

Publisher@NewCanaanSentinel.com

## NEW CANAAN FORECAST

May 22-25, 2026

**Friday, May 22**  
Intervals of clouds and sun  
High: 64°F | Low: 51°F

**Saturday, May 23**  
Breezy and cooler with rain;  
rain, damp and dreary  
High: 56°F | Low: 49°F

**Sunday, May 24**  
Breezy and cool with rain  
ending early afternoon  
High: 59°F | Low: 55°F

**Monday, May 25** | Memorial Day  
Cloudy with a couple of  
showers possible  
High: 69°F | Low: 56°F

## Weather Detail

**Friday, May 22 – National Maritime Day**  
High near 64°F, low around 51°F. Friday gives New Canaan a decent start to the holiday weekend, with intervals of clouds and sun. It is National Maritime Day, so the harbor gets the right theme, even if the air feels more like light-jacket weather than summer. Good errand weather, but keep the evening layer handy.

**Saturday, May 23 – World Turtle Day**  
High near 56°F, low around 49°F. Saturday is the day to plan around. It will be breezy, cool and wet, with rain making the start of the holiday weekend feel raw and damp. World Turtle Day fits the forecast: move slowly, bring the umbrella and do not rush the outdoor plans.

**Sunday, May 24 – National Scavenger Hunt Day**  
High near 59°F, low around 55°F. Sunday stays cool and breezy, with periods of rain ending by early afternoon. Anyone planning a scavenger hunt may want to start indoors and look for a dry window later in the day. The weather improves, but it will not feel like a beach day.

**Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day**  
High near 69°F, low around 56°F. Memorial Day looks milder, though not perfectly clear. Expect clouds, with a couple of showers possible, so parade plans, cemetery visits and backyard gatherings should leave room for an umbrella and weather adjustments. It will be the warmest day of the stretch, but still not a full-sun finish to the long weekend.

## FROM TOWN HALL

**New Canaan Memorial Day Parade**  
New Canaan's annual Memorial Day parade and ceremony will take place May 25 beginning at 9:30 a.m., with the parade route running from St. Mark's Church to Lakeview Cemetery. The ceremony will include remarks by Afghanistan veteran Daniel Hogan and a prayer led by Kelly Leather Antonson of The Congregational Church. Main Street parking will be restricted beginning at 8 a.m., and in the event of heavy rain, the ceremony will move indoors to Town Hall at 10 a.m. with limited seating.

## POLICE & FIRE

**New Canaan Promotes Scam Awareness**  
New Canaan police are warning residents about a text message scam claiming recipients owe money for an unpaid traffic ticket. Police said the message falsely threatens court action, arrest or other penalties and includes a link requesting immediate action. Residents should not respond, click the link or provide personal information.

**New Canaan Advances CO Safety**  
Recent carbon monoxide

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State Senator Ryan Fazio salutes supporters last weekend, with fiancée Amy Orser of New Canaan at his side, shortly after receiving the nomination for Governor. Fazio will not face a primary challenge. Submitted photo.



Governor Ned Lamont (right) with state Senate candidate Jill Oberlander (left) (see the state senate article on page 9) and Greenwich DTC Chair Christina Downey (center) at the Democratic State Convention. Lamont will face a primary challenge from state Rep. Josh Elliot. Submitted photo.

## Governor's Race

BY ANNE WHITE

Greenwich sits at the center of Connecticut's governor's race after the state party conventions, with Gov. Ned Lamont seeking a third term, state Sen. Ryan Fazio securing the Republican nomination and Hamden state Rep. Josh Elliott forcing an August Democratic primary.

Lamont, a Greenwich resident and two-term Democratic governor, won his party's endorsement Saturday. He defeated Elliott, 1,468 delegate votes to 501, giving him 75 percent of

the convention vote and the party's formal backing heading into the Aug. 11 primary.

"I am honored to earn the strong support of the Democratic delegates today, and I look forward to getting out and making the case for how we can build on the progress we've made in turning Connecticut around," Lamont said in a campaign statement after the vote.

Lamont's convention message

centered on continuity. His campaign cited balanced budgets, pension debt payments, credit upgrades, paid family and medical leave, a higher minimum wage, child care and education investments and middle-class tax cuts. "Our party is united by a clear vision for the future," Lamont said, arguing that voters would choose to "keep Connecticut moving forward."

Fazio, also of Greenwich, left the Republican convention with a direct

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## Baseball's "Father" in Dispute

Frank Murray's long campaign to credit Daniel Lucius "Doc" Adams reaches Cooperstown as 1857 rules documents go on display this Memorial Day weekend.

BY ELIZABETH BARHYDT

Local Frank Murray has many remarkable stories to tell. This one is almost unbelievable. Yet it is all true.

Baseball's origin story will be challenged at the National Baseball Hall of Fame this Memorial Day weekend when handwritten 1857 rules, once dismissed as curiosities and stored for years in Frank Murray's desk drawer, go on display in Cooperstown.

The documents, known as the "Laws of Base Ball," are scheduled to be formally unveiled Friday, May 22, in the Hall of Fame's Taking The Field

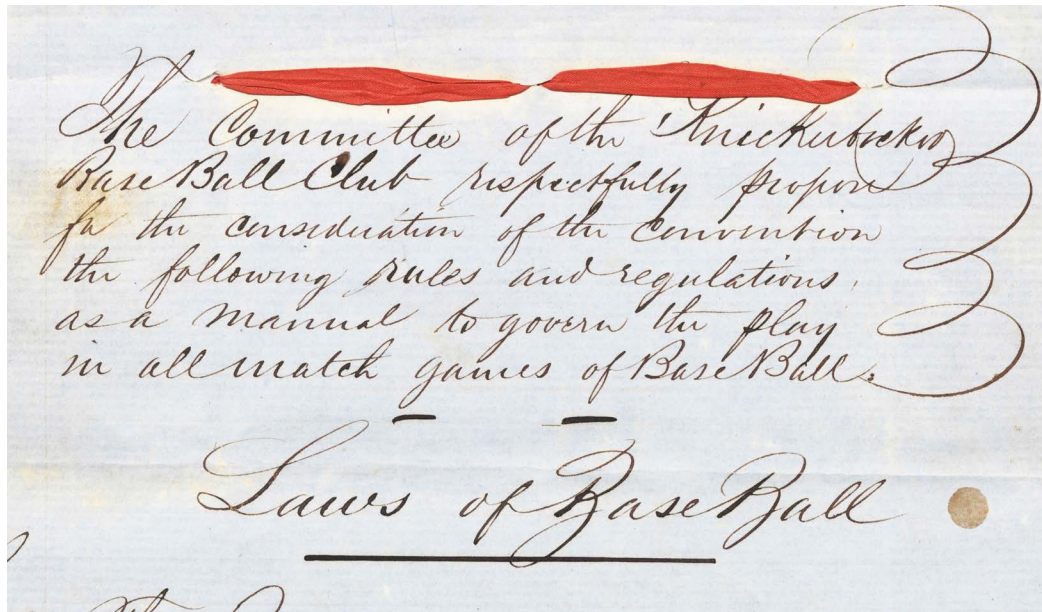
exhibit. Their debut comes one day after this newspaper's Memorial Day issue reaches readers, giving the story a rare kind of timing: a new public display of very old paper, and a renewed argument over the authorship of the game Americans think they already know.

The exhibit has also drawn national notice this week. The New Yorker published Ben McGrath's account of Murray's campaign online May 18 for its May 25 issue, giving fresh attention to a collector's long effort to change how baseball assigns credit for its own beginnings.

Murray is expected in Cooperstown

this weekend for an unveiling that he sees as more than a museum event. To him, the documents are evidence in a long-running case. The question is whether Alexander Cartwright, whose Hall of Fame plaque calls him the "Father of Modern Base Ball," should still be credited with establishing nine innings, nine players to a side and 90 feet between bases – or whether that honor belongs chiefly to Daniel Lucius "Doc" Adams, a physician, Knickerbocker club president and early baseball organizer who left a

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The first page of the 1857 "Laws of Base Ball," a handwritten document proposed by the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club for consideration by the first Base Ball Convention. The rules documents are scheduled to be unveiled Friday, May 22, at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown.

## COLUMN

### A Confession

Stop Scrolling and Read This. I still read a local newspaper. And I think you should too.

BY BOBBI EGGERS

I have a confession to make. In a world where everyone is glued to their phones, scrolling through feeds pushed on us by algorithms, I still read a local newspaper. On purpose. With my coffee. Without apology.

And I think you should too.

Of course, I also voraciously read and listen to news digitally, on my phone,

on TV, on screens. It's my business. I work in PR and Communications. But digital feeds are not showing you the wide world. The algorithm is interested in keeping you engaged and the fastest way to do that, it turns out, is fear. Conflict. Division. Outrage. The thing that makes your blood pressure rise and your finger keep scrolling.

Local news does

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## Kathie Lee Gifford Lists Riverside Waterfront Estate Cedar Cliff for \$100 Million

Kathie Lee Gifford is selling Cedar Cliff, the Riverside waterfront estate she owned with her late husband, Frank Gifford, for \$100 million, putting one of Connecticut's more distinctive private properties before a small group of buyers able to compete at the top of the national housing market.

The Giffords bought the estate in 1994 for \$7.8 million. Gifford, who moved

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## Honoring Veterans at America's 250th

A Line That Held: The Life and War of Samuel John Murray

BY ELIZABETH BARHYDT

If you know Frank Murray, you know he is a detailed researcher. He has spent decades researching his father's time in World War II, a story that now finds a natural home in this *Sentinel* series. Frank has worked to preserve not only the facts of Samuel J. Murray's service, but the character behind them.

On January 18, 1945, in deep snow along the Belgian

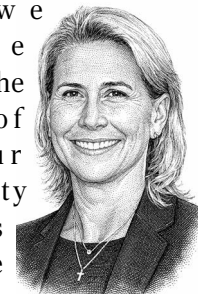
frontier, a German tank advanced to within fifty yards of First Lt. Samuel John Murray's position. Machine-gun fire cut through the trees in long, tearing bursts. The sound carried sharply in the cold air, followed by the concussive thud of the tank's gun. Men pressed into frozen foxholes, their world reduced to inches of earth and whatever resolve they could summon.

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## Public Engagement on Affordable Housing, Charter Revision and Public Safety

BY DIONNA CARLSON

As we move through the month of May, our community continues to engage



thoughtfully on a number of important issues while also preparing to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

I encourage all residents to attend New Canaan's annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25th at 9:30 a.m. The parade will step off from St. Mark's Church and proceed to Lakeview Cemetery, where a memorial service will follow. Check the Town's website for weather-related changes to the day's events. Memorial Day is an important opportunity for all of us to come together as a community to commemorate and honor the military personnel who died in service to our country. I hope you will join us for this meaningful tradition.

## Weed and Elm

Many in our community have passed the recently erected billboards at 751 Weed Street and understandably are concerned and confused by what they have seen. Let me

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## Ignorance, Not Malevolence

BY JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

Spouses are more often ignorant than malevolent. Your partner's intentions are more likely benign than harmful. The challenge is that our brains are wired to scan for danger. Our default response is to assume malevolence. He or she doesn't care/isn't there/is selfish/intends to hurt me. This is a hard rut to pave over in the brain once it has been well worn. Reminding ourselves that our partner probably doesn't intend harm or neglect is worth its weight in relationship gold. It calms our thought processes and helps us choose our words more thoughtfully.

Spouses are rarely as relationally intuitive as we wish they were. It helps to ask specifically for what we want. If we're getting nowhere, we can ask

our partner how to make a request that will elicit a "yes" answer. A change in tone, word choice, and timing can make the difference. This applies to everything from affection to household tasks. We each have a preferred style and time of day that is optimal for receiving requests.

After years of hoping Rob would "get it," his wife, Alfa, learned to email him about specific tasks. Rob could put them on his calendar and feel like her hero instead of a villain. Susannah prefers that her partner, Mario, and her kids send her texts. She doesn't "do problems" after 10pm except for emergencies. Jon likes face-to-face requests from Crystal, preferably after his first cup of coffee. Learning their partners' preferred modes of communication and assuming ignorance rather than malevolence has made their households more harmonious.

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Teresa Alasio MD  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

# Let's Talk About It, New Canaan Mental Health, Stigma and the Courage to Seek Help

## Publisher's Note

John Kriz has given New Canaan a work of consequence: a sober, generous and necessary examination of mental health, addiction, stigma and care in this town.

We thank John for the seriousness he brought to the topic. We also thank those who spoke with him and, by doing so, served the community: Dr. Bryan Luizzi, superintendent of New Canaan Public Schools; Andrew Gerber, M.D., Ph.D., president and medical director of Silver Hill Hospital; Marcella Rand, LCSW, New Canaan's director of human services and adult and senior services coordinator; Susan Bliss, Ph.D., LCSW, student support coordinator with New Canaan Public Schools; Alex Sullivan of New Canaan Unplugged; Jacqueline D'Loughy, LCSW, youth and family services coordinator with the town's Department of Human Services; Colleen Prostor, executive director of New Canaan CARES; Maureen Asiel, education and program manager with New Canaan CARES; the Rev. Peter Walsh, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church; the Rev. Scott Herr, senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan; Lauren Patterson, president of the New Canaan Community Foundation; Russ Barksdale, Ph.D., president of Waveny LifeCare Network; Laura Futterman, N.D., a naturopathic physician in Stamford; and Paul Reinhardt, founder of the New Canaan Parent Support Group.

They spoke from different stations: the schoolhouse, the hospital, the town office, the pulpit, the nonprofit, the home. Together, they helped name what too often goes unnamed.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. A community worthy of its blessings says this plainly: Not only is there no shame in tending to one's physical and mental health; there is beauty in it. There is wisdom in it. There is strength in it.

BY JOHN KRIZ

There is a Panglossian sensibility in New Canaan that we live in the best of all possible worlds. Even the town's moniker — Next Station to Heaven — sends that message.

True, there is much to be proud of: a lovely, walkable downtown that's the envy of many; fabulous parks and woodland trails; excellent schools; safe streets; and an active, volunteer-driven civic life.

Still, it's not all rainbows and butterflies. For more than a few of our residents, not all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds.

Behavioral health is, all too often, a "No Go" topic. Unlike health matters such as knee replacements, diabetes, celiac disease, COPD, or even cancer and dementia — important, all — behavioral health matters are too often seen as signifiers of the sufferer's (and/or the family's) moral failure. It's their own fault — shameful and embarrassing. And bringing up behavioral health issues can be an express train to a socially awkward encounter on steroids. It can also be a remarkable bonding experience so it is time for a little destigmatization.

The stigma of admitting mental health difficulties is cited by experts as a key reason why people do not seek help, or do not seek help and support early enough, inevitably making the situation worse.

Recent difficult losses in our community due to suicide have underscored the urgency of behavioral health concerns in New Canaan. They remind us that many struggles are visible long before they become crises, and can be met with care, candor, and action.

## What Are the Issues?

### New Canaan Behavioral Health: What the Adult Survey Found

Key findings from the 2025 Community Health & Well-Being Survey

- 10%+** of New Canaan adults completed the survey.
- Nearly **1 in 3** respondents reported barriers to getting needed physical or mental health care.
- Lowest life satisfaction**: Ages 40-59 reported the lowest life satisfaction.
 

Age Group	Life Satisfaction (out of 10)
18-29	7.1
30-39	6.8
40-59	6.0
60+	6.6
- Knowing where to find help**: Ages 30-59 showed the biggest gap.
 

Age Group	Percent who know where to go for mental health or substance use help
18-29	63%
30-59	37%
60+	61%
- GROUPS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN**:
  - people worried about their own mental health
  - people with low life satisfaction
  - people with low financial security
  - multiple caregivers, including adults caring for both children and aging parents
- The Sandwich Generation is stressed out, low on money and short on time.**
- The survey was designed as a baseline to identify problems, direct resources and measure progress over time.

Sources: New Canaan Sentinel, Feb. 3, 2025, and New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance Community Health & Well-Being Survey.

A necessary condition to fixing any problem is knowing what the problem is — a proper diagnosis.

In early 2025, results of a wide-ranging Community Health & Well-Being Survey were released and reviewed with the community — a good place to start. (See <https://www.newcanaasentinel.com/2025/02/03/survey-highlights-behavioral-health-opportunities/> for the New Canaan Sentinel's comprehensive coverage of the presentation. See <https://www.newcanaanbha.org/community-health-well-being-survey/> for the presentation slides and full report.)

The survey was designed to be a baseline — not only to help identify issues needing attention, but also to help direct follow-on research and resources to those issues, with subsequent surveys determining how effective efforts to address identified issues have been.

This survey, led by the New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance ([www.newcanaanbha.org](http://www.newcanaanbha.org)) and paid for by the Town of New Canaan, focused on adults, with more than 10 percent of adults in town completing the survey — a strong rate.

People who are worried about their own mental health, have low life satisfaction, low financial security and are multiple caregivers (such as caring for both a child and an aging parent) were identified as groups of particular concern.

As the 2025 survey notes, people between 40 and 59 reported the lowest rates of life satisfaction. Said one of the presentation slides: "The Sandwich Generation is stressed out, low on money and short on time." In addition, people between ages 30 and 59

have a particularly large gap in awareness of where to find help.

Though this 2025 survey focused on adults, the surveyed adults did comment on the behavioral health of their children. The results were sobering.

Most respondents said it was easy or very easy for children to access tobacco, alcohol, vapes, cannabis and prescription drugs.

Sixteen percent of parents reported that they believe their child had struggled with persistent anxiety in the past year, and 10 percent of parents reported that they believe their child had struggled with persistent depression in the past year, with the perceived likelihoods rising as the age of the child rose.

One-third of parents said that they do not know, or are unsure, where to get help if their child is struggling with a mental health issue.

The New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance is planning to administer the adult survey again either this autumn or in 2027, likely with some changes to reflect new knowledge and fresh ideas. The group also plans to administer a youth-focused survey, with the intention of administering both surveys at the same time. They are working with others in town, including New Canaan Public Schools (NCPS), on survey structure, marketing and content.

Bryan Luizzi, Ed.D., NCPS superintendent, says he wants to ensure "that it's [the youth survey] appropriate, that it's meaningful, and that it leads to positive outcomes down the line." In his view, "appropriate is certainly age appropriate, that it's asking the right questions for children with the right ages." He continues, noting "Meaningful means that the children, when the kids are done, they feel that it was worth their time, that it gave them an opportunity to reflect and think about their own experiences. When we ask students to do things, they should learn from them. It should be a part of their education." As to positive outcomes, the question is, "How does it help us to move forward?"

### New Canaan Behavioral Health: What Adults Said About Their Children

Key findings from the 2025 Community Health & Well-Being Survey

- Easy access to substances**: Most respondents said it was easy or very easy for children to access tobacco, alcohol, vapes, cannabis and prescription drugs.
- 16%** of parents believed their child struggled with persistent anxiety in the past year.
- 10%** of parents believed their child struggled with persistent depression in the past year.
- Perceived likelihood rose as children got older.
- Finding help 1 in 3 parents** said they do not know, or are unsure, where to get help if their child is struggling with a mental health issue.
- What comes next**:
  - The Behavioral Health Alliance plans to repeat the adult survey either this autumn or in 2027.
  - A youth-focused survey is also planned.
  - The goal is to administer the adult and youth surveys at the same time.
  - The group is working with others in town, including New Canaan Public Schools, on survey structure, marketing and content.
- Bryan Luizzi, Ed.D., NCPS superintendent**: "We want the youth survey to be age appropriate, meaningful and able to lead to positive outcomes." Luizzi said students should feel the survey is worth their time, relevant to their experiences, and helpful in moving the community forward.
- Though the 2025 survey focused on adults, adults' responses about their children offered a sobering picture — and helped shape plans for a youth survey.

Source: 2025 Community Health & Well-Being Survey / New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance

In addition, we have data from the **Assessment Program** (<https://silverhillhospital.org/assessment-program/>), a partnership between the town and Silver Hill Hospital, show that around two-thirds of program users are 29 and under — more than half are 18 and under.

The **Assessment Program's** goal is to connect people in need of mental health treatment with a timely assessment and a tailored referral for ongoing care, with an initial appointment within 48 hours of the initial call. Launched several years ago, the **Assessment Program** is free for New Canaan residents. Formerly known as the Urgent Assessment Program, "urgent" was dropped to help emphasize that it's best to seek care as early as possible.

### New Canaan Behavioral Health: What Broader Data Show

Key findings from the Assessment Program, state and federal data, and local reports

- Assessment Program**: About **2 in 3** users are 29 and under. More than **half** are 18 and under.
  - A partnership between the town and Silver Hill Hospital, the program connects residents to a timely psychiatric assessment and tailored referral for ongoing care.
  - Goal: schedule an initial appointment within 48 hours of the intake call.
  - Free for New Canaan residents.
  - Formerly called the Urgent Assessment Program, "urgent" was dropped to encourage people to seek help early.
- Regional warning signs**:
  - Southwestern CT report found escalating mental health needs.
  - Rising anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and isolation.
  - Cannabis and alcohol use are highly normalized.
  - Children, young adults, and LGBT populations were highlighted.
  - Substance misuse remains widespread.
  - Stimulant-related and polysubstance overdose deaths have surged.
- Connecticut snapshot**: **24.1%** of Connecticut adults were experiencing mental illness. SAMHSA data cited by Dr. Andrew Gerber showed the share is high and rising.
- What students are facing**:
  - 35.2%** felt sad or hopeless up 5 percentage points from 2019.
  - 15.7%** seriously considered suicide up 3 percentage points from 2019.
  - "Kids often report feeling tired, stressed and bored." — Bryan Luizzi, Ed.D.
  - Sleep deprivation and stress are recurring concerns.
- What local leaders are seeing**:
  - "Behavioral health and addiction issues remain high and ar-e dealt with daily." — Marcella Rand, LCSW, New Canaan Human Services
  - Many residents can access help, but community awareness of available resources could be stronger.
- Older adults**: Nearly **20%** of residents age 40+ reported depression, anxiety, insomnia, substance abuse, or other mental health issues. Post-COVID rates of mental health issues among older adults increase. **40-57%** Loneliness was identified as a major concern.
- Across New Canaan, children, adults, and seniors are all showing signs of strain — and the need is growing.** The challenge is not only treatment, but also helping residents know where to turn early.

Sources: Silver Hill Hospital Assessment Program; CT DMHAS 2024-25 Regional Behavioral Health Priority Report; SAMHSA; CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey; New Canaan Health & Human Services Commission.

In a January presentation to the Town Council on the **Assessment Program**, Andrew Gerber, MD, PhD, Silver Hill's President and Medical Director, noted the key findings of Connecticut's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' 2024-25 Regional Behavioral Health Priority Report for Southwestern CT.

The report cited an escalation of mental health needs, especially for children, young adults and LGBT populations, with rising rates

of anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation and isolation. In addition, substance misuse remains widespread, with cannabis and alcohol use normalized among youth and adults, while stimulant-related and poly-substance overdose deaths have surged.

Dr. Gerber further noted that, according to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the percentage of adults in Connecticut known to be experiencing mental illness is high at 24.1 percent and rising.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Survey cited by Dr. Gerber shows that in Connecticut the percentage of students who felt sad or hopeless (nearly every day over a two-week period, interfering with usual activities) is 35.2 percent, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2019.

The percentage of students known to have seriously considered attempting suicide in the previous 12 months is 15.7 percent, an increase of 3 percentage points from 2019.

Marcella Rand, LCSW, New Canaan's director of human services and adult and senior services coordinator, says that both behavioral health as well as addiction issues have been high and remain high. "That is what we are dealing with, and we deal with that on a daily basis."

Regarding children, Supt. Luizzi notes an academic study in which children were asked "How are you feeling?" The answer was consistently, tired, stressed, and bored. "They're somewhat sleep deprived. They're stressed about what's going on, and they're bored because it's not as exciting as a video game or being online or something else."

As to the elderly, the town's Health & Human Services Commission's "Seniors' Mental Health & Well-Being Report" of September 2025 stated that nearly 20 percent of residents age 60 and older reported "depression, anxiety, insomnia, substance abuse or other mental health issues." In addition, "post-COVID rates of mental health issues among older adults increased 40-57%." Loneliness was identified as a major mental health concern for the elderly.

In sum, many groups in New Canaan — adults and children — are struggling, some more than others, and trends seem to be deteriorating. In addition, while barriers to accessing help are limited for some residents, community knowledge of the many excellent resources that do exist could be better.

### Behavioral Health ER Visits: Six-Town Comparison

Suicidal ideation and related patterns

### Behavioral Health Emergency Department Data

Counts by town, based on Connecticut emergency room visits April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

Town	Suicidal Ideation Visits	Suicide Attempts
New Canaan	43	13
Darien	61	11
Wilton	49	ND
Ridgefield	87	19
Greenwich	200	38
Redding	28	ND

Additional Measures Suicidal Ideation

Town	Male	Female	Age 10-17	Suicide Attempts
New Canaan	15	28	14	13
Darien	28	33	22	11
Wilton	24	25	18	ND
Ridgefield	36	51	32	19
Greenwich	90	110	50	38
Redding	11	17	11	ND

2020 population: New Canaan 20,622; Darien 21,445; Wilton 18,503; Ridgefield 25,033; Greenwich 63,518; Redding 8,765.

ND = not disclosed. Source table: Connecticut emergency room visit data.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** These statistics reflect Connecticut ER visits only and likely significantly underreport the true number of behavioral health crises.

Source: Connecticut Department of Public Health. Extracts represent final reported data.

## More Sobering Numbers

According to the "Connecticut Suicidal Ideation and Self Harm Emergency Department Visit Report" from the Office of Injury and Violence Prevention of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, for the Town of New Canaan for the period April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, there were 43 instances of suicidal ideation (this is defined as thoughts or ideas centered around death or suicide) and 13 instances of attempted suicide.

These figures were generated by visits to Connecticut hospital emergency rooms. As such, these figures are, says one senior healthcare professional in town, "grossly under-reported."

Why under-reported? Not all suicidal ideation or attempts result in the affected person ending up in a Connecticut ER. If no immediate medical attention is deemed necessary, or if the event occurs out of state, the data go unreported in these statistics.

The fact that a suicide attempt results in an ER visit suggests that the person involved had a physical condition resulting from the attempt that required immediate medical care.

Digging more deeply in the figures for New Canaan, of the 43 instances of suicidal ideation during this time period, 28 were for females and 15 for males.

Breaking the suicidal ideation figures down by age group, there were two distinct clusters: ages 10-17 (14 instances) and ages 45-54 (8 instances). This leaves 21 instances of suicidal ideation distributed among the other age groups.

According to Connecticut Public Health's "Suicide Trends, 2015-2023 Connecticut," mental health problems were the most common risk factor in suicides from 2015 to 2022, appearing in 40.2 percent of cases. Depression was the most common mental health condition identified. Alcohol and substance misuse ranked second. Many cases involved more than one risk factor.

