

Abatement and restoration work at Wire Mill to go out for bids

By Rocco Valluzzo

With documentation for the abatement of hazardous materials and restoration of several buildings now complete, the Town will soon accept bids for work to be done at the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill property in Georgetown.

The work will be paid for by a \$1.99 million grant the Town received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2024.

“We have the abatement documents for the Machine Shop building and the interior portion of the Main Office building ready to go,” said Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee Chair Amy Atamian at a July 9 meeting. “We

Continued on page 3



Photo by Debora DeCarlo Rosa

Crowds gathered for a convivial Concert on the Green by Redding’s David Morgan on Sunday, July 12. If you have a photo you’d like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Officials examine Route 7 safety after deadly crash

By Donna Christopher

State and local officials met late last week to discuss safety improvements on Route 7 / Sugar Hollow Road following a fatal crash that took the lives of Brittany Islami of New Milford and Bridgeport Police Officer Cooper Whiteside on July 13. The Redding community is mourning a profound loss; Whiteside was a valued member of the West Redding Volunteer Fire Department, and many have called for action to improve safety along the heavily-trafficked roadway.

The collision occurred at approximately 2:45 a.m. on Sugar Hollow Road when a Jeep Compass and a Harley Davidson motorcycle collided. Preliminary investigations indicate the motorcycle operated

by Whiteside was traveling southbound and the Jeep was traveling northbound at the time of the impact. Whiteside, 38, and his passenger, Islami, 34, were both found deceased on the scene. The operator of the Jeep was taken to Danbury Hospital with serious injuries.

The investigation is ongoing, as the exact cause of the collision is still under review, according to Danbury police.

The tragedy is felt acutely in Redding, where Whiteside served as a certified firefighter, an EMT, and an elected Captain in charge of training at the West Redding Fire Department. He had also previously served as the Vice President of the fire company.

“Cooper Whiteside has been a valued member of the Volunteer Fire Department in West Redding for some time,” confirmed Fire Commissioner Scott Romano of Redding Fire District 2, who offered sincere condolences to both families.

In response to the tragedy, State Representative Aimee Berger-Girvaldo moderated a meeting involving Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto, the Department’s Division Chief of Traffic Engineering Matt Bloom, Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Danbury Mayor Roberto

Continued on page 5

REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

A late afternoon walk McMurray Preserve

By Mary Flieger



Photo by Mary Flieger

Ever find yourself in need of a short but satisfying end-of-day walk? Now that there are approximately 15 hours of daylight to work with, setting out at 5:30 p.m. for a late-afternoon ramble or picnic dinner on a summer evening is a reasonable undertaking at the McMurray Preserve on Dan Beard Lane.

Look for the Redding Land Trust sign on the right as you turn onto Dan Beard Lane and park your car on the street, directly in front of the entrance. There are two trails to choose from here: the Streamway and the Elephant. A tributary of the Saugatuck River runs through this

preserve, and each trail is an out-and-back walk on each side of the stream. The Streamway beckoned first, with its open meadow framed by huge pines and oak. I had already spotted my first artifact – a substantial stone fireplace complete with rusty oven door – flanked by an old cedar chair. I sat for a few minutes listening to the stream and studying the fireplace wondering if the occasional trout had been grilled here from time to time.

This is the kind of trail where a surprising or interesting view seems to present itself around every bend. As the path becomes more wooded, the understory made up of American hornbeams and spicebush creates a full and lush scene, supported by patches of ferns, skunk cabbage, and trout lilies. Ignore the spur that leads to the bridge ahead (which leads to private property), and look for the double diamond trail marker for the return. Once back at the start, find the entrance to the Elephant Trail.

This trail begins by the water then shifts to the north a bit to enter a beautiful wood. Before long, you will happen upon one of the more unusual stone walls in Redding; measuring about 10-12 feet across, it runs north-south with a break in

the middle to allow passage. This is not the typical boundary or livestock wall commonly found in our woods; indeed, its extraordinary width has been the source of speculation over the years. One of the stories lives on in the trail name; allegedly Mr. P.T. Barnum (native of Bethel) built the wall to “corral” his elephants while enjoying some off-duty time from circus performances. Long since debunked in favor of an explanation regarding engineering-related purposes, the wall remains a curious artifact.

As you pass through the wall, the trail heads a bit north then loops around to complete the lollipop portion. On the return, look for the massive patches of ramps in late spring and early summer – they were just beginning to flower in the third week of June. There was still plenty of daylight as I exited the woods around 7:00 p.m. and gratefully took a seat again on the chair by the fireplace. ■

Do you like to hit the trails? The Sentinel is looking for additional volunteer contributors for Redding’s Big Outdoors. E-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org for more information.

Voting by mail in Connecticut

What you need to know

By Mark Pazniokas, Lisa Hagen

This year, for the first time, any voter in Connecticut can vote by absentee ballot for any reason. A State constitutional amendment approved by referendum and an act of the General Assembly ended the State’s policy of restricting absentee voting to those able to attest an inability to vote in person on election day.

Absentee voting is equated with voting by mail for a simple reason: The ballots can be returned in person to election officials, deposited in secure drop boxes typically outside city and town halls – or returned by mail.

Applications are available via the Secretary of the State’s website. Absentee ballots for the August 11 primaries in Connecticut will be available on July 21. The State also has early in-person voting that begins on August 3.

How does absentee voting work in Connecticut?

It is largely a municipal function, with some involvement by the Secretary of the State’s office. Voters can get a ballot without leaving home by completing an application on the Connecticut Online Absentee Ballot Request Portal.

Your local town clerk’s office automatically will get and process the application, checking that you are a voter and entering your information into the Central Voter Registration System used to ensure no one can vote twice. A unique ballot identification number is created for each ballot to ensure only the voter who requested it can vote with that ballot. The ballot is then mailed to the voter.

Connecticut is not a so-called “postmark state.” If you mail your absentee ballot in Connecticut, it must arrive before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, when the polls close.

Is the system secure?

No system is perfect, and Connecticut’s largest city of Bridgeport has a long and checkered history of campaigns urging the use of absentee ballots to a degree not seen elsewhere.

But it has significant safeguards. One of them is the cross-checking of voters who cast votes in person against those who voted by absentee. If a voter who returned an absentee ballot – even on the day of an election – has voted in person at a polling place, the absentee ballot is not opened.

