



NEWS FROM TOWN HALL

June 2024

LETTER FROM FIRST SELECTMAN
DIONNA CARLSON

Dear Members of the New Canaan Community,

As we welcome June, we enter a month of transitions, celebrations, and community vibrancy here in New Canaan. It's a time when we reflect on the achievements of our students, anticipate the opening of new community spaces, and prepare for the warmth of summer.

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduating class of 2024. Your hard work, dedication, and resilience have brought you to this milestone. As you embark on new journeys, know that the entire community stands behind you, cheering you on every step of the way.

I also need to share some disappointing news. On May 21st, I received a letter from the Commissioner at the Connecticut State Department of Housing (DOH) denying our moratorium application from 8-30g due to a technical change in how affordable housing units are counted. We are seeking a moratorium from state statute 8-30g so that developers will not be allowed to circumvent local zoning regulations by including 30% affordable housing units in a project. A moratorium would allow time for the Town to develop its own plan for more affordable housing that we develop and control and is in keeping with the town's character. In conversation with the Commissioner, I was assured that the DOH would work with the Town to expedite a new application, which was submitted on May 28th. While we are happy to have the opportunity to re-apply for a moratorium, I am extremely disappointed that DOH did not communicate this point value change while we had an active application, especially since DOH had come back to the Town for modifications to its application, which we submitted. New Canaan has been a strong partner with the state in addressing the affordable housing shortage, and we hope that the state would appreciate our moratorium application as an attempt for the Town to more thoughtfully develop affordable housing in our community.

In other news, June brings an exciting development for our downtown area: the anticipated opening of The Playhouse Theater. This long-awaited addition will not only bring movies back to our downtown core but also serve as a hub for cultural enrichment and community gatherings.

With the arrival of summer, our town comes alive with activity. Our Parks and Recreation department is bursting with programming, from summer camps to swim lessons at Benko Pool. June 19th marks the start to the [Wavery Summer Concert Series](#). I hope you are able to take advantage of these offerings as you enjoy the season.

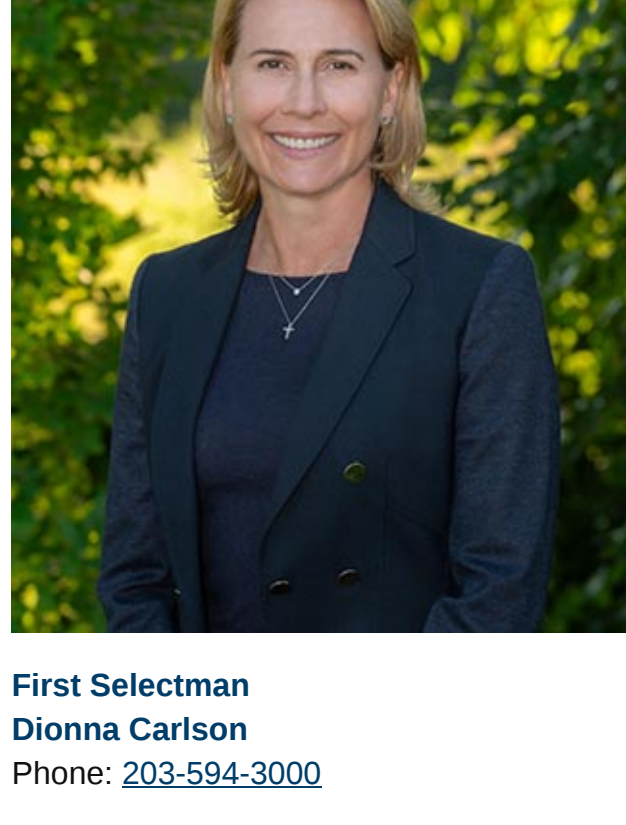
Also, we will be conducting a town-wide survey about parking downtown, particularly on Elm Street and in the parking lots surrounding downtown. We are studying parking and your preferences so we have information to provide parking that best serves our residents, visitors and businesses. An online survey will be emailed to you in the coming weeks. I hope you will participate!

Finally, June is the month to "make your beagle legal." Visit the [Town Clerk's website](#) for information on renewing your dog's license and ensuring compliance with town regulations.

Have a fabulous summer! Let's continue to make New Canaan a wonderful place to live, work, and thrive.