**What do these figures for New Canaan mean?**

In these emergency department data, females accounted for more suicidal ideation visits than males.

Older children and adults in the “sandwich generation” who are likely caring for both school-age children and aging parents appeared as notable age clusters in the emergency department data.

Plus, with at least 13 attempted suicides that resulted in an ER visit in a recent 12-month period, self-inflicted actions causing immediate, serious injury are not rare in New Canaan. And remember that these figures are likely substantially under-reported.

**Disorders & Addictions**

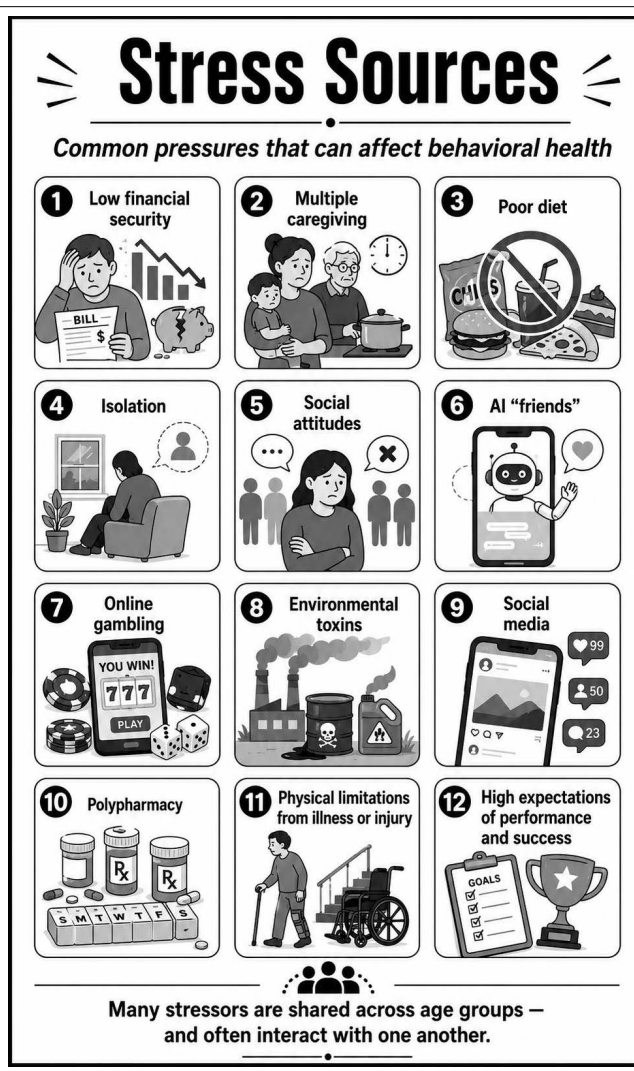
According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness ([www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)) and Mental Health America ([www.mhanational.org](http://www.mhanational.org)), major types of behavioral health conditions include anxiety, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), bipolar disorder, borderline personality disorder, depression, dissociative disorders, eating disorders, mood disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), psychosis, schizoaffective disorder, seasonal affective disorder (SAD) and stress.

Co-occurring conditions include autism, risk of suicide, self-harm, sleep disorders and substance abuse.

Addictions extend beyond alcohol, cannabis and opioids. These can include texting, gaming, gambling, pornography, methamphetamines, shopping, social media, diet, hoarding, nicotine, exercise, sex and cocaine, among others.

A behavioral health issue often coexists with one or more other behavioral health issues, co-occurring conditions, and addictions. These can and do interact in complex ways, often reinforcing each other. This makes identifying the issues, let alone treating them, difficult. A behavioral health issue can lead to an addiction, and vice versa.

Dr. Gerber’s January presentation to Town Council on the **Assessment Program** stated this multiple presenting complaint status bluntly. The presentation also listed 11 types of presenting behavioral health complaints from program clients, depression and anxiety being by far the dominant ones.



**Technology**

Take the iPhone, which Dr. Gerber says “made things worse,” going on to say that “as these devices became ever more powerful and ever more prevalent, more and more of [people’s] social life, more and more of their communication became virtual. Which again, better than nothing, but certainly not as good as spending time in person with their friends, with their families, with their teachers, with everybody else. And every graph that charts these things shows a dramatic increase, not just in screen time, but in time alone for young people.”

One nonprofit group in town that is taking steps to better manage children’s screen time and social media activity is New Canaan Unplugged ([www.newcanaanunplugged.org](http://www.newcanaanunplugged.org)) which, according to its website, “seeks to create both a community and a resource for parents in New Canaan to help navigate the social media and smartphone landscape.” A goal is to “encourage thoughtful boundaries around technology within our New Canaan community such that our kids will engage with each other in a way that fosters positive close relationships for years to come.”

Alex Sullivan, a mother of two young children and one of the parents active in the group, cites worrisome rises in the levels of depression and anxiety in young people, and the role of social media in affecting those stresses.

One example the group cites is a 2023 report from the Surgeon General titled “Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation” that emphasized the importance of relationships and engagement with others as a pillar of our overall health, with social media being featured as a challenge.

“So I think everyone’s trying to just figure out how can we get our kids to go back a little bit to the childhood that we used to have,” says Mrs. Sullivan, “where you learn how to be a fully grown person by interactions with the outside world, by interactions with your peers and community members and adults.”

Susan Bliss, PhD, LCSW, student support coordinator with NCPS, observes there is “a lot of social anxiety and I think that has increased just in, anecdotally, with the phones and the increase of social media. I don’t think there is a question about that at this point — that idea of social comparison and the way kids’ lives have sort of become curated and that there’s so much online about easy FOMO, as they say, right? Fear of missing out that kids have. So we see that for sure in the middle school, high school kids. And that is leading to, I think, more anxiety.”

**DISORDERS & ADDICTIONS**  
How behavioral health issues often overlap

Based on information from NAMI, Mental Health America, and Dr. Andrew Gerber’s January presentation on the Assessment Program

**MAJOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS**

Anxiety	Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
Depression	Dissociative disorders
Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD)	Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
Seasonal affective disorder (SAD)	Stress
Bipolar disorder	Psychosis
Borderline personality disorder	Mood disorders
Schizoaffective disorder	

**CO-OCCURRING CONDITIONS**

Autism	Risk of suicide
Self-harm	Sleep disorders
Substance abuse	

**ADDICTIONS CAN INCLUDE**

Alcohol	Cannabis	Opioids	Texting
Gaming	Gambling	Pornography	Methamphetamines
Shopping	Social media	Diet	Hoarding
Nicotine	Exercise	Sex	Cocaine

Addictions extend beyond drugs and alcohol.

**Big Picture**

Dr. Gerber of Silver Hill notes that people are naturally vulnerable to various physical ailments, some more than others, and often for no apparent reason. The same is true for behavioral health ailments. “There are some people who are more vulnerable to, for example, depression, anxiety, substance use disorders, suicide — even psychosis,” says Dr. Gerber. “And those things have always been with us.”

“Because of stigma and because of fear,” he continues, “we have often been reluctant to accept the fact that those vulnerabilities are all around us.”

Furthermore, Dr. Gerber notes that many support systems that had helped to treat, or at least manage these vulnerabilities, such as close, extended families, faith groups, and civic groups such as Rotary, Daughters of the American Revolution, American Legion and the Masons, have often atrophied.

Even what Dr. Gerber calls our “relatively privileged” community “is no protection against the vulnerabilities of depression, anxiety. And maybe that’s obvious, but I don’t know that it was always obvious.”

**Stress Sources**

There are many, and they are often shared among age groups: Low financial security. Being a multiple caregiver, such as to both children and aging parents. Poor diet. Isolation. Social attitudes. “Friends” in artificial intelligence (AI). Online gambling. Toxins in the environment. Social media. Polypharmacy. Physical limitations due to illness or injury. High expectations of performance and success.



Supt. Luizzi calls it the “attention economy,” noting “our kids [are] part of this economy, and they become actually a product in it. And so wherever they’re going, something is calling out for their attention. And I think that’s a struggle for many people. And we’re not wired that way, right? The mind is wired to learn through reflection, through contemplation, through growth, through social interaction. And what’s happening is the online and the messaging and the short-form videos and the constant stimulation, I think, can really dysregulate kids.”

Jacqueline D’Loughy, LCSW, youth and family services coordinator with the town’s Department of Human Services, observes that “social media and access to online stuff has amped up anxiety and depression for youth.”

New Canaan CARES Executive Director Colleen Prostor cited a program her group presented, led by Max Stossel, on social media. Ms. Prostor recounted how Mr. Stossel noted how social media

strives to manipulate users — to generate dopamine hits — and, in Ms. Prostor’s words, “get the child addicted to being on there.” She concluded by saying that, “this is a problem and that our children are kind of guinea pigs.”

“This technology comes out first and then we all have to scramble to figure out how detrimental it is and what are our responses to it,” she notes. “Some communities are further along in that. Others are kind of still struggling on that side of things. But we continue to see there was an incident here in New Canaan the last few weeks where New Canaan High School students were targeted online, and just talk about being a victim of that, and how that impacts the mental health of those students.”

Rev. Peter Walsh, rector of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, says bluntly, “Social media is a big deal, and it’s a very, very big deal. I don’t think it’s overstated. I think this literally is a really big deal.” He continues, noting that whereas in earlier times events only traveled so far, “but now that thing is now just ramped way up. It doesn’t just take place in your dinky little high school. Now it’s like for the whole world to see. And I do think it’s had a deleterious effect on the formation of a generational brain. And I think we don’t even know where it’s all going to land.”

Rev. Scott Herr, senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan, echoes this, saying, “I am not a Luddite, but think technology in general is a big factor in driving health and addiction challenges.”

Lauren Patterson, president of the New Canaan Community Foundation, adds that while social media “can be incredible forces of connection, but they can also be really isolating, and they could really magnify or blow out of proportion how things look perfect elsewhere,” going on to note that “I know from talking with many nonprofit organizations they will often point to social media and all of its tentacles as being really a top challenge for them to figure out [how] to better help the people that they work with. And I think we’re all collectively trying to figure out the best way to navigate that.”

NCPS has a strict phone policy, because children learn better when they are free from distractions. And phones are big distractions. In K-8, there is a zero bell-to-bell phone policy. In K-4, students cannot bring phones or the wristwatch equivalent into school. Grades five through eight can bring them to school, but they are locked in pouches all day. In the high school, there is an ‘off and away’ policy, with use permitted in the library and cafeteria, but nowhere else in the school. Next year, it will be bell-to-bell as well.

An emerging stressor is so-called “AI friends.” Dr. Bliss of NCPS says “we know that it has its downsides for sure in terms of not being the real person. You don’t have that social friction where you’re learning to deal with another person who doesn’t just validate you all the time and that’s a problem. So we are starting to think about that and we’re hearing more about kids who are turning to that as a form of both, I guess, social interaction and just somebody to go to for help.”

Maureen Asiel, education and program manager with New Canaan CARES, observes that “I think that AI is coming down the pike,” and that, “the same thing that’s happening [with social media] will happen with AI, or it’s happening already right now, and there’s no guardrails again. So we’re in this place where we’re not protecting our kids, and that is the point of where I think public health should be focusing on.”

**Gaming & Gambling**

Supt. Luizzi notes gaming as a concern, too, saying “the gaming addictions we see with children, kids where they could be outside doing something that leads to a better outcome, that they are finding themselves gaming past that point, and keep going and going, going. Then at the end, when they’re finished, they realize that X number of hours just transpired and they’re no better off,” continuing to observe that it’s the same with social media and online gambling, which are growing sources of stress and addiction.

Dr. Bliss notes “the dopamine hits” that come with social media, gaming and gambling are a strong draw, with Supt. Luizzi adding that “this is not a children-specific thing,” but it’s an issue for adults, too.

**Polypharmacy**

Polypharmacy is another stressor, which is all-too-common among the elderly. Russ Barksdale, PhD., president of Waveny LifeCare Network, says that polypharmacy — taking many prescription medications — is “really under-reported.” He gives the example of a person going to their primary care doctor, then a specialist, then another doctor, for various acute or chronic ailments, and there isn’t “someone that is managing all the medications” being taken.

“So they’re always adding and they’re always adjusting to it,” he continues. “You can have patients that will come to us for post-care; they’re on 24 different meds at this point. One is a stool softener, one is a stool hardener, one lowers their blood pressure, one increases their blood pressure. And we look at it as detoxing — that we’re trying to get you down to four or five medications so that you can feel better. And sometimes the symptoms of Alzheimer’s and dementia and memory loss start going away that you’ve had before, or you may have [had] a balance issue. It starts going away as you start reducing some of these medications that you’re on.”

# Polypharmacy

When too many medications create new problems



## 1 Common and under-reported

Russ Barksdale says polypharmacy among older adults is really under-reported.



## 2 How it happens

A person may see a primary care doctor, then specialists, with no single person managing all the medications.



## 3 The pileup

Some post-care patients arrive on as many as 24 medications.



## 4 Why it matters

Medications can work against each other and may contribute to memory loss, balance issues, or symptoms that resemble dementia or Alzheimer's.



## 5 Reducing the load

Barksdale says the goal is to shorten the medication list so patients can feel better



### Nicotine & Energy Drinks



Ms. Prostor of New Canaan CARES cites nicotine- and sugar-laden energy drinks as behavioral health concerns, especially for children. Any adult who has dealt with the aftereffects of consuming several mugs of strong coffee will understand the implications.

Ms. Asiel describes nicotine pouches that look like small candies, and are placed between the cheek and gum. She continues, saying, "this is the new way to get kids addicted because no one knows — adults, teachers, they don't see it. There's no wad in your mouth that you can see. But kids think it's safe because they think it's not tobacco so it doesn't have those properties."

She notes that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) considers these to be tobacco products.

ADD COLUMN FROM RUSS LINK

### Isolation

## Isolation

Why connection matters for children, adults, and seniors

- ### 1 A stressor for all ages

Isolation affects both children and adults. Everyone needs connection to thrive.
- ### 2 Seniors at risk

Loneliness is especially common among seniors who cannot get out of their homes; physical limits and depression often reinforce one another.
- ### 3 What helps

Social engagement, clubs, and live community matter. Services such as GetAbout, Meals on Wheels, Staying Put, and Waveny are important supports.
- ### 4 COVID effect

COVID normalized Zoom, fragmentation, and less in-person participation.
- ### 5 The cure

Rev. Walsh emphasizes the power of being recognized, loved, and part of a real community.

New Canaan is far more supportive than many communities — but people can still suffer in silence.

**Being connected is a form of mental health support.**

Isolation is yet another stressor, affecting both children and adults.

Ms. Rand says that "we mostly see a lot of anxiety and depression, especially in seniors. There's a lot of loneliness and people who are unable to get out of their houses. That's been a difficult hurdle for us."

Behavioral health, and physical health, issues seem to be two sides of the same coin: Someone becomes depressed due to isolation, which is caused by a physical health limitation.

Dr. Barksdale cites "the elderly who can't drive anymore, or whose chronic ailments have prevented them [from being] socially active the way that they used to be." He notes, positively, that GetAbout www.getaboutnc.org, which provides rides for elderly and handicapped people, has helped them tremendously, as has the Meals on Wheels www.mowofnc.org program, which provides meals to residents whose physical, emotional, mental, medical or social condition makes it difficult to provide meals themselves. "The demand for that is unbelievable," he stresses.

"One of the highest issues and factors from someone recovering from any kind of chronic illness is being able to have that social network around you to support you," Dr. Barksdale emphasizes. "But also if you're a widow or widower or have never been married, you don't have that network unless you have a group of friends that are willing to check in on you, and be there and be supportive. And that's very difficult to find these days." "So that social engagement is extremely important," he notes. "Clubs are extremely important."

Dr. Gerber adds that, "there are folks even in a town like New Canaan whose families, if they have children... now live far away and are alone." He continues, observing that, "maybe they're texting, maybe they're emailing, which is great. It's better than nothing, but it's not the same as being right there and supported by others. I mean this is where organizations like Staying Put, and Waveny, and some of the other services in town for the elderly really are essential because those folks I think can often suffer in silence."

Rev. Herr says, "There are an increasing number of seniors who are feeling isolated and alone. The Silent Generation and Boomers tend to be joiners, so if they can get out they more naturally seek community in various types of social groups. Robert Putnam, the sociologist from Harvard famous for his

book "Bowling Alone," notes that younger generations have stopped joining social groups, clubs and service organizations. They tend to substitute real-time social grouping with on-line virtual 'community,' which is not the same as 'live' community experience."

But isolation is not limited to the elderly or infirm. "Taking the isolation away from children and making them feel like they're part of a community is extremely important," Dr. Barksdale says.

Dr. Gerber also emphasizes the ill effects of COVID, and the associated isolation, on behavioral health. "People got used to being on Zoom instead of going into the office. People got used to going online for what served some of their social needs ...but it's not the same as getting in your car or walking down the street and going to a meeting and participating and going to an in-person event. I think COVID really led to almost a normalization of this kind of fragmentation."

Rev. Walsh talks of 'seasons,' with COVID being a season of coming together and mutual support, followed by a post-COVID season "in which people came out of the pandemic. And in that season, there was an increased anxiety in the community."

"But the quality of social interactions and the time spent with family, friends, community has changed, has decreased," Dr. Gerber continues. "And when you ask me why do we have an increased — at least awareness — of suicides in our community, why do we have increased depression and anxiety in young people? Why are we hearing about more loneliness in the elderly? All of those things are a consequence of this combination."

Still, says Dr. Gerber, "one of the most remarkable things in my mind about a community like New Canaan is it's actually far more supportive" compared with many other communities.

The cure for isolation, in Rev. Walsh's view, is, "the power of being recognized. And so to be in a community within a community, a community of love where you are recognized for who you are, and honored and cherished. This is the greatest mental health: to be loved. And we seek to love people for who they are and where they are."

### Social Attitudes & A High-Achievement Town

## Social Attitudes

How pressure, comparison, and uncertainty affect mental health

- ### 1 Searching for meaning

Young people are looking for purpose and optimism.
- ### 2 A more uncertain world

War, economic insecurity, and political uncertainty can weigh on young people's outlook.
- ### 3 A high-achievement town

New Canaan's success culture can be supportive, but also isolating if someone feels they are struggling while everyone else seems fine.
- ### 4 Keeping up

Adults and youth may feel pressure to keep up with others.
- ### 5 Perfectionism and comparison

Curated images and unrealistic expectations can fuel perfectionism and stress.
- ### 6 Prestige stress

Competitive college admissions and pressure to develop a specialty or hook can push kids out of balance.

**Achievement can inspire — but it can also create hidden strain.**

There are also certain social attitudes that affect people, and can lead to behavioral difficulties, especially young people, whose brains are still developing.

"Young people come in wanting to find meaning in their lives and in the world they're looking for the thing to do and who to be," says Dr. Gerber. "And if you grow up in a world where the promise is 'I can do more than my parents, and I can accomplish more or make more money or move and do something exciting,' that's motivating. If you grew up in a world where what you're being told for one reason or another by the older generation is the world is not doing well, that we have more war, that we have a less secure economy, that we have a more uncertain political environment that is a huge consequence on young people in terms of their optimism about the future."

New Canaan has a deserved reputation of being a town of high achievers: Adults who are often leaders in their fields. High educational standards. Material wealth.

Lauren Patterson of the New Canaan Community Foundation observes that New Canaan "is wonderful, and people are so supportive and want to help each other, but it's also a well off and high achieving culture. And so it's sometimes even more isolating to feel that if I'm struggling, I must be in the minority here because it seems like everyone's doing so well, right? So that's part of the stigma reduction that makes it really possible to do some good stuff in New Canaan, but also maybe particularly challenging."

Rev. Herr remarks that "I think many people struggle with the "keeping up with the Joneses" syndrome in our town. Every time I turn around, I'm meeting some new and incredible person who has accomplished so many amazing things in their life. We live in a community filled with high-achievers and "Alpha adults" who are often very competitive and successful. That's a wonderful gift in many ways, but also can create a "gotta keep up" culture, and I think that can press in on adults, as well as our youth. We pride ourselves on having a high quality of life here, excellent schools and positive community spirit, but sometimes I think we could focus more on cultivating a healthy inner life."

Supt. Luizzi notes that "there is a perfectionism, a quest of perfectionism amongst kids. It's the comparisons that they make from their life and the lives that they believe others are leading as experienced through curated imagery and stories that isn't the real thing, but they have a hard time distinguishing that. And so they're trying to live up to ideals or lives that are just unrealistic."

Rev. Walsh says, "I find myself surprised, but receive as truth when the adults of the community tell me the stress that they are under living in the community over questions of belonging in the community, around just trying to keep up with a community where it looks like Lake Wobegon where all the children are above average kind of thing. And the next thing is, with reference to adolescents in high school, I do believe that the kids of the community do feel stress."

Digging deeper into the competitive challenges New Canaan's children face, Rev. Walsh laments, "I mean, we have a whole generation of children, many of whom are not likely to go to the college of their choice because the number of applicants to the college of their choice is astronomical. The great upside of the common app was that everybody can apply. The downside was the numbers are ridiculous. I mean, they're crazy numbers. And I do always hope that the children of our community can understand

that there are incredible colleges all over the place for them to go to. But I do agree that the children of the community do experience stress, prestige stress."

"Our children lead dissipated lives that are both dissipated and overfocused, in my opinion," continues Rev. Walsh, citing sports as an example. "I do think that the emphasis on the idea that you need a specialty, a hook, an expertise to get into college is quite part of the waters that are drunk in the community, and that therefore parents find themselves in pursuit for their children of some kind of something. And I do think it leads to their children either playing too much hockey, too much basketball, or too much of this or too much of that. I think there's some things that are out of balance in our kids' lives."

### Diet, Cannabis & Co-Occurring Risks

How what we consume can affect behavioral health

- ### 1 FOOD AND MOOD

Dr. Laura Futterman says many neurotransmitters are made in the gut, and processed foods, fast foods, and industrial seed oils can contribute to inflammation linked to mood disorders.
- ### 2 HEALTHY DIET HELPS

Whole, unprocessed foods can support the gut microbiome and mental well-being; Dr. Gerber notes nutritional psychiatry is a growing field.
- ### 3 CANNABIS IS MORE POTENT NOW

Today's products can reach very high concentrations and potentially dangerous concentrations.
- ### 4 YOUTH ARE VULNERABLE

Developing brains, especially in the teens and early twenties, are at greater risk; high-potency THC can increase anxiety, depression, and in some cases psychosis.
- ### 5 ALCOHOL AND SELF-MEDICATION

Anxiety and depression are often self-medicated with alcohol, which can worsen underlying issues.
- ### 6 CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

Paul Reinhardt says many addiction cases begin with underlying behavioral-health issues such as ADHD, anxiety, or depression; one issue can cascade into others.

#### THE CASCADE: HOW ONE ISSUE CAN LEAD TO ANOTHER



Families are not alone, and early help matters.

### Diet

Diet can create behavioral, and not just physical, health issues.

Laura Futterman, ND, a naturopathic physician in Stamford, sees "a myriad of diseases, symptoms, complaints — especially when it comes to weight loss, fatigue and mental health concerns." She goes on to note that many patients "don't realize that most of our neurotransmitters (serotonin, dopamine, etc.) are actually made in the gut and not the brain. Consuming processed, fast foods, industrialized seed oils can also cause inflammation in the gut, which leads to inflammation and the disruption of the gut lining integrity, as well as causing neuroinflammation, or inflammation in the brain that leads to mood disorders."

"A healthy diet that supports our gut microbiome (our gut ecosystem), has a positive effect on our mental well-being," Dr. Futterman emphasizes. "Eating whole foods that are unprocessed, such as organic fruits and vegetables, pasture-raised animal proteins, wild-caught fish and ancient grains can boost your mental health, lower inflammation and increase one's overall health."

"There's now a whole field of psychiatry called nutritional psychiatry, and it is based on this idea that ...what you eat actually matters," adds Dr. Gerber. "And there are ways to change the mind in pretty profound ways that are about adjusting your diet. It doesn't work for everybody, but nothing works for everybody. And it can be quite gentle."

This emphasis on the importance of diet is ancient, going back to Hippocrates. The phrase "Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food" is often attributed to him.

### Cannabis

Cannabis is not at all new, but the products now being legally sold are a far cry from the pot grandpa, mom or you had back in the day when the Woodstock Generation "Sparked a Doobie."

Dr. Gerber notes that "you can buy 90% concentration oils now in some of these stores. What did that do to you?" He continues, noting "this is where the vulnerability problem comes in because somebody will tell you 'It's great; it doesn't hurt me at all.' And hey, I believe that's true for some people and they're the lucky ones. And for some people it is absolute poison."

Ms. D'Loughy, who focuses on youth in the town's Human Services Department, puts it simply: "I think it's been very bad." Why is this?

"People who are in their teens or early twenties [are most vulnerable] because their brains are still developing," emphasizes Dr. Gerber. Consuming high-concentration THC by particularly vulnerable individuals for extended periods "can make [them] psychotic. And sometimes that's reversible and sometimes not."

Dr. Barksdale concurs, noting the article he co-wrote with Dr. Gerber on neurotoxicity and the developing brain.

"The potency [of cannabis] now has gone up dramatically," Dr. Barksdale says. "And for a developing brain, it is increasing anxiety, depression and other illnesses."

Rev. Walsh is worried as well, saying, "I believe the warnings from the mental health community about high-dose cannabis at a formative brain time, that they're not overstating that. That is true, and it is petrifying."

In March, Dr. Gerber submitted testimony before the Connecticut General Law Committee on HB5350, which, among other things, eliminates cannabis potency limits, so Connecticut's recreational cannabis dispensaries can better compete against neighboring states that permit higher potencies.

HB5350 has been passed by the Connecticut legislature. In his testimony, Dr. Gerber cited "that 80% of young people admitted to Silver Hill for severe psychotic disorders had histories of exposure to cannabis."

He also cited a near tripling of psychosis hospitalizations among youth in Colorado after retail outlets opened, and strong links between high-potency cannabis and increased cases of schizophrenia among young men in Ontario.

As a father himself, Dr. Gerber said that he did not want his children "growing up in a state that has decided, in the name of industry revenue, to strip away the protections that stand between my children and a product that could break their minds."

### Interactions and Tragedy

Behavioral health difficulties are often combined with addictions — a worrisome combination.

Ms. Rand of the town's Human Services Department observes

that “I think a lot of people tend to self-medicate, especially with anxiety. They’ll self-medicate with alcohol.” Furthermore, “because especially with alcohol being a depressant, if you’re already anxious and depressed and you use that, it can definitely trigger underlying mental health problems.”

This tragic combination does not discriminate. It happens even in the very best of families. And these challenges can be difficult to treat, let alone cure.

Paul Reinhardt, founder of the New Canaan Parent Support Group ([www.ncparentsupportgroup.org](http://www.ncparentsupportgroup.org)), says that behavioral health issues are often tied to addiction issues, citing that “over half the people that our parents are talking about that are struggling have ADHD.” He also cites that around 300 parents have attended his group’s meetings, indicating that addiction and behavioral health issues are common in New Canaan.

