

Photography Workshop Schedule

The photographer who asks a question is uncertain for a minute; the photographer who does not ask is a beginner for life.

8:50 Meet & Greet: The Pleasance, 1 Main Street, Newtown, CT

9:00 Photography Fundamentals: Learn techniques for sharp photos through steady camera holding and explore composition using varied angles, heights, and distances.

9:30 Controlling Focus: Understand aperture's effect on depth of focus (the zone of sharpness) and its compositional impact.

10:00 Travel Break: Drive 2 miles to Sandy Hook Center. Meet: Parking Area near 7 Glen Road, Sandy Hook

10:30 Capturing Motion: Learn techniques to capture motion, including freezing action and creating intentional blur based on the scene.

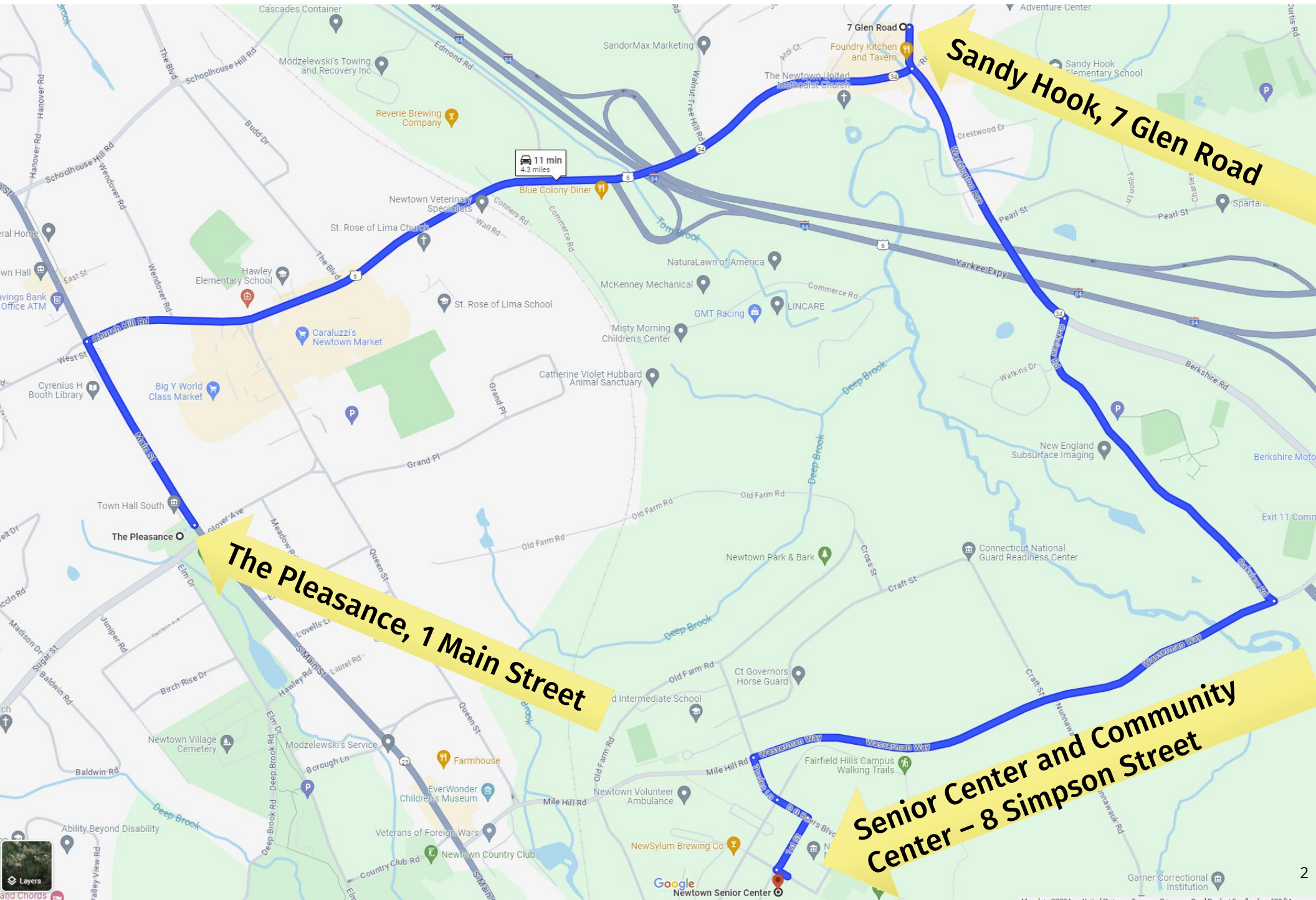
11:00 Creative Photo Challenge: Apply new skills during a photo 'Treasure Hunt.'

