

NEWS FROM TOWN HALL

May 2024

LETTER FROM FIRST SELECTMAN

DIONNA CARLSON



First Selectman
Dionna Carlson
 Phone: 203-594-3000

Dear Members of the New Canaan Community,

As we bid farewell to April showers and welcome the promise of May flowers, I'm pleased to bring you the latest updates from Town.

This is the third monthly edition of *News From Town Hall* that we have emailed to you and hope you have enjoyed receiving it. Unless you sign up to receive future issues, this will be the LAST issue of the newsletter that will be sent to you. Sign up today at www.newcaan.info/alerts. Even if you receive emergency alerts and have been receiving my previous newsletters, you need to specifically create a NEW account to continue receiving this newsletter after this May issue. By doing so, you'll not only stay informed about town news but also have the opportunity to choose other information you wish to receive from various town departments, including this newsletter.

May holds special significance as we honor Memorial Day on May 27th. It's a time for us to gather as a community to remember and pay tribute to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country. I invite you to join us for the annual Memorial Day parade followed by a memorial service at Lakeview Cemetery. Let us come together in remembrance and gratitude for their sacrifice.

May also marks Mental Health Awareness Month. Please check out the story from our Human Services Department in this issue for more information.

In other news, I'm pleased to share an update from the Utilities Commission. At our April 2nd Board of Selectman meeting, the Utilities Commission recommended that the Board of Selectmen approve a contract with Ookla to conduct a cellular service coverage study in June. This study aims to update 10-year-old coverage maps and identify gaps in coverage within our town. Updated coverage maps will allow the Commission to have more informed conversations about how to address these gaps. You can follow the work of the Utilities Commission by visiting their page on the Town's website here: [Utilities Commission](http://www.newcaan.info/UtilitiesCommission).

As we move forward into the month of May, let's continue to foster a sense of community and collaboration. Together, we can address challenges and seize opportunities to make New Canaan an even better place to live, work, and thrive.

Best,

Dionna Carlson
First Selectman

NEW CANAAN ALERTS!

SELECT INFORMATION YOU WISH TO RECEIVE

The Town of New Canaan has expanded its communications outreach beyond emergency notifications to include the News From Town Hall newsletter and information about road closures, tree work, police activity, fire prevention, community center programs, local health issues, and more.

Every local resident and businessperson – whether you have been receiving notices from the Town or not – is urged to visit www.newcaan.info/alerts, register your contact information and select the topics of information that you would like to receive from the Town. You may choose to receive the alerts by email or text. Voice phone calls are used only during emergencies and disasters.

When you register with your selections you will be asked to provide your street address, as some notifications such as road closures and other Public Works activity can be targeted to only the affected geographic areas. **To sign up, [click here](http://www.newcaan.info/alerts).**

Once you have registered, you can change your selections or delete your account and unsubscribe at any time.



NEW CANAAN CONNECTICUT

ALERTS

Be in the Know
[newcaan.info/alerts](http://www.newcaan.info/alerts)



E-BIKES PRESENT NEW DANGERS



There are an increased number of electric motor-driven bicycles on the roads of New Canaan and they are engineered to travel at speeds up to 28 mph. This new mode of transportation creates a heightened risk of accidents and potential injury, as both the e-bike operators – often teenagers – and the drivers of other vehicles on the road are not accustomed to one another.

New Canaan Police Community Impact Officer Nicole Vartuli reports an uptick in complaints about juveniles on e-bikes speeding, being reckless and nearly colliding with automobiles. She says operators of motorized bicycles are assumed to be just like bicycles and they are very different. Young, inexperienced operators of motorized bicycles often find themselves at higher speeds in complex traffic among distracted drivers. Life-threatening injuries have been reported across the country.

"We want the parents of children who are operating e-bikes and e-scooters to make sure their children understand the risks, the laws and the rules of the road to prevent injury to themselves, pedestrians and other motorists," Vartuli said. Enforcement action will be taken seriously regardless of age. Violators of motor vehicle laws pertaining to bicycles, e-bikes and e-scooters may receive a ticket with a fine of \$117."

The risk of severe injury to a pedestrian is 25% when struck by a vehicle moving at 16 mph, and the risk rises to 50% when the vehicle is traveling at 23 mph, according to AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

The State of Connecticut Regulations

Electric bikes may not have a motor with more than 750 watts, and they must be equipped with brakes that cease motor function when the brake is applied. The state classifies electric bikes in three categories:

- Class 1 are pedal-assist-only, and the motor stops when you reach 20 mph.
- Class 2 provide electric power whether or not the rider is pedaling, and stops providing power when the speed reaches 20 mph.
- Class 3 continue providing electrical power up to 28 mph.