He founded the group after his son, Evan, died after a long battle with mental illness and addiction. Mr. Reinhardt’s goal in founding the group was to assist other families who have a member struggling with these challenges, and to help provide healing.

Evan Reinhardt, a child who “gave us such joy,” was “an adorable kid for many, many years.” However, around the seventh grade, things began to change. He developed anxiety, didn’t want to go to school, complained of stomach aches, got bullied, “wasn’t quite fitting in.”

Eventually, alcohol and drugs entered the picture. These “relieved his anxiety. He felt better. He felt like he could fit in better.” A cannabis addiction followed, and then prescription pills such as benzodiazepines. During his sophomore year in college, opioids arrived.

There was much support from family, with Evan experiencing successful recoveries and some relapses, but then “everything

seemed fine,” Mr. Reinhardt recalls. There was hope.

Those hopes ended, however, on July 15, 2015, when the Reinhardt family had a knock on their door in the wee hours from the New Canaan police, who informed them that Evan had died of an opioid overdose.

In Mr. Reinhardt’s view, what starts as a single behavioral issue often cascades along the way, and gets turbocharged by addictions, causing things to spiral. “We talk about it in every case of a parent talking about their loved one in the support meeting. There are co-occurring disorders and mostly it’s a ... mental health issue [that] comes first.”

He notes further that although mental health issues are the trigger, it’s not always so. “A lot of times, not every time, because there could be ... Johnny’s doing perfectly well, but at age 11, he finds out about alcohol, starts using at a very early age.”

“What you hear an awful lot [in alcohol addiction meetings] is that person [is] saying, ‘As I was growing up, I just didn’t feel comfortable in my own skin. I didn’t feel like I really fit in with other people.’ You hear that all the time. I think it means there was an underlying mental health issue, and it could be anxiety.”

In Mr. Reinhardt’s experience, in almost all cases addiction is a pediatric disease, and “you have those conditions that set you up to have it,” with those conditions being “ADHD, anxiety, depression, and this underlying feeling, which it could be like a social anxiety.”

**Where From Here?**

In his “Discourses on Livy’s History of Rome,” Niccolò Machiavelli observes, among other things, that it is useful to return to first principles.

What would these principles be here?

Dr. Barksdale of Waveny LifeCare observes that “there is still a negative image from someone having any type of mental health issue.”

As quoted earlier, Dr. Gerber of Silver Hill concurs, noting that “because of stigma and because of fear, we have often been reluctant to accept the fact that those [behavioral health] vulnerabilities are all around us.”

So, the First Principle appears to be: Let’s Talk About It. Let’s Purge the Stigma.

As the old shibboleth says: The first step in solving a problem is admitting there is one.

And the corollary of the First Principle is the Second Principle: It’s OK Not Just to Talk About It, But to Take Action to Address It.

Assuming people will start to talk openly about behavioral health challenges, and seek relief and support, what resources are available in New Canaan to help struggling people and families? And what are the missing links?

**Publisher’s Note**

Next week, Part 2 will move from the public health picture to the human stories behind it.

John Kriz will examine the experiences of people who sought help, accepted treatment, found support, and began the hard work of recovery or stability. Their stories will not reduce mental health to slogans or statistics. They will show what help can look like in real life: the first call, the first appointment, the family conversation, the relapse, the return, the support group, the clinician, the friend who stayed, the program that opened a door.

Part 1 showed the scope of the challenge. Part 2 will show the courage of those who have faced it.

That distinction matters. Awareness is necessary, but awareness without action is incomplete. The next step is to understand what happens when people stop hiding, ask for help, and discover that care is available, recovery is possible, and no one should have to suffer alone.

## How the Assessment Program Works

A New Canaan partnership with Silver Hill Hospital



203-801-2390 | ASSESSMENT@SILVERHILLHOSPITAL.ORG

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- 7.5** appointments per month
- More than half** of participants have been under 19
- About two-thirds** have been under 30

**WHAT RESIDENTS SAID**

- “It’s a great place to start because they’ll help you find the right type of help you need.”
- “It kind of saved my life.”
- “If it’s necessary, it’s a good way to understand what is happening with your child and where to go.”

The program was formerly known as the Urgent Assessment Program. The word ‘urgent’ was dropped to encourage residents to seek help early.  
Source: Silver Hill Hospital and reporting for the New Canaan Sentinel series.

## Where to Get Help in New Canaan

*Local contacts and crisis support*

- If it is an emergency**
  - Call or text **988** for the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
  - Call **911** if someone is in immediate danger
  - In a psychiatric crisis, ask for a CIT-trained officer and clinician
- Silver Hill Assessment Program**

Phone: 203-801-2390  
mail: [assessment@silverhillhospital.org](mailto:assessment@silverhillhospital.org)  
Admissions: 1-866-542-4455  
Web: [silverhillhospital.org/assessment-program](http://silverhillhospital.org/assessment-program)

For New Canaan, Weston and Westport residents; NO COST
- New Canaan Human Services**

Phone: 203-594-3076  
Web: [newcanaan.info/departments/human\\_services](http://newcanaan.info/departments/human_services)

Support for mental health, substance use concerns and times of crisis.
- New Canaan CARES**

Email: [caresinfo@newcanaancares.org](mailto:caresinfo@newcanaancares.org)  
Web: [newcanaancares.org](http://newcanaancares.org)

Programs and support for youth and families.
- New Canaan Parent Support Group**

Phone: 203-564-6374  
Email: [paul@ncparentsupportgroup.org](mailto:paul@ncparentsupportgroup.org)  
Web: [ncparentsupportgroup.org](http://ncparentsupportgroup.org)

Weekly support meetings for parents and caregivers.
- New Canaan Health Department**

Phone: 203-594-3018  
QPR info: 203-594-3020  
Web: [newcanaan.info/departments/health/community\\_health\\_programs.php](http://newcanaan.info/departments/health/community_health_programs.php)

Free QPR suicide-prevention training and community health programs.

Check official websites for current schedules and program details.

### CARLSON COLUMN From Page 1

start by clarifying that, while distasteful, the Town cannot force the property owner to remove them because they are protected under freedom of speech laws, unlike commercial advertising signs which can be restricted through Town zoning regulations.

While I cannot comment on the signs because they relate to a potential private legal settlement, I can provide background on the underlying matter. The Town of New Canaan, after vigorously defending its right to control local zoning, ultimately had its decision overturned by the State of Connecticut’s Superior Court. The 8-30g application brought by Karp Associates to build 102 housing units, 30% of which would be rented at state-mandated affordable rates, has been remanded back to the New Canaan Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission by the court.

Unless there is a negotiated settlement among the Town, ALL Intervenors, and Karp Associates, the P&Z Commission will need to approve the 102-unit development in the near future. Any negotiated settlement would be subject to public comment at a duly noticed Planning & Zoning Commission meeting.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE**

In order for New Canaan to better manage affordable housing development in the future, the Town has chosen to pursue a strategy of achieving successive affordable housing moratoria. To support this effort, the Town established an Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) to advise Town bodies on potential locations for future town-owned affordable housing developments. The goal is to help New Canaan qualify for future moratoria so that the Town is less vulnerable to future 8-30g applications and maintain greater local control over affordable housing development.

The Committee has come up with a few possible development options, and they are now soliciting public review and engagement. The options may be reviewed at the Affordable Housing Committee’s website pages at [newcanaan.info](http://newcanaan.info): [https://www.newcanaan.info/government/committees/affordable\\_housing.php](https://www.newcanaan.info/government/committees/affordable_housing.php). An online community

## The New Canaan Service Unit was honored with the Girl Scouts of Connecticut Charter Oak Award for exemplary leadership and measurable impact.

survey will be opening up soon as well.

I strongly encourage everyone interested in this issue to review the options presented and participate in this important community discussion.

**ZONING REGULATIONS UPDATE**

Also related to land use, the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission continues to refine draft updates to New Canaan’s commercial, parking, and inclusionary zoning regulations. (Inclusionary zoning involves requirements that multi-family developments of five units or more include 15% of the units as affordable.) As part of this process, the P&Z Department is launching an anonymous Q&A platform to provide residents with a clear and accessible way to ask questions and better understand the proposed changes. To utilize the online Q&A form, visit [https://www.newcanaan.info/departments/land\\_use/planning\\_\\_\\_zoning/zoning\\_regs\\_update\\_2025.php](https://www.newcanaan.info/departments/land_use/planning___zoning/zoning_regs_update_2025.php)

**CHARTER REVISION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Another major project, underway since November and being led by volunteer residents, is a thorough review of the Town Charter. The Charter Revision Commission delivered its draft report to the Town Council on May 4th and presented its recommendations on May 11th. The recommendations include subjects related to term limits for appointed government positions, the use of public referenda when changing use of public buildings, and the Town Council’s role in approving appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**I encourage all residents to attend New Canaan’s annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25th at 9:30 a.m.**

The Town Council will now review the Commission’s recommendations and provide feedback for further consideration before a final draft and ballot questions are prepared for the November election. Public Hearings on the recommended amendments will be May 27th at 7 p.m. and June 10th at 7 p.m. For more information and to read the draft CRC Report, visit [https://www.newcanaan.info/government/commissions/charter\\_revision.php](https://www.newcanaan.info/government/commissions/charter_revision.php)

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Lastly, in two matters related to the safety of our residents, our Fire Chief has released information about avoiding the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) in homes. The key points are having a CO detector on all levels of houses, having mechanical units in homes serviced annually, and not using gasoline-powered equipment within 20 feet of a house. To read the full article, visit the News From Town Hall section at [newcanaan.info](http://newcanaan.info).

And to help our young people operate e-bikes and bicycles safely on our roads, the Town collaborated with Saxe Middle School and the Police Department in conducting an E-Bike and Bicycle Safety Awareness Week. Shared information included being highly visible when riding, the Rules of the Road, and proper use of helmets.

As always, thank you for your continued engagement and participation in our community.

*Dionna Carlson is the New Canaan First Selectman. Her leadership is guided by a respect for local decision-making and a commitment to keeping residents informed and engaged. Read more from Dionna each month by subscribing to her email newsletter, News From Town Hall. To sign up to receive the newsletter visit [newcanaan.info](http://newcanaan.info) and click on the red bar at top, Sign Up For Alerts. To read the current issue of the newsletter visit [newcanaan.info](http://newcanaan.info) and click on the yellow bar at top, News From Town Hall.*

# New Canaan Police Department Honors Officers During National Police Week Ceremony

BY PETER BARHYDT

The New Canaan Police Department recognized officers for service, leadership and professionalism during its annual National Police Week ceremony.

Police Chief John DiFederico opened the event by honoring law enforcement officers nationwide who have died in the line of duty and remembering two fallen New Canaan officers: Chief Constable Lewis Drucker and Officer James Martin.

“National Police Week is also a time of reflection, a time to honor those who answer the call to serve with unwavering commitment,” DiFederico said.

The department presented awards for marksmanship, physical fitness and teamwork during critical incidents.

Lt. Aaron LaTourette and Officer Nick Rienzi each earned perfect firearms qualification scores of 400, while Officer Chris Dewey and Officer Rob Rizzitelli tied for the Perkins Award.

Officer Mairee Castro received the commissioner’s physical fitness award, and Officer Bryan Connolly received the Chief’s Award of Excellence.

A unit citation was also awarded to officers involved in responding to a homicide call on Oct. 24, 2025.

The ceremony concluded with Officer Matthew Blank being named the 2025 recipient of the Steven Wood Officer of the Year Award.

Blank, the school resource officer at Saxe Middle School, was recognized for his mentorship of students, leadership programs

conducted with New Canaan CARES, classroom instruction on alcohol awareness and constitutional rights, and work with the department’s drone program.

DiFederico also highlighted Blank’s service in the Connecticut Army National Guard and his role assisting Stamford Police during a barricaded subject incident.

“His calm professionalism and technical expertise during this dangerous and high-pressure situation were instrumental in the operation,” DiFederico said.

Accepting the award, Blank thanked fellow officers and family members for their support.

“There are dozens of you that can be standing in my place,” Blank said. “Every one of you is exceptional.”



## Officer Matthew Blank Named 2025 Steven Wood Officer of the Year

### NEWS BRIEFS From Page 1

incidents in New Canaan prompted safety reminders about maintaining working detectors on every level of a home, servicing fuel-burning appliances annually, and keeping gasoline-powered equipment outside and at least 20 feet from structures. Carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless, and exposure can cause headache, nausea, dizziness, fatigue, unconsciousness, or death. If a carbon monoxide detector activates, residents should evacuate immediately and call 911.

#### FROM TOWN HALL

##### Public Servants Honored For Service

National Public Works Week and National EMS Week are being observed May 17-23, 2026, recognizing public works and emergency medical services professionals. The public works theme is “Rooted in Service, Powered by Community,” and the EMS Week theme is “Improving Outcomes, Together.” The observances acknowledge the roles these workers play in maintaining infrastructure, responding to emergencies, and supporting public safety.

##### New Canaan Road Work Advances

As of May 22, New Canaan public works projects include ongoing improvements at Waveny Park, continued Aquarion water infrastructure work and preparations for seasonal road resurfacing. Milling and paving are expected to begin in late May, with cape sealing planned for late June or early July and crack sealing scheduled to begin around June 22; work generally runs from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., weather permitting, with local traffic, school buses and emergency vehicles allowed through work zones. Metro-North New Canaan Line trains will operate on a Sunday schedule for Memorial Day weekend, May 22-25, and buses will replace trains on the weekends of May 29 and June 5.

##### New Canaan Celebrates Flag Day

New Canaan will hold a Flag Day ceremony on June 14 at 3 p.m. at Town Hall to begin its local observance of the United States’ 250th anniversary. A new Betsy Ross flag donated by the New Canaan Board of Realtors will be raised during the event. More information is available at [newcanaa.info](http://newcanaa.info).

#### AROUND TOWN

##### New Canaan Honors Memorial Day

New Canaan’s Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will take place Monday, May 25, beginning at 9:30 a.m. from St. Mark’s Church and ending at Lakeview Cemetery. The event, sponsored by the Town of New Canaan and VFW Post 653, will include a ceremony with guest speaker Daniel J. Hogan, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, and a prayer led by Kelly Leather Antonson of The Congregational Church. Main Street parking will be restricted beginning at 8 a.m.; in the event of heavy rain, the parade will be canceled and the ceremony will be held at Town Hall at 10 a.m.

#### LOCAL BUSINESSES & NON PROFITS

##### New Walkway Opens Historic Garden



New Canaan Garden Club members have resumed work in the Colonial Herb Garden at the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society. A new brick walkway connecting the garden with the rest of the campus has been completed. Photo credit: New Canaan Garden Club

##### Dog Days Offers Canine Fun

The annual New Canaan Dog Days event, presented by Pet Pantry Warehouse, will be held May 31 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the New Canaan Nature Center, 144 Oenoke Ridge, with free admission. Rock Paper Scissors Custom Events will host the “Bonkers for Balls” Dog Scavenger Hunt from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with proceeds benefiting Adopt-A-Dog. Other scheduled activities include Luring 101, Waterpark for Dogs, Bone Bar, Ice Cream Pawlour, Sniffari, a face painter, food trucks and a caricature artist.

##### Library Marks Memorial Day

New Canaan Library will be closed Sunday, May 24, and Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day. The library is expected to reopen after the holiday.

##### Rotary Volunteers Restore Bristow Park



Members of the New Canaan Rotary Club removed invasive Japanese barberry from Bristow Park during the 2026 Day of Service. Japanese barberry can crowd out native plants and form dense thickets that support white-footed mice, a host for black-legged ticks associated with Lyme disease. The work was part of ongoing land stewardship efforts at the park. Photo credit: New Canaan Rotary Club

##### Plants Offer Solutions At Meeting



Tovah Martin spoke at the organization’s May monthly meeting on “Issues and Answers: Harnessing Plants to Solve Problems.” The program focused on using plants to address common gardening challenges and included a question-and-answer session. Photo credit: New Canaan Garden Club

#### SCHOOLS

##### Student Films Take Center Stage

The 2026 NCHS New Age Film Festival will hold its Awards Night on Thursday, May 28, at New Canaan High School, 11 Farm Road. The annual event, hosted by the NCHS Film Club, features student films from New Canaan and nearby schools in categories including narrative, documentary, animation, music video, PSA/commercial and others. The red carpet begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the program at 6 p.m.; films and event information are available at <https://ncps.digication.com/newagefilmfestival>

#### SPORTS

##### New Rules Clarify Basketball Timing

The National Federation of State High School Associations has approved basketball rule changes for the 2026-27 season, including new timing procedures for the final minute of quarters, halves and games. Under the changes, at least three-tenths of a second must run off the clock when a ball is legally touched after a throw-in, and officials may use a silent count when the clock fails to start or stop properly. Additional revisions address throw-in locations after fouls and establish how to handle offsetting technical fouls that occur at approximately the same time.

##### Ram Football Fundraiser Registration Opens

Registration is open for the New Canaan Ram Football Association Golf Tournament & Touchdown Dinner, scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2026, at the Country Club of New Canaan. The annual event includes golf, dinner and auction items, with proceeds supporting the New Canaan football program. Registration is available at [ncrfa26.givesmart.com](http://ncrfa26.givesmart.com).

#### LOCAL POLITICS

##### Charter Hearing Invites Public Participation

The New Canaan Town Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed Town Charter Revision Draft Report on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 15 Hall. The Charter Revision Commission, established by unanimous Town Council vote on Oct. 15, 2025, was tasked with reviewing the Town Charter and recommending possible changes to its articles. The commission submitted its first draft report to the Town Council on May 4.

# The Cost of Control: Weighing Connecticut's Mandates Against a Changing Virus



By RUSSELL R. BARKSDALE, JR.

In the ongoing debate over public health and personal liberty, Connecticut has positioned itself as a leader in stringent vaccination policy. The recent passage of House Bill 5044 by the state Senate—which allows vaccine schedules to be set independently of federal guidance—marks a notable expansion of individual authority. The irony, given the popular “No Kings” refrain, has not gone unnoticed.

This move, coupled with the 2021 repeal of religious exemptions for school vaccines—a decision later upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court—reinforces Connecticut’s assertive posture on immunization. Yet as the SARS-CoV-2 virus continues to evolve into less virulent forms, the state’s rigid approach invites a more measured reassessment, particularly when weighed against both public health outcomes and economic realities.

Supporters of HB 5044 argue that state-level control is necessary to preserve consistency in medical standards, especially amid shifting federal guidance from agencies

such as the CDC. Critics, including some lawmakers and parents, see a different picture—one where expanded authority risks sidelining legislative input and narrowing parental discretion. At its core, the debate is less about whether vaccines work, and more about whether the current moment justifies broad, inflexible mandates.

That question becomes more pressing when considering the virus itself. The dominant variants circulating in 2025 and 2026, including descendants of the JN.1 lineage and newer subvariants, show a clear evolutionary trend: increased transmissibility paired with reduced severity. According to global health data, these strains have not been associated with higher rates of hospitalization or death. For most individuals, the illness now presents as a mild respiratory infection rather than a life-threatening condition.

Even so, the economic implications of COVID-19 remain relevant. Hospitalizations, while less frequent, are still costly. Data from international healthcare analyses suggest that vaccination can reduce both direct medical expenses and indirect costs such as lost productivity. Feeding increased time off may be more related to an employer’s COVID-19 policy for mandatory time off, returning to work, or work from home. Regardless of these employer policies, benefits are not evenly distributed across populations.

*Measures developed during a period of acute crisis are now being applied to a virus that has become more predictable and less severe. Without recalibration, there is a risk that policy begins to lag behind the science it aims to uphold.*

Research indicates that vaccines remain highly cost-effective—often cost-saving—for older adults and those at higher risk. For younger, healthier individuals, however, the economic case becomes less compelling. Some analyses place the cost per quality-adjusted life-year gained for adults aged 18 to 49 at levels that challenge the justification for universal mandates in low-risk groups.

This distinction is particularly important when applied to children, who face the lowest risk of severe outcomes from current variants. Policies that remove exemptions and allow for broad expansion of vaccine requirements without legislative approval raise legitimate questions about proportionality. While vaccines continue to play a critical role in protecting vulnerable populations, a uniform mandate may overlook meaningful differences in risk.

The central concern is not the intent behind Connecticut’s policy, but its adaptability. Measures developed during a

period of acute crisis are now being applied to a virus that has become more predictable and less severe. Without recalibration, there is a risk that policy begins to lag behind the science it aims to uphold.

Public health strategy is most effective when it evolves alongside the threat it addresses. As COVID-19 continues its transition toward endemicity, a more targeted approach—focused on those at highest risk—may offer a better balance between protection, cost-effectiveness, and public trust.

Connecticut’s efforts reflect a clear commitment to safeguarding its residents. The challenge now is ensuring that this commitment is matched by flexibility, precision, and a willingness to adjust as conditions change—characteristics not usually associated with being a King.

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

## BOBBIE EGGERS READS LOCAL NEWSPAPERS From Page 1

something radical by comparison. It shows you our whole town, wide open for all to see. Politics on all sides; what a novel idea. Op-eds about Town Hall meetings, a neighbor or teacher who died, a house on your street that’s for sale, a fundraiser for a nonprofit you never heard of, but relieved to know it exists. That is what the local news does. It lets you stumble upon “aha” information. Stumbling is important and leads to people diving into their community.

National coverage is conflict-driven, while local news is community-driven. That is the choice we make every morning when we decide where to get our news. We need to get granular. It seems to be what is working well in this country. Be a part of the fabric of the town you live in.

Studies show that reading local news increases voter turnout, no surprise. Getting to know candidates motivates people to vote. Local news increases democracy at work.

Pew Research has found that 85 percent of Americans believe local news is important to the well-being of their community. And yet — we keep scrolling. We keep letting the algorithm decide what matters.

I have spent years working in nonprofits in Fairfield County and I can tell you from the inside: this town is extraordinary. The generosity here is surprising. The people doing quiet, essential, unglamorous work every single day for their neighbors makes me proud to live here.

The New Canaan Sentinel will tell you about all of them.

Supporting local business matters — we know that every dollar spent at a local business returns far more to our community than a click on Amazon ever will. The same logic applies to news. When you read local news, you are investing in the information ecosystem of this town. You are supporting the reporters who go to the zoning meetings to share that with you, to hold our local officials accountable, review a new restaurant, celebrate our neighbors, and remind us — week after week — that we are part of something worth caring about.

Fairfield County is not just the Instagram drone shots of waterfront properties or horse shows attended by women in white linen dresses and big hats. It is an interesting, educated, diverse community. Crack it open.

Read local news. Support it. Let yourself be surprised by your town.

## GOVERNOR’S RACE: FAZIO/LAMONT, ELLIOTT From Page 1

path to November. Former New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart suspended her campaign before the convention and endorsed him. Former New York Lt. Gov. Betsy McCaughey failed to reach the 15 percent threshold needed to qualify for a primary. Fazio won 92 percent of the convention vote and became the party’s nominee.

“I proudly accept your nomination for governor of the great state of Connecticut,” Fazio told delegates. “Connecticut is my home. It always has been and it always will be.”

Fazio framed his campaign around affordability, energy costs, lowering high taxes, public safety, and opposition to overreaching progressive Democratic control in Hartford. He turned toward Lamont in his speech, saying, “After eight years, Gov. Lamont believes he needs four more. Four more to do what?!” Fazio promised “the largest middle class tax cut in state history,” “historic property tax reform” and a 20 percent reduction in electricity rates.

Elliott, a fifth-term Democratic state representative, emerged from the Democratic convention with enough support to challenge Lamont in a primary. He is running as a progressive alternative, arguing that Connecticut should tax its wealthiest residents more aggressively and use state government to reduce costs for working- and middle-class families.

“Connecticut’s tax code is regressive. Working- and middle-class families pay more proportionally than the ultra-wealthy,” Elliott’s campaign platform states. The campaign calls for higher taxes on residents earning more than \$1 million annually, a permanent refundable child tax credit, more state education funding and changes to fiscal rules.

Elliott has also made utility policy a central part of his campaign. “I’m not just going to complain about Eversource,” his platform states. “I have a policy platform to break their grip on our state.” His proposals include reviewing Eversource’s franchise rights, changing eminent domain rules for utility infrastructure and expanding public power

options.

The Lamont-Elliott primary now becomes the first major test after the conventions. Lamont is asking Democratic voters to reward a record built on budget discipline, tax relief and statewide administrative experience. Elliott is asking those same voters to choose a more aggressive agenda on taxes, health care, housing, labor and energy policy.

Lamont did not dwell on Elliott in his convention remarks. He focused much of his speech on President Donald Trump and national Republicans, while urging Democratic unity. “We’re here on behalf of the people who voted for us and on behalf of the people that didn’t vote for us, because that’s what we do,” Lamont told delegates. “We’re Democrats.”

Elliott’s convention showing demonstrated that a meaningful share of Democratic activists want a different debate before the party turns to Fazio. He visited Democratic town committees in 135 of Connecticut’s 169 towns before the convention, building the delegate support that put him on the primary ballot.

For Fazio, the conventions produced the opposite political calendar. Republicans left Uncasville with a settled nominee, no primary and several months to define the race against the eventual Democratic nominee. Fazio represents the 36th Senate District, which includes Greenwich and parts of Stamford and New Canaan, and he has won the seat three times since 2021.

The Greenwich connection gives the campaign local significance. Lamont served on the Greenwich Board of Selectmen and the Board of Estimate and Taxation before becoming governor. Fazio was raised in Greenwich, graduated from Greenwich public schools and built his State Senate career in a district anchored by the town.

A Lamont-Fazio general election would put two Greenwich residents at the top of Connecticut’s ballot. An Elliott-Fazio race would place Elliott’s progressive platform against Fazio’s affordability, tax reduction, and energy agenda.

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Samuel J. Murray's Military Decorations

The wartime decorations and insignia of First Lieutenant Samuel J. Murray, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, including his Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Clusters. Murray fought from Normandy through the Ardennes, was wounded multiple times in combat, and was among the first American officers to accept the German surrender at Brest in September 1944. The display reflects a combat career that spanned some of the most brutal campaigns of the European Theater.



Fort Benning, 1942

Samuel J. Murray, circled in red, poses with Company B, 3rd Platoon, at Fort Benning, Georgia, during the early years of World War II. Murray, then a young officer candidate and instructor, spent the years following Pearl Harbor training American infantrymen as the United States rapidly expanded its armed forces for the war in Europe and the Pacific. Within two years, Murray would request transfer into combat, landing at Omaha Beach with the 2nd Infantry Division and serving through Normandy, Brest, and the Battle of the Bulge.

## Honoring Our Veterans From Page 1

The line bent.

Murray rose anyway.

He had already spent hours moving from foxhole to foxhole, steadying men whose world had narrowed to snow, steel, and survival. He moved deliberately, never hurried, speaking when necessary, visible when it mattered. The act of standing, of moving upright under fire, carried its own authority.

