

Special Advertising Feature  
WESTCHESTER AND FAIRFIELD COUNTIES

# FAIRFIELD COUNTY KEEPS ITS ALLURE—AND THEN SOME

By Joseph Dobrian

**F**airfield County, Conn., has long been a byword for suburban living that ranges from merely upscale to ultra-luxe: a sort of grail for city-dwellers who long for a quieter, more bucolic experience while staying within an easy commute of Manhattan. That's still the county's role, in the grand scheme of metro New York, and it has become even more desirable of late, due to augmented retail, entertainment and a few new housing developments. Relatively low property taxes and abundant schooling options make the Greenwich area, in particular, a popular option for families with children.

According to Roberto Vannucchi, executive vice president of Douglas Elliman, Greenwich offers "the ultimate suburban lifestyle, without compromising convenience to Manhattan." Greenwich has upped its game lately in terms of dining and entertainment, he says, and the beaches, yacht clubs and polo club are as alluring as ever.

"It's all here," he says. "Greenwich Avenue is the unofficial retail and culinary center of town, attracting celebrity chefs." A prestigious local polo club, Mr. Vannucchi adds, is known for its unmatched roster of legendary teams and individual players, as well as its celebrity supporters. The neighborhoods of Old Greenwich and Riverside—both



Greenwich, Conn. offers a first class suburban lifestyle within easy reach of Manhattan.

villages within Greenwich—offer a walkable waterfront experience.

"Old Greenwich has an intimate shopping district and it's within walking distance of Greenwich Point (also known as Tod's Point), which overlooks Long Island Sound," he says. "On a clear day, views stretch all the way to the Manhattan skyline about 30 miles away. Both Riverside and Old Greenwich have convenient railroad access to Grand Central, less than 45 minutes away."

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Housing options include mansions on several acres, in Greenwich's northernmost woods; condos and townhouses downtown; grand estates overlooking

the water; and relatively affordable homes priced below \$1,000,000. Leslie McElwreath, real-estate agent at Sotheby's International Realty, says Greenwich, where she is based, is a fairly large suburban enclave—50 square miles, home to 60,000 people—with a full range of amenities and a public beach for residents. The town also has a public golf course and a park with tennis, baseball and croquet facilities.

## LUXURY CONDOS

"We just passed an \$8 million budget item for a new public pool," she adds. "We have public docks and a large rowing community. 'We don't have any new subdivisions under development, but we see an impressive trend of people moving downtown to luxury condos. People like the convenience of living downtown and walking to everything, so we've seen significant development there: old homes being redeveloped into super-luxury private homes, condos, or townhouses.

We have 10-acre zoning in our backcountry area, so you can have the space if you want it."

## CULTURAL SCENE

Ms. McElwreath recalls that when she moved to Greenwich in 1988, the downtown dining scene was "dead" and the cultural scene nearly so, but all that has changed and there's far more of a community atmosphere there today.

"This June, the Greenwich Film Festival will have its second year, and the Bruce Museum will offer a variety of art festivals," she says. "The Greenwich Town Party is held every Memorial Day weekend: an all-day music festival for people of all ages.

"But Greenwich isn't the whole story of Fairfield County. New Canaan is a wonderful town, inland but very beautiful, with terrific schools. Darien is on the water and extremely attractive, and you'll find many other wonderful communities in Connecticut," she says.



## PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR BROKERAGE WEBSITE

The winners of the 20th Annual Webby Awards were just announced, along with the Official Honorees—which included only one residential real-estate brokerage firm for 2016. William Pitt and Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty is excited to be chosen for this prestigious recognition in the 2016 Webbys, "the Internet's highest honor," according to The New York Times.

"We are constantly impressed by the extent of creativity showcased by our Webby Honorees," representatives from the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, which presents the Webbys each year, expressed to William Pitt and Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty. "Your work continues to further the scope of innovation, setting the standard of excellence on the Internet."

The premier real-estate brokerage serving Connecticut, Westchester County, N.Y., and the Berkshires, Mass., was named in the real-estate website category after spending 18 months completely redesigning its website. Standout features of the new [williampitt.com](http://williampitt.com) include property video clips on the home page, full-bleed high-resolution photography, site customization according to the user's location, and detailed community information such as accessibility to area schools and precise commute times to Manhattan. Visitors can also delve into the site's international side, choosing from 19 languages and converting prices into more than 50 currencies.

The company was selected from nearly 13,000 submissions from all over the world. Official Honorees represent the top 20% of all entries.

"This is an honor that belongs to our entire team," said the firm's President and CEO, Paul Breunich. "I am so proud of our company for achieving this incredible recognition."



William Pitt  
Julia B. Fee

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