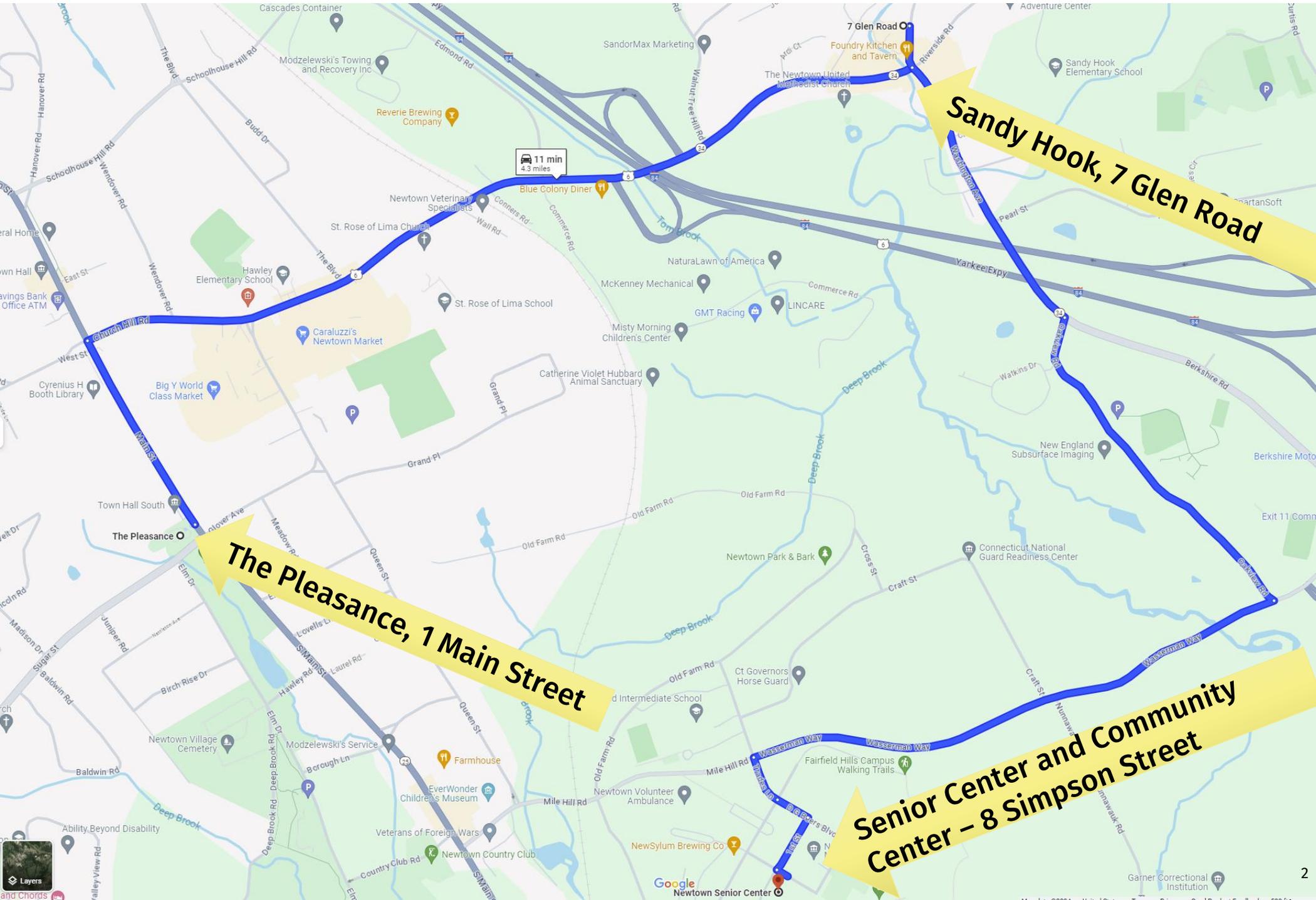


# Flagpole Photographers Newtown Workshop

## April 27, 2024

<b>All day</b>	Ask lots of questions, really!
<b>8:50</b>	Meet at The Pleasance at 1 Main Street, Newtown
<b>9:00</b>	While taking photos, focus on fundamentals, holding camera steady, composition, moving for different angles/different heights/different distances
<b>9:30</b>	Learn about changing how much of the scene should and can be in focus, and how this changes composition options
<b>10:00</b>	Break and drive 2 miles to downtown Sandy Hook, Parking Area near 7 Glen Road
<b>10:30</b>	Learn about capturing motion, freezing motion, blurring motion, whatever is appropriate for the scene
<b>11:00</b>	Treasure Hunt! Combine what you have learned to create better photos
<b>Noon</b>	Lunch on your own in Sandy Hook area. Take photos of your food and surroundings. At lunch review your photos and choose 3 to share. If you want, bring your lunch to the Senior Center.
<b>1:00</b>	Drive 2 miles to Newtown Senior Center, 8 Simpson Street, Newtown and move indoors. Share 3 photos and then watch and learn while they are reviewed and edited.
<b>2:30</b>	Finished