Then he called for volunteers.

A rocket-launcher team formed around him. Together they moved toward the tank leading the attack.

The Army would later reduce the moment to citation language: he advanced “through heavy fire,” exposed himself to the full force of the enemy, and continued forward.

The first bullet struck him clean through the chest—entering from the front and exiting through his back, passing within an inch of his heart. The wound left permanent damage.

He kept moving.

Moments later, a shell burst nearby. Shrapnel tore into his leg, severing an artery. The injury would leave him partially disabled for the rest of his life.

He did not leave.

Men carried him back to his position. Still conscious, he continued directing the defense as the attack closed in. For hours, under freezing conditions, he maintained control of the line.

It held.

### A Life Prepared for Something Else

Samuel John Murray had been raised in a world that suggested continuity rather than rupture.

He grew up in New Rochelle in a family marked by influence and expectation. His father served as a New York state senator. His maternal grandfather moved within the machinery of Tammany Hall. His paternal grandfather founded the U.S. Playing Card Company. He attended Georgetown University, positioned for a life in law, business, or public service.

The path ahead required no reinvention.

Then came December 7, 1941—his twenty-third birthday.

The attack on Pearl Harbor transformed the country in a matter of hours. For Murray, the date carried a double meaning: the beginning of his life and the moment that redirected it.

He volunteered.

### Building an Army That Did Not Yet Exist

At Fort Benning, Murray entered an Army still in formation.

The United States had declared war, but it had not yet built the force required to fight it. Equipment shortages defined the early months. Training began with sticks in place of rifles. When weapons arrived, many were relics from the First World War—tools suited to a conflict that no longer existed.

The Army faced a modern, mechanized war with outdated preparation.

Everything had to be created—training systems, tactical doctrine, leadership structure, battlefield coordination. The war ahead would demand mobility, combined arms, adaptability, and constant adjustment under fire.

Innovation became necessity.

Murray thrived in that environment. He qualified for officer training and remained at Fort Benning as an instructor for nearly two years. He trained soldiers while studying the evolving nature of combat, learning how units functioned under pressure and how quickly they failed when poorly led.

He came to understand something essential: survival in modern war depended on the ability to think, adjust, and act decisively in conditions that refused predictability.

### A Deliberate Choice

By 1944, Murray had been sent to England, assigned to a staff role supporting the planning and coordination of the Allied invasion.

He asked to leave it.

He exchanged a desk assignment for a Thompson submachine gun and command of a rifle company at the front.

It was not a romantic decision. It reflected conviction. Leadership belonged at the point of contact.

He landed at Omaha Beach on June 7, 1944.

### Normandy: The Problem of the Hedgerows

Beyond the beaches lay the bocage—a landscape that imposed its own rules.

Dense hedgerows rose from earthen embankments, dividing the countryside into enclosed fields. Every advance exposed troops to fire from unseen positions. Visibility collapsed. Movement slowed. Initiative shifted to the defender.

The tanks failed first.

Sherman crews discovered that the hedgerows could not be crossed without exposing the underside of the vehicle. Attempts to climb them left tanks vulnerable before they could engage. Infantry advanced without reliable armored support.

Engineers eventually solved the problem—welding steel prongs, later known as “Culin cutters,” onto the front of tanks so they could break through the hedgerows.

Until then, the infantry fought alone.

Murray refused to accept unnecessary loss. He adjusted his approach, working around enemy positions rather than driving directly into them. He maneuvered along the edges, closing from unexpected directions, reducing exposure, preserving strength.

The method required discipline.

It worked.

He carried his company forward without feeding it into the hedgerows. He preserved lives until the armor could be adapted and reintroduced into the fight.

He was wounded in Normandy.

He kept moving.

### Brest: A City Ordered to Die

The war carried him west to Brest. Hitler had ordered the city held at “all cost”—a directive understood to mean to the last man.

German forces fortified Brest accordingly. Bunkers, artillery, layered defenses, and interlocking fields of fire turned the city into a

fortress.

The Americans needed the port.

The Germans intended to deny it.

The battle began in August and extended into September 1944. It became one of the most brutal urban engagements of the campaign.

Streets became killing zones. Buildings concealed hardened positions. Movement above ground drew immediate fire.

Murray adapted.

He led his men through the city by breaking through interior walls with satchel charges. Instead of crossing exposed streets, his company moved through buildings—room by room, floor by floor.

Each breach carried risk.

Each step forward required commitment.

He entered Brest with approximately 130 men.

He lost nearly half.

On September 18, Murray’s company penetrated the inner defenses of the Old City. The breach fractured German resistance in that sector. Surrender followed.

Army records preserved the moment:

“Lieutenant Murray was the first American officer to accept the surrender at Brest.”

The city fell the next day.

The port lay in ruins.

### The Ardennes: The Line That Held

In December 1944, the war shifted again.

German forces launched a counteroffensive through the Ardennes. The Battle of the Bulge began.

Murray’s unit held part of the northern shoulder—a position that would later be recognized as decisive. Author and son of Dwight Eisenhower, John Eisenhower, wrote that the actions there “could well be considered the most decisive of the Ardennes campaign.”

The conditions were severe.

Cold, exhaustion, reduced strength, inexperienced replacements, and sustained attack defined the battlefield.

Murray understood the equation.

Units that stopped moving died where they stood.

He moved.

He exposed himself deliberately, drew fire, shifted momentum, and brought his men forward.

The line held.

### After the War

Murray returned with four Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars with “V” designation for valor, and the Distinguished Service Cross.

He returned with permanent injuries—a damaged heart, a disabled leg.

He returned without many of his men.

He completed his education at Columbia Law School and entered the law.

He spoke little of the war.

### Memory

Memorial Day remained a day of weight.

It carried the memory of continuous combat—from June 7, 1944, through January 18, 1945—and the steady loss of the men he led.

The numbers remained specific.

The memory did not fade.

At the American cemetery in Normandy, he stood among the graves.

“They were kids,” he said.

### What Endures

He did not define himself by recognition.

He defined himself by duty.

During the protests of the 1960s, when others reacted with anger, his response reflected the principle he had carried through war:

“That’s what I fought for,” he said. “Their freedom of speech.”

He died in 2004.

What remains is not legend.

It is the record of a man who prepared carefully, chose deliberately, adapted constantly, and, when the line required it, stood up and held it.



Photo: Richard Harnemy

# Six Extinctions

June 6–September 6, 2026

An Ammonite is coming to the Bruce Museum! Six Extinctions, a tour de force traveling exhibition by Gondwana Studios, tells the dramatic story of the mass extinctions that have impacted life on Earth.

Major support for Six Extinctions is provided by Pfizer Inc. and Bank of America.



Bruce Museum  
Greenwich, CT  
BruceMuseum.org

the  
Bruce

# Oberlander, Kelly Win Party Nominations for 36th Senate District

BY STAFF REPORTERS

Jill Oberlander and Joe Kelly won their party nominations this week for Connecticut's 36th Senate District, beginning a general-election race to succeed state Sen. Ryan Fazio as he runs for governor.

The contest will put two Greenwich officials with town finance-board experience before voters in Greenwich, New Canaan and part of Stamford. Oberlander, a Democrat and former Greenwich selectperson, served on the Representative Town Meeting and chaired the Board of Estimate and Taxation. Kelly, a Republican and former chairman of the Greenwich Board of Education, currently serves on the BET.

Oberlander was endorsed by Democrats on Monday night. Kelly was chosen by Republican delegates on Tuesday night.

Greenwich Selectwoman Rachel Khanna nominated Oberlander, citing her municipal experience and fiscal record. Oberlander's campaign also announced endorsements from U.S. Rep. Jim Himes, Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons and New Canaan Selectwoman Amy Murphy Carroll.

Oberlander entered the race earlier this year after filing candidate paperwork with the State Elections Enforcement Commission on Feb. 27. Her campaign is built on her work in Greenwich government, including her 2018 selection as the first Democratic chair of the BET in recorded town history and her later service on the Board of Selectmen from 2019 to 2021.

David Weisbrod, the current BET chair, said in a statement that Oberlander's

finance-board tenure showed the qualities needed in Hartford.

"Jill Oberlander is a superb public official. We are fortunate that she is dedicating her enormous talent to serve the community," Weisbrod said. "Jill served as Chair of the BET during my first term. I worked very closely with her. Jill was a trailblazer then and will continue as such up in Hartford."

"Jill's legal training, quick mind, thorough knowledge of the issues, tremendous work ethic and collaborative style are key attributes," Weisbrod said. "I can think of no one who will represent us better than Jill Oberlander."

Oberlander said her campaign would focus on affordability, energy costs, jobs and protection from government overreach.

"I'll be laser-focused on the critical, everyday issues people care about — affordability, energy costs, and making sure that anyone who wants to work can find a good job and build a life here," Oberlander said. "At the same time, I will do everything in my power to make sure the people of the 36th remain safe and protected from government overreach. This is not abstract to me. This is my job description."

Fazio, who currently holds the seat and is vacating it to run for Governor, nominated Kelly at the Republican convention, calling him a community servant and consensus builder.

"I rise for the purpose of nominating my friend, Joe Kelly, to be the next senator from the 36th District," Fazio said. "Joe Kelly puts community ahead of politics. He always gives of himself to others and puts others



*Both candidates have said they believe the district is fortunate because there are no bad choices in this race.*

first. He builds bridges at a time that our state and our country needs more bridge building in politics and government."

Fazio said his decision not to seek another Senate term while running for governor was difficult, but made easier by Kelly's candidacy.

"Representing this state Senate district, my home district has been the honor of a lifetime and stepping away to run for another office was a very difficult and bittersweet decision," Fazio said.

Fazio argued that state government needed more political balance and said Kelly would advocate for lower taxes, protection of budget guardrails, local control and changes to electric bills. He also pointed to Kelly's record as Board of Education chairman and BET member.

New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson seconded Kelly's nomination and said his experience fit the district.

"Joe understands that good government is not about winning the arguments, it's about bringing disparate voices together to make thoughtful decisions that strengthen our community and protect taxpayers," Carlson said. "Joe Kelly is a leader people trust because he respects every seat at the table."

Kelly accepted the nomination by leaning on a theme of trust, citing his experience as a family member, business owner, teammate, coach and public official.

"I'm incredibly honored," Kelly said.

Kelly said he had worked to reduce conflict on the Board of Education and the RTM, and he pointed to the current BET as an example of cooperation.

"The BET right now, we have a wonderful group of people in the BET and we work together," Kelly said. "We reach across to the other side. We have unanimous

decisions, something we haven't seen for years."

Kelly tied his campaign to Fazio's Senate tenure and said he would continue the policy direction Fazio had advanced in Hartford.

"I'm going to continue the work that Ryan has done in the Senate," Kelly said.

Kelly said he would support lower taxes as a way to attract business, oppose state control over local planning and zoning decisions, and seek to lower to utility bills. He criticized the state's 8-30g affordable housing law and said land-use decisions should remain local.

Kelly also told delegates that Republican unity would be necessary in the campaign.

"We have Reagan Republicans. We have Bush Republicans. We have Trump Republicans, but what's the common denominator?" Kelly said. "We all have to work together."

Kelly entered the race

earlier this year with a campaign message focused on civility, cooperation and fiscal discipline. His local record includes service as a liaison to the Cardinal Stadium renovation effort and years as head coach of the Greenwich High School rugby program, which won nine championships in 10 years.

The November race will test two candidates with long Greenwich résumés but different political arguments. Oberlander is presenting her record in municipal finance, law and town executive leadership as preparation for state office. Kelly is presenting his experience in schools, town budgeting, coaching and business as preparation to continue Fazio's work in Hartford.

Both candidates have said they believe the district is fortunate in that there are no bad choices in this race.

Voters in the 36th District will choose the next state senator in November.

# BLADE Launches 12-Minute Helicopter Commute Westchester to Manhattan, Manhattan to Westchester

BY STAFF REPORTERS

A new chapter in regional commuting is taking flight as BLADE begins offering helicopter service between Westchester County Airport and Midtown Manhattan, promising to turn a daily hour-long commute into a 12-minute trip.

The company's weekday service connects Westchester County Airport (HPN) with BLADE Lounge West at the West 30th Street Heliport, placing passengers just steps from Hudson Yards and the heart of Midtown. Flights operate Monday through Friday, with morning departures into the city and evening return trips designed to accommodate traditional work schedules.

Fares start at \$225 per seat, with discounted pricing available through commuter ticket books.

Marketed as a premium alternative to congested roadways and packed trains, the service targets professionals returning to five-day office

routines. Flights in both directions run between 7 and 9:30 a.m. and then between 4 to 7:30 p.m. with connections offered to JFK.

Brady Miller with BLADE said; "This service is about giving Westchester and Connecticut commuters their time back. By connecting HPN directly to Manhattan in just 12 minutes, we're offering a reliable, efficient alternative to some of the region's most congested routes—while maintaining the high operational standards BLADE is known for."

For many suburban commuters, the offering represents a dramatic shift. A drive or train ride from Westchester into Manhattan can often exceed an hour each way—longer during peak traffic along corridors such as the Saw Mill River Parkway. BLADE's service aims to bypass that congestion entirely, with flight paths primarily routed over the Hudson River.

"You'll never see the Saw Mill the same way," the



*You'll never see the Saw Mill the same way again*

company notes in promotional materials.

BLADE executives say the move reflects changing workplace expectations and renewed demand for efficient suburban-to-city travel.

With the return of five-day work weeks and traffic between the Greater New York City suburbs and Manhattan now exceeding pre-pandemic levels, it was time for Blade to

service this demand," CEO Rob Wiesenthal said in a statement.

The company, already known for airport transfers and flights to the Hamptons, described the Westchester route as its first weekday commuter operation in the New York metropolitan area. Officials say expansion to additional routes or weekend service could follow if demand proves strong.

BLADE also emphasized

that the new flights are not expected to significantly increase helicopter noise, noting that most travel will occur over the river rather than densely populated neighborhoods.

Looking ahead, the service could serve as a bridge to future aviation technology. Joby Aviation, the California-based firm that acquired BLADE, plans to eventually integrate electric air taxis into

the network once regulatory approvals are secured.

For now, the company is betting that time savings—and the appeal of skipping gridlock altogether—will be enough to attract a new class of commuter willing to take their daily trip to new heights.

To learn more about this service please contact Brady Miller at [mailto:brady@blade.com](mailto:mailto:brady@blade.com) or call 844-FLY-BLADE

**(888) 910-8425**

# New Canaan Sentinel

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## Kept by Hand

The town will mark the holiday this year with a parade and ceremony sponsored by the Town of New Canaan and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Howard Bossa and Peter Langenus Post 653. The parade is scheduled to step off from St. Mark's Church and proceed down Oenoke Ridge, past the Wayside Cross at God's Acre, the Firehouse and Town Hall, and on to Lakeview Cemetery, where veterans, town officials, marchers and residents will gather for the ceremony.

The route makes remembrance visible. It moves past places that define civic life here and ends at the cemetery, where the meaning of the day becomes concrete. Memorial

***Memorial Day is not a general salute to public service. It is the national day of mourning for those who died while serving in the armed forces of the United States.***

Day is not a general salute to public service. It is the national day of mourning for those who died while serving in the armed forces of the United States.

New Canaan's observance begins before the parade. The work begins with the VFW's annual effort to place flags on veterans' graves at Lakeview Cemetery and in other cemeteries across town. Volunteers were asked this year to gather at Lakeview Cemetery on May 16 to help VFW Post 653 place flags on gravestones before Memorial Day. The VFW removes the flags afterward so they can be reused, conserving funds and following cemetery flag protocol.

That work is specific and difficult to do without help. The town-wide effort covers more than 1,300 veterans buried in New Canaan's 14 cemeteries. About 200 people gathered at Lakeview Cemetery that year, including families, scouts, firefighters, police, town officials and members of VFW Post 653, for the flag placement.

The work has history. The Lakeview list grew from an Eagle Scout project by John Wilson of Troop 70, undertaken with the help of his family and troop, and later expanded with names from other cemeteries identified through a local Girl Scout Gold Award project. The Wilson family has continued to work with the VFW on the annual placements.

The money matters, too. VFW Post 653 is donor-supported, makes memorial poppies available for donations at local businesses, and uses fundraising proceeds to pay for flags and wreaths laid on Memorial Day and during the Christmas season on veterans' graves at Lakeview and other New Canaan cemeteries.

This is what civic memory looks like when it is maintained. It is a list checked against the ground. It is a flag placed at a marker. It is a wreath bought with local donations. It is a child learning, by doing, that sacrifices for freedom's sake have names attached to them.

New Canaan should attend the parade, but we can do more. The town should support the VFW's work, help with the cemeteries, teach the purpose of the holiday and treat Memorial Day as a duty before it becomes a weekend.

A town remembers well when remembrance is shared. VFW Post 653 has given New Canaan a practical way to do that. The rest of the town can meet the obligation with gratitude, companionship and presence.



“So we remember first, and then we do summer.”

# Editorial Page

## Let's Talk...

Last Saturday morning the Lapham Center was the venue for a memorable morning of interpersonal discussions under the title of “Let's Talk New Canaan”, as hosted by the New Canaan Clergy Association.

Participants were encouraged to think beyond the polarized dialogue which dominates so much of our news sources these days. We were reminded that many people find themselves increasingly isolated by the evolution, and fast growth, of social media and other modern technologies.

To facilitate a greater level of dialogue, we were assigned to small groups of about eight people to hear each other's life stories, in some serious depth, and then specifically to discuss our views on such topics as politics and religion, which are frequently recommended to be off limits.

We were challenged not only to reveal more than usual about ourselves, but also to go beyond a superficial interest in the views of an assigned partner. It was a refreshing exercise and as someone in my group said, “I have learned more about each of you this morning than I know about many of my close friends”. It was also interesting to hear how much education, relocation and life's evolving experiences over the years had been contributing factors to the broadening of our appreciations for people from other religions,

backgrounds and circumstances.

There was plenty of value for us to take away from the gathering.

We had been shown the extra value of reaching out to others, and in going well beyond the boundaries of normal safe conversation, and we had been challenged to engage and listen empathetically to the lives and views of others.

During the concluding discussion, it was pointed out that New Canaan is home to many people who were born, and have lived, in many other parts of the world and that they have much perception to contribute to those who can slow down for a minute or two and ask them serious questions, and then listen.

Special thanks to the reverend Dr. Alan Hilton, who structured the meeting so skillfully and to the members of the town clergy who were our facilitators

It is both inspiring, and comforting, to know that the New Canaan Clergy Association exists, and that it meets regularly, to share information and to consider opportunities for contribution to the spiritual well-being of the entire New Canaan community. We hope they can continue with their good works such as this event and, in the meantime, “Let's Keep Talking”.....

Keith Simpson

## Weed Street, Arnold Karp and the affordable-housing trade-off

To the Editor:

The Weed Street dispute should be judged by what it would produce, not by the label attached to it. Arnold Karp's court-backed 8-30g proposal at Weed and Elm would put 102 units on the site, with about 30 percent set aside as affordable housing. His alternative “Plan A” would reduce the count to 62 units, but it would produce zero affordable units and rely on a \$3.2 million payment to the town instead.

That trade-off is not a serious affordable-housing outcome for New Canaan. Using the \$620,000-per-unit estimate already discussed in town planning work, a \$3.2 million fee would support about five new affordable units. A 62-unit multifamily project in a normal multifamily zone would have to meet New Canaan's inclusionary requirement of 15 percent affordability, or about 9.3 affordable units. The 102-unit 8-30g project would provide roughly 30 affordable units. Five is not comparable to either number.

The claimed downsizing also deserves scrutiny. Reducing the number of units does not necessarily reduce the building's effect on adjacent homes. If the 62 market-rate units are larger and the ceilings are higher, the project can remain large in mass and height even with fewer apartments. Neighbors would still face a building that is difficult to reconcile with the established scale of Weed Street.

New Canaan has worked to earn 8-30g moratoriums by creating affordable housing and planning for future

***Weed Street should not become the precedent for using 8-30g leverage to secure a market-rate project with no affordable housing at all.***

HUE points. A 62-unit market-rate building with no affordable units does not advance that strategy. It advances a private development outcome while asking the town to accept a payment that would produce far fewer new affordable homes.

The issue is not whether New Canaan should create affordable housing. It should, and it has. The issue is whether residents should accept a settlement that removes every affordable unit from a large multifamily project and still leaves neighbors with substantial height, bulk and traffic impacts.

Weed Street should not become the precedent for using 8-30g leverage to secure a market-rate project with no affordable housing at all.

Maria Weingarten

## The Scandal Isn't What's Illegal



By CAROL PLATT LIEBAU

Connecticut's politics were jolted recently by the dramatic withdrawal of former New Britain mayor Erin Stewart from the governor's race. Her departure followed an investigative report documenting more than \$200,000 in purchases charged to a city-issued credit card for expenses unrelated to city business.

Stewart has pledged to take responsibility for any mistakes she's made, and that's as it should be. If any laws were broken, consequences should follow. But amid the predictable outrage, it's worth recalling the observation once made by the late Washington Post journalist Michael Kinsley: the real scandal in politics isn't what's illegal. It's what's legal.

That distinction matters for taxpayers across Connecticut, including in communities like New Canaan and Greenwich, who ultimately underwrite the cost of government. Through grants, education funding, bonding, pension obligations, and infrastructure spending, we all share in both the burden and the long-term consequences of decisions made elsewhere.

And while headline scandals draw attention, they often obscure a more persistent problem. Much of what undermines public confidence in government is not illegal at all. It is embedded in practices that operate comfortably within the law, but would shock most taxpayers if they were more widely understood.

Consider a few examples.

Under Connecticut's system of “union release time,” some public employees

receive taxpayer-funded salaries while working on union business. In effect, taxpayers subsidize a government-funded special interest.

State pension formulas include overtime pay. This creates an incentive for some employees to increase their earnings significantly in their final years of service, thereby locking in higher pension benefits that taxpayers must fund for decades.

Public university employees can retain taxpayer-funded pensions despite credible allegations of serious misconduct or harassment, so long as they resign before termination and avoid criminal conviction. An example includes a UConn music professor accused of touching children and sitting naked with young people in a hot tub. That conduct that would normally disqualify anyone individual from public employment, yet it didn't preclude him from collecting his state pension. For most taxpayers, that disconnect between conduct and consequence is difficult to justify.

And in Connecticut, when the terms of a state labor contract conflict with statute, the contract can prevail. This reflects how much governing authority has been ceded through collective bargaining, often with little public awareness.

Procurement practices raise similar concerns. Connecticut has a long history of relying on no-bid or politically connected contracts. Even when these arrangements comply with the law, they raise legitimate questions about fairness, transparency, and public trust. When public dollars are involved, the appearance of favoritism can be almost as corrosive as the reality.

Transparency itself is too often more promise than practice. Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act requires agencies to respond to records requests “promptly.” In reality, agencies can delay responses, produce documents selectively, and invoke broad exemptions. Filing a complaint with the Freedom of Information Commission can take months or longer to resolve, and by the

time a determination is made, public attention has often moved on. Delay, in effect, becomes denial.

None of this is accidental. It reflects a system that frequently operates within the letter of the law while turning a blind eye to its spirit. And over time, the gap between what is legal and what is right erodes public confidence in government.

The answer is not episodic outrage. It is structural reform.

First, every state agency and municipality should be required to publish government purchasing card statements online, in searchable form, on a regular basis. Taxpayers shouldn't to file formal requests to determine how their money is being spent. Transparency should be routine, not reactive.

Second, any nongovernmental organization receiving state funds should be required to disclose detailed financial information, including audited statements, executive compensation, and vendor payments. Public money should come with a clear expectation of public accountability.

Third, Connecticut should revisit the practice of allowing labor agreements to override statutory law. This arrangement has far-reaching implications, yet it remains poorly understood by many citizens whose interests are directly affected by it.

These aren't radical proposals. They're baseline expectations of transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship. They do not require partisan agreement so much as a shared commitment to fairness and good governance.

If Connecticut is to remain a place where families and businesses choose to stay, it isn't enough to punish what is illegal. We also have to confront what's perfectly legal, but plainly wrong.

Carol Platt Liebau is President of Yankee Institute, a Connecticut-based public policy organization advancing practical solutions to keep our state affordable, livable, and workable. Learn more at [YankeeInstitute.org](http://YankeeInstitute.org).

Publisher@NewCanaanSentinel.com

# Weekly Scores

Date	Team (School - Gender - Sport)	Opponent	Score
5/12	New Canaan - Boys - Baseball	St. Joseph	New Canaan 11 - St. Joseph 1
5/13	New Canaan - Boys - Baseball	Trumbull	New Canaan 0 - Trumbull 8
5/18	New Canaan - Boys - Baseball	Ridgefield	New Canaan 8 - Ridgefield 1
5/14	New Canaan - Boys - Lacrosse	Staples	New Canaan 5 - Staples 6
5/16	New Canaan - Boys - Lacrosse	Brien McMahon	New Canaan 16 - Brien McMahon 1
5/19	New Canaan - Boys - Lacrosse	Greenwich	New Canaan 17 - Greenwich 7
5/12	New Canaan - Boys - Tennis	Fairfield Warde	New Canaan 4 - Fairfield Warde 0
5/18	New Canaan - Boys - Tennis	Darien	New Canaan 4 - Darien 1
5/13	New Canaan - Boys - Volleyball	St. Joseph	New Canaan 3 - St. Joseph 0
5/14	New Canaan - Boys - Volleyball	Trumbull	New Canaan 3 - Trumbull 0
5/18	New Canaan - Boys - Volleyball	Ridgefield	New Canaan 3 - Ridgefield 1
5/14	New Canaan - Girls - Lacrosse	John Jay High School	New Canaan 11 - John Jay High School 5
5/14	New Canaan - Girls - Softball	Trumbull	New Canaan 2 - Trumbull 3
5/18	New Canaan - Girls - Softball	Ridgefield	New Canaan 4 - Ridgefield 0
5/13	New Canaan - Girls - Tennis	Darien	New Canaan 5 - Darien 2
5/12	St. Lukes - Boys - Baseball	Citius Prep	St. Lukes 7 - Citius Prep 2



Post Prom is a celebratory night for the entire Senior class. All seniors are invited, regardless of whether they attend prom or not, and every year almost the entire class attends. Students entered Waveny to find it transformed into a road-trip themed event. See the full story in next week's Sentinel

## Upcoming Sports Schedule

22	MAY, FRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 - 9:45pm</li> <li>8:30 - 10:30pm</li> </ul>	Boys Varsity Baseball @ Staples High School 70 North Ave, Westport CT 06880 Boys Varsity Volleyball vs Fairfield Ludlowe 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
27	MAY, WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 - 9:30pm</li> <li>7 - 9pm</li> <li>8 - 10pm</li> </ul>	Girls JV Golf @ Greenwich High School 1300 King Street, Greenwich Connecticut 06831 Girls Varsity Golf @ Greenwich High School 1300 King Street, Greenwich Connecticut 06831 Boys JV Lacrosse - Boys vs Staples High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
28	MAY, THU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:15 - 8:45pm</li> <li>7:15 - 7:45pm</li> </ul>	Girls JV Golf vs St. Joseph 95 Country Club Rd, New Canaan CT 06840 Girls Varsity Golf vs St. Joseph 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840

## LEGAL & CLASSIFIED ADS

### CLASSIFIED AD

**1,000 sq ft office for rent on Vitti Street in New Canaan. \$1800 per month includes gas and electric. Please contact 203-943-6758**

### LEGAL AD

**Town of New Canaan  
Town Council  
Public Hearing/Special Meeting  
Wednesday, May 27, 2026  
7:00 P.M. - Town Hall**

#### Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of New Canaan will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Town Charter Revision Draft report on May 27, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. For more information, go to [www.newcanaan.info](http://www.newcanaan.info) [or in the digital edition please just click on this ad to go to the link.]