A case in Stamford involving absentee ballots fraudulently obtained was uncovered when a voter whose name had been used to get an absentee ballot showed up at the polls to vote in person. He was allowed to vote, the fraudulently cast absentee ballot was seized, and the person who committed the fraud was arrested and convicted of elections fraud.

So, what happened in Bridgeport?

While there have been some allegations of campaigns collecting

Continued on page 2

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DANBURY CT
PERMIT NO. 254

Index

Big Outdoors

Legal Notices

Police Blotter

Obituaries

Business Spotlight

Book Review

Library Corner

The Natural World

Calendar of Events

1

2

3

6

7

8

8

9

11



1 96852 05801 3

POLICE BLOTTER

Storm response, power outages, and traffic calls

June 22 – July 19 | By Donna Christopher

Power outage impacts Georgetown

On June 24 around 7:15 a.m., a caller on Portland Avenue reported hearing a loud noise, followed by the power going out, also impacting the traffic lights in Georgetown. Officers checked the area and confirmed power and the Route 107 traffic lights were out, so they deployed temporary stop signs and notified Eversource. Much of the commercial Georgetown corridor remained without power for several hours.

Chief Robert Kalamaras, who was away during the outage as well as another outage the day before, spoke with an Eversource representative who advised him that “both the Tuesday and Wednesday outages were the result of trees and high winds impacting the electrical system.”

Eversource spokesperson Jamie Ratliff confirmed that on both days “strong winds brought trees and limbs down onto electric lines and equipment causing several power outages throughout Redding, including Georgetown. Our crews responded, working as quickly and safely as possible to make repairs and restore power.”

After reviewing June 24 weather data sent from the Sentinel that showed no significant wind gusts that morning, Ratliff explained that while it was windy, there were no hazardous-level winds. “But it’s important to remember that recent previous storms with strong winds can weaken trees and limbs, so it doesn’t take much to cause

them to fall and cause an outage. Additionally, insects, like spongy moth, and rot can compromise trees and branches to such an extent that a breeze can be enough to bring them down,” she said.

“Fortunately, police headquarters only experienced a very brief interruption in power, and there was no impact to our operations, emergency services, or critical systems,” Kalamaras said.

Holiday storms shut roads

Police responded to several storm-related calls during the weather events on July 4 and July 6. Starrs Ridge Road was closed for an extended period after a large tree fell onto power lines, blocking the road. The lines were ultimately cleared with power restored by July 7. Downed wires were also reported on Redding Road and Fox Run Road. Trees were reported on the roadway on Main Street and Cross Highway.

On July 6, Glen Road was temporarily closed after a tree fell onto utility wires, blocking the roadway until the scene could be made safe and the debris removed. Route 53 north of Diamond Hill Road was also closed for a short period.

Traffic

In 135 motor vehicle stops in the month-long period, police issued 10 summonses, 39 infractions, 23 written warnings, 59 verbal warnings, and took no action in four cases. The infraction rate was

Continued on page 9



Southeast Kitchen
& Bath LLC

DESIGN • BUILD • REMODEL • SINCE 1973



CUSTOMIZING HOMES FOR BETTER LIVING

Brewster, NY and Bethel, CT Design Centers
845-278-0070
Southeastkitchenandbath.com



Abatement and restoration work at Wire Mill to go out for bids / continued from page 1

also have the restoration documents: one for the Machine Shop and one for the Main Office building from APS (Architectural Preservation Studios) that are ready to go.”

First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton expressed significant concern that managing these as two separate bids with different general contractors would complicate coordination of the projects. Committee members agreed that the project requires a unified management approach.

“The level of coordination between the abatement and the restoration requires great attention to detail, and I’m concerned that handling it as two separate bids with two separate managements will complicate coordination,” said

Pemberton. “To have two contractors working parallel but not necessarily aligned, I think, will run into trouble.”

A recent EPA grant application for work on the Weaving Building, which would involve hazardous building material abatement and a complete roof replacement, was denied. Atamian noted that most of the available grants in this cycle seemed to go to communities for soil remediation.

“There was not a lot of building abatement in terms of the clean-up grants,” said Atamian. “And there were none in Connecticut.”

The team will still proceed with the interim repair scope of the Weaving Building’s roof developed in March, as the Board of Selectmen already has approved funding

for the project based on initial assessments by Darek Franek Contracting of Stamford.

“Essentially, I need three estimates for that,” said Pemberton. “We don’t have to choose the lowest, but choose the method we think will be most effective. Of course, cost is a factor but it’s not the only factor.”

Atamian also confirmed that the final documentation for the Georgetown Revitalization plan has been received from the architectural and landscape firm Pirie Associates, including market studies, public surveys, and zoning recommendations. This package, along with budget recommendations for building stabilization, has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen for review at its July meeting. ■



There’s a real sense of community at Meadow Ridge. The amenities are amazing, and the food is fantastic. There’s quality care here; should my mom need it, that gives us great peace of mind.

— Greg Z, son of resident Ingrid Z.

Picture the pinnacle of senior living.

Meadow Ridge offers a refined, maintenance-free lifestyle with exceptional service and wellness-focused living. Whether practicing your swing at Ridge Range, socializing in our three-story atrium or exploring creative pursuits, there’s always something to enjoy. With our Lifecare plan, residents also benefit from access to the continuum of care at a more predictable cost.



To learn more or schedule a tour, call 203-989-2110 or visit LifeAtMeadowRidge.com



Meadow Ridge
A Distinctive Lifecare Community



Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care | Sub-Acute Rehabilitation & Skilled Nursing
100 Redding Road | Redding, CT 06896 | Managed by Benchmark Senior Living



The 10th annual Rock 'n Roots Music Festival and Fireworks Show brought the community together for a memorable celebration on Sunday, July 19 after thunderstorms pushed the event back from the day before. The Redding Historical Society presented its annual fundraiser at Lonetown Farm alongside local and national America250 programming this summer, which included performances by Vondrooks, D'PEW, Iris Lies, Fairweather Collective, and Fife & Drum before a spectacular fireworks show by Blue Sky Fireworks.

