

# The Town of Canaan NY

Your town - Your news

## *Welcome to Winter*



Greetings,

As winter approaches, and the end of the year is in sight, it's natural to take a moment to take stock and reflect. In spite of sometimes overwhelming world and national news this year, we have seen amazing local engagement and support at the town and community level.

The town passed several local laws this year updating the town road specifications, extending the term of the Highway Superintendent, re-creating the Tax Collector's position, and lastly, updating property tax

exemptions for firefighters, seniors, and the disabled, providing efficiencies and promoting stability in the community. The federal broadband grant continues to move forward although at a slower pace than anticipated. It's now looking more like early 2024 for the last-mile installations in Canaan.

Our veterans were remembered with local Memorial Day, Purple Heart, and Veteran's Day ceremonies. Special acknowledgement was paid to Vietnam Veterans; this year was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam Peace Accord. **Canaan, East Chatham and Red Rock, our three stalwart fire companies**, have demonstrated their continued dedication and commitment to our safety and well-being including extraordinary duties imposed by weather events in the late spring and late summer. The **East Chatham Fire Company** celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding and awarded **50+ Years of Service** awards to a half dozen or more members/auxiliary members. Programs and restoration projects underway at the Canaan Meeting House and Red Rock Schoolhouse, led by the **Canaan and Red Rock Historical Societies** respectively, have provided opportunities for community members to make or revisit connections with our varied and rich local history. The town appointed a local organizing committee to prepare and coordinate with the county committee for the upcoming **Semiquincentennial**, America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, in 2026.

The **Canaan Climate Smart Task Force** concluded a number of actions, including a greenhouse gas inventory, natural resource inventory, town building energy audits, community solar and clean energy campaigns, street lamp replacements, and a renovation of the Town Park eco-system for Canaan to become a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community. The task force is working now with Cornell Cooperative Extension on a **Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan (CARP)** which will assist the town, county, and various agencies in planning for emergencies and the future.

**Canaan Community Day**, under new leadership, was re-established this year with resounding success and clamors for a return event next year. Post-covid, the **Senior Lunch Program** is back to full strength and has expanded its weekly lunch program/social hour to include more varied programming such as off-site adventures, lunch and a movie, music, games and community service including writing holiday cards for overseas servicemen/women and adopting a local family for Christmas.

Local volunteer-led food pantries (**Charlie's Food Pantry in New Lebanon, the Chatham Food Pantry, and the Joseph Dwyer Veterans' Food Pantry**) have been unusually busy this year as has **Canaan Neighbors Helping Neighbors** providing food and other

basic needs in our community.

As we look forward to the coming holidays and time with our families and friends, I hope you will join me in expressing thanks to the volunteers, staff and public officials whose service makes our lives better every day.

May each of you find joy and peace at home, at work, and in our beloved community.

With gratitude,

***Brenda Adams***

***Town of Canaan Supervisor***



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*Our Third Annual*  
***Hanging of the Greens***

Holiday Carols and Readings,  
with the  
Canaan Historical Society

\* \* \*

Please join us at the Society's  
1829 Meeting House,  
at  
13 WARNERS CROSSING ROAD,  
in CANAAN, NY  
on  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 2023  
at 5:00 PM.

We'll supply the hot cider, doughnuts, and lyrics;  
you just have to bring your voice!

\*  
This event is free and open to all,  
and don't forget to dress warmly,  
as we will be outdoors!

\* \* \*

In case of inclement weather,  
please check our website,  
[www.Canaan-HistoricalSociety.org](http://www.Canaan-HistoricalSociety.org)  
for information.

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## *Can You Help?*

The Canaan Historical Society is seeking volunteers to help with our website, database management and program planning and implementation. If you have a yen to learn more about local history, the Historical Society is the place to be! Please email your skill set and contact information to [CanaanHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CanaanHistoricalSociety@gmail.com).