### LEGAL AD

**TOWN OF NEW CANAAN  
ACTION TAKEN BY THE  
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION  
Monday, May 18, 2026**

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands Commission of the Town of New Canaan, at its meeting on 05/18/26 made the following decision:

- Application Number (IW-26-9) - 266 Michigan Road, 266 Michigan Road LLC Map 34 Block 34 Lot 176 & 1007 Oenoke Ridge, Second Taxing District of City of Norwalk (South Norwalk Electric and Water) Map 34 Block 34 Lot 160. Mitigate earth disturbing activities from the removal of trees and grubbing of land at 266 Michigan Road and dumping into wetlands and upland review areas, located on the SNEW property. Power wash existing gazebo and paint only. Repair southern footbridge and re-locate 5' to the south of the existing location and set at same elevation. Add woodland walking path. Re-set existing rocks along section of inlet stream. Perform additional landscaping activities to stabilize the site.

**APPROVED with Special Conditions.**

### LEGAL AD

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
TOWN OF NEW CANAAN  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS of the Town of New Canaan will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, June 1, 2026 this hearing is scheduled to be a hybrid meeting and will be both in person in the Board Room at Town Hall, 77 Main Street and virtually via zoom at 7:00 p.m. Zoom link will be posted on the calendar at [newcanaan.info](http://newcanaan.info).

- 148 Richmond Hill Road - Zoning Variance - Upon application of Brian Carey, Landtech, Authorized Agent for Alexander and Ayano Meyers, owner(s), for a Variance of Section(s) 3.5.E to allow a residential addition 19.6 feet from the front property line where 25 feet is required in the B Residence Zone (Map K, Block 10, Lot G7).
- 75 Pheasant Drive - Zoning Variance - Upon application of Stephen Finn, Authorized Agent for Denise B. Finn, owner(s) for a Variance of Section(s) 3.5.F.3 to allow the expansion of a nonconforming three-story structure in the Two Acre Zone at 75 Pheasant Drive (Map 45, Block 226, Lot 27).
- 240 Rosebrook Road - Zoning Variance - Upon application of Michael Murry, Esq., Diserio, Martin, O'Connor & Castiglioni, LLP, Authorized Agent for Matthew Lasko, owner(s) for a Variance of Section(s) 6.5.B.2.b to allow a retaining wall closer than 10 feet from the property line in the Two Acre Zone at 240 Rosebrook Road (Map 39, Block 99 Lot 144).

**Luke T. Tashjian, Chairman  
Dated: May 21, 2026**

### LEGAL AD

**TOWN OF NEW CANAAN  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING  
SPECIAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) will hold a Public Hearing and Special Meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. This hearing is scheduled as a hybrid meeting to be held in the Town Meeting Room at Town Hall, 77 Main Street. Members of the public may attend either in person or via an online system.

- Interested persons may appear and provide public comment on the proposed amendments to the Town of New Canaan Zoning Regulations and the Town of New Canaan Zoning Map.
- The following sections of the regulations are proposed to be amended:
  - Section 2.2 (Defined Terms)
  - All Sections of Article 4 (Business Zones, renamed to Commercial Zones)
  - Creation of Section 5.11 (Conservation and Traffic Mitigation District)
  - Section 6.2 (Parking and Loading)
  - Section 7.6 (Affordable Housing)
- The following changes are proposed for the zoning map:
  - Consolidation of existing two retail zones and four business zones into one retail zone and one business zone.
  - Expansion of the Business Zone to include 182 Main Street, 185 Main Street, and the western portion of the "Park Street Lot" at 77 Main Street.
  - Creation of a "Conservation and Traffic Mitigation District" that will overlay the Retail, Business, Apartment, Multifamily, and B-Residence Zones.

A complete copy of the proposed changes to the Zoning Regulations and Zoning Map, is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, the Planning and Zoning Department, the Town's website: [www.newcanaan.info](http://www.newcanaan.info).

**Dated: May 14, 2026  
New Canaan, Connecticut  
Daniel Radman, Chairman**

### LEGAL AD

**TOWN OF NEW CANAAN  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 this hearing is scheduled as a hybrid meeting to be held in the Town Meeting Room, Town Hall, 77 Main Street at 7:00 p.m. with access available in person or via an on-line system to hear and decide the application(s) as follows:

- 1313 Smith Ridge Road - Upon application of Dean Pushler, Authorized Agent for Brian and Jennifer Garrett, owner(s), for a Special Permit approval pursuant to Section(s) 3.4.C.6 to allow construction of a swimming pool and patio in the front yard, 54' from the front property line in the Four Acre Zone at 1313 Smith Ridge Road (Map 41, Block 102, Lot 22).
- 178 Oenoke Ridge - Upon application of Jim Beall, Authorized Agent for First Presbyterian Church, owner(s), for a Special Permit approval pursuant to Section(s) 7.7, to designate the property as historically significant in order to permit an increase in building coverage over the allowable amount by an additional 500 sq. ft. to accommodate fully accessible handicap entrance ramps and bathroom in the One Acre Zone at 178 Oenoke Ridge (Map 32, Block 20, Lot 52).

**Dated: May 14, 2026  
New Canaan, Connecticut  
Daniel Radman, Chairman**

### LEGAL AD

**TOWN OF NEW CANAAN  
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION**

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

Permit Number (IW-26-3) issued to Denise B. Finn, 75 Pheasant Drive, Map 45 Block 226 Lot 27. Prepare site for construction activities and install all soil and erosion controls. Demolish front stoop and screened in porch off end of existing structure. Construct new front covered porch and steps. Construct two story addition off end of existing structure. Relocate propane tanks as indicated and make connections. Fine grade, topsoil and seed all disturbed areas upon completion.



An 1858 photograph shows the Knickerbocker and Excelsior clubs at one of the first games played under the new “Laws of Base Ball.” Daniel Lucius “Doc” Adams, whom Frank Murray argues drafted the rules that helped define the modern game, stands fourth from left, bearded and holding his hat. The umpire, near center, wears a top hat. None of the players wears a glove, an early custom Murray said reflected the view that gloves were considered “un-manly.”

## BASEBALL’S ORIGIN STORY From Page 1

heavier paper trail, one that is arguably more compelling.

Murray’s case is that the Cartwright attribution is simply wrong.

Murray’s tone can be playful, but his argument is not. The old papers, in his reading, do not merely add detail to baseball’s beginnings. They move the authorship of the modern game away from a familiar figure to the man who chaired the 1857 convention, wrote the first draft of the rules and spent years hand making the equipment that allowed the game to become standardized.

Baseball has always preferred a clean creation story. The sport once gave Abner Doubleday a pasture in Cooperstown and a myth to go with it. Later, Cartwright became the more respectable founder, the Knickerbocker associated with the diamond, with order, with New York baseball’s rise over older bat-and-ball games. But games do not usually arrive whole. They accrete. They are argued into shape by committees, players, scorers, captains, secretaries, men with ink on their fingers and calloused hands from making equipment that is the same for everyone playing (i.e.: fair).

The sheet Murray has spent years studying begins in that formal 19th-century hand: “The Committee of the Knickerbockers Base Ball Club respectfully proposes for the consideration of the convention the following rules and regulations, as a manual to govern the play in all match games of Base Ball.” Beneath that ceremonial opening is a working document. Lines are crossed out. Words are inserted. Rules are adopted, debated, rewritten, refined.

The first rule concerns the ball itself. It must weigh between six and six and one-quarter ounces, measure between 10 and 10¼ inches in circumference, contain India rubber and yarn, and be covered with leather. The bat, the second rule says, must be wood. Before reliable baseball manufacturers, Adams made balls himself and supervised bat production. He was not only discussing the rules of the game; he was helping produce the objects by which the game could be played.

Murray came to the documents almost by accident. In 1999, while in Texas, he received a call from Sotheby’s about an upcoming document auction. He remembered being interested in an item number but not its subject. A representative described a baseball document. Murray loved baseball and, almost on a whim, he put in a bid.

Afterward, experts told him he had bought an interesting relic, not an important one. “Sorry, you overpaid,” Murray recalled being told. He put the papers away, uninsured, believing he had acquired a curiosity.

Years later, he looked again. “This is interesting,” he remembered thinking. “The rest is history.”

Murray’s research led him through old baseball newspapers, Knickerbocker minutes, box scores, handwriting samples and the Spalding Collection. He studied the game as it existed before the 1857 convention: informal, inconsistent and often closer to club recreation than modern competition. Some games were played to 21 runs. Team size

varied. Bat shape was not fixed. The distance between bases was given in paces, an all too variable measurement that depended on the legs doing the pacing.

The 1857 documents changed that world. They addressed the length of games, the number of players, the distance between bases, player movement between clubs, umpires, betting, equipment, foul balls, outs and the rules governing base runners. They helped take baseball from a social exercise to a reproducible sport.

Murray’s key claim rests on authorship. He compared a rough draft with the formal copy presented to the convention and found, he said, that the formal copy followed corrections already made in the draft. That meant the clean version was copied from the rough one, not the reverse. He then compared the rough draft’s handwriting with known Adams letters and receipts. His conclusion was that Adams wrote the originating draft, while William Grenelle, another Knickerbocker with much better hand-writing, copied and preserved the final convention document.

“It’s irrefutable,” Murray said. “Nobody can argue with this analysis.”

The Library of Congress reached a similar broad conclusion when the documents appeared in its Baseball Americana exhibition: Adams drafted rules in December 1856, Grenelle prepared another document, and the Adams rules, with some Grenelle material, were compiled into the “Laws of Base Ball” used and edited at the 1857 convention. According to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, the rules documents formalized nine players to a side, addressed game length and clarified regulations left unaddressed in earlier rule books.

The case against Cartwright is also chronological. According to the Hall of Fame’s biography, Cartwright served the Knickerbockers as secretary in 1846, vice president from 1847 to 1848 and a member of the club’s rules committee in 1848. He left New York in 1849 for the Gold Rush and later settled in Hawaii. The 1857 convention came eight years after his departure.

Cartwright remains an important early figure. The issue is not whether he mattered, but whether his plaque claims too much. John Thorn, writing for the Society for American Baseball Research, has said Cartwright did not establish the three central rules attributed to him in Cooperstown: 90 feet between bases, nine innings and nine players. Those rules belong to the later convention era, where Adams’s role has become harder to ignore.

Adams’s own life gives the story a Connecticut turn. Born in New Hampshire in 1814, educated at Yale and Harvard Medical School, he built a medical practice in New York and joined the Knickerbockers soon after the club’s founding. He later moved to Ridgefield, where he served in the state House of Representatives, became the first president of Ridgefield Savings Bank and helped establish the Ridgefield Library.

He also created, or at least first occupied, one of baseball’s most distinctive positions. The shortstop began not as the balletic infielder of the modern game but as a relay man, a short fielder placed between the outfield and the bases when throws were too light and the ball too soft to travel far on its own.

The late former Major League Baseball

Commissioner Fay Vincent, a longtime New Canaan resident, helped steer Murray toward Thorn, Murray said. Thorn’s response after reviewing Murray’s presentation was blunt enough to become part of the story. “This changes the history of baseball,” Murray recalled him saying. “Just changes everything.”

The Memorial Day setting gives the Cooperstown unveiling a deeper measure. The rules were written on the edge of the Civil War, and the game they helped define soon moved through soldiers’ camps, prison yards and postwar towns. Baseball became a national habit because the New York game had been made portable; not because one man invented it, but because it had been regularized—there were rules that everyone could follow. So men carried it, remembered it, and could teach it.

That is the moral proportion in Murray’s campaign. Correcting the record does not

require shrinking baseball. It enlarges the game by making room for the committee room, the copied page, the doctor who made the balls, the scribe who preserved the papers and the players who needed rules clear enough to carry from one field to another.

Adams is not in the Hall of Fame. In 2015 voting for the Class of 2016, he received 10 of 16 votes from the Pre-Integration Era Committee, two short of election. Murray wants that corrected. The documents going on display this weekend do not put Adams on a plaque. Still, they do something profound and powerful: they put his work before the public.

In Cooperstown, where baseball’s myths have long had a home, visitors will soon be able to look at the page for themselves; the measured beginnings of a game still decided right now, night after night, by the same numbers: nine, nine and 90.

Play ball!



Photo: Richard Harmey

# Six Extinctions

June 6–September 6, 2026

*Tyrannosaurus rex* is coming to the Bruce Museum! *Six Extinctions*, a tour de force traveling exhibition by Gondwana Studios, tells the dramatic story of the mass extinctions that have impacted life on Earth.

Major support for Six Extinctions is provided by Pfizer Inc. and Bank of America.



Bruce Museum  
Greenwich, CT  
BruceMuseum.org

the  
**Bruce**



BY JUSTIN CRISP

# Something Better than Self-Help

Americans love self-help books. The genre is actually a \$14 billion dollar industry, with over fifteen thousand new titles hitting the shelves each year. Americans start consuming these books at a remarkably young age: the average used to be fourteen years old, but reports show Gen Z started as early as ten! No wonder: self-help books promise a lot of great things. “Buy me and get rich,” they say, “get fit, score true love, cure your cancer.”

But the hubris of these promises is matched only by the hubris they inspire in those of us who read them. The general premise, it seems to me, is that we are capable of doing anything we set our minds to—and our problem is just that we don't set our minds to things very well. According to so many self-help books, the key to being in control not just of ourselves or our emotions, but of our careers, our marriages, our health, our stock portfolios, is to think about them correctly—usually, to think about them positively.

Napoleon Hill's 1937 book *Think and Grow Rich* is a great

example. Chapters include “Desire: The Starting Point of All Achievement” and “Faith: Visualization of, and Belief in Attainment of Desire.” Imagine you're going to be rich, believe in it hard enough, and *chuh-ching*: you're ready to cash in. GDP, inflation, saving, investing? Mere technicalities. Joseph Murphy's 1963 classic *The Power of Your Unconscious Mind* promotes the same idea—imagine it, visualize it, and it will come true—except Murphy applies it not just to money but to all kinds of things, including illnesses: believe you'll be cured of cancer, and you'll be cured. Yikes.

A lot of the advice enjoined in self-help books sound kind of like prayer. It's not for nothing that one of the most popular self-help books in history, *The Power of Positive Thinking*, was written by a Protestant minister, Norman Vincent Peale. The difference is that, rather than bank on the omnipotence of God, as in prayer, self-help banks on the omnipotence of your mind or your imagination.

I can understand why self-help is so appealing. I think we're all desperate for something, anything, that will cure us of the volatility of life's circumstances, the unruliness of our passions, and the general trouble of being human. And it's such a rush when we find authors or influencers who tell us the cure's been us all along—books or Instagram reels that will spin the myth of our own omnipotence,

or that of our minds, our imaginations, what have you.

The trouble isn't just that we aren't, in fact, omnipotent—though that's certainly true. The trouble, from the Christian perspective at least, is that when God became human, He intentionally renounced His own, actual omnipotence. At least He renounced using His omnipotence to solve all His problems, or to cure Himself of the trouble of being human.

The story of Jesus' temptation by Satan in the wilderness is found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The key points are identical in all three: Jesus has just been baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan when the Spirit who descended upon Him during His baptism urges Him into the wilderness, where it says He fasts from food for forty days. Whether or not the forty days are literal, or just a figure of speech for “a long time,” is beside the point. Jesus is famished, and Jesus is distressed. The three temptations He faces—to turn a stone to bread, to take control of the nations of the world, and to fly—are temptations to use His Godhood to compensate for the limitations of human life, the fact we're subject to the occasional chaos of our bodily needs, of politics, and of the natural world.

Life is crazy, and Jesus is tempted to use His divinity to soften the blow of His human life. But He refuses to.

Jesus' baptism is the moment when He realizes, once and

*It's such a rush when we find authors or influencers who will spin the myth of our own omnipotence. The trouble isn't just that we aren't, in fact, omnipotent. The trouble is that when God became human, He renounced His own, actual omnipotence.*

for all, that He's God's Son. And rather than indulge His “phenomenal cosmic powers” in working wonders, or crowning Himself king of the universe, or even freeing His people from oppression, Jesus plunges headlong into the extremes of the human condition, into deprivation, hunger, loneliness, and temptation—not to straighten out the wilderness bits of human life, but to make them places where we'd be sure to find Him. And that's where we still find the real God today, I think: not in self-help, or self-optimization, but in extremis, in weakness.

Those whom we honor this Memorial Day weekend, who “gave the last full measure of devotion,” have a lot to teach us in this regard—that the full dignity of human nature is revealed not in greatness or self-mastery but in sacrifice. Not in calculation but in calling.

There was a great article in *Commonweal Magazine* last year by one of their editors, Regina Munch. Munch begins by recounting advice given her by a guidance counselor, echoed in

many self-help books, about “the importance of being ‘impactful.’” “I became unable to focus on one activity,” she says, “because I was wondering if there were better uses of my time. Which task would have the greatest benefit, for me and for others? With a free afternoon, should I write an article, practice yoga, volunteer at a food pantry, go to a museum, or prepare meals for the week? ... I performed a cost-benefit analysis of every last choice, and it gave me a weird kind of peace to believe that I had chosen rightly. Of course, it wasn't a real peace.” That came, she explains, only when she realized “nothing I could achieve—no book I could write, no number of shifts at the food pantry I could take, no amount of sheet-pan chicken I could freeze would ever be ‘enough.’ None of it will save me.” The only workable option she found was “placing trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength,” as the Catechism [of the Catholic Church] says.

The secret to flourishing as a human being isn't to become

a super-serious-holy-person. (Holy people, in my experience, are rarely super serious anyway, and certainly not about their own holiness.) We ought not to think of going to church as an exercise in spiritual self-optimization either. The point of going to church is to have a life-changing encounter with the God of the universe, whose mercy you're practically hardwired to need. If you're like me, you need reminded of the wilderness in your life, and that Jesus went into just such a wilderness to find you.

You are not all powerful. As much as that stinks, it's okay. Nothing you can think, do, or practice will save you, but I don't think you need it to. Because He already did.

*The Reverend Dr. Justin E. Crisp is a husband, dad, music lover, and priest. He was with St. Mark's in New Canaan for almost ten years before becoming the Rector of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Greenwich and lives with his wife, Jewelle, their pug, Val, and their daughter, Beatrice.*

## Worship Directory and Services

UPDATE SERVICES AND ADD SPECIAL EVENTS TO THIS CALENDAR AT  
[www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/worship-calendar-updates](http://www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/worship-calendar-updates)

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

682 South Avenue 203.966.5849

[www.ComeUntoChrist.org](http://www.ComeUntoChrist.org)  
Sunday Service: 12 PM

### Congregational Church

23 Park Street 203.966.2651

[office@godsacre.org](mailto:office@godsacre.org)  
[www.godsacre.org](http://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](http://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](http://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:

May 28 from 7-9 PM: Open Mic Night with a featured performance by Stephen Peter Rodgers. You are invited to share music and/or poetry. To sign up, email [nickdepuysite@gmail.com](mailto:nickdepuysite@gmail.com).

### Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Church

21 Cherry Street 203.966.0020

[www.starcc.com](http://www.starcc.com)

Service Schedule:

Saturday: Vigil for Sunday at 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:

Fridays 7:30am-5:15pm: Eucharistic Adoration (September-June)

Saturday 8:30am: St. A's Healing Rosary Prayer Group

### Upcoming Events:

June 25 at 7 PM: A joyful celebration of the Freedom of Religion, Unity and Diversity in America, bringing together New Canaan's Faith communities in recognition of America's 250th Anniversary. The service will feature musicians, community leaders and clergy from across New Canaan. More information available at [ncinterfaithcouncil.com](http://ncinterfaithcouncil.com).

### St. Mark's Episcopal Church

111 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.4515

[churchoffice@stmarksnewcanaan.org](mailto:churchoffice@stmarksnewcanaan.org)

[www.stmarksnewcanaan.org](http://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

### St. Michael's Lutheran Church

5 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.3913

[office@stmichaelslutheran.org](mailto:office@stmichaelslutheran.org)

[www.stmichaelslutheran.org](http://www.stmichaelslutheran.org)

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

### Upcoming Events:

May 27 at 7:30 PM: Join for an Evening of Prayer and Quiet reflection. A time to pause, connect, and find peace.

### Trinity Church

New Canaan | Darien

1800 E. Putnam Ave, Old Greenwich

203.618.0808

[info@trinitychurch.life](mailto: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](http://www.trinitychurch.life).

### United Methodist Church

165 South Avenue 203.966.2666

[frontdesk@umcofnewcanaan.org](mailto:frontdesk@umcofnewcanaan.org)

[www.umcofnewcanaan.org](http://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.

### Community Baptist Church

174 Cherry Street 203.966.0711

[cbcnewcanaan@gmail.com](mailto:cbcnewcanaan@gmail.com)

[www.cbcnewcanaan.org](http://www.cbcnewcanaan.org)

Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZ2UNa8aHI30\\_Syp\\_X0KdG](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:

May 22 at 7 PM: Spring Revival with revivalist Pastor Kevin Mullins.

### Grace Community Church

9:30am Service @ Saxe Middle School

468 South Avenue, New Canaan

203-966-7600

[info@gracecommunity.info](mailto:info@gracecommunity.info)

[www.gracecommunity.info](http://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](mailto:talmadgehillchurch@gmail.com)

[www.talmadgehill.org](http://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](mailto:info@chabadnewcanaan.org)

[www.newcanaanjewish.org](http://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.templeinaistamford.org](http://www.templeinaistamford.org)

### Service Schedule:

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

2nd & 4th – 7:30pm

### Recurring Events:

Fridays at 12 PM: Torah Study

Second Saturday at 10:30 AM: Mussar

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

First Saturday at 8 AM: Avodat Halev

Discussion Group

### Temple Shalom

300 E. Putnam Ave. Greenwich, CT 06830

203-869-7191

[www.templeholom.com](http://www.templeholom.com)

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

### Recurring Events:

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



# Obituaries

## NICOLA DIFULVIO



Nicola "Pop" DiFulvio beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend passed away May 16, surrounded by his loving family. Born on November 30, 1936 in Fara Filiorum Petri, Italy. Nicola carried with him the values of hard work, loyalty and devotion to family throughout his life. He proudly served in the Italian Military from 1959-1961 before immigrating to the United States in March of 1964 in search of a better future for his family and settled in New Canaan, CT.

On September 15, 1962 Nicola married the love of his life, Assunta Spadaccini beginning a marriage full of dedication, strength and enduring love. Together they built a beautiful family and shared many cherished years together. Nicola was the proud father of five children, Ernest (Kathleen), Mauro, Nicola Jr., Lisa and Luciano (Erica). He was also a loving grandfather to Ashley, Kenny, Lincoln and Wyatt.

Nicola worked for the New Canaan Water Company from 1975-1996 where he was respected for his strong work ethic. He was later a self-employed contractor in New Canaan. He was an avid fisherman, hunter and loved his homemade wine and playing Bocce.

Known affectionately as "Pop", he was cherished for his warmth, sense of humor and deep love for his family. His legacy lives on in the lives of those he loved and guided.

He was predeceased by his brother Antonio and sister Maria.

A mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on May 22 at 1pm, at St. Aloysius Roman Catholic, Church 21 Cherry Street, New Canaan, CT, followed by interment at Lakeview Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations on behalf of Nicola to St. Jude Children's Hospital [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)

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

## EDWARD KANGAS



Edward Allen Kangas, 81, of New Canaan, CT, passed away peacefully at home on May 14 with his wife Cathy and son Scott by his side. He was born on May 22, 1944, in Wichita, Kansas.

Ed earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Business Administration from the University of Kansas in 1967, where he was President of Delta Chi Fraternity and VP of the interfraternity council. He went on to build an extraordinary 33 year career in business and finance at Deloitte, first as a Partner and culminating in his role as Global Chairman and Chief Executive Officer until his retirement in 2000.

After retiring from Deloitte, he continued his distinguished career, and served on numerous corporate and nonprofit boards, including Hovnanian Enterprises - a company he was particularly proud of - as well as United Technologies, Deutsche Bank USA,

Intelsat, Tenet Healthcare, and Intuit. He was also a former Chairman of the Board of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

While Ed's professional accomplishments were many, his favorite role was helping guide his wife Cathy's company, Prai Beauty, which brought him immense pride and joy.

Ed is survived by his beloved wife of 32 years, Cathy Stephens Kangas; his children, Scott (Erin) Kangas of Shelton, CT, Jeff (Nicole) Kangas of Lafayette, Calif., Jennifer Brez (Zach) of New York, NY; his grandchildren Quinn, Jake, Lily, Ben, Annie, Evan and Scarlett; and by his godchildren, Tyler, Nicole and Samantha. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Marjorie Stephens; his brothers-in-law, Edward Sion and Robert Stephens; sister-in-law Julie Stephens; niece, Melanie Sion; nephew, Michael Sion; and his rescue beagle, Foxy.

He was predeceased by his parents Silvia and Ozzie Kangas and his sister, Miriam Sion. Cathy is particularly grateful to his son Scott, an APRN, who dedicated his time and love around the clock helping to care for Ed in his last months.

Ed had a deep love for animals and strongly supported Cathy's animal advocacy efforts, including playing a critical role in helping secure the release of testing beagles from a major laboratory in 2022. Outside of work and philanthropy, he travelled extensively, loved Disney World, college basketball, and a scoop of ice cream topped with Amaretto.

Ed will be remembered for his intelligence, generosity, humor, and devotion to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers, please consider furthering Ed's love for animal welfare with a contribution in his name to Humane World for Animals or the Cathy Kangas Foundation for Animals.

<https://www.humaneworld.org/en>  
<https://cathykangasfoundation.org/>

A celebration of Ed's life will be planned by the family at a later date.

