



NEWS FROM TOWN HALL

June 2025

LETTER FROM FIRST SELECTMAN DIONNA CARLSON

Dear Members of the New Canaan Community,

June is here, and with it comes the energy and excitement of summer in our beautiful town. First, congratulations to the Class of 2025! Your hard work and achievements have made us all proud, and we wish you the very best as you begin this next chapter.

Spring has been an incredibly busy time for New Canaan. Most notably, on June 4th, after four and a half years of planning and construction, we officially opened our newly renovated Police Department on South Avenue. This milestone was achieved on time and under budget, and I extend my deepest thanks to everyone involved in making this project a success.

June also kicks off one of our favorite summer traditions – the **Wavery Summer Concert Series** – starting June 18th. Join us Wednesday nights for great music under the stars.

Don't forget: June is the month to **make your beagle legal!** Please renew your dog license or register your new pup by visiting [Dog License Info](#).

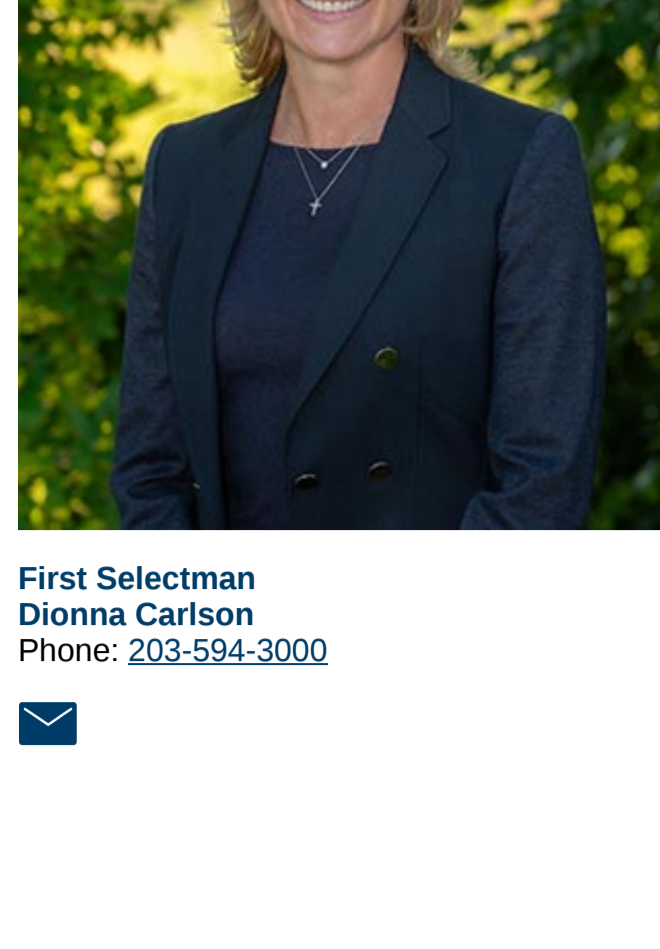
At its June 10th meeting, the Board of Finance approved a 16.691 mill rate for the upcoming fiscal year, a 3.39% increase, which will apply to property tax bills issued on July 1, 2025.

We are also excited to welcome **Bill Perritt** as our new Assistant Fire Chief. With years of experience and dedication, he's a wonderful addition to our community.

Unfortunately, on its final day in session, the State Legislature passed HB5002, a bill that undermines local zoning authority. Thank you to Senator Ryan Faia, Representative Tom O'Dea, and Representative Savet Constantine for voting against this bill. On June 6th I sent a letter, co-signed by 22 local board and commission members, urging Governor Lamont to veto it. Please make your voice heard by contacting his office before **June 18th** when the bill is not vetoed by the governor, automatically becomes law. [Read the bill here](#). The governor's office may be reached via telephone at: 800-566-6840 or via email: https://portal.ct.gov/governor/contact/email-governor-lamont?language=en_US

Wishing everyone a great start to summer!

Best,
Dionna Carlson
First Selectman



First Selectman
Dionna Carlson
Phone: 203-594-3000

TOWN OPENS FULLY RENOVATED POLICE HEADQUARTERS



PUBLIC WORKS



As First Selectman Dionna Carlson prepared to cut the ribbon on the newly renovated Police Headquarters on June 4, assisting her were, from left, Selectman Steve Kari, Building Committee Chairman Bill Walbert, Police Chief John DiFederico, and Selectman Amy Murphy Carroll.