Noon Lunch Break (On Your Own or Join Others): Options: Explore local Sandy Hook eateries OR bring your lunch. Activity: Review your morning photos and choose your favorite 3 to share. Tip: Feel free to practice food/detail shots during lunch!

1:00 Post-Processing Tips & Digital Darkroom: Drive 2 miles to Newtown Senior Center, 8 Simpson Street. Participate in a group review and editing session to make your photos shine for print and social media.

2:30 Workshop Concludes

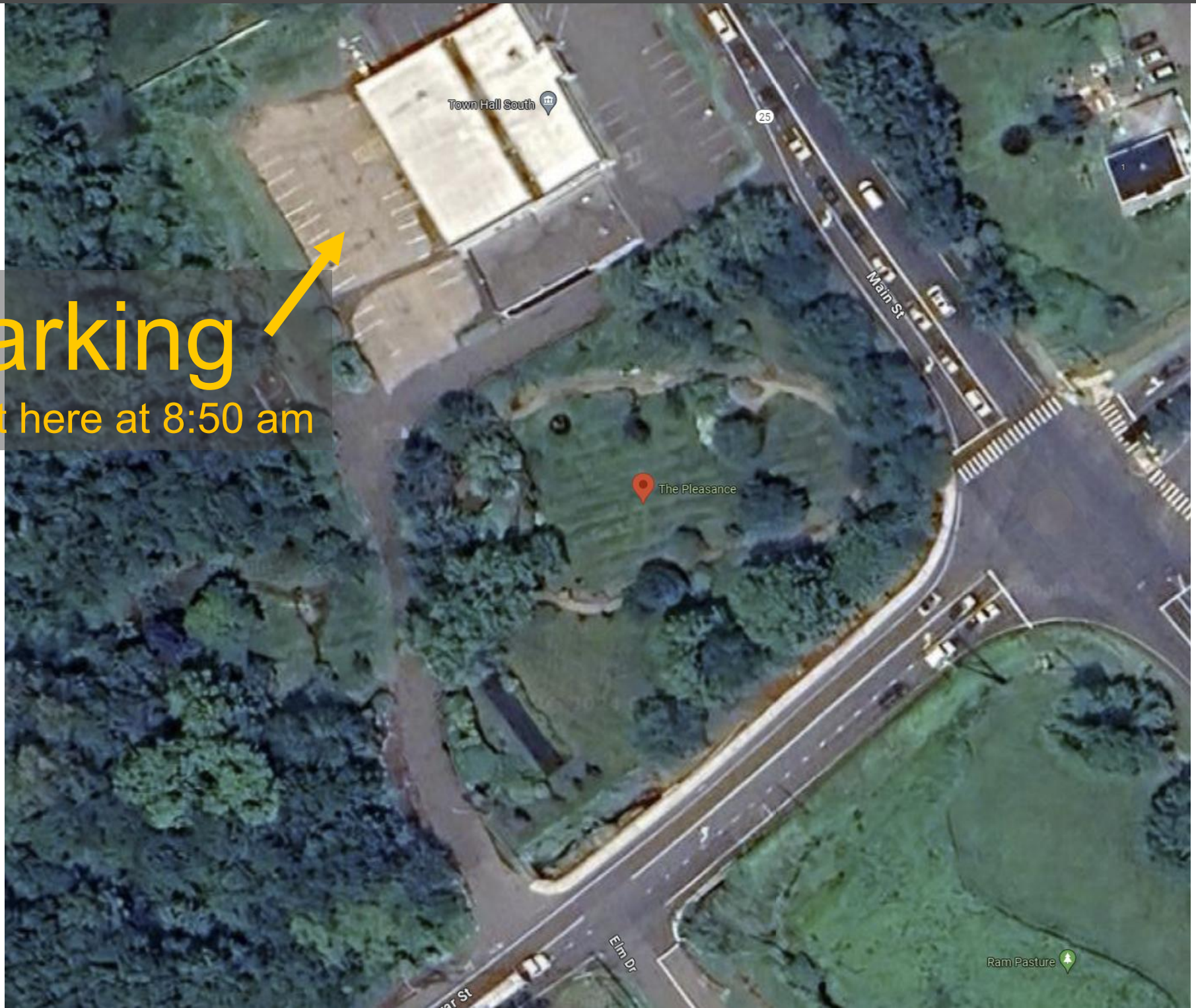
Map – High Level



The Pleasance in Newtown, 1 Main Street, Newtown CT

Parking

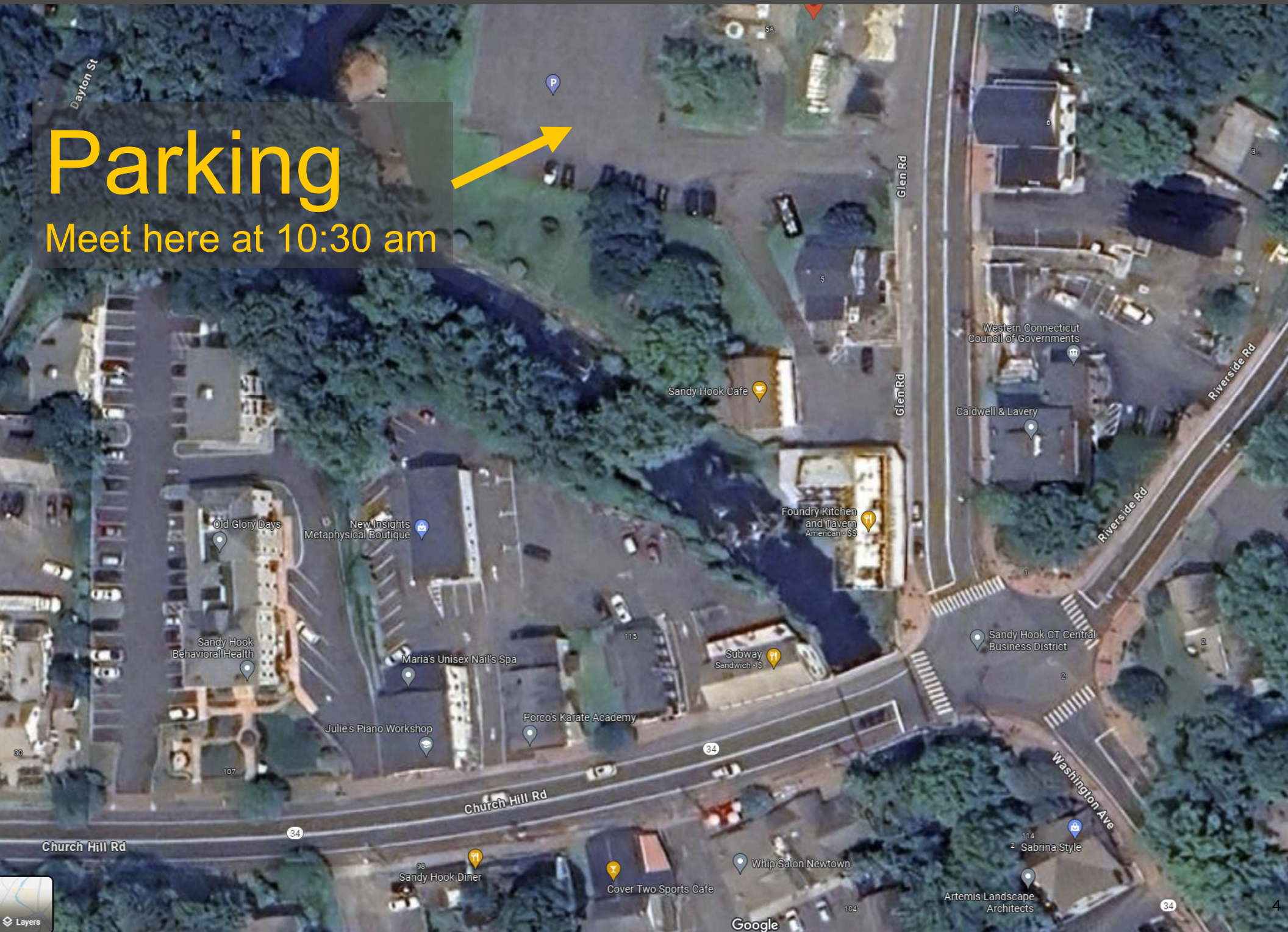
Meet here at 8:50 am



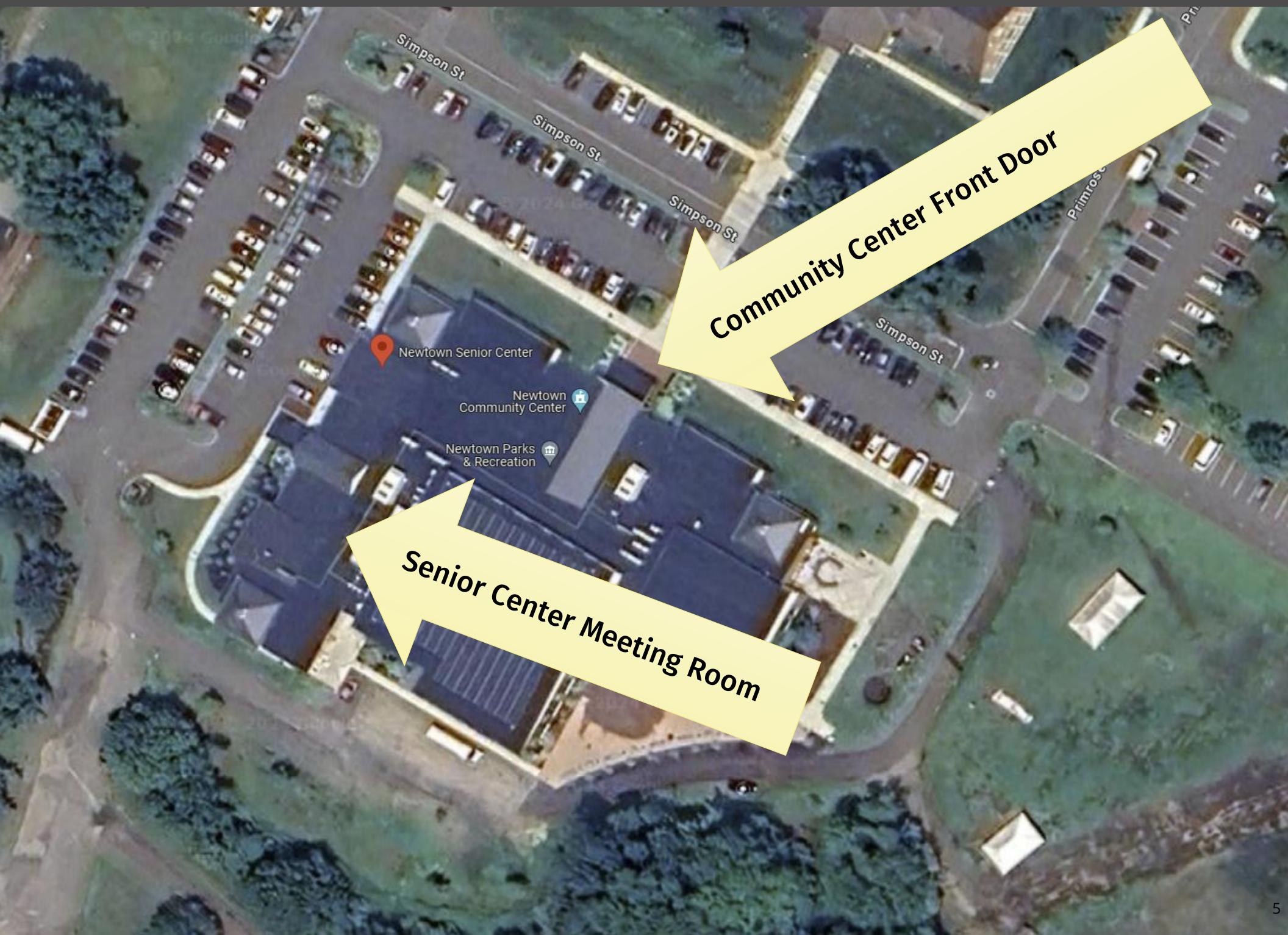
7 Glen Rd, Sandy Hook, CT

Parking

Meet here at 10:30 am



Newtown Senior Center, 8 Simpson Street





NEWTOWN COMMUNITY & SENIOR CENTER

8 Simpson Street
Newtown, CT

Map – Handy Bathrooms



Holding Your Camera Steady for Sharper Photos

Hands

