

NEW CANAAN FORECAST

July 10–14, 2026



Friday, July 10
Humid with some sun;
afternoon thunderstorms possible
High: 87°F | Low: 69°F
Feels like: 94°F



Saturday, July 11
Humid with partial sunshine
High: 86°F | Low: 65°F
Feels like: 89°F



Sunday, July 12
Mostly sunny
High: 82°F | Low: 67°F
Feels like: 84°F



Monday, July 13
Intervals of bright sunshine
High: 86°F | Low: 65°F
Feels like: 88°F



Tuesday, July 14
Mostly sunny and hot
High: 91°F | Low: 70°F
Feels like: 97°F

Source: Forecast data for New Canaan CT, updated July 8, 2026.

Weather Detail

Friday, July 10 – National French Fry Day

High near 87°F, low around 66°F. Friday brings mostly sunny skies, with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m., according to the National Weather Service. The wind will come from the west at 5 to 9 mph.

Saturday, July 11 – National Blueberry Muffin Day

High near 84°F, low around 62°F. Saturday looks mostly sunny, with a cooler night following the sticky Friday setup, according to the National Weather Service. National Blueberry Muffin Day lands on the best kind of July weekend weather: warm, bright and not extreme.

Sunday, July 12 – National Pecan Pie Day

High near 83°F, low around 63°F. Sunday continues the calmer pattern, with sunny skies during the day and mostly clear conditions at night, according to the National Weather Service.

Monday, July 13 – National Beans ‘n’ Franks Day

High near 85°F, low around 66°F. Monday remains sunny, with another mostly clear night, according to the National Weather Service. National Beans ‘n’ Franks Day arrives with ordinary mid-July warmth, suitable for camp pickups, errands, tennis, dog walks and grilling before the hotter Tuesday forecast.

Tuesday, July 14 – National Mac and Cheese Day

High near 89°F. Tuesday looks sunny and hotter, according to the National Weather Service.

POLICE & FIRE

Storm Recovery Prompts Generator Safety Reminder

The New Canaan Fire Marshal’s Office reported multiple carbon monoxide calls following the July 4 storm and issued a reminder about generator safety. Portable and standby generators should be used or installed according to safety requirements, including placement at least 10 feet from building openings, proper permitting, clear ventilation, safe refueling, working carbon monoxide detectors and annual servicing by a certified contractor. Residents with questions about generator safety or fire safety may contact the New Canaan Fire Marshal’s Office at 203-594-3030.

Police Share Safe Payment Reminder

New Canaan police are warning residents about check

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Crews work to restore power in New Canaan as Rep. Tom O’Dea and Sen. Ryan Fazio were out surveying the damage. Photo contributed by Tom O’Dea.

After the Squall, New Canaan Praises Responders and Presses Eversource

BY SENTINEL STAFF

Power outages lingered for days after the storm, then a Wednesday substation disruption left more than 5,000 customers dark again.

The July 4 storm that forced families out of Waveny Park did not end when the crowd reached its cars. It followed residents home in the form of dark streets, blocked roads, silent refrigerators and a power restoration that stretched into Wednesday.

By midweek, the town’s account had divided into two assessments: broad praise for police, fire, EMS, public works, CERT volunteers and emergency

management, and sharper scrutiny of Eversource’s pace, coordination and communication. A separate Wednesday substation issue that cut power to 5,326 customers sharpened those questions just as storm-related outages had fallen sharply.

Saturday night was the evacuation. Sunday and Monday were the repair days. Tuesday brought public explanations at the Board of Selectmen meeting. Wednesday produced interviews, written answers from Eversource, comments from state and local political figures, and a renewed outage that again put thousands of New Canaan customers in the dark.

New Canaan’s fireworks celebration at Waveny Park began Saturday with a forecast that town officials later said showed only a low probability of thunderstorms. As the forecast deteriorated that

afternoon, officials moved the fireworks earlier. As the storm accelerated, the decision changed from moving up the show to clearing the park.

“It was all hands on deck with emergency services,” First Selectman Dionna Carlson said at Tuesday’s Board of Selectmen meeting. “Thankfully, thankfully, thankfully no one was injured in this situation that we know of. We really were very fortunate.”

Selectman Steve Karl said the speed of the storm shaped the evacuation.

“It was the front edge of the storm that came in so rapidly,” Karl said. “Summer weather is really tough to predict.”

By Wednesday, the Waveny response had emerged as the clearest point of agreement. In a statement on Wednesday State

senate candidate Joe Kelly praised the town’s emergency response while separating it from the utility restoration that followed.

“In response to the Fourth of July squall, the New Canaan first responders exhibited remarkable heroism,” Kelly said. “The residents of New Canaan have consistently expressed positive feedback regarding the Emergency Management Director, Russ Kimes, and their effective management of the storm. Conversely, Eversource has received mixed reviews. In certain areas of the town, power outages continue through Wednesday. Early indications suggest that we must closely examine Eversource’s handling of the power outages.”

The storm left New Canaan with a familiar local vulnerability: mature trees, narrow roads, and utility lines running through

Please turn to page 7

Schoolhouse Apartments funding, storm response lead Board of Selectmen agenda

BY PETER BARHYDT

The Board of Selectmen unanimously endorsed a request to allocate up to \$150,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) interest earnings to support long-needed capital improvements at Schoolhouse Apartments, while also approving a series of public safety, infrastructure and public works expenditures during its July 7 meeting.

The meeting also included an extensive discussion of the July 4 storm that left thousands of New Canaan residents without power and the difficult decisions surrounding the town’s Fourth of July fireworks celebration.

Schoolhouse Apartments receives unanimous support

The board’s most significant

action was approving a request from Schoolhouse Apartments LLC to use up to \$150,000 in accrued interest from unspent ARPA funds for capital improvements at the affordable senior housing complex at 156 South Ave.

Steve Hoover, president of Schoolhouse Apartments, outlined the challenges facing the nonprofit organization after what he described as three years of property management failures that resulted in deferred maintenance, mounting unpaid bills and vacant apartments.

The complex, originally created through the conversion of the former Saxe Junior High School, provides 40 affordable apartments for seniors.

Hoover said the current board has moved aggressively over the past four months to reverse the property’s decline by recruiting experienced board members, replacing the property management company, renovating vacant units and raising nearly \$200,000 in private donations.

“We hustled, we pushed and we were lucky to have the town, the New Canaan Board of Realtors and many others starting to help us,” Hoover said.

The requested town funding would help renovate vacant apartments, improve common areas, modernize security systems and convert a former superintendent’s apartment into an additional rental unit.

First Selectman Dionna

Please turn to page 7

It’s ‘Ruff’ – Animal Control

BY JOHN KRIZ

In a red brick building above the now-disused incinerator, and adjacent to the Swap Shop and where Public Works stores salt and sand, is where you shall find New Canaan’s modest animal control shelter.

Sean Godejohn, the town’s sole Animal Control Officer, says “I love working with the animals,” going on to note that “my mom is state animal control, so that’s how I got into it. She would come home with these crazy stories on how she helped all these animals and things, and I really wanted to be a part of that.”

Being Animal Control

Officer Godejohn has been in animal control for eighteen years, having worked in several towns.

To be an animal control officer you need to attend the ‘Animal Control Academy’ operated by State Animal Control, as well as undergo annual training. This education covers “all aspects of the job,” he says. “Public safety, how to work with animals, how to work with people, how to work with the state statutes and things like that, report writing, investigations.”

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture’s Animal Control Unit enforces laws pertaining to the licensing and control of dogs, the licensing and inspection of pet facilities, and rabies control. They also regulate pet shops, kennels and grooming facilities, and investigate animal cruelty complaints, working with municipal Animal Control

Please turn to page 3

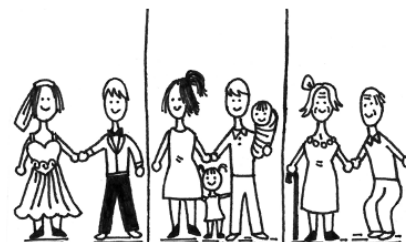
Marriage 1.0, 2.0, 3.0

BY JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

During the course of our relationship, we may be in our second, third or even sixth marriage to our first spouse. Investing in the person that our spouse is becoming is the most important investment in our economic portfolio. Relationships are no more static than financial investments, and they are much more important to our emotional well-being. We either intentionally support and move toward each other, or we drift apart.

The marriage of two grandparents is not the same marriage that they had as newlyweds. Relationships have seasons: dating, being newly married, having young kids, navigating a major move, coping with new jobs, sending kids to college, empty nesting, grieving the death of one’s own parents, and dealing with the aging process. Each season is a chapter with its own number.

Relationships with no crises are highly unusual. Betrayals and the loss of a child are two of the hardest,



Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry

but even the most difficult experiences do not have to be the death knell for a relationship. Relationships, like skin, are stronger where there is a scar. Being honest, embracing humility, and taking responsibility for personal growth are the tools to make marriage 2.0 or 3.0 stronger than marriage 1.0.

Julianne and Kyle’s marriage had three near-death experiences: a serious financial mistake, the death of a child, and Julianne’s addiction to pain killers after surgery. After 43 years of marriage, Julianne and Kyle are both grateful that someone normalized near-death experiences for them when they were a young couple.

Radiance

Injectables • Body Sculpting • IV Therapy
Advanced Skin Rejuvenation • Medical Weight Loss
Hair Restoration • Hydrafacial • Mental Wellness



Teresa Alasio MD
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Reimagined

Intentional Self
AESTHETICS

Intentional Self Aesthetics MED SPA IN NEW CANAAN
Physician owned and operated — the only one in New Canaan
23 Vitti Street, New Canaan, CT 06840
203.594.1890 intentionalselfaesthetics.com
@intentionalsellaesthetics intentionalselfaesthetics

Squall Rushes New Canaan’s Fourth, But Waveny Still Gets Its Fireworks

The Fourth of July celebration at Waveny Park began slowly, the kind of slow that comes with heat pressing down on open grass, and families waiting for the sun to lose its edge. By early evening, chairs and coolers were scattered across the lawn, but the crowd was still thinner than usual for one of New Canaan's largest summer gatherings.

Then, as the day softened, people came. By 7 p.m., Waveny had begun to look

like itself on fireworks night. Families crossed the fields with wagons, blankets, folding chairs, and children running ahead. The food trucks drew lines under the trees. Kids moved between the playground, the bouncy houses and the open lawn. The Exchange Club volunteers served cold water and ice cream. Firefighters, police officers, EMS crews and CERT volunteers stood ready across the grounds.

The music gave the evening its shape.

One Bad Oyster played as people arrived and set up picnics. Later, the New Canaan Town Band performed patriotic songs from the terrace behind Waveny House, its banner hanging close to the familiar brick façade.

Storm clouds approached the park as evening deepened, turning the blue sky gray and then darker still. The fireworks, originally scheduled to begin later, started around 8:15 p.m., nearly an hour ahead

of the posted 9:15 p.m. time. The decision appeared to be an effort to get the show in before the storm reached Waveny.

The first fireworks launches rose above the trees, in an effort to get ahead of the approaching storm. Bursts of red, white and gold broke over the field as the crowd turned toward the not-yet-dark sky. The fireworks came in quick clusters, with the pace seemingly faster than usual as the storm moved closer.

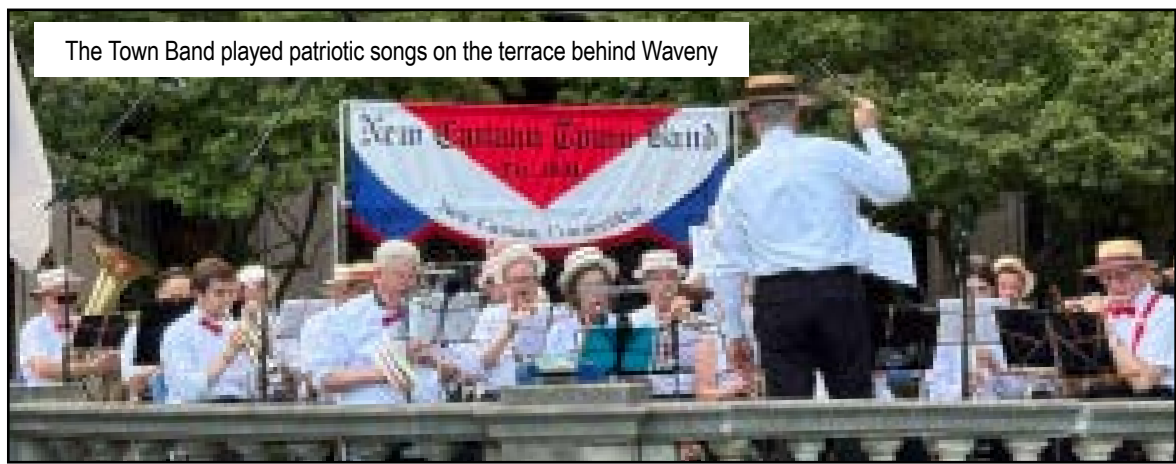
At 8:24 p.m., the town's emergency alert system sent out a warning: "lightning has been detected within 8 miles of the event." Attendees were told to return to their vehicles for safety.

The alert changed the mood at once. Families began packing chairs, blankets

and coolers. Some paused to watch a final round of fireworks. Others moved quickly toward the parking areas. The show continued for roughly 15 minutes and ended around 8:30 pm, just before the weather overtook the park.

Within minutes, the wind picked up. A burst of heavy rain followed around 8:35 pm, sending the remaining crowd into a hurried retreat. What had been a relaxed summer evening became a fast exit under a darkening sky, with headlights, emergency vehicles and wet pavement replacing picnic blankets and music.

The storm did not erase the night but it did shorten it and changed how it will be remembered.



ANIMAL CONTROL
From Page 1

Officers.

The Shelter

The shelter has five spacious ‘runs’ (enclosures) for dogs, as well as several cages for cats and similar-sized animals, such as rabbits. Clean, well ventilated and comfortably temperature controlled, the shelter has a washer and dryer to keep towels and bedding clean.

There is a chest freezer that is used for the temporary storage of deceased pets. “If I get a dog hit by a car, or a cat, that is deceased, I’ll put them in here,” says Officer Godejohn. “I’ll advertise the dog or cat for seven days to see if an owner comes in, picks up the animal. And if not, then they get put in the town waste facility.” Other dead animals, such as wildlife, are disposed of in this manner, too.

There is also a small refrigerator in the shelter Officer Godejohn uses for bats and similar small, dead animals that need to be saved for, say, rabies testing or a necropsy. There is a courier who picks up the animals and takes them to a state lab.

Food & Care

Officer Godejohn strives to ensure animals in his care are well fed. “I get a nicer dog food for them,” he says. “I get a grain-free food. I don’t like to give them the Walmart brand stuff.” He does this “because life’s hard enough here as it is -- let’s get them some good food.”

He goes on to note that dogs in the facility can be “stressed out” and this can cause digestive problems. If problems continue, he takes the animal to the veterinarian.

Officer Godejohn regularly walks the dogs, and if there is an animal in the shelter overnight or over a weekend, a police officer will check on the animal’s welfare and walk it.

Daily Activities

Animals that come into the shelter are typically lost pets that are “very friendly, and they get picked up pretty quickly. Usually I hold dogs for a few hours, or a long weekend, if not redeemed.” If a dog or cat is impounded the animal is advertised, checked for a microchip and brought to the veterinarian if necessary. They will be held in the shelter for seven days from the date of advertisement, and then adopted out. Officer Godejohn handles all of the adoptions of dogs until they are placed in a home. If no owner is found and the animal is not subsequently adopted (they usually are) the animal goes to a rescue. He mainly works with PAWS and the Connecticut Humane Society.

Officer Godejohn says that New Canaan residents tend to take very good care of their pets, but that is not always true.

He recalls a case of a woman who was a hoarder, and had been taking in cats. She eventually became overwhelmed, and her landlord complained. He reached out to the woman “to see if I could

help her and she said, ‘Yeah’. So we ended up taking -- I think we took ten cats from her.”

There’s also enforcement of state statutes, such as animal cruelty, leaving an animal in a hot vehicle, neglect and dogfighting. Officer Godejohn also deals with dogs roaming and animal nuisances, such as when a dog consistently leaves its property and goes to another, chases cars or annoys deer.

The majority of animal issues in New Canaan are about wildlife.

“The wildlife in town is really exploding,” stresses Officer Godejohn. “We’re having a lot of coyotes and a lot more bear and things like that. So I think it’s just more of a thing where people are going to have to get accustomed to living with the wildlife, and understanding it and respecting it, and trying to find new ways to kind of live their day-to-day life with maybe not letting their Yorkie outside by itself.”

Officer Godejohn frequently visits and consults with residents who have wild animal issues.

“Probably 90% of the wildlife calls we get, if not more, is giving people advice on how to come to some kind of solution with the wildlife issue,” he says.

If the issue is a trapped wild animal, Officer Godejohn can sometimes extract it. He has extracted fawns that fell into basement window wells, birds tangled in soccer nets, and animals trapped in empty pools.

He recalls an incident when a resident who, upon leaving his house to get in his car to go to work, encountered a black bear rummaging through a nearby garbage can. Officer Godejohn came and was able to scare the bear away.

If it’s a trapped or invasive animal he cannot handle (such as bats roosting in an attic), Officer Godejohn refers the resident to a Nuisance Wildlife Remover.

Issues with large domestic animals, such as horses and livestock, are generally handled by state animal control personnel. If there is a large wild animal, such as a bear or moose, that is in a particularly challenging location or bad mood, DEEP (Department of Energy & Environmental Protection) usually takes over.

Injured Wildlife

If Officer Godejohn is faced with an injured wild animal, his first call is to Wildlife in Crisis, which focuses on treating and caring for injured wildlife, and returning them to their natural environment.

“We do our best to try and save what we can save. Wildlife in Crisis is phenomenal. I can’t thank them enough for all the help they’ve given us over the years,” he enthuses. “But I try and call them for everything I handle before I euthanize just to see if there’s any hope.”

Euthanizing a wild animal is performed by police, which shoots the animal. The Highway Department would collect the animal for disposal.

Dog Bites

If a properly leashed dog bites a person without warning, and the person bitten reports it, the dog will be subject to a mandatory ten-day quarantine on

the owner’s property. The owner could be cited, and subject to a \$75 infraction.

“Usually I talk to the dog owner and kind of see if there’s something that we can do to kind of prevent this from happening in the future, whether they need to bring that dog to a dog trainer or something,” says Officer Godejohn. “I try to use education and things with the dog owner instead of infractions. It would be very easy to just go around and give everybody an infraction and say, ‘Hey, my job is done.’ But I would rather educate people and try and give them a chance to correct the situation on their own because I feel like that goes a lot further than infractions do.”

If the dog had been improperly off leash, was unlicensed, or if the dog’s owner and the person who had been bitten had been in an altercation, the incident would likely be handled differently; all are infractions to various degrees.

A dog that has not been vaccinated for rabies is also an infraction, and the dog would be tested, and subject to a mandatory off-property ten-day quarantine. The dog would be vaccinated at the end of the quarantine.

For any dog that has been quarantined, Officer Godejohn always follows up with the owner to see how the dog is doing. As well, he lets the victim know how the dog is doing once the quarantine is over.

If a dog bite is severe, the dog could be subject to a restraining order, such as being required to stay on its owner’s property, or wear a muzzle. For a particularly severe bite, or a dog deemed to be impossible to control, a disposal order could be sought, which could result in the dog being euthanized.