Test your knowledge of American and Connecticut history: Part II

As Redding and the nation celebrate America's 250th anniversary, test how deep your knowledge goes on early American history and Connecticut's role in the Revolutionary War. Do you have what it takes to be an *America250* high scorer?

1. In his address to Congress, King Charles III acknowledged that the fundamental disagreement between the colonies and England was "no taxation with representation."
a. True b. False
 2. Several of King Charles III remarks brought Congressional laughter: While applauding the shared values of the two nations, he evoked laughter when he said: "As _____ said: 'We have really everything in common with America nowadays except, of course, language!'"
a. Keats b. Shelley c. Wilde
 3. Which of these men fought in the Battle of Yorktown?
a. Washington b. Hamilton c. Cornwallis
 4. Who said: "Without freedom of thought there can be no such thing as wisdom; and no such thing as public liberty, without freedom of speech."
a. John Adams b. Ben Franklin c. John Trumbull
 5. Which of these CT men signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution?
a. Roger Sherman b. Wolcott c. Putnam
 6. Who is the CT man who some say was the first President because in 1781 he was the first presiding officer over the Confederation Congress, created by the Articles of Confederation?
a. Samuel Huntington b. John Read c. John Trumbull
 7. Which of the following proposals by the "Connecticut Compromise" were accepted by the Constitutional Convention?
a. proportional representation by census in the lower house and equal state representation in the upper house
b. abolishment of slavery
c. Christianity should be named the national religion.
 8. Which man served as an officer in the Continental Army and later commanded the Parisian National Guard in the early days of the French Revolution?
a. Charles Cornwallis b. Wilhelm von Knyphausen
c. Marquis de Lafayette d. Colonel Sanders
 9. What is the official US motto?
 10. Which occurred first?
a. French Revolution b. American Revolution
c. Haitian Revolution
 11. Which Supreme Court Justice wrote: "Our constitution is color-blind... all citizens are equal before the law. The humblest is the peer of the most powerful"
a. Earl Warren b. Clarence Thomas
c. John Marshall Harlan d. Thurgood Marshall
 12. What is the National Animal?
a. Donkey b. Deer c. Bison d. Elephant
 13. What almost became the National Bird instead of the Bald Eagle?
a. Heron b. Turkey c. Dove d. Hawk
 14. Name the National Flower.
 15. Name the National Tree.
 16. Name one of five CT signers of the Declaration of Independence
 17. Name the CT resident hanged as a spy who said: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."
a. Nathan Hale b. Eli Yale c. John Wesley
 18. For years, the I-84 bridge over the Housatonic River in Connecticut was named after which French general who assisted the Americans at Yorktown?:
a. Lafayette b. Rochambeau c. Rousseau
 19. What is the nickname for CT residents?
 20. Name the CT State Song.
 21. Name the Redding-born man, a prominent Revolutionary, soldier and diplomat to France for Jefferson, who proclaimed that an educated citizenry was necessary for sustaining our republic.
a. John Trumbull b. Joel Barlow c. John Read
 22. Name Redding's Congregational Church's minister, Chaplain to General Putnam's encampment, who stored military supplies in his house, and carried a loaded musket beneath his cleric's robe.
a. Zalmon Read b. Nathaniel Bartlett c. John Beach
 23. In the 1980s, a young Redding resident found an arrowhead in the graveyard of Redding's Christ Church. To which tribe might this arrowhead have belonged?
a. Cherokee b. Pootatuck c. Pottawatomie
 24. Why does Redding's 73 acre "Gallows Hill Natural Area" feature a trail named the "Noose?"
a. Revolutionary War British spy was hanged there
b. Trail is circular c. Cows lassoed here for troop supplies
 25. General Putnam's 1778-79 winter encampment in Redding is called "Connecticut's Valley Forge" because:
a. soldiers suffered the same inclement weather
b. Washington camped here c. blacksmiths assembled here
 26. This Litchfield, CT born soldier, founder of the Green Mountain Boys, helped captured Fort Ticonderoga and its artillery and later was imprisoned by the British for three harsh years.
a. Ethan Allen b. John Knowlton c. John Trumbull
 27. *My Brother Sam is Dead*, a historical fiction Newbery Honor book, is partially based on which Redding families?
a. Sanford b. Couch c. Meeker d. Hall
 28. Which CT Native American soldier served under General Benedict Arnold at the battle of Ticonderoga and under General Putnam as his wagoner at Putnam's Camp?
a. Jabez Porrage b. Squanto c. Sassacus
 29. General Washington referred to Connecticut as "the provision state" because this town housed major supplies for much of the Continental Army.
a. Ridgefield b. Stamford c. Danbury
 30. The seal of the Redding Historical Society depicts Redding founder John Read and a Native American standing beneath a tree documenting sale or trade of his 100 Redding acres. Who is this Native American man whose son, a Redding resident, fought in the Continental Army.
a. Chief Katonah b. "Chickens" Sam Warrups c. Momauguin
 31. This Redding Family with roots dating back to the early 1700s were active in the Revolutionary War with family members on both sides. This family shaped Redding's civic and economic roots, including button factories on the Aspetuck at Poverty Hollow. Currently family members are active in Redding's Fire & EMS # 1.
a. Sanford b. Steichen c. Merritt d. Higgins
 32. Probate and census records document thousands of African Americans serving in the Continental Army, some stationed at Putnam's encampment in Redding.
a. True b. False
 33. Why do the words: "Constitution State" adorn our license plates?
a. First State to sign Constitution b. early Hartford settlers wrote first democratic government constitution c. Holds original copies of the Constitution.
 34. Music was important during the Revolutionary War. In the song *Yankee Doodle*, a "doodle" refers to:
a. dog b. uncultured person c. hat
 35. In this same song, the line "he stuck a feather in his hat and called it 'macaroni'." "*Macaroni*" refers to:
a. pasta b. flamboyant dresser c. uneducated soldier
 36. How did *Yankee Doodle*, a British song mocking American colonists, become a patriotic anthem for the Patriots?
a. Washington bought the rights b. Continental troops embraced the tune to spite British troops
c. The Loyalists liked the catchy tune
 37. The patriotic song *America the Beautiful* was first a poem then set to religious music by church organist Samuel Ward. Who wrote the original poem?
a. Artemis Ward b. Katharine Bates c. Harriet Beecher Stowe
 38. *Putnam's Camp* by Charles Ives, demonstrates his unorthodoxy of layering music by combining military, religious, and patriotic music in grandiose cacophony to elicit memories of life in and around General Putnam's Revolution War encampment in Redding.
a. True b. False
 39. While Danbury/Redding resident Charles Ives didn't live during the Revolutionary War era, he was a musical revolutionary who composed patriotic-flavored music. As a teenager, he composed for a July 4th event "America" described as irreverent variations on "My Country 'Tis of Thee," a precursor of his musical experiments to come.
a. True b. False
 40. Who wrote the Star-Spangled Banner ?
a. John Philip Sousa b. Francis Scott Key
c. Bruce Springstein