Town leaders officially re-opened Police Headquarters on South Avenue on June 4 after a full renovation of the 100-year-old building was completed ahead of schedule and under budget, according to Building Committee Chairman Bill Walbert.

First Selectman Dionna Carlson addressed the gathering and said, "This building stands as a symbol of our town's commitment to public safety, to modern law enforcement, and most importantly, to the dedicated men and women who serve and protect us every day."

Police Chief John DiFederico described the upgraded building as "much improved, safe, modern and efficient space for the highest standard of professionalism. This is not just a building," he said, "it reflects the values of the community."

While the building was modernized for today's law enforcement and the safety of officers, visitors and detainees, the exterior's Colonial Revival architecture and historic character was not changed.

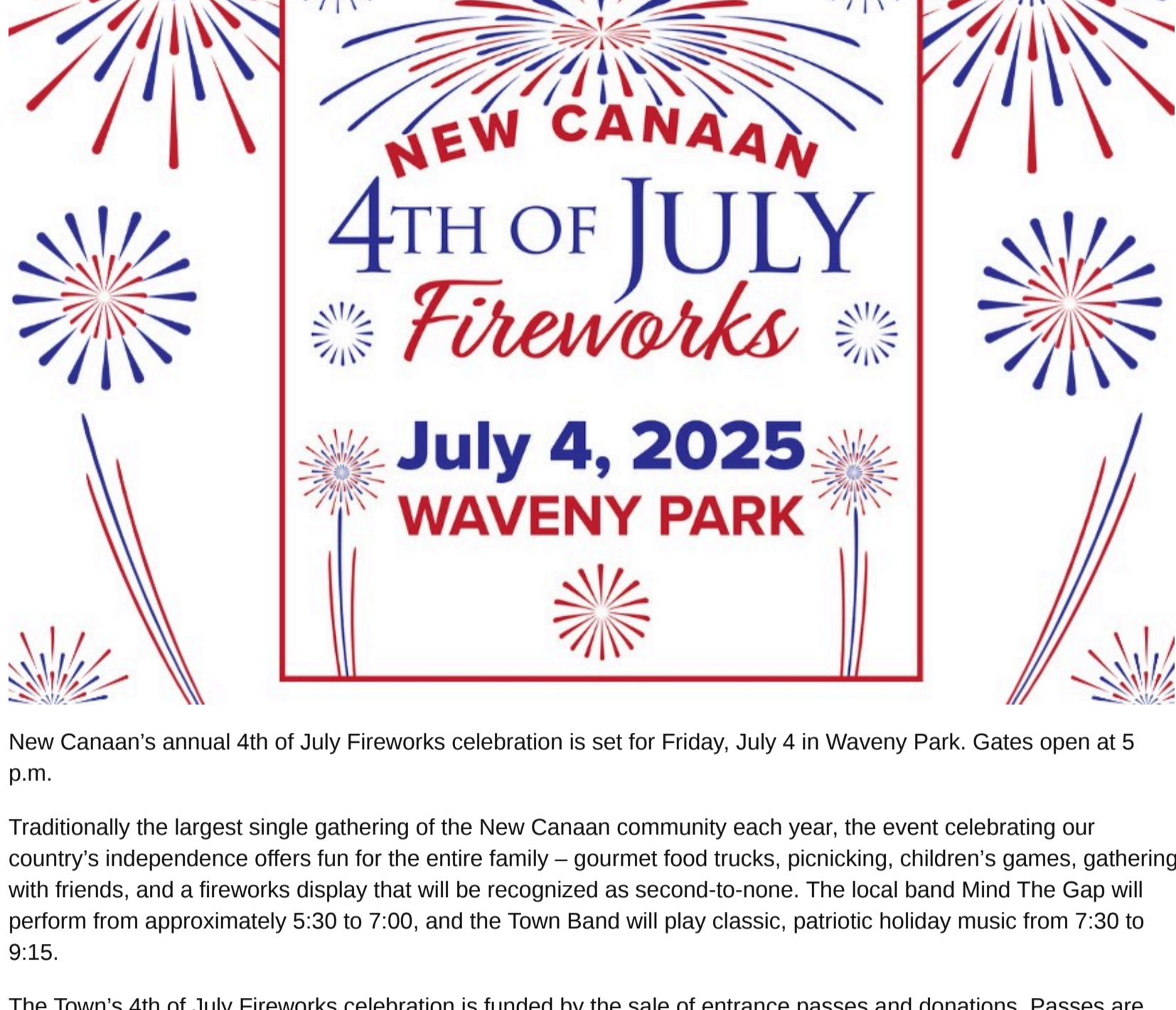
Below: Celebrating the re-opening of Police Headquarters at 174 South Avenue were, from left, Building Committee Chairman Bill Walbert, Board of Finance Member Nick Mirakos, Board of Finance member Michael Chen, Building Committee member Jim Beall, Building Committee member Penny Rashin, Board of Finance Chairman Todd Lavieri, Selectman Steve Kari, First Selectman Dionna Carlson, Selectman Amy Murphy Carroll, Police Chief John DiFederico, Town Council Chairman Mike Mauro, Police Deputy Chief Andrew Walsh, Police Captain Joseph Farenaga, Public Works Project Engineer Joe Zagarenski, and Building Committee member Tom Turrentine.



