bring your own basket for collecting eggs (which contain nature-themed prizes and nut-free sweets). Register at <https://newcanaannature.org/great-egg-hunt/>.

Saturday, April 4

The Great Egg Hunt 2026

Times Vary at the New Canaan Nature



Sudoku for Kids

	1		3
2		4	1
1	2	3	
			2

	4		
1		4	3
2	3		4
	1	3	

1		4	2
	2		3
2		3	
3	4		

2		1	
1	2	4	
3			1

SUDOKU

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

Easy

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

Hard

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

Very Hard

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

Easy

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

Hard

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

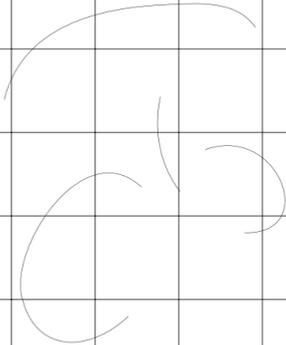
Very Hard

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

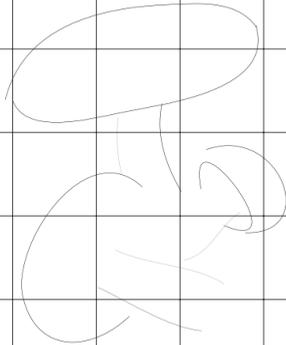
GRAB YOUR SKETCH BOOK

step by step

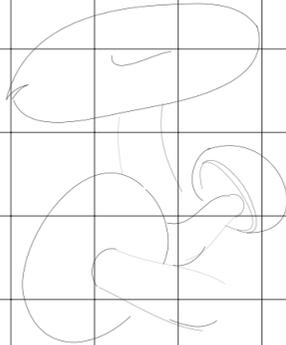
1



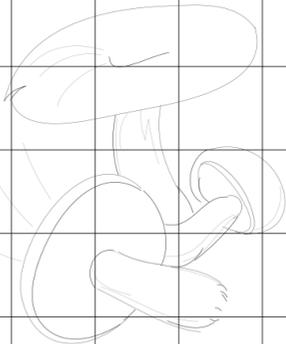
2



3



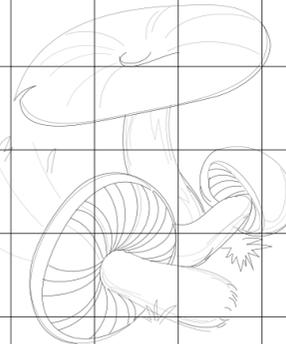
4



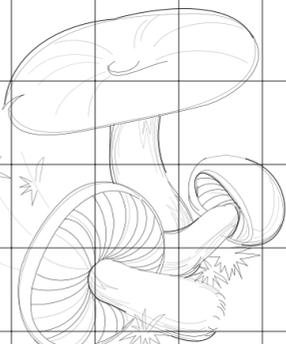
5



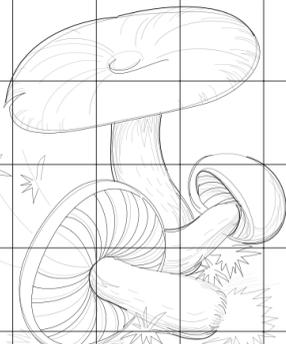
6



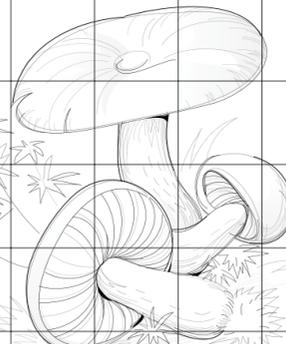
7



8



9



Sudoku answers

Bottom row - Very Hard

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

Bottom row - Hard

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

Bottom row - Easy

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

Top row - Very Hard

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

Top row - Hard

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

Top row - Easy

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

Universal Crossword

Edited by Adrian Johnson

ACROSS

- 1 Word before "club" or "fiction"
- 4 Bow ties, but not top hats
- 9 Woodsy home
- 14 "Seriously, man?!"
- 15 Up next
- 16 First lady behind the "Let's Move!" campaign
- 17 Brooding teen's assurance to a concerned parent
- 20 Flyer made for class?
- 21 Mix, as a salad
- 22 South Asian lentil dish
- 23 Respectful anagram of "sir"
- 24 Puerto Rico, por ejemplo
- 28 Earl Scruggs plucked them
- 33 Core feature of a weight-lifter's body?
- 36 It makes ryes rise
- 37 "That makes sense"
- 38 Enjoy a joint, say
- 40 Village People megahit
- 41 Let fly
- 43 Senior's special offer?
- 45 Gave lip to
- 47 "Star Trek: T.N.G." counselor Deanna