Answers to Part II will be published in the August 6, 2026 issue

Answers to Part I: 1. Viking, Spanish, French, English / 2.A / 3.B / 4.A / 5. New Amsterdam / 6. French and Indian War / 7.B / 8.A / 9. Thomas Jefferson / 10.C / 11. England/Britain / 12.C / 13.B / 14.B / 15. George Washington / 16.A / 17.B / 18.C / 19.B / 20.D / 21.C / 22.B / 23. Articles of Confederation / 24.C / 25.C / 26.A / 27. Roger Sherman, William Samuel Johnson / 28. George Washington / 29.C / 30. John Adams / 31.A / 32. Liberty Bell / 33.A / 34.A / 35.A / 36.C / 37.A / 38.B / 39.B / 40.A

Scout creates new way to map veterans’ final resting places

By Anne Young Albanese



Photo by Anne Young Albanese
(Left to right): Joe Bonomo, Chair of the Redding Historic Cemetery Committee, Scout Nate Hill, and First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton.

Recent Joel Barlow High School graduate Nate Hill presented his completed Eagle Scout project to the Redding Historic Cemetery Committee this month. Led by his love of history, Hill created a map of veterans’ grave listings in town, a venture suggested to him by his Scoutmaster, Joe Downey.

Two Scouts before Hill have addressed veterans’ cemetery projects: James Daily in 1999 and Andrew Gelinis in 2007. Both had helped create a navigation system to a veteran’s burial location included on each veteran’s hard copy profile

kept at Town Hall. Hill developed a visual map to replace the previous systems, making navigation of the cemeteries more intuitive for the average person.

Hill faced several challenges in the early phases of the project, which ultimately took about five months to complete. One of the main issues was not knowing where to find information on newly buried veterans. According to Hill, it also took time to “develop a clear vision for how I wanted the project to realistically look.” He also needed to find graves of veterans whose

graves had been marked in the wrong graveyards. He started researching veterans who had passed away most recently while also referencing the two previous cemetery projects to help identify established graves.

Hill started the project in the winter, working against a tight deadline because he was required to have the project approved, completed, and submitted before his 18th birthday in March. Darkness fell early each day, and there were times that the graves were covered in snow or ice.

With the assistance of Downey, his fellow Scouts, and his parents, Hill mapped 387 veterans’ graves, including the addition of 50 veterans. Writing individual profiles for close to 400 people would have been too labor-intensive, so instead, Hill worked with his father to develop a program that populated a template that he designed with each veteran’s information. Hill then surveyed most of the cemeteries himself and designed the maps.

Hill’s project beneficiary was the Town Clerk’s office. He also presented a copy to Mark Twain Library and the Redding Historic Cemetery Committee. He ended up putting together a binder that was approximately four inches thick for each recipient.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presented Hill with an honor of appreciation for historic preservation. The DAR is based on three pillars: education, historic preservation, and patriotism. Louise Wagner, State Historic Preservation chair for DAR, presented Hill with a certificate of appreciation. ■

Officials examine Route 7 safety after deadly crash / continued from page 1

Alves, and WestCOG leadership. The discussion centered on the urgent need to slow traffic where the roadway transitions from I-84 near Danbury Airport into a four-lane highway in Ridgefield.

“We discussed the complexities of improving safety on a roadway that is not only shared by two municipalities, but is also a U.S. highway. That status can make the process more cumbersome and expensive than if this were solely a State or municipal road, but CT-DOT is experienced in navigating projects of this kind and made clear that it is committed to addressing the very real safety concerns along this corridor, with urgency,” Berger-Girvalo said in a notice following the meeting.

Multiple traffic and safety audit studies are already underway, in various stages for both the Ridgefield and Danbury sections of Route 7, including one for each community conducted by WestCOG.

“Commissioner Eucalitto and (WestCOG Executive Director) Francis Pickering committed to sharing the results of the studies already underway, immediately upon completion, as well as realistic timelines for the various stages of intervention, so that duplicative work does not continue and that final presentations of potential solutions are not further delayed,” Berger-Girvalo said.

State Representative Raghieb Allie-Brennan noted that CTDOT has committed to several immediate actions to improve road safety while the studies continue, including installing centerline rumble strips along the corridor, refreshing pavement markings, and adding a high-friction pavement surface in Danbury by 2027 to reduce the risk of vehicles leaving the roadway.

“The Department is also considering additional short-term measures, such as speed feedback signs.

Ongoing safety audits in Ridgefield and Danbury will help determine which engineering improvements are prioritized, and potential longer-term solutions like median barriers are being carefully studied,” Allie-Brennan told his constituents.

Eva Zymaris, spokesperson for the Connecticut Department of Transportation told the *Sentinel* they cannot comment on a specific crash, as police reports haven’t yet been finalized.

“However, CTDOT is always willing to meet with local officials to discuss safety concerns they may identify, and given Route 7 is a critical roadway that crosses several communities, we support bringing multiple municipalities to the table,” she said.

Danbury Police noted that they conducted 713 traffic stops on the corridor last year and are on pace to exceed that number this year. However, Allie-Brennan noted that “one statistic shared today was especially sobering: eight fatal crashes have occurred on this stretch of Route 7 since 2001, several involving multiple fatalities.”

The July 13 crash has sparked a regional wave of support. Roadside memorials have appeared along Route 7 where the crash occurred, and Whiteside’s police cruiser has become a parked memorial at 300 Congress Street in Bridgeport. The Bridgeport Police Department shared photos of a solemn procession of police and fire personnel lining White Street in Danbury while Whiteside’s body was taken to a funeral home.

