

REDDING SENTINEL

JANUARY 29, 2026

REDDING, CONNECTICUT

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\$3

Section of Couch Hill Preserve dedicated to John McLeran

By Rocco Valluzzo

In recognition of John McLeran's service to land preservation and conservation in Redding, the Board of Selectmen unanimously dedicated a portion of Couch Hill Preserve on Sunset Hill Road as the John McLeran Preserve at its Tuesday, January 20 meeting.

McLeran had served for 14 years as the Town's Open Space Manager and in a similar capacity for Redding Land Trust, according to First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton. He passed away on January 15 after a brief illness.

"We felt it would be very appropriate to dedicate the Bobolink Preserve at Couch Hill in honor of John and his contributions to preservation of our open space," said

Continued on page 2



Photo by Michael O'Connor

Snow blankets First Church of Christ, Congregational in Redding Center. For more reader-submitted photography of this winter's frosty scenery, see page 10. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Buried by Winter Storm Fern

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

Municipal offices, schools, Mark Twain Library, Heritage Center, and many local businesses were closed on Monday, January 26 after Winter Storm Fern dumped over 15 inches of snow – with some residents reporting drifts as high as 21 inches – on Redding. Schools posted a three-hour delay on Tuesday, January 27 to allow for additional snow removal and street treatment.

The storm, occurring mostly throughout the day on Sunday,

January 25, brought to town the highest total snowfall in a single weather event since 2013 (Winter Storm Nemo on February 8-9, which dropped over 16 inches). Winter Storm Fern dwarfed the two largest snowfalls in recent memory, 2020 and 2016, when Nor'easters brought around 10 inches of snow to Redding.

"Is this Buffalo or Connecticut?" local meteorologist Jack Drake posted in the early hours of

Monday, January 26 alongside a photo of a nearly two-foot snow drift imprinted by the front door of a Ridgefield resident. "Some of these drifts were impressive today."

While over 830,000 households were without power nationwide due to Winter Storm Fern, there were no significant outages reported in Redding, according to Ever-source data. The low temperatures and lack of heavy winds kept the impact to Redding utilities low.

A parking ban on Town roads remained in effect through Tuesday, January 27 to allow Highway Department crews and snowplows to clear the roads. If your mailbox or property is damaged by a Town plow, contact the Highway Department at (203) 938-2801. The Town may compensate for damages caused by a plow hitting a mailbox directly; there is no compensation for damage caused by snow thrown by plows. ■

REDDING'S BIG OUTDOORS

Redding Land Trust to host three-part speaker series on open space

By Pamela Brown

Windchills and winter storms may be keeping many of us from traversing our local trails this time of year. Redding Land Trust is gearing up for a three-part (indoor!) speaker series to explore different aspects of open space conservation in Redding.

"Anyone with an interest in learning more about Redding's treasured open space is welcome to attend. These sessions are designed to be interactive, with input and questions from attendees," said Marjorie Derven, member of Redding Land Trust's Board of Trustees. All sessions are free and open to the public and will run from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Registration can be done at marktwainlibrary.org.

Local Ecology: Appreciating and Protecting our Natural Environment

Tuesday, February 24

The panel discussion, held at New Pond Farm Education Center, will focus on the health of local woodlands, wildlife, and

insects with examples of options to protect Redding's open space. Panelists include Ed Faison, Senior Ecologist at Highstead (highstead.net), a regional conservation and ecological stewardship nonprofit; Chris Nagy, Director of Research and Education at Mianus River Gorge (mianus.org), a 964-acre preserve dedicated to protect irreplaceable habitat for the community, wildlife, and future generations; and Faith Novella, Conservation Manager at Earthplace in Westport (earthplace.org), a non-profit nature discovery and environmental learning center. Veronique Jarrell-King, a Redding Land Trust trustee, will serve as moderator.

Taking Great Landscape Photographs

Tuesday, March 10

This interactive session, held at Mark Twain Library, will feature two local, professional landscape photographers – Rick Tango and Ralph Baskin. "They will share their

passion for nature photography, discuss what makes a great image, and describe how to tell a story through the lens. With several examples, our presenters will help attendees deepen their appreciation of landscape photography and share a few fundamentals," said Derven, who will serve as moderator.

The session also offers a tie-in to Redding Land Trust's second-annual juried Photography Show, to be exhibited in June 2026 at Mark Twain Library. The submissions portal opens on March 19, and both novice and professional photographers are encouraged to submit photos of Redding's open space at reddingctlandtrust.org/photoshow.

Making and Mapping Redding's Big Outdoors: The Book of Trails, Updated

Tuesday, April 14

Redding Land Trust trustee Cole Tucker-Walton will lead the session

Selectmen consider membership in CT Municipal Development Authority

By Rocco Valluzzo

As a means of facilitating development in Georgetown and securing additional funding for those efforts, the Board of Selectmen considered membership in the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA) at its Tuesday, January 20 meeting.

A statewide, quasi-public organization, the CMDA works with towns and cities to increase housing production in neighborhoods that are mixed-use, walkable, and well-served by transit. It specializes in facilitating the development of downtowns near transit hubs to foster sustainable and equitable communities across the state.

So far, 37 municipalities have joined the CMDA, according to Executive Director David Kooris. Eleven have established development districts.

A development district is based on three inputs/eligibility requirements. The CMDA can work only within a half-mile of a train station or within a downtown. Zones within those eligible geographies essentially allow multifamily housing. There must also be political will and interest for development.

"After a municipality opts in, we then engage with municipal staff, boards and commissions, however the local municipality wants us to engage in a discussion around zoning," explained Kooris. "Our statutory obligation is to look at your zoning only within half a mile of a train station and/or within a downtown."

With respect to Redding, the CMDA's focus would be Georgetown as the downtown. Although it would conduct a zoning review around the West Redding train station as well, Kooris said there's no expectation that it would ultimately do anything in that area other than it be part of the analysis.

"We don't have any authority to usurp local control," said Kooris. "All we can do is make a recommendation. Once we go through the zoning certification process, we then enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Town's chief executive officer that establishes the boundaries of the development district. The development district is the combination of eligible geography zoned for growth, political interest."

The CMDA is now getting project funding requests from towns that have established development districts. Once those district boundaries are established, the municipality is able to apply to the CMDA for infrastructure support. It is currently reviewing, underwriting about a half a dozen projects and there are others that were awaiting application materials to be submitted. Kooris expects to allocate the first project funding this spring.

First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton asked if towns with housing authorities have reached out to the CMDA. Kooris noted that some

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS, GEORGETOWN AND REDDING

THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF REAL ESTATE, PERSONAL PROPERTY, AND SUPPLEMENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES ON THE GRAND LIST OF OCTOBER 1, 2024, IS DUE AND PAYABLE JANUARY 1, 2026.

TAXES DUE JANUARY 1, 2026, MUST BE POSTMARKED OR PAID, NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 2, 2026, TO AVOID PENALTY. TAXES ARE DELINQUENT FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Payments postmarked, Paid in Person or Paid online, on or after February 3, 2026 are delinquent and will carry an interest penalty charged at the rate of Eighteen (18%) percent annually or one and one-half (1.5%) percent monthly, from the January 1, 2026 due date.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle Taxes are due in full January 1, 2026. Failure to make payment in accordance with the above will result in suspension of registration privileges in addition to the interest charges.

Delinquent Motor Vehicle Taxes must be paid in cash, certified check, money order or by credit card, to obtain a registration clearance

FAILURE TO RECEIVE A TAX BILL DOES NOT EXEMPT YOU FROM PAYMENT OF TAX OR PENALTY.

Oldest outstanding taxes must be paid prior to paying current taxes.

Taxes can be paid or viewed at www.reddingct.gov
You may call (866) 923-8245 to make a credit/debit card payment.

Town Hall hours may vary due to weather conditions. However, due dates do not. Verify the Town Hall is open and the department you need is open before coming in person. The Town Hall is closed on Fridays. We are located at 100 Hill Rd, Redding, CT; Telephone: (203) 938-2706. ■

*Patricia J. Moio, C.C.M.C., C.C.M.O
Tax Collector, Town of Redding*

TOWN OF REDDING ASSESSOR'S OFFICE JANUARY 2026 LEGAL NOTICE ELDERLY TAX BENEFITS

Redding residents aged 65 years or older may apply for both benefits provided they meet the qualifications listed.

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 1, 2026 AT THE TOWN OF REDDING ASSESSOR'S OFFICE 203-938-2626 OR ONLINE AT REDDINGCT.GOV

APPLICATION PERIOD IS FEBRUARY 1, 2026 – MAY 15, 2026

1. State of CT Homeowners Program
 - a. Must be 65 years of age by December 31, 2025
 - b. Must be a homeowner with a principal residence of Redding as of October 1, 2025
 - c. 2025 total income must not exceed \$46,300 for unmarried persons, and \$56,500 for married couples.

After April 15, 2026, application must be made in person.

2. Town of Redding Elderly Benefit
 - a. Must be 65 years of age by May 15, 2026
 - b. Must be a homeowner in the Town of Redding since May 15, 2023
 - c. The property for which the benefit is claimed must be the legal domicile of such person(s), and occupied more than 183 days of each year.
 - d. Copy of CT driver's license ■

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 7-394 of the CT General Statutes, notice is hereby given to the Legal Voters and Taxpayers of the Town of Redding that the Annual Town Audit and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of the Town for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025 are on file in the Office of the Town Clerk for public inspection. ■

*Michele R. Grande, MCTC-MMC
Town Clerk
January 14, 2026*

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- New Pond Farm Education Center
- Redding's America 250

POLICE BLOTTER

Police activity January 12 – 18 | *By Donna Christopher*

Police processed one firearm permit, assisted five drivers with disabled motor vehicles, and assisted in three emergency medical service calls.

Police responded to two untimely deaths in the one-week period, including what a preliminary investigation indicates was a "tragic accidental injury" resulting in the death of a 13-year-old resident, and the death of an 87-year-old resident, found unresponsive at home.

Police responded to one suspicious incident reported on Black Rock Turnpike on January 12 in which a 14-year-old had run away

from his foster home in Bridgeport. The juvenile was returned to his foster home.

Traffic

In 66 motor vehicle stops during the one-week period, police issued 20 infractions, 16 written warnings, 28 verbal warnings, and took no action in two instances. The infraction rate was 30%.

There were 11 one-car motor vehicle accidents in the one-week period, including incidents on Glen Road, North Park Avenue, Old Redding Road, Redding Road, Sunset Hill Road, two on Newtown Turnpike, Umpawaug Road, Giles

Hill Road, Gallows Hill Road, and Rock House Road. One of the accidents resulted in minor injuries.

In an accident on January 17, a vehicle slid off the road in the snow and struck a pedestrian who was snow-blowing his driveway on Sunset Hill Road. The collision caused minor damage to the passenger side mirror and front bumper. Police said one person was transported to Danbury hospital for minor injuries on their leg and back.