# Map – High Level



**Sandy Hook, 7 Glen Road**

**The Pleasance, 1 Main Street**

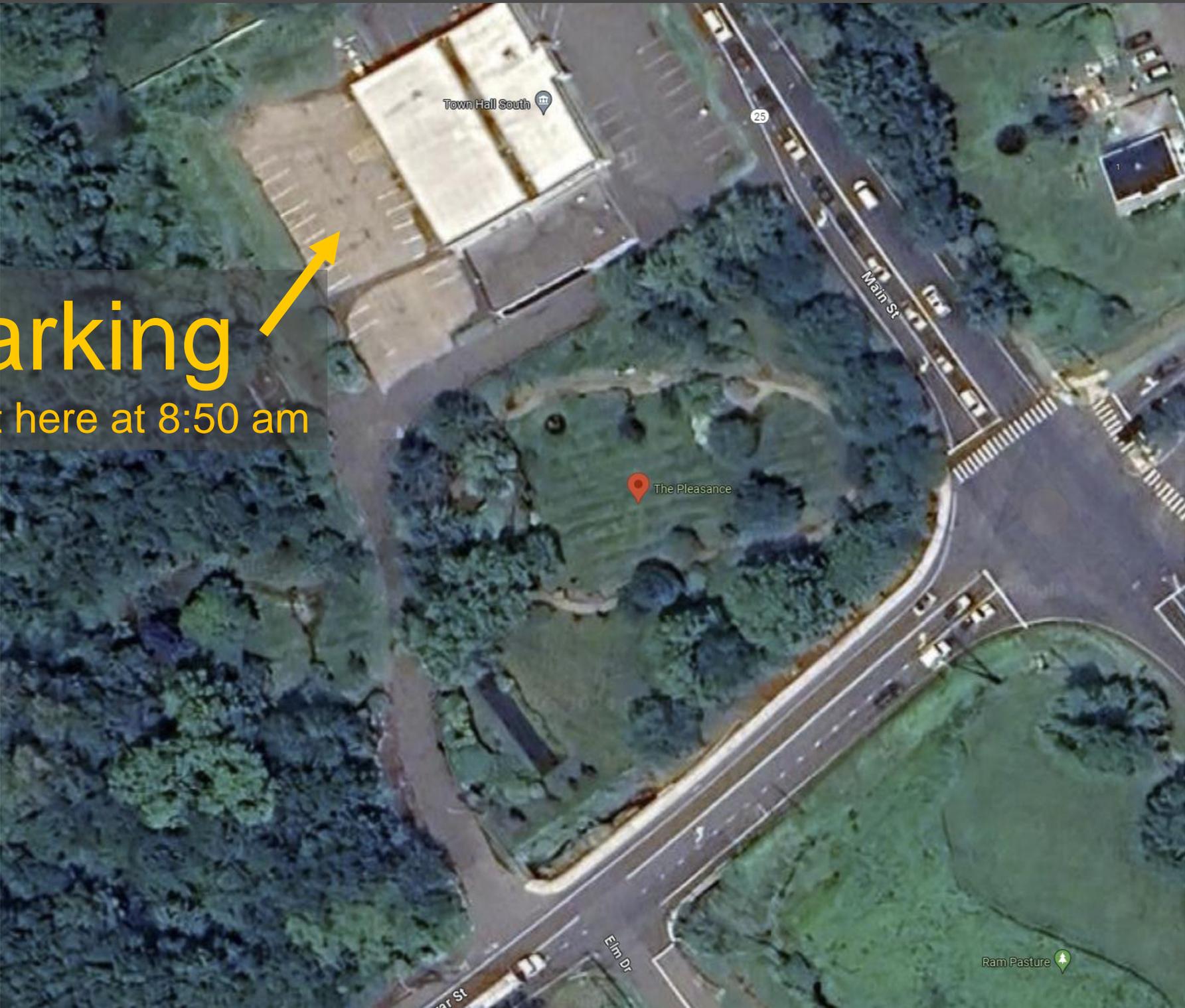
**Senior Center and Community Center – 8 Simpson Street**