## ***Do You Qualify for an Exemption?***

The Town of Canaan and Columbia County have updated 3 existing tax exemptions.

### **Low Income Senior Exemption**

Seniors 65 years and older with incomes less than 42,399. Income includes all owners and their spouses. Income is from a prior year return (2022).

Income is defined as the federal adjusted gross income (FAGI) as reported on the applicant's federal form 1040 tax return(s) and subject to the following revisions:

- Social Security benefits not included in the applicant's FAGI are considered income.
- Distributions from an IRA or individual retirement annuity included in the applicant's FAGI are not considered income.
- Any tax-exempt interest or dividends that were not included in the applicant's FAGI is considered income.
- The net amount of loss claimed on federal Schedule C, D, E, F, or any

other separate category of loss cannot exceed \$3,000, and the total amount of all losses claimed cannot exceed \$15,000.

**Low Income Disabled Exemption**

Persons with a Disability and incomes less than 42,399. Income is from the year immediately preceding the application (2023).

**Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Worker**

Residential Real property owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service which serves the Town of Canaan. Applicant must be an active member for at least 2 years and be certified eligible from their department.

Exemption forms can be found on our website

[www.canaannewyork.org](http://www.canaannewyork.org) or picked up at the Town Hall.

**Exemptions are due by March 1<sup>st</sup> each year.**



JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON  
**CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY**  
CANAAN'S FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH.

7:00-8:30 PM

As part of our community-driven planning process, Columbia County and 15 towns, including Canaan, have been actively shaping **CARP plans**. Thanks to a grant from the Capital District Regional Planning Commission, Cornell Cooperative Extension has conducted a comprehensive survey and hosted public workshops to gather insights.

**Why Your Presence Matters:**

**Vision Statement Discussion:** Explore a draft vision statement crafted from community survey responses and workshop inputs.

**Q&A Session:** Have your questions answered and contribute to the dialogue.

**Your Expertise Counts:** As a town board member, community leader, or representative of an organization, your input is invaluable.

**Spread the Word!** Feel free to share this invitation with your organization and community members. **Everyone is welcome!**

**Event Details:**

Date & Time: December 5, 7 PM

Location: Canaan Town Hall

RSVP or Submit Comments: Contact Craig Westcott at [craig.arthur.westcott@gmail.com](mailto:craig.arthur.westcott@gmail.com)

Your Support Matters! Thank you for being a part of Canaan's sustainable future.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PRESENCE AT THIS VITAL COMMUNITY EVENT!**





***Happy Holidays from Canaan  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors!***

As we see the end of 2023 approaching quickly, CNHN would like to thank the community for all the support received for Canaan families. A total of 32 grants were made this year to families who live, work or volunteer in the Town of Canaan. These families will surely have a happier holiday because of the help they have received. Inflation has affected all of us, but those who are living with a tight budget have been hit especially hard. Fuel, electricity, food and rent have all gone up and those with a fixed or limited income need our help.

There are three time periods to apply for up to \$750 in assistance, and January 1, 2024 reopens the application process. The CNHN committee is sure there will be requests as soon as the process opens

again. Families may apply by simply emailing  
[CNHN@canaannewyork.org](mailto:CNHN@canaannewyork.org) and someone will be in touch

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*Join us for a Community  
Christmas Carol Sing!*



**Saturday, December 16  
4:00 p.m.**

*Canaan Congregational Church*  
**Route 295 and County Route 5, Canaan, NY**

**Catherine Schane-Lydon  
at the Piano**

**Refreshments  
Bring the kids!**



## ***So Much Happening at the Library!***

*Something for Everyone at the Chatham Public Library*

### ***Programs for Kids***

***Library Playgroup: For Caregivers & Children Ages Birth to 5***

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 10:15am - 12:15pm

Come enjoy playtime in the Children's Room! Enjoy a warm and inviting space where you and your child can play and socialize with others in the community. A great opportunity to meet up with other children, parents and caretakers. Recommended for ages 0-5, no registration required.