An incident on January 18 on Limekiln Road involved a vehicle leaving tracks going into a guard-rail and then being left at the scene. ■

Section of Couch Hill Preserve dedicated to John McLeran / *continued from page 1*



Photo by Jessie Wright

Pemberton, who had spoken with McLeran's wife Penny as well as members of Redding Land Trust and the Conservation Commission about the idea.

The 70.5-acre Couch Hill Preserve, which is about two-thirds grassland meadow, is a nesting

site for bobolinks, a Connecticut Species of Special Concern, with approximately 10-20 breeding pairs over the past five years.

"I'm going to miss John," said Conservation Commission Chairman David Pattee. "He was a great neighbor." ■

The resolution is as follows:

"Whereas, the Town of Redding honors John McLeran with the dedication of John McLeran Preserve at Couch Hill in recognition of his outstanding service to land preservation and conservation of Redding native species and whereas with his vision, hard work, and commitment to protecting Redding's natural beauty, John McLeran has helped ensure open spaces, wildlife habitats, and scenic landscapes will be enjoyed by future generations. Now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Redding hereby recognizes and thanks John McLeran for his lasting contributions to conservation and for inspiring others to care for the land we share and be it further resolved that the Board of Selectmen hereby formally designate the bobolink nesting fields at Couch Hill as the John McLeran Preserve at Couch Hill and direct that the designation be reflected in Town communications and materials as appropriate." ■

Redding Sentinel Ltd
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Publisher, Susan Clark
Managing Editor, Jessie Wright
Creative Director, Debora DeCarlo Rosa
Assistant Graphic Designer, Connor Feeney
Marketing Operations Manager, Nicole DuBois

Reporters:
Anne Young Albanese **Justin Reynolds**
Pamela Brown **Rob Sample**
Donna Christopher **Rocco Valluzzo**

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Contact us at:
editor@reddingsentinel.org
advertise@reddingsentinel.org
subscribe@reddingsentinel.org
publisher@reddingsentinel.org
legalnotices@reddingsentinel.org

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Redding Sentinel Ltd believes in supporting the community it serves.
We pledge to donate all profits to local community organizations.



Visit our website

Metro-North and MTA roll out host of ticket changes

By Gabby DeBenedictis

Connecticut commuters and visitors to New York City on Metro-North's New Haven Line are getting accustomed to changes in buying and using train tickets.

The changes, which were implemented during the first week of the year, affect both travel to Grand Central Terminal on Metro-North and travel within the city on the subway. Here's a look at what's been changed.

One-way ticket expiration

One-way tickets, which could previously be activated and used for weeks after their purchase, will now expire at 4:00 a.m. the day after they were bought. For example, a rider who bought a one-way ticket on Sunday could use it until 4:00 a.m. Monday.

Day Pass

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is getting rid of round-trip tickets for Metro-North rides. Day-trippers into the city will instead buy a day pass, which will be valid for unlimited rides until 4:00 a.m. the next morning. For example, if a rider bought a day pass on Saturday, they can use it to travel anytime before 4:00 a.m. Sunday.

On weekdays, day passes cost 10% less than two one-way peak tickets. A weekday day pass to Grand Central would cost \$46.75 from New Haven and \$30.50 from Stamford, for example. (*Editor's Note: A weekday day pass from West Redding to Grand Central is \$35.50.*) During weekends, day passes cost the same as two one-way off-peak tickets, which is \$38.50 from New Haven to Grand Central and \$25 from Stamford to West Redding are \$29).

Metro-North ticket costs vary based on the date and time of a trip and its start and end locations, which are grouped into travel zones.

Pre-boarding ticket purchase and activation

Historically, passengers who bought a ticket while riding a Metro-North train rather than in advance have had to pay a \$6 surcharge. But among the new ticket policies is a \$2 increase to that surcharge, meaning it will now be \$8.

Additionally, passengers who do not activate a ticket purchased in the TrainTime app before boarding their train will also be subject to an \$8 charge.

Mobile ticketing technology can tell conductors when a passenger's ticket was activated. And if they're subject to the surcharge, they can choose whether to pay it in the moment or defer it to their next purchase, said Michael Cortez, a spokesperson with the MTA.

"Pay-as-you-go"

Metro-North discontinued its 10-trip ticket option, and its replacement is a "pay-as-you-go" system.

After taking 10 peak or off-peak rides in a 14-day period, mobile app customers would get a free 11th one-way trip during those same 14 days.

Riders who have earned a free ticket can use it for either a peak or off-peak trip, regardless of which ticket type(s) they purchased for their 10 trips, Cortez said – but the ticket must be used within the same travel zones where it was earned.

Subway changes

The price of a ride on the New York City subway has risen from \$2.90 to \$3. Additionally, as of

January 1, riders can no longer buy a MetroCard. The city is migrating to OMNY, a tap-and-go payment system at the turnstiles, for subway payments.

Riders can pay with a credit/debit card, their phone, or via a reloadable OMNY card, which can be purchased at subway stations. Existing MetroCards can still be used – the MTA will announce a cutoff date for accepting MetroCards later this year – but they can no longer be reloaded with funds.

MetroCard holders can transfer their card's value to an OMNY card at a Customer Service Center.

Family trips

Metro-North has expanded eligibility for its Family Fare, which allows up to four children to ride for \$1 when accompanied by a fare-paying adult.

Previously, the family fare applied to children ages 5-11 and excluded travel on trains that arrived in New York City from 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. on weekdays (the morning peak hours).

But as of this month, Metro-North increased the eligible child age to 17 and expanded it to apply at all times of day and on all trains.

Fare increase?

There was no Metro-North fare increase in Connecticut that took effect at the beginning of this year. However, on July 1, Metro-North prices will rise by 5%, along with prices on the CT Rail Hartford Line and Shore Line East trains. ■

This article was originally published in CT Mirror

Food scraps disposal – 24/7 Town installs new "smart bin" in Redding Center

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton tries out the new smart bin after a ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 20, 2026.

"Wow, this is really, really cool!" First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton exclaimed as she held her smartphone against a bright green bin in the Redding Center Post Office parking lot. The lock on the bin electronically clicked open, and Pemberton dumped a small bag of food scraps collected at Town Hall into the container.

Pemberton had signed up for the Town's new Organics Food Scraps Smart Bin program minutes earlier and was test-driving the process as part of the ribbon-cutting for the program on Tuesday, January 20.

The newly installed bin, located at 10 Lonetown Road, is available 24/7 for organics food scraps and waste drop-off. Residents download an app to their smartphone, tap it to the bin, and the bin is unlocked for waste disposal – day or night.

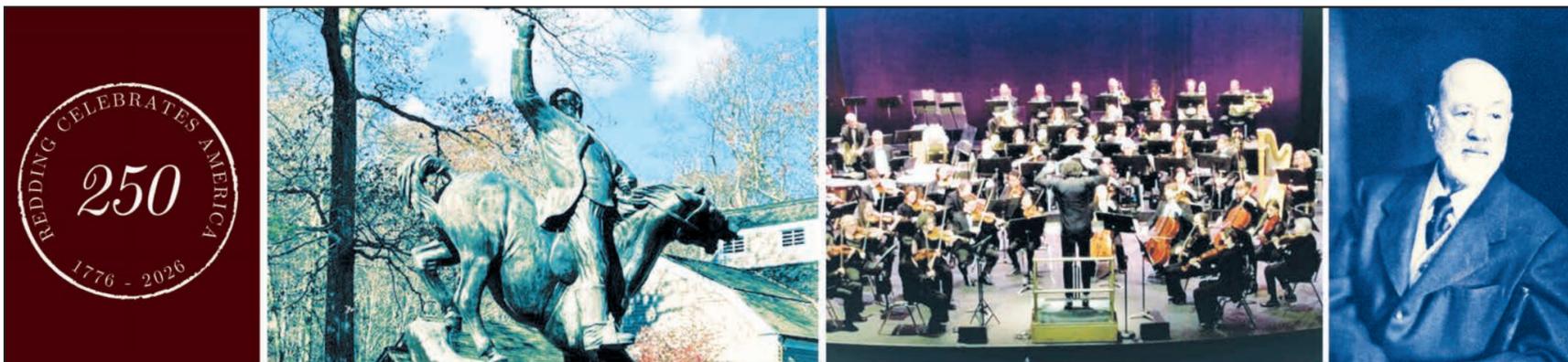
A major driver of waste in Connecticut is organics – the heaviest portion of our waste stream. Nearly one million tons of waste are shipped out of state for disposal each year, according to the Housatonic Resources Recovery Agency (HRRRA).

"Food scraps don't belong in waste-to-energy facilities or distant landfills," said Jen Heaton-Jones, Executive Director of HRRRA. "When managed correctly, they can become valuable compost that supports gardens, farms, local soils, and future projects right here in Redding."

Residents must have a valid Redding Transfer Station permit to participate in the food scraps recycling program. Once a permit is purchased, you can sign up for the program and download the app to use the smart bin. In addition to the smart bin, organics food scrap waste can be dropped off during regular hours at the Transfer Station at 84 Hopewell Wood Road.

"Thank you to the Town of Redding for championing practical, forward-thinking solutions," said Heaton-Jones. "Your commitment ensures residents have access to modern, responsible ways to manage materials that should be treated as resources – not waste." ■

Learn more and sign up at hrrra.org/organics-food-scraps-redding



Redding's Revolutionary Years: America @ 250

Join us as co-historians Bruce Nelson and Brent Colley discuss the everyday lives of Reddingites during the mid-18th century, and how those lives were upended by political tensions and, eventually, the outbreak of the Revolution. Learn how the Revolution unfolded at the local level, and how those stories fit into the broader history of our nation.

February 5 | 7 - 8pm

MARK TWAIN LIBRARY
439 Redding Road
Redding, CT

This event is **FREE**. Visit marktwainlibrary.org/events to register!

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SPORTS

Falcons dominate Bobcats

Wrestling | By Rocco Valluzzo

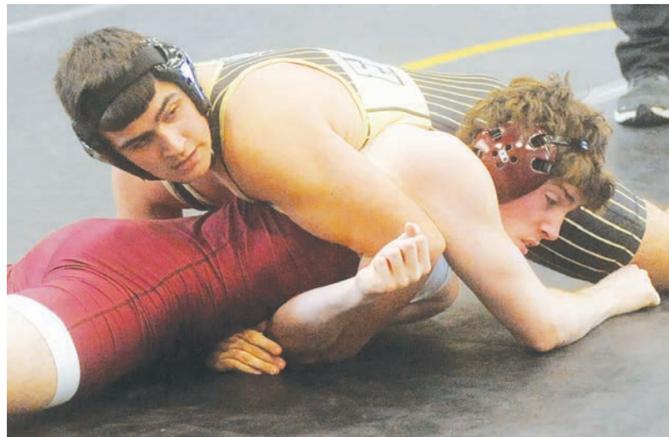


Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's R.J. Gaspar, top, gets the win in the 175-pound division in a wrestling match against Bethel on Saturday, January 24. Barlow won that match 45-33 and also defeated Brookfield/Shepaug 52-16 three days earlier.

