

# 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 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.

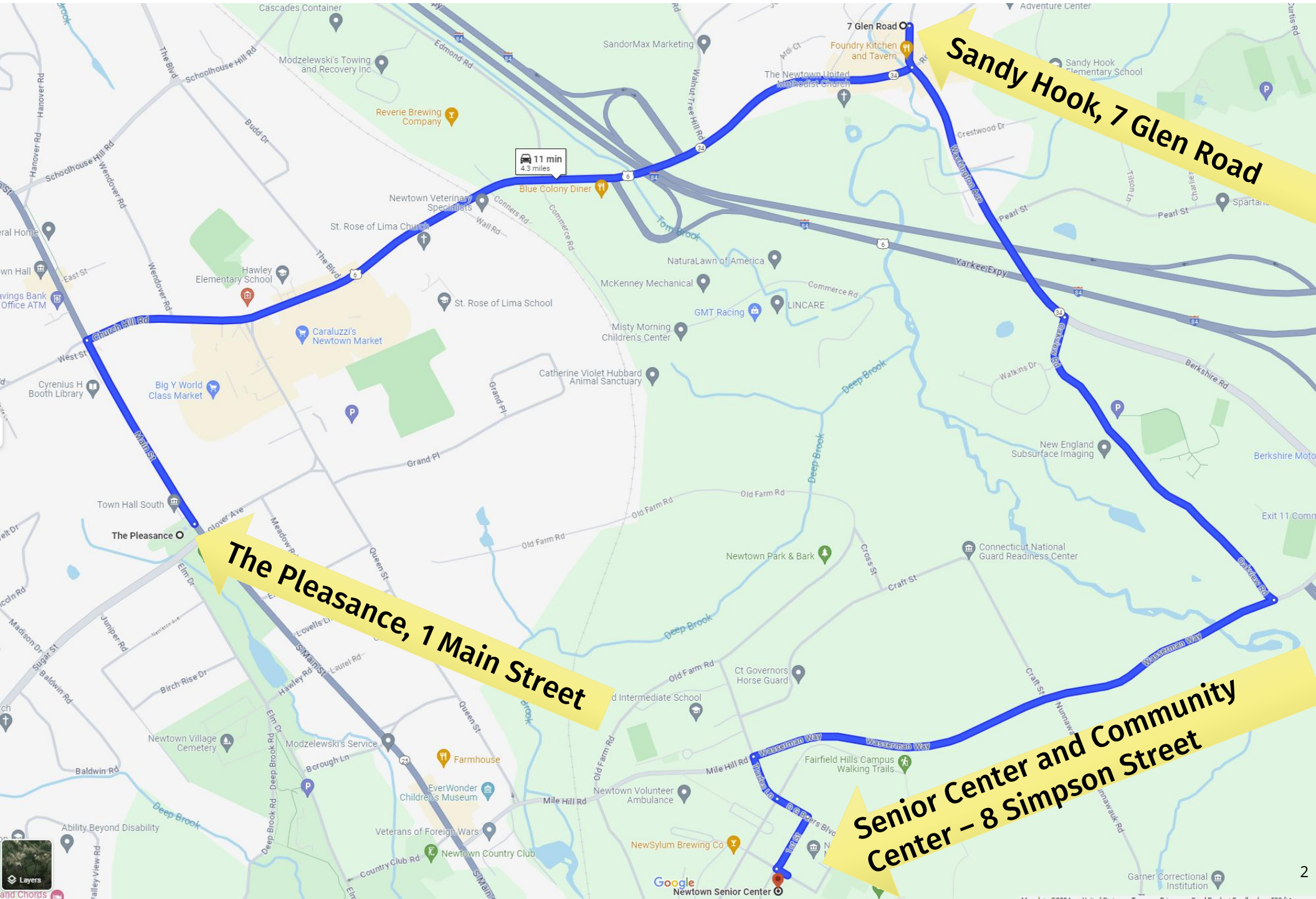
**11:00 Creative Photo Challenge:** Apply new skills during a photo 'Treasure Hunt.'