Tranquilizer Guns

Officer Godejohn calls this “a huge misconception.” While these work, and are relatively easy to use, the drugs involved are controlled substances, and a veterinarian must be on scene if they are used. And that is not easy to arrange.

Car & Equipment

Officer Godejohn has a dedicated Chevy Equinox incident vehicle that’s packed with leashes, animal cages of various sizes, heavy gloves, and snare poles to help restrain and capture animals. There’s even a special container for snakes and birds. Keeping the parks’ poop bag dispensers filled is his responsibility, too, with spares kept in the car. He also has a Strategic Animal Rescue Trailer with additional equipment and capacity for a multi-animal incident.

Advice for Pet Owners

- Be sure your pets are vaccinated against rabies. If, say, your dog gets into a fight with a coyote, and the coyote tests positive for rabies and your dog is not vaccinated, the dog must go into a four month off-property quarantine. Similarly, if a bat gets in your house and the bat tests positive for rabies, your unvaccinated cats and dogs go into a four month off-property quarantine. Costs are \$15/day, payable by the animal’s owner.
- You might consider



Sean Godejohn, animal control officer, inside the animal control shelter, with several of the shelter’s dog runs behind him.



Sean Godejohn, animal control officer, by his equipment-laden official car, parked in front of the animal control shelter in the Transfer Station.

Advice for Pet Owners

New Canaan Animal Control

- **Be sure your pets are vaccinated against rabies.** If, say, your dog gets into a fight with a coyote, and the coyote tests positive for rabies and your dog is not vaccinated, the dog must go into a four month off-property quarantine. Similarly, if a bat gets in your house and the bat tests positive for rabies, your unvaccinated cats and dogs go into a four month off-property quarantine.

Costs are \$15/day, payable by the animal's owner.

- You might consider having an electronic tracking and identification chip implanted in your pet.

- Be sure your pet is licensed every year in June.

- If your pet is outside, be cognizant of wildlife threats – especially if the pet is small.

- Never leave an animal in a hot vehicle unattended – even if you're just popping in a store for a minute.

- When walking a dog along a road in winter, be mindful of road salt, which can dry out and crack dogs' paws.

- In summer, sidewalks and roads can get very hot and burn dogs' paws.

More information on New Canaan's animal control may be found at:
https://www.newcanaan.info/public_safety/animal_control.php

having an electronic tracking and identification chip implanted in your pet.

- Be sure your pet is licensed every year in June.
- If your pet is outside, be cognizant of wildlife threats – especially if the pet is small.

- Never leave an animal in a hot vehicle unattended – even if you're just popping in a store for a minute.
- When walking a dog along a road in winter, be mindful of road salt, which can dry out and crack dogs' paws.

- In summer, sidewalks and roads can get very hot and burn dogs' paws.

More information on New Canaan's animal control may be found at: https://www.newcanaan.info/public_safety/animal_control.php

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS of the Town of New Canaan after a Public Hearing held via hybrid and in person on Monday, July 6, 2026 duly adopted the following resolution(s). Approved applications become effective upon the filing of a copy thereof in the office of the Town Clerk.

1. RESOLVED, 901 North Wilton Road – Zoning Variance – Upon application of Doug MacMillian, MacMillan Architects, Authorized Agent for Jamie Kemp, owner(s), for a Variance of Section(s) 3.5.E to allow an addition 31 feet from the side property line where 35 feet is required in the Four Acre Zone at 901 North Wilton Road (Map 47, Block 124, Lot 11) is approved.

Luke Tashjian, Chairman
Dated July 6, 2026

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

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

Permit Number (IW-26-10) issued to Steven Brisson and Laura Maness Brisson, 181 Lambert Road, Map 33 Block 41 Lot 146. Install all soil and erosion controls. Remove existing clay court. Remove existing masonry structures as indicated. Construct 20’x40’ inground gunite swimming pool with spa. patio, 16’x18’ pergola and pool fencing. Construct 8’x10’ shed, Add pool equipment pad and 6’x12’chiller pad for ice rink with panel fence. Add stone retaining walls and stairs adjacent to proposed pool patio. Add stone masonry retaining walls and steps off garage side of structure. Construct 30’x56’ sport court. Add driveway entrance piers with gates and reconfigure driveway. Add free standing stone wall as indicated along a portion of Lambert Road. Add 500-gallon underground propane tank with trenching for propane and electrical connections. Make septic system and drainage updates. Fine grade, topsoil, seed and landscape upon completion.

LEGAL & CLASSIFIED ADS

LEGAL AD

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

To be held

Saturday, July 25, 2026
10AM until 8:00PM
At the New Canaan High School

You are hereby notified that, pursuant to Sec. C4-15 of the Town Charter, a Referendum for electors will be held at the New Canaan High School, Farm Road, New Canaan, Connecticut on July 25, 2026 from 10am until 8pm.

Voting Machines will be used and the vote shall be on the following question:

“Shall the action of the Town Council, at its May 20, 2026 meeting which approved an Ordinance entitled 'Gas Powered Leaf Blowers,' which sets certain restrictions on their usage, be upheld?

Absentee ballots will be available.

Dated at New Canaan, Connecticut, this 6th day of July, 2026.

CLAUDIA A. WEBER, CMC
Town Clerk

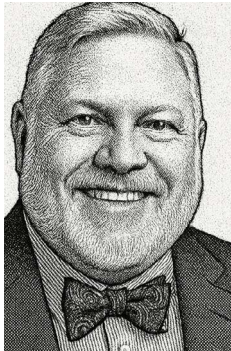
LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

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

Permit Number (IW-26-14) issued to Haralambos L. Pascalidis, 311 Weed Street, Map 31 Block 10 Lot 133. Install soil and erosion controls. Install 14’x35’ pool. Install pool equipment pad, add equipment and make connections to pool. Install pool fence. Final grade, topsoil and seed disturbed areas.

What Is Important Now?



By Russ Barksdale

In business, when there are countless competing priorities, one of the most useful leadership questions is also one of the simplest: WIN – What’s Important Now?

Strong leadership teams ask this question when everything feels urgent and every issue appears worthy of immediate attention. The challenge is not making a list. The challenge is deciding what deserves our immediate attention, energy, and collective effort.

New Canaan is fortunate to be a community with extraordinary civic engagement. Residents care deeply about their town. We attend meetings, write letters, volunteer, research issues, and advocate for causes we believe in. We

debate and discuss neighborhood character and weigh policies that shape our quality of life. Those conversations matter. Communities are built, in part, by citizens who care enough to participate.

Yet leadership—whether in business, government, or civic life—also requires perspective. It requires periodically asking whether our attention is aligned with our most pressing challenges.

While many public discussions focus on visible issues and even billboards, there is another set of critical challenges that often receives less attention. These challenges are quieter, more personal, and sometimes more difficult to discuss openly. They involve the well-being of our children, families, seniors, and neighbors.

The signs are increasingly difficult to ignore. In nearby Wilton, mental-health interventions in PreK–8 schools rose significantly over the past several years, including interventions involving suicidal ideation. In May, Wilton police investigated the death of a 13-year-old girl as a possible suicide while officials encouraged families to utilize crisis and support resources.

This is not solely a Wilton issue. Research published in The Sentinel over

the past year highlights New Canaan’s Healthy Community data trends that deserve broader discussion and increased attention. At the state level, the Connecticut School Health Survey found that 15.7 percent of high school students had seriously considered suicide in the previous year, while 7.7 percent reported attempting suicide. Both figures increased from 2021.

These are not survey findings, but actual statistics that may feel abstract until we remember what they represent. Behind every percentage point is a child, a parent, a teacher, a friend, and a family navigating challenges that may not always be visible to others. Families in crisis do not look for surveys to complete, they are in immediate need of help.

Family stress deserves equal attention. Schools, healthcare providers, social-service organizations, and first responders across many communities report increasing demands related to mental health, family conflict, substance use, loneliness, and social isolation for our seniors. These pressures rarely remain confined to individual households. Over time, they can affect the entire community.

If a business leader were reviewing these measurable trends, the response would likely begin with a simple question: Are we paying sufficient attention to the indicators that matter most?

The goal would not be endless discussion or another survey report sitting on a shelf. It would be to understand where support systems are working, identify gaps, and determine whether resources are reaching people before a crisis occurs. Their effectiveness are easily measurable and should be openly discussed. Sustainable improvements require timely measurements, redesign, and program adjustments to ensure lasting improvements.

New Canaan does not lack resources. We are fortunate to have excellent schools, faith communities, nonprofit organizations, healthcare providers, first responders, civic leaders, and engaged residents. The question is not whether capacity exists. The question is whether our collective efforts are sufficiently aligned around our most important challenges.

This does not mean issues such as affordable housing, environmental concerns, or quality-of-life ordinances should be ignored. They deserve thoughtful consideration, but more timely resolution. Conversely, healthy communities

require continuous priority to both physical and social infrastructure.

Have state-wide statutes increased the actual construction of affordable housing units by private developers? Has the state approval of increased potency of cannabis impacted our children’s developing brains? Regrettably, the unintended consequences were easily predictable. Without systematically correcting these miscalculations, they can and will continue to distract attention away from very significant healthy community issues and drain valuable resources.

But once those debates are resolved, we should continue asking ourselves a broader question: Are we devoting enough attention to the issues that most directly affect human well-being?

Mental health, family resilience, youth development, senior isolation, substance use, and access to care may not always generate the same public attention as visible billboards and visceral civic debates. Yet their impact on the long-term health of a community is profound.

WIN means What’s Important Now. Not necessarily what is most visible. Not necessarily what generates the most headlines. Rather, what most deserves our collective focus at this moment?

Perhaps that means strengthening support systems for families before crises emerge—measurable not surveyable. Perhaps it means measuring access to services and outcomes with the same rigor we apply to other headlines and editorials. Perhaps it means creating a community-wide strategy that brings together schools, healthcare providers, nonprofits, faith communities, and public safety professionals around shared goals—then consistently measuring, openly reporting, and refining operations in a timely manner in order to sustain improvements.

A great town is not defined by winning every argument. A great town is defined by its ability to recognize what matters most, focus its energy wisely, and care for the people who make the community what it is—a wonderful place to call home.

This may be the most important conversation we can have.

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

Stand-by Generator Hazards

As we continue to deal with the aftermath of the July 4th Storm, it is a good time to review generator safety. Past experiences show that many residents have generators at their homes that if not installed and used properly can pose a serious threat. The primary hazard is carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust.

Following is a list of do’s and don’ts for portable and stationary generator use and installation:

- Make sure that a building permit has been obtained from the Building Department for the installation of a standby generator.
- When choosing generator location, make sure it is located a minimum of 10 feet from any building opening (windows, doors etc.).
- Close all windows adjacent to the generator to prevent toxic fumes from entering the home.
- Never store anything on or around the generator. Obstacles may interfere with its proper, safe operation.
- If you have a portable generator (one that you have to start and hook-up manually) never run it inside the garage or other enclosed

spaces, even with the doors open, they MUST be outside and a MINIMUM of 10 feet from any building opening (dryer vents, bathroom fan vents, windows and doors, Air Condition Units).

- Never refuel a generator while it is running. The unit must be shut down and allowed to cool before refueling.
- Always have properly operating CO detectors installed in your home (in addition to smoke detectors!).
- Have your back-up power system serviced by a certified contractor annually to insure proper operation for when it is needed most.
- Always insure proper electrical hook-up to prevent back-feeding to the street, endangering the power company workers trying to get you hooked back up.

Every year, people die in incidents related to portable generator use and ALL of them could have been prevented!! Please be careful!!

For any questions regarding generator safety or any other fire safety questions please contact the New Canaan Fire Marshal’s Office at 203-594-3030.

Meadow Ridge Residents Raise \$387,000 in Scholarships for Associates

Resident-funded scholarships awarded for continuing education

Residents of Meadow Ridge, a continuing care retirement community, awarded \$387,000 to Meadow Ridge associates and their children through this year’s resident-led Scholarship Fund during a heartfelt ceremony. Funds were provided for the continuing education of 47 recipients.

The scholarship fund started more than 20 years ago when two residents created a long-term initiative to support associates, or the children of associates. Over the past three years alone, the scholarship fund has awarded nearly \$870,000 and more than 130 scholarships, with an increasing amount of funds raised each year. The campaign this year culminated in an award ceremony on June 11, where recipients were formally recognized.

“For 21 years Meadow Ridge residents have enthusiastically and generously supported our resident scholarship program. There are wonderful stories of how our scholarship program has changed lives and offered new opportunities to the recipients,” said Cynthia Ervin, chair of the Scholarship Selection Committee. “We have every confidence that this year’s recipients will take advantage of this opportunity. They are a special group with much potential and we wish them well.”

The committee makes an appeal to fellow residents for donations each year, starting in the late winter. This year, the amount donated raised the bar for the number of scholarships provided and the total amount awarded. Out of the 47 awardees, 34 will attend a four-year college or university, two are pursuing a master’s degree, six will attend a community college and five will enroll in a trade program. Chosen applicants are reviewed and interviewed by a six-member selection committee, a process that takes nearly five weeks to complete.

“Receiving the scholarship award meant more than just financial assistance. This award is a symbol of not only my hard work and dedication, but also the committee’s commitment in believing in students like me in order to help them reach their goals,” said Tayvian Liang who will use the scholarship to attend University of Connecticut School of Law. “I thank you all endlessly for this recognition and your commitment!”



Scholarship Fund Committee Member Dick Farrell, with scholarship recipients



Scholarship Fund Committee member Bob Morton with Tayvian Liang



Some members of the Scholarship Fund Committee. L to R: Dick Swank, Lynn Scott, Bob Morton, Connie Deans, John Corcoran and chair, Cynthia Ervin

Meadow Ridge Names Cristina Cardenas Director of Mind and Memory Care

Leader with 15 years of experience at Meadow Ridge will oversee mind and memory care neighborhood

Meadow Ridge, a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) in Redding, Conn., announces Cristina Cardenas has been named Director of Mind and Memory Care. This is a promotion for Cardenas, who has served the Meadow Ridge community since 2010 with increasing responsibility for the health and safety of residents.

Cardenas began at Meadow Ridge as a Certified Nursing Assistant. She completed Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training, leading to a role in the EMT department, and she later transitioned into environmental services, where she was promoted to Environmental Services Manager. As Environmental Services Manager, Cardenas led 40 housekeeping and laundry team members at Meadow Ridge and for Ridge Crest, Meadow Ridge’s award-winning health center for assisted living, memory care, sub-acute rehabilitation and skilled nursing. Cardenas was responsible for ensuring every area met the highest standards of cleanliness and safety. She coordinated daily operations, trained associates, managed schedules and ensured regulatory compliance – also essential skills for her new position.

“Cristina’s promotion is exceptionally well deserved. She has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our residents, their families, and our purpose, taking on a variety of roles and excelling in each one. Her understanding of our community, combined with her compassion, leadership and dedication to quality care, make her uniquely qualified for this position,” said Meadow Ridge Campus Executive Director Chris Barstein. “We are excited to see her continue to lead with the same warmth, professionalism and heart that have defined her career at Meadow Ridge.”

As Director of Mind and Memory Care, Cardenas will oversee the quality of care and services that Ridge Crest provides to residents in its award-winning Mind and Memory Care neighborhood. Her work is essential to providing a safe living environment and specialized, compassionate care that meets the unique needs of individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease and all other forms of dementia. Cardenas is committed to exceptional standards of care, and she serves as a mentor for resident care associates, helping ensure they feel valued and supported in their work.

“This new role means a lot to me – it is an honor. Caring for a resident in memory care is about understanding who they are, what brings them comfort, what makes them smile, and how we can help them feel at home. I also understand how important communication and trust are for families,” said Cardenas. “The greatest reward



Cristina Cardenas

is from building connections and making a meaningful difference in our residents’ day-to-day lives. My goal is to build on the warm, caring, and respectful environment we provide to our residents and their families, and our team members.”

Meadow Ridge is a continuing care retirement community (CCRC), which means residents have peace of mind that their needs will be met with compassion and quality at every stage of life, in independent living, as well as assisted living, memory care, sub-acute rehabilitation and skilled nursing in Ridge Crest health center. The community is known as a leader and was recognized again in U.S. News & World Report’s 2026 Best Senior Living issue, as “best” in CCRC, independent living, assisted living, and memory care. The community was also recognized in U.S. News & World Report’s 2026 Best Nursing Homes for short-term rehabilitation.

For a tour of Meadow Ridge, call 203-544-1000 or visit www.MeadowRidge.com.

Photo Caption: Cristina Cardenas was promoted to Meadow Ridge Director of Mind and Memory Care. She has served the community for more than 15 years.

About Meadow Ridge

Meadow Ridge, developed by Senior Care Development, LLC and managed by Benchmark Senior Living, is one of Connecticut’s most comprehensive continuing care retirement communities. Located in the picturesque town of Redding and recognized for excellence by U.S. News and World Report, Meadow Ridge sits on 136 acres and offers 302 independent living apartment homes. The campus also features Ridge Crest, an award-winning health center for assisted living, memory care, sub-acute rehabilitation and skilled nursing. For more information, visit www.MeadowRidge.com.

STORM RESPONSE

From Page 1

heavy canopy. A yellow service truck and bucket truck working under a heavy tree canopy tells the tale.

By Sunday morning, the scope of the outage was clear. Roughly 60 percent of New Canaan was without power, with about 5,194 customers affected. One early problem involved a substation issue affecting roughly 4,500 customers. At noon Sunday, 4,957 New Canaan customers remained without power. By 4:45 p.m. Sunday, that figure had fallen to 27.7 percent.

The statewide damage was also significant. Tens of thousands of Eversource customers were without power Sunday morning. By 2 p.m. Sunday, roughly 60,000 customers had been restored, while about 62,000 remained without service statewide.

“Last night’s severe storms left thousands of homes in the region without power, and while utility crews immediately began working on restoration, they believe that repairs in certain areas may take several days due to the scale of damage across the area,” Gov. Ned Lamont said Sunday.

Early this week state Sen. Ryan Fazio visited storm-affected areas in New Canaan. He later said he and state Rep. Tom O’Dea pressed Eversource and state officials for more resources.

“I think the response of Eversource and the governor’s office to the storm in New Canaan was extraordinarily

underwhelming,” Fazio said Wednesday.

Fazio also said New Canaan waited too long for enough crews.

“It took two to three days to get sufficient number of crews on the ground to remediate a storm that for three or four days had 20 to 30% of the entire town’s power out,” Fazio said.

He described the problem as a breakdown between Eversource management and crews in the field.

“There was clearly insufficient communication between management bureaucracy at Eversource and the crews on the ground who would oftentimes be stationed in an area to do a job and have to wait hours for the go-ahead from management and bureaucracy,” Fazio said.

On Tuesday morning, the Board of Selectmen meeting became the town’s first formal public accounting after the storm. Carlson devoted much of her closing comments to the storm response, the outages and the fireworks evacuation. Sixteen utility crews were working in town.

Restoration work had been complicated by additional outages caused by necessary switching operations and tree removal. Carlson had expressed frustration directly to Eversource over the pace of restoration.

Fazio said he raised New Canaan’s condition directly with Gov. Lamont on Tuesday morning and told him the town appeared to be among the hardest-hit communities in Connecticut. Fazio said that roughly thirty minutes after his conversation with Gov. Lamont, the governor’s chief of staff contacted First

Selectman Carlson.

