

REDDING SENTINEL

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REDDING, CONNECTICUT

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Some Connecticut police departments are replacing fleets with EV cruisers

By Donna Christopher

Fairfield, Madison, Westport, and Wethersfield police departments have added electric vehicles (EVs) to their fleets. Is it cost-effective? Officer Charles Sampson of the Information Services Division at Westport Police Department says the cost savings since the Department bought its first EV in 2019 have been significant.

“These eco-friendly vehicles have fit into our operations and our town perfectly as we do our part to enhance the sustainable future of our community,” said Sampson.

The Department started to incorporate sustainability practices with the purchase in 2007 of two hybrid vehicles; it currently has four electric vehicles, four hybrid vehicles, an electric motorcycle, and an electric Utility Task Vehicle. The first EV they purchased is a 2019 Tesla Model 3, for the Traffic Division in 2019.

“The purchase price of the Tesla was higher than the Ford Explorer, but we hypothesized that we’d recoup that expense in lower fueling and maintenance costs for the Tesla,” Westport Police Chief Foti Koskinas said in a 2021 release.

The Westport Police Department realized the benefits of utilizing EVs within the first year, Sampson said in an e-mail with the Sentinel. This was concluded in part based on a study done by a third party utilizing the numbers from the 2019 Tesla Model 3 versus a Ford SUV internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle.

“After year one, we realized a savings of approximately \$7,800 over a combustion engine vehicle. This was mainly due to the cost of electricity versus gas, and there is little to no additional maintenance on the vehicle like an ICE vehicle. There are no regular oil changes, brakes, tires, and other maintenance issues that ICE vehicles require on an annual basis,” Sampson said.

“The cost for a Tesla Model Y is approximately \$53,000 and a Ford SUV is approximately \$48,000,” according to Sampson. The federal government offers a \$7,500 rebate (including for municipalities) that purchase EVs for their fleet.

“With the government rebate, the cost of the Tesla is less than the cost of an ICE vehicle. The equipment that we upfit the vehicles with are similar, so there is little to no cost differences there,” he continued.

“Based upon the costs, upfitting needs, and fluidity of incorporating these vehicles into our fleet,

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Photo by Mercedes DeMasi

A glorious sky over Chestnut Woods Road on Wednesday, October 25. If you have a photo you’d like to see featured here, with credit of course, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org

Voters elect mix of incumbents and newcomers *Municipal elections held November 7*

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

A slow but steady stream of voters came to the polls at Redding Community Center on Tuesday, November 7, to elect candidates for a host of municipal positions, from First Selectman to Constable. Brownies sold Girl Scout cookies outside until the polls closed, and both the Democratic and Republican Town Committees hosted tents outside.

There were few surprises come 8:00 p.m., with no contested seats on the ballot this year.

This year’s voter turnout of 23.67% was lower than in the last municipal election held in November 2021, where turnout reached 42.59%. Town Clerk Michele Grande noted, however, that 2021 was the highest turnout Redding has seen for a municipal elec-

tion in many years, driven by both a primary challenge and contested seat for First Selectman. Municipal election turnout in previous years has tended to hover closer to 30%, with 2019 seeing 29.98% and 2017 seeing 31.4%. In the state midterm elections last year, Redding voters turned out at a rate of over 68%.

A total of 1,506 residents voted – 63 by absentee ballot, and eight who registered on Election Day.

There were nine newcomers on the ballot this year (candidates running for positions they did not currently hold), along with nearly two dozen incumbents. The Redding Board of Education, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Region 9 Board of Education, and Constables will see newcomers seated this term. For a complete listing of this year’s election winners and party endorsements, see page 2. ■

REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

Saugatuck Falls Natural Area

Diamond Hill Road entrance

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

In a recent exchange of information with the leader of the Pootatuck Archery Club, one line in an e-mail particularly piqued my interest: “Just beyond the archery range – at the end of the cul-de-sac – is parking for nature trails that are popular with hikers. The hiking trails are safely marked and do not cross into club territory.”

I filed this knowledge away until this week, when the weather and my schedule both allowed for a brisk autumn hike. Upon a quick Google Maps query, I found that the trails abutting the archery range were none other than those crisscrossing through

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ARPA grant helps make facility upgrades at Grange Hall a reality

By Rob Sample

Thanks to a combination of funding from private sources as well as the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Redding Grange Hall on Newtown Road is enjoying a renaissance.

For starters, the Grange received an ARPA grant of \$45,000. This was part of the \$2.7 million in ARPA funding the Town received from the federal government, beginning in 2022, to assist with a variety of town-wide projects. Besides municipal initiatives, much of Redding’s grant money went to non-profit organizations that serve Redding residents – including the Grange.

“The ARPA funds were for work on the upper level of the Grange Hall, which was built in 1914,” noted Redding Grange President Elizabeth Jensen. Specifically, the funds made the Hall’s existing bathroom compliant with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements. The funds also enabled the addition of a cooling system and upgrades to the building’s electrical system.

“The Hall can now be used during the summer,” said Jensen.

Jensen was part of a group of 13 people who took over the Grange in 2021, aiming to keep it alive after previous Grange leaders voted to disband the chapter and put the Grange Hall up for sale. After reorganizing the chapter, they realized they had a lot of work to do on the Hall.

“When we took over in 2021, the lower level was damp and had mildew,” said Jensen. “The State Grange was kind enough to grant Redding Grange funds to remediate and waterproof the basement so that we would have a healthy space.”

But that wasn’t enough to rebuild the lower level’s small kitchen – so the Grange applied for \$122,280 in ARPA funds, a request reviewed by Redding’s ARPA Funds Working Group. Weighing that request with those from other Redding non-profits, the working group recommended a reduced grant amount of \$45,000 – the amount ultimately approved by the Board of Selectmen and sent to voters at a special town meeting.

“While the kitchen wasn’t in the cards, we could not be more thrilled with the grant we received for the upper level,” said Jensen. Jensen is now focusing on several other vitally needed improvements to the Grange Hall.

“The ARPA funds were incredibly helpful, but more work is needed to keep the Hall thriving for generations to come,” she

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EDITORIAL

The *Sentinel* had the pleasure last weekend of presenting at the 25th annual meeting of the Redding Preservation Society. The group focuses on preserving local history, architecture, natural resources, and more, with their efforts helping to shape the Redding we know today. The Society has been one of the key players in the fight against Eversource to save hundreds of roadside trees along Cross Highway over the last two years, for example. “We’re like a fire department,” President Raymond D’Angelo said before the meeting started. “We’re on call for when things are at risk.”

Many of the group’s members and those who attended the meeting are also involved in other advocacy and interest groups in town – the Redding Tree Conservancy, Historic Review Committee, Economic Development Committee, Conservation Commission, and the like. It was striking to hear about the wide-ranging impact a group of engaged and dedicated residents can have on the landscape of our town and surrounding communities.

The Society had invited the Sentinel to speak on the topic of saving local news – a generous and valuable extension to their scope of preservation work. It became clear even before our presentation how the presence of a local newspaper can be a resource for groups like the Preservation Society, providing trustworthy information on ongoing efforts and reaching citizens who may become engaged through learning about certain issues or circumstances. Many remarked that simply knowing what others are doing and connecting with other advocacy groups helps to amplify their own work.

In our presentation, we outlined some of the market pressures and forces that have caused newspapers to shutter at staggering rates over the last twenty years – a report from Northwestern University last year estimated a rate of two closures per week, with nearly one-third of newspapers that existed two decades ago disappearing by 2025. Redding, of course, was no stranger to these forces, seeing its longstanding weekly paper the *Redding Pilot* close its doors in 2018 and going without a local paper until April 2022.

Saving locals news – or in the *Sentinel’s* case, reviving it – is in many ways swimming against the current. But as was clear in the meeting room on Sunday while listening to reports from several members of the Preservation Society, swimming against the current is often the way things get done. ■

LEGAL NOTICES

WARNING – NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Legal Voters in the Town of Redding, Connecticut, and those entitled to vote therein are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Special Town Meeting to be held at the Redding Town Hall Hearing Room on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. for the following purpose: To consider and vote upon the transfer of \$54,000 from the Town of Redding FY 24 Budget Contingency account to the FY 24 Highway Department repair account.

To do any and all things legal and necessary to accomplish the above-named purpose and to take any other action that may legally and properly come before the meeting.

DATED at Redding, Connecticut this 2nd day of November, 2023. ■

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

First Selectwoman
Julia Pemberton

Selectwoman
Margaret L. O’Donnell

Selectman
Michael Thompson

****REGISTERED VOTERS
AND GRAND LIST
PROPERTY OWNERS
(name must appear on the
last completed Grand List
10/21/2022) are eligible to vote
at the Special Town Meeting.
Please bring ID and arrive 15
minutes prior to the start of the
meeting to be checked off by the
Registrar of Voters.****

Concordia Trustee: Requesting a variance to reduce Rear yard setback from 50’ to 41’ feet for a proposed addition. Redding Zoning Regulations Section 4.6. Variance requested is 9’ feet.

Elizabeth Williams – Chairman,
Redding Zoning
Board of Appeals

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome Letters to the Editor. Please be clear, civil, and concise. E-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org with submissions.

To the Editor,

We bought our outdoor fall decorations through the John Read Middle School PTA Mums Sale this year instead of at a local garden center. The flowers are beautiful, and we were glad there was an opportunity to support the middle school while getting something we buy anyway every year. Many thanks to the parents on the PTA and the people at Long Ridge Greenhouses who were out on probably the rainiest day of the year distributing the flowers.

Looking ahead to the holidays, we just purchased two holiday wreaths through the Cub Scout Pack 118 online wreath sale (reddingscouting.org) – we did so last year as well and loved the quality and the chance to support a local youth organization. I hope our neighbors consider doing the same! ■

Andrew Elliott
Cross Highway

To the Editor,

Feeling lonely this time of year? You’re not alone. Governor Ned Lamont has proclaimed the Thursday before Thanksgiving, November 16, 2023, the first Holiday Loneliness Awareness Day in Connecticut.

SOAR Together, a new Redding-based non-profit dedicated to ending the epidemic of loneliness and isolation, is thrilled to have brought this proclamation to our Governor and to be honoring the day by bringing statewide awareness and action to the subject of holiday loneliness.

We hope you will SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US: Thursday, November 16 from 10 a.m. -1:00 p.m. at 597 Westport Avenue in Norwalk or 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. at The Lounsbury House in Ridgefield.

SOAR will spend Holiday Loneliness Awareness Day executing a 24-hour statewide awareness campaign to spread the word about holiday loneliness. We will be hosting our first two Community Flower Power gatherings where attendees can create a flower arrangement to help spark connections and smiles across the state. Flower Power is one of SOAR’s signature programs, through which individual arrangements are delivered here locally to those at high risk of loneliness and social isolation.