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

## HERBERT ASPBURY



Herbert Francis Aspbury a longtime resident of New Canaan, CT and of John's Island, Fla. died on Tuesday, May 12 aged 81. Herb spent his career in banking. He joined Manufacturers Hanover Trust in 1967. After leading MHT's North American division in New York, he became the London-based head of Europe for Chemical Bank following the merger of those two institutions in 1992. After a subsequent merger, he retired from Chase Manhattan as the Senior Managing Director for Europe, Africa and the Middle East in 2000. After retirement, Herb returned to Connecticut and served on numerous boards, both corporate and non-profit. He was chairman of the Royal Oak Society, the American affiliate of the English National Trust, and was vice chairman of the Vero Beach Museum of Art's board of trustees. In addition to donating his time, Herb was a generous financial supporter of numerous charitable causes. Among them were the Block Island Nature Conservancy, the Vero Beach Museum of Art, the Public Broadcasting System and his alma mater, Villanova University, where he and his wife endowed a scholarship.

Herb obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in

English from Villanova in 1967 and graduated from Harvard Business School's Program for Management Development in 1980. A proud alumnus of Villanova, he received an Alumni Medal for outstanding and extended service to his alma mater in 1992. He joined the Alumni Association board of directors in 1994, spending two years as its president. He became a member of the university's Board of Trustees in 1999 and was honored to be elected its Chairman in 2007.

Herb was born in Millbrook, NY, the youngest of three children to James T. and Helen (nee Mulholland) Aspbury. In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his brother, James Aspbury, Jr. and sister, Helen Anne Ballantyne. He is survived by his widow, Mary Victoria (nee Doran) and his three children: Matt Aspbury of Emeryville, Calif.; Peter Aspbury (husband of Alex) of London, England; and Pamela Byrne (wife of Jeff) of Darien, CT. He also is survived by his six adoring grandchildren. For all his accomplishments, there is no doubt that the one of which Herb was most proud was his marriage of fifty-seven years to his wife Vicki. Throughout the darkness of Alzheimer's, his love for her shone brightly to the end.

A celebration of Herb's life will be held at Saint Aloysius Church in New Canaan on Friday, the 22nd of May at 10:30am. For those wishing to honor his memory, contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's & Parkinson's Association of Indian River County, Center for Memory and Movement.

## ETHEL SHAFTER



Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Trust Advisor, and Family Matriarch

Ethel Ankner Shafter died peacefully on May 4 in Chatham, Mass., at the age of 91. A master of the bridge table, Ethel was known for her sharp mind, generosity, and unwavering commitment to education, service, and community.

Born on September 6, 1934, Ethel was the daughter of Frank J. Ankner and Ethel Dunn Ankner of Madison, NJ. The youngest of four children, she was predeceased by her siblings, Charles Ankner, Frank Ankner, and Mary Ankner. She was married for 59 years to the love of her life, Robert L. Shafter, who predeceased her in 2021. She is survived by her four children: Dennis Shafter, Mary Sullivan and her husband, James, Andrew Shafter and his wife, Maryann Boyd Shafter, and Brandy Chapman and her husband, Paul. She also leaves behind ten grandchildren, each of whom brought her immense joy: Shannon Sullivan Wotring and her husband, Matt, Erin Shafter, Jack Shafter, Megan Sullivan, Kate Shafter, Kerry Sullivan, Tim Shafter, Connie Chapman, Brandon Chapman, and Paul Chapman.

Ethel's formative years were spent in Washington Heights, and she remained a proud New Yorker at heart; in her view, Manhattan had the best of everything. Her New York upbringing was evident in her larger-than-life personality, confidence, and unwavering belief that any problem could be solved with determination and the right people.

A proud graduate of The College of New Rochelle, Ethel received the Angela Merici Medal in 2011, the college's highest honor for alumnae who demonstrate exceptional loyalty to the Church and outstanding career achievement. She was a pioneering woman on Wall Street, enjoyed a distinguished career as a Trust Advisor, after raising her family, and founded the New Canaan chapter of the American Association of University Women

(AAUW), to support women in higher education.

Ethel helped shape the civic fabric of New Canaan, CT, where she lived from 1969 until 2012. She held leadership roles on the New Canaan Republican Town Committee, the Garden Club, and the League of Women Voters. She enthusiastically served on New Canaan's 1976 Bicentennial Committee, helping organize the town's landmark July 4th celebration. In Chatham, she served on the Republican Town Committee and on the Board of the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center, home to the historic wireless receiving station and museum.

As a mother, Ethel poured her energy into creating opportunity, structure, and joy in her children's lives. She was the steady engine behind carpools, a reliable presence at games and concerts, and a leader who believed in shaping character through service. She gave her children strong academics, wide-ranging activities, and the gift of travel, all grounded in the Catholic values that shaped her own life. She was an active member of St. Thomas More Parish, in Darien, CT, ensuring her children participated in CCD, altar service, and Parish programs, and later at Holy Redeemer Church in Chatham, MA, where she participated in the Choir, Women's Club and the Sandwich Ministry.

Family life brought endless adventures. Summers at the Lake Club, Stamford Yacht Club sailing cruises, and skiing at Bromley Mountain created cherished memories. Retirement shifted family fun to Chatham, where Friday Band Concerts, Stage Harbor Yacht Club events, boating, and an annual grandchildren's birthday celebration became traditions. Every gathering included a birthday cake - a hallmark of Ethel's devotion to family.

Ethel and Bob traveled widely for work and pleasure. One of her proudest accomplishments was attending every Olympic Games from 1980 to 2004, collecting treasured memories and pins she passed on to her children. Her travels took her across the world, to China, Japan, South America, Europe, and Russia, experiences she recounted with gratitude and delight. In her later years, she embraced Viking River Cruises, savoring the chance to explore history and culture at a gentler pace.

Family and friends are invited to call on Thursday, May 28, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Nickerson Funeral Home, 87 Crowell Road, Chatham. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 29, at Holy Redeemer Church, 57 Highland Avenue, Chatham. Interment will follow at 12:30 p.m. at the Massachusetts National Cemetery, in Bourne.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur ([www.sndden.org](http://www.sndden.org)) or Attn.: Sister Leonore Coan, SND, 30 Jeffreys Neck Rd., Ipswich, MA 01938.

## CHERYL PALMER

Cheryl S. Palmer, 69, of Santa Barbara, Calif., formerly of New Canaan, CT, died on April 17. She was the daughter of the late Joseph R. Palmer Jr.; and sister of the late Glenn C. Palmer.

Cheryl is survived by her mother, Florence M. Gallarza of Santa Barbara; and her two cherished beagles. She also leaves behind her stepmother, Dawn Palmer; her stepbrother, Walter Parker, and his daughter, Ember; and her uncle, Al Palmer, who served as a steadfast father figure and advisor in the years following her father Joe's passing. She also leaves behind several first cousins.

Cheryl led a wonderfully eclectic life, deeply rooted in her love for horses and the great outdoors. A gifted equestrian, she competed in show jumping at the highest levels with her beloved steed, Charade. Her passion for horses eventually took her to England and, later, to Marbella, Spain, where she lived for several years. Upon moving to Santa Barbara, Cheryl found her true home.

Her battle with metastatic breast cancer was nothing short of heroic. Throughout her illness, she maintained a positive attitude and her trademark wit, even in her final days. Private services were held in California and Darien, CT.

# Board of Selectmen Approve Police Command Vehicle, Road Projects and Summer Hiring

BY STAFF REPORTER

The Board of Selectmen on Tuesday approved a series of infrastructure, public safety and staffing measures ranging from the transfer of an ambulance to the Police Department for use as a mobile command vehicle to seasonal hiring for the summer recreation season and major road maintenance projects across town.

During the May 19 meeting at Town Hall, First Selectman Dionna Carlson also welcomed a group of New Canaan High School interns who will work in various town departments through June 11. Students introduced themselves and described plans to study subjects including economics, civil engineering, finance, political science, journalism and engineering. Carlson said the town was “very excited” to have the interns working on upcoming projects.

One of the meeting’s lengthiest discussions centered on a proposal from Deputy Police Chief Andrew Walsh to transfer a retired New Canaan EMS ambulance to the Police Department fleet. The vehicle will be converted into a mobile

command unit and drone operations vehicle.

Walsh said the department currently lacks a dedicated command post vehicle for emergency scenes and large public events. The ambulance would allow officers to store specialized radios, accident reconstruction tools and drone equipment in a single deployable unit.

“We don’t currently have that capability,” Walsh said, explaining that emergency communication equipment is now stored inside police offices rather than in a ready-to-deploy vehicle.

Selectman Amy Murphy Carroll questioned whether the transfer could create long-term fleet costs and future replacement obligations for the town. Police officials responded that two aging police vehicles would be retired and not replaced, resulting in a net reduction of one vehicle overall. Officials also emphasized that the ambulance has fewer than 100,000 miles and would likely remain in service for many years.

The board unanimously approved the transfer.

**Selectman Amy Murphy Carroll questioned whether the transfer could create long-term fleet costs and future replacement obligations for the town.**

The board also approved a \$15,000 increase to a Fire Department purchase order for repairs and maintenance of aging fire apparatus. Interim Fire Chief William Perritt said multiple vehicles required repairs as the department continues operating an older fleet.

Another unanimous vote renewed the town’s OpenGov land-use permitting and licensing software agreement for one year at a cost of \$36,831.22. Officials said the software has significantly improved permitting workflow, interdepartmental coordination and online access for residents and contractors.

Parks and Recreation Director John Howe received approval to hire 103 summer part-time employees for

the 2026 recreation season, including lifeguards, camp counselors, supervisors and umpires. Howe said staffing needs remain high because of pool operations and summer camp programming.

The board additionally approved a contract with PKF O’Connor Davies to continue serving as the town’s independent accounting firm for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. The base fee for audit services is \$117,950. Finance Director Anne Kelly-Lenz said the firm continues to provide smooth audit operations despite an industry-wide shortage of municipal auditors.

Public Works officials updated the board on several ongoing and upcoming infrastructure projects. Tiger Mann, director of Public Works,

outlined a \$176,639 cape seal road maintenance project covering several local roads including Brookwood Lane, Llewellyn Drive, Reservoir Road and portions of Ponus Ridge and West Road. Mann said the process extends road life while costing substantially less than traditional milling and paving.

Mann also warned residents to expect significant traffic impacts later this year from state road reconstruction work on Route 106 and South Avenue. The Route 106 project will begin June 1 and continue through the summer, while reconstruction work on South Avenue near Farm Road is scheduled to occur between the end of the school year and the start of classes in the fall. Selectman Steve Karl expressed concern about the timing of the work

near New Canaan High School, calling it “the highest traffic area” in town during September.

Additional approvals included funding for environmental soil testing related to the Irwin Park demolition project, construction administration services for ADA and classroom improvements at the Nature Center, and the removal and pruning of hazardous trees at multiple locations throughout town.

The board also voted to maintain existing commuter and business parking permit fees for the upcoming year. Parking officials reported that demand for commuter permits has continued increasing as more residents return to office work schedules. The Lumberyard lot currently has 62 people on its waiting list.

In closing comments, Carlson encouraged residents to attend New Canaan’s Memorial Day parade and ceremonies, reminding the public that the holiday is intended to honor military service members who died serving the country.

“We need to remember what Memorial Day is all about,” Carlson said.

# NC Girl Scouts Celebrate at 2025-2026 Closing Ceremony

The New Canaan Girl Scout Service Unit celebrated another impactful year of leadership, service, and community at its 2025-2026 Closing Ceremony, bringing together Girl Scouts, families, volunteers, and community partners for an evening of recognition and tradition.

The evening highlighted the courage, confidence, and character demonstrated by Girl Scouts across every level. Daisies and Brownies proudly led the Promise and Law, while 5th Grade Juniors confidently opened and closed the Flag Ceremony and led the audience in song. The 6th Grade Cadettes proudly presented Bronze, Journey, and Leadership Awards recognizing younger troop achievements, while the 7th Grade Cadettes honored the volunteers and adult leaders who make Girl Scouting possible. A special shout-out also goes to Charlotte Dluzyn for emceeding the Bridging Ceremony and helping guide one of Girl Scouts’ most treasured traditions.

The ceremony closed with a heartfelt Friendship Circle led by the 4th Grade Juniors, whose rendition of “Make New Friends” captured the spirit of sisterhood and community at the center of Girl Scouts.

A special shout-out goes to now-Ambassador Troop 50175 for their leadership in planning and coordinating the evening’s

**The New Canaan Service Unit was honored with the Girl Scouts of Connecticut Charter Oak Award for exemplary leadership and measurable impact.**

program. From organizing presentations and guiding younger troops through ceremony roles to emceeding and supporting transitions throughout the event, the troop exemplified what it means to be a G.I.R.L.-led (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader) troop. Their mentorship and leadership helped make the closing ceremony a meaningful celebration for scouts of every age.

Throughout the program, scouts reflected on a year filled with community activities, including the Campfire Singalong, cookie booths, CARES Craft Club at the New Canaan Library, the Discovery Museum sleepover, and participation in the Memorial Day Parade.

Girl Scouts were honored for achievements in leadership, service, and community impact. Junior Troop 50432 was recognized for earning the Bronze Award through a Little Library and First Aid Stand project benefiting Merrie Bee Cabin. Brownie Troop 50521 earned recognition for completing three Journeys and three

Take Action projects and received the Patty Zoccolillo Community Service Award for projects supporting Filling in the Blanks and environmental restoration efforts with the New Canaan Land Trust.

Volunteer recognition remained a centerpiece of the evening. The New Canaan Service Unit was honored with the Girl Scouts of Connecticut Charter Oak Award for exemplary leadership and measurable impact.

Additional volunteer honorees included Laurie Barnes and Tammy Dluzyn, recipients of the Spirit of the Dragonfly Award; Ingrid Gelston and Joanne Salvo, recognized as both Product Sales Champions and Stepping Up Award recipients; and longtime Merrie Bee Cabin Committee members Marigrace Dubas and Priscilla Woyke for their decades of service.

The Service Unit also recognized Krista Colthup, Ally Dunlap, Ann Spilker, Kristin Edwards, Karen Frank, Jamie Gentle, Anne Skibitcky, and Stephanie Solomon for their

dedication and support of local troops and programming. Co-Service Unit Managers Heather Boulanger and Alexis DiMarco were honored for their leadership in guiding the Service Unit throughout the year.

The ceremony also recognized the many community partners that support Girl Scouts in New Canaan, including local first responders, the Town of New Canaan, the New Canaan Nature Center, the New Canaan Land Trust, the New Canaan Library, the Merrie Bee Cabin Committee, and New Canaan Public Schools.

The New Canaan Girl Scout Service Unit extends special thanks to event sponsors The New Canaan UPS Store, Walter Stewart’s Market, and Pinocchio Pizza for helping make the evening extra special for Girl Scouts and their families.

The New Canaan Girl Scout Service Unit currently includes more than 200 Girl Scouts across 17 troops, supported by 32 troop leaders and more than 200 adult volunteers. This year alone, the Service Unit welcomed 47 new Girl Scouts and formed two new troops.

Interested in learning more about New Canaan Girl Scouts? The Service Unit welcomes new girls and volunteers every year. Contact [girlscoutscn@gmail.com](mailto:girlscoutscn@gmail.com) to learn more and join the fun.

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# Weighing Affordable Housing Sites as Residents Press for Master Plan

By Peter Barhydt

New Canaan's Affordable Housing Committee used its first public workshop Tuesday night to test four possible town-controlled affordable housing sites, with residents pressing for master planning, phased construction, mixed-use development, protection of parking and a clearer understanding of how any project would affect downtown.

The May 19 workshop at Lapham Community Center focused on town-owned parking areas that could help New Canaan maintain future moratoriums under Connecticut's 8-30g affordable housing statute. The committee's immediate planning horizon is not the current moratorium, which runs through 2028, but the next cycle after that, with members looking toward 2032 and beyond.

Christopher Wilson, chair of the Affordable Housing Committee, opened the session by framing the evening as the town's "first ever affordable housing workshop" and said recent events had brought new attention to the issue.

"We are here to talk about some of the potential sites for our next town controlled affordable housing development and to get your feedback both positive and negative on some of the options we're presenting tonight," Wilson said.

Hilary Ormond, a member of the Affordable Housing Committee and Town Council, said the committee's mandate is limited and specific. It is not weighing in on pending lawsuits, pending applications or the broad merits of 8-30g, she said. Its task is to recommend potential locations where the town could build affordable housing itself.

Ormond said the town also told Amenta Emma Architects, the Hartford-based consultant studying the sites, that every existing public parking space must be replaced. The goal is to preserve current parking, then add at least one space per affordable unit.

Krista Neilson, secretary of the Planning and Zoning Commission and chair of the committee's project subcommittee, laid out the legal and financial pressures driving the discussion. Affordable housing, as used in the workshop, means housing for households earning less than 80 percent of median income, with housing costs limited to no more than 30 percent of household income. In New Canaan, Neilson said, that translates to about \$70,000 a year for a single-person household and about \$100,000 for a four-person household.

"These are the people who help serve our community," Neilson said. "They might be teachers early in their careers, childcare workers, healthcare workers, or seniors on a fixed income."

Neilson said New Canaan remains below the 10 percent affordable-housing threshold set by state law, leaving it exposed to qualifying 8-30g applications when a moratorium is not in effect. Under the statute, towns can earn a four-year pause from most such applications by accumulating Housing Unit Equivalent points, known as HUE points. Neilson said New Canaan generally needs 75 to 80 affordable units to secure a moratorium, though the formula varies depending on ownership, rental status and depth of affordability.

The committee reviewed 294 parcels, then narrowed its attention to 32 town-owned parcels on public sewer. The list was reduced first to seven sites and then to three primary sites: the Richmond Hill lot, the Locust Avenue lot and the Lumberyard lot. Morse Court was added after the committee determined Richmond Hill could not produce enough HUE points by itself.

Amenta Emma prepared conceptual massing studies, not architectural designs. Neilson stressed that the block drawings were intended to show approximate scale, building location and parking relationships, not final appearance.

The Lumberyard lot, near the train station, drew the most attention because of its size and flexibility. Current parking totals 354 spaces. The three concepts studied for

## NEW CANAAN AFFORDABLE HOUSING WORKSHOP

Four concept sites presented at Lapham Center • May 19, 2026

<b>1 Lumberyard Lot</b> Near the train station  <b>CURRENT PARKING: 354 spaces</b> <b>STUDIED CONCEPTS: 128-165 housing units</b> <b>PARKING CONCEPT: 500+ parking spaces</b> <b>TAKEAWAY:</b> Largest and most flexible site. Could contribute to more than one future moratorium cycle. May allow phased construction, including parking before housing.	<b>2 Locust Avenue Lot</b> Locust Ave. & Main St. Near the Post Office - Across from the fire station  <b>CURRENT PARKING: 153 business permit spaces</b> <b>STUDIED CONCEPTS: 74-89 housing units</b> <b>PARKING CONCEPT: About 250 parking spaces</b> <b>TAKEAWAY:</b> Enough to support a moratorium by itself. Key concerns: massing, traffic, emergency access, and the busy Main Street-Locust Avenue intersection.	<b>3 Richmond Hill</b> Richmond Hill Rd. & Park St.  <b>CURRENT PARKING: 64 commuter spaces</b> <b>STUDIED CONCEPTS: 18-20 housing units</b> <b>PARKING CONCEPT: About 90 parking spaces</b> <b>TAKEAWAY:</b> Smaller site. Cannot independently generate enough HUE points and would need to be paired with another project.	<b>4 Morse Court</b> Behind the Mobil station at Main & Cherry Across from the library green  <b>HOUSING POTENTIAL: About 30 units</b> <b>PARKING CONCEPT: Two levels of parking with residential above</b> <b>TAKEAWAY:</b> Its civic location raises questions about whether a garage-dominated first floor is the best use of that corner.
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**“NO SINGLE SITE PERFORMED THE BEST ACROSS ALL CATEGORIES.”**  
*Every site has a series of trade offs...*

Conceptual massing studies only — not final architectural designs.

## HOW THE FOUR SITES COMPARE

Housing yield, parking implications, and key trade-offs

**1 HOUSING CAPACITY COMPARISON** Estimated housing units (higher is better)

Lumberyard Lot (Near the train station)	128-165 units
Locust Avenue Lot (Near the Post Office)	74-89 units
Morse Court (Main & Cherry)	About 30 units
Richmond Hill (Near downtown)	18-20 units

**2 PARKING COMPARISON** Spaces

Site	Current Parking (Existing supply)	Parking Concept (Proposed supply / approach)	Notes (Where applicable)
Lumberyard Lot	354	500+	—
Locust Avenue Lot	153	About 250	—
Richmond Hill	64	About 90	—
Morse Court	—	—	Parking concept: Two levels of parking with residential above.

**3 SITE TRADE-OFF MATRIX**

Site	Scale	Moratorium Role	Main Opportunity	Main Concern
Lumberyard Lot	Largest	Could contribute to more than one future moratorium cycle	Flexible site; phased construction possible	Large structured parking garage and visual impact
Locust Avenue Lot	Mid-size	Enough to support a moratorium by itself	Strong housing yield in a central location	Massing, traffic, emergency access, busy intersection
Richmond Hill	Smaller	Would need to be paired with another project	Near downtown with lower parking demand	Too few units to stand alone
Morse Court	Small	Supplemental concept	Strong civic location at Main & Cherry	Garage-dominated first floor may not be best use of corner

**“TRADE-OFFS, NOT ONE PERFECT SITE**  
*“Every site has a series of trade offs...”*

Conceptual massing studies only — not final architectural designs.

## NEW CANAAN AFFORDABLE HOUSING FRAMEWORK

Legal thresholds, income targets, and site-selection process discussed at the workshop

**1 WHAT “AFFORDABLE HOUSING” MEANS**

- Households earning less than 80% of median income
- Housing costs limited to no more than 30% of household income

In New Canaan, 1-person household — about \$70,000/year; 4-person household — about \$100,000/year

These are the people who help serve the community: Teacher, Childcare Worker, Healthcare Worker, Senior

**2 LEGAL PRESSURE UNDER 8-30g**

- New Canaan remains below the 10% affordable-housing threshold set by state law.
- When a moratorium is not in effect, the town is exposed to qualifying 8-30g applications.
- Towns can earn a four-year pause from most such applications by accumulating Housing Unit Equivalent points (HUE points).
- New Canaan generally needs 75 to 80 affordable units to secure a moratorium.

BELOW 10% THRESHOLD → EXPOSURE TO 8-30g APPLICATIONS → EARN HUE POINTS → 4-YEAR MORATORIUM

75-80 UNITS NEEDED TO SECURE A MORATORIUM

**3 HOW THE COMMITTEE NARROWED THE SITES**

- 294 parcels reviewed
- 32 town-owned parcels on public sewer
- 7 sites shortlisted
- 3 primary sites: Richmond Hill, Locust Avenue, Lumberyard
- Morse Court added later after Richmond Hill alone could not produce enough HUE points

**4 WHAT THE STUDIES SHOWED**

- Amenta Emma prepared conceptual massing studies.
- These were not architectural designs.
- The drawings were intended to show approximate scale, building location, and parking relationships.
- They were not final appearance studies.

**“These are the people who help serve our community.”**  
*They might be teachers early in their careers, childcare workers, healthcare workers, or seniors on a fixed income.*

Workshop discussion focused on legal thresholds, moratorium strategy, and conceptual site-planning studies. Conceptual massing studies only — not final architectural designs.

that site showed 128 to 165 housing units and a parking structure with more than 500 spaces serving commuters and residents. Neilson said the site could likely contribute to more than one future moratorium cycle and could allow phased construction, including parking before housing.

The Locust Avenue lot, at Locust Avenue and Main Street near the Post Office and across from the fire station, now has 153 business permit parking spaces. Amenta Emma's concepts showed 74 to 89 housing units and about 250 parking spaces, enough to support a moratorium by itself. But the site's location raised concerns about massing, traffic, emergency access and the already busy Main Street-Locust Avenue intersection.

Richmond Hill, at Richmond Hill Road and Park Street, is smaller and now has 64 commuter spaces. The concepts showed 18 to 20 units with about 90 parking spaces. Neilson said the site could not independently generate enough HUE points and would need to be paired with another project.

Morse Court, behind the Mobile station near Main and Cherry streets and across from the new library green, could fit about 30 units over two levels of parking, Neilson said. But she also said the site's civic location raises questions about whether a garage-dominated first floor would be the best use of that corner.

"No single site performed the best across all categories," Neilson said. "Every site has a series of trade offs and we want to get a sense from the public this evening which trade offs you guys are open to and which trade offs are just a hard no."

After the presentation, residents divided into small groups and reported back with a mix of support, caution and alternative ideas.

One table urged the town not to forget Riverwood, the former Avalon property, and called for a broader downtown master plan that incorporates affordable housing, retail, commercial uses, green space and phased construction. That group saw the Lumberyard as offering the most options because of its size, but asked consultants to develop logical phases.

Another table began with a broader question: whether the proposals would preserve New Canaan's small-town character or change the town's identity. The group discussed whether density should come through all-affordable development, market-rate and affordable development combined, or smaller projects.

Residents raised repeated concerns about parking and traffic. At Locust Avenue, one group cited the fire station and emergency response. At the Lumberyard, another warned that commuters may not accept the view that the lot is underused. One table said the Lumberyard appeared to be the best option because it could produce the most HUE points and had less impact on immediate neighbors, but said the town needed to study traffic circulation and left turns.

The discussion also moved beyond the four studied sites. One table suggested revisiting the mulch yard near Lapham Road, even though it lacks sewer service, because a staged community there could be near parks, schools and the YMCA while preserving the Lumberyard for future downtown use. Another table mentioned the National Guard area near Route 123 and old Exit 38, land behind the police station on South Avenue and additional use of Riverwood affordable units.

The committee said the next step is an online survey, open until June 9. The Affordable Housing Committee will review workshop comments and survey responses, select a preferred alternative and ask its architects to develop that option further with a preliminary cost estimate. The findings will be compiled into a report for the Board of Selectmen and Town Council.

The Town of New Canaan's Affordable Housing Committee's (AHC) site selection survey may be viewed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/t/T9DW2KY>.

# REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

## REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD EDITOR

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### NEW LISTINGS

Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
32 East Hills Drive	\$588,000	864	\$681		2	1
401 Jelliff Mill Road	\$1,095,000	1,607	\$681	.35	3	1
493 Valley Road	\$1,595,000	4,322	\$369	2.09	4	3
45 Seminary Street	\$1,595,000	2,455	\$650	.2	3	2
91 Lantern Ridge	\$1,895,000	4,550	\$416	2	4	3

### NEW SALES

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
47 Bank Street	\$3,995,000	\$3,995,000	\$1,800,000	6	2	3	
48 Green Meadow Lane	\$2,995,000	\$2,995,000	\$2,850,000	37	5	4	1.35
30 Elm Place	\$3,895,000	\$3,895,000	\$4,400,000	7	5	4	.31
98 Indian Waters Drive	\$4,195,000	\$4,195,000	\$4,195,000	56	5	6	2.07

## FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

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

Address	Price	Day	Time	Broker
84 Parade Hill Road	\$769,000	SAT & SUN	12-2 pm / 1-3 pm	Raveis
145 River Street	\$2,695,000	SAT	2:00-4:00 pm	Blue Anchor



## CEDAR CLIFF FOR \$100 MILLION From Page 1

to Nashville, Tenn., is ready to part with the property after years of family ownership. Cedar Cliff sits on roughly 2.9 acres in Riverside, with a large Mediterranean-style house from the 1930s, eight bedrooms and more than 15,000 square feet.