- 48 Before, poetically
 - 49 Bit of body art
 - 51 Scottish girl
 - 53 They're cast in some shows
 - 60 "You enjoying yourself?"
 - 63 Full of vim and vigor
 - 64 "Ooh, send me!"
 - 65 Celestial sphere
 - 66 Dance parts
 - 67 Stocking stuff
 - 68 Pen tip
- ## DOWN
- 1 Org. in the movie "Face/Off"
 - 2 Film, e.g.
 - 3 "Don't tell me what happens!"
 - 4 Sweetheart, in old-school parlance
 - 5 Poker stake
 - 6 Standout individual
 - 7 Spanish finger food
 - 8 Ladybug's prey
 - 9 Dress up like Spock, say
 - 10 ___ Tesfaye, aka The Weeknd
 - 11 The SEC's Crimson Tide, informally
 - 12 "It's showtime!"
 - 13 New parents' selection
 - 18 "King's Disease" rapper, 2021

- 19 Many an Egyptian
- 21 Actress Krishnan of Tamil films
- 23 Comedy show segments
- 25 Jrs. no more
- 26 Night table item
- 27 Mission-ending cry
- 29 "Time of Our Lives" singer
- 30 Jazz club get-together
- 31 Awards given since 1929
- 32 Like a rock-hard roll
- 34 Fiery sorts, astrologically
- 35 Chocolatey toffee bar
- 39 Paramore genre
- 42 Big name in wipes
- 44 Added more and more of

- 46 Top ___ Entertainment
- 47 Rapper featured on Flo Rida's "Low"
- 48 Bar member: Abbr.
- 49 That's bogus!
- 50 2008 Beyonce ballad
- 51 Tel ___
- 52 Seedy bar
- 53 Like many Christmas sweaters
- 54 Election season survey
- 55 Bouncy type of stick
- 56 Scan that can detect cancerous tissues, for short
- 57 Flow back

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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www.upuzzles.com

Family Time Crossword

The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1. Math course, briefly
- 5. (K) Mo. before April
- 8. (K) Tiny molecular unit
- 12. (K) "Those ___ yesterday's fries"
- 13. Teamwork destroyer
- 14. (K) Indoor water carrier
- 15. (K) What too much water will do
- 17. City planner's map
- 18. Dude
- 19. (K) Blue ___ (DC Comics hero)
- 21. Thanksgiving maize (2 words)
- 25. Dainty table lace
- 26. Alternative to a convertible
- 30. (K) Electric fish
- 31. Little shelter
- 32. Irrigation tool

- 33. Best-of-the-best athlete
 - 36. (K) Absolutely stun
 - 38. Cloth napkins and such (2 words)
 - 40. Jungle expedition
 - 43. (K) "___ Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"
 - 44. Get ready for a test
 - 45. (K) Contest using a strong rope (3 words)
 - 50. Old movie film holder
 - 51. (K) Bonfire remnant
 - 52. Small amount
 - 53. An ivy league school
 - 54. Inked skin art, briefly
 - 55. Rain extremely hard
- ## DOWN
- 1. (K) You and me make this

- 2. Put the pedal to the metal
- 3. Intense anger
- 4. (K) Burrowing rodent pet
- 5. (K) Crenshaw or honeydew
- 6. (K) "A long time ___ in a galaxy far, far away ..."
- 7. (K) Ship? No, much smaller
- 8. Add supplementary material
- 9. Make lean
- 10. (K) Whitish gemstone
- 11. Allot
- 16. Wear away
- 20. Goof up
- 21. (K) The start of an invention
- 22. The Christmas season
- 23. (K) Type of pickle
- 24. Grouchy, mannerless person