4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS SET FOR FRIDAY JULY 4 IN WAVENY PARK



PARKS AND RECREATION



New Canaan's annual 4th of July Fireworks celebration is set for Friday, July 4 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 4th of July 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, same price as last year. Non-resident passes are not being sold.

For information, to **purchase your pass or to donate:** Please go to [newcanaan.info](#), see the Community tab and click New Canaan 4th of July Fireworks. Or follow this link: https://www.newcanaan.info/new_canaan_4th_of_july_fireworks/index.php

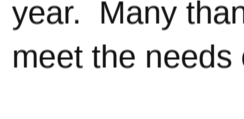
You may buy the pass online through June 20 to have the pass mailed to your home. After June 20, passes must be picked up at the Parks & Recreation Department in Wavery House. You may also purchase a pass in-person at the Parks & Recreation Department Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. through July 3; also at Walker Stewart's Market on Elm Street through July 3, and one-day-only on the day of the fireworks at Steve Benko Shop, 11 a.m. to 3 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 Dates** are Saturday July 5 or Saturday July 12. In the event of inclement weather, event updates will be available at [newcanaan.info](#), see Field Notifications on the homepage.

Prohibited from the park during the New Canaan 4th of July Fireworks event: dogs, personal drones, grills, candles, personal fireworks, and sparklers.

BOARD OF FINANCE SETS NEW MILL RATE



FINANCE

The Board of Finance on June 10, 2025, approved a mill rate of 16.691 for fiscal year 2026, an increase of .547 compared to the fiscal year 2025 mill rate of 16.144. A mill rate of 16.691 means a tax payment of \$16.69 for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. The amount to be raised from taxation for fiscal year 2025 will be \$16.0 million, a 3.76% increase from the fiscal year 2025 amount of \$158.10 million.

Setting the mill rate marks the final action of the fiscal year 2026 Budget process following the April 3 Town Council approval of the \$181.0 million expenditure budget, an increase of 3.47% over the current fiscal year's budget of \$174.9 million.

The fiscal year 2026 Budget takes into account the Town Assessor's reported 2024 Grand List increase of .38% to \$9.94 billion from the 2023 Grand List of \$9.90 billion. This Grand List, combined with a \$5.75 million fund balance drawdown, resulted in the fiscal year 2025 mill rate of 16.691. The amount to be raised from taxation for fiscal year 2025 will be \$16.0 million, a 3.76% increase from the fiscal year 2025 amount of \$158.10 million.

