

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFING

POLICE & FIRE

Officers Host Community Bingo Event



Officers Castro and Vartuli hosted a bingo event at Lapham Community Center in New Canaan. The event included participants of various ages. Attendees engaged in conversation and friendly competition. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department

New Canaan Hosts Safe Drug Disposal

The New Canaan Police Department will hold a Prescription Drug Takeback Day on April 25. Residents can drop off expired or unwanted medications at the department's front entrance from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Syringes and sharps will not be accepted.

New Canaan Promotes Safe Driving Week

New Canaan High School and the New Canaan Police Department will hold Safe Driving Week from April 20 to April 24, 2026, focusing on the risks of distracted and impaired driving. The week will end with a mock crash demonstration at the high school on April 24 at 11 a.m., organized by school resource officers and other police personnel. Multiple local departments are assisting with the event.

New Canaan Promotes Safe E-Bike Use

As warmer weather increases e-bike use, New Canaan requires helmets for all riders. Class 3 e-bike riders must be at least 16 and have a valid driver's license. E-bikes must follow traffic laws, are not allowed on downtown sidewalks, and must account for pedestrians.

FROM TOWN HALL

Community Invited To Zoning Workshop

The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public workshop on April 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Lapham Community Center to present proposed updates to New Canaan's commercial zoning regulations. Topics include parking requirements, housing allowances under state law, permitting processes, and building size standards, followed by small-group discussions. After revisions, a public hearing is scheduled for June 2, with an online Q&A platform to be

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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>

The Repair Café Returns



Alex Veroude repairing a bicycle at last year's Repair Cafe.

By ELIZABETH BARHYDT

The Repair Café will return to New Canaan on Saturday, May 2, bringing with it a familiar mix of practical skill, neighborly exchange, and a compelling argument against waste.

Hosted by Planet New Canaan, the event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lapham Community Center, where residents are invited to bring household items in need of repair rather than replacement. Artisans will be on hand to provide free fixes for small furniture, bicycles, lamps, and other small electrical devices. A tailor will also be available for minor sewing repairs.

The premise is simple: extend the life of items that might otherwise be discarded. But as last year's event demonstrated, the impact extends beyond the objects themselves. The Repair Café is a space

where practical knowledge is shared across generations and neighbors meet over a loose screw or frayed seam.

At the 2025 gathering, volunteers worked steadily through a line of residents carrying everything from wobbly chairs to malfunctioning lamps. Conversations formed quickly, often beginning with the problem at hand and drifting into stories about where the item came from, how long it had been in use, and why it was worth saving. The event drew steady participation throughout the day, with many attendees leaving not only with repaired belongings but also with a clearer sense of how to maintain them.

This year's event builds on that momentum. Planet New Canaan has again organized a group of volunteer repair specialists—individuals with backgrounds

in carpentry, electrical work, mechanical repair, and sewing—who will offer their time and expertise at no cost.

The range of services reflects common household needs. Small furniture repairs may include tightening joints or stabilizing legs. Bicycle repairs can address issues such as flat tires or brake adjustments. Electrical repairs will focus on simple devices like lamps, where worn cords or faulty switches often lead to disposal despite otherwise functional parts. The inclusion of a tailor adds another layer, addressing clothing repairs that might otherwise lead to garments being thrown away.

The environmental rationale remains central. Each repaired item represents one less addition to the waste stream, a point that has guided Planet New Canaan's broader programming. By encouraging

reuse and repair, the organization aligns with wider efforts to reduce consumption and promote sustainability at the local level.

Participation requires advance registration. Residents are asked to reserve a time slot through an online sign-up system, allowing organizers to manage demand and ensure that each item receives adequate attention.

The Repair Café asks residents to pause before discarding, to consider the value of what they already own, and to engage, even briefly, in the work of maintaining it.

Visit <https://planetnewcanaan.org/events/> or <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45A9AB2FA0F49-63069304-planet/> for more information or to sign up for a slot.

Charter Commission Advances Oversight Changes, Debates Finance Board Eligibility and Appointment Rules

By PETER BARHYDT

The Charter Revision Commission (CRC) continued its review of proposed changes to the town charter Tuesday, approving recommendations regarding appointment procedures and oversight requirements, while engaging in extended discussion over eligibility rules for the Board of Finance and other governance issues.

The CRC met in a special session prior to a public hearing at Town Hall as it works toward a May 4 deadline to submit its draft report to the Town Council.

Planning and Zoning Confirmation Requirement Approved

CRC members voted to expand Town Council confirmation requirements to include appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Under the approved change, appointments to Planning and Zoning would require Town Council confirmation, joining the Board of

Finance, Ethics Board and Audit Committee.

The vote followed discussion about whether additional oversight is appropriate for boards with significant regulatory authority.

"I think that it adds another balance and also put some other accountability," member said.

The motion passed with nine votes in favor and two opposed.

Broader Appointment Transparency Proposal Fails

Earlier in the meeting, the CRC considered a broader proposal that would have required all vacancies on boards and commissions to be posted publicly, with a formal application and review process.

The proposed language stated that vacancies "shall be posted on the town website to allow electors to apply," with the Board of Selectmen reviewing and

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New Canaan P&Z to Hold Public Workshop on Commercial Zoning Changes

The New Canaan Planning and Zoning Commission will host a public workshop on Tuesday, April 21 at 7 p.m. at Lapham Community Center to discuss proposed updates to commercial zoning regulations. Topics include parking, housing in commercial areas, and permitting, with community feedback helping shape final revisions expected by July 2026.

Input from this workshop will be incorporated into subsequent drafts

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
Public Workshop
Commercial Zoning Updates

- Parking Regulations
- Housing in Commercial Areas
- Business Permitting

April 21 • 7:00 PM | Lapham Community Center

Share Your Input & Ideas!

For more info: Sarah.Carey@newcanaanct.gov

Sit in the Pit

By JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

It is sometimes necessary to climb down and sit in the pit with our friends who are struggling. When our friends are hurting, our caring presence is 85 percent of our value.

We can all be present. The challenge is to leave our suggestions elsewhere for a while. This is the hard part: just listening.

We draw out our friend's story. We do not suggest how this may become a valuable experience or have a silver lining or is just like what happened to us once upon a time.

We're simply present. If the story is on auto-repeat for months, our friend may need a counselor. Grief can become a toxic grievance.

Emma's son died of a rare illness. Friends brought meals,



Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry

walked with her, picked up her daughter from school, and included her in social occasions. They hugged her when she cried and let her talk about her son when she wanted to. They did not judge her when she occasionally didn't show up for events. They called or visited instead. Emma eventually used her artistic gifts to paint uplifting mosaics on hospital walls, including a wall in the hospital where her son was treated. She credits her newfound sense of purpose to the quiet friends who sat in the pit with her while she grieved.

Carriage Barn Workshop Series

The Carriage Barn Arts Center will host a range of spring workshops and programs through May, offering hands-on experiences in botanical arts, design, photography, and music.

The seasonal series includes a Spring Bulb Arranging Workshop held April 14, where participants created floral displays designed to bring seasonal color and fragrance into the home. The program was led by Elisa Bulgrin of Longfield Farm and focused on practical techniques for long-lasting arrangements.

Upcoming botanical arts workshops will continue later this month and into May. On April 25, artist Katya Lebrija will lead an introductory eco-printing session, teaching participants how to transfer natural pigments from leaves and plants onto fabric through a steaming process. A follow-up workshop on May 2 will expand on these techniques, guiding attendees in designing

and creating silk scarves using botanical prints.

Additional programs include a May 9 workshop inspired by botanical illustrator Pierre-Joseph Redouté, as well as a May 26 session with artist Livia Cetti focused on paper flower creation.

The spring calendar also features a range of non-botanical programming. Earlier in April, the center hosted an iPhone photo editing workshop led by photographer Jane Beiles and a virtual lecture on Raphael by art historian Page Knox. Organized museum tours are scheduled throughout the season, including guided visits to major New York institutions.

Family programming remains a key component. On April 26, young participants will take part in an eco-design workshop using recycled materials to create small objects and sculptures. A beginner sewing workshop for children is scheduled for April 28,

introducing foundational stitching techniques in a hands-on setting.

Music programming will also continue with a Treetops Chamber Music performance by the Cassatt String Quartet on April 26, featuring works by Schubert, Ravel, and Brahms.

In addition to workshops and performances, the Carriage Barn is hosting an exhibition of American realism in partnership with the American Artists Professional League from April 19 through May 8.

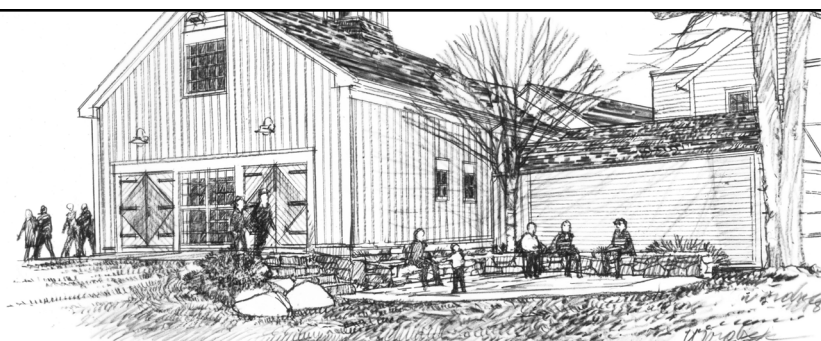
Organizers said the spring series is designed to provide accessible, skill-based programming that connects participants with both artistic practice and environmental themes.

The Carriage Barn Arts Center, located at 681 South Avenue, continues to serve as a central venue for community arts engagement in New Canaan.



Keith E. Simpson Associates

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launched in the interim.

New Canaan Shred Day Returns

New Canaan will hold a document shredding event on April 25 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Transfer Station, 394 Main Street, allowing residents to securely dispose of sensitive papers to reduce the risk of identity theft. Items such as 3-ring binders, metal clips, computer media, and plastic covers are not accepted. A second shredding event is scheduled for September 19 at the same time and location.

New Canaan Budget Vote

The New Canaan Town Council voted Tuesday on the proposed 2026-2027 budget, including the town budget, sewer fund, and related accounts. The meeting was held in a hybrid format, with public comment limited to agenda items, and included continued budget review before the vote. The council also considered a \$560,000 request from the Housing Authority for Millport property improvements and approved minutes from recent meetings.

New Canaan Plans America250 Celebration

New Canaan will mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with a series of community events from June 14 to November 11, 2026. Local groups and businesses are invited to host events, which will be listed on an official town calendar. Major events include a parade on June 27 and a fireworks display on July 4 at Waveny Park, with opportunities for public financial support.

AROUND TOWN

Free Training Promotes Suicide Prevention Skills

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) is a suicide prevention training that teaches people to recognize warning signs, ask direct questions, encourage someone to seek help, and connect them with resources. It is not counseling, but a practical method to take immediate action. A free training will be held April 17, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at New Canaan Library; registration is required.

LOCAL BUSINESSES & NON PROFITS

Sheinelle Jones Draws Full House

Sheinelle Jones launched her Through Mom's Eyes book tour at New Canaan Library to a full audience. The event was organized with support from Liz Vaccariello and Elm Street Books. The library continues to host additional programs listed on its events calendar.

Movement Supports Health And Independence



At the most recent New Canaan Rotary meeting, members heard from Dr. Roger Silva of Live Well Physical Therapy about the role of movement in maintaining health. He outlined how physical therapy supports strength, flexibility, pain reduction, fall prevention, and overall function. He emphasized that regular movement helps preserve independence and reduce injury risk with age. Photo credit: New Canaan Rotary

Community Gathers For Summer Disco Night

New Canaan Library will host a free outdoor disco music and dance event on the Library Green on June 6, featuring DJ Lucas Walters and dance instruction from Fred Astaire Dance Studio. Attendees may bring chairs or picnic blankets or purchase food on-site, and the event follows a carry-in, carry-out policy with compostable bags provided. Registration is required, and restrooms and water are available inside the library, with support from Karl Chevrolet and Walter Stewart's.

PEOPLE IN TOWN

NCHS Students Earn Top Art Honors

Fifteen New Canaan High School students earned multiple Gold Key, Silver Key, and special awards in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, a competitive statewide program. Winners were recognized across disciplines including drawing, photography, printmaking, and mixed media, with several students receiving top Gold Key honors and one earning a scholarship. One photography piece also received a separate award for experimental work, reflecting strong technical and conceptual performance across submissions.

Kitty Robertson Shines In The Father

Kitty Robertson is a longtime SAG-AFTRA actress working in television, film, voiceover, and regional theater, returning to the Town Players of New Canaan after previous roles there. In The Father, she plays Anne, a daughter caring for her father as he experiences memory loss associated with Alzheimer's. Her past roles include productions at Westport Country Playhouse and other regional theaters, and this performance is dedicated to those affected by Alzheimer's.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Community Unites For Spring Cleanup Week

New Canaan's "Clean Your Mile" program will take place April 20-26, involving residents, community groups, and local businesses in cleaning neighborhoods, public spaces, and the downtown area. Volunteers should bag collected trash and either take it to the Transfer Station or contact the Highway Department for pickup, placing secured bags on grassy shoulders. Supplies are available at Town Hall, and dumpsters will be at the Elm Street train station lot Friday through Sunday.

SCHOOLS

David Scarpone Named Interim Coordinator

David Scarpone has been appointed interim transportation coordinator for New Canaan Public Schools. He has prior management experience in manufacturing and has worked in the district's transportation department since 2019, most recently as a bus driver, where he helped revise bus routes and improve operations this year. He will serve through the end of the school year and can be contacted at david.scarpone@ncps-k12.org or (203) 594-4039.

Elementary Students Build Leadership Skills

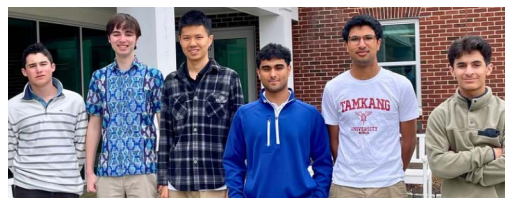
New Canaan CARES runs a four-week afterschool leadership program at South led by school resource officers for elementary students. The program covers leadership, teamwork, communication, public speaking, and supporting others through structured, interactive activities. It aims to build confidence, develop leadership skills,

and help students communicate effectively.

West School Celebrates Student Music

At West School, third and fourth grade students performed recorder pieces for younger students as part of Music In Our Schools Month. Fourth graders played for Pre-K students in the morning, and third graders performed for Kindergarten during lunch. The performances introduced younger students to music within the school day.

St. Luke's Math Team Advances



For the first time in its history, the St. Luke's School math team has qualified for the New England Association of Mathematics Leagues competition. The team advanced through the Fairfield County Math League and the state meet. It will compete in Canton, Massachusetts on May 1. Photo credit: St. Luke's School

Students Explore Science And Leadership

Fourth graders at East visited the Maritime Aquarium, where they conducted hands-on activities on water flow and erosion and interacted with marine animals at touch tanks. The trip provided practical exposure to scientific concepts and concluded their final elementary school field experience.

Second Graders Read to Kindergarteners

Second graders at East read their writing to kindergarten students, reinforcing communication skills while participating in a structured peer interaction activity.

Young Students Thrive Through Outdoor Play



During recess, three- and four-year-olds in Mrs. Unger's class built structures from natural materials, played in the dirt, and moved between rocks as part of imaginative play. They also engaged in simple activities like watering plants. The play was unstructured and self-directed at New Canaan Country School. Photo credit: New Canaan Country School

Saxe Unplugged

Saxe students participated in a school-wide effort to reduce screen use by tracking their habits, practicing attention strategies, and committing to more mindful technology use. Devices were set aside during the day and over the weekend to encourage offline activities and focus.

Lunar New Year Celebration

Sixth-grade Mandarin students learned about Lunar New Year traditions, including the zodiac and

cultural symbols. Activities included creating red envelopes and participating in lessons tied to the holiday, which concluded with the Lantern Festival.

Seniors Lead Reflective Learning Conferences

On March 17, 12th-grade students at NCHS participated in Student-Led Conferences, presenting three selected works from their high school experience to faculty mentors. The presentations were used to demonstrate five core competencies: adaptability, empathy, communication, critical thinking, and curiosity. The conferences centered on students explaining their learning and development over time.

Local Schools Offer Diverse Job Opportunities

As of mid-April, local schools still have multiple job openings, which do not necessarily indicate new positions. Most postings reflect routine turnover, seasonal needs, or required roles such as those in special education. Openings span administration, teaching at various levels, support services, maintenance, food service, substitutes, and tutoring.

Wellness Fair Engages New Canaan Students

New Canaan High School held its second annual Wellness and Mental Health Fair, expanding its focus to include physical, mental, and nutritional well-being. Students interacted with community organizations, participated in activities like fitness challenges and pet therapy, and accessed resources on coping skills and support programs. The event also highlighted existing school support services and student leadership opportunities while drawing strong participation.

Students Discover Marine Life Firsthand



Fourth grade students from New Canaan Country School studied Long Island Sound at the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk through hands-on fieldwork. They collected and analyzed marine samples, including plankton and small sea life, using scientific tools and observation. The program also included lessons on sharks and marine ecosystems, reinforcing practical science learning. Photo credit: New Canaan Country School

AROUND CT

New Canaan Line Improvements Underway

Weekend train service on the Metro-North New Canaan Line will be replaced by buses on April 10, 17, 24; May 1, 8, 15, 29; and June 5, with all Saturday and Sunday trains suspended. On Fridays, the last train from New Canaan and the last three trains from Stamford will also be replaced by buses, which will connect at Stamford and may depart up to 30 minutes earlier than train times. The changes support maintenance work at the Stamford rail facility, and trains will operate on a Sunday schedule over Memorial Day weekend (May 22-25).



Resident Joe H. teeing off at the Ridge Range golf simulator.



Resident Bob T. exploring his artistic side in the activities room.

“There’s a real sense of community at Meadow Ridge. The amenities are amazing, and the food is fantastic. There’s quality care here; should my mom need it, that gives us great peace of mind.”
— Greg Z., son of resident Ingrid Z.

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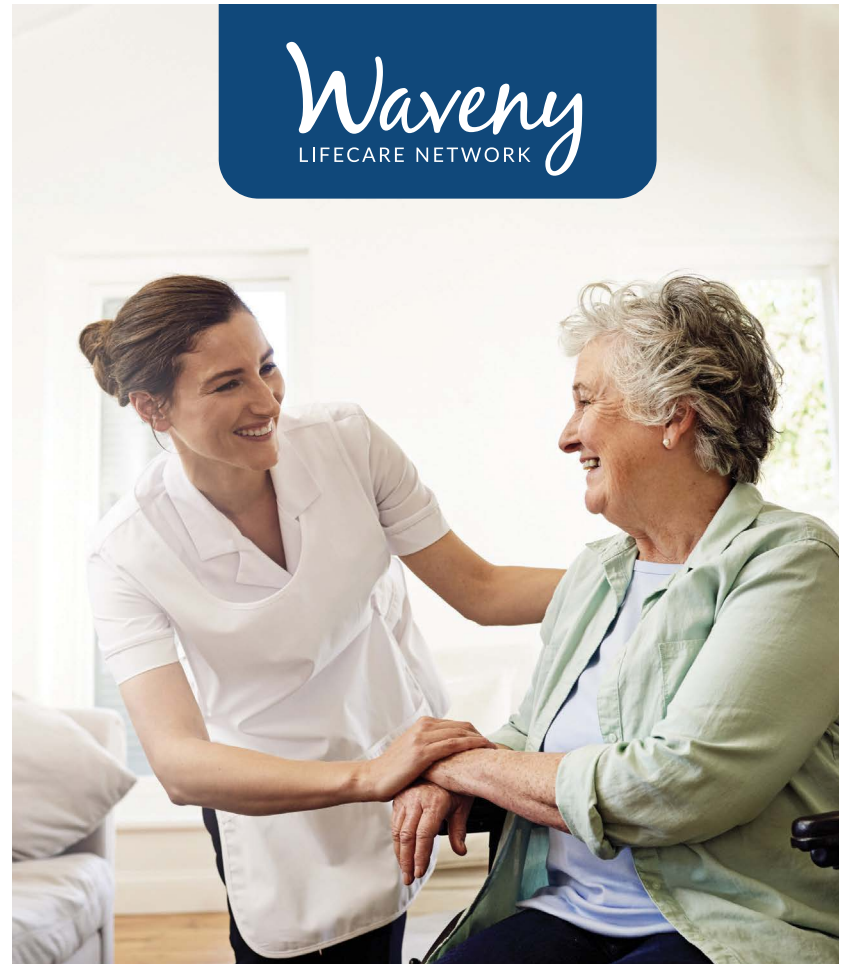
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The beautiful Azaleas at Lee Garden

A World-Class Collection of Azaleas in Full Bloom—Only at the Lee Garden

BY GERI RHOADES

Come see the breathtaking display of azaleas and rhododendrons in peak spring bloom at Lee Garden, a pride of New Canaan. On May 9th from 1:00–4:00 PM, visitors are invited to enjoy guided tours and light refreshments while exploring this extraordinary landscape. Bring friends, family, and a camera—this is spring at its most spectacular.

The Olive W. and George S. Lee Memorial Garden

George S. Lee's 2.7-acre woodland garden began in 1940 with a gift of Gable azalea hybrids from his brother, Frederic P. Lee, author of *The Azalea Book*. Inspired to create "a peaceful place where plants can reveal their characteristic beauty in a natural setting," Lee spent nearly 40 years cultivating a remarkable collection suited to the shade, granite outcroppings, and acidic soils of New England.