On Awareness Day, flower arrangements will be delivered to various groups at-risk for holiday loneliness, including: shelters, memory care facilities, those facing recent loss, and Boys & Girls Clubs, uplifting those who need our community to come together and share their love. Attendees can also make an arrangement to deliver themselves to someone in their own life in need of an uplifting social connection.

We will have information tables at both events with representatives and/or written materials from local agencies also focused on programming to help those at-risk of loneliness or isolation.

For more information about Holiday Loneliness Awareness Day, e-mail us at info@soartogetherct.org, visit www.soartogetherct.org, or follow us on Instagram where we post news daily. ■

Ginger Smith
Founder / Executive Director, SOAR Together

To the Editor,

There is something unique about small towns. It is commonplace for people to go out of their way to help others. The John Read Middle School PTA continues to go out of its way to bring new experiences to our students. All too often, this work goes unnoticed. It is just what is done. We want to shine a spotlight of appreciation on the John Read PTA for their help in pulling off two recent events.

Stephanie Dionne and many parent volunteers spent twelve-hour days transforming the JRMS Community Room into a haunted house. Our students continue to share stories about the fun they had traversing the scary matrices during their after-school socials.

PTA board member Angela Caes collaborated with the Mark Twain librarians and JRMS administrators to bring David Flood’s message of power, dignity, and compassion to our students.

Kudos to our PTA for positively impacting the lives of our students in so many ways. ■

Jennifer C. Desmarais
Principal, John Read Middle School

Municipal election winners November 7, 2023

Office	Winner	Party Endorsement
First Selectman	Julia Pemberton	Democratic
Selectman	Margaret (Peg) O'Donnell	Democratic
Selectman	Michael P. Thompson	Republican
Town Clerk	Michele R. Grande	Endorsed by D & R
Town Treasurer	W. Wesley Higgins	Endorsed by D & R
Tax Collector	Patricia J. Moisis	Endorsed by D & R
Board of Finance (full term)	Robert Dean	Democratic
Board of Finance (full term)	James Barickman	Democratic
Board of Finance (to fill vacancy)	Roger E. Van Ausdal	Democratic
Board of Education (full term)	Amanda Guarniere	Democratic
Board of Education (full term)	Meghan Bendish	Democratic
Board of Education (full term)	Bria Pepe	Republican
Board of Education (to fill vacancy)	Celeste Fine	Democratic
Board of Assessment Appeals	Sharon Hoverman	Democratic
Planning Commission	Regina O'Brien	Democratic
Planning Commission	Kate Perry	Democratic
Zoning Commission	William Whitehead, Jr.	Democratic
Zoning Commission	Nicole Bricker	Democratic
Zoning Commission	Matthew Lecher	Republican
Zoning Board of Appeals	Elizabeth Williams	Democratic
Zoning Board of Appeals	Noel Cooke	Republican
Zoning Board of Appeals	Brian Matzke	Republican
Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate	Leif Smith	Green
Constable	Jeff Boxer	Democratic
Constable	Daniel J. Cishek	Democratic
Constable	J. Scott O'Donnell	Democratic
Constable	Lorcan D. O'Connor	Democratic
Constable	William Cook	Republican
Constable	Urs Furrer	Republican
Constable	Leif Smith	Green
Region 9 Board of Education	Mary Lee Pampel	Democratic
Region 9 Board of Education	Christopher Parkin	Democratic

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Clean-up grant application for Wire Mill site approved for submission

By Rocco Valluzzo

A public meeting on Monday, October 30, marked the final step in Redding’s application for an Environmental Protection Agency clean-up grant for the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill site.

The \$2 million grant would fund remediation activities at the 44-acre property in Georgetown, which the Town acquired in 2022 due to foreclosure. The meeting discussed the scope of the proposed grant and also described some of the clean-up activities and what some of the alternatives would be.

Providing some background information, Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee Chair Amy Atamian said the Town received a \$200,000 Brownfield Assessment Grant from the Connecticut Department of Community and Economic Development in 2021, which went to a Phase 1 Investigation by the Middle-town-based environmental engineering firm of Tighe & Bond. This included historical data review, data gap analysis, examination of buildings, and a hazardous building materials survey.

During the summer, Tighe & Bond conducted some field investigations to fill some of those data gaps and to support the scope of clean-up work the Town is proposing under the EPA grant application. Tighe & Bond also prepared a draft of analysis of brownfield clean-up alternatives (ABCA) and cost estimates for the preferred cleanup alternatives.

With the first grant nearly spent, the Town will next use a second \$200,000 Brownfield Grant it received earlier this year to conduct some additional field investigations to complete the analysis of the site and to refine what the clean-up alternatives and scope of work of the clean-up will be.

“Going down the road, we’re still looking at additional funding opportunities to stabilize the buildings and do some other work on the site,” said Atamian. “So it’s a long process.”

Tighe & Bond’s investigation’s revealed contaminants such as metals and petroleum by-products that need to be addressed, because they are above state clean-up standards for health and ecological exposure. These can be found mainly near former buildings where there were oil tanks and fill.

It also found building materials, such as paint, caulks, and glazing, that may contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) based on the time frame in which the materials were placed in the buildings (1950s through 1970s). Asbestos is also present.

Within the next five years, the Town plans to open the site to public access, which involves creating a gateway area by the main office building and the machine shop. The former is currently used by the National Park Service for Weir Farm operations, and the latter is used for a conference room and office space.

Both buildings have targeted end uses. This will help secure additional grant funding.

“No longer are grant sources giving money just to fix up a building and who knows what’s going to happen to it,” said Atamian. “Ultimately, we will have to come up with plans for areas in the center. But what we want to do in the meantime is stabilize them.”

Jim Olsen, a licensed environmental professional with Tighe & Bond, said the grant application requires the Town to provide an ABCA, which he described as looking at different alternatives for the contamination type present, evaluating each alternative for effectiveness and ability to implement, and determining the cost. Tighe & Bond examined separate alternatives for soil remediation at three areas of the site and abatement of hazardous building materials for the main office and machine shop.

Olsen said the areas targeted for soil remediation are contaminated with metals and petroleum by-products. He explained that the metals originated in the factory where they made wire and fencing products. In the manufacturing process, some waste metal was produced and ended up deposited on the factory site like urban fill material.

“This is very common for brownfield sites,” he said. “There’s always some kind of fill. Petroleum by-products came from heating oils or coal fires that were used to heat the plant or in operations.”

For subsurface soil remediation, Tighe & Bond proposed four alternatives: taking no action; hotspot excavation and ground-

water monitoring; hotspot excavation, statistical analysis, and engineer controls; and full excavation of all fill material.

The first alternative is unacceptable, since contaminants are above the residential and commercial clean-up criteria. Hotspot excavation, which is feasible and effective, would cost an estimated \$1.1 million.

Hotspot excavation plus capping is also feasible and is commonly used on brownfield sites to integrate remediation with redevelopment in a cost-effective way. Olsen listed future parking lots or buildings as examples.

Full excavation of all fill material would cost an estimated \$40 million. It would also create more pollution via diesel emissions from trucks and excavators. Olsen recommended alternative number two (hotspot excavation), with the potential for some areas where alternative number three (hotspot excavation and capping) may be needed.

With respect to hazardous building materials abatement, Tighe & Bond looked at three alternatives: no action, stabilization and encapsulation, and full abatement. Olsen again said taking no action on the hazardous materials is not an option. If the materials are damaged, they must be removed.

If the asbestos is in undamaged shape it can remain, but if damaged, it must be abated. Tighe & Bond determined that full abatement is the prudent and feasible choice for the main office building and machine shop building at a cost of \$760,000. This, plus the \$1.1 million estimate for the hotspot excavations brings the total to just under \$2 million for both.

“There are probably some additional costs to round it up to the \$2 million, because we’ll be doing some administrative tasks that need to be taken care of,” said Atamian. “EPA grants require a bit of effort to monitor the progress of the project on a monthly basis and to disclose that information.”

The grant application must be submitted by November 13. It can be viewed on the Town website at townofreddingct.org/about-redding/boards-commissions/board-of-selectmen/gilbert-bennett-wire-mill ■

Town may address short-term rentals following election

By Rocco Valluzzo

The regulation of short-term rentals (including listings on sites such as Airbnb) in Redding is a topic that may receive some attention in the near future.

Following this week’s election, First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton hopes that the Planning Commission will review the topic. Currently the Town does not regulate short-term rentals.

More than a year ago, in response to a recommendation by the Planning Commission, the Selectmen agreed to establish a committee to research the relevant issues and draft a proposal regarding the regulation of Airbnbs in town. No action has been taken since.

The proposed committee would be a subcommittee of the Board of Selectmen and would be comprised of representatives from the Planning and Zoning commissions and the Economic Development Committee as well as the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

“We haven’t had an issue in Redding,” said Pemberton at the Brown Bag Lunch on Wednesday, November 1. “We have had isolated complaints from one or two individuals.”

She did say she knows of residents who regularly rent out property, but to her knowledge, there were no properties that are owned in Redding specifically for the purpose of renting them out as Airbnbs.

Pemberton noted there have been discussions in other area towns concerning Airbnbs. While some regulate their use, others do not. Some require the owner live in the property as his/her main residence.

Redding does regulate bed and breakfast establishments (B&Bs). Unlike Airbnbs, B&B’s serve food and require a license to operate.

If an Airbnb is found to be disturbing the peace, the Town can take action in the form of police response. Such falls under the umbrella of public safety. ■

ARPA grant helps make facility upgrades at Grange Hall a reality / continued from page 1

said. “The hall needs a new roof and there is zero insulation, making heating it expensive. We are hoping to raise funds to cover these additional costs.”

One thing Jensen has set her eye on is a bit unusual: the building’s three-seater outhouse. “We would love to retrofit it with modern compostable toilets and handwash stations, or something akin to that,” Jensen said. “When we have big events at the Hall, we bring in a traditional porta-potty to protect our septic system. It would be great not to have a plastic box sitting there during our nicest events, and instead use our very own outhouse.”

Jensen is considering a name-the-outhouse contest to raise funds for this project. “Our historic Hall is a terrific place to carry on the legacy of people in Redding,” she said. “If anyone wants to help pay for repairs of the Hall with a capital gift, we would love to include recognition within the Hall for them or someone they wish.”

Jensen was especially appreciative of the transparent way ARPA funds were allocated in Redding. Municipalities were given discretion on how to disperse the money, and many towns and cities did not include a community-review process – which was what Redding’s ARPA Funds Working Group was set up to do. Ultimately, the ARPA money went to a variety of municipal, educational, social-service, and non-profit organizations.

The Redding Grange is part of one of the oldest community-service organizations in the U.S. Founded in 1867 as a coalition for farmers, the National Grange has evolved over the years to support community building and agricultural awareness. For more details on joining the Grange, or to donate, send an e-mail to community@reddinggrange.org or call (203) 664-1513. ■

Redding’s Big Outdoors: Saugatuck Falls Natural Area Diamond Hill Road entrance / continued from page 1

the Saugatuck Falls Natural Area – hikes I know well from the access-point across from John Read Middle School, but ones I have never explored from the Diamond Hill Road entrance.