“It shouldn’t take the senator making that point to either Eversource or the governor to get that sort of aid to the town,” Fazio said. “They should have already known.”

Lamont toured storm damage Tuesday in Torrington and Harwinton, where downed trees and wires left roads blocked after the same Fourth of July storm system. His public comments addressed statewide storm damage and frustration with utility coordination, not New Canaan specifically.

“The devastation here in Harwinton is really heavy,” Lamont said Tuesday. “Some real frustration with Eversource in terms of coordination, getting folks here.”

On Wednesday, Lamont rejected criticism that the Tuesday visit came too late and said state officials were focused on recovery work, not political appearances.

Lamont also urged towns and cities to document storm-related costs for possible federal disaster aid, advised homeowners to document damage for insurance claims and said the state would review its own response and Eversource’s response.

By Wednesday, Emergency Management Director Russ Kimes said storm-related outages had dropped sharply.

“We went from approximately 2,000 power outages to only 46 today,” Kimes said. “That reflects outstanding work by police, fire, EMS, public works, volunteers, Eversource crews and assistance from our state delegation. They all deserve our thanks.”

That progress did not end the concern. At 12:58 p.m.



Rep. Tom O’Dea and Sen. Ryan Fazio were out surveying the damage and stopped to talk with Patrick Russell.

Wednesday, New Canaan saw another major outage: 5,326 customers lost power because of a substation issue.

Eversource told the *New Canaan Sentinel* that its response placed the storm within a statewide restoration process that prioritized emergency calls, blocked roads, critical facilities and repairs that would return the largest numbers of customers first.

“This storm caused unexpectedly severe damage, not only in New Canaan but in many of the communities we serve around the state,” Jamie Ratliff, an Eversource spokesperson, said. “It’s been reported that there were widespread, damaging straight line winds and gusts that reached 70 to 80 mph in parts of the state which caused severe impacts, including bringing down hundreds of trees and blocking hundreds of roads.”

Ratliff said that crews focus on restoring the largest numbers of customers first before moving down to smaller outages.

“Specifically in New Canaan, all outages related to Saturday’s

storm have been restored. We take our role as emergency responders extremely seriously and were prepared for the weather that was forecasted.”

Eversource responded to a follow-up question about the Wednesday substation disruption.

“We are still investigating the cause, but all customers impacted have been restored,” Ratliff said.

O’Dea said the utility issue appeared to be less about effort in the field than coordination among the organizations involved.

“The problem appears to have been a lack of coordinated communication between Eversource, the affected towns, and third party contractors,” O’Dea said. “I look forward working with Eversource in an effort to improve that coordination and communication going forward.”

State Senate candidate Jill Oberlander also called for a stronger utility protocol after the outages. In a statement she wrote: “I add my thanks and recognition of the significant efforts of first responders and public workers to help clear roads and ensure public

safety in the aftermath of the storm. I encourage Eversource to work with its public partners to develop a better protocol to protect wires and transmission resources and ensure timely, accurate, and reliable information to the public on outages and timelines for restoration.”

The town’s after-action review now has two distinct questions. The first is whether officials had the best possible process for changing plans and evacuating Waveny as weather shifted. The second is whether Eversource, state officials, and contractors communicated well enough once the storm had passed and the repair work began.

Vegetation management is expected to be part of that review. New Canaan’s trees are part of its character, but the same canopy can turn a summer storm into a townwide power failure when limbs fall across wires and roads.

“And primary responsibility of utilities is vegetation management, making sure that there’s not heavy branches and trees overhanging important wires and poles,” Fazio said.

DIONNA CARLSON LETTER

From Page 1

chance of severe weather on July 5th. Based on the information available at that time, moving forward with the event was the appropriate decision. It was not until late afternoon on July 4th that forecasts showed a significantly increased likelihood of storms.

At 7:17 p.m., the Town sent an Everbridge text and email announcing that the fireworks would be launched early in an effort to complete the show before the storm arrived. Although we planned to begin at 7:45 p.m., the fireworks crew was not yet ready, and the show began at 8:20 p.m. Four minutes later, lightning was detected within eight miles, prompting an immediate Everbridge emergency notification directing attendees to return to their vehicles for their safety.

I want to sincerely thank New Canaan’s Police, Fire, CERT,

Emergency Management, Parks, and Public Works personnel for their professionalism and dedication in helping thousands of people exit Waveny safely and efficiently. Thankfully, we are not aware of any injuries. Earlier this week, I convened an after-action review with our emergency response teams to identify improvements to planning for and responding to rapidly changing weather conditions during major community events. It was a very productive meeting with some important suggested improvements. Some of the improvements discussed are:

Creating earlier trigger points for adjusting event timelines during major gatherings

Enhancing coordination protocols with outside vendors (such as the fireworks crew) to enable faster setup and potential earlier launches when conditions deteriorate

Refining notification system for even quicker, more targeted alerts to attendees

Identifying additional shelter options within the Waveny

campus

The storm also caused extensive damage to Eversource’s electrical infrastructure in New Canaan, leaving approximately 75% of our town without power. Restoration has been slower than anyone would have liked, and I share residents’ frustration. We have remained in constant contact with Eversource, and I have requested a meeting with senior company leadership to discuss ways to improve future storm response. I have also communicated our concerns to the Governor’s Office and our state legislative delegation.

As we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, this year’s celebration will certainly be one we remember. I wish you and your family a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer.

*Best,
Dionna Carlson
First Selectman*

CRC

From Page 1

instead of being grouped with technical Charter revisions.

Commissioner Joseph Palo urged that the recommendation explicitly include language making department heads accountable to the First Selectman.

“I think the proposed ballot language leaves out one of the most important provisions of C2-16—that department heads are accountable to the First Selectman,” Palo said. “That language should be incorporated into the recommendation.”

Attorney Nick Bamonte, legal counsel to the commission, said the proposal largely reflects authority the First Selectman already possesses under Connecticut law.

“The Charter designates the First Selectman as the Town’s chief executive and chief administrative officer,” Bamonte said. “That authority necessarily includes establishing administrative policies and procedures governing managerial responsibilities.”

Following additional revisions clarifying that nothing in the proposal would diminish the statutory authority of elected officials, the commission approved the recommendation by a 7-2 vote with two abstentions.

Board of Finance eligibility divides commission

The commission then revisited whether Board of Finance members

should continue to be required to be real estate taxpayers.

The proposal was nearly identical to one rejected by New Canaan voters during the last Charter Revision process a decade ago.

Palo argued the longstanding requirement has deep historical support.

“Approximately 64 Connecticut towns follow that requirement,” he said. “The requirement has existed since a U.S. Supreme Court decision more than 50 years ago, and it’s been in New Canaan’s Charter for roughly 90 years. Ten years ago, approximately 75 percent of New Canaan voters chose to keep the requirement.”

Others argued the current language excludes otherwise qualified residents whose property is owned through trusts or limited liability companies.

“My concern has always been that the current language excludes people who effectively own property through trusts, LLCs or other legal structures,” Commissioner Todd Lampert said. “There are many qualified residents who have a financial stake in the community but don’t technically satisfy the current wording. I’d rather let the voters decide.”

Angela Jameson also supported removing the requirement, citing outside legal advice received by the commission.

“We received a memorandum from Berchem Moses stating that a court would likely conclude that a property ownership requirement is unconstitutional,” Jameson said. “Continuing to keep the requirement exposes the Town to unnecessary legal

risk.”

The recommendation narrowly passed, 6-5, after an extended procedural debate over whether reconsidering an earlier commission vote required a supermajority. Bamonte advised that because the issue had been properly noticed on the agenda, only a simple majority was necessary.

Term limits remain in report

Commissioners also revisited one of the most controversial recommendations in the report—a proposal establishing 12-year consecutive term limits for appointed boards and commissions.

Russ Kimes III said comments from residents and Town Council members had persuaded him to change his position.

“Originally I supported the 12-year term limits. I no longer do,” Kimes said. “I understand now some of the concerns that were raised about losing experienced volunteers.”

However, the motion to remove the recommendation failed on a 5-5 tie vote, leaving the proposed term limits in the commission’s report for the Town Council to consider.

Preparing the final report

The commission also approved a series of editorial revisions, including reorganizing its recommendations into separate sections distinguishing general recommendations from proposed ballot questions. Commissioners agreed to eliminate an earlier suggestion that the Housing Authority and Registrars of Voters be added to the Charter and

- \$24,447 for renewal of the department’s Nexgen records management and dispatch software.
- \$25,000 for replacement ballistic vests through Angel Armor, partially offset by federal reimbursement.
- \$57,030 to purchase and outfit a new Ford Transit cargo van for the Special Response Team, replacing a more than 20-year-old ambulance previously used by the unit.

Police Chief John DiFederico said the Flock system has expanded to include additional downtown cameras while remaining compliant with state privacy laws. Video data is retained for 21 days unless needed for an active criminal investigation.

Public works projects move forward

The board approved numerous Department of Public Works contracts, including:

- \$29,000 for annual Geographic Information System (GIS) maintenance and mapping services through Tighe & Bond.
- \$16,600 for federally required MS4 stormwater compliance reporting.
- \$20,000 for road maintenance materials from WEB Construction.
- \$209,488 for masonry restoration at Lapham Community Center by G.L. Capasso Inc.

- \$80,242 for a new Ford F-350 mason dump truck.
- \$35,000 for household hazardous waste disposal through Clean Harbors.
- \$34,749 for a new Metal Pless snow plow attachment for the Parks Department’s New Holland tractor.

The Lapham Community Center project will address deteriorated masonry, mortar joints, flashing and other exterior repairs identified through engineering studies.

Storm response dominates selectmen’s comments

Carlson devoted much of her closing remarks to the severe July 4 storm that knocked out electricity to more than 75 percent of New Canaan at its peak.

She said restoration efforts had been complicated by additional outages caused by necessary switching operations and tree removal.

“We’ve been told that by 11:45 tonight that we should have 99% of the town restored,” Carlson said, noting she had expressed frustration directly to Eversource over the pace of restoration.

DPW Director Tiger Mann reported that 16 utility crews were working in town and that South Avenue would remain closed daily through the summer as Aquarion continues major water main work between

Farm Road and Harrison Avenue.

Fireworks decisions defended

Carlson also addressed criticism surrounding the July 4 fireworks celebration, which ended abruptly as severe weather rapidly approached Waveny Park.

She explained that forecasts on Friday and early Saturday indicated only a low probability of thunderstorms, prompting organizers to proceed with the event. When forecasts worsened Saturday afternoon, officials moved the fireworks earlier before ultimately ordering an evacuation as the storm accelerated.

“It was all hands-on deck with emergency services,” Carlson said. “Thankfully, thankfully, thankfully no one was injured in this situation. We really were very fortunate.”

Carlson said town officials will conduct an after-action review with emergency responders to identify lessons learned while acknowledging that rapidly changing summer weather makes such decisions difficult.

Selectman Steve Karl praised police, fire, EMS, CERT volunteers and residents for safely evacuating the park as conditions deteriorated.

“It was the front edge of the storm that came in so rapidly,” Karl said. “Summer weather is really tough to predict.”

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

From Page 1

Carlson praised the volunteer board’s efforts.

“I am really unbelievably impressed with all the work that all of you have put in,” Carlson said. “It takes a village here and we are so blessed to have all of you kind of stepping in to really turn this place around.”

Selectman Amy Murphy Carroll called the apartments “an incredible asset to the community” and said preserving affordable senior housing represents “a perfect use of the ARPA money.”

The funding request must still receive approval from the Town Council and Board of Finance.

Police budget requests approved

The board approved a series of routine fiscal year 2027 police department purchases, including blanket purchase orders for uniforms, ammunition and supplies, along with annual software and communications contracts.

Among the larger expenditures were:

- \$67,500 for renewal of the town’s Flock Safety license plate reader and camera system.

New Canaan Farmers Market Makes Local Shopping a Saturday Practice

By SENTINEL STAFF

The New Canaan Farmers Market is entering the stretch of summer when a Saturday stop can fill a refrigerator, solve dinner, support a small business and teach a child where food comes from.

The market runs every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine, at its new location in the Lumber Yard Lot near the train station, 244 Elm St., and the season continues through Dec. 19, according to the New Canaan Farmers Market website. For readers picking up this issue on July 9, the market's next several Saturdays bring the full value of midsummer: live music, downtown activity, Pickle Party, Zucchini Day and a rotating lineup of farmers and prepared-food vendors.

Market Master Lexi Gazy has spent 26 years building more than a weekly shopping event. She has built a local habit.

"We lean on each other," Gazy said of the vendors.

That line explains much of what makes the market work. The vendors are not just lined up beside one another; they often use one another. A baker buys produce from a farm. A pasta maker looks for local eggs, greens and seasonal fillings. Prepared-food vendors shop the produce stalls. A customer looking for gluten-free bread may be sent to one tent, then told where to find a gluten-free dessert, then directed to seafood, pasta or soup.

Gazy describes that chain simply. "Local starts with the salad dressing," she said.

She means the small choices. Buy the herbs. Chop them. Add olive oil and vinegar. Shake it in a jar. A meal becomes local not because someone uses the word on a label, but because the ingredients, the advice and the purchase all came from people standing a few feet apart.

The market's vendor list shows the breadth of that system. Farms include Gazy Brothers Farm, Riverbank Organic Farm, Ox Hollow Farm, Smith's Acres, Woodland Farm, High Ridge Hydroponics, Seacoast Mushrooms, New Petal Flower Farm, Henny Penny Farm, The Bee Love Project and others. Specialty vendors include Kneads Bakery and Café, Jackie's Empanadas, Mama Hu's Caring Foods, Passionately Pasta, East Coast Kombucha, D's Kitchen, JLB Patisserie, Oceans 180, Grumpy Dumpling, Edgewise Kitchen, Michele's Pies, Stylish Spoon, Wave Hill Breads and Paul's Custom Pet Food, according to the market website.

Some vendors rotate, which gives shoppers a reason to check the weekly list before heading out. Jackie's Empanadas, JLB Patisserie, Mama Hu's Caring Foods, Passionately Pasta and Stylish Spoon are listed as rotating vendors, according to the market website. Belden Hill Farm is expected back in August with cut dahlias and other flowers.

The rotating calendar makes the

market feel alive. The tomato table will not be the same as the peach table. The flower selection will change. The pasta fillings will shift. By August, the market will look different from July, and by fall, it will change again.

At Passionately Pasta, Nick, the owner, described a business built around that rhythm. "Anytime I try to do more like seasonal local," he said. One week, he brought culurgiones, a Sardinian-style ravioli, filled with potato and pickled local ramps. "All my flour or my flour that I mill that goes into my pasta is from a local source," he said. "I grind my own flour that goes into my pasta." He also uses local eggs and said he wants to keep "as much as possible local involved" in his product.

Nick was new to New Canaan when interviewed. "My first year, first day, first hour," he said. He already recognized other vendors from other markets and said, "there's a lot of good people in this market."

That goodwill is part of the point.

At Mama Hu's Caring Foods, Catherine Hu, known to customers as Mama Hu, talked about entrepreneurship and the value of local support. She said the business won a major Connecticut entrepreneur competition connected to Yale and noted that other New Canaan entrepreneurs placed among the top finalists. "I really appreciate your support for local business," she said.

Hu's products are gluten-free, she said, and she takes care to explain testing and ingredients to customers who

need to know. "We have this lab test, they're all gluten-free," she said.

The market has become useful for gluten-free shoppers precisely because the choices are not confined to one category. JLB Patisserie offers gluten-free baked goods. D's Kitchen offers gluten-free breads, pastries and prepared foods. Mama Hu's offers gluten-free sushi bakes. Oceans 180 told shoppers many seafood items are gluten-free. Pedals Juices lists gluten-free items, according to the market website.

Customer Tori Cannon said her family is "on a new gluten-free journey" after discovering gluten sensitivity. She said she appreciates options without excessive gums and additives. "It's nice to find clean alternatives," she said. "And it's also so great to support local here."

Elise Pierre-Louis of JLB Patisserie said her own food experience led her to gluten-free baking. She said she wanted people to enjoy desserts without losing flavor or quality. "I never use any preservatives," she said, adding that she looks for local ingredients when she can, including eggs and milk.

The market also rewards practical planning. A family can buy vegetables from Riverbank Organic Farm, beef or sausage from Ox Hollow Farm, seafood from Oceans 180, bread from Kneads, pasta from Passionately Pasta, dumplings from Grumpy Dumpling, kombucha from East Coast Kombucha, flowers from New Petal Flower Farm and a pie from Michele's Pies. Knives and garden tools can be sharpened at Edgewise

Kitchen while shoppers make their rounds, according to the vendor list.

Upcoming events add more reasons to go. July 12 brings live music from Henry Jones. July 19 coincides with the Village Fair downtown. July 26 is Pickle Party. Aug. 2 is Zucchini Day, with garden surplus zucchini collected for the food bank. Aug. 16 is Julia Child Day, with Julia Child-inspired recipes and a look-alike contest. Aug. 23 is Back to School, with a school supply drive and children's activities. Aug. 30 brings live music from The Parkway Ramblers, according to the market calendar.

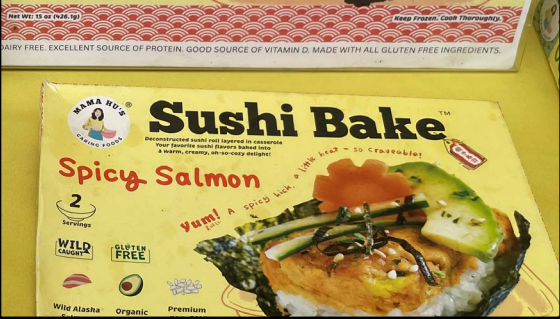
The best way to shop the rest of summer is to go with a loose plan.

Bring bags. Bring a cooler for meat, fish and frozen pasta. Bring cash, though many vendors take cards or digital payments. Ask questions. Ask what is best this week. Ask what will not be back next week. Ask which peaches are ready today and which tomatoes need two days on the counter.

Then follow the advice home.

Make the salad dressing. Cook the pasta. Freeze the berries. Save the flowers for the kitchen table. Let Saturday morning become part of how New Canaan eats.

The farmers market is not only where residents buy food. It is where they practice localism in its most concrete form: one conversation, one bunch of kale, one loaf of bread, one jar of dressing at a time.



Oceans 180 Brings Coastal Seafood to the Farmers Market

Oceans 180 gives New Canaan shoppers a way to buy seafood with the same local logic they bring to peaches, bread, beef and flowers.

The Fairfield-based seafood vendor brings fresh fish, scallops, lobster, chowder and prepared seafood to the New Canaan Farmers Market, giving shoppers a fish counter experience in the Lumber Yard Lot. At a market built around farms, bakeries and small regional producers, Oceans 180 expands the idea of local food from the field to nearby waters.

The stand also brings a little Greenwich history with it.

Michelle Nygaard and Jardar Nygaard are familiar names to many Greenwich families from their years in the local seafood business. Their fish dip developed the kind of loyal following that turns a prepared food into local lore. In Greenwich, it earned the affectionate nickname "Greenwich Crack," best served, devotees say, with a slice of pickled jalapeño. Since the Nygaards moved to Fairfield, plenty of people have tried to recreate it. None have quite mastered it.