Rather than clearing the land, he embraced the natural woodland, creating a garden that remains a compelling alternative to traditional landscaping. Generous in spirit, he kept the garden open to all. Upon his death in 1978, he bequeathed it to the Garden Center of New Canaan, now the New Canaan Beautification League. Maintained largely by volunteers, the garden remains open daily to all who seek beauty and serenity.

The Plant Collections

Lee planted every hybrid azalea introduced by Joseph B. Gable, along with Gartrell, Knap Hill, Exbury, Kaempferi, and Ilam hybrids. The rhododendron collection

includes hybrids from Shamarello, Gable, Dexter, and Nearing, as well as native species.

These flourish beneath a layered canopy of oaks, maples, tulip trees, and dogwoods, with ground layers of epimedium, wildflowers, and bulbs. Spring ephemerals include bloodroot, trout lily, trillium, Virginia bluebells, and mayapple, among many others. Seasonal bulbs—snowdrops, winter aconite, iris reticulata, squill, daffodils, and grape hyacinth—add to the display.

When to Visit

Spring is the most celebrated season, beginning with early bulbs in March and April and building to peak azalea bloom in early May, around Mother's Day, followed by rhododendrons later in the month. With such diversity, blooms can be seen from early April into July. At any time of year, the Lee Garden offers a place of quiet beauty, inspiration, and discovery.

Hours and Guided Walks

Lee Garden is open daily from dawn to dusk, year-round, and admission is free. Please note that paths are wood-chipped, with some rocky and steep areas; the garden is not handicap accessible. There are no restrooms or drinking water on site.

Guided tours for groups of 6–10 are available from early April through June. While there is no set fee, a small donation is appreciated. Groups of eight or more are asked to schedule their visit.

The New Canaan Beautification League is a nonprofit community service

and educational organization in New Canaan, Connecticut. Founded in 1939 to beautify the community and to provide members with an opportunity to increase their knowledge of gardening, conservation, and horticulture, the Beautification League has continued to dedicate itself to enhancing the beauty of our town. Visit www.beautificationleague.org.

THE LEE GARDEN CALENDAR

Here are our rough guidelines for what to look for when you visit Lee Garden. Note that weather conditions

may speed up or delay peak blooms by as much as 2 weeks.

January & February:

During the garden's dormant season, enjoy a winter walk in the rock garden

March: early spring bulbs and ephemerals, including snowdrops, winter aconite, Iris reticulata, hellebores

April: bulbs, spring ephemerals and ground covers including bloodroot, oconee bells, primroses, grape hyacinths, lungwort, hellebores, trout lily, squill, blue-eyed Mary, twinleaf, daffodil, bleeding heart, marsh

marigold, trillium, anemone, epimedium, kerria, early azalea, and rhododendron bloom

May: azalea and rhododendron bloom, Spanish bluebells, columbine, Canada mayflower, mayapple, trillium, primroses, wild geranium, bleeding heart, lily of the valley, emerging ferns, viburnum, Carolina silverbell trees in bloom

June: rhododendron, native azalea, and mountain laurel in bloom, cimicifuga, wild strawberry, hosta, foxglove, ferns

July: native rhododendron, stewartia, bottlebrush buckeye, hosta, jewelweed, wild Leeks

August: ferns

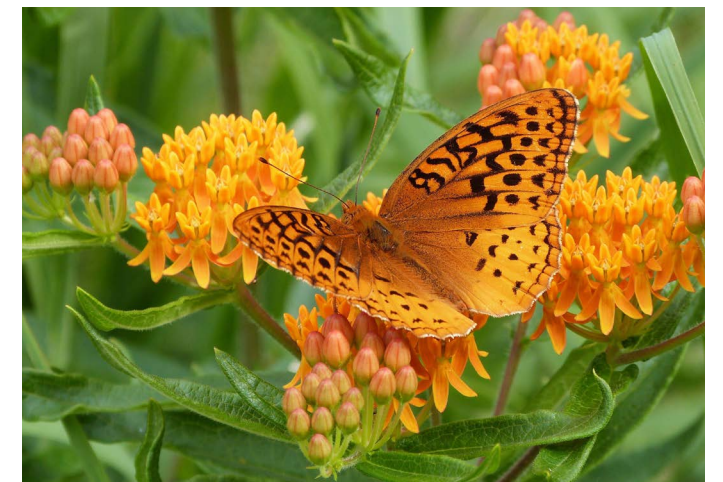
September: rose of Sharon, gentian, turtlehead, New England aster

October: fall color in azalea leaves, viburnum, and beautyberry in fruit

November: berries on winterberry, viburnum, dogwood

December: During the garden's dormant season, enjoy a winter walk in the rock garden

On May 9th from 1:00–4:00 PM
come see the breathtaking display of azaleas and rhododendrons in peak spring bloom at Lee Garden, a pride of New Canaan. Visitors are invited to enjoy guided tours and light refreshments as they explore this extraordinary landscape. Bring friends, family, and a camera—this is spring at its most spectacular.

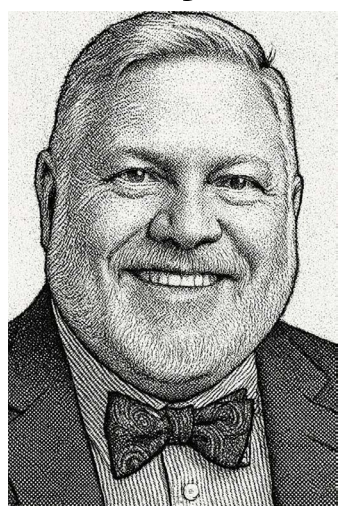


Butterfly Weed and its pollinators can be seen as early as late June, be seen in the spring.



Marsh Marigold, one of the beautiful wildflowers that can be seen in the spring.

The High Cost of Goodbye: Why Losing Wealthy Seniors Is a Self-Inflicted Wound



BY RUSSELL R. BARKSDALE, JR.

When New York Governor Kathy Hochul recently suggested that supporters travel to Florida to persuade former New Yorkers to return, it landed somewhere between candor and inadvertent comedy.

After all, the sequence is difficult to ignore: First, create an environment in which high-income retirees conclude, rationally, that they are quietly being pushed out. Then, once they do, organize a state-wide retrieval effort.

It is not a strategy one typically sees in business, but increasingly common place in politics.

Still, the governor deserves some credit. She said the quiet part out loud: the tax base has been “eroded.” What she did not need to say, but clearly understands, is how important the senior tax base is and the value of our senior community’s contribution to the fabric of their community.

Connecticut would be wise to listen carefully. So far, it has not.

Something far more consequential than demographic drift is underway. Wealthy seniors are relocating, not out of necessity, but out of calculation. We can say they are not being forced out, but they are. They are also opting out.

This distinction matters. A retiree living on Social Security alone has limited flexibility. A retiree with a pension, investment income, and federally sourced benefits has options; and, more importantly, the ability to act on them. That income arrives regardless of geography. The only variable is where it is taxed, and where it is spent.

In public finance terms, this is close to ideal: inbound federal dollars, locally circulated, with relatively low service demand attached. It is, quite literally, revenue without recruitment. And yet, states treat it with a certain casual indifference, as though it were ambient, rather than contested. It is not ambient. It is highly mobile.

Affluent retirees do not wake up one morning and impulsively relocate. They run scenarios. They compare marginal tax rates. They evaluate property tax exposure against expected longevity. They consult advisors who are paid, quite handsomely, to remove inefficiencies. Then they leave. Quietly, deliberately, and usually permanently.

The policy failure is not that this is happening. The

policy failure is pretending it is surprising. Because once you accept the premise that fixed-income wealth is mobile the rest follows with uncomfortable clarity.

And they give something else, which does not appear in budget documents but is immediately felt in its absence.

They built the very

This is not ideology. It is optimization. What makes this particularly costly is who is leaving.

If one state taxes retirement income more aggressively than another, capital will migrate.

If one state imposes persistently high property taxes into non-earning years, homeowners will reconsider. If cost structures are volatile and upward-trending, predictability will be purchased elsewhere.

This is not ideology. It is optimization. What makes this particularly costly is who is leaving.

These are not marginal contributors to a local economy. They are among its most stable and efficient participants. They often pay substantial property taxes, without placing pressure on school systems. They spend consistently across local businesses, smoothing economic cycles rather than amplifying them. They fund nonprofits, cultural institutions, and community programs, not periodically, but structurally.

communities whose policies now do not value their worth. They financed school systems that defined property values for decades. They supported hospitals, libraries, and civic organizations long before we depended on them. They volunteered, governed, fundraised, and, in many cases, quietly solved problems before they became agenda items.

When they leave, what follows is not just a fiscal adjustment. It is a civic one.

The Little League loses a sponsor. The nonprofit loses a board member. The town loses the person who knows why the last three “obvious solutions” failed. Character, it turns out, is not infinitely renewable.

And yet, policy discussions rarely reflect this level of consequence. Instead, they operate on a comforting assumption: that these residents will remain anchored by familiarity, community ties, or simple

inertia.

They are not. They are anchored until our policies and math detaches them.

Connecticut, at present, appears to be relying on relativity as a governing principle. As long as New York’s policies are more visibly strained, Connecticut’s can be interpreted as... less so. It is such a reassuring comparison. It is also strategically irrelevant.

Because the competition is not New York. It is Florida, it is the Carolinas. It is every state that has decided, explicitly and unapologetically, that attracting affluent retirees is a core economic strategy. They are valued. They design policies accordingly and collecting the results.

Meanwhile, here the messaging remains curiously inconsistent. “Leave if you don’t like it.” Followed, a few years later, by “Please come back—we’re experiencing a revenue shortfall.”

This is not political evolution. It is a financial realization, arriving late. New York has now acknowledged it, however awkwardly. Connecticut has not. And that silence is not neutrality. It is exposure. Because every year this dynamic continues, more fixed-income wealth is quietly re-domiciled. More federally sourced dollars are redirected. More communities lose not just taxpayers, but stabilizers. Not dramatically. Not all at once. But steadily. Reliably.

Compounding.

There are only two ways this ends. Either states recognize that affluent retirees are not a passive revenue source but an actively managed economic and valued asset and adjust policy to compete for them. or they continue to treat them as fixed and watch them prove otherwise.

This is not political. We cannot tax mobility as though it were immobility and expect a neutral outcome. Make no mistake, compounding utility costs have also become a tax.

We cannot encourage departure, explicitly or implicitly, and then act surprised when it occurs with precision. The most uncomfortable part of Governor Hochul’s remarks is not the admission itself. It is the timing.

Because by the time a state begins asking its retirees to come back, it has already demonstrated that it did not understand why they left. Connecticut still has the advantage of pretending this lesson is someone else’s. It is not. The question is no longer whether affluent seniors will continue to optimize. They will.

The question is whether Connecticut intends to value and compete for them or continue to subsidize the states that already are.

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN

GINA BLUM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF STAYING PUT
IN NEW CANAAN

APRIL 19, 2026
178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN CT

10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
11:30 AM ADULT FORUM

DISCUSSING:
THERE'S NO
PLACE
LIKE
HOME:
STAYING
PUT IN
NEW CANAAN



LUNCH AND
CHILDCARE
PROVIDED

**POWERHOUSE
THEATRE
IN WAVENY PARK**

**A PSYCHOLOGICALLY IMMERSIVE PLAY
THAT QUESTIONS WHAT'S REAL -
AND HOW THAT MAKES YOU FEEL?**


THE TOWN PLAYERS OF NEW CANAAN'S
PRODUCTION OF...

THE FATHER
a tragic farce

★★★★★

MOLIÈRE
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BEST
PLAY
2014

APRIL 24 - MAY 10
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CHARTER PANEL
From Page 1

voting on applicants at a public meeting.

Commissioners expressed differing views on whether such a change was necessary.

“I don’t think it’s necessary,” Commissioner Angela Jameson said. “I don’t see what the real problem is that we’re seeking to solve here.”

Vice Chair Judy Neville also questioned the effectiveness of the proposal, stating, “I think it takes more than having a vote by the town council to make a difference.”

The proposal failed by a vote of 6-5.

Vacancy Deadline Requirement Adopted

The CRC approved a separate provision requiring the Board of Selectmen to fill vacancies on appointed boards within 180 days.

Members said the measure is intended to prevent situations in which boards or commissions are unable to operate due to unfilled seats.

“The point why this is in here is ... if you’re not doing it, then you’re going to lose the ability to do it,” one member said.

The final language states that the Board of Selectmen “shall fill any appointed position within 180 days.”

Board of Finance Eligibility Requirement Examined

A significant portion of the meeting focused on whether to retain a longstanding charter requirement that members of the Board of Finance must own property in New Canaan.

The requirement has historically limited eligibility for the Board of Finance to people who own real property in town, reflecting a perceived connection between property ownership and financial oversight responsibilities.

Commissioners discussed whether the requirement remains appropriate given current conditions, including the presence of renters and residents whose financial stake in the town may not be tied to property ownership.

“I do think it is discriminatory to say that you can’t be on the board of finance unless you own a home or a commercial property,” Jameson said. She added that renters contribute to the tax base indirectly and “have skin in the game.”

Other members raised concerns that the requirement may exclude qualified individuals who are otherwise engaged in town affairs.

“I do think it is discriminatory to say that you can’t be on the board of finance unless you own home or a commercial property.”

— Angela Jameson

“We just preclude a lot of talented people from being there because there are so many intelligent people that don’t have properties in their name,” one commissioner said.

The discussion also addressed complexities in defining property ownership, particularly in cases involving trusts or shared ownership structures.

One member noted that some properties are held in trusts or under a spouse’s name for liability or financial planning purposes, raising questions about how eligibility would be determined under the current rule.

Another commissioner said the issue could be legally complex, noting that ownership structures vary and may not align neatly with the charter’s language.

“I think there’s a very complicated issue,” the member said. “I think there’s a lot we need to say.”

Supporters of maintaining the requirement noted its historical role in tying financial decision-making to individuals directly affected by property taxation. The Board of Finance is responsible for reviewing budgets, setting financial policies and making recommendations related to taxation and expenditures.

The commission did not take a final vote on the requirement and is expected to revisit the issue as part of its ongoing review of charter.

Public Hearing Raises Governance and Oversight Issues

During the public hearing, residents and elected officials addressed broader governance issues, including the roles of boards and commissions and the structure of decision-making processes.

Town Council member Kim Norton spoke about the Parking Commission, urging the CRC to retain detailed procedural requirements governing its role.

“The [parking] commission is not just advisory in spirit. It is a safeguard,” Norton said.

Norton said the current charter establishes a multi-step process involving the Parking Commission, Board of Selectmen and Police Commission for reviewing parking-related decisions.

Christina Ross, also a Town Council member, raised concerns about clarity in governance structure.

“There has to be a clear definition of who reports to who and the description on what the role is,” Ross said.

Ross said clearer definitions could help prevent confusion about authority and responsibilities.

Additional Proposals Presented

Maria Naughton proposed requiring the Board of Education to provide an annual certification confirming compliance with state statutes, policies and bylaws.

“It would provide a level of assurance that policies, bylaws and state statutes are understood and are being followed,” Naughton said.

Naughton also recommended maintaining the existing structure and responsibilities of the Parking Commission.

Recall Proposal Not Advanced

The CRC discussed the possibility of creating a recall or removal mechanism for elected officials, but chose not to pursue the proposal.

Legal counsel said there is no explicit state statute governing such mechanisms and that approaches vary among municipalities.

Members expressed concern about complexity and potential unintended consequences.

“I think we’ll never get through this,” one commissioner said.

Next Steps

The CRC will continue reviewing draft language and incorporating public feedback in upcoming meetings.

A revised draft report is expected to be released, with additional votes anticipated before the report is submitted to the Town Council.

Fire Chief Resigns; Successor Appointed

The town’s Fire Chief Albe Bassett has stepped down from his position, officials announced during a recent fire commission meeting.

Bassett formally resigned, with the announcement made as part of the commission’s regular proceedings. No reason for the resignation was provided during the meeting.

Following the announcement, the commission moved quickly to ensure continuity in leadership, unanimously approving the appointment of William as the new fire chief.

Town officials expressed appreciation for Bassett’s service and contributions to the community, noting their confidence in the department’s ongoing operations. They emphasized that the fire department remains committed to maintaining strong service and professionalism.

When asked for comment, First Selectman

Dionna Carlson said; “On behalf of the Town, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to Chief Bassett for his dedicated service, leadership, and commitment to the safety and well-being of our community. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

“I am pleased to announce the promotion of Assistant Chief William Perritt to serve as Interim Fire Chief. Chief Perritt brings extensive experience, professionalism, and a deep commitment to public safety. I look forward to working with him as we continue the proud tradition of excellence in fire service that the New Canaan Fire Department provides to our residents.

Please join me in thanking Chief Bassett for his service and in supporting Interim Chief Perritt in his new role.”

The transition comes as the department continues to handle a steady call volume and ongoing operational demands, with leadership changes not expected to disrupt service.

White Plains Hospital Earns National Recognition for Surgical Excellence

White Plains Hospital has been named a 2026 Castle Connolly Top Hospital, receiving national and state recognition for clinical performance across several key surgical specialties.

The hospital earned National Procedure Awards for lung cancer surgery, hip replacement, knee replacement, and hysterectomy. It also received a New York State Procedure Award for colon surgery and a national specialty designation for excellence in cancer surgery, according to White Plains Hospital.

“These recognitions reflect the skill of our physicians, the dedication of our clinical teams, and our continued commitment to providing advanced care close to home,” said Dr. Michael Palumbo, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at White Plains Hospital. “From complex cancer surgery to same-day joint replacement, our focus remains on delivering exceptional outcomes for the communities we serve.”

Castle Connolly’s Top Hospital rankings are based on performance metrics including patient outcomes, quality of care, and procedural expertise. The methodology evaluates outcomes from 30 days before surgery through 90 days after, with top-performing hospitals receiving designation.

The latest recognition adds to a series of recent distinctions for the hospital. In 2025, White Plains Hospital became the only hospital in Westchester and Fairfield counties, as well as the Hudson Valley, to receive a five-star quality rating

from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the fourth consecutive year.

The hospital has also earned an “A” Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group for 14 consecutive grading periods and received the Patient Safety Excellence Award from Healthgrades. It has been named a Top Hospital by several national publications, including Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report, and Money.

White Plains Hospital operates as part of the Montefiore Health System and serves as a tertiary hub for advanced care in the Hudson Valley. The 292-bed, not-for-profit hospital provides acute and preventive care to residents across Westchester County and surrounding communities.

In addition to its main campus, the hospital maintains outpatient facilities and multispecialty practices in Armonk, Hawthorne, Larchmont, New Rochelle, Rye Brook, Scarsdale, Somers, Yonkers, and Yorktown Heights, as well as Scarsdale Medical Group locations in Harrison and Scarsdale.

The hospital is fully accredited by the Joint Commission and continues to receive national recognition for patient experience and nursing excellence. In 2025, it earned its third Magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, a distinction held by a small percentage of hospitals nationwide.

White Plains Hospital stated that the continued recognition reflects its emphasis on clinical outcomes, patient safety, and access to specialized care within the region.

Men’s Club to feature Andrew Armstong, founder of New Canaan Chamber Music

Andrew Armstrong, founder and artistic director of New Canaan Chamber Music, will speak to the New Canaan Men’s Club Friday, April 17, previewing that evening’s highly-anticipated concert, “Clarinet Meets Classical Accordion!” and describing the chamber organization’s growth in its five years of presenting outstanding, internationally known musicians in a series of concerts.

Recognizing the widespread interest in Armstrong’s musical presentations, the Men’s Club is opening this meeting to spouses and significant others. The meeting in Morrill Hall at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, III Oenoke Ridge, will begin at 10 a.m., with Armstrong’s presentation slated to begin at 10:40 a.m.

Raised in New Canaan, Armstrong’s career as a classical pianist, has taken him to Asia, Europe, Latin America, Canada and the United States, appearing in such prestigious venues at Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, London’s Wigmore Hall, the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatory and Warsaw’s National Philharmonic.

The Friday night performance at the First Presbyterian Church, 178 Oenoke Ridge, will feature Yoonah Kim, on clarinet; Ryan Corbett, on accordion; and Armstrong.

Kim who was praised by The New York Times for her “inexhaustible virtuosity,” went on to win the Concert Artists Guild International Competition in 2016 and the gold medal at the Vienna International Competition in 2020.

Accordionist Corbett, also with international music awards to his credit, was named a Classic FM Rising Star and a medalist by the Royal Over-Seas League. He has performed in recitals at the Berlin Philharmonie and across Europe, and has performed in the United States, Mexico and China. He has frequently performed on BBC symphonic programs and will be making his debut at Wigmore Hall later this year.

Five years ago, Armstrong launched New Canaan Chamber Music, bringing outstanding musicians to perform up to four chamber music concerts a season in town. Since then, he has established chamber programs in South Carolina and, last fall, a music festival in Tuscany, Italy.

The New Canaan Men’s Club, which meets most Fridays throughout the year, has openings for new members, men 55-years old and above. For information about joining email ncmens@ncmens.org.

Christ Church Greenwich Adds Seats for Kate Bowler Book Talk Event

Christ Church Greenwich has added additional seating for a standalone book talk by New York Times bestselling author Kate Bowler, scheduled for Saturday, April 18, at 9:30 a.m., following strong interest in the event.

The talk, part of the church’s Women’s Conference, is now open to attendees who are unable to participate in the full-day program. A \$50 ticket includes admission to the keynote conversation as well as a copy of Bowler’s new book, Joyful Anyway. Bowler will be in conversation with Henley Cox.