I urged my two dogs into the car – their rambunctious energy had been building up after several days of rain – and set off to find this cul-de-sac. It was an easy find – there is a large sign for Pootatuck Archery Club just across from 60 Diamond Hill Road. A turn down the gravel road brought us alongside the archery range, bright targets and hay bales arranged artfully up and down the

hillside. At the end of the road were familiar signs – the Conservation Commission’s notable seal on one tree, trail markers and blazes on others. At this time of year, there is also a bright orange sign announcing the area as part of the Town’s controlled bow hunt for deer. I was suddenly glad I wore my brightly colored coat and my pups had orange leashes.

We set off down Knapp Way, not exactly sure where it would take us, but recognizing the trail name from our past sojourns into Saugatuck Falls. Just past the entrance, we crossed over a sturdy bridge, a clear and calm stream

below us. The trail was wide and well-tended in this first section, with several inches of crunchy fallen leaves brushing over my sneakers. A gentle slope drew my eyes upwards – and I noticed how we were already well-passed the halfway point of the autumn foliage falling – bare tree limbs suddenly outnumbered the puffs of brown and orange against the glassy sky.

The white-blazed trail curved to the left, bringing us through the opening of a stone wall, before sharply climbing upward. The wide, smooth path began to narrow, larger stones and boulders

jutting out from the ground like icebergs rimmed by leafy foam.

We then came to the intersection of Knapp Way and Oak Trail – the dogs decided to veer to the right and take the blue-blazed Oak Trail. The path gently undulated up and down as we traversed a more tightly-wooded area. The crisp, blue metal diamonds blazing the trail made me think of ski slope difficulty ratings – green circle, blue square, black diamond. I thought to myself, “Winter is coming.”

I got lost in my thoughts as my steps through the leaves and my dogs’ snuffling of new smells cre-

ated a meditative rhythm. As we walked further east, the peace was broken by traffic sounds on Route 53 and more than one leaf blower.

We then emerged from the woods onto Power Line Trail, and I was then certain of where we were. The open, grassy hill flanked by power lines has been my halfway point for Saugatuck loops in the past. I turned left up the hill for another spurt of burning my dogs’ pent-up energy before plunging back into the forest the way we came onto Knapp Way. The trail brought us back to the car, to the archery range, and sent us on our way home. ■

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SPORTS

Bethel stops Barlow run in finals

Boys soccer | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Damian Mirwald is pressured by Bethel’s Brady Fitzgerald in the South-West Conference boys soccer championship on Thursday, November 2. Barlow lost 2-0.

A third upset remained out of reach for the Joel Barlow High boys soccer team in the South-West Conference championship on Thursday, November 2.

The fifth-seeded Falcons, who beat fourth-seeded Masuk in the quarterfinals before upending top-seeded, unbeaten Brookfield in the semifinals, seemed poised to continue their run when they met second-seeded Bethel in the title game. After missing an early scoring opportunity, the Falcons soon fell behind and did not answer in a 2-0 loss at Blue and Gold Stadium in Newtown.

It marked the fifth time the two sides have met in the championship. Bethel, which also beat Bar-

low in 2015, now leads the series at 3-1-1.

Barlow, which lost to Bethel by the same score during the regular season, appeared to control the action early in the game. The Falcons had what was perhaps their best scoring chance less than five minutes in. A header off a throw-in by Billy Bardani landed in front of the goal, but the shot never came.

“We should have been up 1-0 in two or three minutes,” said Barlow Head Coach Paul Winstanley. “We had a golden opportunity to go up, and we didn’t do that.”

The Wildcats did not have to wait long before getting a scoring opportunity of their own. A cross to the middle by Nick Freire was

deflected by Barlow before finding the foot of Brady Fitzgerald, who redirected a shot into the lower left corner to give his team the lead with 37:22 left in the first half.

“From that point forward, I just don’t think we got back into the game,” said Winstanley.

When play resumed, the Falcons did threaten on a shot by Jack Gustafson, only to have it sail over the crossbar. Bethel then broke through again when Andreas Shaboo got past the defense and cut to the middle to go one-on-one with Barlow goalie Addison Vanderburg before scoring with 25:33 left to play.

“He’s a very right-sided player,” said Winstanley. “Every one of us should have pushed him to his left, but we didn’t do it.”

Barlow did not have many opportunities in the time remaining. A couple of corner kicks in the last five minutes were cleared without incident.

“I’m proud of the boys for turning things around,” said Winstanley, whose team started the season at 0-2. “We became much better as a team, creating opportunities. The win at Brookfield was huge. We deserved that, but we just didn’t show up today for whatever reason.”

Barlow, now 11-6-1, takes part in the state Class M tournament this week as the 11th seed.

“If the boys want to come to play, we have a chance to make a deep run, maybe even go all the way to the championship,” said Winstanley. “But they are going to have to want to play.” ■

Falcons come from behind, defend SWC crown

Girls volleyball | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Amanda Meschi receives a serve during the South West Conference girls volleyball championship on Saturday, November 4. Barlow defeated Newtown 3-2 to win its second straight league title.

Well into the South-West Conference championship, the Joel Barlow High girls volleyball team found itself in a rare situation.

The defending champs, the top-seeded Falcons trailed second-seeded Newtown 2-0 in a best-of-five set match. Twice, the Nighthawks were serving at match point in the third set.

Instead of folding at that point, the Falcons managed to battle back, tying the score twice before winning the set and taking the next two for a 3-2 (17-25, 13-25, 27-25, 30-28, 15-11) win on Saturday, November 4, at Bethel High in a rematch of last year’s championship.

It was also the eighth time the two teams have met in the finals. Barlow now leads the series 7-1.

“It just means a lot for me to see this team just be as successful as they are this year because we had seven seniors graduate last year,” said Barlow Head Coach Carol Asplund. “It’s huge for them to be able to come in under that pressure, never playing in a championship match and to be able to perform.”

The Nighthawks came out ready to play, taking the lead in the first set with the help of some strong net play by Elizabeth Anesi and hitter Zosia Teraszkiewicz, who helped their team take an early lead. Despite never leading, the Falcons kept pace with help from kills by Mackenzie Sickinger and Amanda Meschi.

With things tied at 10-10, the Falcons encountered difficulty in passing and hitting, falling behind

21-13 on six straight service points by Gabrielle Soltis. By then, the Nighthawks had the momentum, closing out the first set.

“Newtown has a really good team, and they’re coached very well,” said Asplund, whose team also defeated the Nighthawks twice during the regular season. “It’s intimidating.”

Barlow’s difficulties continued in the next set, which featured Newtown taking an 8-2 lead and never looking back. It did come within four points of the lead (12-8) but managed only five more points before dropping that set as well.

Now looking at a 2-0 deficit, the Falcons adjusted their defense in the third set and took their first leads of the match. A far closer contest, neither side led by more than a point or two for nearly the entire set, which featured 14 ties.

Twice, the Nighthawks were at match point (24-23, 25-24), only to be foiled by a kill by Sofia Benitez. Two Newtown hitting errors put the Falcons on top at 26-25, and a key block by Sickinger gave Barlow its first win.

“I think after we won game three, I felt like we could turn it around,” said Asplund. “We changed our defense a little bit.”

Much like the third set, the fourth also featured 14 ties and numerous lead changes. Although the Falcons reached set point (24-23) on Mia Robert’s kill, the Nighthawks answered, reaching match point on three different occasions, only to have the Falcons tie it each time. Another kill by Sickinger got Barlow to set point, and the win came on the serve of Val Alesi.

With the match tied at 2-2 and Barlow’s confidence boosted, it jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the fifth and final set on Lily Condosta’s serve and never trailed. With the help of strong net play by Roberts and Madi Furrer, Barlow reached match point at 13-11. Back-to-back kills by Sickinger, who would be named the Most Valuable Player for the tournament, took her team to match point and then victory.

“I trust my team, and I knew we were going to keep fighting no matter what,” said Sickinger, a senior captain. “We all just needed to not focus on the fact that it was a championship.”

Now 21-1 overall, the Falcons will next take part in the state Class M tournament this week. ■

Falcons hold off Rebels, stop skid

Football | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Frank Branca receives the kickoff during a varsity football game at New Fairfield on Friday, November 3. Barlow held on to win 14-13.

Besides tallying some much-needed points, the Joel Barlow High football team’s last scoring drive against New Fairfield was important in another way.

The Falcons’ final touchdown not only gave them the lead, it took about 12 minutes off the clock last Friday, November 3. While the host Rebels did score again in the time remaining, Barlow also came up with a big play to hold on for a 14-13 win.

The victory stopped a four-game losing streak for Barlow, now 4-4 overall.

“You never want to drop four straight, ever,” said Barlow Head Coach T.J. Cavaliere. “But getting a good, hard-fought win is pretty impressive and important for us.”

After receiving the opening kickoff, the Falcons started on their own 12-yard line to begin an 88-yard scoring drive with four first downs along the way. A 38-yard run by quarterback Jack Gilbert

got Barlow to the New Fairfield 44, and the Falcons continued to grind out the yards courtesy of Cole Peterson and Scott Romano, before Gilbert found the end zone on a quarterback sneak from the one-yard line. Keane Horne kicked the extra point, and the Falcons were up 7-0 with two minutes left in the first quarter.

Both sides exchanged punts early in the second quarter before the Rebels could put together a scoring drive of their own. Starting on his own 20, quarterback Mike Traynor completed five passes, the last going to Drew Colesworthy for 22 yards and a touchdown with fewer than 30 seconds left in the half. Jaden Arterberry’s kick was good, tying the score going into halftime.

With New Fairfield forced to punt early in the second half, the Falcons started with another long drive, again good for 88 yards and eating up the remainder of the

third quarter. They continued to stick with their ground game and effectively used the option play with runs by Dylan Taylor that helped get them to midfield.

Despite a holding penalty and a sack early in the fourth quarter, Barlow continued to advance into Rebel territory. Sam Guidera’s 11-yard jaunt put his team back on top, and with the extra point, it was 14-7 with 8:38 to go.

Such was enough time for the Rebels to respond with a 65-yard scoring drive of their own, highlighted by Kyle Martin’s 22-yard run to get them close to midfield. A reverse play resulted in a 38-yard touchdown pass from Colesworthy to Chris Humphreys. Opting to go for the two point conversion, the move backfired when Romano intercepted the pass to preserve the one-point lead.

“I was proud of them, because they could have hung their heads and said, ‘They just scored, they’re going to tie it up,’” said Cavaliere. “We made a stand on the two-point conversion and made a big play to hold the game for us.”

With just over four minutes left to go, the Falcons successfully ate up the clock, forcing the Rebels to use their remaining timeouts for the win.

Gilbert led Barlow in rushing with 91 yards. Romano had 47, and Peterson followed with 40.