Best,

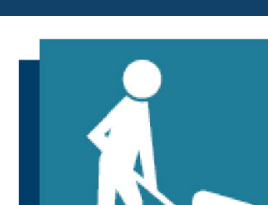
Dionna Carlson
First Selectman



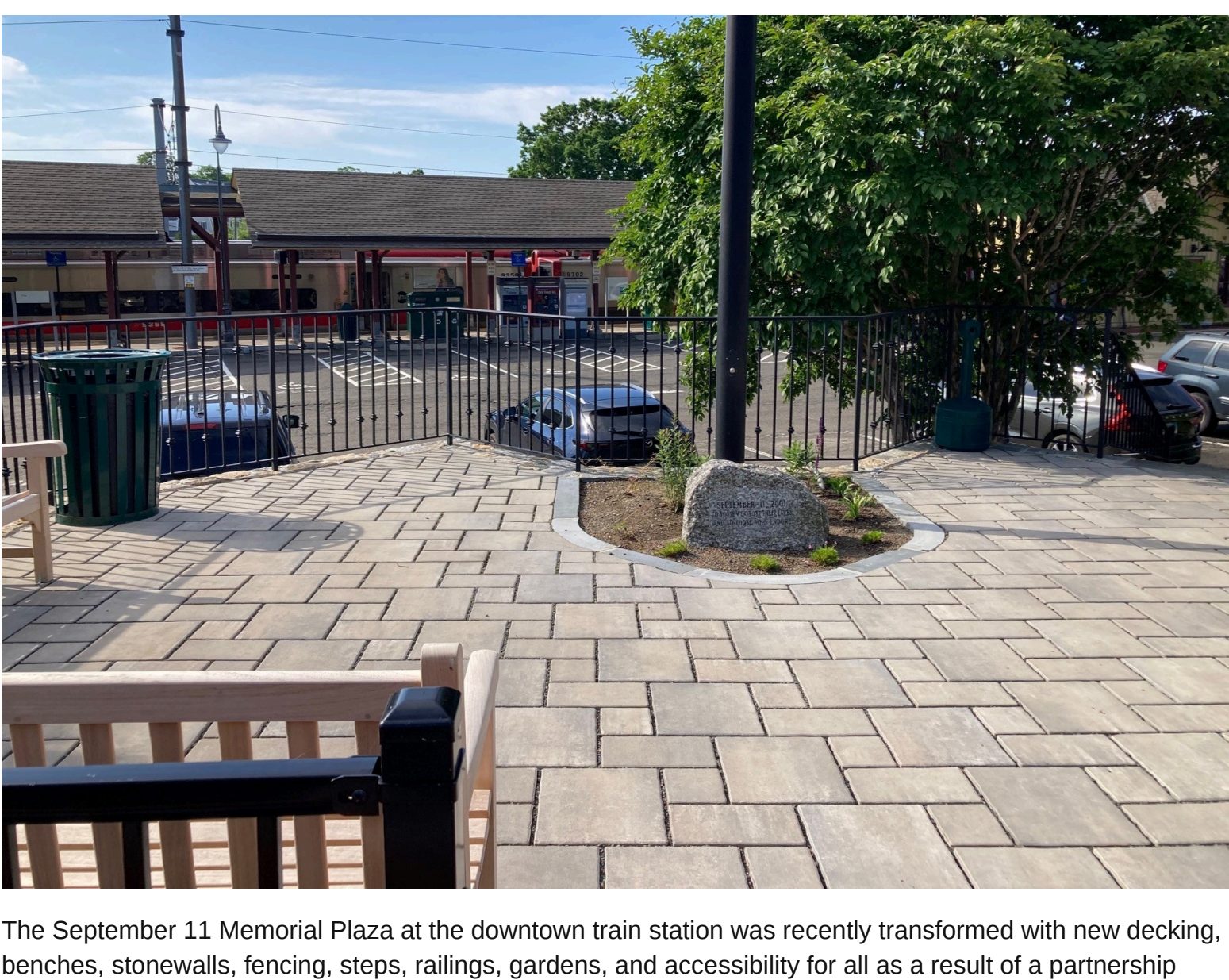
First Selectman
Dionna Carlson
Phone: 203-594-3000



9-11 MEMORIAL AT TRAIN STATION
TRANSFORMED AND BEAUTIFIED



PUBLIC WORKS



The September 11 Memorial Plaza at the downtown train station was recently transformed with new decking, benches, stone walls, fencing, steps, railings, gardens, and accessibility for all as a result of a partnership between the New Canaan Beautification League and the Town. Officials, volunteers and donors met last month at the plaza, which is adjacent to the Elm Street sidewalk, to celebrate the improvements.