- Rest the lens in your left hand. Grip the camera body with your right hand. Right index finger over the shutter release.

Elbows

- Elbows tucked into your body. Or rest elbows on a surface. Light breaths.

Legs

- A little apart so you're balanced. Maybe sit or take a knee. Lean against a wall or tree.

Other Support

- Tripod, rock, car.

Technique

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

Camera & Photography

Terms to Know

Aperture (f-stop)

- Controls the amount of light entering the lens and determines the depth of focus.

Shutter Speed

- The length of time the camera sensor is exposed to light; crucial for freezing or blurring motion.

ISO

- The camera sensor's sensitivity to light.

Depth of Focus

- The distance between the closest and farthest objects in a photo that appears acceptably sharp.

Composition

- The arrangement of visual elements within the frame.

Camera Smarts

- Auto – Let the camera decide
- Modes – Use to prioritize aspects of auto.

How to Tell Your Camera What to Focus On

Phone & Many Cameras – Touch the screen

Traditional Focusing: Utilizing a single-point focus and manually moving it over your subject.

Tracking: Leverage subject tracking and eye-tracking for humans and animals.

Technique: “See” what your camera is focusing on by pressing the shutter button halfway.

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.

Rule of thumb: Start with the light on your back, then keep moving to evaluate other viewpoints.



Light to cast a shadow



Light to highlight a face



Light to define a mood or tell a story



Gathering light to see in the dark

Look around and evaluate light:

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

Using light to cast a shadow:

- highlight a face, define a mood, or tell a story.

Perspective – A Point of View

Looking beyond the obvious

1. Get down low, look up.
2. Take the high road, look down.
3. Look behind you to see what you missed.



Hands-on Challenge

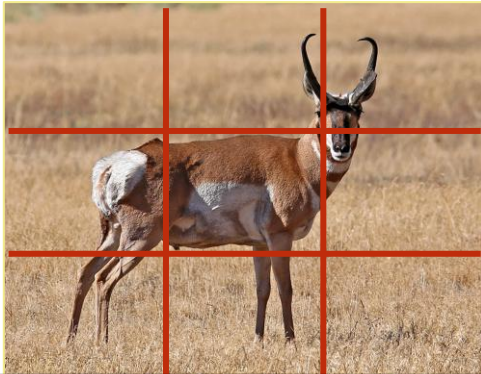
1. Take a photo of something on the ground.
2. Take a photo looking up a tree.
3. Look behind you to see what you missed.



Composition – a *Pleasant* Look

Hands On Activity

1. Quickly take a photo using each rule
2. Review it on your camera



Rule of Thirds

Place the most interesting item on the lines or intersection



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



Leaving Space

Breathing room and implied motion

Avoiding Focus Problems – More Ideas

#1 Was it caused by camera motion?
Hold your camera steady

#2 Are you 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

How to adjust the Aperture 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

Find for these

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Car | 10. Person |
| 2. Church | 11. Railing |
| 3. Fence | 12. Reflection |
| 4. Flag | 13. Shadow |
| 5. Food | 14. Sign |
| 6. Historic Brick | 15. Stairs |
| 7. Moss | 16. Weathered Wood |
| 8. Pattern | 17. Wine Bottle |
| 9. Peeling paint | 18. Yellow |

While practicing technique

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