**Noon Lunch Break (On Your Own):** 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**

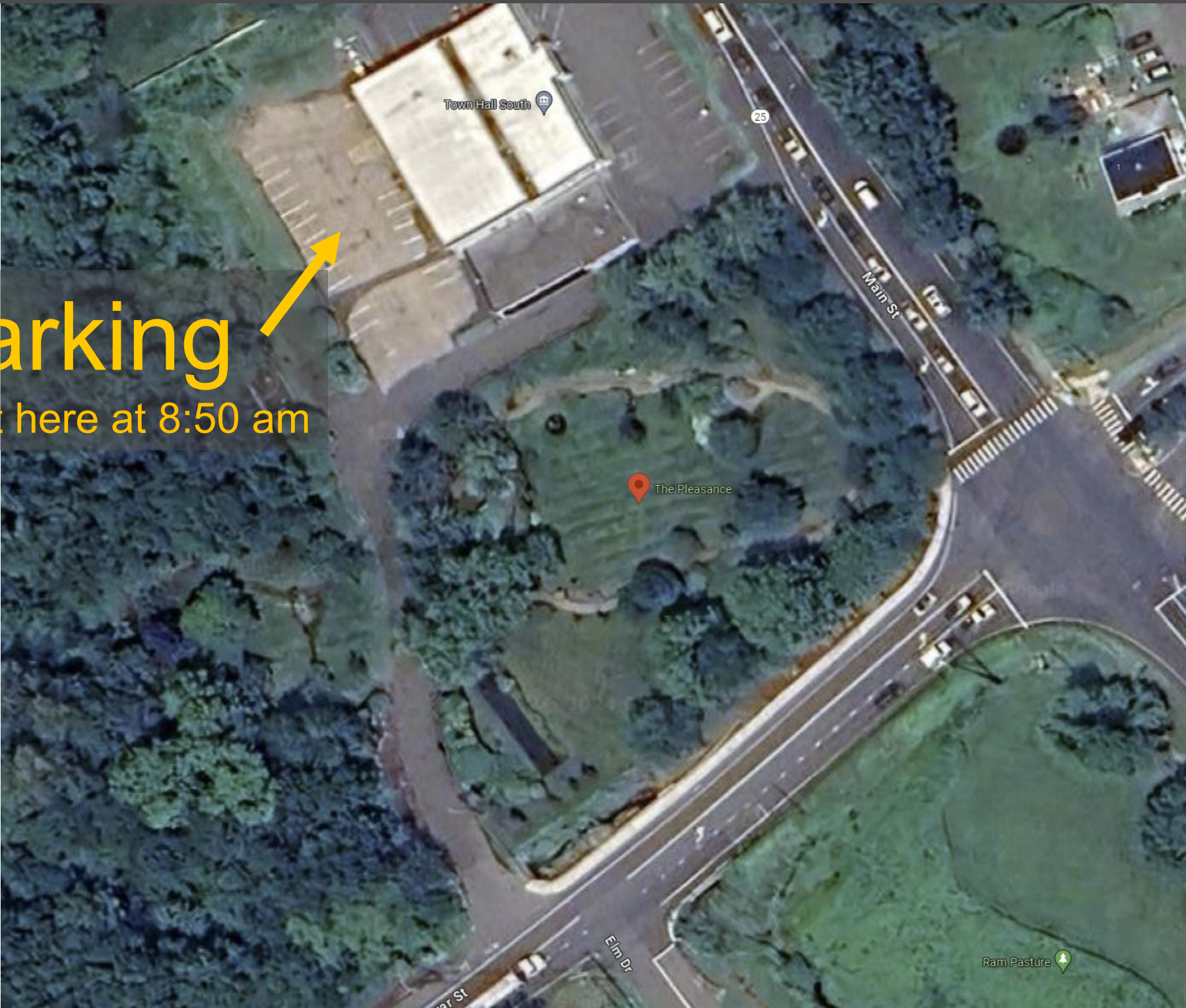
# Map – High Level



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

Parking

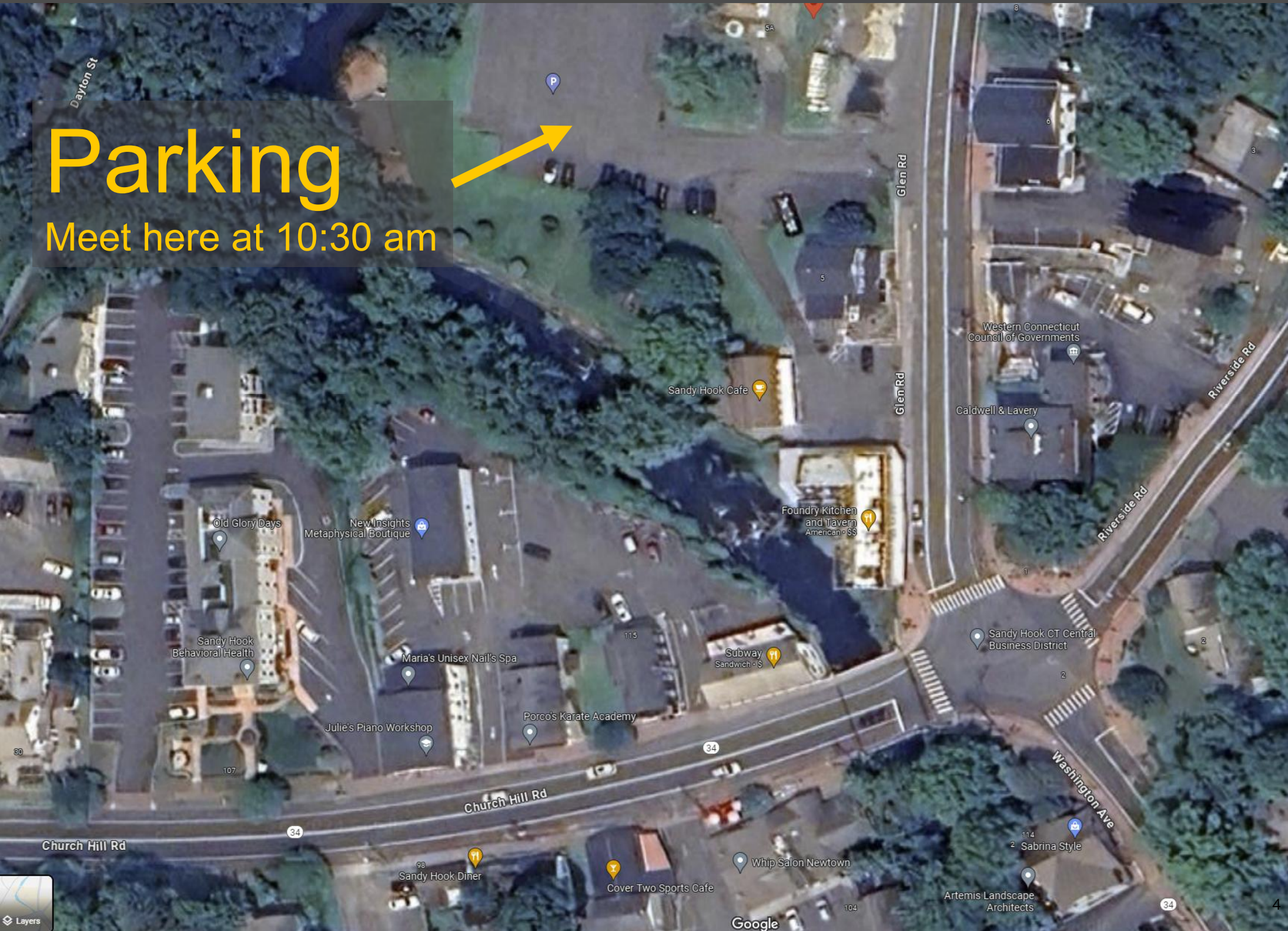
Meet here at 8:50 am



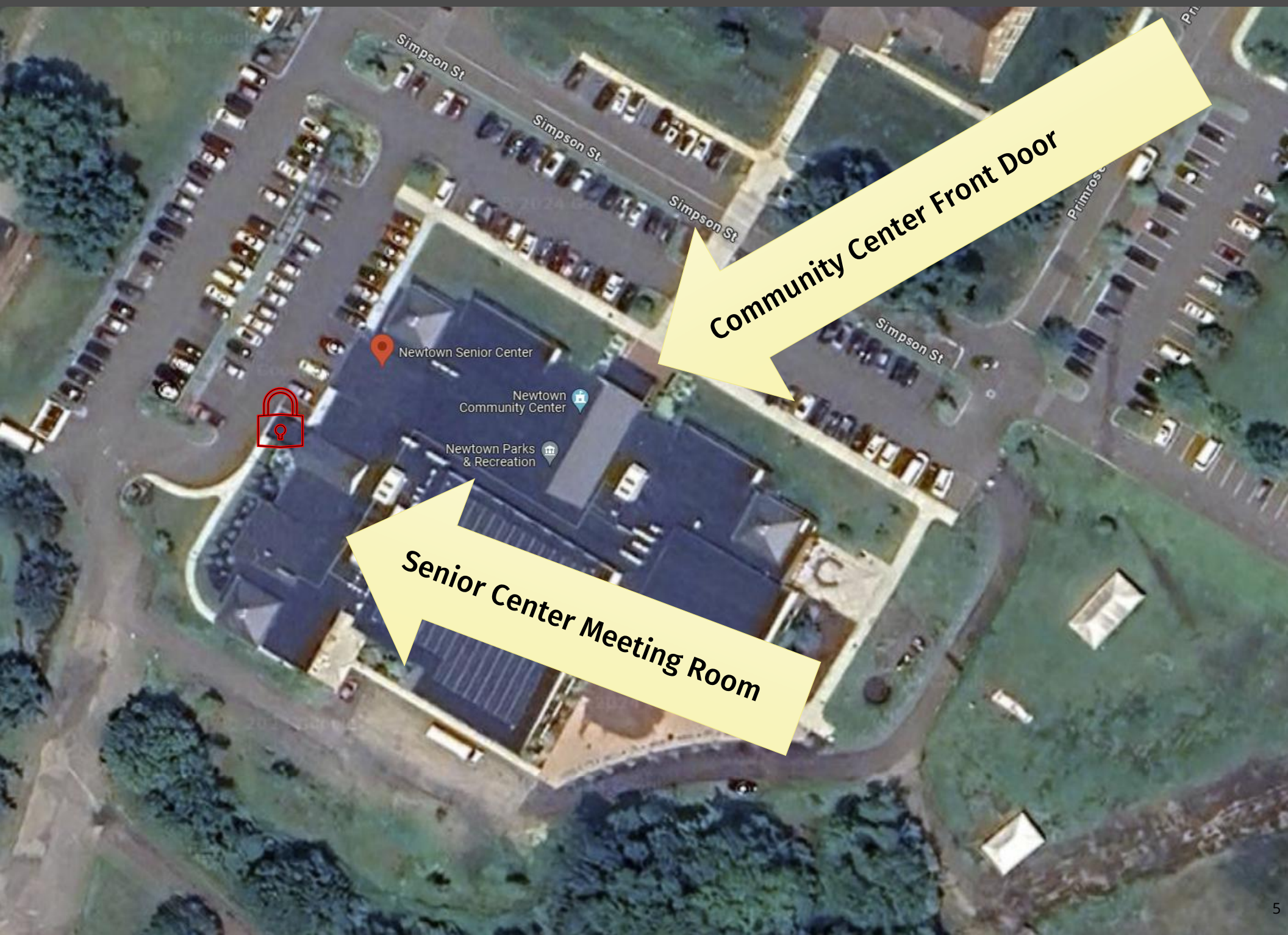
# 7 Glen Rd, Sandy Hook, CT

# Parking

Meet here at 10:30 am