A streak of victories in certain weight classes helped tip the scales in favor of the Joel Barlow High wrestling team when it hosted Brookfield/Shepaug.

The Falcons won five straight bouts on Wednesday, January 21. They would end up taking nine of 14 total for a 52-16 victory.

Barlow had an easy win at 106 pounds, as Will Areklett took the match by forfeit as Brookfield had no eligible wrestlers. Neither side

could produce a competitor for the next contest at 113 pounds.

Things were close at 120 pounds. In the end, Brookfield's Tom Scallon outlasted Jake Hamlin for a slim 0-1 win.

At 126 pounds, the Falcons' Grady Mumbach needed only 29 seconds to pin Hunter Kermashek for the win. The Bobcats responded with Matt Bray outlasting Zack Jhial for a 2-4 win in the 132-pound class.

Getting the pin at 138 pounds, Ryan Knob defeated Bryce Kaufman in 3:24. Barlow also took the win at 144 with Matt Modaferrì doing likewise to Xavier Lucchese, only in 1:17.

While the Falcons could not produce a wrestler at 150 pounds, they did win the next five weight divisions. Jack Hall started things with a 13-4 win over Brookfield/Shepaug's Lucas Calemmo at 157 pounds.

Along the way, the Falcons also managed three pins, including one at 165 pounds with James Gilby beating Tom Pink in 1:54. Mike Cleary was the winner at 175 when the Bobcats were without a wrestler.

Needing just 1:08, Barlow's R.J. Gaspar pinned Becket Rourke for the win at 190 pounds. Things took longer at 215 pounds when Oliver Smith did the same to Jacob Livingston in 5:42.

The Bobcats stopped the streak in the 285-pound division with Caleb Gualberto winning a 6-15 decision over Connor Lee.

Barlow is at Brookfield for a tournament on Saturday, January 31 at 9:00 a.m. and hosts Weston on Wednesday, February 4 at 6:00 p.m. ■

Falcons gear up for post-season

Indoor track and field | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Olivia Taylor was fourth in the girls shot put at an indoor track meet on Saturday, January 24 at the Bethel High Track & Field Training Center.

The final developmental meet gave the Joel Barlow High indoor track teams a glimpse of what they might expect come time for the post-season.

The Falcons placed near the top or won outright several events at Bethel High Track & Field Training Center on Saturday, January 24. They hope to add a few more wins at the South-West Conference (SWC) championships next month.

Girls team

Starting off the meet on the right foot, the Barlow girls took the top two places in the 4x800 meter relay, with the "A" team winning it in 12:2.39. Barlow's "B" team was right behind, finishing in 12:15.48.

Another runner-up finish came in the 55 meters. With a time of 7.82, Vika Abukhovich was less than a second behind Kolbe Cathedral's Torahgi Green.

Well represented in the 1,000 meters, Barlow took three places in the top six, all with personal-best times. Stephanie Bardani was runner-up in 3:26.46, followed by Leah Rudd in fourth with a 3:53.80.

Sophia Arnott took sixth in 4:03.04.

Going the distance in the 1,600, Clara Mehner took fourth in 5:48.67, a personal best. Barlow's best individual finish was in the 300, with Olivia Taylor winning in 42.54. Sixth went to Phoebe Cora Smith in 44.38.

Taylor also scored in the shot put with a toss of 26 feet, 3.25 inches, a personal record. Clearing 7 feet in the pole vault, Vivian D'Amico was fourth.

Boys team

Barlow's boys team also fared well in the relays, which featured the 4x200 "A" team posting a winning time of 1:35.44. It also took two of the top three places in the 4x800 with the "A" team finishing second in 10:30.41 and the "B" team third in 11:54.70.

Back-to-back finishes came in the 55-meter hurdles. Fifth went to Nathan Duque in 10.60, and Chris Caldwell was sixth in 11.16, a personal best.

There were some close times in the 55 meters, as Ethan Peters took fourth in 6.90. Both New Milford's Joe Herrera and Barlow's Andrew Gutowski followed 0.02 seconds later, with the latter taking sixth, a personal best.

Barlow's best finish in the 300 meters came from Kaelen Kunar, whose 38.08 (personal best) was good for third.

In the field events, Barlow's best performance came from Gutowski in the shot put with a personal best distance of 41' 5.50", good for second. Landon Noisette was sixth with 34' 4.25, also a personal best.

The Falcons had two competitors hit 10 feet in the pole vault. Ben Azzara placed third, and Bauer Heres was fourth based on number of attempts.

Two more personal bests for Barlow followed in the long jump. Peters was third with 18' 10", just two inches longer than Kunar.

Barlow takes part in the SWC finals on Saturday, February 7 at the Floyd Little Athletic Center in New Haven. ■

Joel Barlow sports results and schedules



Boys basketball

Results:
January 20:
Bunnell 67 / Joel Barlow 46
January 22:
New Fairfield 58 / Joel Barlow 57
Record:
Joel Barlow 6-6
Next games:
January 29: home versus Notre Dame Prep at 7:00 p.m.
February 2: away at Pomperaug at 7:00 p.m.

Girls basketball

Results:
January 20:
Joel Barlow 44 / Bunnell 33
Record:
Joel Barlow 9-3
Next games:
January 29: away at Notre Dame Prep at 6:00 p.m.
February 2: home versus Pomperaug at 6:00 p.m.

Gymnastics

Results:
January 22: Brookfield 125.20 / New Milford 116.20 / Joel Barlow 19.35
Record:
Joel Barlow 1-2
Next meet:
February 12: away at SWC championships at 5:00 p.m.

Hockey

Results:
January 19: Amity 2 / Joel Barlow 0
January 22: Milford Mariners 7 / Joel Barlow 2
January 24: Bethel-Brookfield-Danbury-Immaculate 5 / Joel Barlow 4
Record:
Joel Barlow 1-6-1
Next games:
January 31: away at Guilford at 8:00 p.m.
February 2: away at Spartan Ice Hockey at 8:00 p.m.
February 4: home versus Wilton at 5:30 p.m.

Indoor track and field

Next meet:
February 7: away at Floyd Little Athletic Center SWC championships at 5:00 p.m.

Boys swimming

Results:
January 20: Joel Barlow-Bethel 109 / Bunnell-Stratford 61
Record:
Joel Barlow: 1-3
Next meets:
February 3: away at New Milford at 7:00 p.m.

Wrestling

Results:
January 24:
Joel Barlow 45 / Bethel 33
Record:
Joel Barlow 2-3 (SWC)
Next matches:
January 31: away at Brookfield Tournament at 9:30 a.m.
February 4: home versus Weston at 6:00 p.m.

Check up-to-date game and meet schedules at arbiterlive.com/School/Calendar/11297

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Redding's Big Outdoors:
Redding Land Trust to host three-part speaker series on open space / continued from page 1

with a history of making and mapping open space in Redding, pointing out trailblazers, backdrops, early maps, and new features of the updated *Book of Trails*. "In an age when GPS maps can tell us not only where to go but which direction we're facing, everyone's favorite guide takes on deeper meaning as a one-stop-shop for getting to know the land you live on," said Tucker-Walton, noting *The Book of Trails'* first print update in 20 years will draw on new tools and ephemera collected from libraries, closets, and estate sales, blending digital accuracy, analog character, and local memory. "Redding Land Trust has expanded ancillary sections on geology and the forest, added points of interest and clarification to the history of

local conservation and appreciation of local preserves, and, of course, updated and added trails," he said.

The three-part series is presented by Redding Land Trust in partnership with Mark Twain Library and New Pond Farm. After each session, attendees are encouraged to enjoy informal conversation and mingling.

"In a town where open space is so appreciated and valued by the community, the Mark Twain Library is proud to partner with the Redding Land Trust in helping them produce this important lecture series," said Erin Dummeyer, Director of Mark Twain Library. ■

Register for each session at marktwainlibrary.org/calendar

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New Pond Farm Education Center names new Board President

By Pamela Brown



Anne Mead

New Pond Farm Education Center has been part of Anne Mead's life for almost 25 years. Now, her dedication and support of the non-profit is deepening with her recent appointment as Board President.

"I'm humbled and honored. I look forward to working with our new Executive Director who brings a new vision, energy, and a lengthy list of new skills to the Farm," said Mead, who has served as a Board member since 2020. "I feel we have many opportunities to expand programs and continue to make the Farm a destination place to visit while at the same time staying true to the vision and mission of the Farm and Carmen's [Mathews, founder of New Pond Farm] legacy."

Mead is Director of Family, School, and Community Partnerships for Danbury Public Schools, holds an Ed.D. in Educational Organizational Leadership, and is the author of four textbooks. She also is the founder of the Danbury Family Learning Center, a non-profit that supports Danbury Public Schools, and is a founding member of the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement. She has a background teaching birth to age five and working with families.

"I've gone with our students on field trips at the Farm, observed

staff coming in our schools for science programming, and we have a longstanding partnership with the Farm and our summer Sunational Learning Program," said Mead.

Even before her service on the Board, Mead was involved in shaping New Pond Farm's outreach. She served on the organization's Education Committee in 2001, sharing her expertise in curriculum planning to help ensure its programming aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards.

"Anne brings a unique blend of visionary leadership, deep educational expertise, and a lifelong commitment to connecting people with the natural world," said Executive Director Priya Desai. "Anne's experience uniting schools, families, community partners, and local organizations will help expand New Pond's reach and impact. She has a proven track record of developing programs that integrate agriculture, nutrition, through hands-on education, and she knows how to build community support for initiatives that improve health and learning outcomes. Her strategic insight and educational expertise will be invaluable as we continue to evolve and innovate."

Both Redding and New Pond Farm are special to Mead, who grew up in town and is a graduate of Joel Barlow High School.

"My first 20 years were spent in Redding participating in 4-H, Girl Scouts, as an elected Constable, and tagging alongside my Mom who was on the Conservation Commission. I was fortunate to live just up the road from the Farm on Old Redding Road on almost 10 acres of land," said Mead, who now resides in Southbury. "My love for open space, gardening and farmlands, and areas that all families can use is dear to my heart. From

its earliest programs where Carmen brought inner city children to stay and learn about country living, to programs that still connect urban youth to the country, the legacy that Carmen began still lives on."

In her new role, Mead will focus on renewing the strategic planning process for short- and long-term initiatives and expanding programs for all generations to build on visitors' knowledge of conservation, land use, farming, and animal husbandry while nurturing empathy and kindness.

"I want families to be able to say, 'I learned about farming, astronomy, Native American history, gardening, new skills, the importance of animals, and where my presence makes a difference,' – then I know we are doing our job," she said.