Michelle Nygaard said the recipe remains the same, though the name has changed. "We don't call it Marlin dip anymore because you can't buy Marlin anymore legally in the United States," Nygaard said. "So you can't buy it, sell it, anything." The fish dip, she added, is "still the same exact recipe" created years ago by Jardar Nygaard. "Everybody's trying to make it, but nobody can."

That alone is reason to stop by when it is available.

Oceans 180 is connected to Nordic Fish in Fairfield, where the family has continued building its seafood business. Nygaard described Oceans 180 as a related effort focused on regional fishermen and shorter supply chains.

"We're in Fairfield at Nordic, but this is a spinoff that Jardar does working with local fishermen, 180 degrees radius of Fairfield and he gives back once he hits his margin, he gives back to the fishermen,"

Nygaard said.

That radius gives Oceans 180 its place at the farmers market. Seafood can feel separate from the farm-market routine, but this stand makes fish, scallops, shrimp, chowder, lobster and prepared seafood part of the same Saturday shopping trip as asparagus, sourdough, dumplings and flowers.

It also helps solve a practical problem for inland shoppers. Fresh seafood can be harder to evaluate than produce. Most people know when a peach is ripe or lettuce is past its prime. Fewer people know how to compare black sea bass, scallops, skate, lobster meat or prepared fish dip.

At Oceans 180, the purchase becomes a conversation. Shoppers can ask what came in fresh, what works on the grill, what will hold up for Sunday dinner, which fish is mild enough for children, and which prepared foods work for gluten-free diets.

Gluten-free shoppers will find the stand useful. Nygaard said all of their soups are gluten-free, with one exception.

"All our soups, we carry eight soups in our store, and one is not gluten-free," she said. Sven Morrison added that when they bring a Creole shrimp chowder, "that one is the only one that's not because it is an employee's family recipe, so we don't change that."

That kind of specificity is part of the market's appeal. A customer can ask a direct question and get a direct answer from the person behind the table.

The Oceans 180 stand has the efficient look of a fish counter made portable: clean ice, clear bins, fillets laid out for selection, prepared items nearby and staff ready to explain what is best that week. It is seafood without the uncertainty.

Nygaard said the family now brings its seafood to several farmers markets, including Greenwich, New Canaan, Westport, Fairfield and



Wallingford.

For New Canaan, the value is straightforward. Oceans 180 lets shoppers add seafood to a market basket that might already include vegetables from Riverbank Organic Farm, beef from Ox Hollow Farm, bread from Kneads, pasta from Passionately Pasta and kombucha from East Coast Kombucha. The market becomes more than a produce stop. It becomes a full meal-planning stop.

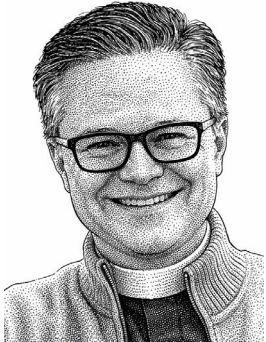
That is the larger localism story. A strong local food system needs farms, bakeries, prepared-food makers, orchards, apiaries and fisheries. Oceans 180 fills an important space by bringing the coast into the lot by the train station.

The best way to shop it is to bring a cooler, arrive before the rush and ask what came in fresh. Buy the fish first, then walk the market for the rest of dinner: herbs for a marinade, greens for the side, bread for the table and fruit for dessert.

And if the fish dip is there, buy that too.

Unique?

AI has already begun to unsettle what it means to be human. But what makes humans unique isn't anything unique about us. What makes us unique is that we're uniquely loved.



By JUSTIN CRISP

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, it's hard not to ask what challenges the next 250 years will bring. Our nation came of age during the Industrial Revolution. I believe we're entering a period of similar technological, social, economic—and spiritual—upheaval. But this one's going to be faster.

What Artificial Intelligence will amount to, how much it will disrupt, how dangerous or terrific it'll be—there's a lot of opinion out there. If we just focus what AI already amounts to, today, though, we'll see: it's already begun to unsettle what it means to be human.

AI is already a part of our lives, know it or not. Jamie Metzl observes that AI is already, today, a constitutive ingredient of “aviation ... finance ... agriculture ... logistics ... and engineering.” If you get on a plane, use a credit card, go to grocery store, receive a package, or drive a car, you use AI.

And AI is smart. For at least the last 2,300 years (that's how long ago the Greek philosopher Aristotle was alive and kicking), intelligence has defined what it meant to be human. To be human meant to be the smartest thing up the food chain,

to be rational, to recall information and do something with it by combining it with other information. But AI is nipping at our heels. In a recent talk at Christ Church here in Greenwich, R. P. Eddy summed it up this way: “AI has read effectively everything ever written by humans [and] it's PhD-level at everything. It's not Einstein at everything, but it's PhD-level at everything. That's right now.”

I've got to admit: that's a little personal for me! I got a PhD. I got a Master's degree before that. Both in theology. My graduate education took 9.5 years. 40 courses. A 117,000-word dissertation. 4 of these harrowing things called “comprehensive exams”: 2 years in the library, the 125 most important authors in the history of Christian thought, study tested by written and oral exams of epic proportions. A year ago, on a whim, I asked ChatGPT to answer one of my comprehensive exam questions from 2017: “How does Jesus save, according to Hans Urs von Balthasar?” ChatGPT's answer in 2025 wasn't bad. It wasn't great, but it wasn't bad. To its credit, it took 30 seconds instead of 9.5 years. A few weeks ago, I asked Claude the same question. One year later; different model. Its answer was great. That's not the future. That's three weeks ago. In raw data-terms, Claude can write theology as well as I can. Neither of us are Einstein. But PhD-level, yes.

At St. Barnabas, we're asking what this means for us spiritually. This summer, we're looking at the story of Abraham, Sarah, and their family in the book of Genesis. Scripture says God blessed this family in particular

in order to bless all families—including yours. What does this mean in the AI revolution?

God promises Abraham two things: land and descendants who will, one day, become a nation. If Abraham steps out in faith, leaves his family of origin to follow God's call, God will bless him, and through him and his family, all of creation. Families of the earth. So Abraham sets out. He and Sarah travel south, and they settle in Hebron, in what's now the West Bank. Years pass. Many years. Forever and a day. Abraham and Sarah get old. And they're childless. So when God appears to Abraham as one of these three travelers whom Abraham and Sarah host in their home, and God says, “Your wife Sarah shall have a son,” they can't believe it (Genesis 18).

They'd given up on all that a long time ago. Too old now. No children. No nation. No promise. They must have misunderstood. Maybe Abraham had indigestion the night he thought God spoke to him.

But that morning, there in that house, there sat God, beside two angels, eating at Abraham and Sarah's kitchen table, assuring them, “You're gonna have a kid”—and Sarah laughs out loud. Spit take. God confronts her about it, and she lies to shrug it off: “Something just went down the wrong way.” “No, you laughed,” God says.

This whole scene. It's personal. Abraham and Sarah have a personal

relationship with their God and Creator because this God has taken an interest in them. This God has chosen them. In Biblical terms, this God has made a “covenant” with them, a covenant which Christians believe God maintains with their descendants down two millennia to Jesus, in Whom that covenant supernovas to embrace the whole of creation, past, present, and future.

What makes Abraham special isn't anything about him in particular. What makes Abraham special is the way he's loved. And the same is true of us—as well as its corollary: that, loved by the Most High like Abraham, we're meant likewise to have a face-to-face, across the table, sarcasm, laughter, and wisecracks, real, bona fide, relationship with Him. Which is to say, we're meant to pray.

And that's the difference between me and Claude. From one angle, the goal of my PhD in theology was to learn, retain, and organize the history of Christian ideas, all of which Claude can do, just as well or better. But from another angle, the goal of my PhD in theology was to get to know God, the God whom I'd known since I was a child, with whom I've had an ongoing conversation since I knew how to speak (and maybe even before then). And in that sense, the goal of my PhD wasn't just to learn things about God; it was to pray about, ask God about, what I was learning.

You can guess how much time my actual PhD curriculum dedicated to this

task. Exactly zero.

And that is the social, cultural, economic, civilizational upheaval we will all face.

The crisis is not that we have no unique role to play in the universe. The crisis is that we've spent precious little time preparing ourselves to take it up.

Out of billions of humans, God chose Abraham. And out of millions of life-forms—out of bugs, fish, dogs, and T-rexes—God chose humans. God chose you. Chose you, loved you, laughed with you, mourned for you, saved you, to be “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9). God chose us to be the priests of creation so that, through us, this whole universe and star-dusted tabernacle might sing the praise of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What a calling.

This is Abraham's first lesson for us. What makes humans unique isn't anything unique about us. What makes us unique is that we're uniquely loved.

The Reverend Dr. Justin E. Crisp is a husband, dad, music lover, priest, and the Rector of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in backcountry Greenwich and former priest at St. Marks in New Canaan. His teaching series “Abraham and AI” continues for six weeks this summer and can be found at stbarnabas.org, YouTube, or wherever you get your podcasts.

Worship Directory and Services

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

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

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

Congregational Church

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

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

Recurring Events:

Tuesdays at 9:30 AM: Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays at 9:30 AM: Bible Study
Fourth Thursday from 12-2:30 PM: Meet at the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk to serve a meal.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

49 Park Street 203.966.0293
christiansciencect.org/newcanaan
Sunday 10:30 AM, in person only. Sunday School is available during Sunday Service and is open to children and young people up to the age of 20. There is also childcare available for children too young for Sunday School.
Wednesday Testimony Meeting: 1st Wednesday of each month, join by zoom or by phone 646 558 8656. Reading Room Hours: Open Mondays 11-2, Call to confirm hours 203-966-0293. All are welcome to the Sunday and Wednesday services, Sunday School, and the reading room.

First Presbyterian Church

178 Oenoke Ridge Road 203.966.0002
fpcnc.org
Sunday Service: 10am in person or via LocalLive. All are welcome. Coffee Hour after the service is also available in person or via Zoom. Dedicated childcare is available for all children via Wee Care Nanny Agency from 8:45-11:30am in the Nursery School. Transcripts of previous sermons are also available via the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan's website. Recurring Events: **Every Saturday 9:15am (closed) and 10:30am (open):** Alcoholics Anonymous. **Every Tuesday 8pm:** Men's A.A.
Third Wednesday from 6-7:30 PM: Wednesdays at the Well are intergenerational opportunities to learn and grow in faith together. Dinner will be served and all ages are invited.

Upcoming Events:

July 19: Peaches on the Patio. Call FPCNC for more information.
September 13 after 10 AM worship: Rally Day Picnic. Join for food, fellowship, and fun.

Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Church

21 Cherry Street 203.966.0020
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. As Healing Rosary Prayer Group

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

111 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.4515
churchoffice@stmarksnewcanaan.org
www.stmarksnewcanaan.org
Sunday Services: 8:00am: Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9:00am: Outdoor Holy Eucharist Rite II; 10am: Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite II (Live Stream also available on the St. Mark's website). Coffee Hour follows the 10am service.
Church School during the 10am service: Godly Play for children in kindergarten through second grade; Holy Moly for third and fourth grades; Meet in the Middle for fifth, sixth and seventh grades. Professional childcare is offered for children ages four and under. Families with children who are not yet ready to separate for childcare are invited to use the rocking chairs at the rear of the chapel.
Weekday Services: Monday-Friday, 8:30am: Morning Prayer Rite II by Zoom.
Wednesday at 12:05pm: Noonday Eucharist in the chapel.

Recurring Events:

First Wednesday at 1pm: Laundry Love volunteering opportunity to come alongside people who are struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry.
First & Third Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm: Youth Group

Upcoming Events:

July 14 from 1-6:30 PM: Red Cross Blood Drive in Morrill Hall.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church

5 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.3913
office@stmichaelslutheran.org
www.stmichaelslutheran.org
Sunday Service at 10:00 am. Following the service there is coffee, cookies and conversation' in the Fellowship Hall.

Trinity Church

New Canaan | Darien
1800 E. Putnam Ave, Old Greenwich 203.618.0808
info@trinitychurch.life
www.trinitychurch.life
Join us Sundays at 10 a.m. at Greenwich Hyatt Regency for lively worship, thoughtful and applicable teaching, weekly Communion, and an opportunity to make friends and grow

in community. Trinity Kids (infants through fifth grade) and Trinity Youth (middle and high schoolers) take place during the service, and coffee and refreshments are served following worship. The service is also available on livestream via Youtube, Sundays at 10:00 a.m.; learn more at www.trinitychurch.life.

United Methodist Church

Praising God Since 1797
165 South Avenue 203.966.2666
frontdesk@umcofnewcanaan.org
www.umcofnewcanaan.org
Join us for Sunday Worship!
Sunday Service begins at 10:00 a.m.
Come for uplifting music and a relevant, inspiring message — and stay after for coffee and conversation during Fellowship Time.

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
www.cbcnewcanaan.org
Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZ2UNa8aHI30_Syp_XOKDg
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CBCNewCanaan/>
Sunday School at 10:00am
Worship Service at 11:00am
Live Facebook Broadcast 11:30 am

Recurring Events:

July 19th at 3 PM: Celebrate and honor Pastor and Lady Burgess on their 2nd Pastoral Anniversary. Guest Preacher: Dr. James Kyle Page, Pastor of Building Community Church.

Grace Community Church

9:30am Service @ Saxe Middle School
468 South Avenue, New Canaan 203-966-7600
info@gracecommunity.info
www.gracecommunity.info
Welcome to Grace Church, where we strive to build a church of action, founded on Biblical truth, characterized by faith, grace, community, service, authenticity, clear thinking, and cultural relevance. Grace Community Church is an exercise in knowing God, knowing truth, and building community that extends to our full lives, not just to our Sunday mornings.
Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30am or via GCC's Facebook page or YouTube page. Nursery care and Sunday school/teen programming is available for babies through 12th grade. Coffee and bagels available in the lobby after the service, all are welcome.

Talmadge Hill Community Church

870 Hollow Tree Ridge Road; Darien, CT 203.966.2314

talmadgehillchurch@gmail.com
www.talmadgehill.org

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

Recurring Events:

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

Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center

137 Putnam Rd
info@chabadnewcanaan.org
www.newcanaanjewish.org
The Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center is dedicated to strengthening and building the New Canaan Jewish Community by offering local Jewish resources that bring more positivity, Jewish education, charitable activity, good deeds and blessing to our lovely town.

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

Temple Sinai (Reform Synagogue)

458 Lakeside Drive; Stamford, CT 06903 203.322.1649
www.templeainaistamford.org
Service Schedule:
1st, 3rd & 5th Friday – 6pm in person and via zoom
2nd & 4th – 7:30pm

Recurring Events:

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

Temple Sholom

300 E. Putnam Ave. Greenwich, CT 06830 203-869-7191
www.templesholom.com
Services: In-person and virtual Friday night Shabbat services, 6:30pm & Saturday morning Shabbat services, 10:30am.

Recurring Events:

Saturdays at 9 AM: Shabbat Study via zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/94358392426?pwd=bFJQem9HWFc0UEZlZUM2VENEZmgYUT09#success>



Obituaries

LEANNE SPLETZER



Leanne Spletzer passed away peacefully on June 30, 2026 at the age of 87, leaving behind a devoted husband, a family who loved her deeply, and countless friends and colleagues whose lives sparkled brighter with her love of good food and good times together.

Born on August 28, 1938 in Chicago, Illinois to Anne and Allen Carlson, Leanne grew close with her sister, Ardeth Devlin, and in high school met the love of her life, Raymond Spletzer. After their first hang-out at the bowling alley (thanks to Leanne’s co-editor of the newspaper introducing them), Ray came over to Leanne’s house for an official first date. It was at that time that Ray met Leanne’s dad, sledgehammer in hand! Allen may have been joking - and he was working on the fireplace at the time - though we all know Leanne’s dad and then Ray loved to protect her. Even the nurses commented on Ray’s protection and nicknamed him Husband of the Year! Ray did not leave Leanne’s side these last six months she was in the hospital and rehabilitation facility after a back surgery in January.

Leanne’s mom Anne loved to tell the story of a teacher asking for a volunteer to wash and iron the curtains on the 1st grade classroom windows. Leanne, of course, raised her hand and said, “my mom will!” From that time forward, Leanne has raised her hand at countless opportunities - volunteer leadership positions at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Ridgefield, Connecticut and Epiphany Lutheran

in Richmond, Virginia, and their choirs, bell choirs, church councils and even served as a “Sunday School Superintendent.” Always willing to contribute, Leanne also served as President of Connecticut Swimming, followed by an elected term as Vice President of the Board of Directors for USA Swimming where she served for 12 years. Even in her retirement years, she continued to raise her hand and was named Volunteer of the Year for their beloved retirement community, Westminster Shores in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Leanne also found time to develop a successful career as a real estate broker in New Canaan, Connecticut. Her daughters loved visiting her in her office at Mabel Lamb Real Estate and then Coldwell Banker and often joked about the Christmas deliveries they were tasked with completing each holiday season. She also served as President of the Connecticut Board of Realtors. Most of all, though, Leanne was known for her dinner and holiday parties. She loved to cook, loved having people over, and always made sure the house was comfortable, music on, and always a drink in your hand. A pride was the 1790 colonial home in New Canaan that she and Ray lovingly restored for its Revolutionary New England charm. She adored that home - as did each of her four children she and Ray raised there.

Leanne’s true pride was her children and she lived by the motto (and loved to repeat the sentiment) that, “hanging out with my grown up kids is one of the best parts of my life.” In addition to her husband, Ray, and sister Ardeth Devlin (Bob), Leanne is lovingly remembered by her sons, Scott Spletzer and Brian Spletzer (Katharine) and her daughters, Ann Lisa Braun (Matt) and Karla Scornavacco (Brad), and her cherished grandchildren, Janis and Peter James, Erik and Kurt Spletzer, Ellie, Guthrie and Ainsley Braun, and Siena and Petra Scornavacco, and by the many family members, friends, and colleagues who will forever remember her generosity, care, and vibrant spirit.

Leanne is at peace now, cooking up a storm for all of the angels with her. She is predeceased by her daughter-in-law, Carolyn Spletzer; grandson, Maxwell Raymond Braun, and great-

grandchild, Gavin O’Dwyer.

A memorial service will be held at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in St. Petersburg on August 29.

MICHAEL GRAF



Michael Joseph Graf passed away suddenly in Onancock, Virginia, on June 22, 2026.

Born on June 17, 1958, Michael was raised in New Canaan, CT. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Fairfield University before serving two years in the United States Navy.

Over the course of his distinguished 45-year career, Michael became widely respected throughout the fixed-income industry for his technical expertise, leadership, and mentorship. He began his career as a programmer at Arthur Young, where he developed software for some of the earliest personal computers, including the original Macintosh, before transitioning into finance at Lehman Brothers in 1985. Over the following four decades, he held senior trading and leadership positions at Merrill Lynch, Barclays Capital, Amherst Pierpont, and Mischler Financial Group. Among his many accomplishments, he served as Head of USD Rates Trading at Barclays Capital before concluding his career as Managing Director

of Fixed Income at Mischler Financial Group and retiring to Onancock, Virginia, in 2025. An interesting fact: Mike had never taken a formal finance course.

Mike was known not only for his financial acumen, but also for his quick wit, dry sense of humor, and love of practical jokes. Colleagues admired his mentorship and generosity, while family and friends appreciated his curiosity, intelligence, and willingness to lend a hand. A lifelong learner, Mike delighted in understanding how things worked and solving problems both large and small. He took great pride in being able to repair almost anything.