“Our Department stood united to honor one of our own,” the post said. “Officer Cooper Whiteside’s dignified transfer was a powerful reminder that the bonds of this profession extend far beyond the badge.” ■

1946802026

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS!

For eight decades and across three generations, Canine College has proudly called Redding home. Since 1946, our family has had the privilege of providing exceptional dog training and boarding with care, discipline, trust, and individualized attention.

As we celebrate our 80th anniversary, we extend our sincere gratitude to the families, clients, and community members who have supported us throughout the years. Your trust has made this milestone possible.

From our family to yours, thank you, Redding, for 80 wonderful years.



THE BEHAN FAMILY
CANINE COLLEGE

CANINECOLLECT.COM
203.938.2124



OBITUARIES

Deborah K. McCarthy
August 29, 1956 – July 11, 2026



Deborah K. McCarthy

Deborah (Kosiba) McCarthy of Redding, 69, passed away peacefully after a long illness on July 11, 2026. She lived a rich and vibrant life.

Born on August 29, 1956 in Norwalk to Edward and Mary (Pikor) Kosiba, Deborah was known for her friendly and inquisitive nature, her commitment to family and career, her empathy and warmth and concern for others, and love for animals and all living things. Deborah was happiest in her garden. She had a special connection with young people and always supported their interests and aspirations. Deborah was a passionate sports fan and stuck with her teams through thick and thin.

Deborah graduated from Staples High School in Westport and received her Bachelor of Science

degree in Accounting from Bentley College. Much of her professional career was spent with Perkin-Elmer Corporation and then Applera Corporation where she held a progressive series of managerial roles in Payroll, Employee Benefits, and Treasury/Benefits administration.

Deborah is survived by her husband John of Redding, her sisters Patricia A. Kosiba, Barbara K. Misencik, and Katherine M. Kosiba, her nephew Michael Misensik and his wife Sarah, and her great nephew Timothy Misencik. She is also survived by the McCarthy siblings (Ann, Mary Kate, Eileen, and Thomas and his wife Catherine) and the nieces and nephews that survive her and remember the nurturing influence she had on their lives. She is predeceased by her parents and her brother-in-law, James Misencik.

Deborah’s Funeral Mass was held at 11:00 a.m. on July 21 at St. Patrick Church, located at 169 Black Rock Turnpike, Redding, CT. A private committal service will be held at a later date for the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Danbury Regional Hospice. The family wishes to express their deepest gratitude to the Danbury Regional Hospice for the compassionate care and support provided to Deborah and her loved ones during her final days. ■

Cooper James Whiteside
June 22, 1988 – July 13, 2026



Cooper James Whiteside

Cooper James Whiteside (38) of Danbury died on July 13, 2026 as the result of a motorcycle accident. Compounding this tragedy is the loss of Cooper’s friend and passenger at the time of the accident, Brittany Islami. Brittany leaves behind three young children, her mother, sister, and many other family and friends.

Cooper (“Coop”, as he was affectionately known) was born on June 22, 1988 in Danbury, the only child of James Whiteside and Sandy Griesbach. He was a 2007 graduate of Danbury High School and a 2016 graduate of Western Connecticut State University with a B.S. in Justice and Law Administration.

Coop was an abundance of talent. He was a musician (a skilled violinist and piano player), an outdoor enthusiast, certified rescue

diver, a handy-man and an epic jokester. He developed a love early on for anything with a motor, including quads, boats, dirt bikes, jet skis, cars, and his treasured motorcycles. Throughout his teens and early 20s, he held a multitude of jobs: lifeguard, baseball referee, tow truck driver, security guard, substitute teacher, bail bondsman, delivery driver, EMT, and more.

From a young age, Cooper dreamed of becoming a police officer. Over the years, he worked to gain experience in any way he could, including his service at the following volunteer Fire Departments: a firefighter with Stony Hill and Brookfield, and a captain-in-training and vice president with West Redding. In 2010, the Connecticut Chapter of the Red Cross honored Cooper and a colleague for saving a man’s life at Burying Hill Beach. Upon graduating from the Police Academy 3rd in his class, Coop was hired as a Bridgeport Police Officer, where he continued to tirelessly support his community and fellow officers. After only two years on the force, Cooper had made of himself an officer of distinction, never wavering in his purpose to serve and protect with integrity, humility, and compassion.

Cooper’s family is beyond grateful for the support of the Bridgeport Police Department, the West Red-

ding Volunteer Fire Department, close friends Amanda Kilcran and Taryn Blasi, and the many relationships Cooper made that have spanned all walks of life.

Along with his parents, other survivors include his Uncles Henry and David Griesbach; his Aunts Janet and Deborah Griesbach; his cousins Sara, Benjamin and Hannah Griesbach; five nephews and nieces, and Cooper’s best friend, Brother-in-Blue and fellow Officer, Gary Douglas.

A Celebration of Life to honor and remember Cooper will be held on Friday, July 24, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Walnut Hill Community Church (156 Walnut Hill Road, Bethel).

In lieu of flowers, the family invites those who wish to honor Cooper’s life of service to consider a contribution to any of the following: the Bridgeport Police Cadets (300 Congress Street, Bridgeport CT 06604); the GoFundMe established for Brittany Islami’s children (gofund.me/d3ea52f77). Additionally, mourners attending the service are welcome to bring a non-perishable food item (suggestions: baby formula, diapers, applesauce, toiletries, etc.) to donate to the Walnut Hill Community Church food pantry as another means of honoring Cooper’s legacy of caring for and protecting others in the community. ■

Share your important updates with friends and neighbors in the *Sentinel*

We publish local birth announcements, engagement and wedding announcements, death notices, and obituaries free of charge.

E-mail us at editor@reddingsentinel.org to share your updates and schedule publication.



GOLF CAR RENTALS & REPAIRS

(AND SALES TOO!)

Planning a special event and need convenient transportation for your guests?

We’ve got you covered!

Rent a reliable golf car for weddings, events, tours, recreational use, and MORE - or bring yours in for fast, expert repairs.