She pointed to refreshes of the farmhouse and other structures, completing the organization's new website, incorporating other technology that supports virtual programming, and completing the restoration of the Farm's namesake pond as projects on the team's plate.

"Anne has spent her career connecting people to the land by nurturing an understanding of where food comes from, how ecosystems function, and why sustainable practices matter. Her work leading school garden initiatives and integrating farm-to-school concepts into curriculum and community life mirrors New Pond's approach to environmental education and stewardship," said Desai, who added Mead's appointment brings a renewed sense of momentum and confidence to the organization's future. "Anne's collaborative spirit, strategic mindset, and passion for sustainability and the environment are exactly the qualities we value in a Board Chair." ■

Redding students land spots on Fall Dean's Lists

By Jessie Wright

Students from Redding have been named to the Dean's List at several institutions for Fall 2025.

- **Ilena DiZenzo**
University of Rhode Island (Supply Chain Management)
To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must have taken 12 credits in a semester or higher and achieved a 3.3 grade point average or higher.
- **Tristan DiZenzo**
Roger Williams University (Psychology)
To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have taken 12 credits in a semester or higher and achieved a 3.4 grade point average or higher.

• **Christopher Fenzel**
Norwich University
Dean's List recognition is awarded to full-time undergraduate students who achieve a semester grade point average of 3.4 or higher

• **Kelcie Petrone**
Norwich University
Dean's List recognition is awarded to full-time undergraduate students who achieve a semester grade point average of 3.4 or higher

This data is submitted by Sentinel readers and higher education institutions. To submit a name for recognition, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org. ■

Barlow graduation set for June 17, 2026

By Anne Young Albanese

At the Region 9 Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, January 20, the Board set Joel Barlow High School's graduation ceremony for June 17, 2026, with a rain date of June 18. Graduation will be held at the High School on the football field at 100 Black Rock Turnpike, which has been the case since 2021.

There are numerous activities for seniors that typically surround graduation. While which events will take place for the class of 2026 have not been determined, previous years have included a senior class trip, the white banquet, and a senior barbecue. The seniors

also sometimes visit the elementary and middle schools for a parade. Several rehearsals and a walk-through to practice for graduation also will be held.

While a date to order graduation tickets has not yet been determined, seniors and their families will be notified when they become available. The same is true for ordering the traditional caps and gowns.

The last day of school is currently scheduled for June 15, 2026, which may be adjusted depending on the number of snow day cancellations that occur this winter. ■

Barlow auditorium renovations complete in time for Pippin rehearsals



Photos courtesy of Mike D'Agostino

Joel Barlow High School has completed renovations to the school auditorium's stage and sound system in time for rehearsals for *Pippin*, the spring musical in March. The work was completed by BMP Construction with a final cost of \$209,000, funded from the Region 9 Capital Reserve. Spots on the stage where the wood was so worn that it was dangerous for the performers were repaired, with boards replaced and the stage completely refinished. The 20-year-old sound system was also replaced. New speakers were hung, including a subwoofer, which reproduces very low-frequency sounds. A trench was dug to attach the speakers to the new Allen & Heath Avantis soundboard. (From top left, clockwise): A trench was dug to bring wires from the speakers over the stage to the sound board; The new soundboard; The newly refinished stage floor; A portion of the stage floor before the renovation.

Selectmen consider membership in CT Municipal Development Authority / continued from page 1

have with the need for additional resources, which is where the CMDA can help.

Selectmen Michael Thompson asked what kind of funding would be available. The CMDA currently has a \$90 million allocation in State general obligation bonds, which are municipal bonds issued by governments to fund public infrastructure projects like schools,

roads, and parks, secured by tax revenue. These can fund technical assistance, capital expenditures, housing, building demolition, and rehabilitation and development.

Selectwoman Diana Carlino inquired why the legislature would create a development authority instead of a group organization or department that gives out grants. Kooris explained that many State

grant programs have very particular requirements. The CMDA is geographically focused in a way that State grant programs typically are not. It is also a mechanism for additional external input and brings in external expertise as a way of overseeing the allocation of funds.

The Selectmen plan to continue this discussion at their February 17 meeting. ■

Community Garden fence project may not include expansion

By Donna Christopher

Last May at the budget referendum, voters approved capital spending which included \$36,000 for the replacement of the fence at the Community Garden. The Park and Recreation Department hoped that the project would provide an opportunity to expand the garden's footprint, adding new plots and clearing the longstanding waitlist. That may no longer be feasible, according to Park and Recreation Director Rob Blick and First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton.

Blick, who is overseeing the project, explained that he believed there was a reserve septic area near the field on which the Community Garden is located, but later learned that Redding Elementary School's septic system fields may be located beneath the existing garden and in the potential expansion area. Expanding the garden would require digging into the septic system, which is not advisable. He also noted that the Town lacks the diagrams needed to accurately map the septic system and creating them would be cost-prohibitive.

"We have been aware that the garden fence has been in disrepair. As part of last year's budget discussions, there was conversation not only about replacing the fence, but also about enlarging the garden. I did express that the garden was already large, but at the end of the day, if not for the septic limitations, we likely would have expanded the garden," said First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton.

Pemberton said that she asked Blick to mark out the proposed expansion area at the location, which she said was about 40% of the existing garden's size. She had concerns about it extending into the historic vista adjacent to Lone-town Farm and questions about

access to the new walking path, which will not be completed until the spring.

Those concerns, however, are secondary to the septic issue.

"The only reason the garden is not being expanded at this time is because of the septic issue," Pemberton clarified. "It is not my decision to expand the garden." Pemberton said there have been many discussions about how large the garden should be and commended the Community Garden Committee as "a strong advocate for the garden."

The Community Garden, which was established over 40 years ago, is located on Lonetown Road behind the Historical Society. It has 27 plots, an increase from its usual 23 that was achieved last year by subdividing a few of them to allow for more users. The current waitlist for a plot has eight people on it.

Instead of expanding the Garden, the Town plans to replace the existing footprint with a new wooden fence. As part of the project, water spigots will be relocated to more functional locations. The new fence is planned to be installed in the same footprint as the current wooden fence but will be set one foot deeper. It will include an extra foot of fence bend outwards to further deter rodents.

In a December 2025 update to the Park and Recreation Commission, Blick noted that eight bids were received for the project, with about half of them being in the appropriate price range for the existing fence with extra foot of fence in an L-shaped bottom.

Next in the process will be reviewing the community garden fence bids before final selection. A target date for completion is set for April 15, 2026. ■

REMEMBERING REDDING

Small town, four post offices | By Bruce Nelson



Post master Jim Wixted at the Redding Ridge post office in the 1950s.

Redding is unusual, in that the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) still maintains four separate post offices in a town with a population of less than 10,000. While there are several other municipalities in Connecticut that have as many or more post offices as we do, none have such a small population. The question often posed to me is: Why?

When the first European settlers began to establish farms in Redding, they encountered a rather challenging landscape. The town is comprised of three large north-to-south running ridges that are divided by the three deep valleys where the Saugatuck, Little River, and Aspetuck flow. North-to-south travel was relatively easy, but east-to-west was difficult due to the steep and often rocky terrain. As the town grew, most of the original settlers chose to establish their homesteads on higher ground, where the cultivation of the land was the easiest. Umpawaug, Lonetown, and Chestnut Ridge (Redding Ridge) soon had the highest concentration of farms, and the earliest churches were built in the Center and on Chestnut Ridge.

In July 1775, at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, the Second Continental Congress established the United States Post Office, and Benjamin Franklin was appointed as the first Postmaster General. Local post offices took a while to establish, and while we know Redding had three post offices by 1832, we weren't clear on which section of town got the very first one – although, by the way the town was laid out, it seemed likely that the first post office might have been one in the Little Boston neighborhood near the junction of today's Redding Road, Peaceable Street, and Umpawaug Road. Umpawaug Road was the major north-south thoroughfare from Norwalk to Danbury and was also an early stagecoach route between New York and Boston.

The earliest records of U.S. Postmaster appointments are stored

in the National Archives and begin with Volume I from 1789 to 1818 (if there were written records of appointees prior to that date, they have been lost or destroyed). Searching these records was somewhat tedious, since some volumes list post offices by state and then alphabetically by town, while others list offices alphabetically without regard to which state they are in. It isn't until Volume VIII begins in 1832 that we found offices listed by state, county, and then town, making research much easier.

The very first recorded postmaster in Redding was William Comstock, who was appointed on April 1, 1811. That office was identified simply as "Redding." William Sanford was appointed on July 1, 1815 as the postmaster for the office located in the "Town House" in the Center. It wouldn't be until Volume IV that we learned Samuel Whiting was appointed as the first postmaster at "Redding Ridge" in 1829. Joseph Darling replaced William Comstock in 1828, and it was then we had proof that the office identified as "Redding" was located in Darling's Tavern in Little Boston. In 1832, records indicate that all three postmasters were paid an annual stipend of between \$300 and \$400 each.

Darling's Redding post office served the west side of town until the Danbury and Norwalk Railroad began operation in 1852. That year, two new post offices opened that sat adjacent to the tracks, one was in Georgetown, but located in Wilton a few hundred yards south of the intersection of today's Route 57 and Old Mill Road, and the other was on the western side of Long Ridge Road at Griffin's hotel in West Redding along the northern side of the tracks. Those two offices would then serve the western side of Redding while the post office in Little Boston ceased operation, and the old "Town House" office assumed the "Redding" designation.

The 1867 Beers map clearly shows Redding's four postal zones



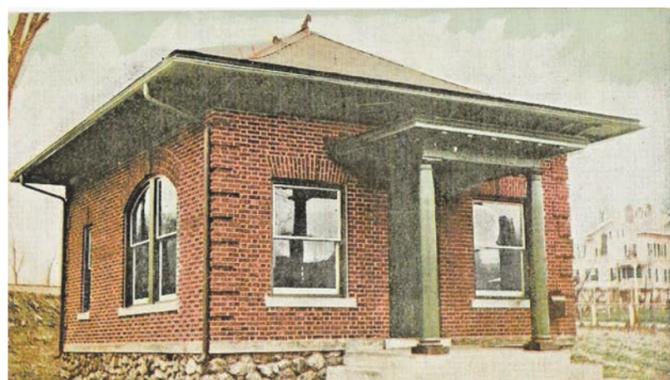
"Darling's Tavern" on Redding Road.

– Georgetown, West Redding, Redding, and Redding Ridge. What remains a mystery when looking at many old envelopes that were sent to Redding residents during late 19th and early 20th century was how they ended up at the correct post office, since most simply contained the recipient's name and the town was listed as "Redding." There were no street addresses, since none of the mail in the 19th century was delivered to an individual's home. Except for Georgetown, all of Redding's post offices operated out of a general store or a residence until well after WWII, so how or where the mail was properly sorted remains unanswered.