He especially loved sailing and treasured traveling aboard his boat with his children. He also enjoyed cooking, entertaining, listening to music, dancing, and skiing.

Michael is survived by his daughter, Sophie M. Graf of Louisville, Kentucky; his son, Conrad Z. Graf of New Orleans, Louisiana; and the mother of his children, Rezan C. Zia of Pound Ridge, New York; his sisters, Margaret A. Labesky of Snow Hill, Maryland; Susan L. Fennell of Hertford, North Carolina; Marybeth Graf-Brohawn of Frisco, Colorado; and Kathleen J. O’Brien of Austin, Texas; his brothers-in-law, Anthony V. Labesky and David W. Fennell; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Margaret K. Graf (née Steele) and Edwin J. Graf Jr., and his brother, Edwin J. Graf III.

Michael’s family has been deeply touched by the many friends and colleagues who have shared memories of his mentorship, friendship, humor, and remarkable career. Your stories have been a tremendous comfort and a reminder of the lasting impact he had on so many lives. Those who knew Mike through his professional life are warmly invited to join his family in celebrating his life.

Interment will be held at St. John’s Cemetery, 3480 St John’s Lane, Ellicott City, Md. 21042, at 11:00 am on July 10, 2026. A Celebration of Michael’s Life will follow at The Iron Bridge Wine Company, 10435 MD-108, Columbia, Md., 21044, from 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Onancock Rotary Club, PO Box 278, Onancock, Va. 23417.

NEWS BRIEFS

From Page 1

vehicle tax bills are mailed this month. Police said thieves may steal checks from mailboxes or USPS drop boxes and alter the payee name or amount. Residents are advised to deliver checks in person, mail them from inside a post office or pay tax bills online.

Flood Safety Guidance Helps Residents

The New Canaan Fire Marshal is reminding residents to avoid flooded roads and waterways during and after storms. Fast-moving floodwater can knock people down, move vehicles and hide damaged or washed-out road surfaces. Residents should not drive around barricades, drive through floodwater or walk into flooded areas.

FROM TOWN HALL

New Canaan Expands Community Alerts

New Canaan officials are encouraging residents and business owners to sign up for the town’s alert system, which sends updates on road closures, police activity, parking, fire prevention, local health issues and the First Selectman’s monthly newsletter. The expanded system launched in early 2024 and is separate from townwide emergency alerts for events such as power outages and flooding. Users can register at newcanaanalerts.gov, choose email or text alerts, update their selections or unsubscribe at any time.

AROUND TOWN

Road Improvements Advance Across New Canaan

South Avenue was scheduled to close from Bank Street/Route 106 to Farm Road on July 7 for Aquarion work, with a planned water service outage affecting South Avenue, Orchard Drive, Woodland Road and Brooks Road. Cape seal resurfacing was scheduled for July 8 through July 10 on Brookwood Lane, Llewellyn Drive, Ponus Ridge Road, Reservoir Road, Shaker Road, Valley Road and West Road.

Storm Recovery Progresses In New Canaan

More than half of New Canaan Eversource customers were without power at midday Sunday, July 5, following the July 4 storm, with 4,957 households affected. By 4:45 p.m., the outage rate had dropped to 27.7 percent.

Chichester Road Earns Historic Recognition

New Canaan’s Chichester Road Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 2, making it the town’s first National Register historic district. The designation covers six Midcentury Modern homes at 126, 128, 136, 160, 188 and 202 Chichester Road, built between 1956 and 1964. The listing recognizes the properties as part of New Canaan’s postwar modernist architectural history.

LOCAL BUSINESSES & NON PROFITS

Garden Club Joins Parade Celebration



New Canaan Garden Club members marched in the New Canaan 250 Parade last Saturday. The group participated as part of the town’s Fourth of July observance and recognized the club’s history in New Canaan. Photo credit: New Canaan Garden Club

Downtown Shops Extend Summer Hours

Downtown New Canaan retailers are offering extended Thursday hours from 5 to 7 p.m. through Labor Day, with free parking available after 5 p.m.

PEOPLE IN TOWN

Scout Project Enhances Browne Preserve

New Canaan resident and Eagle Scout candidate Josh Trepanier completed a service project at the New Canaan Land Trust’s Browne Preserve. The project included building an interpretive kiosk, organizing invasive plant removal and installing native replacements donated by Copia Home & Garden. The kiosk provides trail maps, preserve information, visitor guidelines and educational materials.

New Canaan Resident Celebrates 105th Birthday

Anna Decanini celebrated her 105th birthday June 26 at Brightview on New Canaan in Norwalk. Born in New York City in 1921, she later lived in Lucca, Italy, before returning to the United States in the 1950s.

SCHOOLS

Students Create Space For Wellness

New Canaan High School students Scarlett Stewart, Kaitlyn Knowles and Lux Roscoe co-founded Teen Pause, a student club that meets after school Wednesdays. The club offers activities such as mindfulness exercises, journaling, arts and crafts and other stress-relief options. Math teacher Kerry Hamara serves as the club’s adviser, and the group provides information on school and outside mental health resources.

SPORTS

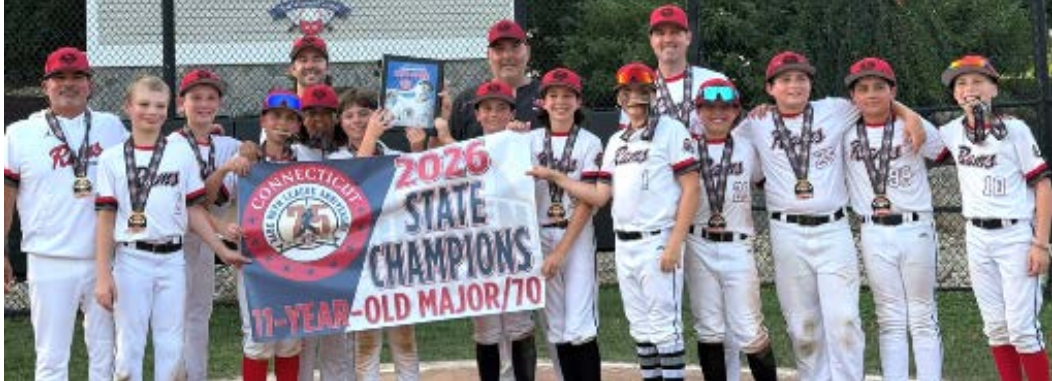
New Canaan Athlete Earns Top Honor

New Canaan High School’s Jack Crowell was named Athlete of the Year for Boys Sports at the second annual GametimeCT High School Sports Awards on June 30 at the Hartford HealthCare Amphitheater in Bridgeport. Crowell was recognized for football, ice hockey and lacrosse.

Community Honors Todd Gilbert Legacy

The New Canaan Ram Football Association will honor Todd Gilbert at its 2026 Golf Tournament and Touchdown Dinner on Monday, July 20, at the Country Club of New Canaan. The event will recognize Gilbert’s role in New Canaan youth football, with golf and dinner-only registration options available. Attendees can register by scanning the event QR code or visiting ncrf26.givesmart.com.

New Canaan Claims Championship



New Canaan’s 11U baseball team won the 2026 Cal Ripken State Championship. The team represented New Canaan youth baseball in the state tournament and finished as champion. Photo credit: New Canaan Baseball

LOCAL POLITICS

Leaf Blower Vote Moves Forward

Petitioners have submitted enough verified signatures to require a townwide referendum on the Town Council’s ordinance banning gas-powered leaf blowers between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Town Clerk Claudia Weber confirmed July 2. The Town Council voted June 30 to schedule the referendum for Saturday, July 25, if the signature requirement was met.

OUR NEIGHBORS

Sherwood Island Closure Prompts Water Safety

Sherwood Island State Park in Westport, one of the closest state beaches to New Canaan, was closed to swimming this week after heavy rain raised bacteria concerns at several Connecticut swimming areas. Storm runoff can increase bacteria levels and carry other contaminants into beaches, streams, ponds and other waterways. New Canaan residents should avoid swollen streams, ponds and dam areas after heavy rain and follow any local or state water safety advisories.

AROUND CT

Connecticut Gas Prices Face Uncertainty

Crude oil prices rose between 5% and 7% Wednesday, creating the possibility of higher gas prices in Connecticut after prices had fallen since mid-May. The average price for regular gas in Connecticut was \$3.86 per gallon Wednesday, down 76 cents from May, according to GasBuddy. The U.S. Energy Information Administration has forecast gasoline prices to average \$3.80 per gallon in the third quarter of 2026 before falling to about \$3.40 per gallon in the fourth quarter.

Connecticut Prepares For Animal Health Safety

New World screwworm has not been detected in Connecticut, but the state Department of Agriculture has issued emergency animal movement and restricted-entry requirements after confirmed cases appeared in Texas and New Mexico. The parasite can infest livestock, pets, wildlife and, rarely, people by laying eggs in open wounds, where larvae feed on living tissue. Connecticut animal owners, veterinarians and shelters should follow state reporting and entry guidance, particularly for animals arriving from affected areas.

Connecticut Health Officials Track Cyclospora Cases

Connecticut has reported 23 cyclosporiasis cases so far in 2026, according to state health officials. The illness can cause several days or weeks of digestive symptoms, along with fatigue, loss of appetite and weight loss, and it is usually linked to food or water contaminated with the Cyclospora parasite. Anyone with symptoms that do not improve after a few days should contact a health care provider and ask whether testing for cyclosporiasis is appropriate.

FROM HARTFORD

CT Welcomes New Superior Court Judges

Twelve new Connecticut Superior Court judges were sworn in Wednesday after being nominated by Gov. Ned Lamont in March and confirmed by the General Assembly. Lamont originally nominated 14 candidates, but two withdrew after appearances before the legislature’s Judiciary Committee. The new judges are Campbell D. Barrett, Theodore M. Doolittle, Patrick M. Fahey, Felice N. Gray-Kemp, Sean O. Kehoe, Nisa J. Khan, Sean P. McGuinness, Philip Miller, Leah M. Pollard, Patrick T. Ring, Rosemarie T. Weber and Justine L. Whalen.

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD EDITOR

John Engel | John.Engel@Elliman.com

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD CONTRIBUTOR

Robyn Bonder | Robyn.Bonder@Elliman.com

NEW LISTINGS

Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
158 Spring Water Lane	\$950,000	1,278	\$743	1	2	1
253 New Norwalk Road #5	\$975,000	1,554	\$627		3	2
123 Richmond Hill Road #18	\$1,399,000	1,606	\$871		3	3
123 Richmond Hill Road #9	\$1,425,000	1,614	\$883		3	3
61 Sunrise Avenue	\$1,795,000	2,947	\$609	.24	4	3
63 Garibaldi Lane	\$1,799,000	2,496	\$721	.53	5	2
178 Pocconock Trail	\$2,295,000	4,028	\$570	1.83	5	4
559 Cheese Spring Road	\$2,395,000	3,748	\$639	2.01	5	4
20 Richmond Hill Road #1	\$2,500,000	2,998	\$834		4	4
14 Richmond Hill Road #1	\$2,795,000	3,351	\$834		4	4
148 West Hills Road	\$2,995,000	4,733	\$633	2.18	5	4
16 Grace Street	\$2,995,000	2,800	\$1070	.34	5	4
42 Kimberly Place	\$3,450,000	4,196	\$822	.28	5	4

NEW SALES

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
72 Summer Street Unit #B	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,300,000	12	2	2	
815 Valley Road	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,600,000	14	3	3	1.53
86 Forest Street Unit # S	\$1,595,000	\$1,595,000	\$1,555,000	70	3	3	
323 Smith Ridge Road	\$3,195,000	\$3,195,000	\$3,600,000	13	5	5	2.9
143 Oenoke Ridge	\$5,995,000	\$5,995,000	\$5,900,000	6	5	6	1

FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

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

Address	Price	Day	Time	Broker
158 Spring Water Lane	\$950,000	SAT	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Compass
178 Pocconock Trail	\$2,295,000	SAT & SUN	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Raveis
16 Grace Street	\$2,995,000	SAT & SUN	2:30 - 4:30 pm	Raveis
148 West Hills Road	\$2,995,000	SAT & SUN	1:30-3:30 & 12-2 pm	Raveis
259 Frogtown Road	\$8,747,000	SAT & SUN	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Higgins Group
123 Richmond Hill Road #18	\$1,399,000	SAT & SUN	2-4 pm & 1-3 pm	Raveis
559 Cheese Spring Road	\$2,395,000	SAT & SUN	1:00 - 3:00 pm	BHS
63 Garibaldi Lane	\$1,799,000	SUN	12:00 - 2:00 pm	Serhant
304 Gramercy Park	\$2,195,000	SUN	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Houlihan Lawrence

What Is a Meadow Worth?



By JOHN ENGEL

The New Canaan Beautification League is coming Thursday to look at my meadow. That timing is useful because it forces me to explain what they are coming to see.

It is not a finished meadow. It is not even yet a conventionally beautiful meadow. It is Year One of what I expect to be a three-year restoration. A year ago, the meadow was largely a monoculture of invasive Japanese stiltgrass. My first plan was simple: string-trim invasives each August for three years to keep the stiltgrass from setting seed. I scattered several pounds of native seed. Some stiltgrass is still there, but it is being crowded out by goldenrod and asters.

The Beautification League's visit also gives me a chance to make a correction. My Instagram video on their Lee Garden drew 15,000 views, proof that people care about that hidden garden. But in the video, I failed to credit the League, which maintains it, along with the traffic triangles, seasonal plantings, holiday greens and downtown hanging baskets many residents see every day.

Lee Garden is a mature spring garden, begun in 1940, and carried forward by the Beautification League since George Lee left it to the organization in 1978. It peaks in May, when the azaleas and rhododendrons are at their best. Wooded, rocky, shaded, and layered, it is beautiful because people understood what it was and kept caring for it for more than 80 years.

My meadow has a different ambition: succession. Camassia and blue flag iris in spring; swamp milkweed, blue vervain, cardinal flower, and coneflowers in summer; Joe-Pye weed, ironweed, goldenrod, snakeroot, and asters into fall. That is why the bloom calendar matters. It shows a landscape designed not for one moment, but for three seasons of color, food, and habitat — and for butterflies, dragonflies, fireflies, birds, and all the smaller life that makes the system work.

A meadow is not an unmowed lawn. It is not a packet of wildflower seed scattered over grass. It is not neglect with better public relations. A meadow is an open plant community, managed so that it does not become brush and then woods. It has to be edited. It has to be watched. It has to be allowed to change without being allowed to disappear.

A meadow is a maintained refusal to poison the land.

That sentence is mine, but the idea comes largely from Bill McDonald. Bill and Mary-Ellen McDonald have created what many New Canaanites now know as the Firefly Meadow. Bill has taught me that a meadow is not just a planting scheme. It is a system. His central lesson is simple: The meadow succeeds because he does not use chemicals and the water is pure. No fertilizer. No herbicide. No pesticide. Clean water. Darkness. Wet

edges. Leaf litter. Trees nearby. Insects, slugs, snails, worms, and a functioning food chain.

That is one kind of meadow.

Hannan-Eberstadt Field, at Canoe Hill Road and Route 123, is another. Right now, it is full of orange butterfly weed. That is the most legible kind of pollinator meadow. It announces itself from the road in the easiest possible language: color, sun, summer, butterflies.

My meadow is different again. Mine is a wet meadow. You'll sink to your ankles in some places.

First, a note about the property. The house is 225 years old and was Elise Lapham's from 1950 until 1995. We have been told the entrance drive, with its graceful curve around the meadow, was designed by the Olmsted firm, the same firm that helped lay out Waveny for the Lapham family. The drive does not ignore the meadow. It circles it. The open space is part of the arrival.

Water shapes the property. A stream enters beneath the road at the front, moves through the meadow, and continues below Ponus Ridge toward the Noroton River. The pond holds blue flag iris, Dutch iris, and water lilies. Along the house, road, and stone walls are thousands of crocuses, daffodils, daylilies, and peonies, with tulips, potatoes, and tomatoes tucked where I hope the deer will not venture. On the dry hill north of the house are more daffodils, alliums, and butterfly weed for monarchs. Along the driveway and woodland path are New York fern, cinnamon fern, sensitive fern, royal fern, Christmas fern, and other native ferns I am still learning.

In the meadow, the long-term goal is not simply a field of flowers. It is a functioning native plant community that provides nectar, pollen, seeds, cover, and habitat across the growing season while gradually displacing stiltgrass without herbicide use.

Visitors will see roughly two dozen wire cylinders. Each marks a planting location containing Camassia bulbs, both common camas and great camas, for early spring bloom. The cages were also meant to protect cardinal flower from deer. The cardinal flower has been slower to appear than I hoped, but I am seeing asters, blue vervain, snakeroot, goldenrod, milkweed, and other native seedlings beginning to claim space.

At this stage, the meadow is more interesting botanically than visually. That brings me to the real estate problem.

A lawn is easy to understand. It is green. It is mowed. It asks little of the imagination. A meadow asks more. In July, it may look alive. In November, it may look brown and spent. In its first years, it may look thin, uneven, or unfinished. The owner may see milkweed, sedges, vervain, asters, future monarchs, and future fireflies. A buyer may see weeds.

The value of a meadow depends on whether it reads as intention or neglect.

That, I think, is the broader shift in New Canaan. In a year when the Town Council debated leaf blowers, the question of how we maintain our

properties is front and center. For generations, the ideal landscape was control: lawn, edging, foundation shrubs, fertilizer, herbicide, irrigation, and weekly mowing. That kind of landscape can still be beautiful. I am not against lawns. Lawns are useful. Children play on them. Dogs run on them. Houses often need some open green around them.

But the definition of a good landscape is changing. The Beautification League, the Garden Club, the Land Trust, Pollinator Pathway, the Bristow Bird Sanctuary restoration, and private landowners are all part of that change. The new vocabulary includes native plants, habitat, invasives, watershed, dark skies, pollinators, meadow management, and chemical-free maintenance.

Elise Lapham understood part of that long before the current language took hold. She helped found the New Canaan Land Conservation Trust, along with Jack Gunther and Mary-Lib Katzenbach. That matters to me because the same woman who once lived in my house helped build one of the institutions that still protects open space in town. The work continues today through Land Trust stewards who maintain trails, remove invasives, restore habitat, and make open space visible and usable. Bristow's recent restoration is part of the same story.

Which brings me back to real estate.