- 27. "That's better ___ nothing"
- 28. Creep like melted butter
- 29. Hammer end
- 31. Natural home
- 34. (K) It unites sheets of paper
- 35. Sticky road goo
- 36. Quartet member
- 37. Outcast
- 39. (K) Number of black pawns in chess
- 40. (K) Nimble
- 41. Carpet installer's math calculation
- 42. (K) Be touchy?
- 46. (K) Old Glory's land
- 47. Deep sorrow and pain
- 48. (K) Enjoyed marshmallows with ketchup
- 49. (K) Powerful male on a farm

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?
You might do this if pushed too far?
Look for the answer in next week's paper.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

Previous riddle answer:
"I'm on a roll!"
20-D) HERE

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7/22

Universal Freestyle 82 by Kenneth Cortes

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

Horoscopes

Horoscope: March 26 - April 1, 2026

The first full week of Aries season brings momentum, initiative, and a renewed sense of direction. With Mercury now direct, conversations and plans that stalled earlier in March begin to move forward with clarity. The energy is more decisive, but not without intensity—Aries favors action, sometimes faster than wisdom. This is a week to take initiative while staying mindful of consequences. What you begin now can set the tone for the weeks ahead.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

Your energy is high and your instincts are strong. You may feel ready to act on plans that were delayed. This is your moment—but pace yourself. Not every opportunity requires immediate action.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

You may prefer a slower, steadier pace than those around you. That's an advantage. Use this week to observe before committing. A quiet decision made now could prove more valuable than a bold one made too quickly.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Social connections gain momentum. Conversations flow more easily, and opportunities may arise through friends or colleagues. Stay open, but be selective about where you invest your time.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Career matters move forward. If something has felt stalled, you may now see progress. Take initiative, but avoid taking on more than you can realistically manage.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Your sense of adventure returns. New ideas, travel plans, or opportunities to expand your horizons may appear. Follow your curiosity—but make sure the details support your vision.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

Financial and shared responsibilities require attention. Clarity improves, making this a good time to organize and make practical decisions. Avoid unnecessary risks.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

Relationships take center stage. With clearer communication, issues can be resolved and plans can move forward. Approach discussions with balance and honesty.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Work and daily routines become more manageable. You may find yourself regaining focus and efficiency. Use this time to organize and simplify your responsibilities.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Creative energy is strong. Projects, hobbies, or romantic interests gain momentum. Act on inspiration, but don't rush the process—what develops steadily will last longer.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Home and family matters come into focus. Decisions regarding your personal life may move forward. Keep your approach practical and grounded.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Communication is direct and effective. This is a good week for important conversations, planning, and decision-making. Say what you mean, but choose your words carefully.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

Financial clarity improves. You may gain a better understanding of your priorities and resources. Use this insight to make steady, practical choices.

Thought for the Week:

Momentum returns, but direction matters more than speed. Choose your path carefully and move forward with purpose.

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 ill-advised (6)
- 2 periodic (8)
- 3 hiding nothing (11)
- 4 study of old age (11)
- 5 it may be fresh-squeezed (8)
- 6 unverifiable tale (4)
- 7 French philosopher René (9)

SOLUTIONS

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

CAR	UNW	CYCL	LEM	NT
RON	ADE	RE	DES	ICAL
TH	TRA	ON	ISE	LOGY
NSPA	TES	TO	GE	MY

Previous Answers: ELEGANT 2. OMNIPRESENT 3. DICTATES
4. LEANER 5. LARGE 6. BEASTS 7. BANG

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

www.GreenwichSentinel.com/subscribe

www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/subscribe

A crossword puzzle grid with the following clues and illustrations:

- 1: Hedgehog (1 across)
- 2: Mouse (2 across)
- 7: Elephant (7 across)
- 3: Snail (3 across)
- 4: Hippo (4 across)
- 5: Ladybug (5 across)
- 6: Turtle (6 across)

CODEBREAKER (or CODEWORD, or CODE CRACKER) WORD PUZZLE

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

A 22x22 grid for a codebreaker puzzle. The grid contains numbers 1-22. The word 'KNIT' is already placed in the first row. Picture clues include a ball of yarn (1) and a pair of knitting needles (2). The answer key at the bottom reads: ANSWER: 1-K, 2-N, 3-I, 4-T, 5-L, 6-A, 7-T, 8-R, 9-C, 10-W, 11-Y, 12-A, 13-I, 14-N, 15-E, 16-O, 17-U, 18-L, 19-H, 20-M, 21-V, 22-Z.