Benches that were donated by the children of Wally Meyer, a longtime prolific volunteer of the Beautification League, were dedicated to her memory. Local landscape designers Barbara Wilson and Ty Tan were credited with designing the hardscape and gardens. Director of Public Works Tiger Mann and Highway Superintendent Mose Saccary were the lead collaborators on behalf of the Town and worked closely with Faith Kerchoff of the Beautification League.

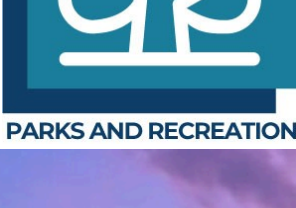
The September 11 Memorial Plaza provides space for reflection and remembrance of the tragic events on that day in 2001.

Photo above: The 9-11 Memorial Plaza as seen from Elm Street looking toward the train station.

Photo below: Town employees, from left, Officer Nicole Vartuli, Tiger Mann, John Howes, Faith Kerchoff of the Beautification League, Lou Boice, Doug Chester, Todd Beklyn, Zack Vito, Rich Mercado, Mike Mercado, Jim Peck, Mose Saccary, Dennis Barron, Ty Tan of the Beautification League, Tony Zallo, and Ryan Restivo.



WAVERY SUMMER CONCERTS TO RUN JUNE 19
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 4



PARKS AND RECREATION



The widely popular, free admission Wavery Summer Concerts program returns June 19 with the start of an 11-week series of live music performances. Genres range from folk, pop and rock to country and big band.

Held on the lawn behind Wavery House where the community gathers with their chairs, blankets and picnics to enjoy the music, shows run from 7:30 to 9:30 on Wednesday evenings.

The June shows feature folk rocker Kenin Morr on the 19th and nationally-known, country western band Gunsmoke on the 26th.

The summer-long concert schedule with rain dates is posted at [newcanaand.myrcc.com](#).

Wavery Summer Concerts is a program of the Town of New Canaan Recreation Department and is supported by area companies and organizations.

Photo: At a past Wavery Summer Concert, the sun sets while attendees face the band on the back porch of Wavery House.

TOWN'S FAMILY FIREWORKS CELEBRATION SET
FOR SATURDAY, JULY 6



PARKS AND RECREATION



New Canaan's annual Family Fireworks celebration is set for Saturday, July 6 in Wavery Park. Gates open at 5 p.m.

Traditionally the largest single gathering of the New Canaan community each year, the event celebrating our country's independence offers fun for the entire family – gourmet food trucks, picnicking, children's games, gathering with friends, and a fireworks display that will be recognized as second-to-none. The local band "Mind The Gap" will perform from approximately 5:30 to 7:00, and the Town Band will play classic, patriotic holiday music from 7:30 to 9:15.

The Town's Family Fireworks celebration is funded by the sale of entrance passes and donations. Passes are required for residents and their guests – one pass per car, one pass per family walking in. The cost is \$35 per pass. Non-resident passes are not being sold.

Passes may be purchased online at [newcanaand.myrcc.com/Special Events](#) through June 21; or in-person at the Parks & Recreation Department in Wavery House, Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. through July 5, also at Stewart's Market on Elm Street through July 5, and one-day-only at Steve Benko Pool, Saturday July 6, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for \$40 per pass. Proof of residency is required for all passes.

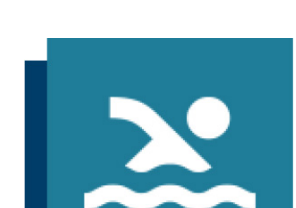
Cars may enter Wavery Park through the South Avenue gate only and must have an entry pass displayed. Pedestrians with an entry pass are invited to enter the park from the High School parking area. Parking is not permitted on roads adjacent to the park.

The Rain Date is Sunday July 7. In the event of inclement weather, event updates will be available at [newcanaand.info](#), see Field Notifications on the homepage.