In 1908, the Gilbert & Bennett company built two new buildings on North Main Street in Georgetown to serve that community. One was a new railroad depot, while the second was a new brick post office. The new office was then located in Redding, officially giving the town four post offices within its borders.

In 1896, Congress had mandated that the United States Post Office provide free mail delivery to the entire population of the country. Rural Free Delivery (RFD) would turn out to be a massive undertaking, as thousands of additional letter carriers needed to be hired and routes worked out. By the end of that first year, there were only 82 rural routes. That number gradually increased, and by the early 1900s, over 100,000 miles in rural America were being covered. Like most rural communities, Redding's first RFD routes were run out of neighboring towns – meaning that mail addressed to many Redding residents would have been addressed to the town where those RFD routes originated.

As early as 1911, Postmaster John Jennings, who operated out of the West Redding Store, lobbied Washington to have the RFD mail in Redding arrive at West Redding instead of Bethel, where two men had been delivering mail to Redding residents since the



The Georgetown Post Office in 1914.



The Center post office was housed in the Sanford House, shown here in 1938.

beginning of the century. The route from Bethel to most of Redding was far less hilly, so it took a number of years before the change was completed. Eventually, all the mail that was delivered to the homes of Redding residents would be distributed out of West Redding, and RFD customers were told to inform senders to change the mailing address to "West Redding" to assure their mail arrived in a timely fashion.

For over 100 years, the West Redding post office was located in the West Redding Store and the postmaster there was almost always listed as the store's proprietor. It was under the supervision of postmaster Kenneth Bell that the current West Redding post office facility opened during the 1960s.

The post office in the Center saw many changes in locale, although most of them were only a few hundred yards from the Town Green. The office was sometimes located within residential homes and sometimes in stores that were located on Cross Highway. Many old timers may remember Minnie Warner who ran the post office out of her home in an enclosed side porch that was always adorned with African violets.

The post office on the Ridge was

operated for a number of years at Francis Sanford's large retail store on Cross Highway. Subsequent post masters included Julia Sanford who operated her office in the old Sanford Institute on Black Rock Turnpike. When Esther Ostling took over as post master after Julia's death in 1936, she built a small red building on property next to her house on South Lane and then leased it to the USPS. When Jim Wixted returned from the service at the end of WWII, he became the postmaster at the Ridge and ran that facility for many years.

Today, Redding's four post offices are all located in buildings that are leased to the USPS. How they have all managed to survive in an era when the Service has made a serious effort to downsize and economize remains an absolute mystery, but for those among us who enjoy chatting with our friendly postmaster while purchasing our stamps, it remains a welcome reprieve from an all too quickly changing modern world. ■

Bruce Nelson is Co-Historian for the Town of Redding and Co-Founder of the Redding, CT History Project

MUSIC NOTE

Can music be medicinal? | By Pamela Brown



Sherrye Platt, RVNAhealth Music Therapist led a program on January 27 on "Music and Brain Health"

Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote, "Music is the universal language of mankind." Not only can music connect people, but it also serves to improve mental, emotional, and physical health.

Sherrye Platt, a board-certified Hospice Music Therapist at RVNAhealth, led a free interactive program on Tuesday, January 27 at Heritage Center called "Music & Brain Health" to discuss just

how powerful music can be and to get participants making tunes of their own.

Platt discussed therapeutic uses of music, how music can be a benefit as we age, and the neuroscience behind the different parts of our brains and why we have such a strong connection with music physiologically.

"You can quite literally 'feel it.' Music therapy is not in and of itself curative, but it can be used to alleviate symptoms associated with many ailments. Ailments might be too narrow of a word, because it helps with all kinds of goals," said Platt.

Attendees participated in group music-making activities. "I demonstrate several musical activities where everyone can participate to their own ability and interest level

and then we talk about what was happening neurologically during the activity. People can choose to play percussion instrument, clap their hands, move, sing along to the music and only if they want to," said Platt.

She often will sing and play a familiar song as part of her work with groups as well.

"Regarding genres, we emphasize that it's 'preferred music.' That's the most powerful on an individual basis. I've worked with people whose preferences were everything from Classical to Heavy Metal!" she said.

"Redding has a history for appreciating the arts and music. Our Heritage Center community lights up and engages in music programs," said Margherita Pilato, Senior Center Program Coordinator.

For anyone who could not attend the program, Platt encourages them to learn more about music therapy and tune into their favorite music at home. "People can absolutely (and already do) use music therapeutically on their own. The key thing is that music therapy can only be practiced by someone who is board certified and, in Connecticut, state licensed. At home, the ways that people can choose to utilize music in a therapeutic way are too vast to count, but some of these ways might include listening to music, playing an instrument, using spiritual music as part of a ritual, attending a live music event, engaging in a music discussion with loved ones, engaging in music as a family (including children) and more." ■

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

“More than just a haircut”

A musician-turned-barber on the importance of good company – and an expert beard trim | By Justin Reynolds



Photo courtesy of Zap's Barbershop
James Zap (left) and Jorge Quesada

James Zap never planned on becoming a barber. But after years of playing guitar in a wedding band, he's traded in the axe for some shears as owner of Zap's Barbershop, which opened in Wilton in November.

After graduating from the University of New Haven with a music degree, Zap planned to make a living playing guitar wherever he could. While growing his beard out, he stopped into Dapper Den in Ridgefield for a trim and struck up a conversation with the barber, who happened to be looking for an apprentice.

Zap worked there for eight years before venturing out on his own and starting his own entrepreneurial journey.

"I thought being a barber could be a cool Plan B, but it turned out to be a cool Plan A," Zap said with a

laugh. "It was just time to move on and take the next step."

Zap's Barbershop aims to deliver "expert grooming services" in a comfortable and engaging environment.

"We treat every client with respect," said Zap, who grew up in Ridgefield and moved to Redding last winter. "We believe a great haircut comes with good company and a place where you can be yourself."

For Zap, barbershop clientele should always leave feeling like they look like a million bucks. But they should also enjoy the camaraderie and banter, which buttress the entire experience.

"We talk about anything – what's going on in their lives, what's going on in ours," he explained. "We're a welcoming environment, and we understand people. It's all about reading the room. We want to make them feel like they got more than just a haircut."

Zap, who runs the business with fellow barber Jorge Quesada, said his shop's most popular service is beard trimming. "We shape any size beard," he continued. "We're very good at haircuts and shaves, but beard grooming is where we separate ourselves from the rest of the barbers."

Additional offerings include haircuts, shaves, head shaves, ear waxing, nose waxing, facials, and hair washes. "I've cut hair for the WWE a handful of times," Zap said. "That's been fun."

Unsurprisingly, Zap is a beard aficionado in his own right, with award-winning whiskers. In 2021,

he took third place at the National Beard and Mustache Championships in the "three-to-six inches groomed" category.

Zap's Barbershop also cuts women's hair in short styles, with longer styles referred to other stylists in the same building. The shop is located at 5 River Road in Wilton, inside Sola Salon Studios, which Zap described as a "WeWork for salons."

"We're the only barbershop here," he noted.

While most of Zap's clients are local, his skills have attracted folks from all over, thanks to content on his former employer's YouTube channel, which has racked up a "couple million views."

"One customer comes down from Boston to trim his beard every other month," he said. "Once, someone drove from Kentucky to Maine with his wife and stopped at the shop because he'd seen the videos."

Zap's Barbershop is open Wednesdays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Customers can book appointments through the company's website, zapsbarbershop.com, and Booksy.

In the doldrums of winter, paying a visit might just pay off.

"You can be shocked at what a shave and a haircut can do for your mood," Zap said. ■

Learn more at zapsbarbershop.com

Notes from a neighbor

The ties that bind | By Carter Wiseman

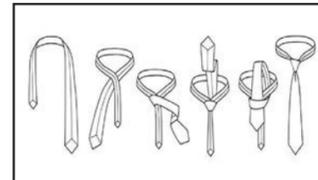


Diagram courtesy of John Henric

For many years, I have had a rack on the back of my closet door dedicated to neckties. Some are decorated with little animals, others have sober stripes from my days as an office worker, and there is a black bow inherited from my father, who in his day had to dress for dinner on special occasions. I was about to toss the entire collection; and then came Zohran Mamdani.

Unlike a growing posse of politicians who seemed to feel that they could bond better with the electorate by campaigning in sweatpants or bomber jackets, Mamdani ran for mayor of New York City wearing a suit and a tie. *The New York Times* even ran a piece about how this 34-year-old pup was dressing like a grown-up. And then he won, beating Andrew Cuomo, whose father would not have come down to breakfast with an open collar.

Even RFK Jr., who could not be further from Mamdani politically, has picked up the trend, sporting not just button-down collars, but skinny retro knit ties to go with them. This seems to be leaving some of the legacy media in a quandary. Depending on the day, even Joe Scarborough, of the TV news show *Morning Joe*, will wear a rep tie, or a warm-up jacket, apparently trying to cover the spread of his viewers.

I sense a trend here: Looking relaxed may have been oversold. Indeed, at least some people are returning to the idea that men in

positions of responsibility should be able to tie a knot. Perhaps that's why conservatives like the veteran columnist George Will favor bow ties. Regardless of political affiliation, bow ties require some digital dexterity. I was never able to show my sons how to tie one without closing my eyes and wrapping my arms around them from behind. I once tried teaching a neighbor's son how to do it for a Joel Barlow prom and warned him not to let his date pull it loose, in case he had to explain it to his mother when he got home.

But the four-in-hand has an even stronger legacy, not least because it can be a historical document. I have a vintage red tie embellished with the image of a New York City subway token, now a vanished technology. Another shows a combination of the Irish and Colombian flags, passed around at a blended-family wedding. A third bears the logo of a school I attended when I was little, but still support.

That impulse seems to be shared by a wide range of former schoolboys. The notorious British spy Guy Burgess, who fled to Moscow in 1951, regularly asked his friends back home for an occasional shipment of English items, including newspapers and tea. But he always asked that they also include a necktie, the one representing his posh boarding school, Eton. Even a man who turned his back on everything he had pledged to defend as a servant of the Crown apparently felt tethered by his old school tie.

Smart move. Had Burgess stayed in England to refresh his four-in-hand, he might have ended his days at what was referred to in America's Old West as a "necktie party." ■



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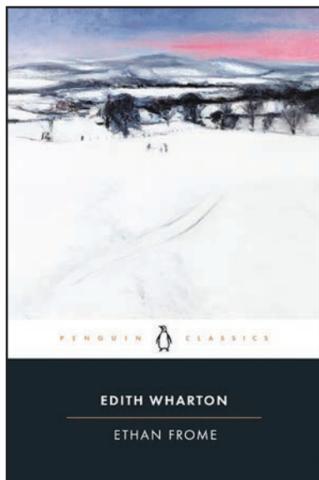
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BOOK REVIEW

Ethan Frome

By Edith Wharton

Penguin Classics / 128 pages / \$11.00



For those of us who grew up in New England, *Ethan Frome* was part of our education, and I return to it every few years, especially in the winter. The story is simple and universal – struggling farm, difficult relations between a man and his unhappy, hypochondriac wife, and a love interest who arrives as a “hired girl.” But, as they say, the devil – or in this case, the success – is in the details.