***Preschool Story Hour***

Friday, December 15, 22 & 29 at 10:30am

Join Miss Becky for stories, songs and a craft. For ages 3 to 5. No registration required for this weekly program

*Talk, Read, Sing Traveling Early Learning Storytime with GHPN*

Friday, December 8 at 10:30am

The group will read A Snowy Day and create their own fake snow. For ages 3 to 5, no registration required.

*Lego Club*

Mondays, December 4 & 18 at 4:00pm

Lego Club meets on the first and third Mondays of the month. What will you build to put in the Library's display cabinet? For ages 5 & up.

*Shake & Shout Toddler Storytime*

Mondays, December 4, 11 & 18 at 10:30am

Come get loud at the Library! Join other toddlers for a lively story time! Sing, dance, and read a book together. For ages 1 to 3. No registration is necessary for this weekly program.

*Chess Club for Kids*

Tuesday, December 12 from 3:00-4:00pm

Chatham Library Chess Club is designed to give students an opportunity to practice the game of chess, improve their skills, and to enjoy challenging their peers. If you have a chess board, bring it along. For ages 5 & up.

*New! Hora de Cuentos con la Sra. Sonia / Spanish Story Hour with Miss Sonia*

Thursdays at 3:00 pm,

December 7, 14, 21 & 28

¡Hola amigos! Únanse a la Sra. Sonia los jueves en la tarde en la

Biblioteca Pública de Chatham para La Hora De Cuentos, cuentos bilingües, canciones y rimas en español e inglés para niños de 3 a 5 años. La Hora De Cuentos es ofrecida a los hablantes de cualquier idioma. Es una gran oportunidad para desarrollar la habilidad de alfabetización a temprana edad y también para conocer a otros niños de edades preescolar y a padres en el vecindario. Este programa tendrá lugar semanalmente los jueves a las 3:00 de la tarde. No es necesario registrarse para atender y los hermanos son bienvenidos. Es presentado a ustedes por el generoso apoyo y subvención de La Fundación Berkshire-Taconic.

Hola amigos! Join Señora Sonia Thursday afternoons at the Chatham Public Library for Hora de Cuentos, bilingual stories, songs, and rhymes in Spanish and English for children ages 3-5. Storytime is open to speakers of all languages. It is a great opportunity to develop early literacy skills and meet other preschoolers and parents in the neighborhood! No registration is required to attend and siblings are welcome. Brought to you through the generous support of a Berkshire-Taconic Community Foundation grant.

### *Holiday Crafts*

Wednesday, December 6 at 3:00 pm

Join Roberta Nelson & Ms Becky and design your own holiday gifts & decorations: Beeswax Candles, Paper Stars & Snowflakes, Ornaments & Gift Bags. For ages 7 & up. Registration preferred.

### *After-school Movie Matinee*

2018/ Rated PG/ 90 minutes ***The Grinch***

Friday, December 22 at 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Enjoy refreshments and make a heart shaped ornament before the movie.

### ***Programs for Adults***

#### *DIY Wreath Making*

Monday, December 4 from 5-7pm

Learn to make fresh evergreen wreaths at the library. All materials will be supplied.

This free workshop is limited to only 10 participants, and it is expected to fill up quickly.

Email: [merka@chatham.k12.ny.us](mailto:merka@chatham.k12.ny.us) to reserve your spot.

#### *Chatham Letter Writing Society - Holiday Cards*

Monday, December 4 at 6:00 pm

Write Real Holiday Cards!

In an era of texting, emails and social media, some people are looking to revive good penmanship and the handwritten word. Each month, the group will meet at the Library for “letter writing socials” to practice the art of handwriting letters and cards for loved ones. The Library will supply stationery and cards. You may bring your favorite pens and some of your own stationery and cards to share with the group.

Refreshments will be provided by the Library. All ages welcome!