Organizers said the expanded seating option is intended to make the event more accessible while maintaining the broader themes of the conference. “Her keynote will set the tone for a conference that embraces joy, resilience, and meaning—even in life’s complicated seasons,” according to event materials.

Bowler, an associate professor of American religious history at Duke Divinity School, is known for her work on faith, suffering, and the search for meaning. She gained national attention with her memoir Everything Happens for a Reason (And Other Lies I’ve Loved), written after her diagnosis with Stage IV cancer. Her writing and speaking focus on how individuals navigate uncertainty and find purpose in difficult circumstances.

In addition to her books, Bowler hosts the podcast Everything Happens, where she interviews guests about how they

approach life’s most challenging questions. She has built a wide audience in the faith and spirituality space, with more than 400,000 followers across platforms.

The April 18 appearance will serve as the opening keynote for the Women’s Conference, which will continue throughout the day with a series of workshops and discussions. Participants in the full conference will select three seminar sessions from a range of topics, including personal renewal, managing attention in a distracted environment, legacy, navigating difficult relationships, and incorporating prayer and spiritual practices into daily life.

The event will open with prayer and remarks from the Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. The conference is co-chaired by Carrie Sponheimer and Ginny Losito.

Christ Church Greenwich, located at 254 East Putnam Avenue, has positioned the conference as a day of reflection and engagement, centered on practical and spiritual approaches to modern challenges.

Organizers said the decision to offer separate access to the keynote reflects continued demand for Bowler’s work and the relevance of the conference’s themes. The added tickets provide an option for those seeking to attend a single session while still participating in the broader conversation.

Additional information and registration details are available through Christ Church Greenwich.

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Listening as a Civic Duty

This is when, in the life of a town, the substance of government becomes visible. Not in the form of headlines or controversies, but in a meeting room at Town Hall, a public hearing where a handful of residents step forward, or a long discussion over the meaning of a single sentence in a governing document.

This is the ongoing work of New Canaan's Charter Revision Commission.

By its nature, a charter revision process is technical. It deals in structure, language and procedure. It asks questions about how power flows — who appoints, who confirms, who decides. These are not always questions that stir immediate public attention. But they are the foundation on which all other decisions rest.

What has stood out in recent weeks is not simply the substance of the debate, but the tone.

Yet the process has not fractured under those differences.

At its best, the process has reflected something essential about New Canaan: a willingness to listen.

Residents have come forward with sharply different views. Some have argued for stronger oversight of boards and commissions. Others have urged restraint, cautioning against overcomplicating systems that have functioned for decades. Questions about land use, parking, board appointments and eligibility requirements have drawn thoughtful — and at times conflicting — perspectives.

Yet the process has not fractured under those differences.

Instead, it has absorbed them.

Commission members have asked questions, revisited assumptions and, in some cases, changed direction after hearing from colleagues or the public. Proposals have been voted down, revised and brought back in new form. Public comments have not always been accepted, but they have been heard — and, just as importantly, acknowledged.

This is what civility in public discourse looks like in practice.

It is not the absence of disagreement. Nor is it a polite silence in the face of opposing views. Civility is something more demanding. It requires the discipline to engage with ideas that challenge one's own, and the humility to recognize that no single perspective holds a monopoly on understanding.

In a town like New Canaan, where participation in civic life remains strong, that discipline matters.

The charter is not merely a legal document. It is a reflection of how the community governs itself — how it balances efficiency with accountability, tradition with adaptation, authority with oversight. A document of that importance benefits from friction. It is improved when assumptions are tested and when competing ideas are allowed to meet in open discussion.

Listening, in that sense, is not a courtesy. It is a civic responsibility.

There is a temptation, in any public debate, to reduce opposing views to obstacles rather than contributions. To assume that disagreement signals dysfunction rather than engagement. The Charter Revision Commission process offers a reminder that the opposite can be true.

A process that includes multiple viewpoints — even when they are in tension — is more likely to produce an outcome that reflects the community as a whole.

That does not mean every voice will be satisfied. It does mean that every voice has had a role in shaping the result.

The commission's work is not yet finished. Decisions remain, and some of the most consequential questions are still under consideration. But the manner in which the work is being carried out deserves recognition.

It is careful. It is deliberate. And, in many cases, it is collaborative.

These are not small things.

In a broader environment where public discourse often moves quickly toward division, the quieter example set in a Town Hall meeting room carries its own significance.

It shows that listening — even when it is difficult, even when it does not lead to agreement — strengthens the process.

And in the end, it brings the outcome closer to something that belongs not to one viewpoint, but to the town itself.

Editorial Page

Preserving Local Boards of Education



The General Assembly is considering a new bill that would alter the balance of authority in Connecticut's public schools by shifting final employment decisions away from locally elected Boards of Education and into the hands of an unelected arbitrator.

The proposal, HB 5218 — An Act Concerning Teachers — includes some reasonable provisions. Establishing a clear "just cause" standard for teacher discipline and expanding workers' compensation protections for teachers injured by students are both constructive steps. These goals deserve support.

However, the bill goes further — and in doing so, it raises a fundamental concern about governance.

At its core, Connecticut's education system has long relied on local control. This tradition reflects a broader American principle: decisions should be made as close to the people as possible. Local boards of education are elected, operate in public, and are directly accountable to parents and taxpayers in their communities. That structure ensures that policies reflect local priorities and that decision-makers can be held responsible at the ballot box.

HB 5218 would weaken that framework.

By making a neutral arbitrator's decision binding in teacher termination cases, the bill effectively removes final authority

from local boards. In practice, even after a board reviews evidence, holds hearings, and votes on a personnel decision, an arbitrator could override that outcome.

Consider a scenario in which a school district seeks to terminate a teacher for repeated misconduct or failure to meet professional standards. After reviewing the case, the elected board votes to uphold the termination. Under this bill, an arbitrator could reverse that decision and reinstate the teacher.

In that moment, the judgment of the community, expressed through its elected representatives, would no longer be final.

Supporters of binding arbitration argue that it promotes fairness and impartiality. That concern is understandable. But fairness does not require eliminating accountability. Local boards already operate within established legal frameworks, follow due process, and are subject to public scrutiny. Replacing their authority with that of an arbitrator risks reducing transparency and public input in the name of neutrality.

As a former member of the Milford Board of Education from 2019 to 2022, I saw firsthand the responsibility entrusted to local officials. When residents elected us, we were entrusted to listen, deliberate, and decide in the best interest of our community. Those decisions were not made lightly. They reflected careful consideration of policy, fairness, and the expectations of the people we served.

That is the essence of representative government: authority flows from the public, and elected officials are accountable for how they use it.

An arbitrator, no matter how qualified or well-intentioned,

operates outside that framework of accountability. Their decisions are not subject to voter review, nor are they made within the same public-facing process. Over time, shifting authority away from elected boards risks eroding local governance, and concentrating decision-making power in less transparent forums.

There are also practical considerations. Expanding the role of binding arbitration could increase the number of disputes that escalate, raising costs for school districts and, ultimately, taxpayers. It may also lengthen the time required to resolve personnel matters, creating uncertainty for school systems.

This debate is not simply about employment procedures. It is about who governs local schools.

Final decision-making — whether related to budgets, curriculum, or personnel — has traditionally rested with locally elected officials for a reason. That structure promotes accountability, responsiveness, and public trust.

If the legislature wishes to strengthen due process protections, it can do so without removing final authority from local boards.

HB 5218, as written, moves in a different direction.

Lawmakers should amend the bill to preserve local control, maintain transparency, and uphold the principle of democratic accountability that has long guided Connecticut's education system.

Andrew Fowler is Communications Specialist at Yankee Institute, a Connecticut-based public policy organization advancing practical solutions to keep our state affordable, livable, and workable. Learn more at YankeeInstitute.org.

Walk with Us

If you're feeling alone, and concerned in today's world then come join us, Tuesdays at 9:30

am in front of Houlihan Lawrence. We'll walk down Elm St. to our Town Hall and then to Rosies for

coffee and companionship.

Peggy Risom Bull

New Chamber Member!

Windward Development, Inc. is a new Chamber of Commerce member. Welcome!

Windward Development provides full service turn-key development. All of the details are handled and managed through our

WINDWARD DEVELOPMENT

company. This high-end integrated approach by our design-build team allows for an expedited schedule all under one contract.

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Phone: 203-966-7504
Website: windward.us

Lapham Center

New Canaan Nature Center: Past, Present, and Future with Bill Flynn, Executive Director

Monday, April 20, 11 am, free

What better way to celebrate Earth Week, than by learning about

this hidden gem, nestled right here in our town. Bill Flynn, 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!

Send Us Your Thoughts

www.newcanaansentinel.com/

[letter-to-the-editor/](#)

New Canaan Cares Leadership Graduation



New Canaan CARES' Spring High School Leadership Graduation. 15 New Canaan High School Students participated in this 7-week program, working on expanding their natural Leadership skills. Each participant delivers their Leadership Journey speech at the graduation ceremony, sharing their personal experiences and growth throughout the program. Congratulations to all of the program graduates. (Submitted Photo)

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN NOTICE OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Town Council of the Town of New Canaan will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, in the Town Meeting Room and via Zoom, for the following purposes:

A. To consider and act upon the resolutions entitled:

1. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$50,000 For The Information Technology 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$50,000
2. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$192,000 For The Police 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$192,000
3. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$1,615,000 For The Fire Equipment 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$1,615,000
4. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$85,000 For The Ambulance Corps 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$85,000
5. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$78,660 For The Emergency Management 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$78,660

6. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$4,795,904 For DPW Administration & Engineering 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$4,795,904
7. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$684,000 For The DPW Highway 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$684,000
8. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$2,245,000 For The DPW Town Buildings 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$2,245,000
9. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$945,000 For The DPW Parks 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$945,000
10. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$1,000,000 For The Library Grant 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$1,000,000
11. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$80,000 For The Recreation 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of

- General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$80,000
12. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$2,905,150 For The Schools 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$2,905,150
13. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$1,150,000 For The Sewer Capital 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$1,150,000
14. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$225,000 For The New Canaan Housing Authority Grant 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$225,000
15. Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$90,774 For The Parking 2027 Project And The Financing Of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$90,774

Copies of said proposed resolutions are on file and open to public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk.

B. To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN TOWN COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of New Canaan will hold a Public Hearing on April 22, 2026 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall and virtual to review and to hear public comment on the proposed amendment to the Ordinance for Off-Street Parking Regulations.

Notice is also hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of New Canaan at their regular Meeting on April 22, 2026 immediately following the Public Hearing at Town Hall and virtual will act and vote upon the proposed amendment to the Ordinance for Off-Street Parking Regulations and to conduct any other business proper that may come before the Council.

Proposed Amendment to section 41-10 of Chapter 41. Off-Street Parking Regulations:

§ 41-10. Enforcement.

- (1) It shall be the duty of the employees of the Parking Commission and the Police Department to enforce the provisions of these regulations.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Parking Commission to hear appeals of citations issued pursuant to these regulations.

The full text of this ordinance can be found at www.newcanaan.info

LEGAL AD

TOWN COUNCIL OF NEW CANAAN NOTICE OF PASSAGE REGULAR MEETING - April 14, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Council of New Canaan, at its Regular Meeting held in person and virtually via Zoom, passed the following legislative act:

Approved and amended the Report and Recommendation made by the Board of Finance of Town Appropriations for the fiscal budget period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, in summary as follows:

Total Town Appropriations plus School Expenditures paid by the Town	\$ 68,045,686
Board of Education Appropriation	<u>\$ 116,425,765</u>
Total	\$ 184,471,451
Less Estimated Revenues	\$ 10,552,461
Less Proposed Contribution from Fund Balance	<u>\$ 5,000,000</u>
Amount to be Raised by Taxation	\$ 168,918,990
Sewer District - Total Sewer Operating Budget	\$ 2,198,400

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a summary of the Budget adopted by the Town Council is available for inspection during normal office hours at the Office of the Town Clerk located at 77 Main Street, New Canaan, CT.

The Budget, as approved, will be come effective eight days after publication or eight days after filing with the Town Clerk, whichever event shall last occur.

Dated at New Canaan, Connecticut, this 14th day of April, 2026.

Janet Fonss
Vice Chairman and Secretary, Town Council

Sports Roundup

By CHRISTOPHER DEMUTH

GIRLS TENNIS

The New Canaan girls tennis team opened the week with a dominant 7-0 win over Norwalk on April 8, controlling every match from singles through doubles.

At first singles, Chloe Hoegstedt earned a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Maha Elbahr. The rest of the singles lineup gave Norwalk little room to respond. Sasha Belov defeated Sofia Mejia 6-0, 6-0, Aarna Gupta beat Rachel Meek by the same score, and Pari Mathur also won 6-0, 6-0.

The Rams were equally strong in doubles play. Camryn Lee and Bella Calaba won 6-0, 6-0 in first doubles, while Sophie Adamczyk and Lucy Bench matched that score in second doubles. In third doubles, Olivia Valente, Sofia Giammarco, and Olivia Vellante completed the sweep with a 6-0, 6-1 victory.

Two days later, New Canaan faced a stronger Fairfield Ludlowe team and fell 5-2, with both Rams points again coming in doubles.

Lee and Calaba recovered after dropping the opening set to win a competitive first doubles match 4-6, 6-4, 10-4. Bench and Adamczyk added another point with a straight-set 6-2, 6-0 win in second doubles.

Fairfield Ludlowe won all four singles matches. In third doubles, Sophia Giammarco and Ella Park pushed their match to a deciding tiebreak before falling 10-7 after splitting the first two sets.

GIRLS LACROSSE

The girls lacrosse team split two games against New York opponents during the week, opening with a strong home win before running into a difficult Manhasset team.

On April 8, New Canaan defeated Westhampton Beach 10-5 behind a standout performance from Ashton Pinkernell, who finished with five goals and two assists.

Pinkernell helped lead an offense that found contributions throughout the lineup. Zanna Moor scored twice, while Riley Schlafman, Lucy Detmer, and Phoebe Schuh each added one goal. Lucy Casey contributed two assists.

The game was close early, with New Canaan leading 3-2 after the first quarter, but the Rams gradually widened the margin by holding

Westhampton Beach scoreless in both the second and fourth quarters. Macyn Callahan made six saves in goal.

Against Manhasset on April 10, New Canaan fell 11-3. The Rams scored once in the first quarter and added two goals late, but Manhasset built control through each quarter.

Phoebe Schuh, Lucy Casey, and Riley Schlafman each scored for New Canaan, while Callahan recorded eight saves against steady pressure throughout the game.

BOYS LACROSSE

The boys lacrosse team produced one of its strongest offensive performances of the season in a 17-7 win over Christian Brothers of New Jersey on April 10.

New Canaan took command immediately, scoring seven goals in the first quarter and another seven in the second to build a 14-2 halftime lead.

Brady Mazabras led the attack with four goals. Cole Campisi added three goals and one assist, while Willie Ericson and Grey Wildman each scored three goals of their own. Wildman also added an assist.

Matt Reed scored twice, and Finn Roeder finished with one goal and two assists. Wyatt Rotchford also scored once.

Charlie Sullivan distributed three assists, Leo Raab added two assists, and Ryan Stannard and Nick Cerami each contributed one assist.

In goal, Jack Crowell made six saves and Cam Lyden added three more as the Rams stayed in control throughout the second half.

GIRLS SOFTBALL

The softball team played three games during the week and came away with one win in a stretch that included two close losses.

New Canaan opened with a 6-3 loss to Brookfield on April 7. Brookfield scored three runs in the first inning, and while the Rams answered with one run in the first and two more in the fourth, they were unable to erase the early deficit.

Brookfield added two runs in the fifth and one in the sixth to hold its lead.

The Rams responded on April 10 with a 14-2 conference win over Norwalk in one of their strongest offensive games of the season.

New Canaan scored five runs in the first inning and

collected 18 hits overall. The Rams continued to add runs throughout the game, scoring in five different innings while keeping Norwalk to four hits and no extended rallies.

On April 11, New Canaan nearly came back again but fell 7-6 to New Milford.

The Rams built a five-run third inning and later added another run in the sixth, but New Milford answered with a four-run fifth inning that proved decisive. Both teams finished with nine hits in a game that stayed close until the final out.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The boys volleyball team continued its strong early-season form with two straight-set victories.

On April 8, New Canaan defeated Joel Barlow 3-0, winning by scores of 25-14, 25-22, and 25-17.

The second set was the most competitive, but the Rams stayed ahead late and closed the match without allowing Joel Barlow to build momentum.

Two days later, New Canaan delivered an even more decisive 3-0 conference win over Greenwich.

The Rams won 25-11, 25-9, and 25-16, controlling the match from the opening serve. Greenwich never reached 20 points in any set as New Canaan continued to show strong consistency on both offense and defense.

BOYS BASEBALL

The baseball team added two more non-conference wins during the week, winning at home against New Fairfield and then on the road against Masuk.

On April 8, New Canaan beat New Fairfield 5-2.

The Rams scored once in the first inning, added two more in the second, then scored single runs in the fifth and sixth innings. New Fairfield finished with eight hits, but New Canaan's defense played clean baseball without an error.

On April 10, the Rams defeated Masuk 5-3 after building an early lead.

New Canaan scored four runs in the first inning and added another in the second. Masuk scored once in the fifth and twice in the sixth, but the Rams held on in the final inning to secure the win.

New Canaan finished with seven hits and once again relied on an early offensive push to control the game.

Weekly Scores

Date	Team (School - Gender - Sport)	Opponent	Score
4/8	New Canaan - Boys - Baseball	New Fairfield	New Canaan 5 - New Fairfield 2
4/10	New Canaan - Boys - Baseball	Masuk	New Canaan 5 - Masuk 3
4/13	New Canaan - Boys - Baseball	Brien McMahon	New Canaan 10 - Brien McMahon 0
4/9	New Canaan - Boys - Lacrosse	CBA	New Canaan 17 - CBA 7
4/11	New Canaan - Boys - Lacrosse	Rumson Fair Haven	New Canaan 9 - Rumson Fair Haven 4
4/14	New Canaan - Boys - Lacrosse	St. Joseph	New Canaan 15 - St. Joseph 5
4/9	New Canaan - Boys - Tennis	Fairfield Ludlowe	New Canaan 6 - Fairfield Ludlowe 1
4/8	New Canaan - Boys - Volleyball	Joel Barlow	New Canaan 3 - Joel Barlow 0
4/10	New Canaan - Boys - Volleyball	Greenwich	New Canaan 3 - Greenwich 0
4/13	New Canaan - Boys - Volleyball	Staples	New Canaan 3 - Staples 0
4/8	New Canaan - Girls - Lacrosse	Westhampton Beach	New Canaan 10 - Westhampton Beach
4/10	New Canaan - Girls - Lacrosse	Manhasset	New Canaan 3 - Manhasset 11
4/10	New Canaan - Girls - Softball	Norwalk	New Canaan 14 - Norwalk 2
4/11	New Canaan - Girls - Softball	New Milford	New Canaan 6 - New Milford 7
4/13	New Canaan - Girls - Softball	Glastonbury	New Canaan 9 - Glastonbury 1
4/9	New Canaan - Girls - Tennis	Fairfield Ludlowe	New Canaan 2 - Fairfield Ludlowe 5
4/14	New Canaan - Girls - Tennis	Greenwich	New Canaan 1 - Greenwich 6
4/7	St. Lukes - Boys - Baseball	Hamden Hall	St. Lukes 5 - Hamden Hall 10
4/9	St. Lukes - Boys - Baseball	Hamden Hall	St. Lukes 1 - Hamden Hall 13
4/10	St. Lukes - Boys - Baseball	Masters School	St. Lukes 8 - Masters School 2
4/8	St. Lukes - Boys - Lacrosse	Rippowam Cisqua	St. Lukes 8 - Rippowam Cisqua 1
4/9	St. Lukes - Boys - Lacrosse	Greenwich Country Day	St. Lukes 5 - Greenwich Country Day 1
4/11	St. Lukes - Boys - Lacrosse	Kingswood Oxford	St. Lukes 15 - Kingswood Oxford 2
4/7	St. Lukes - Boys - Tennis	Brunswick	St. Lukes 0 - Brunswick 7
4/10	St. Lukes - Boys - Tennis	Masters School	St. Lukes 3 - Masters School 4
4/9	St. Lukes - Boys - Golf	Greenwich Country Day	St. Lukes 8 - Greenwich Country Day 1
4/11	St. Lukes - Boys - Golf	King	St. Lukes 2 - King 7
4/11	St. Lukes - Girls - Softball	Kingswood Oxford	St. Lukes 1 - Kingswood Oxford 11
4/13	St. Lukes - Girls - Softball	Frederick Gunn	St. Lukes 25 - Frederick Gunn 2
4/14	St. Lukes - Girls - Golf	Greenwich Country Day	St. Lukes 1 - Greenwich Country Day 4
4/8	St. Lukes - Girls - Lacrosse	Hackley School	St. Lukes 11 - Hackley School 16