Photos: A beautiful burst and a typical crowd at the Family Fireworks in Wavery Park. **Credit:** Chris Cody.



TOWN RECREATION PROGRAMS MOVING INTO
FULL SWING



RECREATION



Following a spring season when the Town Recreation Department nearly doubled participation in youth soccer and the Women's Pick-Up Soccer League reached new heights, summer Recreation programs are getting into full swing.

Seasonal membership passes are now available for

- Steve Benko Pool, including access to Kiwanis Park beach and swimming, for families, nannies and individuals
- Kiwanis Beach with swimming and playground
- Mead Park Pickleball offering instruction, leagues and open play
- Mead Park Tennis offering instruction and open play for all ages

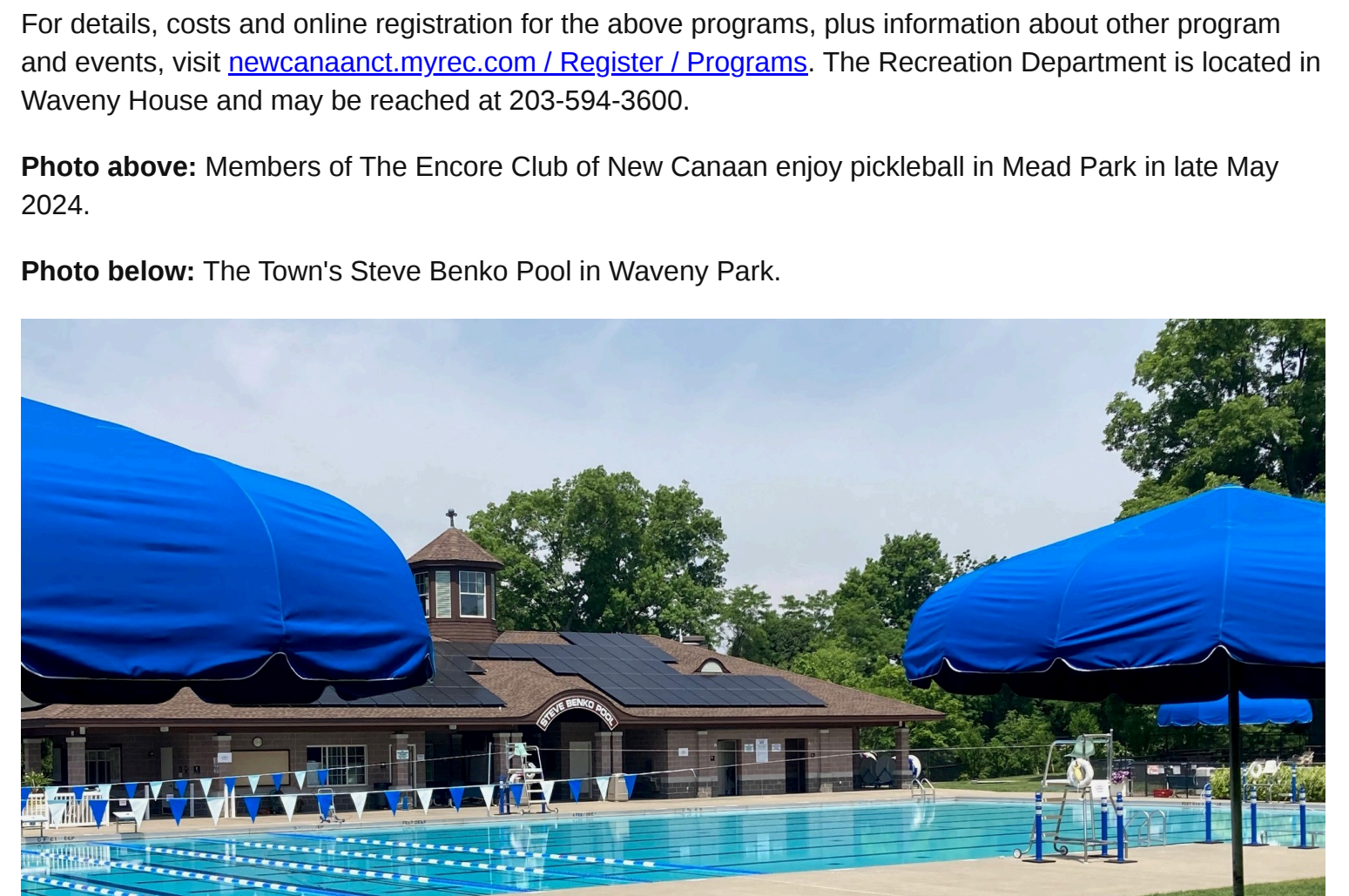
The Wavery Gator Aquatics Program includes competitive Swim Team, Dive Team and Water Polo Team between mid-June and the end of July. Swim lessons are offered throughout the summer by YMCA instructors.

