



**SHOPPING FUN IN THE SUN**

Check out more photos from last weekend's Sidewalk Sale **A3**



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Man honors cousin's memory **B1**

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Summer show at Rockwell Gallery **B4**

Friday, July 23, 2010

# New Canaan News

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## Sidewalk Sale brings savvy shoppers into town

By Amanda Crisafi  
Correspondent

On Saturday, July 15, New Canaan hosted its annual sidewalk sale and fought through the high temperatures and competition from surrounding towns.

With the sun blazing down on the paved streets of South Avenue, Main, Cherry and Elm streets, many residents stepped out of their air conditioned houses and joined in the heat at the community event. Merchants and town businesses set their products on the street pulling revenue from their inventory. Entertainers joined in on the fun and, to keep cool, a dunking tank was present and free ice cream was handed out courtesy of Web-

ster Bank.

New Canaan Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tucker Murphy said the event offered a community feel and invited both merchants and shoppers to have some fun.

"Unfortunately with Darien's sidewalk sale the same day as New Canaan's, numbers in crowd were down more than usual," she said. "It played a role; people didn't necessarily go to both. Regular fairgoers favor going to both, yet this year with the heat and the scheduling made it impossible for some.

"When neighboring towns go into competition with each other attendance will go down," said Tony DeBenedictis, manager of

Athletic Shoe Factory, one of the many stores that participated in the event.

"Some people come early and then go home and come back later, but because it was so hot people might not have done that," Murphy said.

Many people were pleased with the event, and the parking situation was easier this year. With Morse court re-opened and used for parking, many were allowed more parking spots. Parts of Main and Forest streets were closed to traffic, allowing the fair to be more spread out this year.

The food court, at the intersection of South and Elm streets, allowed people to relax, grab some-



Brendan Stasiukiewicz / for the New Canaan News

Victoria German, left, discusses her jewelry designs with customers at the sidewalk sale last Saturday.

See Sidewalk on A8

## How does their garden grow?

By Amanda Crisafi  
Correspondent

New Canaan residents Richard and Sandra Bergmann opened their backyard to the public July 18 to showcase their personal architectural contemporary garden.

With the equivalent of 20 gardens in one, the Bergmann's garden has a therapeutic relaxing setting with many complementary color schemes of plants and furniture. The garden features sculptures that range in meaning and trees from the 1930s which still stand and shade this relaxing landmark. Locals are amazed something like this is in their own little town.

Using his architecture knowledge and her finishing touches, the Bergmanns have put together a shaded relaxing area for many different types of people to enjoy.

Located at 63 Park St., the garden's public side can be seen from the street with cone-



Amanda Crisafi / For the New Canaan News

New Canaan residents Richard and Sandra Bergmann are proud of their garden, which has attracted many visitors.

shaped bushes facing the town. "It is a gift to the street," Sandra Bergmann said. The public is then led to a surprise as

one follows the stone walkway towards the back of the house and into the private side of the

See Garden on A8

## Summer jobs for teens scarce downtown

By Maggie Gordon  
mgordon@bcnnew.com

Many businesses in downtown New Canaan are turning away young job hunters this summer.

"Unfortunately we didn't have any positions this summer," said Gina Bonilla, the operations manager at Garelick & Herb.

"Usually we're able to hire," she said.

According to Bonilla, the business usually receives about 10 applications at the beginning of summertime. Last year she was able to hire two temporary workers for the summer,

See Jobs on A8

## Farmers' markets branch out to specialty products

By Makayla Silva  
Staff Writer

Organic chicken tinga, allergen-free cupcakes and black bean and Niman Ranch pork carne adovada tamales are just some of the specialty foods luring customers to local farmers markets in southwestern Connecticut.

The roughly two dozen farmers markets in Fairfield County communities have broadened the list of vendors who offer more sophisticated products and who themselves

See Market on A8

## \$125K for stimulus signs for Connecticut

By Ken Dixon  
Staff Writer

Connecticut has spent more than \$125,000 in federal stimulus money for signs along highways and outside state facilities proclaiming participation in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

State officials said Tuesday that projects under the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and other non-transportation programs are required to display signs to describe projects.

State DOT officials said that

while the signs such as the large green ones along the Merritt Parkway in Fairfield and Trumbull are not mandatory, the Obama administration wants motorists to know about the \$70 million road rehabilitation project.

Of the 40 ARRA projects under way within the state Department of Transportation, 16 have signs visible in each direction along the highways.

Those 32 signs cost about \$3,000 each, for a total of \$96,000 within the \$455 million of ARRA transportation projects in Connecticut.

"The signs are not mandatory but they are strongly recommended to promote transparency per the ARRA legislation," said Judd Everhart, spokesman for the state DOT. "Their purpose is to inform the public as to where, and what, the stimulus funds are being used for. As far as the local jobs, we have left it up to the cities and municipalities to decide."

The Federal Highway Administration says the recommended labeling of the projects is to ensure public disclosure.

See Signs on A9



File Photo

Traffic along the Merritt Parkway drives past the start of the Merritt Parkway Reconstruction project running through Trumbull and Fairfield. The project is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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### Weather

Hot weather continues with partly cloudy today and thunderstorms overnight.

**HIGH**  
82

**LOW**  
72