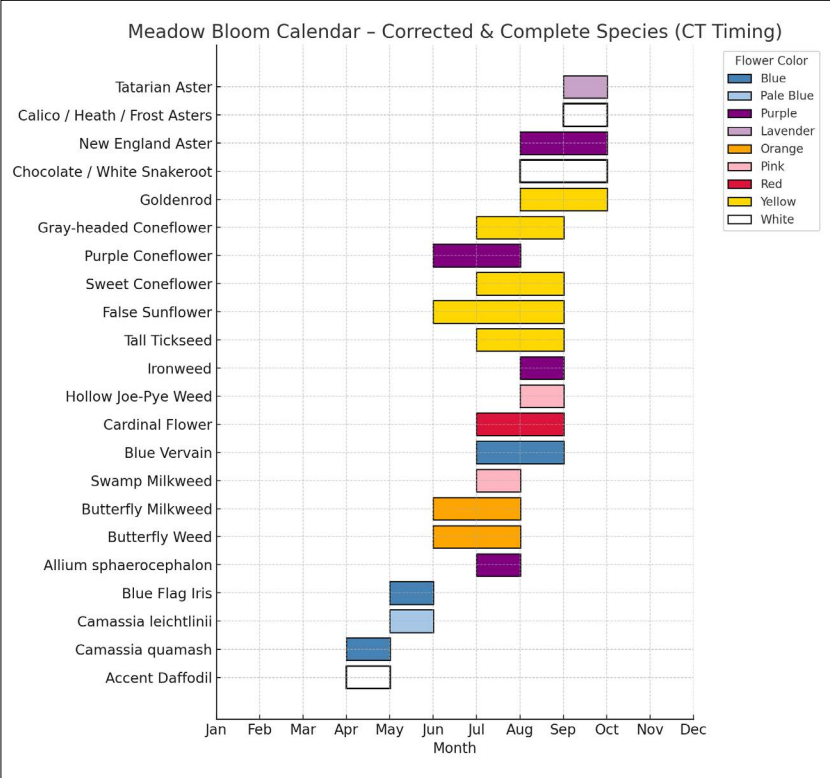
Does landscaping add value? Yes, but not in the simple way sellers often want. Landscaping is not a kitchen, a bath, a roof, or a boiler. Those improvements are easier to photograph, price, and compare. Landscaping is more elusive. It changes by season. It can be immature, mature or past its prime. It can look like paradise to one buyer and maintenance to another.

Curb appeal matters. A property that looks cared for feels less risky. Mature trees, screening, paths, stone walls, gardens, terraces, and outdoor rooms can all change how a buyer experiences a house. But landscape value is not just a question of how much was spent. It is a question of interpretation.

Landscaping adds value when it makes land legible.

That is what I have learned from the meadow. The more I know, the more I see. What once looked like weeds now separates into natives and invasives, spring bloomers and fall bloomers, host plants and nectar plants, wetland plants and dry-hill plants. Land becomes more valuable when it becomes more understandable.

That is also true of acreage. In New Canaan, more land does not always mean proportionally more value. One acre close to town, two acres farther out, and four acres farther still can



sometimes produce surprisingly similar values. Convenience declines as you move away from town. Privacy, quiet, and the perception of open space increase. Acreage is quantity. Landscape is meaning.

The best landscapes explain the land. They show where the water moves. They frame the house. They create arrival. They reveal stone walls, old trees, shade, sun, paths, wet places, and dry places. They make a property feel inevitable.

That is what I hope my meadow will eventually do.

It is not there yet. It has cages, stiltgrass, too little bloom now and, I hope, much more bloom later. It is not Lee Garden in May, Bill McDonald's mature Firefly Meadow, or Hannan Field blazing orange from the road.

It is a wet meadow at the beginning of becoming itself.

The Beautification League may come Thursday and see more work than beauty. That is fair. But if they look closely, I hope they will see intention: spring bulbs, wetland plants, native seed,



protected cages, emerging colonies, clean water, no chemicals, and a three-season plan.

The value of a meadow is not that it looks wild. The value is that, with time and care, it makes the land feel alive.

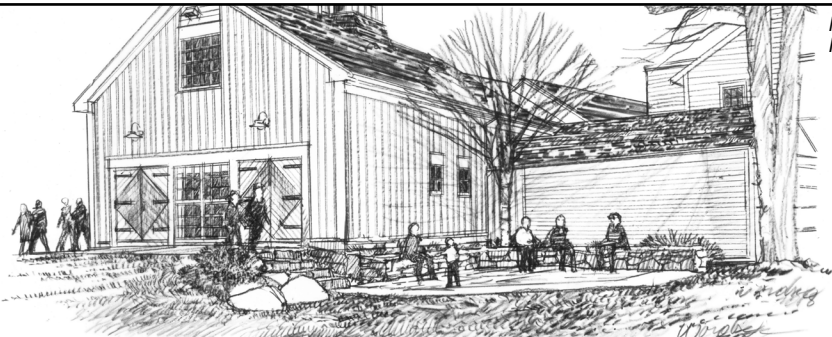
John Engel is a broker on the Engel Team at Douglas Elliman in New Canaan. He is learning that a meadow, like a museum, is better with labels. The experience changes when you know what you are looking at. A painting is more powerful when you understand the artist, the period, the subject, and the technique. A meadow works the same way. What once looked to John like weeds now separates into natives and invasives, spring bloomers and fall bloomers, host plants and nectar plants, wetland plants, and dry-hill plants. Apps like PictureThis and Pl@ntNet have become field guides in his pocket. Merlin Bird ID does the same for sound, separating a Barred Owl from a Great Horned Owl in the dark. The more he knows, the more he sees.

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



Keith E. Simpson
Associates

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
RESIDENTIAL DESIGN
PROJECT COORDINATION
LAND PLANNING



New Canaan
Historical Society



203.966.7071

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

July Belongs to the Blueberry

By Emma Barhydt

July has arrived wearing sunscreen, carrying a beach tote, and leaving a small trail of blueberry juice everywhere it goes.

Fittingly, July is National Blueberry Month, and blueberries are very much in their season. They are one of summer's most perfect foods: sweet, tart, snackable, bakeable, freezable, jamable, pie-able, and extremely easy to eat by the handful while standing in front of the refrigerator at 3am after you binge Marvel movies for the 20th time.

Across much of the northern United States, July sits right in the heart of blueberry harvest season. A joint resolution introduced "Blueberry Month" in 1974, and the first USDA proclamation followed that same year. In Connecticut, blueberry season can stretch from late June through late August when farms plant early-, mid-, and late-season varieties. Translation: July is prime berry time.

Blueberries also come with a history much older than any national food month. They are native to North America and were used by Native peoples long before commercial cultivation. Wild lowbush blueberries grew naturally in acidic soils, especially in places like Maine and northern New England. Those are the small, intensely flavored berries that grow low to the ground and make you understand, very quickly, why your apple watch will count berry picking as an activity.

The larger blueberries most Connecticut pick-your-own visitors meet are usually cultivated highbush blueberries. These grow on taller bushes and produce bigger fruit. Both versions have their charms.

The modern cultivated blueberry has its own origin story, and it includes science, farming, and a little early-20th-century agricultural ambition. USDA botanist Frederick V. Coville began studying wild blueberries in 1908. Working with New Jersey cranberry grower Elizabeth Coleman White, he helped produce the first commercial cultivated highbush blueberry crop in 1916.

Around New England, blueberries split into two delicious traditions. Maine and northern New England are famous for wild lowbush blueberries, those tiny, punchy berries that taste like they have absorbed fog, granite, pine trees, and a



Picking blueberries does require a bit of restraint.

complicated family history. Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island have plenty of cultivated highbush blueberries, especially at farms and orchards where visitors can pick their own.

For New Canaan residents, blueberry picking can mean a small day trip. The closest practical pick-your-own options are regional farms rather than in-town fields. Silverman's Farm in Easton lists pick-your-own blueberries when the patch is open, with blueberry picking hours listed as 9am to 4pm. Jones Family Farms in Shelton has welcomed guests to harvest blueberries for more than 40 years, with blueberries grown at Valley Farm and Pumpkinseed Hill Farm. Lyman Orchards in Middlefield lists its blueberry picking season as early July to mid-August.

Be sure to check before you galavant off to pick your own berries, though. Farms adjust hours based on weather,

ripeness, crowds, and field conditions. A thunderstorm, a hot spell, or an army of early risers can change the day's picking plans quickly. Blueberries are wonderful, but they do keep their own calendar.

Picking blueberries does require a bit of restraint. A berry can turn blue several days before it reaches full ripeness, so any reddish tinge means it needs more time. A ripe blueberry should be fully blue, plump, and easy to remove from the bush. If it clings, leave it be.

Once blueberries enter the kitchen, they become almost comically useful. They love lemon, vanilla, ginger, cornmeal, oats, basil, thyme, cream, butter, and brown sugar. They belong in muffins, pancakes, crisps, cobblers, buckles, pies, galettes, sauces, shrubs, compotes, jams, and scones. They can go fancy with a tart shell and a glossy glaze, or deeply casual in a bowl with yogurt and

granola.

They also freeze beautifully, which means July blueberries can become February blueberries if one has enough self-control to save them. Spread them on a baking sheet, freeze them until solid, then store them in a bag or container. Future-you, making muffins during a gray winter week, will feel like a genius.

Greenwich also has options for those who want blueberry dessert without making it a whole agricultural pilgrimage. Black Forest Pastry Shop in downtown Greenwich bakes seasonal specialties, pies, cakes, tortes, cookies, and pastries on the premises, which makes it well worth a call during peak blueberry season.

The Greenwich Farmers Market is a good place to begin the local blueberry hunt. The market runs Saturdays from 9:30am to 1pm at the Arch Street/Horseneck Lane commuter lot. The official vendor list includes The Herb Basket,

which sells jams, preserves, pickles, relishes, gift boxes, honey, and maple syrup, making it a strong lead for blueberry jam. It also includes Oronoque Farms Bakery, known for pies and cider donuts, which makes it a promising stop for anyone hoping for blueberry pie.

That may be the real magic of blueberries. They are practical and whimsical at the same time. They are native, historic, agricultural, seasonal, local, and also extremely fun to toss into batter. They belong to farm fields and lunchboxes, pies cooling on counters, jam jars, market baskets, and beach-house breakfasts. They are humble, but only in the way truly excellent things can afford to be.

So this July, give the blueberry its moment. Pick them. Bake them. Buy the pie. Call the bakery. Visit the market. Make the jam. Freeze a few for later. Eat some straight from the container before anyone else notices.

PROTECT THE ONES YOU LOVE

CONNECTICUT'S AUTHORITY
IN TICK CONTROL.

Serving New Canaan for nearly a decade.

(888) 910-8425

www.TickControlllc.com

B-8365

SPONSORED BY
WILLIAM RAVEIS

NEW CANAAN VILLAGE FAIR &
SIDEWALK SALE

FRIDAY
JULY 17
Local Stores
on the Sidewalk
10am - 4pm

SATURDAY
JULY 18
Elm, Main, and
Forest Streets
9am - 4pm

SATURDAY JULY 18 HIGHLIGHTS

- Elm, Main and Forest Streets will be closed to vehicles
- Family friendly pedestrian shopping/dining area
- Over 100 Vendors and organizations
- New Canaan YMCA Family Entertainment Zone
- Local Musicians playing all day

NEWCANAANCHAMBER.COM/VILLAGE-FAIR-SIDEWALK-SALE



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

TOWN MEETINGS

Tuesday, July 14

Pension Committee

11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room

Charter Revision Commission

5-6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room

Fire Commission

5-6 p.m., Town Hall

Board of Finance

7-8 p.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, July 15

Housing Authority

5:30-6:30 p.m., via Zoom

Police Commission

6-7 p.m., New Canaan Police Department

Town Council

7-8 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room

Friday, July 10

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

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

Matilda The Musical

6:30 PM at the NCHS Theater, 11 Farm Rd
This summer, step into the wildly imaginative world of Matilda the Musical – a magical musical adventure for the whole family. Filled with humor, magic, and circus spectacle, Matilda celebrates courage, creativity, and the power of believing in yourself. Tickets are available at stonc.org.

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>.

Matilda The Musical

1:30 & 6:30 PM at the NCHS Theater, 11 Farm Rd

This summer, step into the wildly imaginative world of Matilda the Musical – a magical musical adventure for the whole family. Filled with humor, magic, and circus spectacle, Matilda celebrates courage, creativity, and the power of believing in yourself. Tickets are available at stonc.org.

Night of 1,000 Fireflies

7:30-9 PM at the New Canaan Nature Center
Join Naturalists and search for woodland creatures and other enchanted mysteries of the night. Delight in the awe-inspiring beauty of the NCNC meadows aglow with the soft light of 1,000+ fireflies. Registration will be available at newcanaannature.org/night-hikes/.

Sunday, July 12

Matilda The Musical

2 PM at the NCHS Theater, 11 Farm Rd
This summer, step into the wildly imaginative world of Matilda the Musical – a magical musical adventure for the whole family. Filled with humor, magic, and circus spectacle, Matilda celebrates courage, creativity, and the power of believing in yourself. Tickets are available at stonc.org.

Tuesday, July 14

Art Appreciation: Building a Palace

1 PM at the Lapham Center
A 17th-century treasure, the Chateau of Vaux-le-Vicomte, is one of the biggest private properties in France. This program will explore the construction project and architectural prowess of the builders who would go on to work on Versailles. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620

Midweek Reset – A New Moon Experience

6:45-8 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
The New Moon is the darkest night of the lunar cycle - and the most powerful moment to begin again. This gathering is a gentle evening for women to release what's been heavy, get quiet, and plant one clear intention for the month ahead. Registration is \$60/early bird rate, \$75/after July 1, and available at carriagebarn.org/event/midweek-reset/.

Wednesday, July 15

The Joy of Botanical Printmaking

10 AM- 12 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center

Go explore the fun and freedom of printing from nature with instructor Mary Himes. Using a variety of botanicals, you'll use gel plates to create unique prints that can be framed or used as notecards and other home goods. You'll be amazed at how this simple printmaking process wakes up the creativity within- like a mini vacation. No experience necessary. Registration is \$65/CBAC members, \$80 non-members, and available at carriagebarn.org/event/the-joy-of-botanical-printmaking/.
Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinic
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Ellen Samai, RN, from New Canaan's Department of Health provides in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommended you fast for four hours prior to testing. Free. For more information, call (203) 594-3620

Take a Trip to Istanbul with Marc Wollin

1 PM at the Lapham Center
Experience the culture and history of this ancient city through the breathtaking photography of its people, architecture, and landscape. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620

Summer Fun with Deb | Beach Hut Craft

2 PM at the Lapham Center
Using wood supplies, paint, and accessories, we'll create a 5-inch traditional Dorset beach hut to display on a bookshelf or knick-knack table. Class limited to ten. \$5/ person. To register, call (203) 594-3620

Journey into the World of Tea | Tea 101 & Tea Diplomacy

3 PM at Grace Farms
Discover the global story of tea in this immersive tasting experience. Tea enthusiasts and curious beginners alike are invited to sample notable varietals from around the world while learning how tea has shaped culture, diplomacy, and human connection throughout history. Tickets are \$25/non-members, \$20/members, and available at gracefarms.org/event/journey-into-the-world-of-tea-tea-101-tea-diplomacy.

Waveny Summer Concert | Doug Allen – Singer Songwriter, Acoustic Pop

7:30-9:30 PM at Waveny Park (Back Lawn)
Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of live music at Waveny Park.

Thursday, July 16

Medicare Basics and How to Use Medicare.gov | Presented by Kathy Collins, CHOICES Certified Medicare Counselor
11 AM at the Lapham Center
This presentation is for Medicare beneficiaries, caregivers, and individuals approaching retirement who want to gain a better understanding of their Medicare coverage options and learn how to use the Medicare website, Medicare.gov. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Friday, July 17

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

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

Mahjong and Mindfulness – Half Day Mini Reset

9 AM- 1 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Join for a restorative four-hour experience that blends the engaging strategy and fun of Mahjong play with practices curated to promote relaxation, presence, and well-being. Whether you are a beginning or experienced player, the morning will include both guided and open play, creating opportunities to learn, connect, and enjoy the social benefits of Mahjong. Registration is \$139/person and available at carriagebarn.org/event/mahjong-mindfulness/.

Matilda The Musical

6:30 PM at the NCHS Theater, 11 Farm Rd
This summer, step into the wildly imaginative world of Matilda the Musical – a magical musical adventure for the whole family. Filled with humor, magic, and circus spectacle, Matilda celebrates courage, creativity, and the power of believing in yourself. Tickets are available at stonc.org.

Saturday, July 18

New Canaan Village Fair &

Sidewalk Sale

9 AM- 4 PM in Downtown New Canaan
Join New Canaan for their 2026 Village Fair & Sidewalk Sale. Local merchants will move out to the street and be joined by other vendors and organizations from all over Fairfield County on Elm, Main and Forest Streets. A family friendly pedestrian mall is created by closing these streets to vehicles so you can come and shop with ease.

Botanical Watercolor Painting with Sarah Crossman

10:30 AM- 1:30 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center

Join this workshop inspired by a seasonal summer bloom. The artistic subject will be a classic heat-loving annual flower from the daisy family, like a zinnia or cosmos. Perfect for all skill levels -- participants will learn step-by-step how to create a finished painting from the provided reference image. Registration is \$95/non-members, \$80/ members, and available at carriagebarn.org/event/botanical-watercolor-painting-summer/.

Learning with Nature | Edimental Fruit Trees

10:30 AM- 12 PM at Grace Farms
Learn how to prepare, plant, and care for edimentals – ornamental plants that are also delicious. Focused on fruits that thrive locally, including apples, crabapples, plums, pears, and peaches, this hands-on workshop explores site selection, varieties, and seasonal care. Tickets are \$20/ non-members, \$16/members, and available at gracefarms.org/event/learning-with-nature-edimental-fruit-trees.

Matilda The Musical

1:30 & 6:30 PM at the NCHS Theater, 11 Farm Rd

This summer, step into the wildly imaginative world of Matilda the Musical – a magical musical adventure for the whole family. Filled with humor, magic, and circus spectacle, Matilda celebrates courage, creativity, and the power of believing in yourself. Tickets are available at stonc.org.

Sunday, July 19

Matilda The Musical

2 PM at the NCHS Theater, 11 Farm Rd
This summer, step into the wildly imaginative world of Matilda the Musical – a magical musical adventure for the whole family. Filled with humor, magic, and circus spectacle, Matilda celebrates courage, creativity, and the power of believing in yourself. Tickets are available at stonc.org.

Tuesday, July 21

Chat and Breakfast with NCPD Officer Roy Adams

10 AM at the Lapham Center
Join Office Roy for an interactive and informative chat about concerns and happenings in town. Breakfast, coffee, and juice will be served. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Art Appreciation | Adventures in Architecture: Power

1 PM at the Lapham Center
Dan Cruickshank leads us on an exploration of buildings as gigantic statements of power having led to some of the most impressive structures on the planet. The fantasies of dictators, kings, sultans, warriors and the ruling classes are explored here. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620
Candlelit Soundbath

6:30 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Step into a realm of tranquility and profound relaxation at this candlelit sound bath experience with Diane & Catherine of Grounded Meditation. After a brief grounding meditation, amidst the glowing landscape at the Carriage Barn, you'll be enveloped in a symphony of harmonious vibrations, produced by an assortment of crystal and Himalayan singing bowls, chimes, gongs, drums and more. Registration is \$40/person and available at carriagebarn.org/event/candlelit-soundbath/.

Wednesday, July 22

Sweet 250: A Celebration of American Desserts

1 PM at the Lapham Center
Bring your favorite homemade treat—or simply come to sample a variety of desserts. Share sweets and recipes then vote for the crowd favorite. From apple pie to s'mores bars to peach cobbler and more, you're sure to have a fun summer afternoon. Wearing red, white, and blue is encouraged. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Waveny Summer Concert | Finster – 70's to Today's Hits

7:30-9:30 PM at Waveny Park (Back Lawn)
Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of live music at Waveny Park.

Thursday, July 23

Free Medicare Counseling

By Appointment at the Lapham Center
A CHOICES certified Medicare counselor, provides free, objective, information about Medicare options and related benefits including enrolling, choosing a supplemental plan and Part D prescription drug plan, and understanding Medicare Advantage plans. Available to New Canaan residents and Town employees. Free. Call (203) 594-3620 to schedule an appointment.