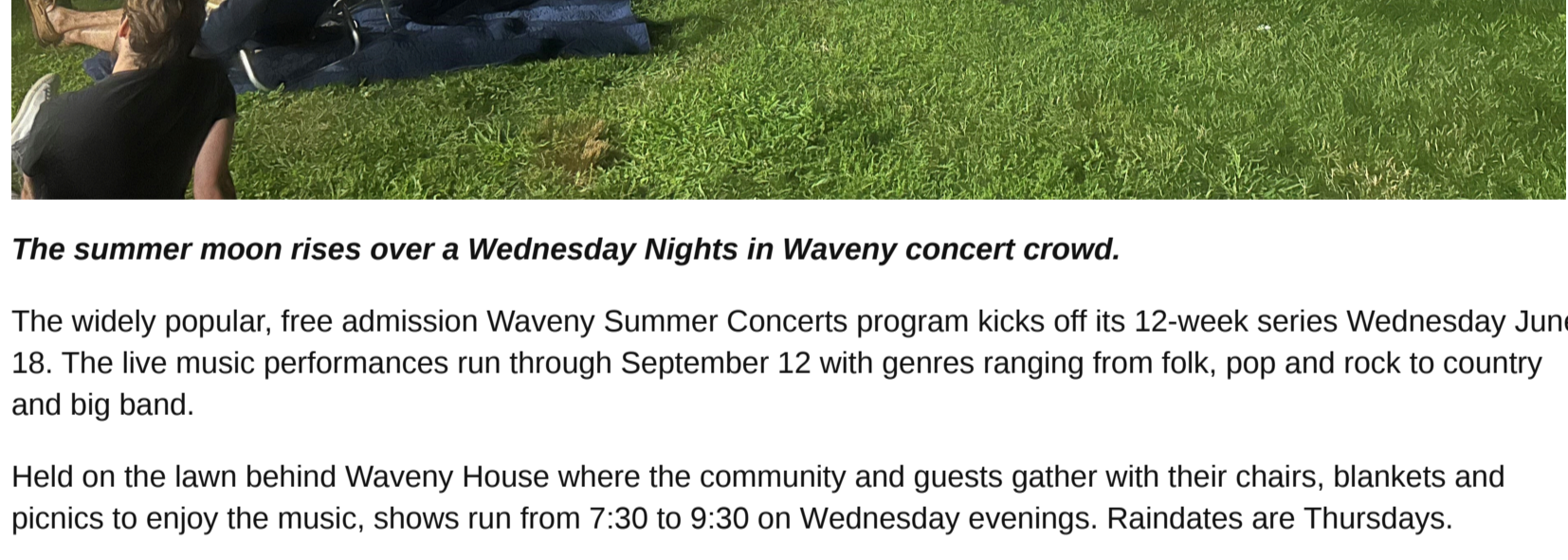
First Selectman Dionna Carlson said, "I want to congratulate and thank Board Chairman Todd Lavieri and all the members of the Board of Finance for a fiscal year 2026 Budget that resulted in a mill rate increase of .547 from the current fiscal year and an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation of 3.76% in the upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year. Many thanks to all who participated in the budget process and were committed to funding our departments to meet the needs of our community while being sensitive to the inflationary environment we face."

Lavieri commented, "By delivering a budget surplus of \$8.0 million this year, we are able to return \$5.75 million of that back to the taxpayers by reducing the amount raised by taxes, with the balance of the surplus going to our 'rainy day' general fund. The average increase in the amount raised by taxation over the past 8 years, including next year's budget, is 2.3%, a very strong accomplishment by our Town and boards over this period, especially with inflation headwinds recently. That average increase compares favorably with surrounding towns. During the budget process, we were able to reduce operating expenses by more than \$2 million and capital requests by more than \$6 million, while meeting the needs of our schools, public safety, public works, and many other town-related services. I would like to thank our Board of Finance, our Town Council, our New Canaan school administration, our Board of Education, our Department leaders, Town employees, and our Board of Selectmen for their hard work and guidance." Lavieri concluded.

SUMMER CONCERTS RETURN FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN WAVENY



PARKS AND RECREATION



The summer moon rises over a Wednesday Nights in Wavery concert crowd.

The widely popular, free admission Wavery Summer Concerts program kicks off its 12-week series Wednesday June 18. The live music performances run through September 12 with genres ranging from folk, pop and rock to country and big band.

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

The June show features 80's to Today music by The Toon Duffy Band on the 18th and nationally-known country western band Gunsforoke on the 25th.