11 min  
4.3 miles

# The Pleasance in Newtown, 1 Main Street, Newtown CT

Parking

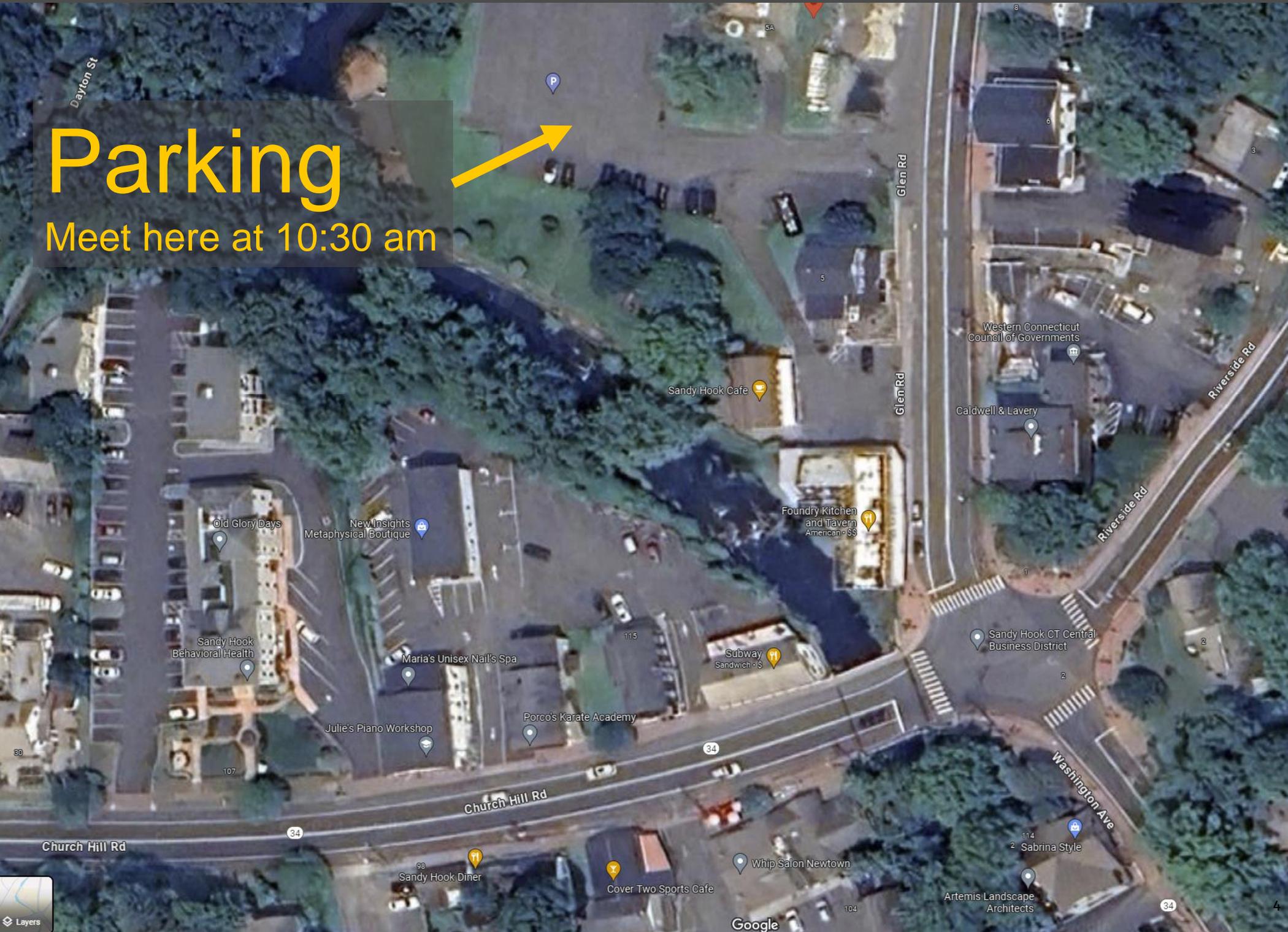
Meet here at 8:50 am



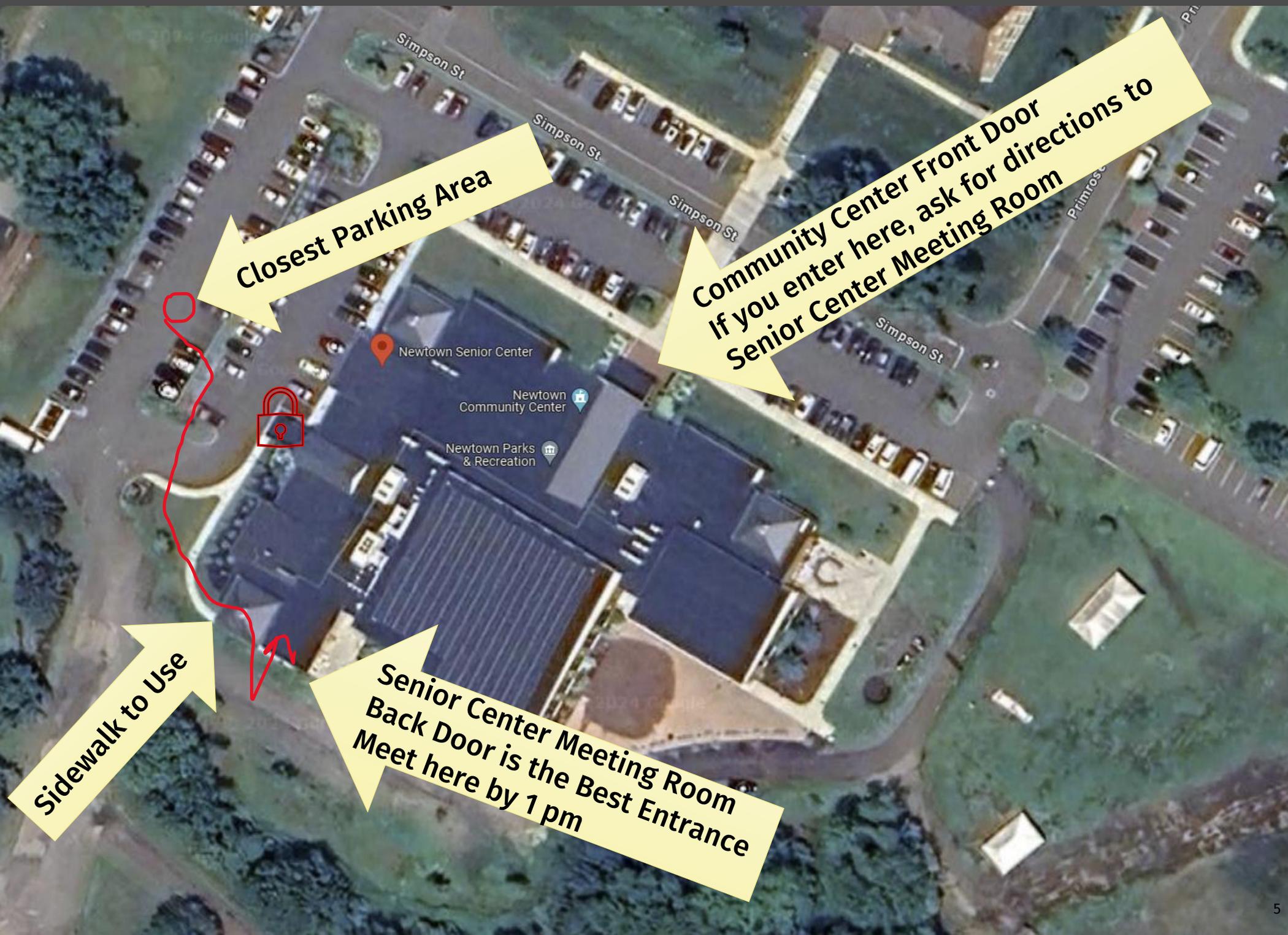
# 7 Glen Rd, Sandy Hook, CT

# Parking

Meet here at 10:30 am



# Newtown Senior Center, 8 Simpson Street



**Closest Parking Area**

**Community Center Front Door**  
If you enter here, ask for directions to  
Senior Center Meeting Room

**Sidewalk to Use**

**Senior Center Meeting Room**  
Back Door is the Best Entrance  
Meet here by 1 pm

# Map – Handy Bathrooms



# Holding Your Camera Steady for Sharper Photos

## Hands

1. Rest the lens in your left hand
2. Grip the camera body with your right hand
3. Right index finger over the shutter release
4. Rotated, use same hands