Rules of the Road

A person under 16 years of age may not operate a Class 3 e-bike upon any street, highway, or bike or pedestrian path. Persons under age 16 may ride a Class 3 e-bike as a passenger only.

- Helmets are required for everyone on any e-bike.
- Electric bikes are prohibited from sidewalks and limited access highways.
- E-bikes are not allowed on paths designed for non-motorized traffic.
- Electric bicycles shall follow all of the rules of the roads like any motor vehicle, including yielding the right-of-way to pedestrians in a crosswalk.
- If the maximum speed of the roadway is more than the maximum speed of the cycle, the cycle must be operated in the right-hand lane or on a usable shoulder.
- Each city, town, and borough may create local regulations for e-bikes as long as these are not inconsistent with the state's ordinance.

[Connecticut General Statutes 14-286a-d](http://www.newcaan.info) cover the operation of bicycles, electric bicycles and electric foot scooters.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CEREMONY SET FOR MAY 27



Every year the community of New Canaan gathers on Memorial Day to remember with gratitude and honor the proud men and women who gave their lives while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces to protect and preserve a life of freedom for all Americans.

The Parade and Memorial Ceremony, sponsored by the Town of New Canaan and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Howard Bossa and Peter Langemus Post 653, will be held Monday May 27 starting at 9:30 a.m.

The Parade steps off from St. Mark's Church and proceeds down Oenoke Ridge Road to upper Main Street, past the Wayside Cross at God's Acre, past the Firehouse and Town Hall, and continues down Main Street to Lakeview Cemetery. There, parade watchers and marchers gather with veterans and Town officials for remarks about the true meaning and purpose of the Memorial Day holiday. If the route changes for any reason the information will be posted on www.newcaan.info.

This year's Grand Marshal is Brian van der Heyden, Ceremony Guest Speaker will be My Linh Shattan, and representing New Canaan clergy will be Rev. Gilbert Burgess, pastor of New Canaan Baptist Church.

No parking will be allowed on Main Street from 8 a.m. until the parade finishes.

The Line of March will be posted on the Town website www.newcaan.info on Thursday, May 23.

In the event of heavy rain, a parade cancellation notice will be posted on the Town website and social media pages, and the Memorial Day Ceremony will be conducted in Town Hall at 10 a.m. with limited seating.

Photo: The Memorial Day ceremony is held in Lakeview Cemetery immediately following the parade.
Credit: Grace Duffield

TOWN PARTNERSHIP BRINGS RESOURCES TO ONE WEBSITE

Finding the right behavioral health support for yourself, family member or a friend can feel overwhelming.



May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance has announced the launch of its website www.newcaanbh.org. Town of New Canaan Human Services, New Canaan Community Foundation and Silver Hill Hospital have partnered with over 20 local agencies and organizations to encourage, develop and support a greater community awareness of behavioral health issues and resources in our area.

To talk directly with someone who can help navigate available resources, or just to see what behavioral health events are happening around the area, visit www.newcaanbh.org.



ZONING INSPECTOR WORKS TOWARD ADVANCED CERTIFICATION

New Canaan's Assistant Zoning Inspector Steven Payne just celebrated his first full year working for the Town and recently passed his second exam in a three-part certification process to eventually become a Certified Zoning Enforcement Official.



Town Planner and Senior Enforcement Officer Sarah Carey announced the news in March and said, "Passing the two tests in his first year in the field is very impressive. We can't wait to see how Steven continues to grow as a positive enforcer of the Town's Zoning Regulations in the years to come."

Zoning Enforcement officials answer general zoning questions for residents and contractors, review administrative zoning permits to ensure that proposed construction activities comply with the Town's Zoning Regulations, perform inspections, and investigate zoning complaints brought to the department's attention.

Next steps toward earning full certification involve submitting a case study to the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement Officials to showcase an incident where Steven effectively enforced zoning regulations within Town. He has three years to complete this final step and to become certified.

Photo: Steven Payne



ADVANCING QUALITY OF LIFE, WORK ZONE SAFETY AND RESURFACING NEW CANAAN STREETS

Spring is upon us and with that the kick-off to the construction season – specifically work along our roadways. The beginning of the season is bookended by two items: Work Zone Awareness Week in April and National Public Works Week coming up May 19 - 25.