# Newtown Senior Center, 8 Simpson Street



Community Center Front Door

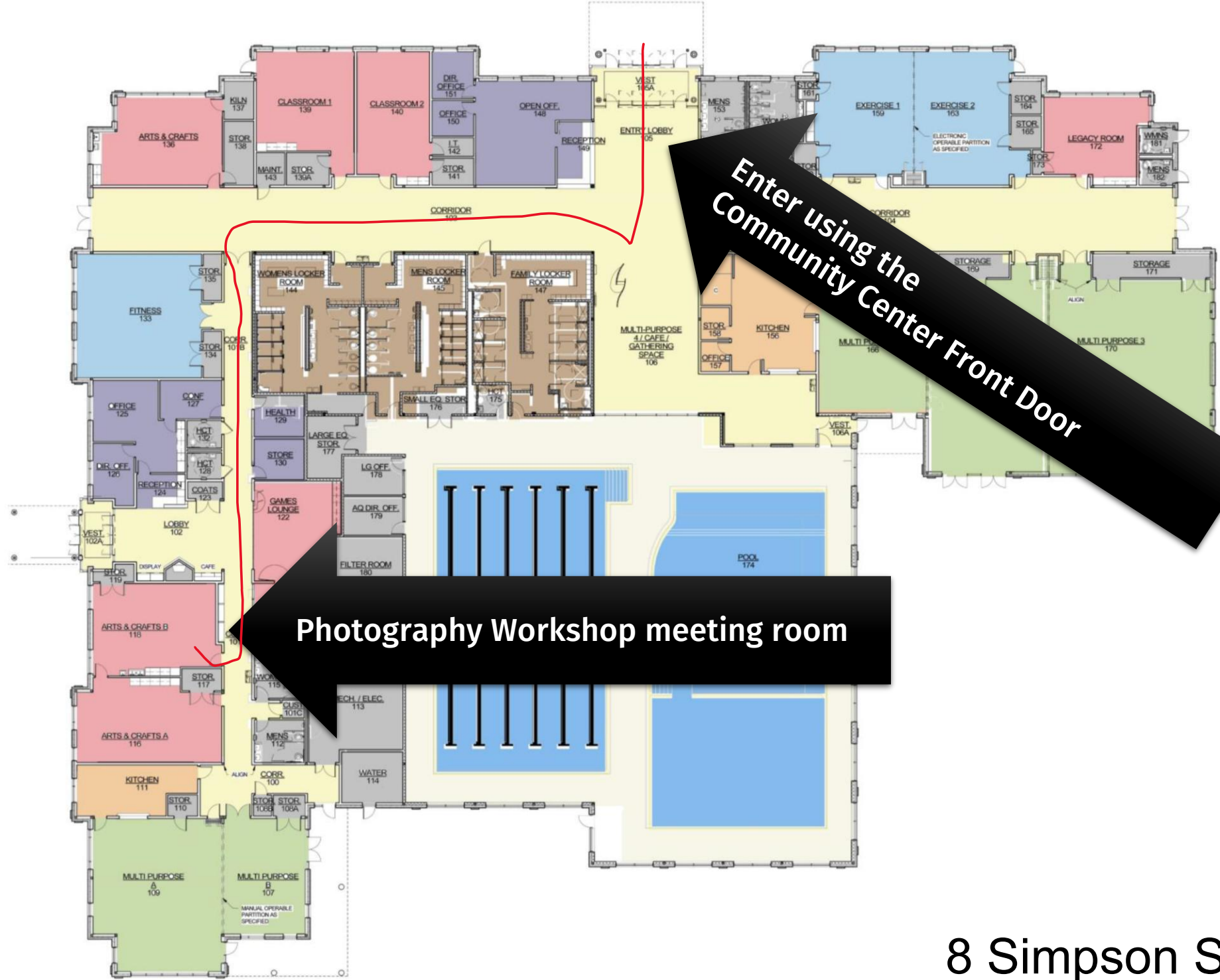
Senior Center Meeting Room



Newtown Senior Center

Newtown Community Center

Newtown Parks & Recreation



Enter using the  
Community Center Front Door

Photography Workshop meeting room



NEWTOWN COMMUNITY & SENIOR CENTER

8 Simpson Street  
Newtown, CT



# 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 an 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 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 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.

- Looking beyond the obvious.
- Get down low, look up.
- Take the high road, look down.
- Look behind you to see what you missed.



## Hands-on Challenge:

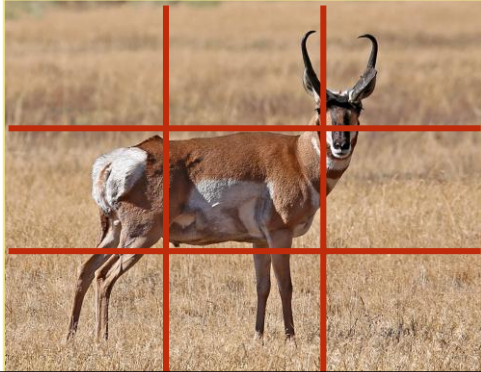
1. Take a photo of something on the ground.
2. Take a photo looking up a tree.
3. Look behind you to see what you missed.



# Composition – a *Pleasant Look*

## Hands on Activity

1. Quickly take a photo using 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

### Find for these

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