*Annual Holiday Sweets and Treats Swap!*

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 6pm

Our beloved annual cookie swap is back for the second year in a row! Share an old family favorite or give something new a try! We will have a variety of cookbooks on display to help you choose a recipe. Bring enough to share at our second annual cookie swap on December 20 at 6pm!

*Hudson Valley Chamber Musicians Winter Holiday*

*Concert Sponsored by the Friends of CPL*

Monday, December 11, 2023 at 6:30pm

This holiday themed concert is part of an ongoing music series offered by the Friends of CPL. The woodwind quintet will perform works by Mozart, Richard Strauss, Tchaikovsky along with various pieces reflecting the festive winter season. Come to the library to enjoy Christmas, Hanukkah and winter songs and classical music.

*Tech Tutor, Reed Fisch*

Fridays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 3:00 pm

Tech Tutors are High School students who provide one-on-one help for adults to learn basic computer skills or how to better use their device.

Basic instruction may include how to use a mouse, download an eBook, set up an email account, search the Internet, or navigate Facebook, Pinterest or Twitter. Bring your tablet, phone, or laptop with you. Visit or call the library to sign-up.

*Chatham Roots Genealogy*

Thursday, December 7 at 2:00pm

Chatham Roots meets in the Library again! This monthly genealogy club can assist in the search for your family. The group is led by Michelle LeClair. For information and the Zoom link (if unable to attend in person), email [michelle@leclairdesign.com](mailto:michelle@leclairdesign.com).

Refreshments will be provided.

### *Library Walking Club*

Fridays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 10:00am

Hit the local trails with Library staff. The group will set the pace together as they explore many CLC conservation areas together. The group welcomes special guests who can share more about the flora, fauna, and history of the area they will traverse. Registration required! Email [merka@chatham.k12.ny.us](mailto:merka@chatham.k12.ny.us) for weekly locations.

### *Chatham Writing Group*

Tuesdays, December 5 & 19 at 10:30am

The Chatham Writing Group meets in the Library again! They are an informal group that explores the craft of writing. New members welcome! Email [ajourney@fairpoint.net](mailto:ajourney@fairpoint.net) to join.

### *Health Care Navigator*

Thursday, December 14 from 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Navigators assist individuals, families, small businesses and small business employees in Columbia and Greene counties with shopping for, comparing, and enrolling in quality affordable health insurance, including Medicaid and Child Health Plus, through New York State of



Health: the Official Health Plan Marketplace. Navigators can also assist with applying for financial assistance to help pay for coverage. Navigator services are free of charge. For more information or to make an appointment, please call (518) 822-9600.

### *Meditation with Annie*

Mondays, December 4, 11 & 18 from 1:00-2:00pm

Spend a few minutes quieting your mind and centering yourself with Monday Meditation. Feel free to bring a journal and a stone, crystal, or other small item that's meaningful to you.

### *Mah Jongg Club*

Mondays, December 4, 11 & 18 at 10:30am

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20 & 27 at 2:00pm

The Library's dedicated Mah Jongg players meet upstairs in the non-fiction room every Monday and Wednesday.

### *Chair Yoga with Kathy Schneider-Doyle*

Tuesdays, December 5, 12 & 19 at 4:00pm on ZOOM

The practice of yoga can improve flexibility, range of motion, and balance, support healthy joints, enhance breathing, and promote mental calmness. Chair yoga creates a safe space for movement and balance. Kathy, MS, RN, AEA, RYT 200, has been a community health nurse for 43 years and an instructor in aquatics and yoga for over ten years. Email [merka@chatham.k12.ny.us](mailto:merka@chatham.k12.ny.us) to register!

### *Gentle Yoga with Amanda*

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20 & 27 at 12:00 noon

Join Library Director and Certified Yoga Instructor Amanda Merk for a gentle, introductory class. Participants do not need to have any prior yoga experience, but should have the ability to get up and down off the floor.