KIDS games HOW MANY LEFT & RIGHT?

A counting activity featuring 16 bees arranged in a 4x4 grid. To the right are two boxes labeled 'LEFT' and 'RIGHT', each containing a question mark. The 'LEFT' box is intended for counting bees facing left, and the 'RIGHT' box is for counting bees facing right.

HOW MANY TO THE LEFT. HOW MANY TO THE RIGHT?

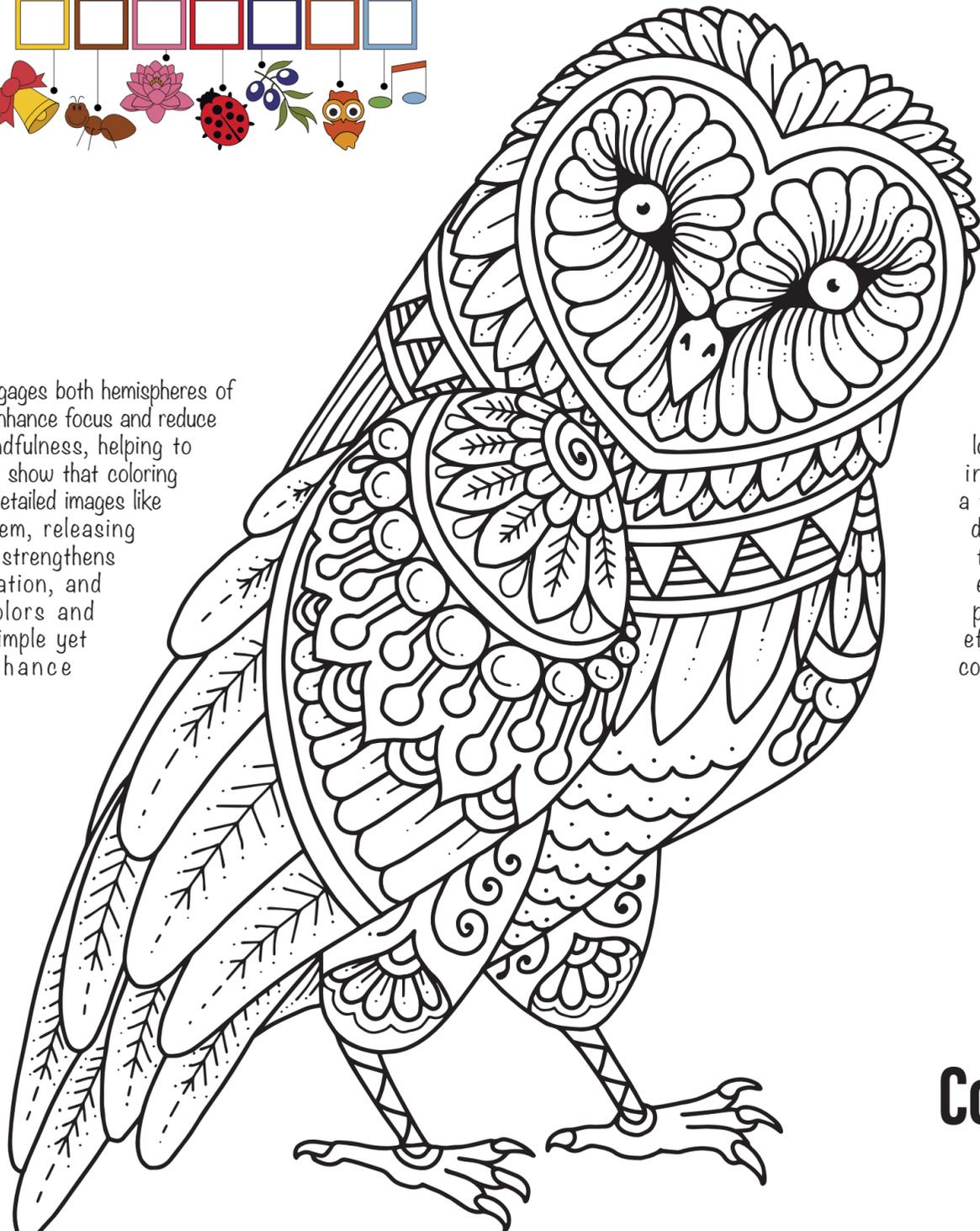
A counting activity featuring 12 crocodiles arranged in a 4x3 grid. Above the grid are two boxes labeled 'left' and 'right', each with a question mark. Blue and red arrows point left and right respectively. The 'left' box is for counting crocodiles facing left, and the 'right' box is for counting crocodiles facing right.