Barlow hosts Pomperaug on Saturday, November 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the Homecoming game. ■



Barlow ties for seventh in conference

Girls swimming | By Rocco Valluzzo

Three high finishes in particular accounted for quite a few points by the Joel Barlow High girls swim team at the South-West Conference championships last week.

The Falcons captured one gold medal and three bronze ones at the Masuk High pool on Thursday, November 2. Totalling 170 points, they finished in a two-way tie with the hosts for seventh out of a field of 11 teams.

Defending champ Pomperaug was the winner with 523. Weston was a distant runner-up with 466, and Newtown took third with 404.

Barlow’s first points came in the opening event, the 200-yard medley relay. Marian Blawie, Isabella Mancini, Abigail Bonoff, and Lilia Vero formed the team that took tenth in 2:14.55.

Audrey Gil won two medals for her team. The first was in the 200 individual medley, where she took third in 2:11.82, only 0.61 seconds behind Newtown’s Alexa Kwarcinski. Bonoff also scored in the race, taking 14th in 2:29.61 and beating her seed time by more than two seconds.

For the 50 free, the Falcons had Brooke Serlin take fifth in 25.97, an improvement of 0.65 seconds over her seed time.

Barlow’s best event was the 100 free, in which it had two medalists, each breaking the one-minute mark. Audrey Gil led the way with a winning time of 53.65 for the gold medal, and Serlin took the bronze in 56.08.

Going the distance in the 500 free, Bonoff finished 12th in 5:58.68, improving on her seed time by more than five seconds.

In the 200 free, Brookley Gil, Audrey Gil, Serlin, and Blawie combined for a 1:47.24, good for fifth. The same place went to the Falcons in the final event, the 40 free relay, with Serlin, Brookley Gil, Bonoff, and Audrey Gil clocking a 3:54.02.

Barlow will next compete in the state Class S trials on Saturday at Cheshire High before the finals on November 15 at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. ■

Mothers and daughters give back through quality time together

By Rob Sample



Photo courtesy of the Redding Area Chapter of the National Charity League

In these harried times, anything that fosters togetherness between parents and kids is a good thing. The National Charity League’s Redding Area Chapter offers a great way for busy moms to bond with their school-age daughters. That’s not to mention making a big difference in the community. The national organization has roots dating back to 1925 and focuses on making a positive difference – both locally and on the national scene. The Redding Area Chapter partners with 31 philanthropic and social-service organizations in Fairfield County, for which the girls and their moms volunteer. The organization consists of girls ranging from grade 7 through 12, who are

dubbed “tick-tockers,” along with their moms who are known as “patronesses.” The Chapter is open to mothers and daughters who live in Easton and Redding. “The girls sign up at the end of sixth grade, and seventh grade is their first full year as a member,” said Megan Bendish, Communications Director for the Redding-Easton chapter and former President. “Each grade has its own board, and they take accountability for their own agendas and activities.” “National Charity League is a wonderful way for my daughter, Adreanna, and me to spend uninterrupted time on something so worthwhile,” said Chapter President Grace-Marie Chapin. “In to-

day’s world, we are pulled in so many different directions. Making time to connect in this way is important.” Adreanna attends seventh grade at John Read Middle School, and the mom-and-daughter team recently volunteered at an animal-adoption day held by the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary. This Newtown animal sanctuary is named for one of the first graders killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012. “We set up booths for vendors, helped out with parking, and walked the pets that were up for adoption,” Chapin noted. “The site also has walking trails and we’ve gone there several times to help clean up after storms.” Bendish’s partner in volunteerism is her 17-year-old daughter, Taylor Hamilton, who’s a senior at Joel Barlow High School. Bendish is a professional chef and Director of Dining Services for Darien Public Schools, so many of her and her daughter’s volunteer activities involve food. “One of our favorite groups to assist is Operation Hope, which operates a food pantry and soup kitchen in Fairfield,” Bendish said. This group serves 123,000 meals per year at its food pantry, and serves meals Mondays through Fridays, every week of the year, at its community kitchen. There, Bendish and Hamilton spend their

hours both preparing food and serving it to clients. “Many of the same people who went there when I was in seventh grade are still coming to Operation Hope,” said Hamilton. “A lot of them are elderly, and I enjoy talking with them and getting to know them.” Redding Area Chapter members also volunteer often at the Danbury’s Dorothy Day Hospitality House, which shelters the homeless and feeds the hungry seven days a week. “The first time we ever did it, Taylor and I drove home sobbing,” Bendish recalled. Next month, the House will have one of its signature events, a holiday toy distribution at a Danbury church. National Charity League volunteers will be there in force. The toys and the volunteers arrive aboard a specially decked-out fire truck with “Mr. and Mrs. Claus” at the wheel. The girls dress up as elves, and help hand out toys, books, and other items to needy kids. “Most of what we donate is time,” said Bendish, “but some philanthropic organizations require a financial donation as well.” This year, for the first time the group sold poinsettias on Election Day to raise funds for a variety of philanthropic endeavors. The group lends a hand closer to home as well. This month, members will help out at a wreath-making class at Redding’s New Pond

Farm Education Center. The wreaths are made from boughs harvested right on the Farm’s property, and visitors make a monetary donation to the Farm to attend the event. “This is the first time since the Covid shutdown that we’ll be there,” noted Bendish. Besides volunteer work, League members pursue cultural and social activities as well. For instance, they recently paid a visit to the New Canaan restaurant Chef Prasad. In addition to enjoying fantastic food, owner and chef Prasad Chimomula gave them a tutorial in Indian cuisine and its myriad flavors and spices. The dinner was arranged by a mother in the League who is a friend of Chimomula – who lives in Redding as well. National Charity League work counts toward community-involvement credits on the high school level and can be a plus on college applications. Many League alumnae continue as volunteers during their college years as well. “I just submitted all my college applications, and the League was very prominently listed on them,” said Hamilton. “Wherever I end up going, I will look to continue some sort of volunteering at a food bank, or at a food kitchen preparing food or as a server.” ■

For more information about the National Charity League, visit nationalcharityleague.org/chapter/reddingarea

Homecoming festivities at Barlow this weekend

By Jessie Wright



The forecast so far looks dry for Homecoming at Joel Barlow High School this weekend, where school spirit will be plentiful. Here is a run-down of the activities planned for students, alumni, and friends on Saturday, November 11. All activities will be at Joel Barlow High School at 100 Black Rock Turnpike.

11:00 a.m. – Tailgate and bonfire
A Barlow tradition, join students and alumni at a large bonfire and enjoy food and camaraderie before the Homecoming football game.
1:00 p.m. – Football game against Pomperaug High School
With the game taking place on Veterans Day this year, the spir-

it-wear theme is “Camo”. Students wearing Homecoming gear will gain free admission to the game.
7:00 p.m. – Homecoming dance
Semi-formal attire in the Barlow Lower Gym. Tickets for the dance are \$10 and can be purchased through November 10, either online at myschoolbucks.com/ver2/pr-

dembd?ref=ZZH50YVQX2083T5_ZZ60QHH3TI8OGBW or in-person at lunch. The permission form to bring an outside guest was due November 8. ■



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OPINION

Stand against the proposed cell tower on Hoyt Scout Preserve

By Danielle Caldwell

As a Redding resident of nearly 20 years, I along with many other residents take great pride in our protected land and natural beauty. Redding is known as the “Vermont of Connecticut” because of its bucolic setting and plentiful open and unspoiled spaces. This is what makes Redding unique and why so many of us have chosen to live and raise our children here. And it’s most certainly worth fighting for.

The Hoyt Scout Preserve land was donated to the Scouts over 55 years ago by Alice Sanford for the purpose of recreation. Their website describes it as being “pristine forest and fields.” I believe it is incumbent upon us

to be a voice for both the children and for the wildlife who would be most adversely affected by a 150-foot cell tower on their land.

Ann Taylor, Executive Director of New Pond Farm Education Center, has asked members for our support regarding their concerns about the proposed tower which would be built adjacent to their beautiful wildlife sanctuary. Don’t we owe this support to New Pond Farm after decades of environmental education programs and service to our town?

As a community, let’s stand for what’s morally right, not just for what’s convenient. ■

The Center for Empowerment and Education receives a boost from The Redding Country Club



Photo courtesy of The Redding Country Club
Event Co-Chairs Susan Farrell, Katherine Gwin, Sarah Haims, and Kaitlyn Furrer (not pictured: Kimberly Adams).

The Redding Country Club hosted its second annual benefit luncheon and fashion show fundraising event on Thursday, November 2 to support The Center for Empowerment and Education, located in Danbury.

Co-chaired by members Kimberly Adams, Susan Farrell, Kaitlyn Furrer, Katherine Gwin, and Sarah Haims, guests enjoyed a luncheon designed for the event by Chef Derrick Yager. Thanks to the generosity of the event’s major sponsors, the event raised over \$30,000. A shopping spree, silent auction, and raffle with donated prizes contributed to the amount raised for this extraordinary community organization, along with a fashion show modeled by Redding Country Club members. The fashions were provided by More “n” More, which donated a percentage of their proceeds to the Center.

The Center for Empowerment and Education provides support services in the form of counseling and advocacy, crisis intervention, and emergency shelter for victims of interpersonal violence. Ashley Dunn, MS, MFT, NCC, and President and CEO of The Center for Empowerment and Education, underscored that the Center is “extremely grateful for the time, energy, and resources that were put into the Redding County Club Fashion Show. Every dollar raised helps to support our mission to break the cycle of interpersonal violence through empowerment, education, and support services utilizing inclusive, trauma-informed, and client-centered practices for all individuals in the community. All of the Center’s services are offered at no cost to any individual who seeks support.”

Ms. Dunn went on to say that, “the money raised to date by this annual event also helps to raise awareness and much-needed funds to bridge state and federal funding gaps. Each year, the Center must raise 50% of our revenue to keep our doors open and our services available 24/7, 365 days a year. Working together as a community creates long-lasting, impactful change and turns our vision to create safer communities free from interpersonal violence into a reality.”

The Redding Country Club hosts many other community-focused events throughout the year including golf outings for local non-profit organizations, Folds of Honor, DAWS, First Tee, United Way, and their RCC Employee Scholarship Fund which grants awards to more than a dozen employees each year. Tim Seifert, General Manager, commented that supporting the local communities is integral to the fabric of the membership and Club. ■

The Center for Empowerment and Education reminds us that everyone deserves to live a life free from violence. We are here to help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. If you or someone you know needs support, our no-cost confidential hotlines are available 24/7. Please call – CEE is here, we believe you, and we support you.

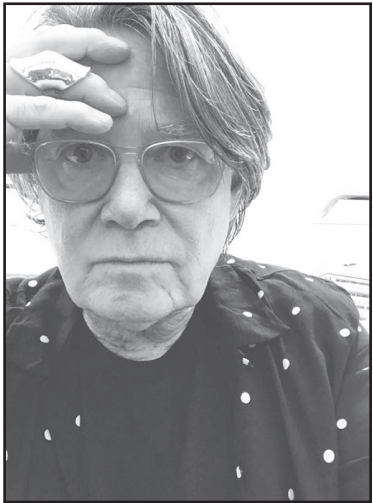
The Center for Empowerment and Education will be here until the violence stops.