Upcoming Schedule

20	APR, MON	8 - 9:30pm	Girls JV Softball @ Norwalk 382 Highland Ave, Norwalk, Ct CT 06854
		8 - 9:30pm	Girls Varsity Softball @ Norwalk 300 Highland Avenue, Norwalk Connecticut 06854
		8 - 9:15pm	Girls Freshman Lacrosse - Girls vs Staples High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		8 - 9pm	Boys JV Volleyball @ Fairfield Warde 755 Melville Ave, Fairfield Connecticut 06825-2000
		8 - 9pm	Boys Varsity Tennis @ Stamford High School 55 Strawberry Hill Ave, Stamford CT 06902
		8 - 9pm	Girls Varsity Tennis vs Stamford High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		8 - 8:30pm	Boys JV Tennis @ Fairfield Warde 755 Melville Ave, Fairfield Connecticut 06825-2000
		8 - 8:30pm	Girls JV Tennis @ Fairfield Warde 165 Stillson Rd, Fairfield Connecticut 06825
		9:30 - 10:30pm	Boys Varsity Volleyball @ Fairfield Warde 755 Melville Ave, Fairfield Connecticut 06825-2000
21	APR, TUE	8 - 10pm	Girls JV Tennis @ Wilton High School 131 School Road, Wilton Connecticut 06897
		8 - 10pm	Girls Varsity Tennis @ Brien McMahon 300 Highland Avenue, Norwalk Connecticut 06854
		8 - 9:15pm	Girls Freshman Lacrosse - Girls @ Greens Farms Academy 35 Beachside Ave, Westport CT 06890
		8 - 9:15pm	Girls JV Lacrosse - Girls vs Greenwich Academy 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		8 - 9pm	Boys Varsity Tennis vs Brien McMahon 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		8 - 8:30pm	Boys Varsity Track & Field - Outdoor vs Wilton High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		8 - 8:30pm	Girls Varsity Track & Field - Outdoor vs Wilton High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		9 - 11pm	Boys JV Lacrosse - Boys @ Chaminade High School - JVA Hicksville New York 11801
		9 - 10:30pm	Boys Varsity Lacrosse - Boys @ Chaminade High School 340 JACKSON AVENUE, Mineola New York 11548
9:30 - 11pm	Girls Varsity Lacrosse - Girls vs Nyack High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840		
22	APR, WED	8 - 9:45pm	Boys Freshman Baseball @ Fairfield Ludlowe 210 Old Dam Road, Fairfield Connecticut 06824
		8 - 9:45pm	Boys JV Baseball vs Fairfield Ludlowe Mead Park, New Canaan CT 06840
		8 - 9:45pm	Boys Varsity Baseball vs Fairfield Ludlowe Waveny Park, New Canaan CT 06840
		8 - 9:30pm	Girls JV Softball @ Fairfield Ludlowe Old Dam Rd, Fairfield Connecticut 06825
		8:15 - 9:45pm	Girls Varsity Softball @ Fairfield Ludlowe 785 Unquowa Rd, Fairfield CT 06824
23	APR, THU	7:15 - 9:15pm	Girls Varsity Golf vs Danbury High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		7:15 - 8:45pm	Girls JV Golf vs Danbury High School 95 Country Club Rd, New Canaan CT 06840
		8 - 10pm	Boys JV Tennis @ Wilton High School 131 School Road, Wilton Connecticut 06897
		8 - 9pm	Boys JV Lacrosse - Boys vs Wilton High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		8 - 9pm	Girls Varsity Tennis vs Westhill 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		8 - 9pm	Girls JV Lacrosse - Girls @ Wilton High School 395 Danbury Rd, Wilton CT 06897
		8 - 8:30pm	Girls Varsity Tennis @ Westhill 125 Roxbury Rd, Stamford CT 06902
		8:30 - 9:30pm	Boys Varsity Volleyball @ Greenwich High School 10 Hillside Road, Greenwich CT 06830
		9:30 - 10:30pm	Boys JV Volleyball @ Greenwich High School 10 Hillside Road, Greenwich CT 06830
		10 - 11pm	Girls Varsity Lacrosse - Girls @ Wilton High School 395 Danbury Rd, Wilton CT 06897
10:30pm - 12am	Boys Varsity Lacrosse - Boys vs Wilton High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840		

Upcoming Schedule

18	APR, SAT	4:01am	Boys Varsity Track & Field - Outdoor 24 Fire Lite Place, Northford Connecticut 06457
20	APR, MON	7:30 - 10:30pm	Girls JV Golf vs Wilton High School 95 Country Club Rd, New Canaan CT 06840
		7:30 - 9:30pm	Girls Varsity Golf vs Wilton High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		8 - 9:45pm	Boys Freshman Baseball @ Norwalk 176 Strawberry Hill Avenue, Norwalk Connecticut 06854
		8 - 9:45pm	Boys JV Baseball vs Norwalk Mead Park, New Canaan CT 06840
		8 - 9:45pm	Boys Varsity Baseball vs Norwalk Waveny Park, New Canaan CT 06840
		8 - 9:30pm	Boys Freshman Lacrosse - Boys @ Staples High School 70 North Ave, Westport Connecticut 06880
		8 - 9:30pm	Girls JV Softball @ Norwalk 382 Highland Ave, Norwalk, Ct CT 06854

Saving Nature's Strongholds

By CHARLIE SHAPIRO

On April 8 Spike Lipschutz of the Retired Men's Association introduced a man whose life has been a bridge between the wild places of the world and the urban heart of New York City. Stephen Ham, the Senior Vice President and Chief Development Officer of the Wildlife Conservation Society, did not begin his presentation with charts or figures, but with the memory of a boy in Kentucky who was obsessed with the woods. He grew up catching turtles and dreaming of Africa, which led him to lead a major conservation organization.

The trajectory of Ham's career was set in motion by a handwritten letter. As a precocious thirteen-year-old, he wrote to Dr. Jane Goodall, the world-renowned primatologist and anthropologist, after reading her memoir. To his surprise, she wrote back. Their correspondence lasted years until Ham met her in person during high school. Goodall, recognizing a kindred spirit, told the young man he would one day work for her. He eventually did, serving as her assistant and "roadie" during her global lecture tours, an experience he

credited with teaching him that every individual has the power to make a difference.

Ham's presentation, titled "Saving Nature's Strongholds," was a journey through the 130-year legacy of the Wildlife Conservation Society, which began its life in 1895 as the New York Zoological Society. He explained that the organization is the steward of a New York empire of nature: the Bronx Zoo, the Central Park Zoo, the Queens Zoo, the Prospect Park Zoo, and the New York Aquarium. But the mission, he noted, has always reached far beyond the city's five boroughs. Today, the society manages the world's largest conservation field program, protecting nearly half of the planet's known biodiversity across more than 50 countries.

For example, William T. Hornaday, the founding director of the Bronx Zoo, successfully lobbied for the Fur Seal Treaty of 1911 to prevent the extinction of the northern fur seal. He recounted the exploits of William Beebe, the society's first curator of ornithology, who in 1934 descended 3,028 feet into the waters off Bermuda in a steel bathysphere to observe deep-sea life never seen by human eyes. Ham also paid

tribute to George Schaller, the legendary field biologist who was the first to scientifically study mountain gorillas, snow leopards, and giant pandas. Schaller, now in his nineties, remains the foundational figure for every wildlife biologist who has followed in his footsteps.

Ham described how the society's zoos have evolved from simple menageries into "assurance colonies" for endangered species. He pointed to the African Plains exhibit at the Bronx Zoo as a revolutionary design that replaced steel bars with natural gullies, allowing predators and prey to live in a shared, healthy landscape. He also highlighted the Congo Gorilla Forest, an immersive exhibit that has raised over \$15 million for field conservation by directly linking ticket sales to the protection of gorillas in the wild. One of the society's most striking success stories involved the Kihansi spray toads of Tanzania. When a dam threatened to wipe out their tiny, waterfall-fed habitat, the society's scientists collected the remaining population. For years, the toads existed only in the Bronx and a zoo in Ohio, until they were successfully reintroduced to the wild once their habitat was restored.



Stephen Ham of the Wildlife Conservation Society spoke of the successes and challenges of efforts to preserve "nature's strongholds."

The conversation turned toward the modern pressures facing the natural world, from the "96 Elephants" campaign—a movement the society helped lead to stop the daily slaughter of elephants for ivory—to the recovery of tigers in India. Ham noted that tiger populations have finally begun to increase because scientists focused on a simple, data-driven solution: protecting the prey base the big cats need to survive. However, the tone grew more serious when Ham addressed the political and financial challenges of conservation. He described

the "catastrophic" impact of the sudden loss of federal funding during the Trump administration, noting that \$48 million in annual support for global programs was withdrawn within twenty-four hours of the inauguration. While the society managed to stave off disaster through private fundraising and its dedicated trustees, Ham warned that such funding gaps allow "bad actors" to fill the void in regions with low governance.

Despite these hurdles, Ham remained anchored in the philosophy he learned from Jane Goodall. He then spoke of

"Nature's Strongholds"—large, intact landscapes where wildlife can find refuge and eventually rebound. He invited the RMA to see the Bronx Zoo not just as a weekend destination, but as a headquarters for a global effort to ensure that the world's most iconic species do not become mere memories. As he finished his talk, he left the audience with the image of humpback whales returning to the waters of New York Harbor, a sign that when nature is given even a small amount of protection, it possesses a remarkable ability to heal.

Stephen Ham has spent his life dedicated to global conservation. Whether trekking mountain gorillas in Rwanda or whale watching in Antarctica, he is a passionate advocate for wildlife and the wild places they inhabit, particularly for Africa. He received a degree in anthropology and environmental studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a returned volunteer with the United States Peace Corps where he served in Ghana. Before WCS, he was Senior Director with the African Wildlife Foundation. When not looking for animals, Stephen lives in New York with his wife and two daughters.

What is Your Golden Calf?



By KATE NOONAN

There is a striking irony buried deep in the Exodus story. The Israelites had just witnessed one of the most breathtaking demonstrations of Divine love in human history: ten plagues, a parted sea, water from a rock, manna falling like morning dew from heaven. God had moved mountains, literally and figuratively, to free them and care for them. And yet, the moment Moses disappeared up the mountain for a few weeks, they melted down their jewelry and built themselves a golden calf to worship.

We shake our heads at them. And then we go home and do the same thing.

This season, as Jewish families gather around the Passover table and Christians celebrate the resurrection

of Easter morning, we are invited into something more than festivity and tradition. We are invited into honest reflection. Both holidays carry the same essential message at their core: the Divine is extravagantly, persistently, almost incomprehensibly devoted to us. Passover proclaims liberation: God saw suffering and refused to look away. Easter proclaims restoration: God entered death itself and refused to stay there. These are not small gestures. These are the great love stories of faith.

So the question that hangs in the spring air is this: how are we caring for our connection to the One who cares so deeply for us?

It is worth sitting with that question rather than answering it too quickly. Because the honest answer, for most of us, is complicated.

We do not typically build golden calves. We are more sophisticated than that, or so we tell ourselves. Our golden calves tend to be shinier, more socially acceptable,

more easily defended. They come in the form of relentless busyness, the kind that crowds out every quiet moment where God might actually get a word in. They look like the endless scroll of a phone screen, the pursuit of status, the obsession with financial security, the need for control, the hunger for approval. They wear the faces of our anxieties and our ambitions.

Some of us have a single, large golden calf that commands most of our inner life: a consuming career, a toxic relationship we cannot release, a grief we have turned into an altar. We organize our days around it. We bring our best energy to it. We sacrifice for it. Too often we tell ourselves it is just a priority, not a god.

Others of us have a whole scattered collection of smaller calves, a smattering of lesser devotions that together add up to a life pointed in almost every direction except upward. No single thing has captured us entirely, but the cumulative effect is the

During this season, perhaps the most faithful thing we can do is take a quiet, courageous inventory. What is getting the best of you? What sits at the center of your inner life, drawing your worry, your energy, your devotion? What would it look like to gently, prayerfully, set it down?

same: God is somewhere in the rotation, but rarely at the center.

Reverence is the sincere and humble acknowledgment that we stand in the presence of something infinitely greater than ourselves. It is to carry, in the living of ordinary life, a genuine awareness that you are in relationship with something holy. It shapes how you spend your Friday morning. It shapes what you reach for when you are afraid. It shapes what you are willing to let go of.

Perhaps that is why the Psalmist's words feel so countercultural today: "Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10. In a world engineered for distraction,

stillness is almost a radical act. And yet it is precisely in that stillness, away from the noise of our golden calves, where the Divine has always been waiting to be found.

The Passover and Easter stories both hinge on a moment of letting go: the Israelites releasing the only home they had ever known, the disciples releasing everything they thought they understood about how the story was supposed to end. Liberation, it turns out, almost always requires releasing something we have been clutching.

During this season, perhaps the most faithful thing we can do is take a quiet, courageous inventory.

What is getting the best of you? What sits at the center of your inner life, drawing your worry, your energy, your devotion? What would it look like to gently, prayerfully, set it down?

The Divine that parted seas and rolled away stones is not asking for perfection. And while we cannot truly imagine the fullness of what God wants from us, perhaps we can deep down believe this much: that the obsessive, distracted busyness pulling us away from the beauty of so many gifts freely given was never the goal. The abundance is already here. It has always been here. We need only be still enough to see it.

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.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

49 Park Street 203.966.0293
christiansciencet.org/newcanaan

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

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

First Presbyterian Church

178 Oenoke Ridge Road 203.966.0002
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:

April 17 at 7 PM: New Canaan Chamber Music Concert. Clarinet Meets Classical Accordion!

April 19 at 11:30 AM: Gina Z. Blum, Executive Director of Staying Put in New Canaan, will discuss why people want to stay put in New Canaan. All Are Welcome.

April 23 from 7-9 PM: Open Mic Night with a featured performance by Anne Marie Menta Trio. You are invited to an evening to share music and/or poetry. To sign up, contact Nick Depuy at nickdepuysite@gmail.com.

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 30 at 6:30 PM in Stapleton Hall: Savor an Italian dinner

while listening to beloved Italian music, performed by featured vocalists from the St. Aloysius Music Ministry. Tickets are available at starcc.com.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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

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

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

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

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

Recurring Events:

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

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

Upcoming Events:

April 18 at 5 PM: Master Organ Recital with Frédéric Blanc. Frédéric will play popular works of the organ concert repertoire, and will also improvise a large-scale work on a melody provided to him. For more information visit St. Mark's website.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church

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

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

Trinity Church New Canaan | Darien

1800 E. Putnam Ave, Old Greenwich
203.618.0808
info@trinitychurch.life
www.trinitychurch.life

Join us Sundays at 10 a.m. at Greenwich Hyatt Regency for lively worship, thoughtful and applicable teaching, weekly Communion, and an opportunity to make friends and grow in community. Trinity Kids (infants through fifth grade) and Trinity Youth (middle and high schoolers) take place during the service, and coffee and refreshments are served following worship. The service is also available on livestream via Youtube, Sundays at 10:00 a.m.; learn more at www.trinitychurch.life.

United Methodist Church

165 South Avenue 203.966.2666
frontdesk@umcofnewcanaan.org
www.umcofnewcanaan.org
Join us for Sunday Worship!
Sunday Service begins at 10:00 a.m.

Come for uplifting music and a relevant, inspiring message – and stay after for coffee and conversation during Fellowship Time. Sunday School for ages 3 through high school. Child care is available for children from infancy through age 5.

Recurring Events:

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

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

Community Baptist Church

174 Cherry Street 203.966.0711
cbcnewcanaan@gmail.com
www.cbcnewcanaan.org
Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZ2UNa8aHI30_Syp_X0KdG
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CBCNewCanaan/>
Sunday School at 10:00am

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

Upcoming Events:

April 18 from 12-3 PM: Marriage and Ministry. A Brunch Conversation for Couples in Church Leadership. For more information visit the CBC website.

Grace Community Church

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

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

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

Talmadge Hill Community Church

870 Hollow Tree Ridge Road; Darien, CT
203.966.2314

talmadgehillchurch@gmail.com

www.talmadgehill.org

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

Recurring Events:

Thursdays at 9:30am: Bible Study
First Saturday at 8am: Men's Group
Second Saturday at 10am: Women's Circle

Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center

137 Putnam Rd
info@chabadnewcanaan.org
www.newcanaanjewish.org

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

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

Temple Sinai (Reform Synagogue)

458 Lakeside Drive; Stamford, CT 06903
203.322.1649

www.templesinaistamford.org

Service Schedule:

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

Recurring Events:

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

Temple Shalom

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

www.templeshalom.com

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Obituaries

NANCY ZEITLER



Nancy McDonnell Zeitler, of Jamestown, RI, died on Saturday, April 11, with her family by her side. She was 79 years old. She had struggled with lung cancer for the last 7 years, but in the end, her death came suddenly.

Nancy was born in Carbondale, Pa.; her parents were Anita (Tinman) McDonnell and James Francis McDonnell.

She spent many of her early years in Scranton, Pa., and she graduated from Marywood College in Scranton, with a degree in mathematics.

After graduating, she moved to New York City, where she worked for IBM. She became a salesman, following in her father's footsteps, and she was great at it. In fact, in her first year, she was Rookie Salesman of the Year for the whole country.

It was while at IBM in New York that she met her husband, Bill. They were together for almost 50 years. After starting life together in New York City, they moved to New Canaan, Connecticut, where they lived for 35 years. Bill worked for IBM and together they moved to San Francisco, Calif., Charlotte, NC, and to Tokyo, Japan.

Nancy retired from IBM, after 10 years, when her daughter, Megan, was born. After that she worked for Teacher's Insurance and Annuity in New York; she was with them for 10 years as well.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Bill; their daughter, Megan of Jamestown; and 2 grandsons, Cooper Washay (II) and Miller Washay (9).

Nancy is also survived by her brother, Thomas McDonnell; sister, Susan Grinwis, both from Naples, Fla.; and 2 nieces, Bryn Funk (Steve) of Madison, CT, and K.C. Simon (Carl) of Darien, CT, and their 6 children.

Nancy was a successful businesswoman, she traveled the world, and she was an accomplished artist in her retirement years. She loved the time she could spend with her friends and especially with the Jamestown Mahjong crowd. She and Bill were long time members of Conanicut Yacht Club, the New York Yacht Club, and the Stamford Yacht Club before that. Nancy enjoyed sailing with Bill and with friends and family on Narragansett Bay and throughout the waters of New England, but nothing gave her more joy than spending time over the last 5 years with Megan and the boys after they moved to Jamestown. It was truly the highlight of Nancy's life.

A visitation will be held from 4-7 pm on Friday, April 24, 2026, in the Fagan-Quinn Funeral Home of Patrick Quinn Funerals and Cremations. Relatives and friends are invited to a Mass of Christian Burial, which will be celebrated for Nancy at 10 am on Saturday, April 25, at St. Mark's Church, 60 Narragansett Ave., Jamestown. Her burial will be private, but a reception will follow.

Nancy believed strongly in supporting organizations that helped the hungry and the homeless. In lieu of flowers, any donations to Rhode Island Community Food Bank, 200 Niantic Ave., Providence, RI 02907, and Crossroads Rhode Island, 160 Broad St., Providence, RI 02903, would be appreciated. Any donations made in Nancy's name to the two organizations will be matched by the family.

Kindly visit www.PatrickQuinnFuneralsandCremations.com for information and online condolences.

ROGER BURNS



Roger Johnson Burns, born August 24, 1944 in New Jersey to Marion (Johnson) and Eugene Burns, passed away peacefully at home on April 8. Roger grew up in Woodbridge, NJ and moved to Haddonfield, NJ in 6th grade. There he met his first wife, Patricia Pearson (now Ross). He attended the Peddie School in Hightstown and went on to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania and The Wharton School of Business.

Roger and Pat bought a home in Cherry Hill, NJ and then Haddonfield, returning to their roots. They raised Jennifer (Doug Gray) and Mark (Christine) there while renovating a beloved Victorian home. Roger did most of the renovation work himself with his beloved table saw.

Roger had a very successful business management career, founding Meidinger Consulting's Philadelphia office in his twenties with business partner Doug McEvoy. The consulting business thrived and was ultimately sold to William M. Mercer, where he stayed for 35 years until his retirement in 2009. Roger was a worldwide partner at Mercer, running various regions throughout the country as well as having global responsibilities. Having lived in various places throughout the country, he ultimately settled in New Canaan, CT.

While at Mercer, he met his wife Joanne (Potanovic/Sullivan). Joanne brought daughter Lindsay Sullivan (Gregg Scheiferstien) and an extensive Potanovic family to their marriage; all brought Roger great joy and love. During their 23 years of marriage, he and Joanne enjoyed playing golf, tennis, biking and traveling. They also enjoyed spending time with family and friends whom they loved hosting in the antique home they restored together in Connecticut.

Roger was a giver and enjoyed engaging in community. He coached church league basketball as a young man in Haddonfield and was a mentor to many of his players. While in New Canaan, he became involved with the Connecticut Special Olympics, eventually chairing their board. He was also extensively involved with the Peddie School for which he felt a deep devotion. Over the years, he chaired and served on many committees and was an active school trustee. When he and Joanne moved south to the Carolinas, Roger got involved in the local Rotary Club. Throughout his life he was also an active church member.

An avid sports participant and enthusiast, Roger played high school football, basketball, baseball and ran track. He was a highly regarded quarterback, earning the nickname "Like a Rifle." As an adult, he was often seen running 10-mile loops at a 6-minute pace and even completed a marathon. He played squash, tennis, and racquetball, but his true passion was playing golf. When not participating in a sport himself, he loved watching sports - particularly his cherished UPenn Quaker men's basketball team (a season ticket holder) and the New York Yankees. Roger was unique in being a fan of both the New York Giants and the Philadelphia Eagles. However, nothing gave him more joy than watching his grandchildren participate in sports.

Roger was a good friend and made lasting connections with so many people at every stage of life, especially his "brothers from different mothers" John Kersic, Frank Peabody, Arthur Brown, Tim Hurson and Paul McDermott. He kept close to many of his wonderful Peddie

friends throughout his life and was predeceased by his Peddie brother Dale Lashnits. Over the years, he and Joanne loved visiting, vacationing with and hosting these special friends. In retirement they made lasting connections with wonderful new friends in their SMG and Salmon Club groups.