First Letter Game

A first letter game featuring a hot air balloon and two rows of colored boxes. The first row has boxes for red, orange, green, purple, and blue, with corresponding objects: heart, orange, tree, eggplant, and frog. The second row has boxes for yellow, pink, red, blue, and light blue, with corresponding objects: bell, ant, flower, ladybug, and owl.

Coloring engages both hemispheres of the brain, combining creativity with logic to enhance focus and reduce stress. The repetitive motion promotes mindfulness, helping to lower cortisol levels and improve mood. Studies show that coloring intricate patterns, such as a flower, can activate the brain's dopamine and fostering relaxation. This activity strengthens fine motor skills, improves hand-eye coordination, and encourages problem-solving by selecting colors and patterns. For all ages, coloring provides a simple yet effective way to boost mental cognitive function, and promote a sense of calm.

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Color This Owl Mandala

CALENDAR OF EVENTS continued

Center
Perfect for children, ages 2-10, the egg hunts are designed for smaller groups (approximately 25 per hunt). In addition to the hunt, enjoy an animal meet & greet and self-guided spring scavenger hunt. Just bring your own basket for collecting eggs (which contain nature-themed prizes and nut-free sweets). Register at <https://newcanaannature.org/great-egg-hunt/>.

Tuesday, April 7

International Landscapes and Cultures With Mike Tomashefsky
11 AM at the Lapham Center
Travel the world with Mike. Learn about the history, culture, and architecture of the rich lands he has visited and photographed, including Europe, the Middle East, Polynesia, Central America, and the Caribbean. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

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/rwvfc4sr>.

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.qgiv.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

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.

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

Spring Bulb Arranging with Longfield Farm
10 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Embrace the arrival of Spring by creating a distinctive and enduring Spring Bulb arrangement with Elisa Bulgrin of Longfield Farm. Attendees will have a variety of plants and colors to choose from that will continue to bloom for weeks to come. Tickets are \$130/members, \$150/non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/spring-bulbs-longfield-farm/>.

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/QClb2>.

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.

Renowned Designer Nathan Turner Presents I Love Decorating
1 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Join Nathan Turner to explore what makes interiors beautiful—blending English-Bohemian influences with vibrant inspiration from around the world. Register at <https://shorturl.at/aj414>.

Friday, April 17

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

THE SCONE QUEEN BAKES by Danielle Sepsy
1 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Celebrate the launch of *The Scone Queen Bakes* by New York City-based chef and entrepreneur Danielle Sepsy. Known for her innovative-yet-nostalgic treats, Sepsy is the founder of *The Hungry Gnome*, a popular NYC wholesale bakery that now produces over 100,000 baked goods a month. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/scone-queen-200438>.

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://newcanaanmountedtroup.org>.

Saturday, April 18

Get About Annual Spring Fundraiser
6:30-10:30 PM at the Country Club of New Canaan
Join for a night of dinner, dancing and live music by New York's own HIGHLINE. Tickets are available at <https://getaboutnc.org/2026-annual-spring-fundraiser/>.