Domestic Violence Hotline (203)731-5206
Sexual Assault Hotline (203)731-5204

For more information, visit thecenterct.org

Robert Lee Morris: Jewelry designer for the stars

By Justin Reynolds



Robert Lee Morris, who has made jewelry for some of the biggest stars in the world.

For more than 50 years, Robert Lee Morris has been designing jewelry and fashion accessories. His work has been worn by superstars like Oprah Winfrey, Candice Bergen, Bianca Jagger, and Madonna, and he’s collaborated with some of the biggest names in the business, like Donna Karan, Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren, Geoffrey Beene, Michael Kors, Elizabeth Arden, MAC Cosmetics, and Karl Lagerfeld.

After moving out of New York City in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, Morris and his wife, Susan, settled in Easton. Since 2008, they’ve called Redding home.

While Morris has stepped away from the gallery he had in SoHo for nearly 20 years — Artwear, — he’s brought his venture online at robertleemorrisgallery.com.

“It’s the continuation of the gallery that I used to have,” he said. “It’s primarily a place to look at and purchase my archives, which include thousands of pieces I’ve created from over 50 years of being in the business of fashion jewelry. It’s also a list of jewelry I’ve collected from other artists.”

Growing up, Morris was an “Air Force brat” who moved 23 times by the time he turned 17, including stints in Japan, Brazil, and Germany, where he was born.

“I lived everywhere,” he said, “so I had a lot of multi-cultural experience.”

In the 1960s, Morris attended Beloit College, a “very liberal, progressive” school — “the type of place that taught people to think for themselves.”

“I went in as pre-med and came out as an art major, which shows you the swing I did in learning who I was,” Morris said. “After I graduated, I started a commune and I taught myself how to make jewelry. From there, my career exploded really quickly.”

Before he knew it, in 1973, Morris was having a one-man show at Sculpture to Wear, in the Plaza Hotel in New York City, and his work was exhibited alongside some names you might have heard of: Picasso, Calder, and Man Ray.

“I was one of the only unknown names in the gallery,” he said. “My work was so bold and so different that the fashion editors found me very quickly.”

In 1976, Morris’s work appeared on the cover of Vogue magazine, worn by model Lisa Cooper.

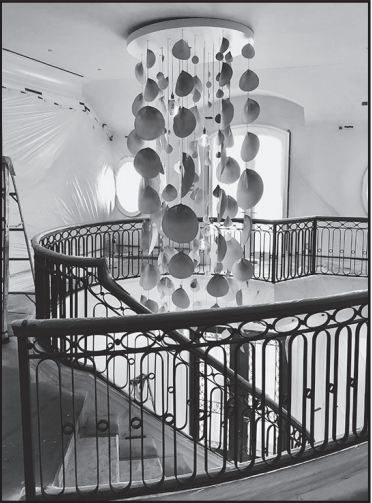
“Arguably, I became a darling of the fashion industry and ended up collaborating with every brand-name designer on runway shows,” he said.

While Morris was running the Artwear gallery, it became so popular that Vogue gave the team editorial credit in the magazine for seven years, encompassing 28 consecutive issues.

“They drove the market to us — from Asia to Europe to Brazil,” he said. “People from all over the world started coming to see the gallery and find out what it was all about.”

Being more or less of an overnight sensation wasn’t something Morris expected.

“It was always a surprise,” he said. “I could hardly stop long enough to get my bearings because being taken in by the fashion industry with such gusto had me racing from one collection



A chandelier by Morris, hanging in a home in Palm Beach.

to the next, from one designer to the next. At the same time, I was trying to manage and operate a world-renowned gallery that was being flooded with celebrities.”

In the 1980s, Morris struck up partnerships with Donna Karan, Calvin Klein, and Ralph Lauren, and the “flamboyant” Kansai Yamamoto with his shows in Paris, New York City, and Tokyo.

Morris had been collaborating with Karan at Ann Klein for two years before she started her own business.

“When she launched her premiere collection, it was beyond successful, capturing the attention of the entire fashion world,” he said. “Everybody wanted Donna Karan, and everybody wanted my jewelry. The combination of the two of us created something so unique. It influenced fashion, the way ladies wanted to dress, and the whole jewelry industry.”

Since Morris was locked into a contract with Karan, he was “obligated to do her jewelry” every season.

“It was a fairy tale story,” he said. “My whole career was a fairy tale story. I kept going and going, the work became more and more successful, my company began growing leaps and bounds. I ended up with 60 people on staff, working and making all these products — handbags, leather goods, belts, scarves, even lipstick for Elizabeth Arden.”

In 1985, Karl Lagerfeld came to New York to do his first collection for America.

“He wanted me to do his jewelry and accessories,” Morris said. “That was the same season I was doing the premiere collection for Donna. I was all over the place, always with celebrity hosts. Fashion is so obsessed with celebrities — it’s very glamorous.”

Morris earned several awards over his career; he was the first jewelry designer to earn the Geoffrey Beene Lifetime Achievement Award, which he received in 2007.

Morris attributes the success of his gallery to its central location, surrounded by contemporary art galleries in the heart of SoHo.

“Andy Warhol would walk up and down the sidewalk; Grace Jones would pop in; the street would be lined with limousines as art collectors went from gallery to gallery on weekends,” he said. “I would see a thousand people in my gallery. At the time, there was so much energy in SoHo, and so much money, too. We were very central to that whole whirlwind of excitement.”

When Morris was still in New York, he licensed his name on tons of products; more than 15 shops in Japan were built specifically to license his work.

“I was overextended, and more and more people wanted to put my name on things,” he said. “All of



Christy Turlington on the cover of Vogue, wearing jewelry by Morris.

this stuff was exhilarating, but I insisted on being the main designer and had to look at everything.”

Eventually, Morris sold his company to a diamond company. In 1999, he launched a new phase of his career, partnering with QVC.

“It was all sterling silver jewelry with a lot of weight to it, produced in China at such a good price. It was very successful. People liked it, and I was also very, very comfortable on live TV,” he noted.

After 21 years, the QVC collaboration ran its course, and Morris decided to move his studio out of Manhattan.

While Morris still maintains an apartment on the Upper West Side, he decided to move himself to Redding permanently a couple of years ago, opening a private studio in Bethel.

These days, Morris doesn’t make jewelry anymore; he’s got a stockpile of items he’s made over the years that range between “easy-to-buy pendants to \$10,000 silver necklaces.”

“Clients all over the world are ordering things from my website all the time,” he said.

Instead, he spends his time building sculptures and chandeliers.

“When you think of a chandelier as a gigantic earring, it makes perfect sense,” Morris explained. “I used to make super-long earrings for Cher, Iman, and all these glamorous women. Just imagine some of the 12-foot-long chandeliers I’m installing at the homes of wealthy people in places like Palm Beach, New York City, and Aspen.”

Morris loves his current studio, a “great industrial spot with high ceilings.”

“I build and hang my chandeliers everywhere,” he said. “When you come into my studio, it’s like going into Willy Wonka’s Chocolate Factory — an overwhelming experience visually.” ■



Ring and bracelet design by Robert Lee Morris

If you’re interested in seeing Morris’s work, he advises you to visit his website or email admin@robertleemorrisgallery.com

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Is My Child a Monster?
Redding social worker helps families through her practice
and new podcast | By Justin Reynolds



Leslie Cohen-Rubury

When her parents told her they were getting divorced, Leslie Cohen-Rubury, then 16, looked at them and said, “I know how to help you.”

From that point forward, she knew she wanted to help people, and she’s been doing precisely that ever since.

“I’m a licensed clinical social worker with my own private practice,” said Cohen-Rubury. “I work with individuals, families, parents, and couples. I work with a lot of groups doing a form of therapy called dialectical behavior therapy — DBT.”

Very simply, DBT is a type of cognitive behavioral therapy that aims to help clients identify negative thinking patterns and implement positive behavioral changes.

According to Cohen-Rubury, clients come to her to work through all sorts of issues.

“I tend to specialize in helping parents and children with anxiety,” she said. “I also work with clients with borderline personality disorder (BPD) and those who are dealing with trauma. “A lot of people think that trauma is the extent of an event,” Cohen-Rubury explained. “But trauma is defined by the response we have to an event. A lot of the trauma I deal with centers on chronic invalidation — growing up and feeling misunderstood.”

Cohen-Rubury has lived in Redding since 1997, raising three adult children here. Over the years, she’s worked with the school system as well as local parenting groups.

“It’s been a business built on word of mouth,” she said. “The schools know me, so they make referrals. I also work with a num-



ber of doctors and psychiatrists in the area, too.”

Cohen-Rubury operates her business out of her home office, a barn, on Peaceable Street.

“People find the simplicity of the space very comforting,” she said. “During Covid, I also did a lot of sessions outside in my backyard in addition to virtual sessions, which some clients who have moved away still do.”

In April, Cohen-Rubury launched a new podcast called Is My Child a Monster?. The podcast, which is also recorded in the barn, is designed to help parents understand their kids better.

“Kids are misunderstood, and when they are misunderstood, it creates an invalidating environment,” she said. “The podcast helps parents better understand how to understand their children and how to create a validating environment.”

The podcast takes the format of therapy sessions that are recorded live; new episodes drop each Monday.

“Usually, I’m working with a family and helping them through issues they bring to me,” she said. “I might stay with a family for four or five episodes; you get to know the family and learn the strategies I use. A lot of it is focused on anxiety and helping children who are dealing with anxiety and oppositional behavior, anger issues, sleep issues, what have you.”

Why did she launch the podcast?

“So parents don’t feel alone — so that they know that the problems they’re dealing with are shared by many people,” Cohen-Rubury said. “It’s very relatable, even if you don’t have kids. It teaches how to develop communication skills at any age and helps people work through common problems.”

For Cohen-Rubury, being a therapist and helping clients through issues has been a rewarding career. Even so, it’s an interesting business because therapists rarely find out what happens to clients after they leave the practice.

“Once in a blue moon, you run into someone and they give you an update,” she said. “Most of the time, you don’t know the effect you are having on people.”

Despite that uncertainty, Cohen-Rubury is confident that she’s helped countless clients work through issues over the years.