- Full Fleet Of High-Quality Golf Cars
- Flexible Rental Plans
- Competitive Rates
- Delivery Service

(203) 792-4172

7 Francis J Clarke Circle Bethel, CT 06801

www.bestroundgolf.com



BOOK REVIEW

The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny | By Kiran Desai / 688 pages / Hogarth

The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny, by Kiran Desai, shows how the post-colonial social assortment (millennial Indian culture) utterly failed the personal and emotional aspirations of a younger, more worldly generation (then 20-something Sonia and Sunny). Desai wrote, as a summary declaration, “If you don’t have love, you don’t properly exist. If you don’t properly exist, you don’t have love.” Sonia and Sunny, for different reasons, rejected arranged marriage as impossibly loveless but found each other’s inner world and fell in love quite naturally. It is a cautionary tale of how upbringing has deep influential roots in spite of critical generational re-evaluation.

A runner-up for the Booker Prize 2025, Kiran Desai has written a novel that details how emotional love is nearly impossible to “traditional” Indian culture. She presents examples in India of misogyny, greed, hypocrisy, and corruption as embedded in “traditional” ways of class and caste, and makes invidious comparisons between Indian cultural norms and more modern ways of thinking and being. Sonia and Sunny of the title are natives of India. But, as American transplants, they struggle toward personal growth in a foreign land while continuously suffering from cultural conflict caused in large part by incompatible aspects of their internalized Indian culture. Author Desai, using examples of parental meddling as an assault on privacy, shows how “traditional” values compound falsity, which younger Indians find corrupt. The novel pointedly asks: Where is truth in a cultural context, which is by design layered in mendacity? What is the worth of making a show of this and that, when the core is hollow? Can truth really be known in this culture? Truth nevertheless adheres, in secure but sometimes uncomfortable ways. Like a piety that brings comforts of righteousness.

Desai summarizes the toxic circularity of underlying Indian dread,

claustrophobic among culturally fortunate young Indians exposed to a modern American culture of individual freedom.: (author’s italics) “*corruption begets corruption, corruption begets murder, corruption begets suicide, suicide begets suicide, murder begets murder, suicide begets murder, murder begets suicide, murder begets corruption...*” In maturity, youthful ambition discovers deep alienation in internalized root of identity. This results in profound existential loneliness.

Ambivalence lurks behind every victory of self, which simultaneously awakens a toxic holier-than-thou piety and a tendency to tattle. This divisive sentiment ultimately isolates.

With intelligent and sympathetic characters on both sides of her portrayal, Desai has written a brilliant novel. It is a copious story that shows post-colonial Indian culture, by comparison to other modern western cultures, as obnoxious to truth and unsustainable. Attempting to validate it is the essence of “loneliness.” This example is typical: Babita, Sunny’s reflexively dominating mother, understands his American citizenship in this light —“The United States has stolen her sweet son and transformed him into a foreigner trumpeting the American mantra of individuality and self-sufficiency in order to disguise his selfishness.” There is no future of emotional honesty possible. Yet for different reasons, a bond between mother and son sticks, to their mystification. The resolution at book’s end is credible to the story but the reader sees the introjection and conflict continuing. This is the essence of the loneliness between Sonia and Sunny.

The message of this excellent novel is: You cannot live under false pretenses with yourself, no matter where you come from or who your parents are. ■

Review by Tom Casey, author of Human Error, Strangers’ Gate, and Unsettled States

Last call for Book Fair donations



Photo by Lisa Goldstein

The donation sheds in Mark Twain Library’s parking lot at 439 Redding Road will close on July 31 to give the event’s many volunteers time to prepare for the 2026 Book Fair on Labor Day Weekend. The sheds will re-open in early September to accept donations for the 2027 Book Fair. Donations can include books, DVDs, puzzles, CDs, LPs, and games. For more information on this year’s Book Fair, visit marktwainlibrary.org/book-fair.



TRUE GROWTH WELLNESS
with Rebecca Arcidiacono, LCSW/LICSW

Virtual Therapy for Women
with Trauma and Anxiety

Schedule your free consultation today.

914.719.6643
becca@truegrowthwellness.com
www.truegrowthwellness.com



LIBRARY CORNER

What do the last five years tell us?

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Now that I have been Director of Mark Twain Library for five years (I know, I can’t believe it either), I have a sufficient amount of data I can use to identify trends in how our community uses our space and our collections. And, no surprise here, the trends are encouraging! Library visits have grown by nearly 30%, from 38,000 in 2022 to more than 49,000 in 2026. I attribute this to folks leaving their homes again after the pandemic and an increased appetite for in-person programs for all ages. We have seen this in how we staff the Library as well, having added two part-time staff members: one for adult programming support and another dedicated to programming for Grades 5 and up.

Digital circulation continues to climb, increasing by more than

28% as more patrons discover the convenience of eBooks, audiobooks, and other online resources. I predict we will soon see this level out, as the rising cost of digital licenses remains untenable for library budgets and we are about at our tipping point for how much of our budget we can responsibly allocate to this part of our collection.

Overall circulation has remained remarkably steady, with more than 92,000 items borrowed this year despite changing reading habits and shifts in collection formats. I think it’s reasonable to believe that many people who used to borrow our audiobooks on CD have switched to downloading them and listening on Hoopla.

These numbers tell an important story: library use is changing.

People are visiting more often, engaging with our spaces and programs, and accessing materials in the formats that work best for their lives. Given that our last building project was 26 years ago when Google was growing in popularity and people accessed the internet through dial-up modems, it makes sense that we might want to rethink our interior space. Given that our circulation numbers are steady, but we have more people coming through our doors, it might be time to think how we can make our space more accessible and inviting for people to linger here, rather than adding shelves for more books. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

Good books for good readers
What’s in a name? | By Margi Esten

I just stumbled on a gem of a book, perfect for a quick summer read: *The Names* by Florence Knapp.

“*And Maia. Isn’t she just teaching her daughter that keeping the peace is more important than doing what’s right? Cora wonders what Maia thinks of her for agreeing to give her brother this name that will tie him to generations of domineering men. And it dawns on her that*

while Maia’s name was originally intended as a silent bond between them, in revealing its meaning, that, too, may be a burden. Perhaps she has unwittingly sent a message that their lives are destined to follow the same path, when her real hope is for her children to tread their own.” – *Prologue, The Names*

Can a name change the course of a life? This is a story of three names, three versions of a life, and

the infinite possibilities that a single decision can spark. This beautifully written, totally original novel is both gut-wrenching and hopeful, joyful and tragic, and a few days on I can’t stop thinking about it.