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

In Conversation with Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist Jodi Kantor
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
New Canaan Library is pleased to present Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Jodi Kantor in conversation with New York Times journalist Ron Lieber for a thought-provoking discussion about an essential question: how, in these challenging times, can anyone discover and begin their life's work? Register at <https://shorturl.at/6ujrww>.

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
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.

Dink for Daffodils | A Pickleball Fundraiser for Friends of Irwin Park
9:30 AM - 5:30 PM at the Country Club of New Canaan
Join for a lively day of pickleball in support of Friends of Irwin Park. Two hours of play are included for \$100/player. Spectators are welcome for \$50/person. All attendees will enjoy light refreshments and receive a commemorative cap. You are encouraged to wear bright, spring colors to celebrate the new season! There are three time slots available and the signup is at <https://www.ncgardenclub.org/dink-for-daffodils/>.

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/>.

Monday, April 27

An Evening with Author Colm Tóibín
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
The Library is pleased to present author Colm Tóibín for a special evening celebrating his latest work. Tóibín's new work, *The News from Dublin*, is a collection of nine short stories, many never-before-published. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-colm-toibin-183810/>.

Tuesday, April 28

Nonna Gracie Presents Her Cookbook
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Grace Geramita and her grandson Matt Gresia present *Sunday Dinner with Nonna Gracie: Traditional Italian Recipes for Gathering and Sharing*. They will demonstrate one of their cherished family recipes. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/nonna%20gracie-200505>.

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>.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, May 1

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.

Tacos & Tequila featuring Matthew Maynard, LMFT
6-8 PM at Rosie
Gather for tacos, tequila, and easy conversation featuring clinical expert and author Matthew Maynard, LMFT. Tickets available at <https://cfgc.salsalabs.org/rosietacosandtequila/index.html>.

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

CONTINUES ON PAGE 8

WILDLY SUCCESSFUL

Harbingers of Spring



BY JIM KNOX

The Eastern Bluebird
The triumphant return of spring that you can find in your backyard by Jim Knox.

The first lime-green shoots of Skunk Cabbage, the quacking chorus of Wood Frogs and the cheerful call of the Red-winged Blackbird. You know what they are. The medley of certain undeniable signs of spring we each hold dearly. We anxiously await their arrival, and with them, the return of longer days, blooms, blossoms and the promise of the warm months to come.

For me, spring's arrival wouldn't be official without the appearance of a small yet unmistakable creature. Every year we scan the yard and the exposed tree limbs at the forest's edge for their return. Sure enough, they arrived as scheduled. We looked out beyond the back porch and there, perched 12 feet aloft on a Maple branch, was the male. With a Brilliant Royal blue cap, wings and back and a rusty breast, he was a striking bird. We scanned for his mate and soon located her no more than 30 feet distant. Though more discrete, she was an equally beautiful bird, replacing his Royal blue with Cerulean and gray. The Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia Sialis*, is a small member of the Thrush family. Though just 6-8 inches in length, and weighing just one ounce, they are little birds with a big following.

Expected and restorative at the same time, we were so happy to see them. We could forget about the occasional frost tinged night or multi-layered morning. The Bluebirds were back—spring was here. There was confidence in this. Set-your-watch assurance to it. We can say this because the Bluebirds' return is synchronized with the remarkably varied and choreographed spectacle that is spring in Southern New England. As broad omnivores, the birds return to capitalize on the reemergence of spring insect life. This protein-rich diet is essential



To me, the Bluebird is that creature, that moment nature generously offers each of us with nothing expected in return other than to appreciate a mild breeze carrying notes that touch our hearts and pledge an unbreakable promise of better days ahead.

to bolster the female's energy stores for the energy-demanding expenditures of nest-building, egg-laying and raising her brood. In the coming weeks, the blooms and blossoms yield fruit, berries and seeds. The birds have returned from more southern haunts to feast on this diverse diet and raise their young. In fact, in most years the bounty is so great, Bluebirds raise at least two broods.