## Elbows

1. Elbows tucked into your body
2. Or rest elbows on a surface
3. Light breaths

## Legs

1. A little apart so you're balanced
2. Maybe sit or take a knee
3. Lean against a wall or tree
4. Tripod, rock, car

## Then

1. Gently squeeze shutter
2. Half-press activates autofocus
3. Change viewfinder for your eyesight

# Camera & Photography

## Terms to Know

### Exposure *“Well Lit”*

- Today, we’ll leverage camera smarts
- No manual settings required

### Focus *“Sharp”*

- Choose how much focus – Aperture
- Choose to freeze or blur – Shutter

### Composition *“Pleasing”*

- Guide viewers to what you want them to see
- Creating photos that feel ‘OK’ with a sense of balance & harmony



# How to Tell Your Camera What to Focus On

Half-press shutter button and reframe scene

Moving the focus location with a camera button

Sometimes as easy as touching the screen

# Photography is Recording Light

Learning to leverage light is a lifetime experience

## Natural Light

Constantly changing by the time of day and the clouds in the sky



Light to cast a shadow



Light to highlight a face



Light to define a mode or tell a story



Gathering light to see in the dark

**Rule of thumb** - start with the light on your back, then keep moving to evaluate other viewpoints

## Look around and evaluate light

1. Where is the light coming from in relation to your scene and to your camera?
2. How strong is the light? Is it diffused (sun behind a cloud), are there many sources (multiple windows)
3. What color is the light? Is it golden hour (shortly after sunrise and before sunset), blue hour (twilight)
4. Is there a way to change the light? Wait, change the scene, move to a new location, use a flash ...
5. What camera settings do I use?

# Perspective - A Point of View

Looking beyond the obvious.

**Get down low, look up**



**Take the high road, look down**



**Look behind you**



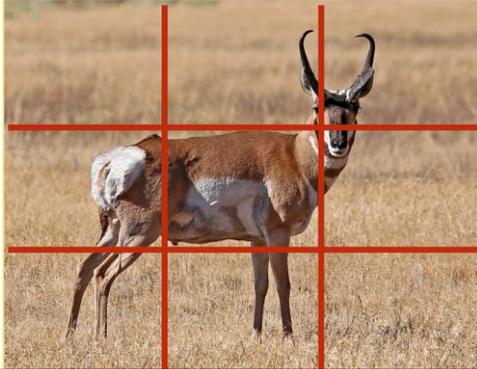
## Hands on Activity

1. Take a photo of something on the ground near you
2. Take a photo looking up a tree
3. Look behind you to see what you missed

# Composition – a *Pleasant Look*

## Hands on Activity

1. Quickly take a photo using Rule of Thirds
2. Review it on your camera



**Rule of Thirds**  
Place the most interesting item on the lines or intersection



The track leads your eye to the train

**Leading Lines**  
Use a line to lead the viewer to the most interesting item



**Rule of Odds**  
For visual balance and harmony use 1, 3 or 5 items



Space for the hawk to move into

**Leaving Space**  
Breathing room and implied motion

# Avoiding Focus Problems – More Ideas

## #1 Camera motion

Hold your camera steady

## #2 Not actually focusing on subject

For example, the background between 2 people  
Learn to “see” what your camera is focusing on by pressing the shutter button halfway



## #3 What if not all of the important items are in focus

Rule of thumb - Aperture number is around the number of items in the photo you want in focus

For example, f/8 for 8 people

## #4 Adjusting the Aperture practice

Varies by camera

# Capturing the Decisive Moment

## Freezing Action

### What freezes movement?

- 1/4000 - Hummingbird wings
- 1/2000 - Birds in flight
- 1/1000 - Trains, autos, bikes
- 1/500 - Runners, horses, soccer
- 1/250 - Walkers
- 1/125 - Light wind

### What is “motion blur”?

- Freezing a moving subject by panning your camera sync'd to the subject's motion



### Silky waterfall?

- Try 1 sec



1/1000 of a second, f/4.5, ISO 1000, 70mm

# Treasure Hunt

## Photograph any 7 of these 17 items

Over the next hour your challenge is to find, then create great photos

### Search for these

1. Rust
2. Lamp
3. Motorcycle
4. Bridge
5. Water
6. Church
7. Sign
8. Flag
9. Food
10. Peeling paint
11. Yellow
12. Brick
13. Stairs
14. Railing
15. Car
16. Wine bottle
17. Person

### While practicing technique

- *Light - where is the sun*
- *Perspective - change it up*
- *Rule of thirds*
- *Leading lines*
- *Fill the frame*
- *Simplify*
- *Avoid distracting backgrounds*