“I’d be burnt out if I felt that I wasn’t making an impact,” she said. “In all my years, I continue to learn. I’m a change-oriented therapist. People come to me because they’re in pain and unhappy, and my goal is to work on their goals and help them achieve them. If I do my job, my clients change for the better.” ■

For more information on Cohen-Rubury’s practice and her podcast — which is available wherever you get your podcasts — visit ismychildamonster.com

On the menu with . . .
John Dykeman, Meadow Ridge
Executive Chef | By Pamela Brown



John Dykeman

Autumn is not only the most picturesque time of year, it’s also a delicious culinary season offering a feast of soul-satisfying comfort food. Delicata squash, commonly known as winter squash, is the star in *Roasted Delicata Squash with Toasted Barley, Wild Mushrooms and Leeks*, a dish created by John Dykeman, Executive Chef at Meadow Ridge. “Fall and winter call for heartier, substantial dishes and this stuffed squash dish is both hearty and seasonal. My culinary philosophy is fresh seasonal ingredients done simply but well. This dish covers all those bases,” he said.

From a young age, Dykeman was blessed with opportunities to experience different cultures and foods. As a child, he lived in England and Paris and dined at many bistros, experiencing the philosophy behind the food. He went on to hone his culinary skills in fine dining, catering, and corporate food service, but felt something was missing. “I came to Meadow Ridge and immediately felt that I was making a difference in people’s lives,” said Dykeman, who saw the care his father received at a senior living community and learned mealtime was an important part of the day in the residents’ lives.

Dykeman came to Meadow Ridge in 2018, when he worked as a sous chef to open and operate The Bistro, a 50-seat venue, open only to Meadow Ridge residents and their guests. It offers daily continental breakfast for independent living residents and lunch and dinner service with a menu that changes seasonally and daily specials. In 2021, Dykeman took over the position of Executive Chef where he oversees all of the facility’s dining venues with his two sous chefs, Thomas and Anais Villa. “All our dining venues make accommodation for the varied dietary requirements of our residents. We offer vegan or vegetarian options as well as gluten-free, dairy-free, nightshade-free, and no salt options.”

Although the residents enjoy favorite comfort food, Dykeman and his staff appreciate introducing them to new dishes. “They allow us the flexibility to be creative and adventurous in our menu offerings. (My sous chefs and I) always look for new ingredients or techniques to experiment with or new interpretations of classic dishes,” he said.

When he first came to Meadow Ridge, he ran The Bistro like a true European bistro, presenting upscale comfort food with the ingredients speaking for themselves. “It’s simple food done well. The ultimate payoff is the fulfillment I feel knowing I’ve played a part in affecting the lives of our residents and associates in a positive and profound manner.”

Dykeman shared some additional information.

- Favorite comfort food?**
Anything braised low and slow – meats, barbeque, vegetables.
- How do you make a meal special?**
Fresh ingredients; great cooking technique; thoughtful, yet uncomplicated presentation.
- A dish always on your Thanksgiving menu?**
Homemade cranberry sauce.

- Who influenced you to become a chef?**
Chef Ken Brown. I worked under his tutelage at an upscale restaurant in Westport. He saw potential in me and planted the seed to consider culinary school, which I did seven years later.
- What are you thankful for this year?**
Continued health of my family, team, and residents.
- Most popular dish at Meadow Ridge?**
 Rack of lamb ■

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Roasted Delicata Squash with Toasted Barley, Wild Mushrooms & Leeks
Yield – 2 servings

Ingredients:
1 large delicata squash
Olive oil
¾ cups barley
4 cups vegetable stock
1 leek – halved, submerged in cold water to rinse any sand off, dried, and thinly sliced.
1 cup raw wild mushrooms or cremini & shiitake mushrooms
½ cup fresh apple cider
1 tablespoon dried cranberries
1 tablespoon chopped fresh sage
Kosher salt & fresh ground black pepper

Directions:
Delicata Squash
Rinse and dry the squash, cut in half lengthwise and remove seeds. Lightly season with olive oil and a little kosher salt and black pepper. Lay the squash halves flesh side down on a pre-greased sheet pan. Place in a pre-heated 375-degrees Fahrenheit oven for 30-45 minutes until a paring knife just slices through.

Barley
Place barley in a sauté pan and lightly toast on medium heat, moving the barley around to avoid



burning. Bring vegetable stock to a boil. Once toasted, add barley to the pot of boiling stock and cook until just tender.

Leeks & Mushrooms
Add 2 tablespoons olive oil to a pre-heated sauté pan. Add the leeks and cook until just soft – remove from pan. Add mushrooms to pan and sauté until cooked. Deglaze pan with apple cider.

Assemble
Combine leeks, mushrooms, barley, dried cranberries, fresh chopped sage, and vegetable stock. Adjust seasoning if needed with kosher salt & black pepper. Fill the squash with the barley mixture, garnish with toasted pumpkin seeds (optional) and serve.

BOOK REVIEW

Lily Finds Her Song

By Megan Newhouse

For ages 2+ / 20 p.p. / \$14.99



I spent the last week in Chicago, watching after my two-and-half-year-old niece and almost two-year-old son while my sister and brother-in-law were away. The time was full of wonderful memories, but there were plenty of moments of toddler-induced mayhem. It was amidst this baby bedlam that I brought out the new board book I had tucked into my travel bag – *Lily Finds Her Song*. Written by Megan Newhouse, a Redding neighbor on Poverty Hollow Road, this delightful story of a dog who loves to dance provided a much-needed few minutes of peace to the three of us. It’s longer than some of your average board books at 20 pages, giving kids a chance to engage with the realistic but whimsical illustrations by Tjarda Borsboom and get caught

up in Lily’s search around her town for her favorite tune. Newhouse originally wrote the book for her three-year-old son, Trip, and it shows. There is a joy around her writing, and the rhyme scheme is engaging – and at times surprising. I love when a children’s book dabbles in literary metaphor and doesn’t resort to using only the simplest vocabulary words. My son is at the stage where he repeats absolutely everything he hears. Why not read him, “*As Lily looks up to the sky, a giant lighthouse snags her eye*” instead of, “*The puppy sees the lighthouse*” ? Newhouse’s dedication on the back of the book reads, “Dedicated to Lily, Trip and Bob, who make life fun, musical, and sweet.” Lily is illustrated with such love in the book – and with such distinctive features and personality – that I wasn’t surprised to learn she was based on a real, beloved pet. I was grateful to share in that sweetness with my own family for a few minutes this week. ■

Review by Jessie Wright

LIBRARY CORNER

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

DataHaven is a Connecticut based non-profit whose mission is to “empower people to create thriving communities by collecting and ensuring access to data on well-being, equity, and quality of life.” In August, they published their Connecticut Town Equity Reports, which provide fascinating information on Redding and identify local trends using public information. I am a fan of DataHaven’s work, and I find the Redding report very useful, especially as it

pertains to our physical space, our collections, and our services. For example, Redding’s total population has decreased by 4% over the last ten years, but children ages 0-17 have decreased by 22%. I was also surprised to learn that over 20% of the students in Redding’s schools identify as Asian, Latino, Black, or a race other than white. When we started developing our World Languages collection a couple of years ago, we knew we wanted to collect Spanish books, but we struggled to figure out the

second most popular language spoken at homes in Redding. In the end, we stopped worrying and just started purchasing books in many languages other than English. Redding is home to 1,769 jobs, with the largest share in the Construction sector. That would not have been my first guess. If you’re interested, take a look at Redding’s report at ctdatahaven.org ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

Nod to the pod

Hidden Brain, “Bulls*t Jobs” | By Amy Maloof

Each week, a one-episode recommendation from a podcast you might love. Through narrative and neuroscience, NPR’s *Hidden Brain* delves into the unconscious mind and how its hidden patterns impact our lives. Host Shankar Vedantam interviews experts in the fields of psychology and behavioral science to help listeners better understand what makes humans tick. The episode “Bullsh*t Jobs” is an entertaining and often funny exploration of the modern workplace. After the Industrial Revolution, when machines began to do much of the work humans once did, many believed we’d

soon be released from the struggles of daily work. But that never happened. Instead, new types of jobs were invented to keep us busy. These are the endless “coordinator” positions, the assistants to the assistants. Roles which are, by and large – according to anthropologist David Graeber, who is interviewed on the episode – unnecessary. Or, well, bullsh*t. People with these jobs walk a strange line of needing to look busy, without actually having much to do. It might sound ideal to the overworked among us, until you’re actually living it; being bored without any real purpose is not how humans thrive. I had a couple of these jobs in

my twenties. I once filled in for a woman on maternity leave at a trendy San Francisco company and quickly realized she did nothing all day. But I was getting paid well to be there, so I kept that on the down low. I got really good at typing nonsense into a Google Doc when someone was watching me and scrolling the internet when they weren’t. These days, I have a non-bullsh*t job, and though it’s easy to look back on those days and romanticize the lack of responsibility, I know how miserable I actually felt. Sure perfected my solitaire game, though. ■

MOVIE SERIES

Amphibian aircraft celebrated in new documentary co-produced by Redding novelist and pilot | By Donna Christopher



A new documentary about amphibian aircraft is now streaming on Amazon. It was co-produced by the Redding pilot and author, Tom Casey, along with the director Dirk Braun of Greenwich. Casey himself resurrected one of the planes featured in the film. He is seen in the film flying his Albatross over New York. *Flying Boat* features pilots and mechanics who restore, fly, and maintain the last few air-worthy examples of the flying boat. The aircraft featured in the documentary were restored and brought back to flying condition after being decommissioned and

sitting in neglect for decades in the Tucson, AZ desert. The pilots share a camaraderie and reflect upon their experiences and aspirations as to why they fly the aircraft today. The vehicles have the capability of landing and taking off on open ocean, land, snow, and ice. Casey bought his rare twin-engine Grumman HU-16A Albatross amphibious flying boat in 1994 from “The Boneyard”, where military aircraft, fighters, bombers, tankers, and transport planes are stored indefinitely. It is located inside the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base five miles from downtown Tucson. “When I saw these hulls lying in the sand, something inside me said I wanted to resurrect these airplanes – and I decided that that was my mountain to climb,” Casey says in narration during *Flying Boat*, as the camera pans above rows and rows of decommissioned aircraft. Casey was drawn to purchase an Albatross because he’s “attracted to broken things that resonate excellence.” Casey flew the plane to Connecticut after an 18-year renovation. He is seen in the

documentary taking off from Danbury Municipal Airport and making a couple of splashes into Candlewood Lake before landing. “When an airplane takes off, it disengages from its shadow. The shadow chases you, but it doesn’t own you anymore. You are free,” he says in *Flying Boat*, also a quotation from one of his books. Casey is the author of books *Human Error* and *Strangers’ Gate*. Braun also serves as narrator for portions of the documentary. One thrilling scene features Braun standing in the bow of the plane as it flies over New York with Casey as pilot and co-pilot Karl Kattrein, a retired American Airlines B777 captain, his long-time friend and a seaplane instructor. Casey retired as a B777 captain in 2008 after 30 years as a pilot with American Airlines. “Dirk came to me with some knowledge of the history of early commercial aviation, but I was writing about it at the time, and was therefore steeped in it,” Casey explained. He kept detailed notes throughout the making of the film. In them, he wrote, “The film’s narrative touches the history, spirit, the short commercial life of pioneering flying boat airliners, and repurposing efforts of some passionate pilots, most of whom I trained or are friends of mine.”