Leslie McElwreath of Sotheby's International Realty is marketing the property. McElwreath, who handled the \$138.83 million sale of Copper Beech Farm, the Connecticut residential record, said Cedar Cliff belongs in a narrow category because it combines a gated peninsula, direct waterfront, private association setting, dock, beach and long ownership by one prominent family.

"The valuation reflects an extraordinary convergence of attributes that would be nearly impossible to replicate today," McElwreath said. "Foremost among them is the land itself: nearly three private acres set on a gated peninsula with more than 1,250 feet of direct waterfront."

The land is only the first argument for the price. Cedar Cliff includes rolling lawns, a pool, pool house, tennis court, stone terraces, sun-filled patios, a spa, a deep-water dock and a private beach. Those elements are not unusual one by one in Connecticut luxury listings. Their combination on a peninsula in Riverside is the rarity McElwreath is asking buyers to value.

McElwreath described Cedar Cliff as "nestled within one of Riverside's premier residential enclaves" inside the Indian Head Association. She said the home's position allows water views from almost every window and gives the property both sunrise and sunset exposures, a geographic advantage that becomes part of the estate's appeal.

"I know of no other property in the area that enjoys such a singular and extraordinary setting—where panoramic water views, unmatched privacy, and the beauty of both sunrise and sunset come together in such a rare and captivating way," McElwreath said.

The house gives the land a second selling point. McElwreath described the residence as a Mediterranean-style villa with an elevator, professional recording studio, wine cellar, home theater and an East Wing anchored by a primary suite. The Giffords expanded and maintained the home for family life, entertaining and creative work.

"Meticulously maintained and thoughtfully expanded by Kathie Lee and Frank, the residence blends an elegant, timeless Mediterranean façade with a warm, inviting interior designed for both relaxed family living and sophisticated entertaining," McElwreath said.

## After decades of thoughtful stewardship by the Gifford family, Cedar Cliff is ready for its next chapter.

The Giffords renovated the house over time and added a three-story wing. The property was a setting for charity events, television appearances and private gatherings during the family's years there. The home's public aura came through two careers: Frank Gifford's life in football and broadcasting, and Kathie Lee Gifford's long run on national morning television.

Frank Gifford played for the New York Giants, later became a football broadcaster and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1977. Kathie Lee Gifford became known nationally through her years with Regis Philbin and later Hoda Kotb. Their



shared history at Cedar Cliff gives the listing name recognition, but McElwreath said the marketing should not lean too heavily on celebrity.

"The celebrity connection is certainly meaningful, but it is not the primary story," McElwreath said. "Kathie Lee and Frank Gifford are deeply admired, and their long stewardship contributes to the home's legacy. However, the true focus remains on the property itself—its incomparable setting, architectural significance, and rarity."

Cedar Cliff's history reaches earlier than the Gifford years. The estate was part of a Shoemaker family compound in the early 20th century, placing it within a longer chapter of Riverside waterfront ownership. That older provenance gives the sale local significance beyond its asking price.

"Carefully stewarded by the Gifford family for decades, the estate carries with it a sense of history, legacy, and cultural significance," McElwreath said. "Its connection to Kathie Lee and Frank Gifford adds an intangible layer of emotional resonance that transcends real estate alone."

The listing arrives as Connecticut continues to occupy a rare position in the ultra-luxury market. McElwreath said today's buyers at this level are looking beyond square footage. They want privacy, architectural integrity, lifestyle, prestige and a form of scarcity that cannot be produced by new construction alone.

"Today's luxury buyer is more sophisticated, and discerning than ever before," McElwreath said. "They are no longer simply purchasing a residence; they seek privacy, lifestyle, prestige, and assets of genuine scarcity that cannot be replicated."

For Connecticut residents, the sale places a familiar name beside a larger question about the future of legacy estates. Large waterfront properties often remain in families for generations, away from the public market. When they surface, they offer a measure of how buyers value land, privacy and history in a town where all three are increasingly scarce. It also creates a practical test of how much buyers will pay locally for a private site that cannot be recreated in the current Connecticut real estate market cycle.

"Cedar Cliff is more than a notable listing; it is an important moment in Connecticut real estate," McElwreath said. "Properties of this caliber are rarely made available to the public."

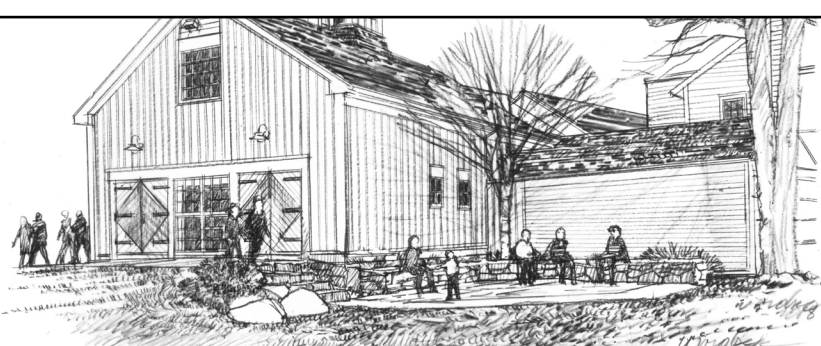
A sale near the asking price would place Cedar Cliff among Connecticut's most significant residential transactions. It would also reinforce the premium attached to Connecticut waterfront property when acreage, views, privacy and provenance align. McElwreath said the Gifford family's role in the property is part of that value, but not the whole of it.

"After decades of thoughtful stewardship by the Gifford family, Cedar Cliff is ready for its next chapter," McElwreath said.



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## Wadsworth's New President & CEO to Preview Major Ponce Exhibition at The Barn in Stamford

The Wadsworth will bring part of its next major exhibition season to Stamford on Thursday, June 11, when Allison Blais, the museum's new President & CEO, appears at The Barn @ Downing Yudain for an evening reception and preview of *The Sense of Beauty: Six Centuries of Painting from the Museo de Arte de Ponce*.

The event will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Barn @ Downing Yudain, 357 Old Long Ridge Road in Stamford. Blais will be joined by Matthew Hargraves, Executive Director; Vanessa Sigalas, David W. Dangremond Chief Curator; and Erin Monroe, Kriebler Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture.

The reception will introduce Blais to area supporters and offer guests an early look at an exhibition scheduled to open at The Wadsworth on Nov. 5, 2026. The show will remain on view through March 14, 2027.

Organized by the Museo de Arte de Ponce, *The Sense of Beauty* will feature 60 paintings by European, Puerto Rican, and American artists, spanning the 1500s through the present day. The exhibition highlights major areas of the Ponce museum's collection and brings works to the mainland United States, many for the first time.

Founded in 1959 by Luis

A. Ferré, the Museo de Arte de Ponce is located on the southern coast of Puerto Rico and is widely regarded as one of the Caribbean's major cultural institutions. Its collection includes European, Puerto Rican, and American works, with particular strength in painting across centuries.

For Connecticut audiences, the exhibition offers access to works usually housed in Puerto Rico, including paintings by El Greco, Peter Paul Rubens, Francisco de Goya, Elisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun, Claude Lorrain, Frederic Church, José Campeche, Francisco Oller y Cestero, Myrna Báez, Rafael Ferrer, and Waldemar Morales Lugo. Frederic Leighton's *Flaming June*, among the best-known works in the Ponce collection, will also be included.

The exhibition arrives during a period of transition for both institutions. The Museo de Arte de Ponce has circulated works from its collection while its main building undergoes repairs following the 2020 earthquakes in Puerto Rico. The Wadsworth, founded in 1842, enters the season under Blais's leadership.

Blais became President & CEO of The Wadsworth in January 2026 after two decades connected to the rebuilding and operation of



Frederic Leighton's *Flaming June*, c. 1895, one of the Museo de Arte de Ponce's most celebrated works, will be featured in *The Sense of Beauty: Six Centuries of Painting from the Museo de Arte de Ponce* at The Wadsworth.

the World Trade Center site in New York City. She played a central role in the creation, development, and operation of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum,

where she served in several leadership positions, most recently as executive vice president and chief strategy & operations officer. She is

also co-author of *A Place of Remembrance*, published by National Geographic in connection with the opening of the Memorial on the 10th

anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Her arrival at The Wadsworth places a leader with deep experience in civic memory, institutional planning, and public engagement at the head of one of Connecticut's oldest cultural institutions.

The June 11 program also gives Fairfield County guests a preview of the curatorial thinking behind *The Sense of Beauty* months before the exhibition opens in Hartford. Hargraves, Sigalas, and Monroe are expected to provide context on the works, the Ponce collection, and the broader significance of bringing the exhibition to Connecticut.

The Wadsworth will also present a companion exhibition highlighting contemporary Puerto Rican artists in Connecticut. Together, the two exhibitions will place historic works from Ponce in conversation with artists working in the state today.

The Stamford reception extends that conversation into Fairfield County before the exhibition's opening. For local arts audiences, the event offers a first look at a major museum project shaped by history, preservation, and cultural exchange — and a chance to meet the Wadsworth's new leader at the beginning of her tenure.

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# Review: Belmont Park Village Turns Islanders Game Night Into a Day Out Worth the Trip



The arched entrance to Belmont Park Village frames the open-air shopping destination, where brick façades, ivy-wrapped columns, and designer storefronts create the feeling of a polished village square.



Hundredfold's pre-game table included warm crescent rolls with whipped butter, honey, and sea salt, lobster roll bites, and spicy tuna bites with avocado.



Pre-game cocktails at Hundredfold included the pale pink Heaven Cent and the Chère Margaritè, served in a dining room that balances warmth with a sense of occasion.



Inside UBS Arena, Islanders fans in orange and blue filled the seats for a matchup against the Philadelphia Flyers, bringing the day from polished Village outing to full home-team energy.

BY EMMA BARHYDT

A trip from Greenwich to Long Island has to earn itself. Home already has good restaurants, handsome shops, and the easy rhythm of a familiar downtown. But at Belmont Park, a new day-trip formula has taken shape: arrive for the shopping, settle in for a real dinner, then head over to UBS Arena with fans in orange and blue ready to cheer on their home team.

Belmont Park Village is set within the broader Belmont Park area in Elmont, alongside UBS Arena and the Belmont Park race track. For first-time visitors, the geography is worth noting. The Village, arena, and track are neighbors along Hempstead Turnpike, but not one continuous front door. On our visit, after parking at Belmont Park Village, we took a short Uber from the Village garage to UBS Arena. It was easy, and the sort of practical detail that makes an outing feel smoother when known in advance.

The first surprise is how much Belmont Park Village feels like an actual village. It is open-air, brick-paved, and carefully composed, with gabled rooftops, arched passageways, ivy-wrapped columns, and storefronts that look more like a polished town center than a retail complex. In the late afternoon light, the red brick glows warmly against the gray-blue sky. Benches and café tables are tucked into courtyards. Green chairs sit on herringbone brick patios. Window murals show banks of blue hydrangeas and garden paths. There are small visual pauses everywhere: a chess table beneath bare-limbed trees, glass display cases holding handbags like sculpture, a dog statue beside a rustic bench, a red streetside café kiosk waiting in the plaza.

For Greenwich readers, the appeal is recognizable. This is a place built for strolling. It understands the old pleasure of looking in windows, noticing a good façade, stopping for a

drink, and letting an afternoon unfold slowly.

The retail lineup has real draw: Valentino, Thom Browne, Missoni, TWP, Vivienne Westwood, Coach, Longchamp, Lacoste, Paige, The North Face, Tumi, Roberto Cavalli, AllSaints, and others. Belmont Park Village, part of The Bicester Collection, describes its offering as designer fashion at up to 65 percent off every day, with spring arrivals including lululemon, Roller Rabbit, and Zadig&Voltaire. The discount structure matters, but the Village wisely does not lead with bargain-bin energy. The experience feels curated, calm, and upscale.

Its smartest game-day feature is Hands-Free Shopping. Guests can shop before puck drop and have purchases delivered to the Isles Lab Customization Station inside UBS Arena. That means no bulky bags through security, no shopping tucked under arena seats, and no choosing between a boutique stop and an easy hockey night.

Dinner before the game was at Hundredfold, the French American brasserie at the center of the Village from James Beard Award-winning chef Timothy Hollingsworth. The room has a soft glamour to it: high windows, warm wood, glowing bottles behind the bar, a deep blue ceiling, brass-toned light fixtures, and cut-glass drinkware that catches the light. It feels grown-up without feeling stiff.

The cocktails set the tone. The Heaven Cent, made with citrus vodka, grapefruit, French lemon sorbet, and brut rosé, arrived pale pink and frothy, the kind of drink that looks delicate but has a bright, clean snap. The Chère Margaritè, with blanco tequila, aloe liqueur, grapefruit, lime, and agave, was refreshing and elegant — a more polished cousin of the usual margarita.

The food leaned comfortably brasserie, with

**Taken together, Belmont Park Village and UBS Arena create a rare kind of outing: elegant but not fussy, sporty but not rough-edged, local in spirit even though it is very much a destination. For Greenwich residents looking for something beyond the usual dinner reservation, it offers a full arc, and the pleasure of a day that feels planned without feeling overproduced.**

just enough playfulness. Crescent rolls came warm with whipped butter, honey, and sea salt, a simple dish made memorable by the contrast of flaky pastry, cool butter, and sweetness. Lobster roll bites were neat and generous, perched on brioche. A spicy tuna bite with avocado delivered crunch, heat, and coolness in a single mouthful. Tallow fries arrived in a metal cone with ketchup and garlic aioli, golden and properly crisp.

For mains, the steak au poivre brought the deep satisfaction of charred beef, rosy centers, and a glossy peppercorn sauce. The rigatoni pesto with grilled chicken was bright green and comforting, rich with basil, dotted with blistered tomatoes, and finished with a snowy layer of cheese.

Dessert was Hundredfold's deconstructed lemon cheesecake, and as someone who is always happy to see cheesecake on a menu, I found it genuinely exciting. It arrived in a glass bowl, with bright lemon cream, delicate crumbs, and soft spoonfuls of ricotta. It still had the comfort and pleasure of cheesecake, but the textures made it feel playful and unexpected — one of the more interesting ways I have eaten a dessert I already love.

After dinner, the evening found its game-night rhythm. From the Belmont Park Village parking garage, it was a short Uber over to UBS Arena, and by then the Islanders faithful were already easy to spot — families, couples, and

groups of friends in orange and blue, jerseys layered over sweaters, caps pulled low, everyone moving with the purposeful excitement of people ready to show up for their home team.

Inside UBS Arena, the Islanders faced the Philadelphia Flyers, and the building had the charge one hopes for in a division matchup: banners overhead, blue-and-orange jerseys filling the seats, the scoreboard glowing above center ice, and the Flyers bench lined in orange across the way. Live hockey has a sound no broadcast can quite capture — the scrape of skates, the thud against the boards, the sudden rise of the crowd when the puck turns dangerous. UBS Arena makes that drama easy to feel. The sightlines are strong, the building is handsome, and the energy builds quickly.

Taken together, Belmont Park Village and UBS Arena create a rare kind of outing: elegant but not fussy, sporty but not rough-edged, local in spirit even though it is very much a destination. For Greenwich residents looking for something beyond the usual dinner reservation, it offers a full arc, and the pleasure of a day that feels planned without feeling overproduced.

By the end, the appeal is simple. You come for the Village. You stay for the game. And somewhere between the honeyed butter, the brick walkways, the orange-and-blue crowd, and the roar from the ice, the trip to Belmont Park starts to feel very much worth making.

# Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

Submit your events at:  
[newcanaasentinel.com/submit-an-event/](http://newcanaasentinel.com/submit-an-event/)

## TOWN MEETINGS

### Tuesday, May 26

[Charter Revision Commission](#)  
5-6:30 p.m., Town Hall

[Planning & Zoning Commission](#)  
7-9 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room

### Wednesday, May 27

[Town Council Special Meeting and Public Hearing](#)  
7-8:30 p.m., Town Hall

### Thursday, May 28

[Historic District](#)  
4-5 p.m., Town Hall

### Friday, May 22

**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.

**Area Open Space Bird & Natural History Walk Series**

8:30-10 AM at NCLT's Browne Preserve, meet in the parking lot

Meet Senior Naturalist and expert birder, Frank Gallo, for early morning bird walks at Bristow Sanctuary. You'll be keeping track of the birds we see as we generate a database and new bird lists for Bristow Sanctuary and the New Canaan Nature Center. All walks are free of charge, but require registration at [newcanaannature.org/adult-birding/](http://newcanaannature.org/adult-birding/).

### Breakfast BINGO

10 AM at the Lapham Center

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

### Saturday, May 23

#### Yoga & Sound Bath

9 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center  
 This Gentle Yoga and Sound Bath will engage both body and mind to help melt away the stresses of the week and start your weekend right. Registration is \$40 and available at [carriagebarn.org/event/yoga-sound-bath-spring-series-9/](http://carriagebarn.org/event/yoga-sound-bath-spring-series-9/).

#### The New Canaan Farmers Market

10 AM- 2 PM at the Lumber Yard Lot, 244 Elm Street

Various local items will be available including specialty food, fresh meat, produce, honey, eggs, and soap. More information is available at [newcanaanfarmersmarket.net](http://newcanaanfarmersmarket.net).

### Tuesday, May 26

**Art Appreciation | Edward Hopper: An American Love Story**

1 PM at the Lapham Center

Discover the secrets behind Hopper's most iconic and enigmatic works. See how his marriage to artist Josephine Hopper shaped his art. A PBS American Masters presentation. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

### Wednesday, May 27

**Shakespeare on the Sound Apprentice Company: Much Ado about Nothing for Kids**

4:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

Join Shakespeare on the Sound's 30th Anniversary season with a performance of a family-friendly *Much Ado About Nothing* for Kids. A 30-minute interactive version of the mainstage season's show, most appropriate for students in grades K-5 and their families. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/s-sound-213648](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/s-sound-213648).

#### 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 [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-glass-house-presents-196972](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-glass-house-presents-196972).

### Thursday, May 28

#### Patriotic Door Decor

1 PM at the Lapham Center

Celebrate America's birthday in style. Design door hangings to help commemorate 250 years of our nation's rich history. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

**The Power of the Game: A Panel on Sports, Risk, and Things No One Tells You**

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

This panel discussion explores how the lessons learned on the field, golf course, court, and more translate directly into everyday life, from setting meaningful goals and embracing pressure, to managing fear and finding the courage to perform at your best. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-ann-ligouri-190682](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-ann-ligouri-190682).

### Friday, May 29

#### 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.

**Community Mosaic for Mental Health Awareness**

3-5 PM at New Canaan Library, Anderson Terrace

Join in to create a large-scale community mosaic made up of individual messages of hope, support, and connection. Drop in anytime 3-5 pm to write your message, decorate your tile, and add it to the mosaic. Register at <https://shorturl.at/4NkHn>.

#### And the World Goes 'Round

7 PM at New Canaan High School

New Canaan High School's award-winning theatre program's final production of the year as it presents *The World Goes 'Round*, a dazzling celebration of the iconic music of John Kander and Fred Ebb. Tickets are available at [newcanaanhighschooltheatre.com](http://newcanaanhighschooltheatre.com).

### Saturday, May 30

#### The New Canaan Farmers Market

10 AM- 2 PM at the Lumber Yard Lot, 244 Elm Street

Various local items will be available including specialty food, fresh meat, produce, honey, eggs, and soap. More information is available at [newcanaanfarmersmarket.net](http://newcanaanfarmersmarket.net).

**Last Saturdays on the Trail | Spring Show and Tell**

10 AM at NCLT Headquarters, 1124 Valley Road

Join Robin Bates-Mason and explore the grounds at 1124 Valley Road as they come to life this spring. Check on the growth of the American Chestnut seedlings, see what is emerging in the Barbara Johansen Pollinator Garden, learn more about the renovation progress of the Headquarters. Finally, head into Browne Preserve after taking in the serenity of the Williams Zen Garden. Register at [newcanaanlandtrust.org/events/](http://newcanaanlandtrust.org/events/).

#### 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 [theglasshouse.org/whats-on/historic-grainger-house-peony-garden-tour/](http://theglasshouse.org/whats-on/historic-grainger-house-peony-garden-tour/).

#### The Great Community Cake-Off

2-4 PM at New Canaan Library, Anderson Terrace

Get your aprons and appetites ready as the library invites you to bake a homemade cake to share with the community. Everyone who brings a cake will be able to sample 8 other servings of homemade cakes. Register at <https://shorturl.at/pTyhU>.

**New Canaan Author Sarah G. Pierce | For Human Use**

2 PM at New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

Join debut author Sarah G. Pierce to celebrate her new novel, *For Human Use*. It is a twisted tale of modern love that bends every genre, sears itself into your brain, and presents a horrific romantic comedy unlike anything you've ever read before. Sarah will be signing copies of her novel after the event. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/new-canaan-author-sarah-g-pierce-208303](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/new-canaan-author-sarah-g-pierce-208303).

#### And the World Goes 'Round

2 & 7 PM at New Canaan High School

New Canaan High School's award-winning theatre program's final production of the year as it presents *The World Goes 'Round*, a dazzling celebration of the iconic music of John Kander and Fred Ebb. Tickets are available at [newcanaanhighschooltheatre.com](http://newcanaanhighschooltheatre.com)

### Sunday, May 31

#### New Canaan Dog Days

11 AM- 4 PM at the New Canaan Nature Center

Join New Canaan Dog Days for games, activities for pets, and pet supply giveaways. This fundraiser benefits Adopt-a-Dog and supports local community initiatives. More information is available at <https://tinyurl.com/5ecvtspz>.

#### Ice Cream Social and Antique Car Show

1-3 PM at the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society

Join for the 35th Annual Ice Cream Social. This festive celebration and antique car show will include ice cream as well as cakes and cookies. The town band will play patriotic music and there will be old fashioned games for kids. Free. For more information, call (203) 966-1776.

### Tuesday, June 2

#### Spring Hike's with Tom Turrentine

9:15 AM, meet in NCNC upper parking lot  
 Join Tom for a hike at Rockefeller State Park,

Rockwood Hall Trail. Each hike will meet in the upper parking lot at the New Canaan Nature Center unless otherwise indicated. Register at [newcanaannature.org/hiking-club/](http://newcanaannature.org/hiking-club/).

**Lunch & Learn: Travel Photography Workshop with Jane Beiles**

12-2 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center

This class is designed for photographers of all levels seeking to elevate their skills and capture stunning travel moments. Jane Beiles is an acclaimed editorial photographer for publications including *The New York Times*, *Architectural Digest*, and *House Beautiful*. More information and registration is available at [carriagebarn.org/event/travel-photo-workshop/](http://carriagebarn.org/event/travel-photo-workshop/).

### Wednesday, June 3

**Monoco Advisors Present: Cash Flow Basics**

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

Dive into what you should be focusing on when it comes to your Cashflow Planning. Because its not always about how much money you make, its about how much you get to keep. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-monoco-188242](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-monoco-188242).

### Thursday, June 4

**Staying Put in New Canaan's Summer Soirée**

6-8:30 PM at Waveny House

Every dollar raised directly supports Staying Put's mission to help older New Canaan residents live confidently at home while staying active, connected, and engaged in the community. Tickets are \$100/person and available at [stayingputnc.org/summer-soiree/](http://stayingputnc.org/summer-soiree/).

#### Martha Graham Dance Company

##### Celebrates 100 Years

5:30 & 7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

Experience the revolutionary spirit of American modern dance in a performance that celebrates two historic milestones: the Martha Graham Dance Company's 100th anniversary and our national America 250 commemoration. Register for the 5:30 pm performance at <https://shorturl.at/Lq2aT>. Register for the 7 pm performance at <https://shorturl.at/ASyB5>.

### Friday, June 5

#### NO COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

**8:30 AM at the Lapham Center**

#### Once, a musical

7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre

The touching, lyrical musical tells the story of two down-on-their-luck musicians, an angst-ridden Dublin street singer/songwriter who works as a vacuum repairman, and a Czech immigrant who sells flowers in order to support herself and her family. Tickets are available at [tpnc.org](http://tpnc.org).

### Saturday, June 6

#### The New Canaan Farmers Market

10 AM- 2 PM at the Lumber Yard Lot, 244 Elm Street

Various local items will be available including specialty food, fresh meat, produce, honey, eggs, and soap. More information is available at [newcanaanfarmersmarket.net](http://newcanaanfarmersmarket.net).

#### 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. There will be curated food and drinks, a live performance, and a silent auction. Proceeds support the preservation and programming of this Modernist landmark. Tickets are available at [theglasshouse.org/whats-on/the-summer-party-2026/](http://theglasshouse.org/whats-on/the-summer-party-2026/).

#### Summer Kickoff Concert with Marcus Miller and IWM

5 PM at Grace Farms

Join for a summer concert featuring Marcus Garrick Miller, a celebrated composer, saxophonist, and curator whose work spans jazz, performance, and creative collaboration. Tickets are \$32/members, \$40/non-members, and available at <https://shorturl.at/FxQ8u>.

#### Groove on the Green Disco

6-9 PM at the New Canaan Library, Merrill Event Lawn

Join for a free music and dance party under the stars featuring DJ Lucas Walters. A food truck will be on-site. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/groove-green-disco](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/groove-green-disco).

#### Once, a musical

7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre

The touching, lyrical musical tells the story of two down-on-their-luck musicians, an angst-ridden Dublin street singer/songwriter who works as a vacuum repairman, and a Czech immigrant who sells flowers in order to support herself and her family. Tickets are available at [tpnc.org](http://tpnc.org).

### Sunday, June 7

#### Draw Until You Drop

10 AM- 5 PM at the Silvermine Arts Center

This is an opportunity for continuous, intensive figure drawing with a model(s) in

sustained poses and still life set-ups. This is open to adults 16+ and all skill levels are welcome. Register at [silvermineart.org](http://silvermineart.org).

#### Once, a musical

2 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre

The touching, lyrical musical tells the story of two down-on-their-luck musicians, an angst-ridden Dublin street singer/songwriter who works as a vacuum repairman, and a Czech immigrant who sells flowers in order to support herself and her family. Tickets are available at [tpnc.org](http://tpnc.org).

#### Mocktails and Watercolors

2-4 PM at Grace Farms

Enjoy a relaxing summer afternoon outdoors in the Plaza as you paint watercolor landscapes and sip handcrafted mocktails. Find inspiration in summer's shifting light as it moves across the landscape, enjoy the company of fellow painters, and unwind through this one-of-a-kind artmaking experience. Light instruction and guidance will be provided by our educators. Take home your artwork and mocktail recipes. Watercolors, paper, and brushes will be provided. Register at [gracefarms.org/event/mocktails-and-watercolors](http://gracefarms.org/event/mocktails-and-watercolors).