National Work Zone Awareness Week is an annual campaign held at the start of construction season to encourage drivers to use extra caution through roadway work zones. For more information: www.nwz.org

The theme for this year's National Public Works Week is "Advancing Quality of Life for All" to shine a spotlight on the variety of ways public works professionals contribute to the quality of life, whether as a first responder to an electricity outage, regular waste pickup, or myriad of other ways that they silently serve their communities.



Public Works professionals help make our communities dynamic places to live and work. Join us in celebrating the quiet work these professionals do to make life better for all. For more information: www.newcaan.info

Upcoming Local Roadwork

Director of Public Works Tiger Mann has released a list of several spring and summer road resurfacing projects.

Recently completed road paving:

- Danforth Drive
- Indian Rock Road
- Lantern Ridge
- Laurel Road
- Pond View Lane
- Reeder Lane
- Tobys Lane
- West Hills Road

Soon to be completing several roads after last year's make work:

- Harrison Avenue
- Millport Avenue
- Little Brook Road
- Weed Street
- West Road

May/June – Hot-In-Place Asphalt Recycling to resurface:

- Betsys Lane
- Cedar Lane
- Lost District Drive
- Lukes Wood Road
- Turtle Back Road South

July – Cape Sealing, Micro-Thin Overlaying and Crack Sealing on various roads:

Cape Seal:

- Benedict Hill Road
- Evergreen Road
- Laurel Road
- Old Norwalk Road
- Ponus Ridge Road
- Valley Road

Micro-Thin Overlay:

- Apple Tree Lane
- Bald Hill Road
- Fox Run Road
- Partridge Road
- Pequot Lane
- Ramhome Road
- Rilling Ridge
- Turtle Back Lane East
- Turtle Back Lane West
- Turtle Back Road
- Parking Lot Paving:
- Benko Pool Lot
- Locust Parking Lot
- Lumberyard Parking Lot
- Elm Street Train Station Parking Lot
- West School Parking Lot

We respectfully request your cooperation, patience and assistance while our crews are on the roads. If residents have any concerns or questions, please contact the Department of Public Works at 203-594-3054. Tiger.Mann@newcaanct.gov



FIRE DEPARTMENT TO INSPECT DRY HYDRANTS

Fire truck apparatus may be visible in your neighborhoods during the next few weeks as we conduct our annual inspection and testing of dry hydrants. Dry hydrants provide a connection to water supplies outside of the downtown area, such as a pond or stream or a cistern buried in the ground, where there is no municipal water infrastructure. There are 41 such dry hydrants in New Canaan that provide essential water supplies above and beyond the water delivered to a fire scene on our tanker truck and those of responding mutual aid departments.



The inspections consist of firefighters accessing the connection, which is often on a resident's property, and attaching a hose to "pull a draft" to ensure there are no leaks and then back flushing to ensure the strainer is not blocked with debris.



If the dry hydrant is a cistern, we add water from our tank until overflow spills out. This ensures the cistern is completely full and ready for use. Residents in the area may see a puddle or obvious signs that water has come out of the overflow.

The water from ponds or streams is circulated from the pond through our pump and back into the body of water. The water level does not change. The water may appear dirty due to the movement of the silt and debris that collected around the pipe underwater.

If a dry hydrant is attached to your swimming pool, we will verify that the pool is still there and filled with water. If you are installing a pool or would like to learn more about possibly offering dry hydrant access to your existing pool, pond, stream, or cistern, contact the fire marshal's office at 203-594-3030.

Photo: A dry hydrant on Cheese Spring Road.

FISHING DERBY SUCCESS!



Ron Washburn and his four-year-old son Lorenzo hold their catch during the New Canaan Annual Fishing Derby April 20 at Mill Pond. The annual event is sponsored by the Town of New Canaan Highway Department with support from Recreation, Police and Fire departments.

PLEASE FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO OTHERS WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED.



ONLINE SERVICES



PARKS & RECREATION



BUDGET DOCUMENTS



EXPERIENCE NEW CANAAN



AGENDAS & MINUTES



NEWSLETTER SIGN UP



DOCUMENTS & FORMS



REPORT A PROBLEM

Town of New Canaan, 77 Main Street, New Canaan, CT 06840
WEBSITE