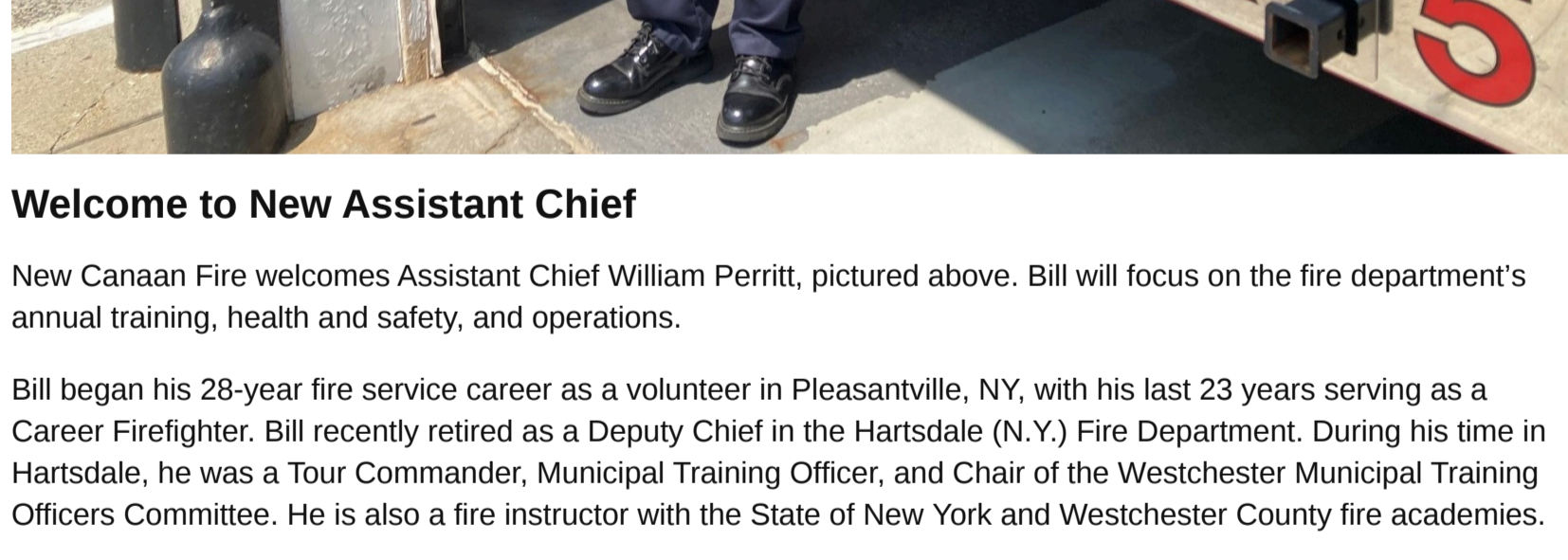
The summer-long concert schedule along with any day-of-event notices regarding postponements due to weather is posted at [newcanaan.info](#). See the blue bar at the top of the homepage.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



FIRE



Welcome to New Assistant Chief
New Canaan Training welcomes Assistant Chief William Perritt, pictured above. Bill will focus on the fire department's annual training, health and safety, and operations.

Bill began his 28-year fire service career as a volunteer in Pleasantville, NY, with his last 23 years serving as a Career Firefighter. Bill recently retired as a Deputy Chief in the Hartsdale (N.Y.) Fire Department. During his time in Hartsdale, he was a "Tour Commander," Municipal Training Officer, and Chair of the Westchester Municipal Training Officers Committee. He is also a fire instructor with the State of New York and Westchester County fire academies.

Bill received a Bachelor of Arts degree in European Literature from the College of the Holy Cross and a Master's Degree in Protection Management from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He holds numerous fire service certifications from New York State and has had the opportunity to instruct at national conferences. He is married to Laurianne and has two daughters Maeve (11) and Alice (9).

Department Launches 'Community Connect' for Added Protection of Family, Pets and Property

Saving time during an emergency response to a fire or gas leak saves property and the lives of family members and pets.

New Canaan Fire Department has launched a Community Connect program that allows residential property owners to add valuable information to a secure database, which allows fire and rescue personnel to respond to the property in a more-efficient and effective manner.

According to Fire Chief Albert Bassetti, "When our property records have information like the number of household members, notes on access to the property, emergency contacts, pets, persons with functional needs, and utility control locations, we will be able to respond to the property with a targeted and most-efficient approach. Our new Community Connect system is secure and very easy for property owners to use. Community Connect users can provide as much or as little information as they wish."

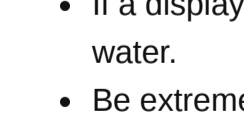
Residential property owners may add their property information for no charge at the portal <https://www.communityconnect.io/info/ct-townofnewcanaan>

Checklists of optional, important information to enter are provided to guide the process.