Recreation Summer Camp for children in grades K through 5 is already sold out, and the number of registrations has doubled since 2022.

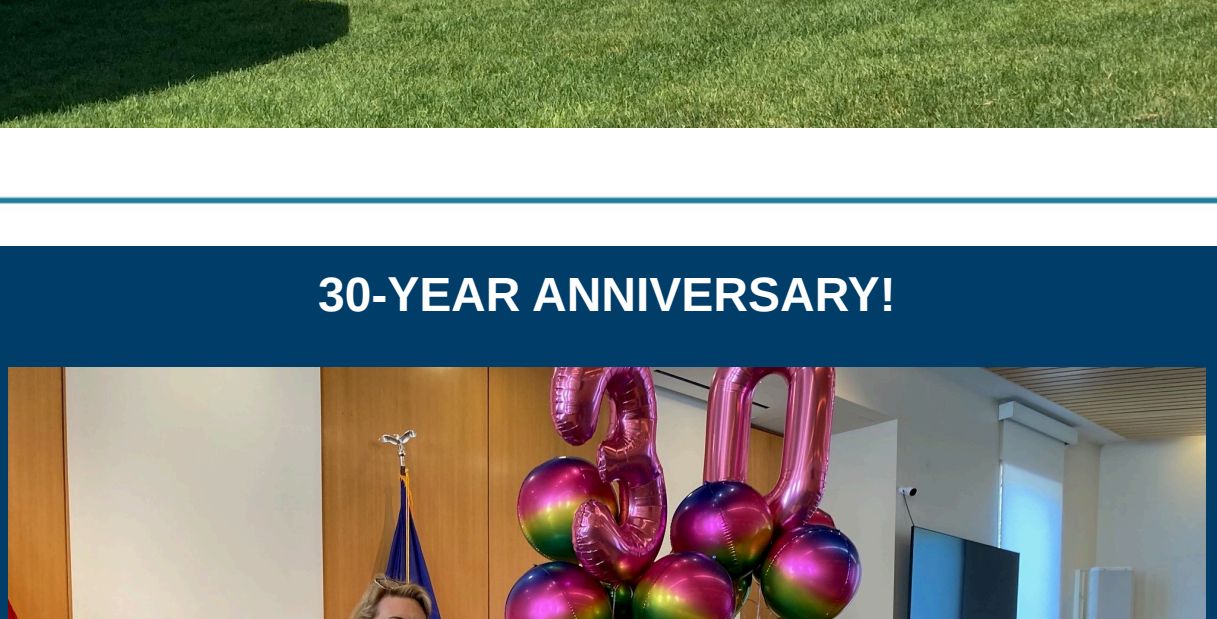
For details, costs and online registration for the above programs, plus information about other program and events, visit [newcanaand.myrcc.com / Register / Programs](#). The Recreation Department is located in Wavery House and may be reached at 203-594-3600.

Photo above: Members of The Encore Club of New Canaan enjoy pickleball in Mead Park in late May 2024.

Photo below: The Town's Steve Benko Pool in Wavery Park.



30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY!



Dozens of employees gathered in the Town Meeting Room on May 13 to mark Director of Human Resources Cheryl Jones' 30 years of employment with the Town. Joining the celebration were, from left, First Selectman Dionna Carlson, Administrative Officer Tucker Murphy, Mrs. Jones, Project Coordinator Mimi Pitt, and Chief Financial Officer Anne Kelly-Lero.

PLEASE FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO OTHERS WHO
WOULD BE INTERESTED.
IF THIS NEWSLETTER WAS FORWARDED TO YOU, [CLICK HERE](#) TO SIGN UP SO YOU RECEIVE IT DIRECTLY EACH MONTH.

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