Wharton, who wrote from the 1890s into the first decades of the 20th century, is best known for her pointed portrayals of the New York society life into which she was born and where she thrived. *Ethan Frome*, set in rural Massachusetts, is far distant from Wharton’s other works. Ethan Frome grew up on a farm and began to study engineering. He longed to get away from

the small town that had been passed by when the railroads came through, and to live and work in a big city. Fortune had other ideas. Frome was called home to care for his ailing parents. After his father died, a cousin Zenobia (Zeena) came to stay to help with his mother. When his mother passed away as well, Ethan and Zeena were wed. The good times lasted barely a year.

Life on the farm was difficult and took so much of Frome’s effort that he had little time to look after his invalid wife. A young relative of Zeena’s, Mattie, who had fallen on hard times herself, was brought to the farm to help around the house. Inevitably, Ethan and Mattie fall in love and Zeena decides to send her away. The ending is tragic, and I won’t spoil it.

Wharton portrays her characters in fine detail but with warmth and understanding. Ethan is a good man trying his best. Zeena is vile. Mattie sparkles. Wharton captures farm life and, in particular, wintry weather and the natural world in full. Although this slim book was written more than 100 years ago, the themes are contemporary if some of the details are not.

Ethan Frome is now one of Wharton’s best-loved novels, with good reason. A perfect winter’s read. ■

Review by Susan Clark

Kick off Redding’s America 250 with the Town Co-Historians Mark Twain Library program on February 5

By Bruce Nelson

According to the Brownstone Institute, the 18-letter semiquincentennial is not only difficult to remember but doesn’t easily roll off the tongue. It is, however, the accepted word that describes America’s 250th anniversary in 2026. However, most of us are likely just to refer to this year’s multiple celebrations as “America 250.”

Like most communities, Redding has a multitude of events either already on the calendar or in their final planning stages.

As Redding’s official Town Co-Historians, Brent Colley and I will be involved in several projects, the first of which will be at our favorite venue, the Mark Twain Library, on Thursday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Brent and I have been invited to share our PowerPoint presentation of “Redding’s Revolutionary Years,” a detailed description of what life was like for the residents of Redding during the decade of the 1770s. We will describe the farms, the everyday challenges of ordinary people, the politics of the day, and some of the personalities that shaped how our residents felt about declaring our independence from Britain. We will cover the April 1777 march through Redding by 2,000 British soldiers, as well as the 1778-1779 winter encampment in town by over 3,000 soldiers of the Continental Army. The event will be both “in-person” and “virtual” online. This event is free to the public but requires registration at marktwinlibrary.org.

The Mark Twain Library event is just the beginning. Next up will be a spring walk and talk at Putnam Memorial State Park on a date that is yet to be determined. There, we will describe the conditions the men of the Continental Army had to endure and the often-rocky relationship they had with the local townspeople as Redding’s population swelled to more than three times its normal size that winter.

On April 30, we will be back at Mark Twain Library for a talk about Redding’s long-time resident composer, Charles Ives. Still in the planning stage at this juncture, we hope to include a guest speaker who can more accurately describe Ives’s musical compositions. This talk will be a prelude to a patriotic concert at Joel Barlow on May 30. On that date, many in the audience will likely hear Ives’s composition, “Three Places in New England” for their very first time. The piece includes a musical tribute to Redding and Putnam Park. This musical event will feature the Greater Bridgeport Symphony Orchestra along with some very talented Joel Barlow High School student musicians.

Please visit redding250.com for additional information and your opportunity to join us as sponsors for these exciting events. Very special thanks go out to the staff at the Mark Twain Library and Sean McNamara of the Redding Nursery for spearheading and coordinating these events. ■

LIBRARY CORNER

Snow days | By Erin Shea Dummeyer

I once had a mentor tell me her least favorite part of her job as Library Director... making the call about snow days. Library directors don’t like making this decision, because we are always upsetting either our staff or our community. At the first public library I worked at, our director would tell a story of advocating for the library budget to municipal leadership one year and hearing feedback that the library closes in the presence of one snowflake. This stuck with her, and she became on team “Keep The Library Open.” And unfortunately for my staff, I inherited a bit of this attitude from her.

Since I believe, and often repeat, that the Library is for the community, I try to keep us open during weather events as long as road travel is safe for staff. The tools I use to make the decision are varied, and require a little bit of art, a little bit of science, and a lot of hope and prayer. Normally, I don’t like

to make any kind of weather call until the early morning of the day in question. The first report I check is Southern Connecticut Weather on Facebook. He tends to get a little too excited about snow though, so I also like to check the website Weather Underground. They develop their forecast using data from environmental sensors like weather stations and air quality monitors. Next, I see if any other libraries in the area have announced closings yet. Ridgefield and Wilton libraries definitely influence my decision, and they tend to announce early. At the same time, I text with a colleague who lives in Redding and has a good view from her window of one of our main thoroughfares. I look at the Library’s Ring camera footage to see how many inches we got and whether the parking lot has been cleared yet. This also indicates whether we have power. The posts from neighbors on Redding 411 asking, “How are the roads?”

are also a surprisingly reliable resource.

After all of this, I fret to my husband. We talk about childcare plans. I check the Library’s program calendar again. I fret to my husband once more. Then I make a decision. Once the decision has been made, it’s a huge relief, and I can go about my day as normal. I also think it is important to note that I have never kept any library I have ever managed open during questionable weather and not commuted in myself (excluding weekends, to be fair). This means I have worked in the library alone on two occasions, and it has been great fun talking to patrons about the weather conditions as they stroll inside. So, here’s to either hunkering down or coming to the library to get out of the house... it just depends on the weather. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

OBITUARIES

Karen Wylie Passed away January 7, 2026



It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Karen Berthelsen Wylie of Redding (formerly of Greenwich) on January 7, 2026.

Born in Manhattan to Johann and Helena Berthelsen, Karen resided in NYC until her teens when the family moved to New Milford. After graduating from high school, she returned to NYC to work as a secretary, while furthering her education at Hunter College.

It was in NY that Karen met and married Robert (Bob) Stirling Wylie, Jr, her husband of 71 years. After a temporary relocation to the Chicago area for Bob’s work, they returned to the East Coast and began building a family, living briefly in Stamford before moving to Greenwich where they lived for over 50 years. Karen managed the

chaotic family of six along with numerous pets with love, grace, kindness, and sumptuous cooking.

Karen’s parents were artists, her father a singer and painter, and her mother a dancer. This provided Karen with a passion for artistic pursuits. She enjoyed sewing, creating many lovely clothes for herself and her children. She enrolled in a number of painting classes and while she never felt overly proficient, she took pleasure in the creative process. She loved gardening and had plants and flowers in bloom from spring to fall.

In 1963, Karen was awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism in recognition of her bravery in trying valiantly to save a child who had fallen through the ice on the Mianus River. Karen went under the ice and was rescued by a heroic passerby with whom she remained friends throughout her life. While the medal commemorated her act of heroism, for her family she would always be a hero.

Karen was civic-minded and, as a member of the Second Congregational Church, she was instrumental in the opening of Act II Boutique at the church. She also volunteered in the Greenwich schools and served as a docent at the Bruce Museum. She became a highly respected realtor in the late 1970s, working for over 20 years, first with Newhall & Ogilvy

and then with David Ogilvy & Associates.

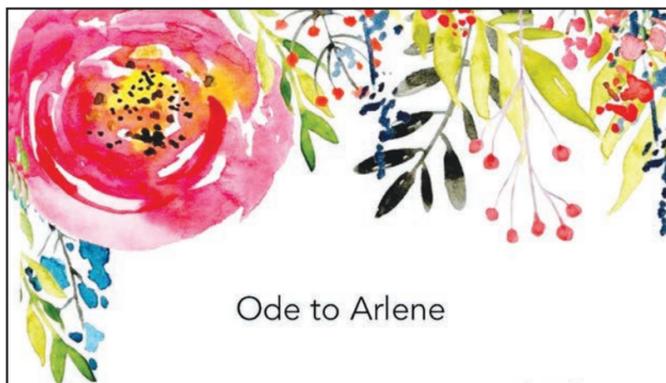
Karen and Bob enjoyed their retirement years spending time with family and friends, gardening, relaxing by their pool, participating in various community activities, and taking a very active role in their grandchildren’s lives.

In 2015, they moved to Meadow Ridge Senior Living and spent 10 wonderful years there. Karen delighted in taking the many language and arts classes offered, presenting opera movies to the Meadow Ridge Community, and making new friends. The family would like to thank the superb staff at Meadow Ridge for the wonderful care, compassion and support our parents received in their twilight years.

Karen is survived by three children, Liza (Peter), James (Donna), Ian (Pilar), six grand-children (Sarah, Meaghan, Ian Jr, David, Jack, and Emma) and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband Bob and her son Rob, both of whom passed in 2025, as well as Rob’s wife Jane who passed in 2020.

A memorial service celebrating Karen’s life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on February 21 at the Wilton Congregational Church in Wilton. In lieu of flowers, donations in Karen’s honor can be made to National Public Radio. ■

Arlene Alpert June 8, 1932 — January 13, 2026



Ode to Arlene

There once was a woman named Arlene
Who persistently ventured to dream.
She traveled the globe multiple times,
far and wide to many climes.
She was a fan of cuisines and was known to
lunch on sardines.

Arlene is survived by her daughter, Redding resident Terry Karpen, and her son, Richard Karpen of Seattle, WA.

In addition to her immediate family, Arlene is survived by her brother, Stuart Alpert of West Hartford, CT, her sister and brother-in-law, Joan and Stan Reuter of East Greenwich, RI, and nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. ■



REDDING KIDS Winter Edition

Calling all student artists! Your work could be on an official stamp



Connecticut students in kindergarten through grade 12 can support wetland conservation in Connecticut by entering the 2026 Junior Conservation Duck Stamp Art Competition.

To enter, all you have to do is create and submit a drawing or painting featuring native waterfowl (ducks or geese). There is no cost, and submissions must be post-marked by March 15, 2026.

This competition is intended to increase conservation awareness among young people. The “Best

in Show” winner will have their art featured as the 2027 Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp! The winning submission will also be entered in the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest.

With every Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp purchased, 99% of every dollar is spent to protect and enhance homes for migratory birds like the American black duck, red-winged blackbird, and great blue heron.

Since its creation in 1993, the Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp Program has contributed and leveraged over \$4 MILLION towards wetland protection and restoration in the state! ■

Learn more about the competition and how to submit a drawing at portal.ct.gov/deep/wildlife/stamp/connecticut-junior-duck-stamp-art-contest.