Eastern Bluebirds have an interesting domestic dynamic. Males select a nest cavity, gather nesting materials and then display above the cavity by waving their wings to attract the attention of the females. Once they woo their mates, the males leave the nest

building and incubation duties exclusively to the ladies. Yet a seeming life of parental leisure quickly evaporates for these fathers-to-be. Their active foraging kicks into overdrive on fruit, insects and berries. As omnivores with a hidden side, these small birds survive and thrive as opportunists seizing the occasional shrew, snake, lizard, tree frog or salamander. It may be risky for the Bluebird but their drive to feed their young is strong and there is more to this little thrush than meets the eye.

In fact, the admiration of the bluebird, in its many related species incarnations, has stood the test of time. Dating from 1766

BC in China's Shang Dynasty to the present day, Bluebirds have been favored as harbingers of gentle weather, hope and beauty for millennia. From the oral histories of First Nations tribes, to Russian folklore, to The Bluebird of Happiness, the bluebird has been an evocative fixture across cultures.

The sharply-plumaged State Bird of both New York and Missouri has even made his mark on Tinseltown in The Wizard of Oz, "Somewhere over the Rainbow, Bluebirds fly...". He gets a shout out in The Beatles, Yellow Submarine and The Beach Boys literally sing his praise in "Bluebirds Over the Mountain."

Why this profound effect over so many people, across so many cultures, over the ages?

Timing is everything so they say. If artists, musicians, poets and writers across the ages were to design a living creature who could embody the welcome of a spring breeze, the warmth, color, song and long-awaited bounty of the season, they couldn't quite touch the "rightness" of this little bird.

Nature restores when we are at our lowest ebb. Equal parts beautiful, strong and timely, the Bluebird is the tonic for what ails us. Never could we use its appearance more than today. The moment spent reaching for our cell phone is the moment we may

capture but cannot truly savor. In our drive to "post", we may miss what matters most. To me, the Bluebird is that creature, that moment nature generously offers each of us with nothing expected in return other than to appreciate a mild breeze carrying notes that touch our hearts and pledge an unbreakable promise of better days ahead.

Jim Knox serves as the Curator of Education for Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo and as a Science Adviser for The Bruce Museum. Jim has a passion for working with the world's wild creatures and for sharing his work with others.

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/>.

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, May 8

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.

Tuesday, May 12

Rhyme and Recitation with Ned: A Festive Celebration of American Independence

10 AM at the Lapham Center Our resident orator and raconteur, Ned Monaghan, will regale us with some of the finest poetry and prose from our country's two hundred and fifty year history. Commemorate the birth of the United States with this engaging recitation. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

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.

Friday, May 15

33rd Annual New Canaan CARES Home Tour

10 AM, location disclosed once you register Tour five exquisite homes in New Canaan with an exclusive Post Tour Party after. Tickets are available at <https://newcanaancares.org/hometour-3/>.

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.

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, 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

Saturday, March 28

New Canaan YMCA
564 South Ave
New Canaan, CT 06840
8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Tully Health Center
32 Strawberry Hill Court
Stamford, CT 06902
7:45 AM – 1:15 PM

Monday, March 30

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

Wednesday, April 1

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

First Congregational Church of Darien
14 Brookside Road
Darien, CT 06820
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Services & Meetings

Tuesday, April 7

Basics of Cognitive Decline and the Link to Depression for Older Adults

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

Join for an informative lecture with Dr. Stephanie Towns who will provide education about terminology related to cognitive decline and the providers who can assess and treat the causes. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/cognitive%20decline-197670>.

Friday, April 17

Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade and Refer

11 AM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room

Those trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. This training will certify you as a QPR gatekeeper which will position you to recognize and refer someone at risk of suicide. Register at <https://shorturl.at/6EfY8>.

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 Al-Anon Meeting

Mondays at 12 PM
St. Mark's Church, Youth Room

Every Tuesday

Adult Child Alanon Meeting

Tuesdays at 12 PM

St. Mark's Parish House, Conf. Room

Every Wednesday

AA Step Meeting

Wheelchair Access
Wednesdays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan

Al-Anon Parent's & Newcomer's Mtg.

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
Silver Hill, Jorgenson House
208 Valley Rd., New Canaan

Every Thursday

AA Big Book Meeting.

Wheelchair Access
Thursdays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan

New Canaan Parent Support Group

7- 8:30 PM
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
New Canaan

OUR NEIGHBORS

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>.

Support