Roger was a true dog dad and a reluctant

cat dad never wanting to be without a furry companion. All of his four-legged buddies were devoted to him and gave him as much love as he gave to them. Stevie has been his faithful companion at his side these last few years.

Roger was a wonderful father and husband and a very devoted grandfather. He worked hard to develop connections with all seven of his grandchildren, and he was their number one fan.

In addition to Joanne, Jennifer, Mark, and Lindsay, Roger is survived by his sister Marcia (Malmfeldt) and grandchildren Brittany, Pearson (Emily), Samantha, Ashleigh, Logan, Katherine, and Charlotte. He was predeceased by his parents and cherished sister Elizabeth.

A memorial service will be held on May 30 at 1:00 pm with a visitation/reception from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at Walker's Funeral Home, 11680 US Highway 15501 North, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. In lieu of flowers, gifts in Roger's memory can be made to The Peddie Fund. <https://peddie.org/give>

JOSEPH ADILETTA



Joseph Adiletta of New Canaan, CT passed away peacefully in his sleep after a full 95 years of life on April 4, at the Brookdale Wilton Assisted Living Center in Wilton.

Joseph (Joe) was born and raised in Stamford, CT and graduated from Stamford High School. He served his country honorably in the Korean War in the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment of the US Army as a paratrooper where he was severely wounded and received the Purple Heart Award. He recovered fully and despite losing one of his eyes led an active life as an avid athlete, sharing his passion for fitness with fellow members of the YMCA where he maintained a lifelong membership until age 95. He was also an active member of the New Canaan Waveny Center where he played tennis and pickleball and used the outdoor gym equipment also until age 95. His lifelong passion for handball led him to being a recognized senior's handball champion. He also coached in children's sports leagues and played basketball (Has Been Bombers).

Joe's career in accounting began with a bachelor's degree from New York University and a master's from Pace University. His career included being a Certified Public Accountant helping people with tax preparation, and handling tax management and accounting controls for various companies including Chase Bag Corporation in Greenwich, CT among others. His motto when evaluating a company or investment was "Follow the money!"

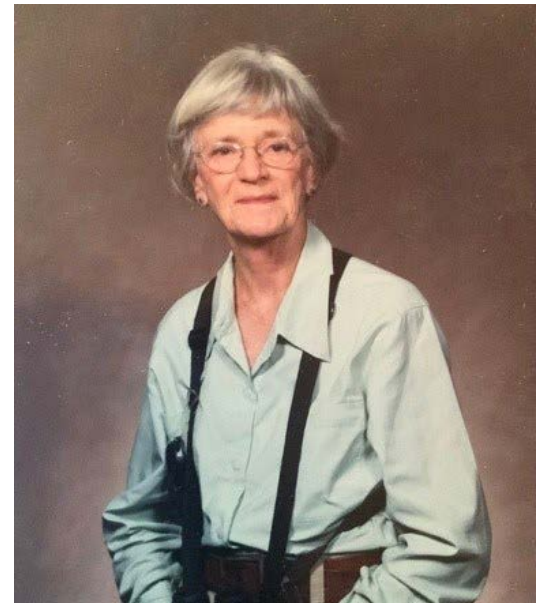
Joe was the son of Nicholas and Anna Adiletta of Stamford Connecticut and husband of Eta Adiletta who predeceased him (over 50 years ago). He is survived by his sister Adelaide Reilly in East Freetown Massachusetts, and his sons: Steve (and his wife Justine) of Houston Texas, Fr. David O.P. of New York City, and Peter (and his wife Anne Marie) of Halifax Nova Scotia. He is also survived by his five grandchildren and their families. He enjoyed their company and those of his many friends while sharing his ideals of being physically and financially fit.

A memorial service will be held at St. Aloysious Church in New Canaan CT at 10:00 am on Wednesday, April 29, 2026. Joe was a long-time member of the parish for nearly 60 years where he faithfully attended the vigil Mass each Sunday and would help with the collection. Internment of his ashes will occur at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, please considering donating to the YMCA to help other people develop their physical fitness. <https://www.ymca.org/donate/form>

The Family is being compassionately cared for by the staff at Hoyt Funeral Home, 199 Main Street, New Canaan CT 06840

EMILY NISSLEY



Emily (Sandy) A.B. Nissley (formerly McKay), 94, passed away peacefully March 31, in her home in New Canaan, CT.

Born in Pittsburgh, PA on Christmas Day, 1931, she spent most of her childhood in Wisconsin Rapids, WI, home of Consolidated Papers, Inc. which her great-grandfather and grandfather started. She prepared for college at Westover School in Middlebury, CT and received her BA in English from the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1955.

She worked for a time as a secretary in Chicago before meeting Robert McKay in Miami Beach, where both sets of parents spent the winter. They were married in 1957 and settled in New Canaan in 1960 where she raised three children; enjoyed tennis and golf as a member of the Lake Club, Country Club of New Canaan and Woodway Country Club. Sandy volunteered at the New Canaan Country School; supported the New Canaan Nature Center; sang in the choir at the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan where she also served as Deacon.

She became an avid birding enthusiast and travelled extensively to pursue that interest. Sandy was a long time board member of the New Canaan Audubon Society where she served as president from 1988 to 1989. Interested in conserving New Canaan's green space and bird habitat, she joined the board of the New Canaan Land Trust from 2013 to 2023. Even Sandy's yard and garden were specifically designed to create suitable habitat for a diversity of birds.

Sandy created the MLE foundation in 2008. With that foundation, she supported numerous educational, cultural and environmental conservation organizations, such as the International Crane Foundation, ABC House of New Canaan and University of Wisconsin.

A descendant of missionaries in Hawaii, she supported organizations such as the Mission Houses Museum in Hawaii and the Lahaina restoration efforts up until her death.

Sandy will be fondly remembered for her sharp wit, sense of humor, and of course, her insistence on proper grammar and procedure.

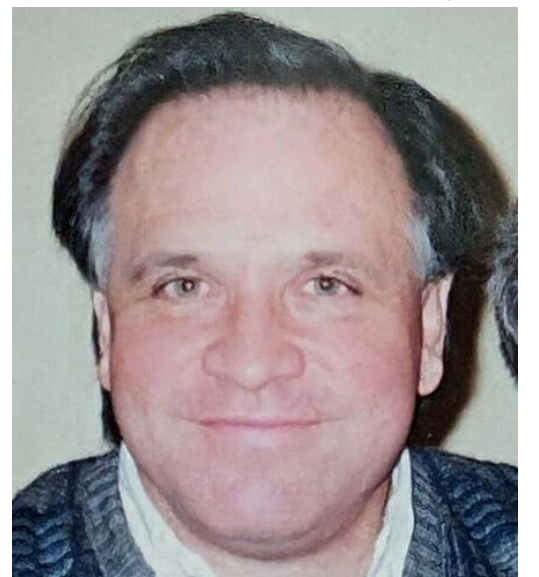
She is survived by her three children, Isabel McKay and her husband Richard Thompson of Brooks, Maine, Ruth McKay and her husband Donald Campbell of Watertown, Massachusetts, and Robert McKay and his wife Julie Zabukovec of Franksville, Wisconsin.

Many thanks to her personal assistant, Marie Creaturo, her property manager, Charlie Pascal together with his wife, Jessica, and her many nurses and aides that made Sandy's life full, safe and enjoyable.

In lieu of flowers (she preferred them alive in the earth rather than cut), donations may be sent to any of the above organizations mentioned here.

A memorial service is planned for late June.

WALTER RIDGWAY, JR.



Walter "Wes" Ridgway, Jr passed away on March 21, in Bridgeport, CT. He was the first son of Walter Stevens Ridgway II and Josephine "Jo" (Lardaro) Ridgway, born on

New Canaan Designer's Colorful Approach to Textiles



BY JULIE O'BRIEN DEASY

Like the textiles she designs, Sophie Von Oertzen Williamson herself is awash in color. On a recent sunny morning she wore a light brown pullover over a bubblegum pink skirt, accessorized with bold gold jewelry. Her talent for mixing pattern and color becomes even clearer as you step into her home, surrounded by the bright fabrics and pillows she creates.

"I love it when you walk inside of a house and you know who that person is - this is their style and this is who they are. It's more about the feeling of a home, and I really want to encourage people to look at and form their own style," Sophie noted as she welcomed guests into her office at an event to celebrate her new book, *The Art of the Clash*, published on April 14.

Though she now lives in New Canaan, Sophie spent her childhood across Europe—in Switzerland, Germany, and the UK. Her mother's approach to home design was very colorful but also tightly coordinated. Sophie has combined this love of color with her own layered and creative aesthetic into a unique textile and home design business.

The tablecloths, napkins, pillows and other soft fabric products Sophie designs are bold and colorful, with many different botanical and floral motifs. Her textiles are made in small batches and sustainably produced, and can be mixed and layered together to create your own personal and custom look. Her designs are sold at her own website, www.sophiewilliamsondesign.com, as well as at Moda Operandi and Nordstrom.

The Art of the Clash reflects her home design

aesthetic, based on her textile business but also on her experience decorating her own homes over the years. Her approach is collected and full of life, and reflects a desire to create interiors that feel warm and inviting rather than impersonal. Her designs embrace layered color, pattern, and the imperfect beauty of real homes.

The book also includes sections on the specifics of designing different rooms in the house including kitchen, dining room, living room, bedrooms, and connecting spaces. Several colorful and eclectic homes are featured, including Puddleduck Farm, the home of New Canaan resident and fellow designer Amanda Loehnis.

Living and working in New Canaan places Sophie at the intersection of classic New England design sensibilities and a contemporary, expressive aesthetic. She has begun taking on interior design clients, bringing her signature style that celebrates the interplay of color, pattern and scale. Throughout the homes she designs for her clients, she is known for mixing elements like antique furnishings alongside contemporary art, or an inherited trunk paired with a bright modern rug.

Later this month Sophie will be appearing throughout New Canaan discussing her designs and introducing her colorful aesthetic to more local residents.

On Thursday, April 23 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM, The Carriage Barn Arts Center will be hosting a book party to celebrate the publishing of *The Art of the Clash*. Sophie will be in conversation with Amanda Loehnis of Puddleduck Designs and photographer Andrea Ceraso, who photographed many of the book's interiors. They will discuss their design philosophy and ways to bring more personality to your home to create your own welcoming, expressive spaces. More information can be found at www.carriagebarn.org.

Saturday, April 25 is "Indie Bookstore Day" and Sophie will be at Elm Street Books in New Canaan signing copies of *The Art of the Clash* from 12:00 - 2:00 PM.

If there is one lesson to take from the book and Sophie's bright interiors, it's that you can live in spaces that are not just visually beautiful, but deeply personal and welcoming.

"Design your home for yourself, not for the expectations of others. Fill it with pieces you love, colors that make your heart sing, and objects that tell your story. Let it be imperfect, layered, and alive. Because in the end your home is not just a space to live - it's an extension of who you are."

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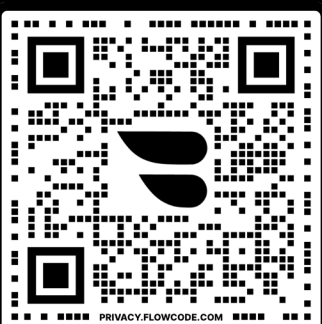
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Obituaries - continued

her birthday, December 7, 1954, in Jackson, MS. Wes is survived by his siblings, John Ridgway (Dawn), Katherine Ridgway (Arthur Pomerantz), Alice Ridgway (Kevin Noll); nephews, Jeffery Pomerantz, Jack Ridgway (Kate), and Bryant Ridgway (Hunter); and niece, Kaley Pomerantz.

After six years in Jackson, the family moved to New Canaan, where Wes played soccer and excelled academically. He scored 800 on his math SAT! Wes lived in Maine before returning to Norwalk, Westport, and Black Rock, and he enjoyed his counseling studies at University of Bridgeport.

More than anything, Wes truly loved the outdoors, particularly hiking, skiing, and sailing at Longshore Sailing School in Westport. Much of this began in Star, MS and at Camp Fuller in RI which he remembered in his final wishes. Halloween was always fun with Wes. He participated avidly in men's activities, including Comega (CT Men's Gathering) and the Hamden Men's Group. Wes was also a regular participant at the New Haven community of Co-Counseling International and, through his many activities, had a wide circle of friends who held him dear.

Wes will always be remembered for his kindness and intelligence, his attention to detail, his commitment to journaling and fitness, his love of outdoor sports and music, particularly Pat Metheny. In addition to his friends and family, his legacy lives on through many Ridgway cousins in Mississippi who loved him.

A celebration of his life will be held later in the year. Please reach out to Alice via Facebook to share stories and to help plan a great event to honor his memory.

MARY AMATULLI



Mary Elizabeth Amatulli, 78, passed away peacefully on February 19. She was born at Fort Totten in Queens, NY, to John F. Mangan and Alice M. (Leider) Mangan-Mueller. She was predeceased by her parents; and her sister, Margaret "Peggy" Doub.

She married the love of her life, Richard P. Amatulli, on December 28, 1966, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church at West Point, NY. Together they shared fifty-nine years of devoted marriage, raising three sons: Richard (Laurie) Amatulli of Danbury, CT, John Amatulli of Flat Rock, NC, and Christopher Amatulli of Scottsdale, AZ. She was a loving "Nana" to Bella, Gigi, and Ava, who brought her endless joy.

Mary came from a proud tradition of service to our nation. Her husband, father, brother, and two of her uncles were all West Point graduates. Throughout her life, she remained close with the West Point Class of 1966, treasuring those friendships and honoring the bonds forged through shared service and sacrifice.

In the late 1970s, Mary and Richard settled in New Canaan, CT, where they would make their home for forty-five years. Together, they built an oriental rug and home furnishings business, working side by side as partners in both life and livelihood. She became the family bookkeeper, managing finances for her entire life. Always one to serve the needs of others in small business, she became the administrator and bookkeeper for the Oriental Rug Retailers of America, Inc. until her passing.

A devoted Catholic, Mary found great comfort in her faith, her family, and the simple blessings of everyday life. Mary was a respected member of St. Aloysius Parish,

where she was actively involved in CCD religious education, guiding children in their faith; and will be remembered for her kindness, warmth, and unwavering love for all.

She is survived by her beloved husband; her sons and granddaughters; her sisters, Louise (Michael) Valentino and Jacqueline (Robert) Truet; her brother, John Mangan; her dear cousins from the Leider family; and her many nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Holy Trinity Catholic Church at West Point, NY, on April 28, 2026, 1:30 pm. Attendees are required to be at the Visitors Center before 1 pm to enter Thayer Gate. An escorted procession from the Visitors Center will depart at 1 pm. Following Mass, Mary will be laid to rest at West Point Cemetery. Please, RSVP for the reception by emailing: mea-memorial@pm.me

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Tunnel To Towers (t2t.org).

PAUL VADNAIS



1946 - 2026

Paul S. Vadnais, 79, died on Easter, after spending four days with his beloved granddaughters, son and daughter-in-law. "Grampy," as he was known over the past 17 years, split his time between his condo in Agawam, MA, and his son and daughter-in-law's home in New Canaan, CT.

While his death was sudden, his last day was exactly what he wanted. He went to Easter Mass in New Canaan with his oldest granddaughter. He had many helpings at Easter Brunch at his family's country club, including a caramel latte that he said was better than Dunkin Donuts. He then drove home, where he died peacefully.

Grampy was born in Springfield, MA, on December 26, 1946, to Helen and Roger Vadnais. He was the middle child. His younger sister, Nancy Vadnais, predeceased him in 1998. His older sister, Carol McMinn, survives him in Wilbraham, MA. His marriage ended in divorce in 1983, and he never remarried.

His formative years were in Wilbraham. He graduated from Cathedral High School in 1964. Initially, he worked in his father's construction business. Later he went into sales. Some of his best memories were of being a vendor at the Big E. He enjoyed the camaraderie. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves. And for the past 36 years, he was a member of Fitness First in Feeding Hills.

Grampy's best and happiest memories were with his granddaughters; Virginia, Phoebe and Astrid Sullivan. He spent half of every week with them, driving them around, making them breakfast, and being coerced into taking them for sugary treats. He was as great a grandfather as anyone could imagine. He was also a tremendous help to his son Paul Sullivan and daughter-in-law Laura Pollock. He will also be missed by his friend Genevieve Hall.

In addition to his sister and son's family, he leaves his nephews; Chuck McMinn (Kimberly) of Charlotte, NC and Roger McMinn (Kate) of Monson, MA. His niece, Nan Hee McMinn, predeceased him last year.

A Mass to celebrate his life will be held at St. Cecilia's Church, 42 Main St. in Wilbraham on Saturday, April 18, at 11am. A reception will follow in the Athenaeum at Wilbraham & Monson Academy. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation be made in his granddaughter Virginia's name to New Canaan Mounted Troop, Attn: Development Office, 22 Carter Street, New Canaan, Conn., 06840. He shared a love of horses with her.

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AARP Highlights Rising Fraud Risks, Prevention Events

Fraud remains a growing concern for Connecticut residents, with new research from AARP indicating that a significant portion of the population has either experienced scams or fears becoming a victim. According to AARP, nearly four in ten U.S. adults—about 103 million people—have already experienced fraud, while approximately 159 million are concerned about falling victim. The data also shows that 30 percent of adults identify being personally targeted as their primary fear, followed by losing money with no way to recover it and concerns about loved ones being victimized.

“Criminals are persistent, and awareness alone won’t stop them,” said Nora Duncan, AARP Connecticut State Director. “That’s why AARP is active in Connecticut communities—providing practical tools, trusted guidance, and support so people can better protect themselves and their loved ones”.

In response, AARP Connecticut is marking April as Fraud Prevention Month with a series of free in-person and virtual events aimed at educating residents about emerging threats and prevention strategies.

Among the programs is “Unmasking Modern Scams: Stopping Today’s Biggest Fraud Threats,” which will be held April 22 in East Hartford and April 23 in Stamford. The sessions will feature a Connecticut resident sharing their experience with a relationship scam that resulted in nearly \$1 million in losses, along with presentations from the head of the AARP Fraud Helpline and a representative from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

AARP officials said the events will address a range of increasingly sophisticated scams, including AI-driven impersonation schemes, cryptocurrency investment fraud, online shopping scams, and

“Criminals are persistent, and awareness alone won’t stop them,” said Nora Duncan, AARP Connecticut State Director.

relationship-based deception.

A separate virtual program, “Webinar Wednesday: Protecting

Yourself from Deception and Fraud,” is scheduled for April 29. The session will focus on identifying common scams, reviewing real-world examples such as fraudulent emails and text messages, and explaining how emerging technologies like deepfakes are contributing to the complexity of fraud schemes.

The research also highlights ongoing vulnerabilities in consumer behavior. Nine in ten Americans believe fraud can happen to anyone, yet one in six adults report responding to calls or messages from unknown contacts. Additionally, many continue to engage in online activities that may expose personal information, such as downloading free apps or participating in social media quizzes.

Digital security gaps remain a concern, including the reuse of passwords, limited use of secure networks on public Wi-Fi, and low adoption of multifactor authentication.

At the state level, Governor Ned Lamont has proclaimed April as Fraud Prevention Awareness Month in Connecticut. AARP Connecticut continues to work with lawmakers on bipartisan efforts to strengthen consumer protections, including legislation addressing the seizure of virtual currency connected to fraudulent activity.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network offers ongoing support through a helpline, educational alerts, and a national scam-tracking tool designed to help residents identify and report fraud.

Officials said the goal of the April programming is to provide residents with practical knowledge and tools to better recognize and avoid scams as threats continue to evolve.

Cheetah Conservation Leader Brings Global Effort to Connecticut



Dr. Laurie Marker, one of the world’s foremost cheetah conservationists, visited Connecticut this week as part of a nationwide effort to raise awareness about the species’ rapid decline and the global work underway to reverse it.

Marker, founder of the Cheetah Conservation Fund, has spent more than 35 years leading international efforts to protect cheetahs, whose population has fallen to fewer than 7,000 animals worldwide. Her stop at the Beardsley Zoo on April 15 was part of a 70-day U.S. tour focused on public education, conservation funding, and community engagement.

Her work traces back to 1977, when she brought a captive-born cheetah from the United States to Namibia and trained it to hunt in the wild, a breakthrough in understanding the species’ adaptability. That experience led to a permanent move to Namibia in 1990, where she established the Cheetah Research & Education Center on a 156,000-acre reserve.

The center has since expanded into a multi-faceted conservation campus that includes a genetics laboratory, veterinary clinic, and eco-tourism program. It also serves as a major employer in the region, reflecting

“With fewer than 7,000 cheetahs remaining worldwide, the urgency is clear”

Marker’s focus on linking conservation efforts with local economic stability.

In 2016, Marker broadened her work with the creation of a second facility in Somaliland, focused on rescuing cheetahs from the illegal wildlife trade. The center now houses the largest number of cheetahs in captivity globally, including animals confiscated from trafficking operations.

Marker has also played a role in the reintroduction of cheetahs to India, where the species had been extinct for more than 70 years. The program recently reached a milestone with the



birth of its 10th litter of cubs, bringing the total number of cheetahs there to 45 since reintroduction began.

Her Connecticut visit highlighted both the progress and the challenges facing the species. Conservation efforts continue to confront threats including habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, and illegal trade.

Marker’s work has consistently emphasized a combination of scientific research, community involvement, and international cooperation. Her outreach efforts aim to connect global conservation issues with local audiences, encouraging individuals

to take part in supporting wildlife protection.