Florence Knapp is an English author and blogger. *The Names*, her debut novel, won a British Book Award, among other accolades. ■

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HOMESERVICES

NEW ENGLAND PROPERTIES
NEW YORK PROPERTIES
HUDSON VALLEY PROPERTIES

Country Homes,
Equestrian Estates, Land



Congratulations to our sellers and the new owners of 159 Cross Highway! **Sold for \$101,000 over asking!!**

Exceptional results don't happen by chance. Thoughtful positioning, strategic pricing, and deep local market expertise delivered a seamless transaction and an outstanding result.

Considering a sale? Let's position your property to stand apart.



Bill Whitehead, REALTOR®
203.606.8536
williamwhitehead@bhhsne.com

John Talley, REALTOR®
203.947.1057
johnntalley@bhhsne.com

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HOMESERVICES

NEW ENGLAND PROPERTIES
NEW YORK PROPERTIES
HUDSON VALLEY PROPERTIES

 A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

“Books... Naturally” exhibit at Mark Twain Library | By Lisa Goldstein



Art by Susan Kapuscinski Gaylord — Newburyport, MA
Spirit Book #41: Still Motion

Take a walk through Mark Twain Library’s downstairs rotunda, which is just past the front desk, and you can discover how a book morphs into nature or nature transforms a book in the current exhibit, “Books... Naturally.” The display

showcases several works of art, including cut-outs in the shape of leaves, books sitting upon bark sitting upon books, and graphic images of flowers imprinted upon paper, all depicted in either earthy tones or the blue of the sky.

This exhibit is the latest creation of Chris Perry, who has curated numerous “book art” exhibits at the Library over the years and is a member of the New England Book Artists professional organization, which is made up of both book artists and bibliophiles. Perry described this particular display of leaf, flower, and twig-inspired books as “found natural objects” bound “using traditional methods” as well as “non-traditional methods... like stacking, or cutting, and hanging, punching, and threading.”

Visit Mark Twain Library during business hours and see for yourself just how books and nature intertwine. “Books... Naturally” will be on display through September 14, 2026. ■

Learn more at marktwainlibrary.org

American pokeweed: A notable native plant

By Terry Karpen



Photo in public domain
Pokeweed flowers



Print by John James Audubon
Worm-eating warblers eating pokeweed berries

Pokeweed is so ubiquitous in our Connecticut landscapes that we tend to take it for granted. It is easily recognized by its bright reddish-purple stems, large green leaves, and dark purple berries. Perhaps we undervalue its attributes because we assume it’s an undesirable weed.

“The term ‘weed’ means different things to different people. In the broadest sense, it is any plant growing where it is not wanted. Weeds can be native or non-native, invasive or non-invasive, and noxious or not noxious,” as explained by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on their educational page *About Weeds and Invasives*.

Pokeweed, *Phytolacca americana*, is an ecologically and culturally important native plant. It is native throughout eastern North America, from Quebec, Ontario, and Minnesota south to Florida, Texas, and northern Mexico. It thrives in fields, pastures, open woods, thickets, and roadsides, particularly in areas with disturbed soil.

The common name “poke” is derived from *pocan*, the Native American Algonquian name for the plant. The Indigenous tribes used the juice of the plant’s berries as a natural pigment to dye baskets, clothing, and textiles. The scientific name is *Phytolacca americana*. The first half of the genus name comes from the Greek word *phyton* (plant) and *lac*, referring to the harvested crimson-colored resin secreted by the lac bug, and used as a dye. This literally translates to “red dye plant.” The species name *americana* means it is a native plant of the Americas.

An herbaceous perennial, pokeweed emerges each spring in a cluster of fresh green shoots from a fleshy taproot resembling a large white carrot. Then it quickly develops into a large plant up to eight to 10 feet tall with a spread of three

feet or more. The simple leaves are bright green in color, and up to a foot long and four to seven inches wide – arranged alternately on branching stems that are shades of reds and purples. By midsummer, plants begin producing eight-inch-long racemes (flower and fruit clusters) of greenish white apetalous (having no petals) flowers. It is in bloom from mid- to late-summer. The flowers transition to pea-size berries that are first green, change to pink, and then, finally to dark purple.

By the end of summer, the plant is covered with showy and distinctive clusters of purple-black berries – referred to as pokeberries – on brightly colored stems. Flowering continues until frost with plants having flowers and berries at the same time. The leaves turn yellow and red in autumn, and then the plant dies back and regrows in the spring from the large, fleshy taproot that is up to four inches wide and 12 inches deep below the soil line. The foliage appears to be largely impervious to insects and disease.

All parts of the pokeweed plant – roots, stems, leaves, and berries – are poisonous to humans, dogs, and livestock, but its toxicity is generally considered to be low. Toxins can be absorbed through the skin, so it is recommended to wear gloves and avoid direct contact when handling or removing the plant. Birds are unaffected by the poisons in the berries, and wild small mammals can safely eat pokeweed berries because they possess a natural physiological tolerance to the plant’s toxins.

Ecological Value

Pokeweed is a significant food source for many bird species, mammals, and insects. Many birds and mammals love the berries. According to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, “There are at least 30 bird species that rely on pokeberries as a

major food source. Catbirds, wood thrushes, hooded warblers, and other migratory birds eat them to fuel their southward flights to warmer climes. Mockingbirds, cardinals, cedar waxwings, mourning doves, and other winter residents rely on the berries to get through the food-scarce winter ahead.” Small mammals, like raccoons, opossums, squirrels, mice, and foxes, also consume the berries. The plant’s flowers attract pollinators such as bees and hummingbirds. Deer browse on pokeweed leaves, stems and berries. And pokeweed serves as a host plant for the giant leopard moth larvae – female moths lay their eggs on the leaves. Once they hatch, the caterpillars eat the pokeweed leaves to grow.

Cultural Value

Pokeweed has a long history of culinary, medicinal, and decorative use. Poke is a traditional southern Appalachian food. The leaves and stems of young plants are boiled and eaten as a Southern dish called “poke sallet.” This requires special cooking to remove toxins. The leaves taste similar to spinach; the stems, similar to asparagus. No one should ever eat the berries, unprocessed leaves, or stems.