“As a writer of novels, I discussed with the director how characters are developed and limned into leitmotifs that lift the narrative and create through-line. A documentary like *Flying Boat* is not written per se, rather the project becomes organic as it probes for focus, for clarification,” Casey said. Casey recalled the experience of working with Braun, whose aviation dream became a reality while creating the documentary with Casey. “As co-producers we were a collaboration... Various ideas and their adoption or deletion were discussed and decided as the filming progressed. Because we brought separate expertise to the table, our discussions proved exceptionally productive. And when I thought it would expand his understanding and fulfill a dream

he obviously had, I taught Dirk, the director, to fly,” said Casey. The filmmakers researched historical film footage, made selections, and reverse-engineered stories to emphasize evolving themes (for example, restoration as redemption in a throw-away culture). “These themes did not exist until long after filming began; we brought them forward in discussion during three years of intense teamwork,” said Casey. The *Sentinel* sat down with Casey to learn more about the filmmaking process and his long history as a pilot.

What do you hope viewers will learn from seeing *Flying Boat*? I hope viewers learn and appreciate some of the remarkable challenges facing early commercial aviation in America and around the world. Flying boats were the first solution, though they have all but been forgotten.

What is it like to fly the Albatross? It is an honest airplane, with harmonious controls and a sturdy feel. Its great virtue is range. It can fly for 16 hours and travel 2,500 miles on 1681 gals of usable fuel in six fuel tanks. And you can walk around inside it.

What have been your friends’ and family’s reactions to your owning and flying the Albatross? My father thought I was insane, and did, until his death. Friends are circumspect: men wonder about cost, women about the romance of travel. Pilot friends are incredulous but uniformly envious.

Why did you make the documentary? Dirk Braun showed up one day and asked me to. His father and I were close friends until he died at 59. Dirk, after telling me he had read my novel, *Strangers’ Gate* (which in part features the Grumman Albatross amphibious flying boat), contacted me to talk about a documentary film project he wanted me to join. The pitch was straightforward.

“We’ll be co-producers,” was his incentive to me. He was aware of the Albatross, thought it was cool, and knew I owned one, but he wasn’t a pilot and didn’t know much about it. Or much about aviation. I was familiar with the names and places he should visit with his camera. The Marine Air Terminal at LGA, for instance. It has a beautiful mural restored from early Pan Am days, “The History of Aviation.” We talked frequently, and eventually, I taught him how to fly. I gave him a list of pilots I knew in the Albatross community, and you see them in the film. I did not know Kermit Weeks, but I knew he owned the four-engine Sunderland British flying boat. Kermit is a native Australian and owns the Fantasy of Flight Air Museum in Florida. Like any sub-culture – I think of wooden sailboats or blue water sailors, mountain climbers or bikers – pilots of specialized aircraft are a curious type that can be made to be interesting.

Is there a metaphor for flying *Flying Boat* you want to convey? In life and in exploration, you are limited only by your imagination.

Any feedback yet about the documentary? My literary agent, also a pilot, thinks *Flying Boat* will find its place with an audience in a longitudinal fashion and stay current for as long as it is available. This is fortunate if it’s true, since modern streaming as distribution assures ongoing availability. ■

For more information visit tomcaseynyc.com
Flying Boat is available to stream at amazon.com

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THE NATURAL WORLD

Take a woodland walk to herald cooler temperatures | By Pamela Brown



Kids and adults alike can celebrate the approaching return of winter and explore the forest and its creatures at the 4th-annual Enchanted Woodland Walk. The family-friendly hike will feature crafts, improvisation, and interesting facts along with a refreshing time outdoors. It takes place Saturday, November 11 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Franc Preserve in Bethel (rain date: Sunday, November 12). It’s free and open to the public, though a \$10 donation is suggested. Woodland-inspired costumes are optional but welcome.

“We try to create a safe, happy, and encouraging environment within local preserves so people aren’t fearful of nature. We want people to have time outside, have fun, and understand the importance of balancing screen time with

green time and movement,” said event organizer Nancy Schutts, Founder and Executive Director of Find Us Outside (FUO), a non-profit established in 2016 that offers programs to instill a love of learning through its holistic nature immersion programs. FUO Assistant Director Michelle Re also helped organize the event.

The one-hour adventure begins with an animal mask craft using natural materials that can be worn on the hike and a birdhouse craft to keep woodland animals warm and safe in winter. A “bear” will be nearby building a den and answering questions. A Firefly Fairy and Rushmore, a woodland troll, will then lead participants on a safe, dramatic hike through the forest, using nature as a storytelling guide. The event approaches nature education from



Photos by Joseph Antony Photography

a playful vantage point. “My favorite is the wetlands, so I like telling the kids it’s nature’s gas station for migrating birds and the local grocery store for animals in the vicinity,” she said. “The Franc Preserve is very diverse, so we have an abundance of spaces to explore.”

Both children and parents are encouraged to participate. “They’re all welcome to make a mask so they can become a character, whether it’s a local bird, a little mouse, or a black cat visiting the forest. Everyone participates in the storytelling along the way. We leave it open for discovery and creating the adventure together,” said Schutts.

The event is the brainchild of Adelka Polak, internationally acclaimed puppeteer and Founder and Artistic Director of Sov

Dance & Puppet Theatre, who shares her knowledge of dance, puppetry and other artistic disciplines with audiences across the world. “We engage them through song, dance, stories, and interaction with the forest. We make up stories about different spaces, and we try to teach empathy through the whole process of a dramatic play,” said Polak, who will become the Firefly Fairy for the walk. She collaborated on the event with TJ Jacobs, a theater and puppet artist at Stepping Stones Museum for Children in Norwalk and Founder of Theatre Immediate, a puppetry arts troupe, who will play Rushmore. Jacobs’s Rushmore character will be adorned with a bark-like mask, fur-covered shoulders, a blue scarf (symbol of water), green coat (representing moss), and tail.

He embodies mindfulness and whimsy and encourages listening to the music of the forest.

The idea for the event came to Polak during the pandemic when she had a dream she was walking through the forest wearing wings. “After the shutdown, every time I needed to breathe and relax, this was a place I’d go. I was sort of saying goodnight to the forest creatures. I wanted to share this beautiful image with others,” said Polak, knowing Schutts was the ideal person for collaboration. “She’s a beautiful woodland spirit herself, who facilitates positive programming and experiences.”

Both Schutts and Polak encourage families to continue exploring. “My hope is for them to hike on their own, take nature notes, or create art outside. I want them to feel healthier and for parents to see their kids running, playing, and connecting with other kids,” said Schutts. Polak explains the event pulls kids into the educational experience without them realizing it. “It’s warm and inviting,” she said. “It’s an uplifting, positive experience as we go into the cold season to be together in community to inspire families to take this playfulness home with them.” ■

For more information, call: (203) 491-0596 or visit [eventbrite.com/e/enchanted-woodland-walk-tickets-736897770067](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/enchanted-woodland-walk-tickets-736897770067)

Was Connecticut’s first frost late this year? Here’s the data | By José Luis Martínez

First frosts in Connecticut have arrived anywhere between September and mid-November over the last 23 years, with 79.3% of them arriving in October, according to an analysis of five weather stations across the state.

Much of the greater Hartford area saw its first frost of the year last week, a little later than normal.

But as of the end of October, the temperature had dropped to 32°F just once: in the Bakerville section of New Hartford on October 24. Then temperatures rose again.

Last year, Bakerville saw its first frost as early as October 9, and in 2020, on September 21. In 2021, though, first frost came as late as November 2.

And with weather patterns varying across the state, with some coastal towns experiencing warmer temperatures than inland and higher elevations, the arrival of the first frost differs widely.

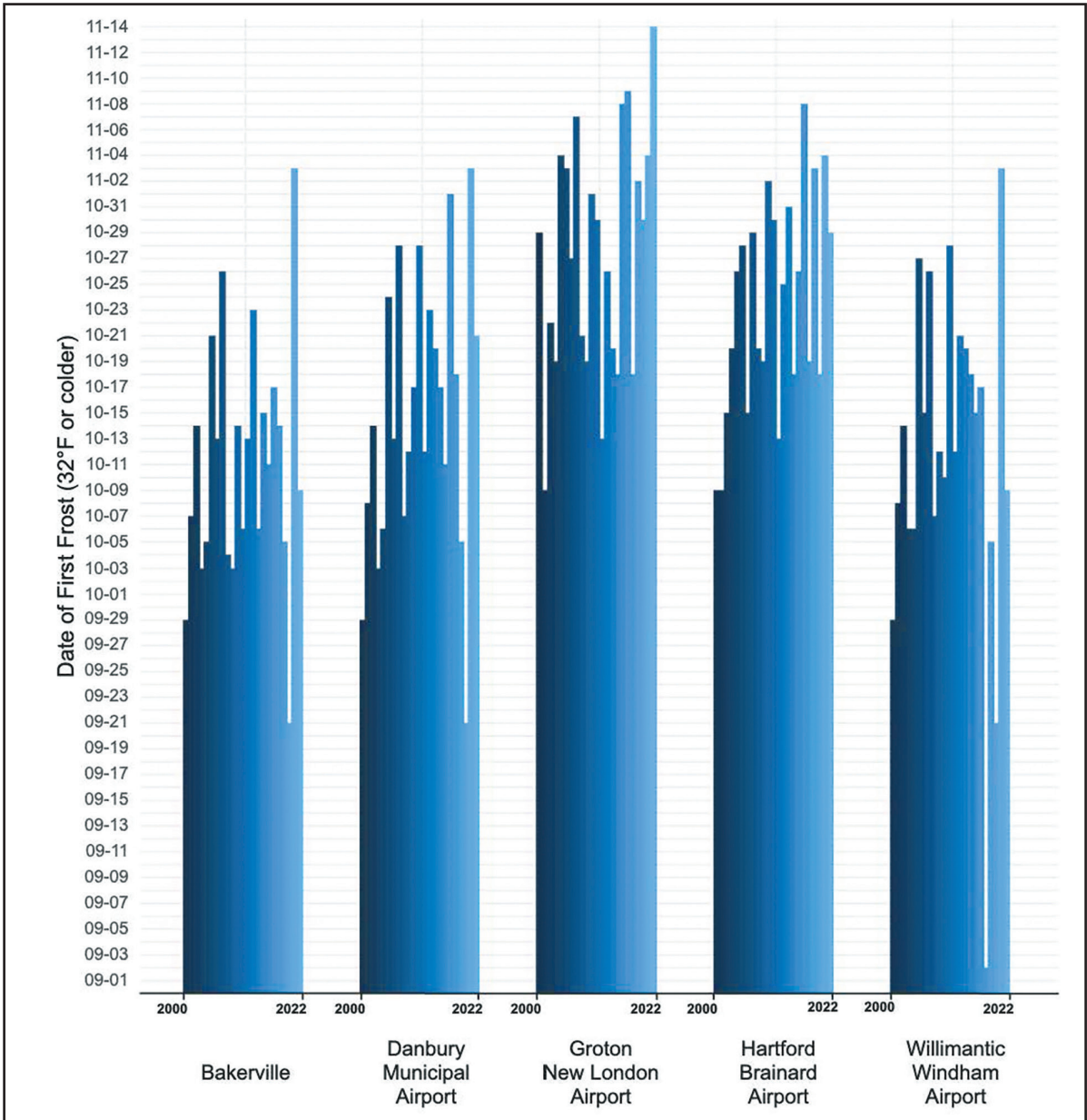
The latest frost recorded since 2000 out of the stations analyzed was at a weather station in New London, which got a first frost on November 14 of last year. The second-latest frost was also from that station, on November 8, 2016. New London has not had a frost in September at least since 2000, the earliest being on October 9 in 2001.