The visit to Connecticut provided residents with an opportunity to hear directly from a conservation leader whose career spans nearly five decades and whose work continues to shape international strategies for species preservation.

As cheetah populations remain under pressure, Marker’s message centers on sustained attention and coordinated action, underscoring the role that public awareness plays in the long-term survival of the species.

Bruce Museum April Programs, May Gala

The Bruce Museum will present a series of public programs in April, including guided tours, film screenings, artist talks, and literary events, culminating in its annual gala scheduled for May 2.

The April schedule is in full swing. The Bruce will host artist Leonardo Drew tonight, Thursday, April 16, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. for an evening conversation. Drew, known for his large-scale installations, will speak about his work and

creative process. Admission is \$16 for members and \$20 for non-members, with free entry for students. Registration is required.

Additional programming continues on Saturday, April 18, with “Prosecco and Poetry,” scheduled from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The event, held in recognition of National Poetry Month, will include readings within the museum’s exhibitions followed by an open mic session. The program is limited

to attendees age 21 and older and includes light refreshments.

On Sunday, April 19, from 2 to 4 p.m., the Bruce Museum and the Avon Theatre will co-present a program featuring author Georgia Hunter, whose novel *We Were the Lucky Ones* has been adapted into a television series. Actors Amit Rahav and Eva Feiler will join the discussion, followed by a screening of the pilot episode. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

The museum’s spring programming will conclude with the 2026 Bruce Gala, titled “Natural Wonders,” on Saturday, May 2, from 6 to 11 p.m. The event will honor Sachiko Goodman and artist Leonardo Drew, with Sue Bodson and Funkazi Tobun serving as co-chairs. The evening will include cocktails, dinner, and dancing in support of the museum’s exhibitions and educational initiatives.

All events will take place at

the Bruce Museum, located at 1 Museum Drive in Greenwich. Registration is required for most programs, and ticket pricing varies by event.

The Bruce Museum’s April and May schedule reflects its continued focus on combining visual arts, education, and community engagement through a range of accessible public offerings.

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REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD CONTRIBUTOR

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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
323 Smith Ridge Road	\$3,195,000	SAT	2:30 - 4:30 pm	Raveis
39 Park Place	\$1,395,000	SAT & SUN	1:00 - 3:00 pm	WPSIR
160 Lantern Ridge Road	\$2,200,000	SAT & SUN	12-2 & 2:30-4:30	Raveis
533 Old Stamford Road	\$1,549,000	SAT & SUN	1-3 pm & 12-2 pm	WPSIR
16 Raymond Street	\$1,275,000	SAT & SUN	1:00 - 4:00 pm	Raveis
6 Field Crest Road	\$1,599,000	SAT & SUN	1:00 - 4:00 pm	Raveis
760 Smith Ridge Road	\$4,150,000	SAT & SUN	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Douglas Elliman
35 Danvers Lane	\$3,100,000	SUN	1:00 - 3:00 pm	WPSIR

NEW LISTINGS

Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
16 Raymond Street	\$1,275,000	1,936	\$659	.20	4	2
39 Park Place	\$1,395,000	2,393	\$583		3	2
533 Old Stamford Road	\$1,549,000	2,788	\$556	.70	5	2
6 Field Crest Road	\$1,599,000	1,674	\$955	.36	4	2
160 Lantern Ridge Road	\$2,200,000	4,367	\$504	4.13	5	5
26 Farm Road	\$2,695,000	3,876	\$695	.44	5	4
35 Danvers Lane	\$3,100,000	4,980	\$622	1.21	4	4
323 Smith Ridge Road	\$3,195,000	6,715	\$479	2.90	5	5
1218 Smith Ridge Road	\$3,549,000	7,739	\$459	4.14	6	7
760 Smith Ridge Road	\$4,150,000	6,556	\$633	5.13	4	3
1191 Oenoke Ridge	\$4,395,000	6,557	\$670	4	5	5
71 Saint Johns Place	\$4,800,000	5,688	\$844	.85	5	5

NEW SALES

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
205 Main Street Unit #33	\$1,395,000	\$1,395,000	\$1,475,000	5	3	3	
42 Sturbridge Hill Road	\$2,350,000	\$2,275,000	\$2,275,000	124	6	5	2.01
24 Clearview Lane	\$3,495,000	\$3,495,000	\$3,700,000	42	6	6	2.2
114 Ferris Hill Road	\$4,995,000	\$4,995,000	\$4,925,000	526	6	6	4.19

Real Estate Is Not a Numbers Business

Why Emotion, Not Logic, Determines What Sells and What Doesn't



BY JOHN ENGEL

We would like to believe real estate is a numbers business. But people don't make rational decisions under pressure. The outcome of almost every deal is determined by how the people involved understand and manage emotion. Emotional intelligence, not data, is the primary driver of real estate outcomes.

I've written here about the psychology of photography, staging, pricing, showing a home, and even why we choose white. I've leaned on *Thinking, Fast and Slow* and even *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus* to explain why so many factors matter more than price per foot or a Zestimate. I thought that if I could label it, I could control it, but emotional intelligence is a messy business.

What's clear is success in real estate has less to do with knowing the market, and far more to do with understanding how people think, feel, and react under pressure. My favorite book on the subject is still *Never Split the Difference*, written by Chris Voss, the hostage negotiator.

Emotional intelligence (Ei) is the ability to understand and manage your own emotions, recognize and interpret the emotions of others, and use that awareness to guide decisions and behavior. It breaks down into four parts: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management.

In real estate, Ei shows up in how people price their homes, how they react to feedback, how they behave in negotiations, and whether they create or destroy value in the process. And it's the reason agents communicate with each other differently than with clients, and why buyers typically shouldn't talk directly with sellers until late in the process. Its why love letters in mailboxes is a technique to manipulate or get an edge. Recognizing patterns helps us master them.

Self-awareness is understanding your own position, how your expectations, biases, and attachment to a property may not match how the market sees it. I wrote about this in "Price, Presentation, Time" and again in "Why We Prefer White." You see it when the market does not respond positively to a house and we interpret it as "market conditions" instead of mispricing. Self-awareness also comes through when personal taste blocks buyer connection. As agents, I believe we should be more self-aware. How do we respond to the new



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normal of super-educated consumers, some of whom actually do "know it all" from Zillow and the latest Ai tools? Is there a difference in how we treat top-producing agents as opposed to part-time and newly minted ones?

Self-management is the ability to control our reactions to feedback, to offers, to inspection issues instead of letting emotion dictate our decisions. This is true for agents and clients. Where do emotions boil over? When a buyer loses out on one house and overreacts on the next. When a seller gets a low offer and emotionally shuts down. And finally, when an inspection issue escalates instead of getting solved. Our reactions have a lot to do with people pushing our buttons, so self-management starts with self-awareness.

Social awareness is reading the market and signals, understanding how buyers are responding, what the market is signaling, and what silence or lack of interest actually means. Two weeks ago, I wrote "New York Panicked, Connecticut Shrugged" over the different reactions in two markets to the war in Iran. Columns

on how to show a house, first-weekend traffic, market timing, and "why this house sold and that one didn't" are all about reading the market, the collective mood and trends.

Reading Others is reading showings and understanding behaviors. This one isn't taught. It's a muscle that gets better the more time we spend in the market, going to open houses, talking to people and matching behavior to outcome. If you don't use it, you lose it. Sit at enough open houses, watching buyers and talking to them, and the skill grows. It's a critical skill. I wrote about this in "How to Show a Home," observing movement patterns in showings, silence vs. engagement, and lingering vs. skipping.

Relationship management is how we communicate — how we frame a price, handle a negotiation, or keep a deal moving forward instead of letting it fall apart. Sometimes it's giving your client space, while other times it's confronting a tough situation head-on, with honesty and empathy.

Helping Others is when we make use of that self-awareness and self-control to

be the best we can be, and leverage all of that experience in reading the room and others to produce a good result. Examples are when we talk clients out of bad decisions, re-frame feedback, or slow a decision down (or speed it up).

A seller prices a home based on what they need or believe, not how the market sees it. Showings are light. Feedback is vague. Instead of adjusting, they double down. That's not a pricing problem; it's a self-awareness problem.

A buyer loses one house and immediately overreacts on the next, stretching beyond where they were comfortable days earlier. That's not a strategy; it's a failure of self-management.

Walk through enough showings and the patterns are obvious. Buyers don't say much, but their behavior tells you everything; where they pause, what they skip, how quickly they want to leave. That's social awareness, whether we recognize it or not.

And then there are the deals that fall apart over small issues: tone, timing, how something was said. Same terms, different outcome. That's relationship management.

In a business where the stakes are measured in hundreds of thousands of dollars, we spend a surprising amount of time talking about data and a surprisingly small amount of time talking about behavior.

But the pattern is consistent. The sellers who can step back and see their home the way the market sees it get ahead of it. The buyers who stay disciplined under pressure make better decisions. The deals that close are the ones where emotion is managed, not ignored. The best agents don't just understand the market — they understand how to navigate the emotional minefield that comes with it.

Because the rest — the pricing missteps, the missed opportunities, the deals that fall apart — almost always trace back to the same thing.

Not the market.

The people in it.

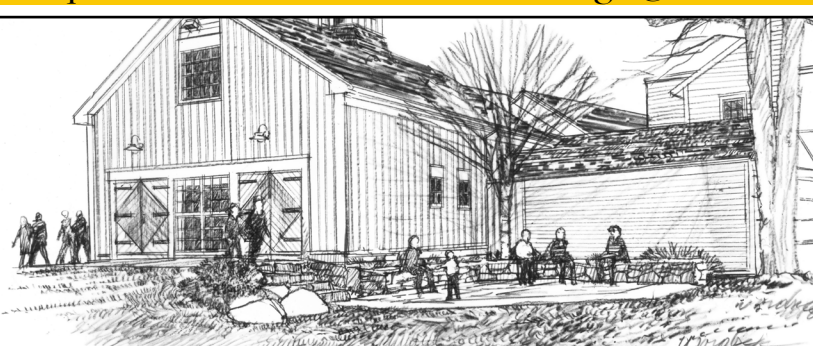
John Engel is a broker on the Engel Team at Douglas Elliman in New Canaan, and he's watching time speed up. You see it in spring plantings, here one day and gone the next. The same is true with some listings. Other periods — January and August — move more slowly, part of the collective exhale after the holidays and in the dog days of summer. But lately, between whipsaw policy shifts and AI upending daily life, it's not unreasonable to feel a little overwhelmed. Or maybe it's just John. His daughter is about to be married.

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



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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
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LAND PLANNING



New Canaan Historical Society

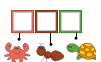


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WHAT TO DO: COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, April 16, 2026

SPOTLIGHT on FAMILIES

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

ARTEMIS II

First Crewed Test Flight to the Moon Since Apollo

ORION
NASA's Orion spacecraft is carrying humanity to the Moon. Orion will carry the crew to lunar orbit and safely return them to Earth on Artemis missions.
<https://www.nasa.gov/humans-in-space/orion-spacecraft/orion-overview/>

CREW
Learn more about the astronauts who will venture around the Moon on Artemis II, the first crewed flight aboard NASA's human deep space capabilities, paving the way for future lunar surface missions.
www.nasa.gov/feature/our-artemis-crew/

- 1 LAUNCH (04/01/26)**
Astronauts lift off from pad 39B at Kennedy Space Center.
- 2 JETTISON SOLID ROCKET BOOSTERS, FAIRINGS, AND LAUNCH ABORT SYSTEM**
- 3 CORE STAGE MAIN ENGINE CUT OFF**
With separation.
- 4 PERIGEE RAISE MANEUVER**
- 5 APOGEE RAISE BURN TO HIGH EARTH ORBIT**
Begin 23.5-hour checkout of spacecraft.
- 6 ORION SEPARATION FROM INTERIM CRYOGENIC PROPULSION STAGE (ICPS) FOLLOWED BY PROX OPS DEMO**
Plus manual handling qualities assessment for up to 2 hours.
- 7 ORION UPPER STAGE SEPARATION (USS) BURN**
Begins high Earth orbit checkout. Life support, exercise, and habitation equipment evaluations.
- 8 PERIGEE RAISE BURN**
- 9 TRANS-LUNAR INJECTION (TLI) BY ORION'S MAIN ENGINE**
Lunar free return trajectory initiated with European service module.
- 10 OUTBOUND TRANSIT TO MOON**
Outbound trajectory correction (OTC) burns as necessary for lunar free return trajectory; travel time approximately 4 days.
- 11 LUNAR FLYBY**
4,047 miles/6,513 km (mean) lunar far side flyby altitude.
- 12 TRANS-EARTH RETURN**
Return trajectory correction (RTC) burns as necessary to aim for Earth's atmosphere; travel time approximately 4 days.
- 13 CREW MODULE SEPARATION FROM SERVICE MODULE**
- 14 ENTRY INTERFACE**
Enter Earth's atmosphere.
- 15 SPLASHDOWN**
Ship recovers astronauts and capsule.

Astronauts Circle the Moon—and a Floating Jar of Nutella Steals the Show

NASA's Artemis II mission ended April 10 with a safe return to Earth, completing the first trip by astronauts around the Moon in more than 50 years—and along the way, even a jar of Nutella had its moment in space.

Four astronauts—Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen—spent about 10 days aboard NASA's Orion spacecraft after launching from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Their mission carried them more than 230,000 miles from Earth, farther than any humans have traveled in decades.

The journey is part of NASA's Artemis program, which began in the late 2010s with a clear goal: return humans to the Moon and prepare for missions to Mars. Artemis II followed an earlier uncrewed mission, Artemis I, which tested the spacecraft without astronauts on board.

This time, the crew made the trip themselves.

After launch, Orion first circled Earth while engineers checked key systems like air, navigation, and communication. Once everything was working, the spacecraft fired its engines and began a four-day trip toward the Moon.

As Orion passed behind the Moon, the astronauts briefly lost contact with Earth,

For now, Artemis II has shown that humans can once again travel deep into space—and that even on a mission more than 200,000 miles from Earth

because the Moon blocked radio signals. Inside the spacecraft, they continued working and observing the lunar surface—something no crew had done up close since the Apollo era. The spacecraft did not land. Instead, it looped around the Moon and began the journey home, using the combined gravity of the Earth and Moon to guide it back.

During one live video from inside Orion, viewers noticed something unexpected: a jar of Nutella drifting through the cabin. In the weightless environment of space, even ordinary objects float freely, and the moment quickly spread online as a reminder that space travel is both highly technical—and sometimes surprisingly funny.

The mission ended with a fast return through Earth's atmosphere at 24,000 miles an hour, followed by parachutes deploying

to slow the capsule before it splashed down in the Pacific Ocean. Recovery teams were waiting to bring the astronauts safely back home.

NASA designed Artemis II as a test, focused on making sure the Orion spacecraft can carry astronauts into deep space and return them safely. The information collected during the mission will be used to plan Artemis III, which is expected to land



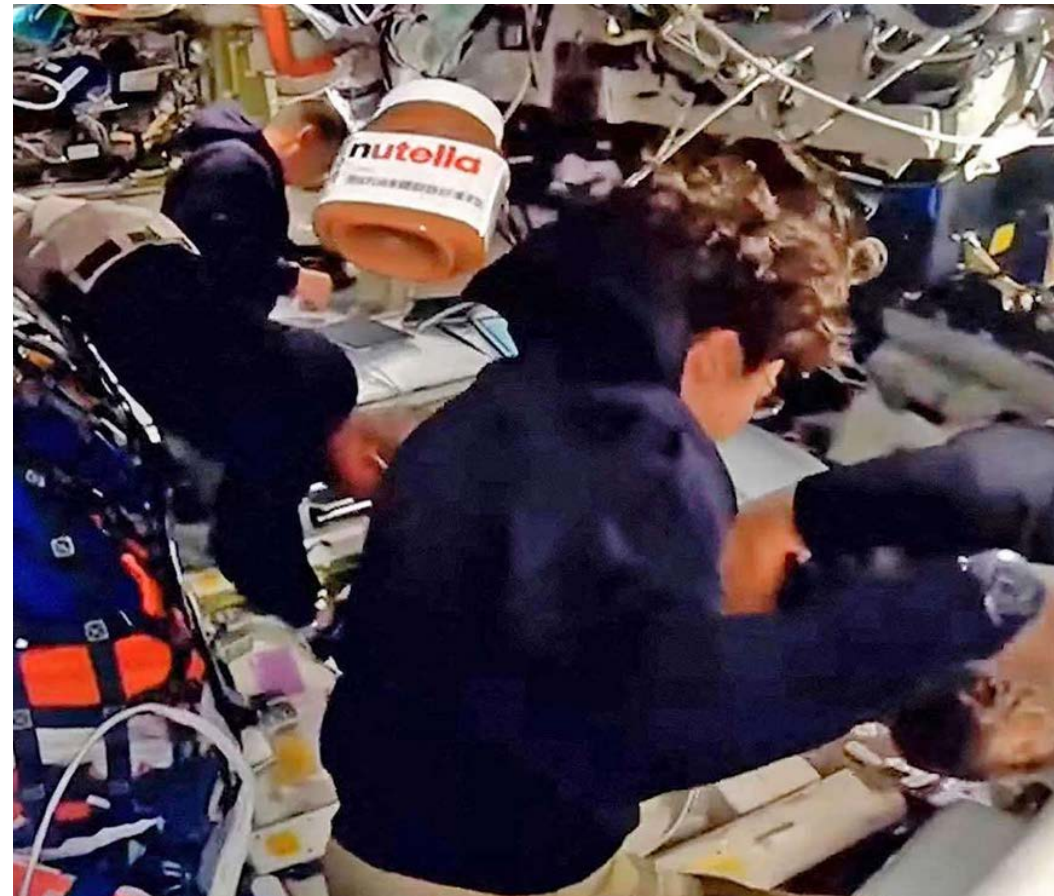
A Setting Earth

(April 6, 2026) - The lunar surface fills the frame in sharp detail, as seen during the Artemis II lunar flyby, while a distant Earth sets in the background. This image was captured at 6:41 p.m. EDT, on April 6, 2026, just three minutes before the Orion spacecraft and its crew went behind the Moon and lost contact with Earth for 40 minutes before emerging on the other side. In this image, the dark portion of Earth is experiencing nighttime, while on its day side, swirling clouds are visible over the Australia and Oceania region. In the foreground, Ohm crater shows terraced edges and a relatively flat floor marked by central peaks — formed when the surface rebounded upward during the impact that created the crater. Image Credit: NASA



Eclipse Safety First

(April 6, 2026) - The Artemis II crew - Mission Specialist Christina Koch (top left), Mission Specialist Jeremy Hansen (bottom left), Commander Reid Wiseman (bottom right), and Pilot Victor Glover (top right) - uses eclipse viewers, identical to what NASA produced for the 2023 annular eclipse and 2024 total solar eclipse, to protect their eyes at key moments during the solar eclipse they experienced during their lunar flyby. This was the first use of eclipse glasses at the Moon to safely view a solar eclipse. Image Credit: NASA



During one live video from inside Orion, viewers noticed something unexpected: a jar of Nutella drifting through the cabin.

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

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

TOWN MEETINGS

Monday, April 13

[Charter Revision Commission Special Meeting](#)
4-6 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, April 14

[Pension Committee](#)
11 a.m.- 12 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room

[Charter Revision Commission Public Hearing & Regular Meeting](#)
5-7 p.m., Town Hall

[Fire Commission](#)
5-6 p.m., Town Hall

[Town Council](#)
7-8 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room

Wednesday, April 15

[Housing Authority of New Canaan](#)
5:30-6:30 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

[Police Commission](#)
6-7 p.m., Police Headquarters

[Parks and Recreation Commission](#)
7-8 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

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>.

Saturday, April 11

Nature Workshop | Berry Fruit Gardening
 11 AM at Grace Farms
 Get inspired by the new, berry plantings in the garden and learn the basics of growing these fruits at home. Understand the process from start to finish, beginning with plant choice, garden preparation and management, all the way to harvesting and preservation. Tickets are \$16/members, \$20/non-members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/nature-workshops-berry-fruit-gardening>.

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

Spring Early Morning Walks with Frank Gallo
 8:30-10 AM at the New Canaan Nature Center
 Meet Senior Naturalist Frank Gallo for bird walks. You'll be keeping track of and learning about the birds you see as the NCNC generates a database and new bird lists for Bristow Sanctuary and NCNC. Binoculars are available if needed. Free. Register at <https://newcanaannature.org/adult-birding/>.

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/aJ4I4>.

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.

Why Less Means More When Raising Confident Kids
 9:30 AM at the New Canaan Library
 This interactive session with Dr. Kelly Foran Tuller will help you rethink how “doing less” can actually help your child grow more. Register at <https://newcanaancares.org/raising-curious-kids-2-2/>.

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

Spring Early Morning Walks with Frank Gallo
 8:30-10 AM at the New Canaan Nature Center
 Meet Senior Naturalist Frank Gallo for bird walks. You'll be keeping track of and learning about the birds you see as the NCNC generates a database and new bird lists for Bristow Sanctuary and NCNC. Binoculars are available if needed. Free. Register at <https://newcanaannature.org/adult-birding/>.

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.

Earth Day Story Walk

4 PM at Still Pond Preserve
 Join Miss Marie for an afternoon in nature to celebrate Earth Day and this beautiful time of the year. Start with a short nature walk and scavenger hunt then join Children's Librarian Miss Marie will read Earth Day stories and songs. Appropriate for ages 2 and up. Free. Register at <https://newcanaanlandtrust.org/events/earth-day-story-walk/>.