Winter stories from Mark Twain Library



It’s the perfect time of year to cozy up on the couch with some hot cocoa and a good book! You can find a whole list of wintery story books to check out from Mark Twain Library. Here’s a snapshot of what you can check out – from picture books for the little ones to beginner chapter books for early readers. For the full list and to check them out virtually, scan the QR code.

I’m Going to Build a Snowman
by Jashar Awan

Winter Pony
by Jean Slaughter Doty

Icefall by Matthew J. Kirby

Winter Rescue

by W. D. Valgardson

The Iciest, Diciest, Scariest Sled Ride Ever! by Rebecca Rule

The Secrets of Winterhouse
by Ben Guterson

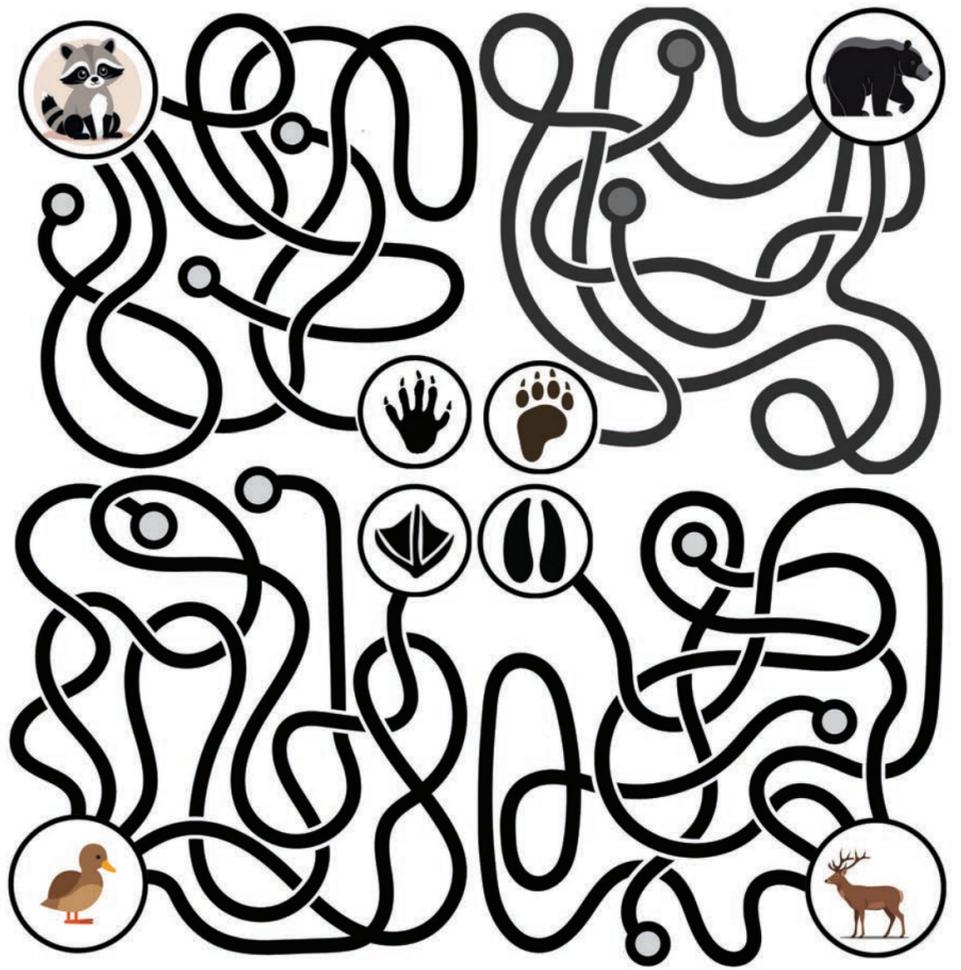
Twelve Kinds of Ice
by Ellen Obed

Good Morning, Snowplow!
by Deborah Bruss and Lou Fancher



Animal tracks: Follow these prints

Follow the path to find out who’s been walking the trails at New Pond Farm!



Activity courtesy of New Pond Farm Education Center

Winter Word Ladder

W	A	R	M
W		R	M
W	O	R	
W	O		D
C	O	L	D

Make your way from WARM to COLD by changing just one letter on each step to make a new word.

Wiggly creature



Unit of speech



High, open land

Winter chillin’ in Redding *Hibernation, brumation, migration, oh my!*

By Mary Corcoran



Woodpecker



Gray squirrel

Photos by Mary Corcoran

Have you been enjoying our winter so far? Keeping warm with a cozy coat can feel snuggly; so can warm gloves, a hand-knitted scarf, and a fitted hat. Maybe some hot chocolate too! (You might even have a special coat for your dog.)

All these things you do might be considered adaptations so that you can live in the cold winters of Connecticut. Some animals do just what you do! Can you think of some animals that you might see in winter?

Oh, dear, did you say deer? It’s so great to see them here in Redding. What adjustments (adaptations) do they make, or do, to keep warm and have enough food? In preparation for cold weather, deer eat in autumn to put on a layer of fat, which is an

energy source in winter. They also grow a winter coat, with hollow hairs to insulate and fine hairs for warmth. Other animals form this layer of fat too, including some birds, and mammals like squirrels and foxes.

Have you noticed how squirrels bring their beautiful tail up to partly cover their back? This helps them keep warm. Foxes use their tail for the same thing.

Another thing animals can do (a strategy) is to be a *shallow hibernator* like a bear, chipmunk, or raccoon. These mammals keep their body temperature pretty close to normal and chill in a cozy shelter. Chipmunks enjoy a store of food they have collected. They wake up briefly for snacks and to use the

bathroom. A cozy wood or leaf pile is a nice spot to snuggle up if you are a chipmunk or snake.

Skunks are not true hibernators, so you may see them in the winter on warmer nights (over 30 degrees Fahrenheit).

Another plan certain animals use to survive cold (or heat) is to go into *torpor*. This is when they actually lower their body temperature and slow their body’s reactions. In desert areas, certain animals might go into torpor to avoid extreme heat (*estivation*, like some tortoises). In Connecticut, some animals *hibernate*, avoiding winter all together! Bats and woodchucks are true hibernators. During hibernation, they breathe only a few times each minute and have a super low heartbeat.

Why hibernate? It allows animals to not “worry” about looking for food or water when these resources are not as available.

One animal called the North American Wood Frog, actually freezes! In winter, ice forms around its organs. At the same time, sugar (glucose) from the blood goes into cells, which protects them from freezing. The glucose acts like an

“anti-freeze.” (We use anti-freeze in cars so the water doesn’t freeze, which would damage the vehicle.) In winter, this amphibian’s heart stops beating, it doesn’t breathe, and its eyes turn white because its lenses freeze! Now, fast forward to spring. This frog thaws, its heart starts beating, its brain becomes active, and it starts moving again. There’s no damage to its body, while most other animals would not survive this. Hoppy Hooray!

Reptiles become less active and go into *brumation*, a time when they are dormant and do not eat. They must drink, though. Can you think of a few Connecticut reptiles?

There are some animals, like certain bird species, that decide to “get out of town!” For example, osprey and some songbirds *migrate*, going to a warmer climate for a while to live in a place where they can get food. They leave our area when there are changes in temperature, daylight (less), and the amount of food available. For example, hummingbirds migrate, leaving Connecticut around late September and coming back in late April. Welcome home!

For the birds that stay around

here, they grow warmer coats of feathers. Birds can also “puff up” with air between their skin and their feathers, making great insulation! Brrr!

We can’t forget fish! They don’t move much in the cold, so they need less oxygen and food. They’re snug in the warmer water deep down in a lake. That chilly ice on top of a pond or lake actually helps keep the heat in the water below the surface ice.

Bees. What? What happens to them in the winter? For some species in Connecticut, female bees gobble up lots of nectar in the autumn, then go to *hibernacula*, burrows that are underground or in rotting wood. Males do not survive for the next year. Queen bees prefer making their “royal resting spot” just below (a few inches) the surface of the ground.

Hope you have a “chill” winter! Keep warm and look forward to the super surprises of spring to come! ■

Mary K. Corcoran is a published children’s book author and science teacher living in Redding

THE NATURAL WORLD

Life begins when a tree dies

By Terry Karpen



Photo by Terry Karpen

What is a standing dead tree called?

I remember when, 25 years ago, a new friend invited me to visit her property designed by a prestigious landscape architect. As we toured the garden, she pointed to several standing dead trees which no longer had any branches and proudly admired what she referred to as “snags.” The unattractive snags appeared incongruent with the elegant planting scheme of the garden. I had never heard of the term snag, nor was I familiar with the idea of intentionally leaving dead trees in place as something beneficial. That experience initiated my ecological awareness, and I shifted to an aesthetic that values sustainable landscaping and environmental stewardship and, at the same time, maintains the grace and beauty of the landscape.

Ecological benefits of standing dead trees

The story of tree snags—standing dead trees—is about ecological regeneration. Trees can provide more habitats for wildlife dead than when they are alive. They are also called “wildlife trees” because they create an environment in forests

and home landscapes that supports a healthy ecosystem by providing food and shelter to millions of different animal species. “Birds, small mammals, and other wildlife use snags for nests, nurseries, storage areas, foraging, roosting, and perching,” according to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

“According to the U.S. Forest Service, this includes about 85 species of birds, at least 50 mammals, and about a dozen reptiles and amphibians that rely on dead trees for survival. Then there are the dozens of invertebrates such as millipedes, beetles, spiders, worms, ants, bees, and more who call dead trees home or a snack bar. (Plus countless microscopic species essential to the natural community),” writes Wild Ones Organization former Director, Donna VanBuecken.

The benefits of a snag become more extensive as it ages. “Snags undergo a series of changes, from the time they begin to die until they finally collapse, and each stage of decay has particular value to a whole host of different animals with unique needs,” as reported by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

How long can a dead tree remain standing?

Some can remain intact for 100 years or more, while others decay faster and break down within two to 10 years. “Each species has its unique lifespan and rate of decay that determine how long it will persist once it is deceased,” according to Acorn Tree Care in Georgia. And while it can be decades before a snag falls to the ground, it can lie for decades more as it continues to provide benefits to the ecosystem until it has completely decomposed. In this final stage, it becomes a “nurse log” as bacteria, fungi, and insects

continue to break down the wood, and convert it into nutrient-rich organic matter that enriches the soil.

