

This issue is arriving in mailboxes all over New Canaan for free, packed with local news and information. This is last complimentary copy of the season and we hope that you will choose to support this local newspaper by subscribing either to the print edition or to the digital edition!

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFING

Frozen Waffle and Pancake Recall

TreeHouse Foods expanded its recall of frozen waffles and pancakes due to Listeria contamination concerns. No illnesses have been reported, but affected products were distributed across the U.S. and Canada. Consumers are advised to check packaging for UPC and lot codes and to discard or return the items for a refund. A list of the recalled products is available at <https://bit.ly/4hblqEZ>.

POLICE AND FIRE Prescription Drug Take Back Day



National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on October 26, offers a safe way to dispose of unused medications and raises awareness about drug misuse. A disposal bin is available daily at the police station at 39 Locust Avenue for unwanted medications, but syringes are not accepted. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department Facebook.

Touch a Truck Event



The New Canaan Police Department participated in a sensory-friendly Touch a Truck event at New Canaan Mounted Troop, along with New Canaan EMS and the Fire Department. The department promoted the Take Me Home program and the State of Connecticut's Bring Me Back Home program, both of which help law enforcement access

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The London Philharmonic Orchestra performing at Grace Farms, October 21, 2024 (photo by Dean Kaufman)

Grace Farms Ninth Anniversary with London Philharmonic

BY ANNE WHITE

Grace Farms celebrated its ninth anniversary on Monday, October 21, with a special performance by the London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO), marking a significant moment in its history. The orchestra, led by Fellow Conductor Luis Castillo-Briceño, performed in the Sanctuary of Grace Farms' River building, featuring 31 musicians in a program exploring the themes of "Architecture Moves Us" and "Moments Remembered."

The performance included works such as Maurice Ravel's Le Tombeau de Couperin, Jessie Montgomery's Strum, and Mozart's Symphony No. 40. Composer Jessie Montgomery attended the event and introduced her piece. The evening ended with

an encore of Edward Elgar's Salut d'Amour, which was met with an extended standing ovation from the audience.

Sharon Prince, CEO and Founder of Grace Farms Foundation, addressed the significance of the event, stating, "Nine years ago, I remarked that the possibilities we could achieve here together are as open as the landscape of Grace Farms. Tonight's contribution to our history and our future by the London Philharmonic Orchestra demonstrates that this is remarkably coming to pass. We are honored to welcome one of the world's greatest orchestras to Grace Farms."

This event marks the third collaboration between Grace Farms and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. An LPO

quartet's performance is currently featured in Grace Farms' Design for Freedom exhibit With Every Fiber, located in the West Barn. This exhibit educates visitors about Design for Freedom's mission to unveil and eliminate forced labor in the building materials supply chain. The music, initially recorded in London on June 12, 2022, during the UN World Day Against Child Labor, was performed inside the 2022 Serpentine Pavilion by Theaster Gates, a Design for Freedom Pilot Project.

David Burke, Chief Executive of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, joined Sharon Prince at the celebration, alongside composer Jessie Montgomery and Elena Dubinets, Artistic Director of the LPO. The event brought together leaders in the

arts and philanthropy, who took part in a reception following the concert to celebrate Grace Farms' accomplishments over the past nine years.

Grace Farms Foundation's annual benefit event, which featured the LPO's performance, supports the long-term sustainability of Grace Farms and the conservation of its 80-acre landscape. The benefit also aids in the development of intergenerational programming and humanitarian efforts, such as the global Design for Freedom movement.

Grace Farms, located in New Canaan, Connecticut, is a cultural and humanitarian hub known for its commitment to nature, arts, justice, and community. Designed by SANAA, its River building and barns sit within 80

acres of preserved landscape. The organization's work includes leading initiatives to combat modern slavery, both locally and globally.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra, founded in 1932, is one of the world's leading orchestras. Known for its groundbreaking performances, the LPO is a resident orchestra at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall in London and maintains a strong international presence through global tours and an extensive education program.

The event was a fitting celebration of Grace Farms' mission to foster collaboration and grace through cultural and humanitarian efforts, underscored by the exceptional performance from one of the world's finest orchestras.

The Remarkable Story of Connecticut's Financial Resurrection

BY TOM WILLIAMSON

Connecticut's financial recovery is making headlines, and for good reason. Lawmakers from both parties can be very proud of the bipartisan approach to the pivotal 2017 reforms that steered the state away from disaster and laid the foundation for its current stability.

Today, we see headlines about tax cuts, balanced budgets, and a record-setting rainy day fund, but these achievements didn't materialize overnight. The turnaround began with a surprising legislative session seven years ago—one that reshaped Connecticut's financial future.