Thursday, April 23

CARES Adventures in Learning: Summer Strategies for Kids
 9:30 AM in the Saxe Library
 Join Kate Wingate and get practical tools to boost executive function skills and create a balanced, productive summer plan for your child. Register at <https://newcanaancares.org/raising-curious-kids-2-2-2/>.

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/>.

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 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>.

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/>.

Saturday, April 25

Last Saturdays on the Trail: Wings & Wonders
 9 AM at Bristow Bird Sanctuary
 BYO Binoculars to spot peak migration activity! Look for bright breeding plumage and listen for high levels of birdsong, notice early blooming flora. Register at <https://shorturl.at/F4Lek>.

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

Passive Cooling Revisited: Window Awnings as a Climate Strategy for Historic Buildings
 5-7 PM at the Onera Foundation, 63 Park Street
 Join for a presentation by preservation research fellow Anne Maxwell Foster. More information and tickets are available at <https://www.onerafoundation.org/events>.

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.

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

Study Tour | Glass House + Marcel Breuer House
1 PM at the Glass House
Visit two important examples of mid-century residential architecture on a half-day study tour of the Glass House and the Marcel Breuer House. Tickets are \$100 and available at <https://theglasshouse.org/whats-on/glass-house-marcel-breuer-house/>.

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.

Tuesday, May 5
Dance On The Green: Classic Variations by NEAD Students
4:30 PM at the New Canaan

Library, Merrill Event Lawn
The students of New England Academy of Dance have been working diligently to prepare for the Youth American Grand Prix competition. Bring your own chair or blanket. Register at <https://shorturl.at/DKQDp>.

Wednesday, May 6
Let's Take a Trip to Spain with Marc Wollin
1 PM at the Lapham Center
Join for a tour of Spain and experience its culture and history with breathtaking photos of Moorish, Gothic and Gaudi architecture and stunning natural landscapes. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Trivia Night with Host Mike Bacon
5-7 PM at the Lapham Center
Test your knowledge and have some fun, you might event 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
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.

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
Spring Early Morning Walks with Frank Gallo
8:30-10 AM at the New Canaan Nature Center
Meet Senior Naturalist Frank Gallo for bird walks. You'll be keeping track of and learning about the birds you see as the NCNC generates a database and new bird lists for Bristow Sanctuary and NCNC. Binoculars are available if needed. Free. Register at <https://newcanaannature.org/adult-birding/>.

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
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.

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/>.

Saturday, May 16
ABC's Yacht Rock Bash
6:30-10:30 PM at the Country Club of New Canaan
The event will feature cocktails, a seated dinner, live auction, and more. Table and sponsorships are now available at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/Nev/>.

Wednesday, May 20
Spring Early Morning Walks with Frank Gallo
8:30-10 AM at the New Canaan Nature Center
Meet Senior Naturalist Frank Gallo for bird walks. You'll be keeping track of and learning about the birds you see as the NCNC generates a database and new bird lists for Bristow Sanctuary and NCNC. Binoculars are available if needed. Free. Register at <https://newcanaannature.org/adult-birding/>.

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.

Wednesday, May 27
Learning From Columbus
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Columbus, Indiana is one of the most architecturally significant small cities in the world, and a model for other modernist communities like New Canaan to consider. Learn how for seventy years, Columbus has proved that design excellence is not a matter of taste, but a civic discipline. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-glass-house-presents-196972>.

Saturday, May 30
Historic Grainger House + Peony Garden Tour
1 & 2:30 PM with parking at West School, 769 Ponus Ridge Road
The Glass House will, for the first time, open the 1783 Grainger House and its celebrated peony and iris garden for public tours. The house sits on one of New Canaan's earliest registered land parcels and was originally known as the Finch House, named for the early New Canaan family who farmed the land. Tickets are \$20 and available at <https://theglasshouse.org/whats-on/historic-grainger-house-peony-garden-tour/>.

Saturday, June 6
The Summer Party
12-4 PM at the Glass House
The Glass House Summer Party is a gathering for individuals across art, architecture, design, fashion, philanthropy, and more. Guests explore the iconic grounds while enjoying curated food and drink, live performance, and a silent auction of contemporary art and distinctive experiences. Proceeds support the preservation and programming of this Modernist landmark. Tickets are available at <https://theglasshouse.org/whats-on/the-summer-party-2026/>.

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
Monday, April 13
St Francis of Assisi Church Hall

35 Norfield Rd
Weston, CT 06883
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Tuesday, April 14
Stamford Church of Christ
1264 High Ridge Road
Stamford, CT 06903
8:00 AM - 1:30 PM

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

Thursday, April 16
Wilton Library
137 Old Ridgefield Rd.
Wilton, CT 06897
1:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Support Services & Meetings

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>.

Friday, May 15
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/EuNig>.

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>.

Calendar Highlights




MASTER ORGAN RECITAL:
From Paris: renowned international concert organist,
Frédéric Blanc

A tribute to Maurice Durufle in the 40th year since his death: music of Durufle, Tournemire, Franck, Grunenwald, Vierne, and improvisations.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026, 5PM
 A reception follows the recital.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 111 Oenoke Ridge,
 New Canaan, CT 06840




New Canaan Chamber Music
 Andrew Armstrong, Artistic Director

Clarinet Meets Classical Accordion!



Yoonah Kim, clarinet



Ryan Corbett, accordion



Andrew Armstrong, piano

Thursday, April 16 at 3:00 PM
Friday, April 17 at 7:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan



Tickets at newcanaanchambermusic.org

POWERHOUSE THEATRE IN WAVENY PARK


A PSYCHOLOGICALLY IMMERSIVE PLAY THAT QUESTIONS WHAT'S REAL - AND HOW THAT MAKES YOU FEEL?

THE TOWN PLAYERS OF NEW CANAAN'S PRODUCTION OF...

THE FATHER
a tragic farce

★★★★★

MOLIÈRE AWARD WINNER BEST PLAY 2014



APRIL 24 - MAY 10

TPNC.ORG

Sponsored in part by: NCIRC, FRANCOS, Bankwell, @Mutchinson, ENGEL, CHEVROLET, MANFREDI, c7humanities, WMNR, Rotary, Club of New Canaan, NEW CANAAN CHAMBER MUSIC FOUNDATION.



Get Some Spring In Your Step At FPCNC!

4 APR	2:00 PM	New Covenant Center
12 APR	11:30 AM	Adult Forum Daniel DeLoma (Waveny/Hospice)
16 APR	3:00 PM	New Canaan Chamber Music Concert
17 APR	7:00 PM	New Canaan Chamber Music Concert
19 APR	11:30 AM	Adult Forum Gina Blum (Staying Put In New Canaan)
24 APR	7:30 PM	Charis Chamber Voices Concert
2 MAY	2:00 PM	New Covenant Center
3 MAY	10:00 AM	Scottish Heritage Sunday
10 MAY	3:00 PM	Orchestra Lumos Concert

Please Plan to Join Us for Some or All of These Events!

178 Oenoke Ridge
 Sunday Worship/Sunday School – 10am
 Visit fpcnc.org or call us at 203-966-0002 ext 1

Sudoku for Kids

2		4	
	4		2
		2	
4	2	3	

1		4	
4		1	
	4		1
3		2	

2		3	
1		2	
3			2
	2	1	

	3	1	
	4		2
	2	4	1
4			

SUDOKU

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

Easy

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

Hard

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

Very Hard

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

Easy

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

Hard

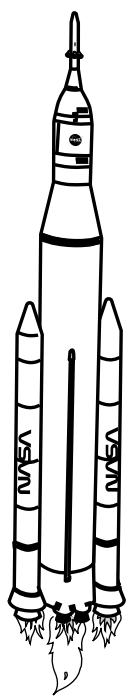
		9	6			2		1
					3		9	
			8	2				
	1			4	6	7	2	
4	2	7	5				3	
			7	6				
	6		4					
3		8			1	5		

Very Hard

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

Artemis Word Search

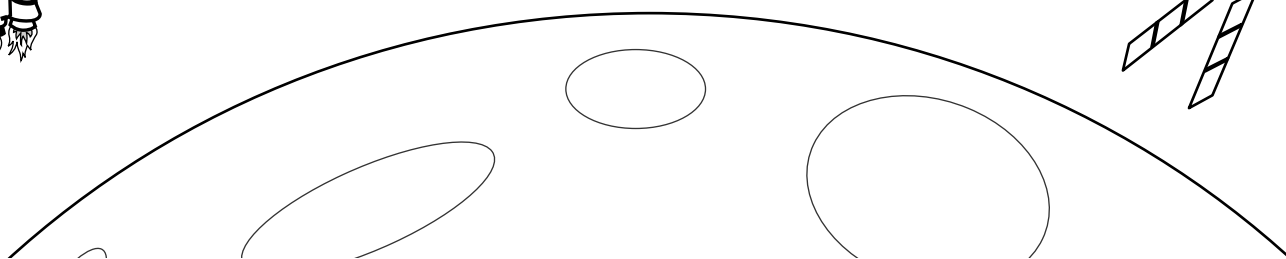
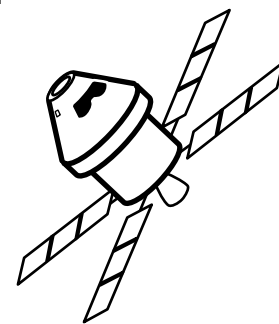
L W Y D E W E R C N U L N B C X
 O R B I T N N N G P V O R I O N
 M F S T W N O I S S I M N N U C
 S L Y C O U N T D O W N O H O N
 B C U B E S A T F U I X I Z S O
 L P J O C G R R N T Q R T C N I
 A R G E A T J W E S L S A Q W T
 U N E E T U H C A R A P I S O A
 N E N E J T H X L B F Q D C D R
 C C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



CARGO
 COUNTDOWN
 CUBESAT
 ENGINEER
 EXPLORATION
 JETTISON
 LAUNCH

MISSION
 MOON
 ORBIT
 ORION
 PARACHUTE
 PAYLOAD
 RADIATION

SCIENTIST
 SLS
 SPLASHDOWN
 TECHNOLOGY
 UNCREWED



Sudoku answers

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

Bottom row - Very Hard

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

Bottom row - Hard

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

Bottom row - Easy

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

Top row - Very Hard

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

Top row - Hard

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

Top row - Easy

Universal Crossword

Edited by Jared Goudsmit

ACROSS

- 1 2012 Best Picture winner
- 5 Oreo "stuff"
- 10 "___ right up, folks!"
- 14 Time for a Wild West duel
- 15 Placed a curse on
- 16 "Othello" villain who says, "I am not what I am"
- 17 Apt letters missing from "b___m that s___oth___s"
- 18 Say "fish 'n' chips," e.g.
- 19 It has a waxing gibbous phase
- 20 Beetles have six
- 21 Belong
- 22 Teeny
- 23 Messi, to fans
- 25 Poet laureate Limon
- 26 Pub brew
- 27 Word after "mic" or "reality"
- 29 Spammy commenter
- 30 Holiest city in Islam
- 33 "Orange Crush" band
- 34 Bars that might have spittoons
- 37 That fellow's
- 38 The ___ Tour (2023 Taylor Swift event)

DOWN

- 40 Knott's ___ Farm (theme park)
- 41 Envy and greed
- 42 Annoying ads online
- 44 State of hypnosis
- 46 Nail polish brand
- 47 @ @ @
- 50 Fort Knox block
- 51 Rip to pieces
- 54 "This is the way" speaker
- 56 Poke with a toothpick
- 58 "___ Damn Time" (Lizzo song)
- 59 "That cracks me up!"
- 62 Fidgety hands at the poker table, for example
- 63 Almonds, e.g.
- 64 "So true!"
- 65 Ivy where Meryl Streep got her MFA
- 66 Smart-alecky
- 67 Watch over

DOWN

- 9 Biblical paradise
- 10 "Float like a butterfly" or "sting like a bee"
- 11 *This is the "way" text
- 12 Narcissists have big ones
- 13 "My Little ___"
- 24 Green-lights
- 26 Morning hrs.
- 27 Thin pancake that's similar to a banh xeo
- 28 Brave-sounding sandwiches
- 31 Ocho - tres
- 32 Liability's opposite
- 35 Muscles worked in dead bug exercises
- 36 Spelling Bee puzzle publisher: Abbr.

DOWN

- 39 Satisfactory
- 41 Christmas cap
- 43 End of a hammer
- 45 "Disturbia" singer, to fans
- 47 Qatar's peninsula
- 48 Owl's claws
- 49 Parts of watering cans
- 52 "Vice" actress Amy
- 53 ___-craftsy
- 54 Shopping spot
- 55 "What's in a ___?"
- 56 Pigpen
- 57 Gyokuro or Earl Grey
- 60 Female turkey
- 61 Cloak-___-dagger

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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7/26

Every Which Way by Hanh Huynh

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

Horoscopes

Horoscope: April 16 - April 23, 2026

The Sun's final days in Aries bring urgency and a desire to finish what has been started, but a shift in tone is on the horizon. As the Sun moves into Taurus on April 19, the pace slows and attention turns to stability, security, and practical results. What began as impulse now demands follow-through. This is a week to steady your course, trust your instincts, and focus on what will last rather than what excites in the moment.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

As your birthday season comes to a close, you may feel pressure to act quickly—but don't rush decisions that need more thought. A calmer approach will serve you better than a bold one now.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

With the Sun entering your sign, your confidence begins to grow. Others will look to you for direction, even if they don't say so openly. Take your time and move at a pace that feels natural.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Something happening behind the scenes may soon come to light. Don't jump to conclusions—wait until you have all the facts. Patience now could save you from unnecessary worry.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Friends and colleagues may expect more from you than usual. Choose carefully where you give your time and energy. You don't have to say yes to every request.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Career matters may demand your attention. A situation could arise that requires quick thinking, but don't let pressure push you into a decision you're not comfortable with.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

A change of perspective could alter how you

see a current situation. Keep an open mind, especially when dealing with someone whose views differ from your own.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

Financial or shared matters may need a second look. If something doesn't add up, trust your instincts and ask questions. Clarity will come from careful attention to detail.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Relationships take center stage. Someone close may challenge your thinking, but that doesn't mean they are wrong. Listen carefully—you may learn something useful.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Daily routines may feel unsettled, but this is your chance to improve them. Small changes now can lead to greater efficiency and less stress in the weeks ahead.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Creative or personal pursuits may bring unexpected satisfaction. Don't dismiss opportunities just because they seem different from your usual path. Exploration leads to growth.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Home and family matters may require your attention. Stay calm and practical, even if others become emotional. Your steady approach helps keep things under control.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

Communication is key this week. If something has been left unsaid, now is the time to address it. Speak clearly and avoid misunderstandings by keeping things simple.

Thought for the Week:

Not everything needs to happen at once. What lasts is built slowly, with care and attention.

Family Time Crossword

The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1. (K) Old-style record player
- 5. (K) Narrow opening
- 8. Try to persuade
- 12. (K) Reason to say, "What's that smell?"
- 13. (K) Everything
- 14. Las Vegas light
- 15. (K) Within reach
- 16. (K) Old Glory's place
- 17. (K) Hallmark product
- 18. (K) Optical toy in a tube
- 21. Layer of tissue paper
- 22. ___-o'-shanter
- 23. (K) Soft-serve, two-toned ice cream
- 26. Flying cost
- 30. Saucy high rating? (2 words)
- 31. (K) Part of a circle

DOWN

- 32. (K) Has debt
- 33. Television cabinet
- 35. Went at a snail's pace
- 36. Actor Mineo of "Rebel Without a Cause"
- 37. (K) Have a handful of pistachios
- 38. (K) First two words of 16-Across
- 44. (K) It'll open doors for you
- 45. (K) Mustangs go nowhere without it
- 46. (K) Rowed vessel
- 47. K-pop celebrity
- 48. Metal core?
- 49. Colorful parrot of Australia
- 50. (K) Not a single one
- 51. (K) Midnight to midnight period

DOWN

- 52. (K) "Do it now or ___ I'll do it"
- 1. Hit the horn
- 2. Comic book's lightbulb
- 3. (K) Mare's offspring
- 4. Impossible to control
- 5. Tastelessly showy
- 6. (K) In addition
- 7. (K) Material for water bottles
- 8. (K) Like a very hard bench
- 9. Use a sickle in a field
- 10. Former vice president Al
- 11. (K) Conclude
- 19. (K) Requiring a doctor
- 20. (K) Elevator compartment
- 23. Cul-de-___
- 24. Seek to win one's affections

DOWN

- 25. Motel's smaller relative
- 26. (K) "How ___ you fitting in?"
- 27. Astonishment
- 28. Salesperson, for short
- 29. (K) Extreme suffix
- 31. Asserted without proof
- 34. (K) Breakfast cereal grain
- 35. (K) Furry bird-watcher
- 37. (K) Writing assignment
- 38. (K) Ctrl + Z, in Word
- 39. (K) 12, on a clock
- 40. Survey findings
- 41. (K) Something found in a shed
- 42. (K) Organs with drums
- 43. Eyelid annoyance
- 44. Blood relatives

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

When to do light work?

Look for the answer in next week's paper.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

Previous riddle answer:

Scrambled word? 54-A) EGG

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

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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 digging around (9)
- 2 habits handed down (10)
- 3 following a mentor, perhaps (9)
- 4 Statue of Liberty donor (6)
- 5 predicting future events (11)
- 6 "bite" taken by a golf club (5)
- 7 cowboy's contest (5)

SOLUTIONS

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

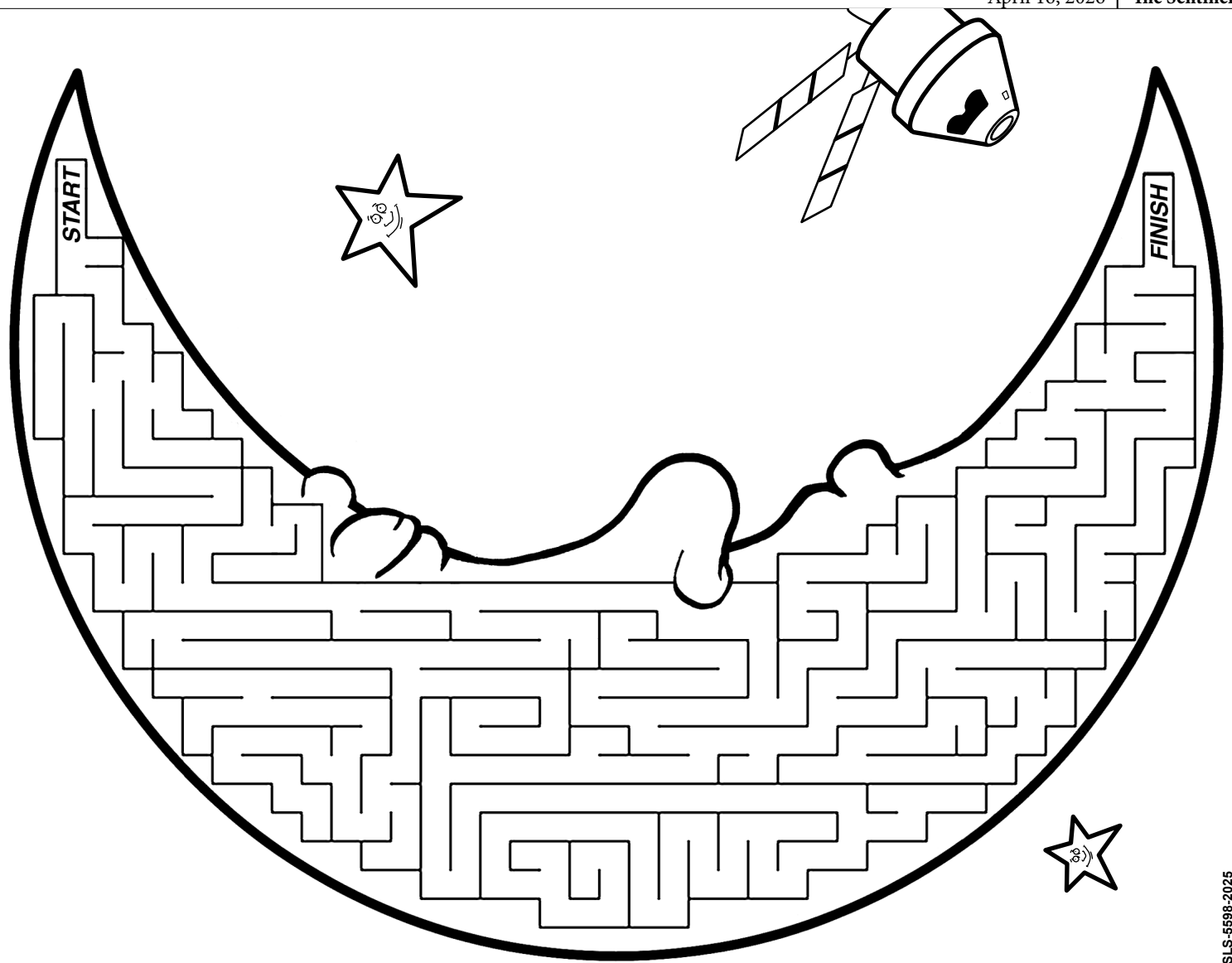
RCH	SEA	TRA	SHA	IO
DIT	DOW	STI	DI	NCE
ROD	VOT	ING	ING	FOR
EO	ECA	NG	FRA	NS

Previous Answers: 1. DURABLE 2. WOOLY 3. WHITNEY 4. SANDLER 5. FLUID 6. MUSHIEST 7. SUNFLOWER

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Moon Maze!

Help the SLS (Space Launch System) rocket find the Orion Spacecraft.