Snags in your landscape

Property owners usually remove dead trees. As current understanding of the importance of snags in our ecosystem grows, perhaps the way we manage them will grow, too. While we are used to looking at a dead tree and finding the appearance unsightly, we can become accustomed to a new aesthetic when our awareness is expanded. Emphasizing the importance of snags, the *CT DEEP Snags for Wildlife* fact sheet states, “The removal of snags can negatively impact wildlife populations that are dependent on them as essential habitat components.” They recommend maintaining several snags per acre to ensure a healthy, functioning forest ecosystem. This applies to backyard habitats in addition to forest management. If a dead tree does not pose a fall risk to buildings or power lines, homeowners can consider snags as an alternative to paying for dead tree removal, although an arborist might be needed to cut down tall treetops and branches. Ideally, for maximum wildlife benefit, snags should be greater than 15 inches in diameter and taller than 10 feet.

“The science that studies these relationships and the processes linking each living thing to the physical and chemical environment is ecology—the science of planetary housekeeping.”

The First Law of Ecology: Everything Is Connected To Everything Else.”

- Barry Commoner (1917-2012), environmental scientist ■

Terry Karpen is proprietor of Queen Of Spades Gardens & Landscapes in Redding

If trees could talk

They would say, “Thank You” | By Laurie Heiss



Photo by Laurie Heiss
Redding trees in winter salute

The birds and the trees, dragonflies in the summer breeze, pay homage to their friend, amongst them days on end.

Or, to say it another way, if trees could talk, they would most certainly say “Thank You” to John McLeran for the many years he spent counting, evaluating, musing with, and caring for them. Reddingites add their collective thanks for John’s years of service as the Open Space Manager for Redding Land Trust and the Town of Redding. Many of us share John’s enthusiasm for nature, but his overt joy for walking and monitoring our land parcels was peacefully contagious.

The symbolism of dragonflies, order *Odonata*, includes themes of transformation, change, and adaptability, reflecting their journey from water to air. They can also signify light, joy, and wisdom – acting as a messenger between worlds. John was a messenger of sorts, like a grown-up woodland spirit that spoke both “human” and “nature.” To spend most of one’s life as a conservationist, naturalist, and educator, when that is what

brings you joy each day, might in part account for his constant smile and twinkling eyes.

John’s knowledge of and delight in dragonflies was unparalleled, as many knew. Not only was he an expert on dragonflies, he was a gifted ornithologist as well – okay, being a humble and self-deprecating guy, he might say he wasn’t actually an ornithologist (or a lepidopterist or odonatologist), but he seriously knew his birds. As the butterfly-counting team in Redding would add, he knew a lot about butterflies and was part of the gang.

In addition to the trees, birds, butterflies, and dragonflies, those of us who were lucky enough to know John, who benefited from his land management or readily shared knowledge or enjoyed his friendship, say “thank you.” Combined, that gratitude swirls over our green, now blanketed in white, open spaces.

To a life well-lived... ■

If you have a tree or story for this column, e-mail reddingtreeconservancy@gmail.com

Snow, snow, and more snow

Reader-submitted photography captures the beauty of winter



(From top left, clockwise): Photo by Susan Clark / Early morning light over Sanfords Road; Photo by Susan Clark / Redding’s gazebo on the Town Green blanketed in white; Photo by Dale Walter / Poliak Pond frozen in winter; Photo by Frank Cangialosi / A doe cleans out a backyard bird feeder; Photo by Danielle Dimston / The woods at New Pond Farm during a group snowshoe walk; Photo by Danielle Dimston / An ice formation on Topstone Pond; Photo by Mike Licarie / A tree covered in fresh powder at Redding Community Center, observed during a night plowing of the parking lot; Photo by Marjorie Derven / Feathery snowflakes cling to bare branches; Photo by Ann Curry / A winter wonderland along the Saugatuck River; Photo by Debora DeCarlo Rosa / Backyard beauty on a quiet winter’s afternoon; (Center) Photo by Jessie Wright / The alpacas of Redding Homestead Farm posing on their way to breakfast.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week's Featured Events

Forewarned: AI's Impact on Jobs and Economy

Thursday, January 29
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
In-person and virtual program
with PhD Rick Lawrence
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Solstice Piano Trio

Sunday, February 1
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Exploring connection between
Clara Schumann and Johannes
Brahms
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org
\$

Redding's Revolutionary Years: America @ 250

Friday, February 5
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
In-person and virtual presentation
with Redding's Town Co-Historians
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Want to feature an upcoming event?

E-mail us at
advertise@reddingsentinel.org
for more information.

ARTS

Sunday, February 1

Solstice Piano Trio
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Exploring connection between
Clara Schumann and Johannes
Brahms
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org
\$

Tuesday, February 3

**Understanding Color:
Observation & Application in
Painting**
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Lecture by artist and educator
Todd Casey
Heritage Center,
37 Lonetown Road
RSVP to mpilato@reddingct.gov
R

Friday, February 6

**Creative Cocktail Hour –
First Friday**
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
GTown Arts
5 Main Street
gtownarts.com

Friday, February 6

**Lyrics Coffeehouse –
Marc Berger**
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Live music in a relaxed atmosphere
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation
\$

Saturday, February 7

**Artists Talk and
Closing Reception**
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Into the Looking Glass
exhibition events
GTown Arts
5 Main Street
gtownarts.com

CHILDREN | TEENS

Saturday, January 31

Kids Day Out!
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Arctic adventures with pizza,
swim, movie, gym, and activities
for ages 3-10
Riverbrook Regional YMCA
404 Danbury Road
Wilton
wiltonymca.org
\$, R

Sunday, February 1

Take a Hike!
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Middle and high school students
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

Thursday, February 5

**February Storytime
(Ages 1-5 with an Adult)**
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

FOOD | WINE

Sunday, February 1

**Ridgefield Rotary's A Taste of
Ridgefield – 25th Anniversary**
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
and 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sample food and drink from
over 20 local establishments
Ridgefield Parks and Recreation /
Charter Oak Rooms
195 Danbury Road
Ridgefield
ridgefieldrotary.org/
taste-of-ridgefield
\$, R

Thursday, February 5

**In Season: Baking on the Farm –
Savory Bakes with Wine Pairings**
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Adults baking workshop
with Maisie Todd Wallick
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

HEALTH | WELLNESS

Sunday, February 1

**Pilates Fusion with
Lauren Chiarello Mika**
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

Thursday, February 12

**The Art of Calm:
Meditation with Ancient Wisdom
for Modern Lifestyles**
12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Virtual meditation session
Mark Twain Library
marktwinlibrary.org
R

NATURE

Wednesday, February 4

**Rise and Shine! Waking Up
Your Garden in Spring**
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Virtual program with gardening
author Jana Milbocker
Mark Twain Library
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Monday, February 9

**Redding Garden Club Meeting:
Garden Conservancy**
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Program with Garden Conservancy
historian Julia Censenbaugh
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road
reddinggardenclub.org/
monthly-meetings

Thursday, February 19

**Spring Flower Workshop:
Grow Anemones and
Ranunculus at Home**
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Hands-on workshop by
Redding Flower Farm
Shops at Auburn Landing
28 Main Street
reddingflowerfarm.com
\$, R

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Mondays – Fridays

The Breakfast Club
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Ongoing Alcoholics Anonymous
meetings, every weekday
Christ Church Episcopal
184 Cross Highway

Thursday, January 29

**Forewarned: AI's Impact
on Jobs and Economy**
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
In-person and virtual program
with PhD Rick Lawrence
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Thursday, February 4

**Lunch & Learn: Fraud
Awareness and Prevention**
12:00 p.m. Sandwiches from
Pignone's Redding Ridge Market
12:30 p.m. Presentation with
Police Chief Kalamaras
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road
E-mail mstillman@reddingct.gov
or (203) 938-9725
R

Friday, February 5

**Redding's Revolutionary Years:
America @ 250**
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
In-person and virtual presentation
with Redding's Town Co-Historians
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Wednesday, February 11

**Conversations: Truth, Myth,
and Democracy**
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Virtual discussion on speech
by Toni Morrison at Howard
University
Mark Twain Library
marktwinlibrary.org
R

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
44 Portland Avenue
bethlehemlutheranct.org

**Calvary Independent
Baptist Church**
Adult and Child Sunday School
at 10:00 a.m. / Worship Sundays at
11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday prayer meeting
at 7:00 p.m.
Nursery provided for all services.
711 Redding Road
cibcredding.org

Christ Church, Episcopal
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
184 Cross Highway
christchurchredding.org

**First Church of Christ,
Congregational**
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
25 Cross Highway
firstchurchredding.org

Long Ridge United Methodist
Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
201 Long Ridge Road
Danbury
longridgeumc.com

**Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish
St. Patrick Church:**
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
and 10:30 a.m.
Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.
Confessions:
Saturdays 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
and Mondays and Thursdays 7:30
p.m. – 8:00 a.m. and before/after
Weekday Mass
Eucharistic Adoration:
Mondays and Thursdays 7:00 p.m.
169 Black Rock Turnpike
sacredheart-stpat.org

**Georgetown Oratory of the Most
Sacred Heart of Jesus**
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
and 12:00 p.m. (Latin)
Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday: 6:00 pm. (Latin)
Holy Days: 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
First Fridays and Saturdays: 8:30 a.m.
Confessions:
Saturdays 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. and
Wednesdays 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.
Eucharistic Adoration: Saturdays
5:00 p.m. following Vigil Mass
30 Church Street

Temple B'nai Chaim
Friday, January 30
Shabbat in Honor of Founders
and 50th Anniversary
7:00 p.m.
82 Portland Avenue
templebnaichaim.org

MEETINGS

Thursday, January 29

**Region 9 Finance & Operations
Pension Committee**
5:30 p.m.
Central Office / Conference Room
654 Morehouse Road
Easton

Monday, February 2

**Park and Recreation
Commission**
7:00 p.m.
Community Center
37 Lonetown Road

Monday, February 2

Republican Town Committee
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, February 3

Georgetown Fire District
5:00 p.m.
Georgetown Fire Department
61 Redding Road

Tuesday, February 3

**Redding Board of Education
Budget Workshop**
6:00 p.m.
John Read Middle School /
Community Room
486 Redding Road

Tuesday, February 3

Conservation Commission
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Wednesday, February 4

**Brown Bag Lunch with
First Selectwoman**
12:00 p.m.
Town Hall
100 Hill Road

Monday, February 9

League of Women Voters
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Conference Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, February 10

**Planning Commission
Special Meeting**
5:45 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, February 10

Planning Commission
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, February 10

Redding Fire District 1
7:00 p.m.
186 Black Rock Turnpike

Wednesday, February 11

Region 9 Curriculum Committee
8:30 a.m.
Location TBD

Wednesday, February 11

Commission on Aging
9:00 a.m.
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road

Wednesday, February 11

Zoning Commission
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Thursday, February 12

**Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill
Advisory Committee**
6:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Conference Room
and Virtual
100 Hill Road and Zoom

*Sign-up to receive meeting
agendas and notifications at
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Joseph Porricelli
Branch Vice President
203-515.6310
joe.porricelli@cbrealty.com



Jennifer Margnelli
Assistant Brokerage Manager
646.245.1383
jennifer.magnelli@cbrealty.com

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