Heirlooms and the Stories Behind Them

10-11:30 AM at the Lapham Center
Some treasures carry monetary value. Others carry family history. The lucky ones carry both. Join us for a special workshop led by appraisal expert, Kelly Daniel, and family chronicler, Gail Sheffler. Bring one object you hope to pass on someday. Kelly will offer an approximate appraisal of its monetary value, and Gail will help you capture the story behind it, so that future generations can understand why it mattered. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Friday, July 24

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

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

Matilda The Musical

6:30 PM at the NCHS Theater, 11 Farm Rd
This summer, step into the wildly imaginative world of Matilda the Musical – a magical musical adventure for the whole family. Filled with humor, magic, and circus spectacle, Matilda celebrates courage, creativity, and the power of believing in yourself. Tickets are available at stonc.org.

Saturday, July 25

Fairy House Building

10 AM at Still Pond Preserve, 763 Silvermine Road

Join for a fun, family-friendly morning of fairy house building. Using large stones, natural materials, and eco-friendly paint, we'll create fairy homesteads for the fairies that live at Still Pond. These magical structures are meant to stay outdoors and bring joy throughout the season. Register at newcanaanlandtrust.org/events/enchanted-creations-at-still-pond-fairy-house-building-2/.

Matilda The Musical

1:30 & 6:30 PM at the NCHS Theater, 11 Farm Rd

This summer, step into the wildly imaginative world of Matilda the Musical – a magical musical adventure for the whole family. Filled with humor, magic, and circus spectacle, Matilda celebrates courage, creativity, and the power of believing in yourself. Tickets are available at stonc.org.

Sunday, July 26

Matilda The Musical

2 PM at the NCHS Theater, 11 Farm Rd
This summer, step into the wildly imaginative world of Matilda the Musical – a magical musical adventure for the whole family. Filled with humor, magic, and circus spectacle, Matilda celebrates courage, creativity, and the power of believing in yourself. Tickets are available at stonc.org.

Tuesday, July 28

Art Appreciation | Adventures in Architecture: Monaco

1 PM at the Lapham Center
Built on a cliff more than 60 meters high, the Prince's Palace dominates Monaco and overlooks the sea. The construction started in 1215 and is still in progress today. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620

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.

CONTINUES

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

1

Each

5

Change chemically

10

Forensic TV franchise

13

Oscar Mayer’s wiener song, for one

16

17

18

19

20

22

25

26

29

30

32

33

35

36

37

39

40

43

44

45

46

47

Payment to a landlord

48

50

52

53

57

58

62

63

64

65

66

DOWN

1

Torah holders

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Bit of merch from 58-Across

11

12

14

15

21

23

24

26

27

28

31

34

38

39

Supermodel Hadid

42

44

49

51

52

54

55

56

59

60

61

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

8/4 © 2023 Andrews McMeel Universal
 www.upuzzles.com

The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

1.

(K) Low voice

5.

(K) Close the door loudly

9.

(K) Place for a rocket or a mouse

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

20.

22.

23.

25.

27.

29.

33.

36.

Abominable snowman

37.

38.

39.

41.

43.

46.

49.

50.

53.

54.

55.

56.

57.

58.

59.

DOWN

1.

(K) BTS or the Beatles

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

19.

21.

23.

24.

25.

26.

28.

English noblemen

30.

31.

32.

34.

35.

40.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

51.

52.

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

Writer’s block?

Look for the answer in next week’s paper.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P

O

L

O

F

A

D

S

P

A

I

W

A

X

E

L

L

I

E

N

A

L

I

L

E

N

D

U

L

N

A

P

U

P

E

N

G

I

N

E

F

R

A

M

E

T

E

E

C

L

U

E

A

H

A

L

O

E

S

P

A

M

S

T

E

P

P

I

N

G

S

T

O

N

E

H

E

N

S

M

E

S

H

R

A

T

S

P

A

Y

O

P

T

B

A

S

T

E

H

E

E

H

A

W

A

L

A

D

E

M

O

G

O

R

E

S

T

Y

A

G

E

S

A

L

E

S

S

O

S

L

O

N

E

N

E

A

T

Previous riddle answer:

Take five or 10?

21-D) REST

© 2024 Timothy Parker Crosswords/Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication syndication.andrewsmcmeel.com

8/5 Universal Freestyle 84 by Sarah Sinclair and Rafael Musa

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			

Horoscopes

Horoscope: July 10 – July 16, 2026

Cancer season reaches a reflective turning point this week. Mercury remains retrograde in Cancer, bringing old conversations, family questions, and emotional memories back into view. On July 13, the Sun meets Mercury, offering a flash of insight or a chance to understand something that has felt unclear. The New Moon in Cancer on July 14 opens the door to a fresh start around home, family, belonging, and emotional security. Uranus and Neptune align on July 15, encouraging imagination, openness, and a willingness to see life from a new angle. This is a week to listen carefully, begin gently, and trust that renewal does not have to be loud.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

Friendships and long-term goals may need revision. Someone from your past could reappear, or an old plan may suddenly seem worth reconsidering. The New Moon helps you choose better company and clearer hopes for the future.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Career matters reach a thoughtful turning point. You may see a public or professional issue differently after July 13. The New Moon favors a fresh approach to ambition. Let your next step reflect emotional wisdom as well as practical sense.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Travel, learning, legal matters, or spiritual questions may return for review. Don’t be frustrated by delays. A wider perspective is forming, and the New Moon helps you choose a path that feels more honest and nourishing.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Shared finances, trust, and emotional commitments are highlighted. A conversation may bring clarity, but it may also require sensitivity. The New Moon offers a chance to begin again where intimacy or cooperation has felt strained.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Relationships take center stage. Mercury retrograde may bring old feelings or unresolved questions back into discussion. The New Moon in your partnership area offers a fresh start, but only if both sides are willing to listen.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Work, health, and daily routines benefit from a reset. If your schedule has become tangled, this is the week to simplify it. The New Moon supports better habits, but start small. One useful change will be easier to maintain than five ambitious ones.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

Romance, creativity, and joy are renewed under this week’s New Moon. An old idea or feeling may return with new promise. Follow what feels sincere, but don’t rush it. Gentle beginnings can grow into something meaningful.

Thought for the Week:

The past returns not to trap you, but to show you what still needs care. Begin again with patience.

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 one who speaks (6)
- 2 it locks in locks (9)
- 3 unmapped (9)
- 4 not tied up (10)
- 5 dining linen (10)
- 6 it pivots on a fulcrum (5)
- 7 things on a to-do list (7)

SOLUTIONS

LE	RAY	TAL	ESS	HAI
RSP	ECL	CHA	TET	TABL
RTL	VER	HER	KER	AN
ERR	DS	OTH	ED	UN

PREVIOUS ANSWERS: wers: 1. SECRET 2. MARSHIER 3. CLASP 4. SIMILARLY 5. LISTING 6. REACHING 7. INTERFERE

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

www.GreenwichSentinel.com/subscribe

www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/subscribe

Wednesday, July 29
A Summer Afternoon Tea with Treats
2 PM at the Lapham Center
We hope to see you at teatime for a relaxing afternoon with friends, both old and new. Raise a cup – and that pinkie finger – as we enjoy a variety of teas and treats! Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.
Waveny Summer Concert | The Bookends – 60’s and 70’s Songs
7:30-9:30 PM at Waveny Park (Back Lawn)
Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of live music at Waveny Park.

Friday, July 31
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.

SAVE THE DATE
Tuesday, Aug. 4

Creating Sugar Scrubs and Body Butters
2 PM at the Lapham Center
Treat yourself – and your skin – to an afternoon concocting luxurious, spa-worthy products that will smooth, invigorate, and hydrate. Karry Wilson, of Riverfield House in Westport, will demonstrate how to create these lush products, and everyone will take home their own original scrub and butter to use in their private “spa” at home. \$20/person. Spots are limited, call (203) 594-3620 to register.
Summer Movie: *Stand by Me*
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Join for a screening of *Stand by Me*. Directed by Rob Reiner (1947-2025), this coming-of-age drama begins with one simple question: “Do you guys want to see a dead body?” On the eve of junior high, four friends venture out to find the body of a missing boy in what would be their last (and most memorable) adventure together. Register at newcanaanlibrary.org/event/movie-screening-stand-me-197550.

Wednesday, Aug. 5
Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinic
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Ellen Samai, RN, from New Canaan’s Department of Health provides in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommended you fast for four hours prior to testing. Free. For more information, call (203) 594-3620

Thursday, Aug. 6
Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundae or Cone
1-2 PM at the Lapham Center
There is no better way to spend a hot afternoon than enjoying this old-fashioned summertime classic. Choose your favorite flavors, pile on the toppings, drizzle with sauces and create your very own cone or sundae masterpiece. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.
Free Medicare Counseling
By Appointment at the Lapham Center
A CHOICES certified Medicare counselor, provides free, objective, information about Medicare options and related benefits including enrolling, choosing a supplemental plan and Part D prescription drug plan, and understanding Medicare Advantage plans. Available to New Canaan residents and Town employees. Free. Call (203) 594-3620 to schedule an appointment.

Friday, Aug. 7
Computer Basics: Managing Files on Your Mac with Finder
2 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room

This class will teach you how to navigate Apple’s file manager, Finder, and how to create and organize folders. You will learn how to move files and folders to different locations on your computer, how to delete items from your computer, how to move files to and from external drives (like USB and SD), and how to connect to iCloud to free up storage. This class is intended for beginners and will focus on Apple’s file manager (Finder) for laptop and desktop computers. Register at newcanaanlibrary.org/event/finder-managing-files-your-mac-229904.

Saturday, Aug. 8
Guided Butterfly and Moth Walk
10 AM at Livingston - Higley Preserve, entry at the end of Apple Tree Lane

Join for a guided hike with Lepidopterist, Victor deMasi as we stroll through the meadows at Livingston-Higley Preserve. Using a net and magnified bug boxes, you will observe up close and first-hand about local pollinators and experience butterflies in their natural habitat. More information and registration are available at newcanaanlandtrust.org/events/flutter-flight-guided-butterfly-and-moth-walk/.

Wednesday, Aug. 12
Navigating Your Preschooler’s Transition to School

10 AM at the New Canaan Library, Jim and Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Whether your toddler/preschooler is entering a school program for the first time or returning to the classroom after summer break, this expert-led panel discussion will provide practical strategies to help your family navigate

the tradition with greater ease. You’ll learn how to build confidence, foster independence, and create routines that support a successful start to the school year.

Women and Money Roundtable: How to Make Sense of Today’s Financial Markets
1 PM Online

Join Financial Advisors Julia Strayer and Liz Maccarone for a series of easy-to-follow discussions on how to make sense of today’s financial markets. They will cover the latest market news and how that might affect your financial decisions. More information is available at newcanaanlibrary.org/event/women-and-money-roundtable-how-make-sense-todays-financial-markets-221792.

Wednesday, Aug. 19
Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinic
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Ellen Samai, RN, from New Canaan’s Department of Health provides in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommended you fast for four hours prior to testing. Free. For more information, call (203) 594-3620

Thursday, Aug. 20
Life Reimagined
1 PM at the Lapham Center
Purposeful living promotes happiness, longevity, a healthier heart and reduces the risk of Alzheimer’s and other diseases. Hosts Marcy Rand, LCSW, Director, New Canaan’s Human Services Department, and Robin Rockafellow, LCSW, lead an informal and friendly group discussion of who we were, who we are, and the creative ways to explore our interests, abilities, knowledge, and activities in connection with the community around us. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

The Uncommon College Essay with Stacey Brook
6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Essay expert Stacey Brook, founder and chief advisor at College Essay Advisors (CEA), walks readers through her signature Uncommon College Essay Approach, a four-step process designed to turn essay anxiety into essay success. In *The Uncommon College Essay: An Approachable Guide to an Intimidating Process*, Stacey breaks down her strategies and suggestions with detailed explanations, engaging exercises, real college essay examples, and a generous dose of parenthetical asides. Register at newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-college-essay-program-218079.

Saturday, Aug. 22
Learning with Nature | Monarch Migration
10:30 AM at Grace Farms

Join Grace Farms Horticulture Director Kimberly Kelly and experts from Kansas State University for a hands-on field study to safely record, tag, and release monarch butterflies. Learn how to net, tag, and record Monarchs in a way that supports the best outcome for healthy butterflies to survive migration, winter, the flight north in late spring, and successful reproduction in late summer. Registration is \$20/non-members, \$16/members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/learning-with-nature-monarch-migration>.

Creatures of the Night Hike
7:30-9 PM at the New Canaan Nature Center

Join for an interactive sensory night hike adventure and try your hand at naturalist-led challenges. First, put your night vision to the test. Then, focus on your sense of smell, hearing, and touch. This program will include the opportunity to meet a couple NCNC nocturnal animal ambassadors up close. The night will wrap up with roasting marshmallows around the campfire. Registration will be available at newcanaannature.org.

Wednesday, Aug. 26
Journey to the World of Tea | White & Green
3 PM at Grace Farms
Discover the unique umami flavors of Japanese green teas and sample classic Chinese selections such as Dragon Well and Jasmine Pearls. Tickets are \$20/members, \$25/non-members, and available at gracefarms.org.

Thursday, Aug. 27
Free Medicare Counseling
By Appointment at the Lapham Center
A CHOICES certified Medicare counselor, provides free, objective, information about Medicare options and related benefits including enrolling, choosing a supplemental plan and Part D prescription drug plan, and understanding Medicare Advantage plans. Available to New Canaan residents and Town employees. Free. Call (203) 594-3620 to schedule an appointment.

Tuesday, Sept. 1
10th Annual Community Addiction Awareness Vigil
7 PM at 6 South Ave
This outdoor event features live music, tributes, recovery testimonials, resources, and a candlelight vigil led by local faith community leaders. Live music will begin at 6:15 pm. More information is available at ncparentsupportgroup.org/annual-addiction-awareness-vigil/.

CONTINUES

CRACK THE CODE

..... Football

Crack the code to reveal more words.

1	2	3	4		2	5	2	6	2	7		4	3	1	8	9
T	E	A	M													

10	11	3	5	12	2	2	13	2	14		5	2	3	10	15	2

16	11	17	5		16	2	7	8	9		1	14	11	13	9	18

6	19	8	1	11	14	18		20	14	19	16	16	5	19	7	10

3	14	2	7	3		8	3	13	1	3	19	7		12	19	1
																

14	2	21	2	14	2	2		8	5	15	16		16	3	5	5

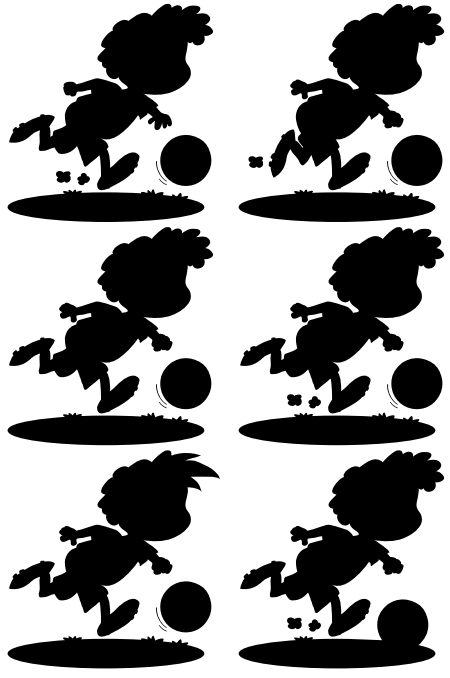
8	11	19	7		1	11	22	22		13	2	7	3	5	1	18

16	11	11	1	22		18	2	5	5	11	17		8	3	14	20

10	3	4	2		13	5	3	7		4	3	7	3	10	2	14

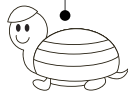
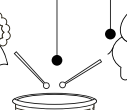
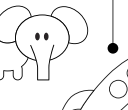
1	9	14	11	17		19	7		1	19	4	2		11	15	1

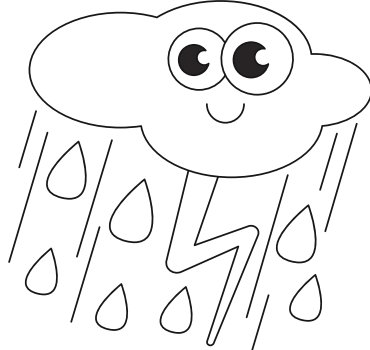
FIND THE CORRECT SHADOW

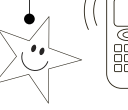
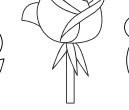
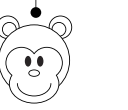