SLS-5598-2025

COLUMN | WILDLY SUCCESSFUL: WATER BEAR

Tough Tardigrade Can Survive Even in Space



By JIM KNOX

I first learned about Water Bears from my eighth grade biology teacher, Mr. Emrich. A kind man and exceptional educator rivaling any of my professors, he alerted our eighth grade minds to the breadth of the living world, with all of its less charismatic and well known inhabitants. Like most of my classmates, I was intrigued by the name, Water Bear.

Conjuring images of aquatic mammals, Water Bears (aka Moss Piglets) are neither mammalian, nor entirely aquatic. Although known for their preference for aquatic environments (either freshwater or saltwater), they abound in forest, tundra and even desert habitats worldwide. These tiny creatures, properly known as tardigrades, top out at 1 millimeter in length—the width of a pencil line, and represent a diverse group. To date, more than 1,200 species have been documented in their phylum, with each one more astounding than the last.

Discovered in 1773 by biologist, Johann Goeze, these micro beasts do indeed resemble the basic form of a bear. With robust, eight-legged, segmented bodies and claws on the ends of their legs, these plump, oddly cute little creatures roam their world searching for organic matter on which to feed. Extending their telescoping mouthparts outward, they latch onto food with sharp stylets (toothlike structures) to suck juices from moss, algae and lichens. While the vast majority of Water Bears are herbivores, some are opportunistic omnivores, like their namesake. Adopting a very bruin-like strategy, a select few are downright carnivores—even



A microscopic view of a tardigrade, commonly known as a “water bear,” shown moving through a moist, moss-like environment. The organism’s segmented, barrel-shaped body is covered in soft, wrinkled cuticle, with four pairs of stubby legs ending in curved claws used for gripping surfaces. Its rounded head tapers to a small, tubular mouthpart adapted for piercing plant cells or microorganisms. Suspended particles in the surrounding fluid suggest a hydrated habitat, essential for the tardigrade’s active state. Tardigrades are extremophiles capable of surviving desiccation, freezing, radiation, and even the vacuum of space by entering a cryptobiotic state in which metabolic activity nearly ceases.

Tardigrades can withstand: temperatures of 303 degrees Fahrenheit, atmospheric pressure six times greater than that at the bottom of the Mariana Trench, freezing solid at -458 degrees Fahrenheit, living in the vacuum of outer space for 10 days

resorting to cannibalism.

To say tardigrades are survivors would be like saying Michael Jordan is a decent basketball player. The more we study them, the more we learn about tardigrade biology and physiology, and it is quite impressive. Called, “The World’s Toughest Creatures” by microbiologists and “Virtually Indestructible” by legions of other scientists, they have earned these titles with each eight-legged step of their journey. And this journey is quite some trek through time. Tardigrades have been swimming, crawling and lumbering through our plan-

et’s micro habitats for the past 600 million years. The dinosaurs, by contrast, came on the scene a mere 230 million years ago.

For species to survive for six million years is significant. For them to survive 600 million years puts them in another echelon altogether. You don’t get to the animal kingdom’s hall of fame by accident. Tardigrades outlast the competition through employing astounding physical and behavioral adaptations which define them as extremophiles or extreme organisms. They’re among the first life forms to pioneer lava fields, they fre-

quently swim within scalding geothermal hot springs, and they are the only species known to survive in outer space! Even among extremophiles, they sit at the top of the heap.

When drought or extreme cold hits, they pull their legs in, retract their heads, retreat into a ball-like capsule known as a tun, and secrete a protective, anti-desiccant coating. In this form, tardigrades also secrete a sugary gel known as Trehalose to protect their vital organs and reduce their metabolic functions one hundred fold. In this death-like state known as cryptobi-

osis, tardigrades can survive in suspended animation for at least 30 years. Amazingly, they even produce a protein to protect their DNA from exposure to radiation!

Impervious to lethal conditions for nearly all other organisms, their physiological traits read like those of a graphic novel superhero. Tardigrades can withstand: temperatures of 303 degrees Fahrenheit, atmospheric pressure six times greater than that at the bottom of the Mariana Trench, freezing solid at -458 degrees Fahrenheit, living in the vacuum of outer space for 10 days, and bombardment by cos-

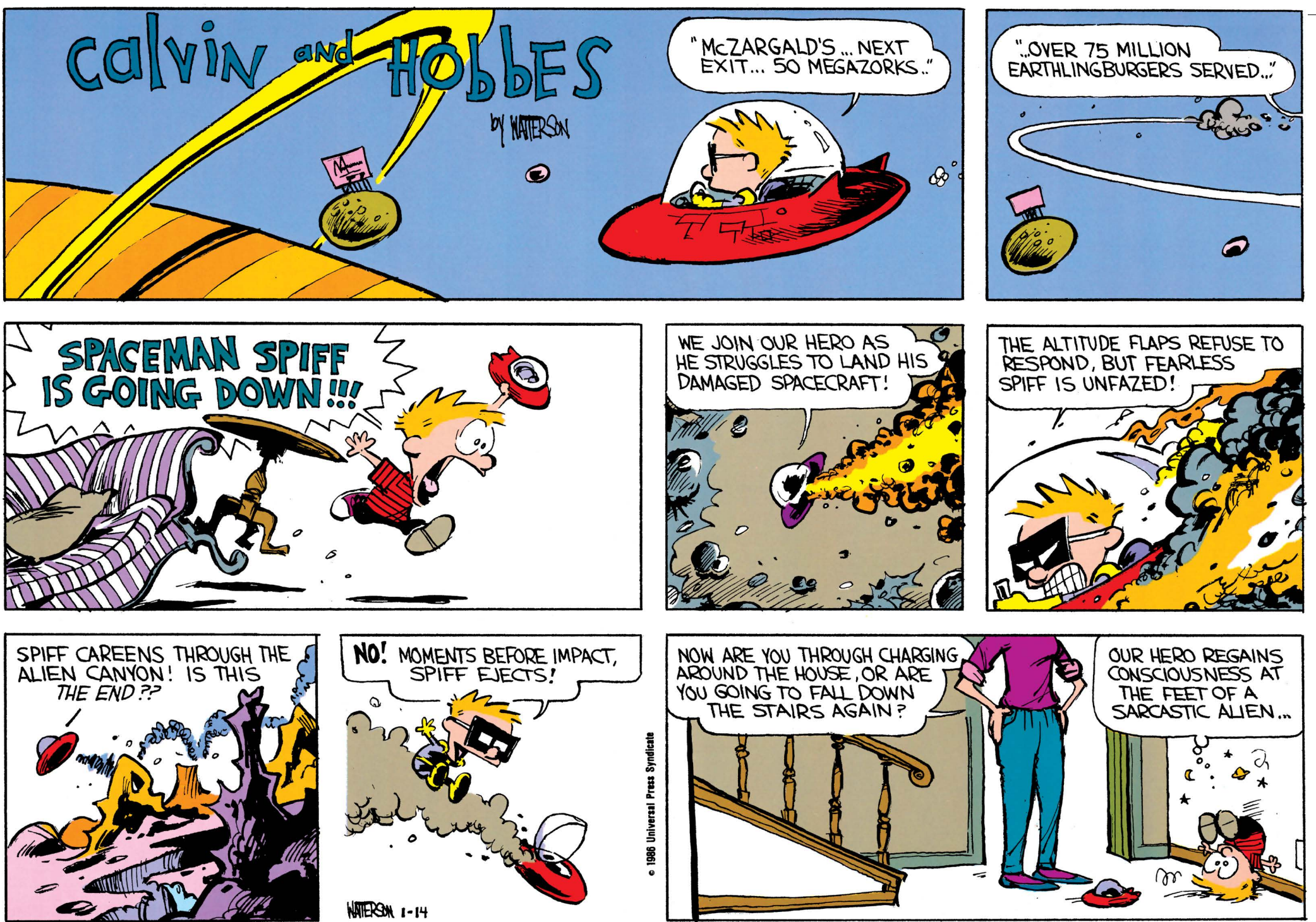
mic radiation...and I thought Superman was impressive...

Their seeming invincibility even carries over into their reproductive strategies. Tardigrades reproduce sexually—with females laying eggs and males fertilizing them—until they don’t. That is to say, when males are scarce or absent, females reproduce asexually. Through a process known as parthenogenesis, they lay eggs which hatch without fertilization. Either type of reproduction yields up to 30 Water Bear offspring per female.

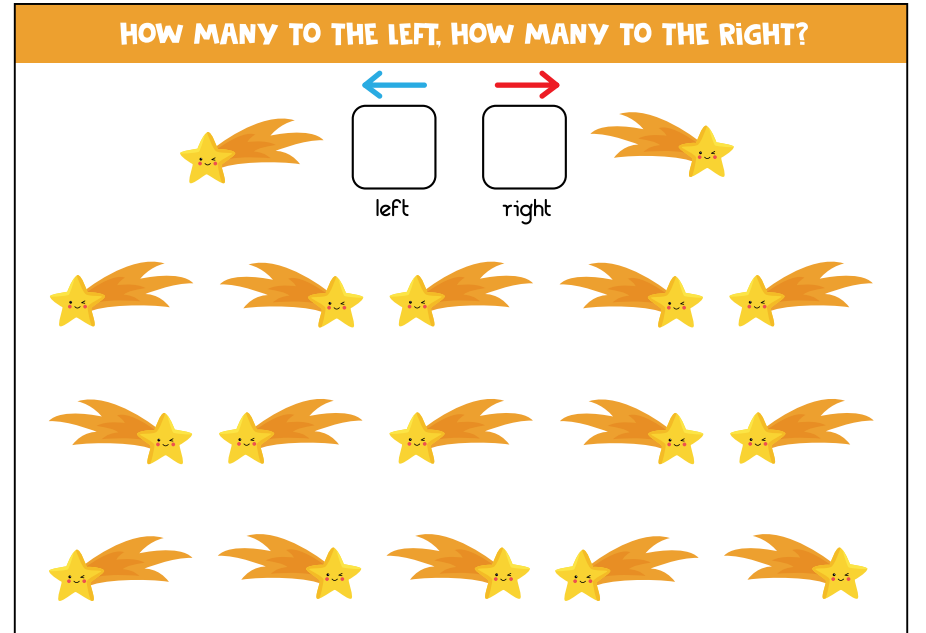
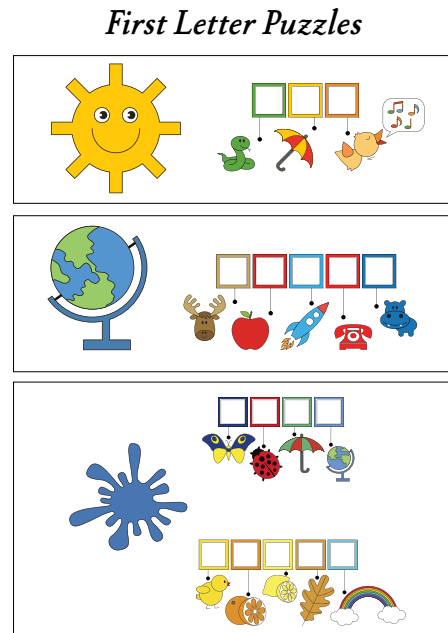
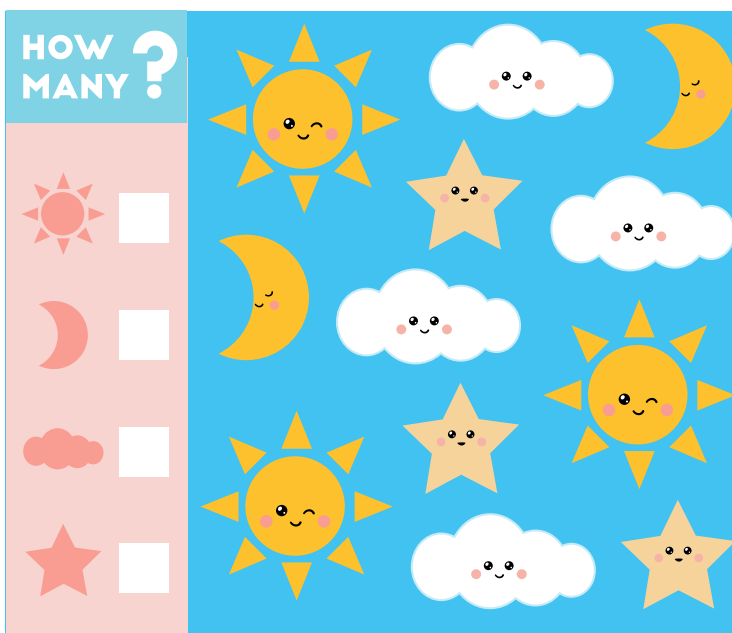
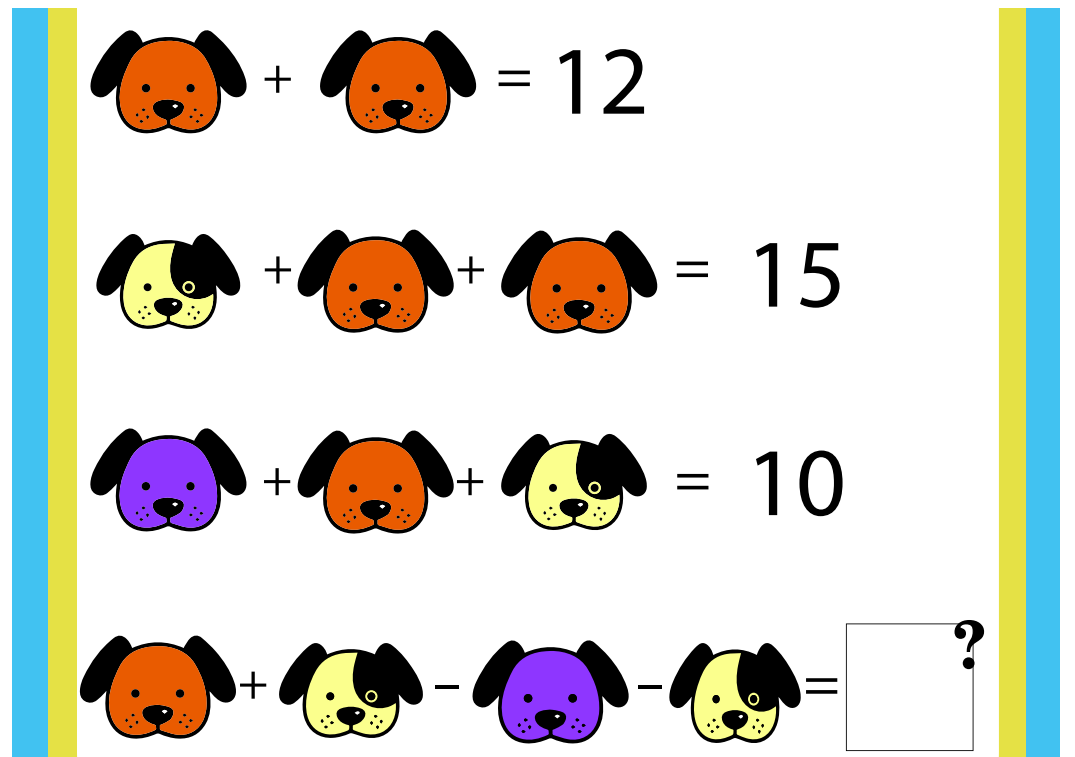
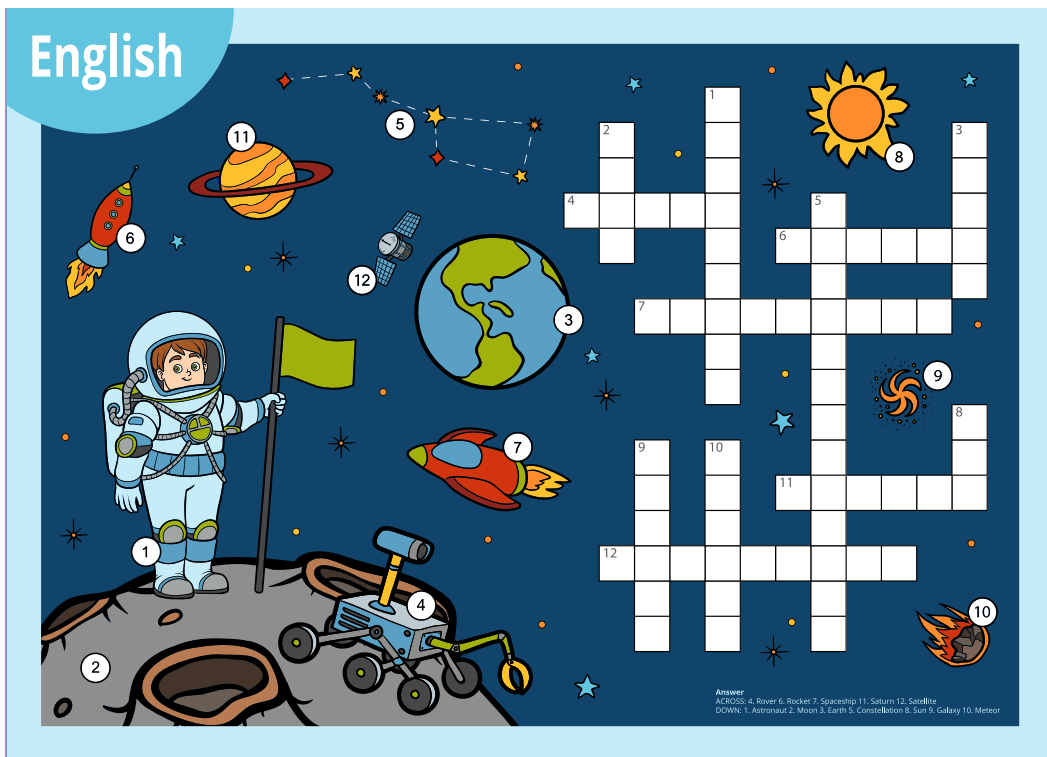
Their nearly incomprehensible abilities astound us, yet Water Bears are more than a superbly adapted organism. They serve as models for both inspiration and replication. Water Bears have survived unscathed through the five greatest extinction events the planet has known. They have so much they can teach us. We have an opportunity to study them, learn from them, and apply those lessons.

As we contend with the daunting natural challenges of the 21st century, I find myself wishing for a “tech” hidden in nature that holds the promise of addressing—and even solving—some of these seemingly unassailable problems. If only there was a species which held the answers to: surviving extreme heat and cold, enduring decade-long droughts and colonizing new habitats. Enter the Water Bear—nature’s “super tech”. Our planet’s biggest, boldest and fiercest have adorned our flags, coats of arms, and family crests for centuries. Yet there is one minuscule beast which does what all others cannot. It may be that the answers to the colossal issues of the present, reside in the tiniest of creatures from the past.

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 wild creatures and for sharing that passion with audiences of all ages.



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The Journey Around the Moon

Maya had always loved looking up at the night sky. Every evening, she would stand outside her house and search for the Moon. Sometimes it was a thin crescent. Other nights it was bright and full, lighting up the whole yard.

One night, her father pointed up and said, "People are going back there."

"To the Moon?" Maya asked.

"Yes," he said. "It's called the Artemis mission."

Maya imagined what that would be like. She pictured a rocket rising into the sky, louder than thunder, carrying astronauts far beyond Earth.

A few weeks later, Maya's class learned about Artemis II. Their teacher explained that four astronauts would travel in a spacecraft called Orion. They would not land on the Moon, but they would fly around it and come home.

Maya raised her hand. "Why don't they land?"

"Because this mission is a test," her teacher said. "The astronauts are making sure the spacecraft works safely before future missions land on the Moon."

Maya thought about that. It made sense. Before doing something big, you have to practice.

The class watched a video of a rocket launch. Flames burst from the bottom as the rocket lifted into the sky. The ground shook. The sky filled with smoke.

"That rocket is called the Space Launch System," the teacher said. "It's powerful enough to send astronauts far beyond Earth."

Maya imagined sitting inside Orion as the rocket launched. She could almost feel the rumble.

Her teacher continued. "After launch, the astronauts will orbit Earth first. They will check their systems, like air, water, and communication, to make sure everything works."

"So they don't go straight to the Moon?" Maya asked.

"No," the teacher said. "They test everything close to

home first."

Maya liked that idea. It felt careful and smart.

Then came the most exciting part. The teacher showed a diagram of Orion traveling to the Moon. The spacecraft would fly around the far side, where no human had been in more than 50 years.

"The astronauts will travel thousands of miles beyond the Moon," the teacher said. "They will see the Moon up close, and Earth far away in the distance."

Maya imagined looking out the window of Orion. The Moon would look huge, like a gray world covered in craters. Earth would look small and blue, floating in the darkness.

"Will they come back?" a student asked.

"Yes," the teacher said. "The spacecraft will follow a path that uses gravity to bring it home safely."

Maya smiled. Even in space, there was a way back.

At the end of the lesson, the teacher gave the class an assignment.

"Draw your own space mission," she said. "Where would you go?"

That night, Maya sat at her desk and began to draw. She drew a rocket, tall and strong. She drew herself inside Orion, looking out at the Moon.

But then she added something new.

She drew a second mission. One that landed on the Moon.

At the bottom of the page, she wrote:

"First, we test. Then, we explore."

Maya looked up at the sky again. The Moon was there, quiet and waiting.

One day, she thought, someone like her might go there again.

And maybe, just maybe, she would be one of them.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN

Open Mic Night

FPCNC Open Mic: Diverse Expressions
Featured Performance by
Anne Marie Menta Trio

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

Thursday,
April 23

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

178 Oenoke Ridge,
New Canaan CT

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