The earliest frost in the last 23 years came on September 2, 2018, at a weather station in Willimantic. And the second-earliest readings occurred in 2020, when weather stations in Danbury, Willimantic, and Bakerville all dipped to freezing on September 21. However, stations in Hartford and New London didn’t see a frost until late October.

Only six-percent of all first frosts across the five stations since 2000 were recorded in September.

The weather station at Hartford’s Brainard Airport has not detected a frost in September since at least 2000. In 19 of the years since, the frosts have occurred in October, but this year, the coldest temperature recorded at the station as of October 28 was 37°F. In 2010, 2017, 2019 and 2021, the temperature at Brainard didn’t drop to freezing until November. ■

This article originally appeared in CT Mirror



Some Connecticut police departments are replacing fleets with EV cruisers / continued from page 1

we have found significant savings with no loss of function,” Sampson said.

When a department is considering a move to using EVs, Sampson suggests they research the vehicle that they will be utilizing and determine if it would fit within their daily operations.

“I would recommend starting with Administrative/Detective-type vehicles to work out the

issues that may arise prior to purchasing a full fleet of EVs for the rigorous day-to-day use in the Patrol Division,” he said. “We have found that the Tesla Model Y fits our operations, but departments do not all operate the same way as Westport, so each town should investigate how EVs can operate for them.”

Redding Police Department looked into the use of EVs in its

fleet last year and, based on information from Tesla, concluded transitioning to EV police cruisers would not be cost-effective.

Redding Police Chief Mark O’Donnell said Tesla provided a cost that was \$20,000-\$25,000 more than a Ford pickup truck, which costs about \$62,000.

Redding Police currently has 14 vehicles, both gas and hybrid, bought in 2020. One vehicle is used by Animal Control, and there are three spares for training and “extra duty” details. Redding Police charges an hourly rate for extra duty, which is a significant source of the Department’s police vehicle

budget, O’Donnell noted.

An example of extra duty is when police coverage is needed when utility companies like Ever-source work on Town roads.

O’Donnell said the Department’s hybrid vehicles that run on both a battery with a generator and gas are efficient and affordable. ■



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Send photos of Redding’s fall colors to editor@reddingsentinel.org to be published in an upcoming Natural World feature.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

Diwali – Festival of Lights Thursday, November 9 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Food, dancing, henna, and more Wilton Family Y 404 Danbury Road Wilton wiltonymca.org	Lyrics Coffeehouse – Peter Calo Friday, November 10 7:30 p.m. BYOB and enjoy an evening of live music. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road townofreddingct.org/parks-and-recreation/upcoming-events/lyrics-coffee-house	Holiday Loneliness Awareness Day Thursday, November 16 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at 597 Westport Avenue, Norwalk 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at The Lounsbury House, Ridgefield Make flower arrangements to those at risk of loneliness or isolation this holiday season. soartogetherct.org	Want to feature an upcoming event? E-mail us at advertise@reddingsentinel.org for more information.
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ARTS

- Friday, November 10**
Lyrics Coffeehouse – Peter Calo
7:30 p.m.
BYOB and enjoy an evening of live music.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
townofreddingct.org/parks-and-recreation/upcoming-events/lyrics-coffee-house
\$
- Saturday, November 11**
Activism in Poetry Workshop Series (Grades 5-8)
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Registration limited to 10 participants.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R
- Saturday, November 18**
Luminosity - Celebrating a Season of Art Opening
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Art gallery show opening with champagne, strawberries, cookies, milk, and community.
Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center
5 Main Street
gtownarts.com

CRAFTS

- Monday, November 20**
Floral Workshop: Thanksgiving Centerpieces
10:00 a.m.
All flowers, greens, and vessels provided.
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road
RSVP to mpilato@townofreddingct.org or (203) 938-9725
\$, R
- Wednesday, November 29 or Thursday, November 30**
Wreath Making at New Pond Farm
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Bring work gloves and clippers. Materials will be provided.
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

FOOD

- Thursday, November 16**
High West Bourbon + Harvest Dinner
6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Celebrate the fall harvest with Holbrook Farm and High West Distillery.
The Redding Roadhouse
406 Redding Road
thereddingroadhouse.com
\$, R
- Saturday, November 18**
Tastings at the Lodge
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Cozy evening by the fire with wine, beer, spirits, comfort food, and live music. Ticket also includes admission to Ann’s Place Festival of Trees.
The Summit at Danbury
100 Reserve Road
Danbury
annsplacefestivaloftrees.org/tastings
\$, R

CHILDREN | TEENS

- Saturdays, November 11, 18, and 25**
The Storytime Express
11:00 a.m.
Enjoy a short train ride in Danbury Yard with a read-along story on board.
Danbury Railway Museum
120 White Street
Danbury
danburymail.org/storytime
\$, R
- Saturday, November 11**
Veterans’ Day Wreath Making (Kids Workshop)
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Ages 6-10
Assemble decorative wreaths and learn about the history of Veterans’ Day.
Wilton Historical Society
224 Danbury Road,
Wilton
wiltonhistorical.org
\$, R
- Saturday, November 18**
Junior Staff: Animal Caretakers
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
For middle and high school students.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R (free for members)
- Wednesday, November 22**
Storytime for Children with Adults
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Nature stories and related activities for kids aged 1-5.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R
- Tuesday, November 28**
Family Bingo Night
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Grades K-4 with accompanying adult(s).
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
townofreddingct.org
\$, R

HEALTH | WELLNESS

- Tuesday, November 14**
Yoga Nidra
4:00 p.m.
Virtual yoga session presented through the Heritage Center.
RSVP to mpilato@townofreddingct.org
R
- Wednesday, November 15**
Meditation
12:00 p.m.
Virtual meditation session presented through the Heritage Center.
RSVP to mpilato@townofreddingct.org
R
- Thursday, November 16**
Holiday Loneliness Awareness Day – SOAR Together Community Flower Power gatherings
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at 597 Westport Avenue, Norwalk
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at The Lounsbury House, Ridgefield
Make flower arrangements to those at risk of loneliness or isolation this holiday season.
soartogetherct.org

NATURE

- Sunday, November 12**
Succulents: Terrarium Workshop (Middle and High School Students)
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R
- Saturday, November 18**
Astronomy – Viewing the Night Sky
7:00 p.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

- Bethlehem Lutheran Church**
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (in person) or 10:15 a.m. (Zoom)
44 Portland Avenue
bethlehemplutheranct.org
- Calvary Independent Baptist Church**
Adult and Child Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. / 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

Sacred Heart Church:
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.
Saturday Eucharistic Adoration: 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass:
9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
12:00 noon LATIN
Weekday Mass:
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. LATIN
30 Church Street
St. Patrick Church:
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Weekday Mass:
Monday – Friday at 8:30 a.m.
Mondays and Thursdays
Eucharistic Adoration: 7:00 p.m.
169 Black Rock Turnpike
sacredheart-stpat.org

Temple B’nai Chaim
Fridays at 7:30 p.m.
82 Portland Avenue
Georgetown
templebnaichaim.org

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- Thursday, November 9**
Fine Wine or Sour Grapes? Let’s Talk About Aging
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R
- Tuesday, November 14**
Barry Pirro Author Talk: Haunted Happenings: A Ghost Hunter’s Strangest Cases (Teens and Adults)
6:00 p.m.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R
- Wednesday, November 15**
Ways of Listening: Mozart “The Journey of the Countess” in Mozart’s Opera The Marriage of Figaro
2:00 p.m.
Enjoy a deeper appreciation of Mozart’s music through this program with musicologist David Stein.
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road
RSVP to mstillman@townofreddingct.org or (203) 938-9725
R
- Thursday, November 16**
The Politics of Tea: The East India Company & British Tea Culture
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Virtual program on Zoom.
Mark Twain Library
marktwainlibrary.org
R
- Tuesday, November 28**
Conversations in a Brave Space: LGBTQ+ Beyond the Letters
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
In this foundational and interactive training session, Cadence Pentheny of the Triangle Community Center engages participants in a thorough overview of the LGBTQ+ community.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

MEETINGS

- Thursday, November 9**
Gilbert and Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee
6:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road
Subject to change to virtual or hybrid
townofreddingct.org
- Thursday, November 9**
Redding Fire District No. 2 Commissioners Meeting
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Check website for location
townofreddingct.org
- Tuesday, November 14**
Georgetown Fire District Meeting
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
61 Redding Road
townofreddingct.org
- Tuesday, November 14**
Planning Commission
7:30 p.m.
Zoom
townofreddingct.org
- Wednesday, November 15**
Region 9 BoE Curriculum Committee
1:30 p.m.
Zoom
townofreddingct.org
- Wednesday, November 15**
Water Pollution Control Commission
7:30 p.m.
Zoom
townofreddingct.org
- Thursday, November 16**
Historic Review Committee
6:30 p.m.
Zoom
townofreddingct.org
- Thursday, November 16**
Democratic Town Committee
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road
townofreddingct.org
- Monday, November 20**
Special Town Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road
townofreddingct.org
- Monday, November 20**
Board of Selectmen
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road
townofreddingct.org
- Tuesday, November 21**
Region 9 Board of Education
7:00 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School / Library Learning Commons
100 Black Rock Turnpike
er9.org
- Tuesday, November 21**
Zoning Board of Appeals
7:00 p.m.
Zoom
townofreddingct.org
- Tuesday, November 21**
Conservation Commission
7:00 p.m.
Old Town House
23 Cross Highway
townofreddingct.org
- Monday, November 27**
OPEB Trust Board
6:00 p.m.
Zoom
townofreddingct.org
- **Town offices will close at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22 and remain closed on Thursday, November 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

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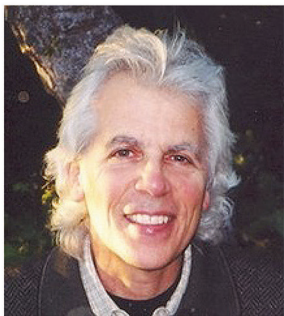
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Applicant subject to credit and underwriting approval (20221021-1745808)

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your mortgage options.



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