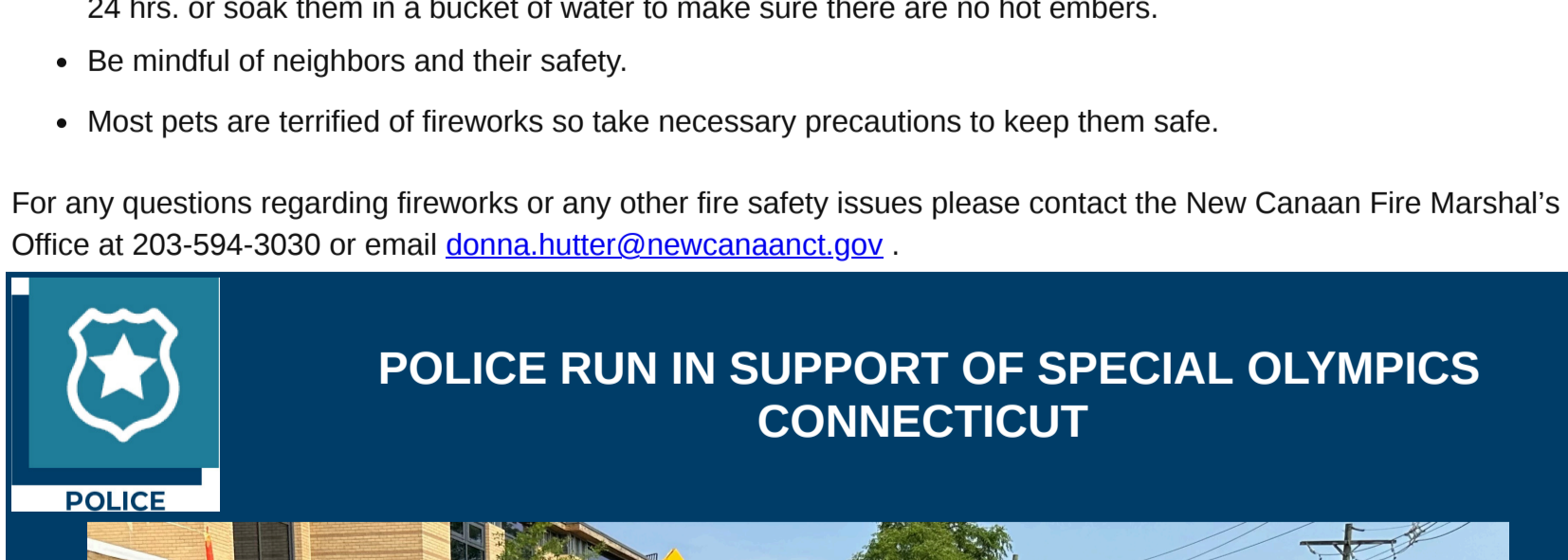
Nonresidents who have family in New Canaan may pass along the information on the enhanced-protection opportunity or may create an account for them.

For more information on New Canaan Fire Department's Community Connect program, call 203-594-3153 or email albert.bassetti@newcanaanct.gov.

FIRE MARSHAL'S TIPS FOR FIREWORKS SAFETY



FIRE



With warm weather and family events, the Fourth of July can be a fun time with great memories. Before your family celebrates this year, the New Canaan Fire Marshal's Office wishes to make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety.