For years pension liabilities soared, deficits grew, and borrowing spun out of control. For much of the 2010s, the state government continued

to increase spending, relying on volatile revenue from high-income earners while neglecting long-term obligations. "We were spending like there was no tomorrow," former State Senator L. Scott Frantz recalled in an interview this week with the *Sentinel*, "and eventually, tomorrow came."

By the time the state hit rock bottom in 2017, it was staring down a \$5.1 billion budget deficit, the largest in its history, and watching its credit rating spiral downward. "We were on the verge of bankruptcy," Frantz said, reflecting on the state of affairs before Connecticut lawmakers passed the critical fiscal guardrails in 2017. "The forecasts were horrific. It was clear that if we didn't change course, the situation was going to implode."

The guardrails are not permanent. Parts of the legislation are set to expire in 2025

Political Control and Missteps

Governor Dannel Malloy, in office from 2011 to 2018, inherited a state already weakened by rising pension liabilities and a volatile tax base. His administration's approach to handling the crisis did little to improve Connecticut's long-term fiscal health. Pension obligations were growing exponentially, yet the solutions leadership offered often involved extending the liabilities into the future, with no clear path to paying down the debt.

"Every year, they were kicking the can further down the road," Frantz explained.

"The pensions were a ticking time bomb, and no one wanted to make the tough decisions to rein in spending."

Connecticut's reliance on income taxes, especially from wealthy residents whose earnings were tied to the stock market. When the markets were up, the state enjoyed short-term gains, but those surges masked a deeper issue. "We had windfall revenue from capital gains and other taxes during good years," Frantz said, "but instead of saving for a rainy day, they spent it all."

The Consequences of Mismanagement

The ballooning pension

costs, coupled with a lack of meaningful spending cuts, created a structural deficit. In January of 2016 General Electric, a longtime Connecticut fixture, packed up and relocated to Massachusetts, citing the unfavorable business climate. Other companies and high-net-worth individuals followed suit making it even harder for the state to close its growing budget gaps.

Connecticut's bond ratings were downgraded by major credit rating agencies, including Standard & Poor's, which reduced the state's rating to "A+" from "AA-" and later shifted

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COLUMN

Love and Loss Are Twins

BY JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

Loss in life is inevitable. Living things change, often not on our timetable. People we love die or move away. Others disappoint us or cause us suffering. Sometimes we disappoint ourselves. This is normal, not something to be medicated or hidden away.

Appropriately sharing our losses is gold for our psyches, as hard as this may be in the moment. The people we will cherish most are those who accept their losses, their fallibility, and their suffering, and use these experiences to become humble helpers of others.

Even happy events often include loss. When Ryan's daughter married and moved two thousand miles away, he was surprised that he grieved. As much as he celebrated his daughter's



Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry

marriage and admired his son-in-law, he was losing something precious to him. The same is true for every parent who leaves a child at summer camp or college. Our babies grow up and leave us when we do our job well.

Excerpted from Jill Woolworth's book, *The Waterwheel*, available at Diane's Books, Dogwood Bookstore, Amazon, and barnesandnoble.com. Jill is a therapist at the Center for Hope & Renewal.

Candidate Answers

As the November 5, 2024, election approaches, *The New Canaan Sentinel* has provided local candidate questionnaires to help voters make well-informed decisions. These responses offer valuable insights into where candidates stand on key local issues. By reading these answers, voters gain a clearer picture of how each candidate's policies will shape New Canaan's future. Before heading to the polls, take time to explore the positions of those seeking your vote and make your choice based on a thorough understanding of their priorities. Early voting is available at New Canaan Town Hall, and Election Day polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. SEE PAGE 6

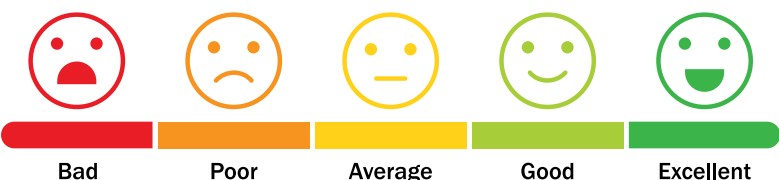


Support New Canaan's Behavioral Health Now

Deadline is October 31



The New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance (NCBHA) is urging residents to take part in a Community Health & Well-being Survey, running until Oct. 31. The survey, supported by over 30 local organizations, needs anonymous insights from residents. Lauren Patterson, President of the New Canaan Community Foundation, emphasized the survey's role in identifying gaps and ensuring resources are directed where they are most needed.



Now May Be the Best Time to Sell!
Are you Ready? The Engel Team is!