#### Pops in the Park

6-8 PM in Waveny Park

Bring your blanket, chair and picnic and come enjoy an evening of patriotic songs featuring The Norwalk Symphony Orchestra.

### Tuesday, June 9

**What Your Body Knows About Happiness with Bestselling Author Janice Kaplan**

12:30 PM at New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

New York Times bestselling author Janice Kaplan presents her new book, *What Your Body Knows About Happiness*, with a new twist on how mind-body connections influence how we feel every day. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-janice-kaplan-215184](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-janice-kaplan-215184).

### Wednesday, June 10

**90-Minute Ukulele | American Songs for America 250**

1:30-3 PM at New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

In this class, you will learn how to hold, strum, and play simple chords, incorporating different genres of music. By the end of class, you will have learned some simple songs that will allow you to continue playing more songs in the future. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/learn-ukelele-america-250](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/learn-ukelele-america-250).

### Thursday, June 11

**Find Your Next Read with NovelList Plus**

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

Join reference librarian Flannery to explore NovelList Plus, a readers advisory service that lets users search for read-a-likes, reading recommendations, and offers genre-focused browsing. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/find-your-next-read-novelist-plus-221087](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/find-your-next-read-novelist-plus-221087).

#### GODS OF NEW YORK with Journalist

##### Jonathan Mahler

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

Join New York Times Magazine journalist Jonathan Mahler as he presents *The Gods* of New York. More information and registration is available at [newcanaanlibrary.org/gods-of-new-york](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/gods-of-new-york).

### Saturday, June 13

#### The New Canaan Farmers Market

10 AM- 2 PM at the Lumber Yard Lot, 244 Elm Street

Various local items will be available including specialty food, fresh meat, produce, honey, eggs, and soap. More information is available at [newcanaanfarmersmarket.net](http://newcanaanfarmersmarket.net).

### Sunday, June 14

#### What the Constitution Means to Me

Presented by CT Stage Co

2-4 PM at New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

Playwright Heidi Schreck's boundary-breaking play breathes new life into our Constitution and imagines how it will shape the next generation of Americans. Starring two-time Tony Nominee Kate Baldwin. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-what-constitution-means-me-ct-stage-149830](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-what-constitution-means-me-ct-stage-149830).

### Monday, June 15

#### The Nature of Gardening at the New

##### York Botanical Garden

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

Todd Forrest, Head of Horticulture at NYBG will discuss the ongoing transformation of the Garden and provide insight into how thoughtfully designing, planting, and tending great gardens might be our most effective approach to repairing the damage we have done to nature. Register at <https://shorturl.at/tbZYm>.

### Wednesday, June 17

**Kate Doerge Presents Reimagining Grief**

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

# Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

Author and grief coach Kate Doerge offers five actions that can help ground us when we feel out of control, lift us when we're depleted, and help us process the pain of loss. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/kate-doerge-presents-reimagining-grief-209303](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/kate-doerge-presents-reimagining-grief-209303).

**Friday, June 19**  
**"Hearts of Freedom" | Juneteenth Community Celebration**  
 3-7 PM at Waveny House Lawn

S.T.A.R. is proud to host their 5th annual Juneteenth Celebration as a part of New Canaan's America250 commemoration, honoring both our nation's independence and the long journey from slavery to freedom. There will be live music, children's activities, food trucks, and more. RSVP at [star-ct.org/juneteenth](http://star-ct.org/juneteenth).

**Tuesday, June 23**  
**Stars, Stripes & Horses**  
 5 PM at New Canaan Mounted Troop, 22 Carter St  
 Join to celebrate the Spirit of America with a patriotic horse-themed afternoon. Experience a riding exhibition, flag themed crafts, and a grooming demonstration. Register at <https://forms.gle/B69sXXX36SDAebec8>.

**Wednesday, June 24**  
**Pollinator Pathway Film Screening: "The Extraordinary Caterpillar"**  
 1 PM at New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

Peek into the world of nature's tiniest superheroes in The Extraordinary Caterpillar, a beautifully shot 60-minute documentary that reveals the vital—and often overlooked—role caterpillars play in our ecosystems. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-pollinator-pathway-film-219732](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-pollinator-pathway-film-219732).

**Thursday, June 25**  
**2026 Annual Firefly Party ~ Fireflies take Flight!**  
 8-10 PM at Colhoun Preserve  
 Join the New Canaan Land Trust for drinks, desserts, and a night under the glowing light of the fireflies. Tickets are available at [newcanaanlandtrust.org/events/](http://newcanaanlandtrust.org/events/).

**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. Patriotically decorated floats and bicycles, colonial attired local groups, vintage cars, marching bands, and fife & drum will be in the parade.

**Photography Intensive with James Florio**  
 10 AM- 2 PM at Grace Farms  
 Join Artist-in-Residence and renowned photographer James Florio for an immersive four-hour photography intensive that deepens your ability to see and capture the relationship between land, light, and architecture. Please bring your own camera. Register at [gracefarms.org/event/photography-intensive-with-james-florio](http://gracefarms.org/event/photography-intensive-with-james-florio).

## SAVE THE DATE

**Thursday, July 2**  
**Fourth of July Mocktails**  
 6:30 PM at Grace Farms  
 In this special Fourth of July-themed class, follow Chef Leah's recipes to mix vibrant and refreshing beverages. Tickets are available at [gracefarms.org/event/mocktails-summer-2026](http://gracefarms.org/event/mocktails-summer-2026).

**Thursday, July 9**  
**Intergenerational String Quartet Concert: 250+ Years of American Music**  
 5 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium  
 Join Janey & Friends in an hourlong string quartet concert and journey through the diverse landscape of American Musical History. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/intergenerational-string-quartet-concert-208503](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/intergenerational-string-quartet-concert-208503).

**Saturday, July 11**  
**New Canaan's Got Talent (Grades 1-12)**  
 2-4:20 PM at the New Canaan Library  
 Have a special talent? Go show it off at the New Canaan's Got Talent, Talent Show. All children entering grades 1- 12 are welcome to participate in the show! Children can showcase any talent they choose, from

magic tricks to playing an instrument -- no talent is too small! Register at <https://shorturl.at/ulk7r>. Audience registration is available at <https://shorturl.at/X2fDg>.  
**Tuesday, July 28**  
**Fairfield County Dance Festival on the Green**  
 6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Merrill Event Lawn  
 The Thomas/Ortiz Dance Company and East Coast Contemporary Ballet are coming to the library as a part of a series of free outdoor dance performances throughout Fairfield County to enable greater access to the arts and arts education. Please bring your own chairs, blankets, and food. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/fairfield-county-dance-festival-green-202572](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/fairfield-county-dance-festival-green-202572)

## BLOOD DRIVES

**Friday, May 22**  
 American Legion  
 60 County Road  
 Norwalk, CT 06851  
 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
**Saturday, May 23**  
 The Rowayton Community Center  
 33 Highland Ave  
 Norwalk, CT 06853  
 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
**Tuesday, May 26**  
 First Church of Christ  
 25 Cross Hwy

Redding, CT 06875  
 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
**Wednesday, May 27**  
 Stamford Church of Christ  
 1264 High Ridge Road  
 Stamford, CT 06903  
 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
 Christ and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
 75 Church Lane  
 Westport, CT 06880  
 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
**Thursday, May 28**  
 Norwalk Hospital  
 34 Maple Street  
 Norwalk, CT 06856  
 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

## Support Services & Meetings

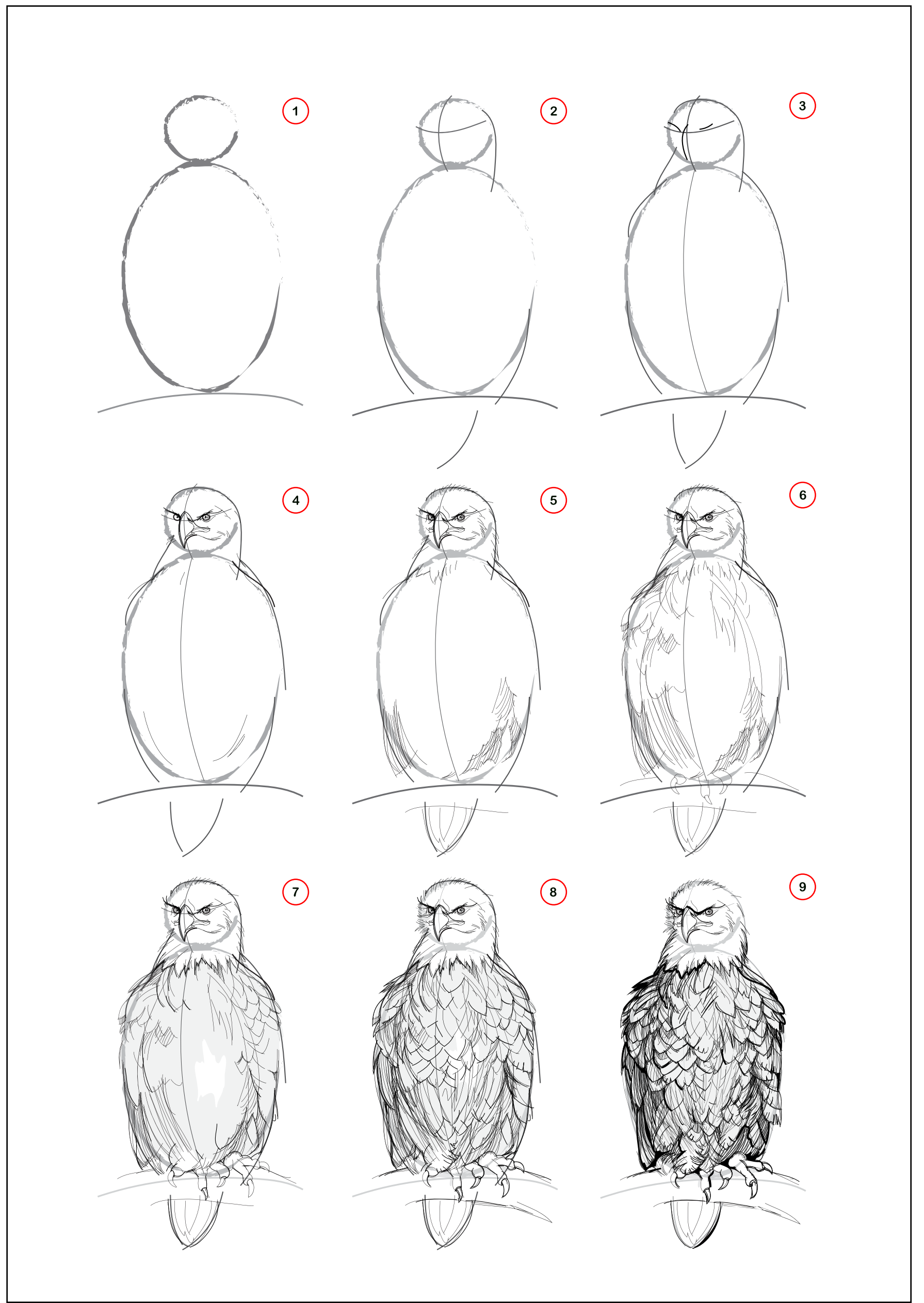
**Wednesday, June 3 & Wednesday, July 1**  
**Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Group with the Waveny LifeCare Network**  
 2 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room  
 Family members, caregivers, and friends are invited to meet for informative and supportive group sessions to help navigate changes related to memory loss and cognitive decline. Register at <https://shorturl.at/f2bWL>.  
**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

**Tuesday, July 14 to Saturday, August 1**  
**Agatha Christie's The Murder of Roger Ackroyd**  
 Times Vary at the Westport Country Playhouse  
 25 Powers Court  
 Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* is more than just a mystery—it's the gold standard of the genre, widely hailed as "the greatest whodunnit ever written." In this new adaptation by Mark Shanahan, Dame Agatha's twistiest tale is brought to the stage with all its cunning, charm, and chilling suspense. Tickets are available at [westportplayhouse.org](http://westportplayhouse.org).



# Sudoku for Kids

1		3	4
	4		
			3
4	3	2	

		2	
2	1		4
	4	1	
1		4	

	2		
	4	3	2
		1	
4	1		3

	3		
	4	1	3
4		3	
	1		2

## SUDOKU

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

### Easy

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

### Hard

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

### Very Hard

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

### Easy

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

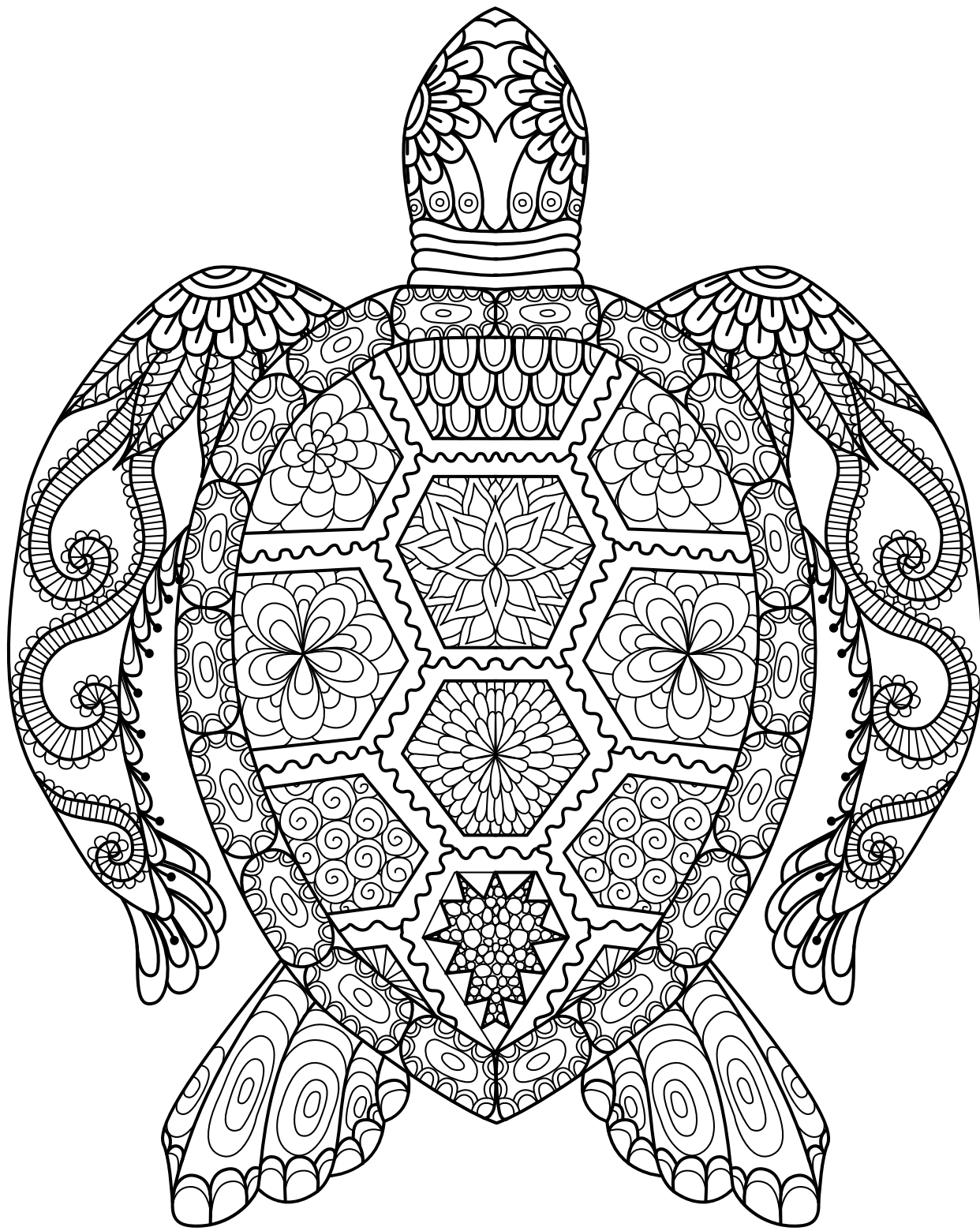
### Hard

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

### Very Hard

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

Coloring a mandala encourages focus, slower breathing, and reduced stress. Its repeated shapes give the mind a structured, calming task, which may quiet anxious thoughts. Choosing colors also creates a sense of control and expression, helping people relax without needing words.



### Sudoku answers

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

Bottom row - Very Hard

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

Bottom row - Hard

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

Bottom row - Easy

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

Top row - Very Hard

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

Top row - Hard

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

Top row - Easy

### Universal Crossword

Edited by Adrian Johnson July 31, 2023

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mac rivals
  - 4 Docs for tabbies
  - 8 Lighthearted growl
  - 12 "\_\_\_!"
  - 13 However, in a text
  - 14 Sign of a leader, supposedly?
  - 16 The plumber's client wanted to add more spigots to the tub, which could only be seen as ...
  - 19 Prepare to play, as a violin
  - 20 "Go, team!"
  - 21 Superfruit from a palm
  - 23 Farm storage site
  - 24 The client also demanded a change to their Jacuzzi's ...
  - 27 Quaintly stylish
  - 28 Cry of delight
  - 29 Grunt heard on "Talk Like a Pirate Day"
  - 30 Sgt., for one
  - 31 Part of a dues-paying workplace
  - 34 Soft-feathered duck
  - 36 The plumber tried to contain his costs by setting a ...
  - 39 Cheesy chip
- DOWN**
- 1 "American Masters" network
  - 2 Photo clarifier
  - 3 "Is this a good idea?"
  - 4 Election season entreaty
  - 5 Sci-fi figures
  - 6 Boatload
  - 7 C \_\_\_ sheets
  - 8 More impulsive
  - 9 "\_\_\_ you sure?"
  - 10 Be victorious
  - 11 Take back
  - 15 Spirited meeting?
  - 17 Game with Reverse cards
  - 18 Voyager program's org.
  - 22 Composer Stravinsky
  - 23 Mustangs' sch.
  - 24 "\_\_\_ Rabbit" (2019 Taika Waititi film)
  - 25 DIYer's site
  - 26 Rewards for healing, say
  - 28 In phone limbo
  - 32 \_\_\_ Kosh
  - 33 Poker stake
  - 35 Wall St. opening
  - 38 Little bears
  - 39 California wine valley
  - 40 With hands on hips
  - 41 Massachusetts peninsula
  - 43 Second chance
  - 44 Summertime brew
  - 45 Trick
  - 48 Vowelless 2022 Lizzo song title
  - 49 Dynamic start?
  - 53 \_\_\_ Lauder
  - 54 Collectively
  - 55 Rummy player's declaration
  - 58 Shopper's venue
  - 60 Deerstalker, e.g.
  - 61 Yoga pad
  - 62 By way of
  - 63 "That said ..."

#### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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### The Plumber's Lament by Geoff Brown

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		
								68					69	

## Horoscope

#### HOROSCOPE: MAY 22 - MAY 29, 2026

Gemini season begins with a jolt of insight. The Sun enters Gemini on May 21 and forms a conjunction with Uranus on May 22, bringing fresh ideas, surprise conversations, and sudden shifts in perspective. Mercury is also in Gemini, sharpening the mind and making this a strong week for communication, planning, and problem-solving. Meanwhile, Venus in Cancer softens the emotional tone, drawing attention to family, comfort, and the people who make you feel secure. With Mars in Taurus, progress may be slower than expected, but persistence will matter more than speed.

#### ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19)

Something you hear this week could change your thinking in a useful way. Don't dismiss a new idea just because it arrives unexpectedly. Follow the conversation, ask good questions, and you may discover an opportunity hiding in plain sight.

#### Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

Mars in your sign gives you determination, but it may also make you less willing to compromise. Stand firm where it matters, but don't dig in over small points. A practical financial decision now can bring greater confidence later.

#### GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20)

With the Sun and Mercury in your sign, your mind is moving fast and others are paying attention. Use your words carefully. A sudden development early in the week could work in your favor if you stay flexible and think on your feet.

#### CANCER (JUNE 21 - JULY 22)

Venus in your sign makes you more persuasive and approachable. Use that warmth to smooth over a family or personal matter that needs attention. You don't have to force the issue; kindness and consistency will do most of the work.

#### LEO (JULY 23 - AUGUST 22)

Friends and colleagues may bring unexpected news or an invitation worth considering. Be open to changing your schedule. A group effort could benefit you, but only if everyone is clear about expectations from the start.

#### VIRGO (AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22)

Career matters are energized, and a sudden shift may require quick judgment. Don't let surprise throw you off balance. You have enough information to make a smart choice, especially if you focus on facts rather than speculation.

#### LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22)

This is a good week to broaden your outlook. Travel, learning, writing, or a meaningful conversation could give you a better sense of direction. Say yes to a new perspective, but check the details before making firm plans.

#### SCORPIO (OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21)

Shared finances or emotional commitments may need careful handling. If something feels unclear, ask direct questions. The answer may surprise you, but it will help you make a better decision.

#### SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21)

Relationships are lively this week, and someone close may surprise you. Don't assume disruption is negative. A candid conversation could clear the air and lead to a stronger understanding between you.

#### CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 22 - JAN 19)

Your daily routine may need adjustment, especially if new information changes your plans. Stay organized, but don't become rigid. A smarter method could save time and reduce pressure.

#### AQUARIUS (JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18)

Creativity, romance, and personal enjoyment are highlighted. A sudden spark of inspiration could lead to something worthwhile. Follow what excites you, but give it structure if you want it to last.

#### PISCES (FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20)

Home and family matters may shift in an unexpected way. Stay calm and listen before reacting. Venus in Cancer supports emotional understanding, making this a good week to restore harmony where it has been missing.

#### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Change does not have to be disruptive. Sometimes it is simply life showing you a better route.

## Family Time Crossword

### The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

- ACROSS**
- 1. (K) Everyone appearing in the film
  - 5. Soak
  - 8. (K) Walking stabilizer
  - 12. Face-soothing ingredient
  - 13. Type of effects in blockbuster films
  - 14. (K) Simba, for one
  - 15. Survey
  - 16. (K) Are in the Bible?
  - 17. Eagle near the ocean shore
  - 18. Horse race with obstacles
  - 21. What a cheerleader has
  - 22. (K) Cause pain to
  - 23. (K) "Hello," in Hawaii
  - 26. Biblical leaf provider to Adam and Eve (2 words)
  - 29. City in Nevada
  - 30. (K) "Peter \_\_\_"
  - 31. (K) Bee flat?
  - 32. Something for a dressmaker to follow
  - 34. (K) What identical poles on magnets do
  - 35. (K) Goal, on a golf course
  - 36. (K) Happy? No, not right
  - 37. (K) With a huge ego
  - 42. (K) Lose color
  - 43. Bank savings offering
  - 44. (K) Cod or Canaveral, e.g.
  - 45. Look \_\_\_ (visit briefly) (2 words)
  - 46. "Not my spelling error" notation
  - 47. Baby bouncer?
  - 48. (K) Wagers
  - 49. "A mouse!"
  - 50. (K) Move a foot?
- DOWN**
- 1. (K) Things baseball players wear
  - 2. What little things mean? (2 words)
  - 3. (K) Bottom of a shoe
  - 4. Photographer's expensive attachment (2 words)
  - 5. (K) It grows hair
  - 6. What Shrek is
  - 7. (K) Contribute (2 words)
  - 8. Finish up stuff to prepare for new stuff (3 words)
  - 9. Place to make a quick touchdown
  - 10. (K) Not even one
  - 11. (K) Direction from Texas to Pennsylvania
  - 19. (K) Certain vegetable
  - 20. (K) Gesture of love
  - 23. Dada co-founder Jean
  - 24. (K) Sheepish pasture
  - 25. Arriving not too early or not too late (3 words)
  - 26. (K) Person cheering for the team
  - 27. Adam's beloved
  - 28. (K) Electric swimmer
  - 30. Exact
  - 33. (K) Santa's sidekick
  - 34. (K) Pixar's Remy is one
  - 36. (K) Pretzels or a pudding cup
  - 37. Rational
  - 38. (K) A Great lake
  - 39. \_\_\_ and rave
  - 40. Sporting sword
  - 41. (K) Like one end of the pool
  - 42. Small lie

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

Batman's hang-up?

Look for the answer in next week's paper.

#### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

Previous riddle answer:

Stole from a creature?  
26-D) FUR

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
23	24	25			26				27	28		
29				30				31				
32				33				34				
				35				36				
42					43				44			
45					46				47			
48					49				50			

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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 it's shown at a county fair (5)
- 2 small sardine containers (4)
- 3 abated (10)
- 4 a real bargain (5)
- 5 the "G" in GIF (8)
- 6 full of praise (9)
- 7 it's fired at a pizza parlor (4)

#### SOLUTIONS

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

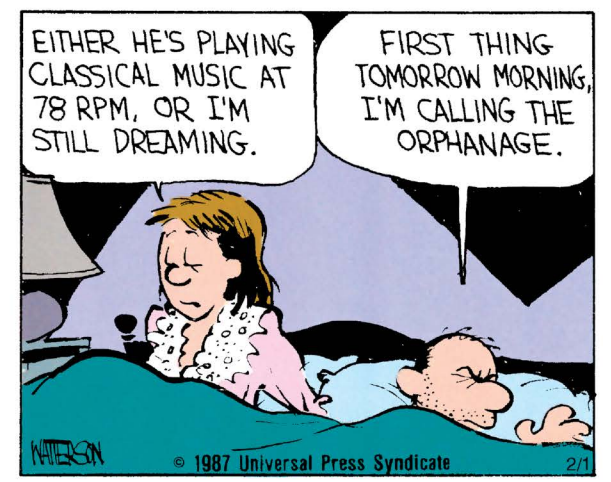
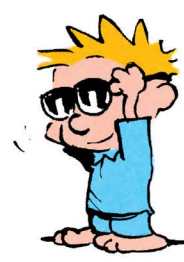
ST	GRA	MI	TI	SH
DI	LAU	EN	PH	RY
ICS	TO	ST	NI	NS
ED	OV	EER	DA	EAL

Previous Answers: REORDER 2. LEGGINGS 3. BOILERPLATE 4. MEEKER 5. FEDS 6. PASSIVELY 7. SURMISING 8/18

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# Calvin and Hobbes

by WATKINSON



**Drawing lesson**

How to Draw a Monkey

## FIND 6 HIDDEN OBJECTS IN THE PICTURE



The artist swished her brush with cheer,  
 And colors curved from there to here.  
 A rainbow rolled across the page,  
 While hidden friends slipped on the stage.  
 A bird flew in with golden wings,  
 A butterfly with loopy rings.  
 A flower nodded, red and bright,  
 An umbrella popped into sight.  
 A dragonfly zipped past the tree,  
 A palm stood bending by the sea.  
 So look around, both high and low—  
 Six hidden things are set to show.

