

SHOPS... SPAS... WORKOUTS... HAPPY HOUR... TAKE-OUT

NEW CANAAN DARIEN & ROWAYTON

190+
WINNERS!

OUR 5TH ANNUAL

BEST *of* ISSUE

plus
2009 Independent
School Guide!

YUM!
A winning start to a great
summer night?
Grilled yellowfin tuna,
cous cous salad, and haricot-vert
from Ten Twenty Post

TOWNTALK

NEWS from the GOLD COAST | SWIM CHAMPS | LOCAL KUDOS | MERGER UPDATE | by Christina Cush



aqua man

No need to watch a summer blockbuster to get a vicarious adrenaline rush. We have a hometown hero to cheer for. Matt Vossler of Darien has just finished organizing his third annual Swim Across America swim from Greenwich to Stamford (swimacrossamerica.org).

Although it started as a grassroots nonprofit, Vossler and his longtime friend and Boston College roommate Jeff Keith, of Fairfield, have turned it into a national fundraising phenomenon. "You can swim under the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco or with Olympians

in Greenwich and Boston Harbor," Vossler says.

In the past two years, this event has raised more than \$400,000 for the Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy (ACGT). ACGT was founded by Greenwich residents Barbara and Edward Netter. There is recent optimism in the organization that an affiliated doctor is doing groundbreaking research on gene therapy alternatives for the treatment of brain tumors. ACGT believes that cancer gene therapy has great potential to improve the quality of life of cancer patients and, ultimately, to realize a cure for cancer.

WINNERS' CIRCLE

Look who's being recognized for good deeds and nice work

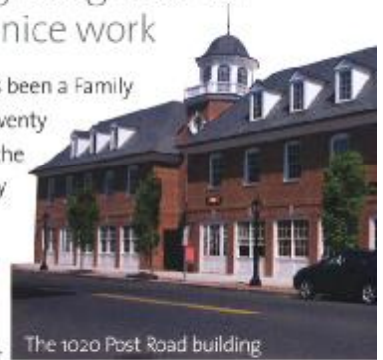
RICHARD HOKIN of Darien has been a Family Centers board member for twenty years. He was recognized by the Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies for his outstanding commitment. He has successfully ensured the agency's financial health by managing the endowment fund and has worked on fundraising and board recruiting.

KATHY GIUSTI of New Canaan (this magazine's December 2008 cover girl), the Multiple Myeloma Research foundation Founder and CEO, was awarded a 2009 Centennial Medal for Distinguished Public Service at the 100th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research.

CYNTHIA JOHNSON, director of the Roywaton Library, is the recipient of the 2009 Wilbur Cross Award for Exemplary Public Library Programming from the Connecticut Humanities Council. She was one of five people recognized at Yale University.

SUSAN BOSTON and **BETSY SUE SHANNON** from New Canaan each received the Appreciation Pin, a national recognition award, for their work with the Girl Scouts. Susan is a tireless cookie queen, and Betsy Sue is a treasurer extraordinaire.

MARK P. FINLAY, a New Canaan native and Southport architect, worked with Baywater Properties, Frank Mercede & Sons and the Town of Darien to earn this year's Connecticut Main Street Center Awards of Excellence Property Owner of the Year award for 1020 Post Road. The structure includes restaurants, retailers, offices and affordable apartments.



community math

The United Way of New Canaan + The New Canaan Community Foundation = The New NCCF

ANSWER KEY: The benefits are said to be reduced overhead costs, strengthened local focus, combined resources and expertise, expanded leadership roles, and an extensive review and support process for local nonprofits. Hopes are that the new group will channel thousands more dollars annually into local agencies, reach a broader base of donors and boost the flexibility to focus on long-term community development projects and immediate human service needs. For more information call: 966-0231. »