First Letter Game

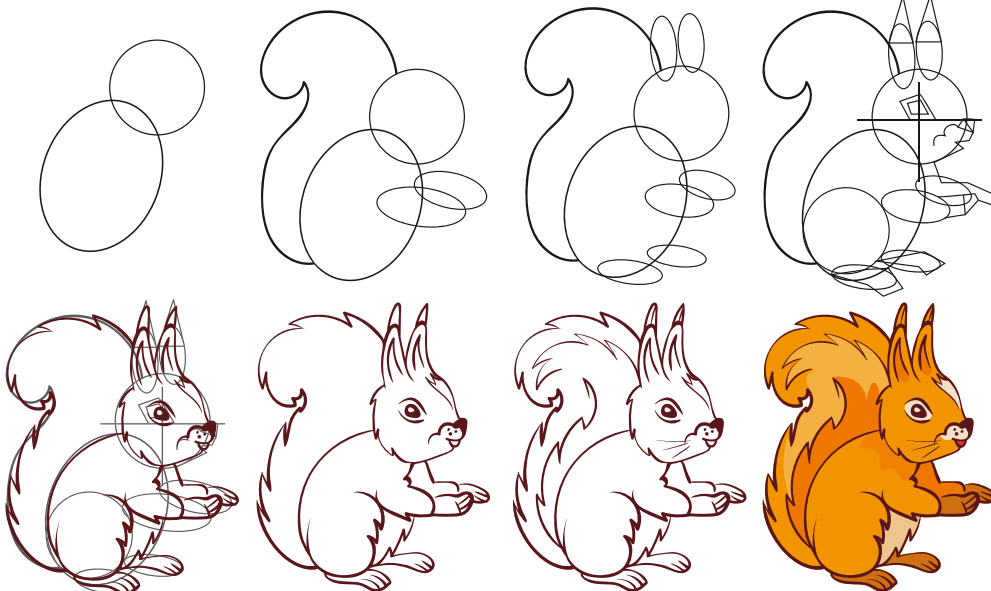
Solve and then Color



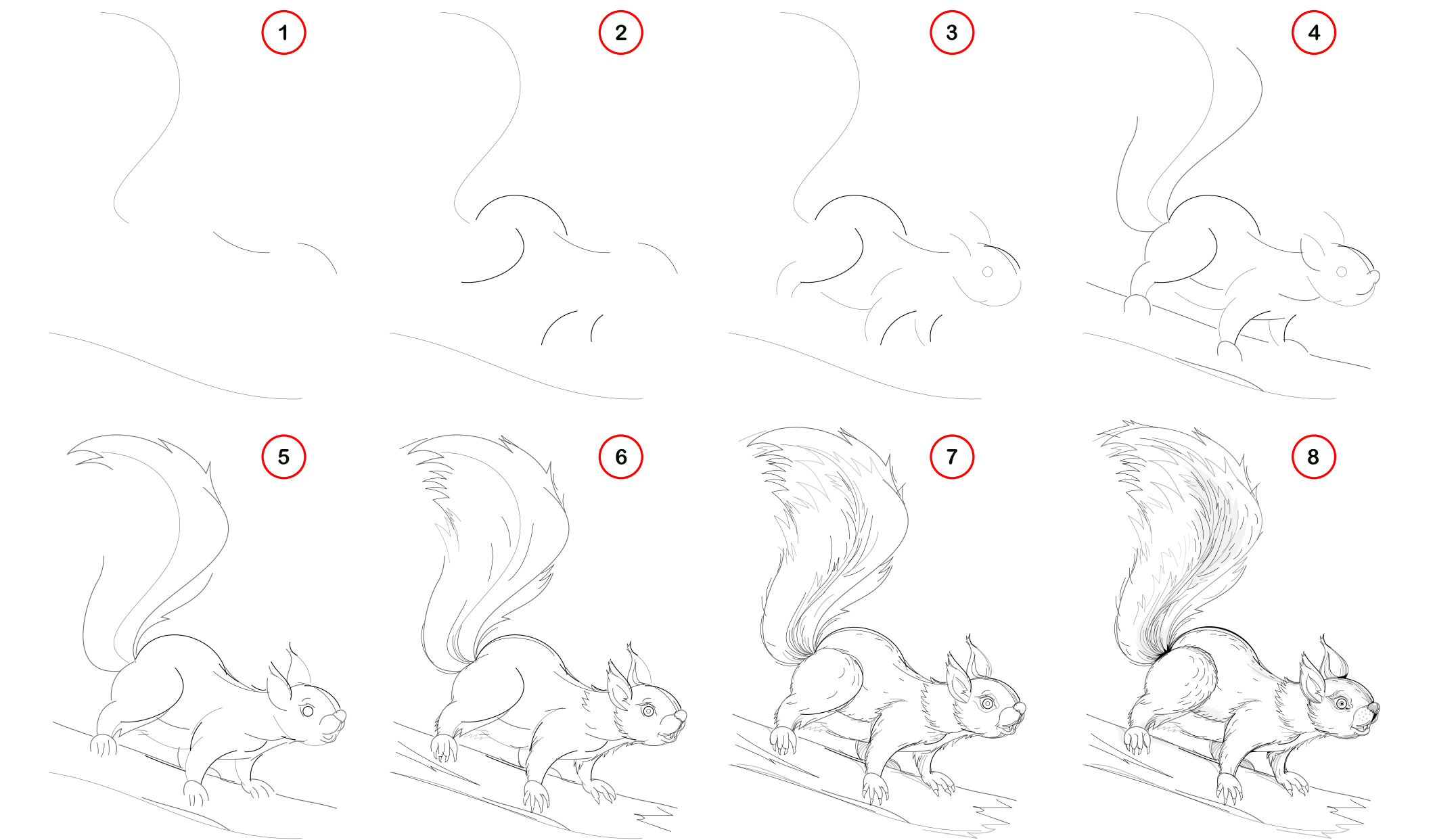
Drawing lesson



How to Draw a Squirrel

Grab Your Sketch Book

Step by Step, Here's How



	4		2
	2	3	
4		2	1
	1		

1	4		3
		1	
	1		2
2			1

3			4
	4		2
4		2	1
	1		

	1		
	2	3	1
2	4	1	
		2	

SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

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

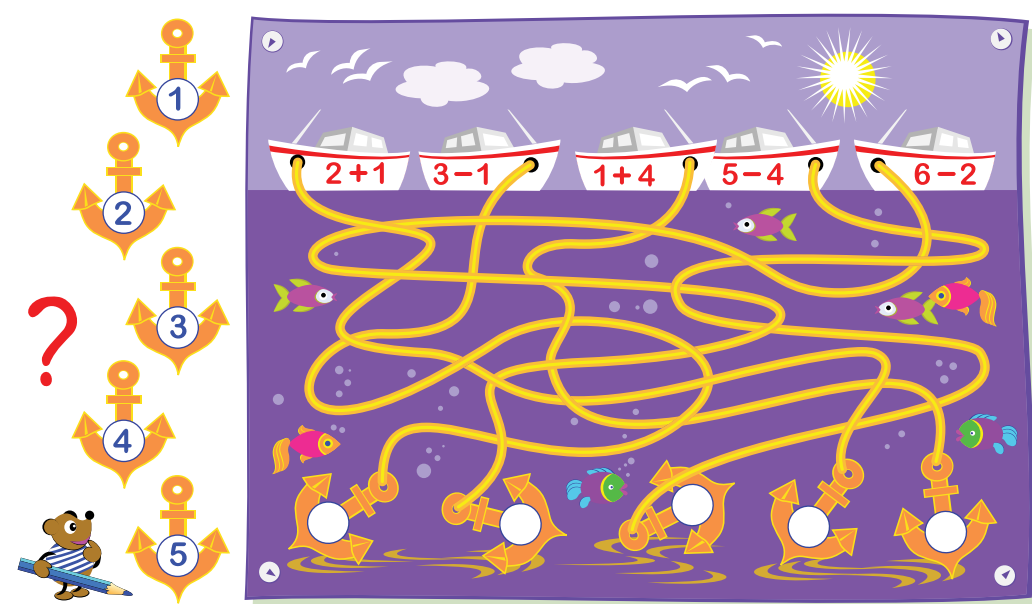
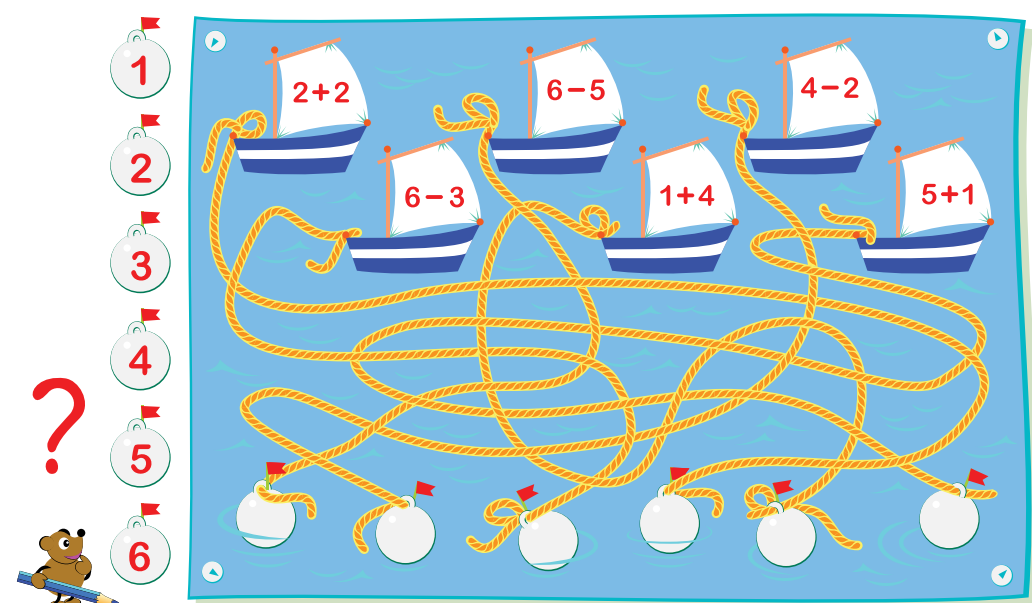
Hard								
	9		4	3				
		8			5			6
		5	6		9	1		
		9				2	1	
	8	3			6	7		
5	4				9			
		4	5		3	2		
3			7		8			
				1	6		5	

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

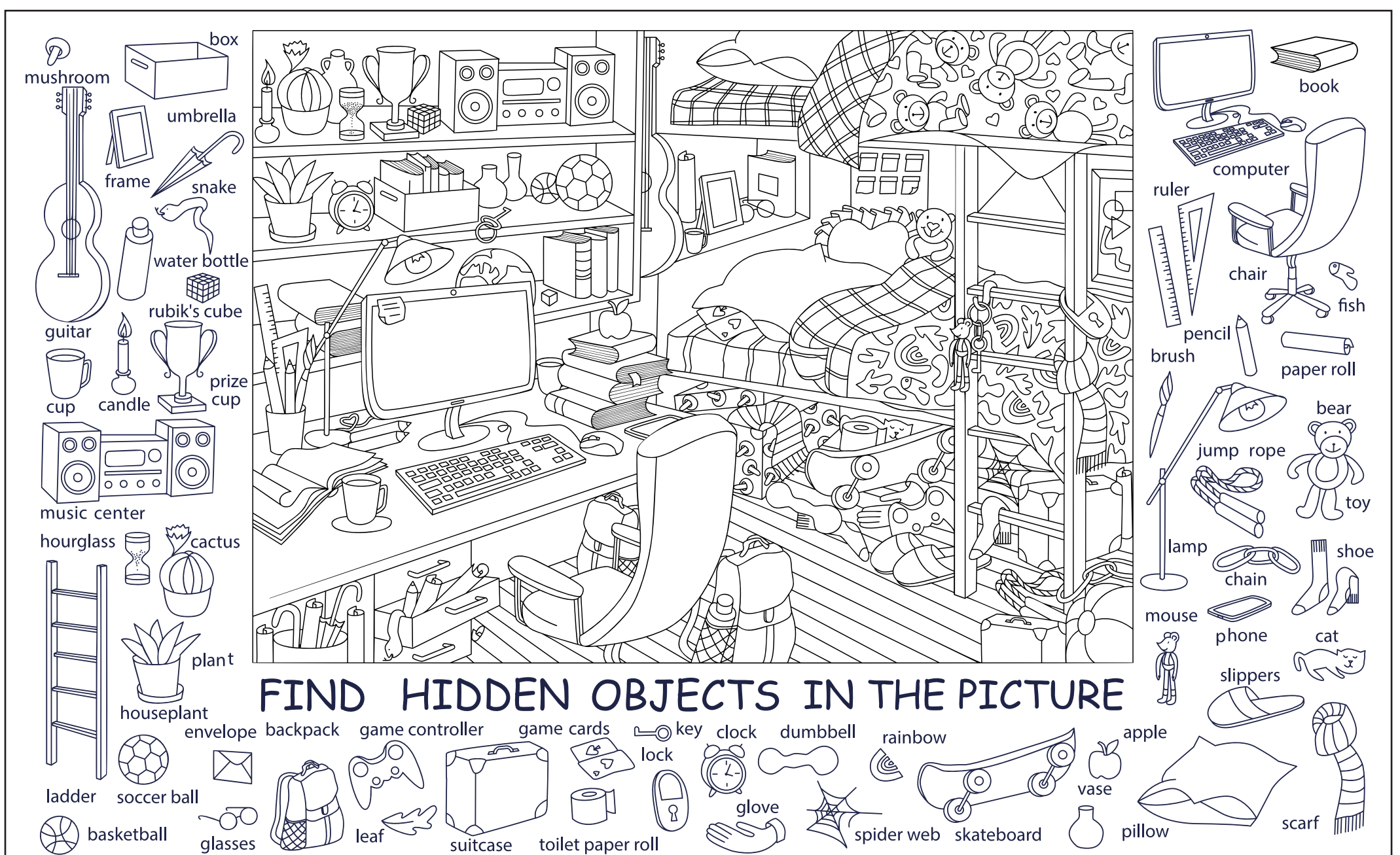
Sudoku answers

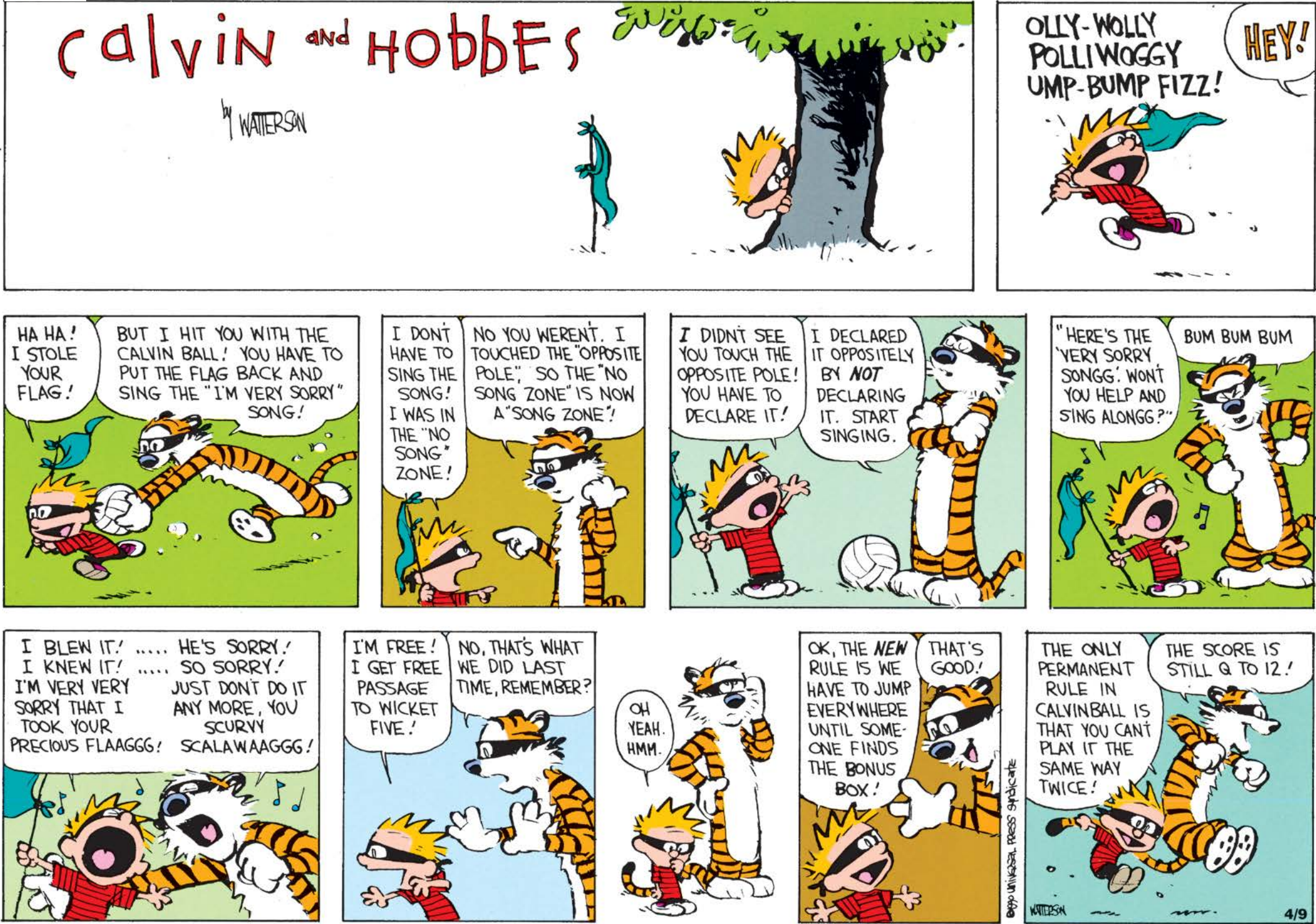
3 4 5 6 2 8 1 9 7	8 6 7 9 5 1 4 2 3	2 6 1 3 7 4 5 8 9	1 5 9 8 6 3 2 7 4	7 3 2 4 1 5 6 8 9	5 2 8 1 4 6 3 5	9 1 3 7 8 2 6 4 5	6 7 4 5 3 9 8 1 2
9 2 7 8 1 6 4 5 3	3 6 1 7 2 2 4 8 6 9	8 6 4 5 6 9 3 2 1 7	5 4 2 1 6 7 9 3 8	6 7 9 3 3 4 8 5 2 1	4 8 8 9 6 2 2 3 5 1	7 3 5 6 8 9 1 4 2	2 9 6 4 3 1 7 8 5
7 8 3 2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

This is a black and white line drawing of an owl, intended as a coloring page. The owl is depicted from the chest up, perched on a branch. It has large, round eyes with dark pupils and a small, pointed beak. The feathers are highly detailed with various patterns, including concentric circles, triangles, and swirls. The owl's ears are large and pointed upwards. The background is plain white, and the owl is the central focus of the image.



 +  -  +  = ?





Wednesday, Sept. 2
Angela Duckworth Presents *SITUATED*
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
In Angela Duckworth's first book, she showed that a common denominator of successful strivers is a blend of passion and perseverance she dubbed "grit." This second book springs from her deepening realization that grit, while necessary, is sometimes not sufficient. How you situate yourself to meet a challenge can be crucial. Register at newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-best-selling-author-angela-duckworth-presents-situated-217349.
Saturday, Sept. 19
Farm to Fork Dinner
6-9 PM at the Country Club of Darien
Join Blossom Hill for seasonal cuisine, meaningful conversation, and an evening that matters. It's their community gathering around the table to ensure displaced children have access to education, healing, and hope. Tickets are available at blossomhill-foundation.org/rsvp/.
Friday, Sept. 25 & Saturday, Sept. 26
41st Annual Lobsterfest

4-8 PM at Waveny House
Join this well-loved celebration with music and outdoor seating (indoors if there is rain) for the whole family. Enjoy steamed lobsters, lobster rolls, beef tenderloins, salmon, or kids' meal with free home delivery for orders of eight or more. Proceeds go to support grants to local non-profits. Reservations are available at newcanaanrotarylobsterfest.org.
Monday, Sept. 28
The Stockbridge Militia Company: A Native Community's Experience of the American Revolution
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
From the earliest days of the Revolutionary War, the Stockbridge Militia Company, formed by the Mohicans of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, fought with distinction in George Washington's Continental Army. Hear about the Stockbridge Militia, their role in the War of Independence, and their subsequent forced removal from western Massachusetts by the early 1780s. Register at newcanaanlibrary.org/event/stockbridge-militia-company-native

communitys-experience-american-revolution-220631.
Sunday, October 11
4th Annual Waveny Park Arts Festival
10 AM- 4 PM at Waveny Park
Join the Waveny Park Arts Festival for 50+ artist and artisan vendors, local food, live music, and more. Free admission. The festival will take place rain or shine. For more information, call (203) 594-3638.
BLOOD DRIVES
Tuesday, July 14
St. Mark's Church
111 Oenoke Ridge Road
New Canaan, CT 06840
1:00 PM - 6:30 PM
SUPPORT SERVICES & MEETINGS
Friday, Sept. 18 & Friday, October 16
Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade, and Refer
11 AM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
Those trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer – the 3

simple steps anyone can use to help prevent suicide. This training will certify you as a QPR gatekeeper (someone in a position to recognize a crisis and the warning signs that someone may be contemplating suicide). For Sept. 18, register at newcanaanlibrary.org/event/copy-suicide-prevention-training-question-persuade-and-refer-188897. For October 16, register at newcanaanlibrary.org/event/copy-suicide-prevention-training-question-persuade-and-refer-188898.
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, Aug. 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.
Sunday, Aug. 23
Filling in the Blanks Unite to Fight 5K
8-11 AM at Mill River Park, 1010 Washington Blvd, Stamford
Enjoy a 5k race and kids fun run with food, prizes, and t-shirts, all while benefitting Filling in the Blanks and their core programs. More information is available at runsignup.com/Race/CT/Stamford/UnitetoFight.



HOYT'S HERE®
Hoyt Livery
(203) 966-LIMO (5466)

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

Reserve online at **HoytLivery.com**
Or call our client management team 24/7
(800) 342-0343