\*Curt Anthon will teach our Gentle Yoga class on December 6 and 27.

*Qigong with Teacher Curt Anthon*

Thursdays, December 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 12:00 noon

This is a gentle practice that enhances coordination, balance and circulation.

*Ukulele Jam*

Sing, strum, play at the Library! It's more fun to play in a group. All ages are welcome to the Ukulele Jams, led by Carmen Borgia, singer, songwriter and ukulele player extraordinaire! Leave your inhibition at home. Ukes will be available, including several you can borrow to take home. The Uke Jam is generously funded by the Friends of CPL.

Saturdays, December 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 at 10:30am

*The Library will be closed Monday, December 25th, and Monday, January 1st.*

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***Keep the Heat on with HEAP!***



The Home Energy Assistance Program(HEAP) helps low income New Yorkers pay for their energy bills. If your bills are more than you can handle, HEAP may be able to help you heat your home.

The only way to know if you qualify is to apply. To fine out when HEAP benefits are available during the year, visit <http://otda.ny.gov> or call 800-342-3009.

Check your eligibility for a range of benefits and apply for HEAP at <http://myBenefits.ny.gov>

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***Keep Your Identity Safe***



### ***KISS program at the Town Hall***

The Columbia County Kiss Program (Keeping the Identities of Seniors Safe) is now available to seniors November 27 through December 8. Founded by Columbia County Clerk Holly Tanner in 2015, the program is designed to protect the identities of seniors through the collection and shredding of secure documents. Locked bins will be located in the Town Hall, across from the Town Clerk's office, during normal Clerk's office hours.

Since its inception, the program has shredded and recycled over 95,000 pounds or 48 tons of documents. Pounds collected over the last two years have increased dramatically as identity thefts have risen and more seniors become aware of this exposure.



***Message from the Columbia County Director of Veteran Services Gary Flaherty***

Once a month, the county **Honor a Veteran** committee conducts services at the county office building to honor a deceased veteran for the services they rendered to their community and country. The program is sponsored by Congressman Marc Molinaro, NY State Senator Michelle Hinchey and the Columbia County Board of Supervisors. Family, friends and the community are invited to the ceremony. To submit an application, call Joann at 518-828-3610 for more information.

The **Joseph Dwyer Food Pantry for Veterans** is open 3 days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 9:30 to 1:30, at 389 Fairview Avenue in Hudson. Donations to the food pantry can be made at the Canaan Fire Company in Canaan, 2126 Route 295, Canaan, New York.

Thanks to the Canaan Fire Company and all involved for the generous

support of our Veterans' Food Pantry. It is an overwhelming *success!*

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## ***Dewitt Brown Cemetery Clean-up***



**Led by Town Historian Dodie Gearing**, volunteers worked at the Dewitt Brown Cemetery (New Concord Cemetery 1764 – 1835) this fall to spruce up this important site. Martin Beebe, First Town Clerk of King's District, and John Beebe, the Patriarch of New Concord, are buried here. Polly Thomas Eaton, the first wife of Amos Eaton, the President of RPI, is also buried here. This Cemetery was started when we were the KING'S DISTRICT and New Concord was a part of our Colonial Province

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## ***Changes are Coming***

On December 31, **Alan Miller** will retire from the Town Board after 12 years of service. We thank Alan for his service and wish him well with future endeavors.

On January 1, **Brian Lifsec** will be sworn in as the newest Town Board member. Welcome Brian!

The **Tax Collector's** office hours will change as follows in 2024:

**January:** Monday and Wednesday from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM  
Friday 9:30 AM to 12 PM

**February:** Monday & Wednesday from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM

As of January 01, 2024, residents will need a **2024 Transfer Station sticker**, available from the Town Clerk during normal business hours. Stickers will be **available as of December 18th** at no charge to town residents.

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Editorial services on the Town of Canaan New York Newsletter provided by L. Spencer Humphrey and Donna Mattoon.

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