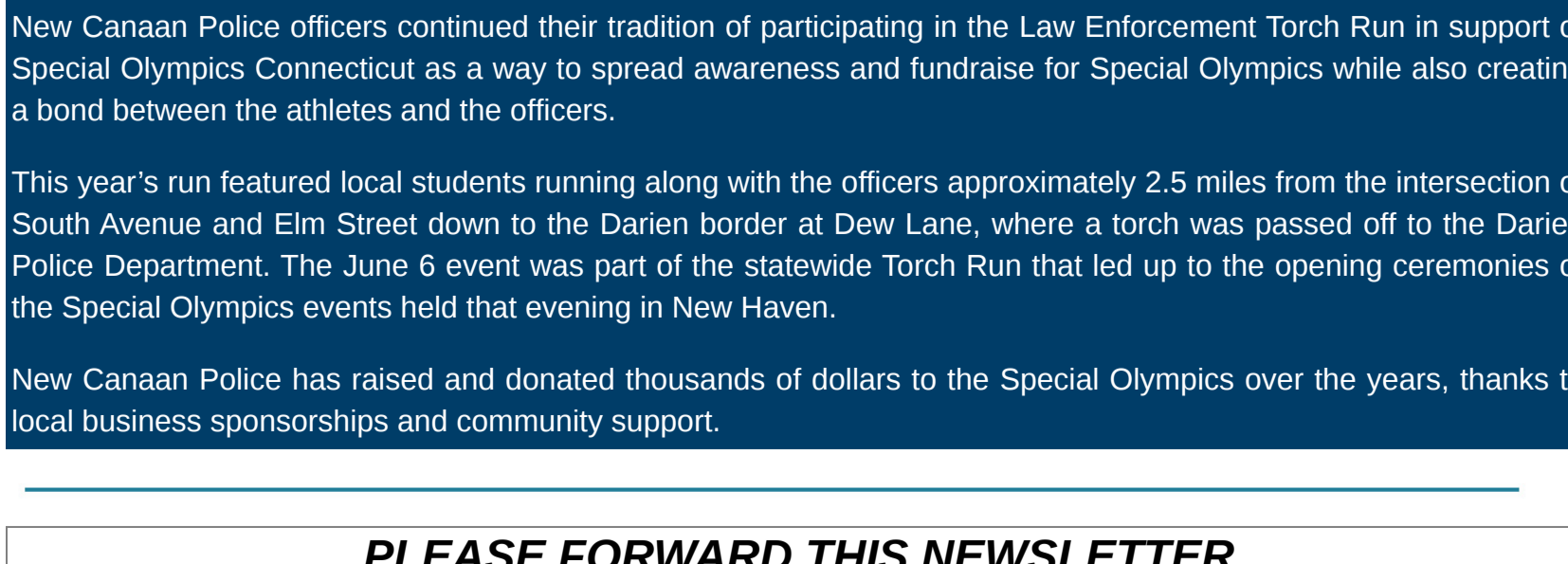
- Only sparklers and "shower" type fireworks are legal to sell and use in Connecticut. No aerial or exploding type fireworks are permitted to be sold or used in the state. (Go to the Family Fourth – you will see a tremendous professional show!)
- Only persons 16 years and older may use the above fire works.
- Always keep at least 30' away from spectators and structures and strictly follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Make sure you are in a clear, open area with no dried vegetation or other combustibles that can easily ignite.
- Never ignite fireworks while holding them – always have a level, stable surface to set them on.
- Do not lean over a display when igniting.
- Always have a garden hose or bucket of water available.
- If a display fails to discharge (a dud), NEVER look into it or pick it up – let it sit and then dunk it in a pail of water.
- Be extremely careful of sparklers – the metal sticks become red hot and can cause severe burns – have a bucket of water available to dunk them in when they have expired.
- Don't throw used fireworks directly in the trash – keep them in a separate noncombustible container for at least 24 hrs. or soak them in a bucket of water to make sure there are no hot embers.
- Be mindful of neighbors and their safety.
- Most pets are terrified of fireworks so take necessary precautions to keep them safe.

For any questions regarding fireworks or any other fire safety issues please contact the New Canaan Fire Marshal's Office at 203-594-3030 or email donna.butler@newcanaanct.gov.

POLICE RUN IN SUPPORT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS CONNECTICUT



POLICE



New Canaan Police officers run down South Avenue on June 6 in the Law Enforcement Torch Run in support of Special Olympics Connecticut. Leading the group and co-handling the torch were Officer Kelly Toughn and New Canaan High School student Andrew Blackwell.

New Canaan Police officers continued their tradition of participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run in support of Special Olympics Connecticut as a way to spread awareness and fundraise for Special Olympics while also creating a bond between the athletes and the officers.

This year's run featured local students running along with the officers approximately 2.6 miles from the intersection of South Avenue and Elm Street down to the Dieren border at New Lane, where a torch was passed off to the Darien Police Department. The June 6 event was part of the statewide Torch Run that led up to the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics events held that evening in New Haven.

New Canaan Police has raised and donated thousands of dollars to the Special Olympics over the years, thanks to local business sponsorships and community support.

PLEASE FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO OTHERS WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED!

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Town of New Canaan, 77 Main Street, New Canaan, CT 06840 [WEBSITE](#)