Native Americans have used the pokeweed plant for herbal medicine for centuries. Early American settlers made pokeberry ink for writing by crushing ripe berries, straining the juice, adding vinegar and salt to preserve the mixture. And both Native Americans and colonists used the berries as paint and a dye.

Ralph Waldo Emerson famously said, “What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.” ■

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

If trees could talk
Treasure hunting beneath the oaks

By Laurie Heiss



Photo by Laurie Heiss
Truffle oaks in Grignan, France

My three youngest white oaks have a sweet story behind them. Years ago, a friend-of-a-friend had white oak seedlings that were in harm’s way when a tree needed to come down in his yard – so, he had dug up and lightly replanted them all in a good place, waiting for new homes. I didn’t know this Newtown Turnpike neighbor, but we spoke the same oak-tree language, and I became the seedlings’ adoptive caretaker; three years later, all three of his freely-given trees are flourishing. I am always on the lookout for good oak stories and have recommended Douglas Tallamy’s *The Nature of Oaks* to readers before. But today’s newest, intriguing oak story is about a different type of oak...

On a trip to northern Provence in March, in Drôme Provençale (the French department name; like a state), our group of river-boat travelers met with a nurseryman in the small, but celebrated, rural town of Grignan. The farmer grew truffle oaks. The highly-prized black truffle (*Tuber melanosporum*) does not grow on trees but beneath them, entwined in their roots. The black winter truffle is harvested from mid-November to the end of March. The local soils and climate around Grignan are ideal for producing these “black diamonds.” However, it is the tree that is the key. Truffles rely on a symbiotic endomycorrhizal relationship with certain oak trees, including holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) or pubescent oak (*Quercus pubescens*) in France.

The nurseryman who we met sells trees, and he also has two, well-trained truffle-hunting Labradors who daily turn up truffles that “ripened” overnight (*cavage*). They were delicious. The dogs dig

up only the just-ripened truffles, and they go to work every day! The adorable dogs are efficient and skilled, the result of many years of training. First, they are trained to recognize the scent and dig them up; then, they must be trained to not eat the truffles. NOT so easy.

The holm oak is an evergreen oak which prefers a warmer, drier climate, while the pubescent oak, called “white oak” in France (but different from our *Quercus alba*), requires full sun and prefers well drained soil that is rich in limestone with a pH of 7.0 to 8.0. They are prolific “hosts” for the black truffle. Young host tree seedlings – one to two years old – are certified to have had the specific truffle fungus introduced into their root system. Our nurseryman, or *pépiniériste*, also sells older trees which take three to seven years for the inoculated tree roots to be established and produce their first truffle. Certain places in the United States, like Kentucky, also are ideal for producing truffles. Kentucky truffle farmers could also use native bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) or a red oak. However, the French-grown, inoculated trees are shipped around the world.

The recipe: Trees use sunlight to make carbon-rich sugars and lipids, a portion of which is directed to the fungi to fuel growth – of truffles in this case. In return, through symbiosis, the fungi send out long, hair-like threads called *hyphae* which can gather nutrients like zinc, copper, and nitrogen for the trees. The massive, sticky web of *hyphae* help trees to be more resilient to drought, high salt, toxic metals, pathogens, and nematodes. We’ve written previously in this column about this fungi network connecting trees and sharing chemical signals and communication.

After procuring an inoculated tree – pending soil, climate, and access to a trained working dog, of course – you too can get wealthy selling black diamond winter truffles for \$800-\$1,200 per pound! ■

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

Police Blotter / continued from page 3

Eighteen motor vehicle accidents were reported in the month, with the majority resulting in no injuries. The operator of a vehicle on Black Rock Turnpike lost control and left the roadway on July 7, driving through a fence. The operator sustained minor injuries.

Trespassing

Three Bridgeport men were arrested for trespassing on July 5 after officers responded to a request from Aquarion Water Company

regarding three individuals trespassing in a restricted area near the Saugatuck Reservoir. All three were released on promises to appear and were scheduled to appear at Danbury Superior Court on July 21.

Stolen Property

Police investigated a July 3 report at Chapman Place where five goat lawn statues were stolen from the yard. ■

JOIN US FOR

Ladies Golf Nights

Join us Tuesday nights through the fall for a fun evening of golf out on The National Short Course, just for the ladies! **No registration, no commitment, just show up, enjoy discounted green fees, and spend a relaxed night on the course with great company.**

Clubs rentals available.

Every Tuesday
Tee Times Start at 6:00PM
Small Group at 5:30PM
All Skill Levels Welcome!

\$15 for 9-Holes
\$20 for Group Session

203.790.GOLF

Family Nights

EVERY FRIDAY STARTING AT 6:00PM

DETAILS:

- ✓ \$20 per person
- ✓ Children under 10 FREE!
- ✓ Starts at 6:00PM

Bring the family every Friday night and play out on our Short Course! Enjoy family time and get some practice in, starting at 6:00PM.

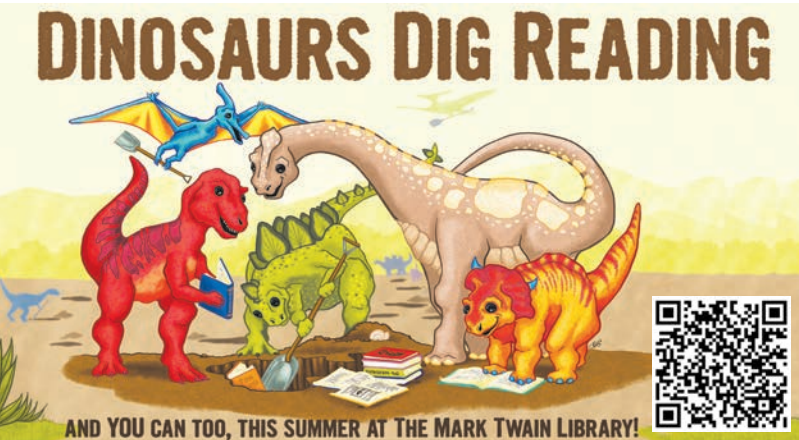
WALK-IN OR CALL FOR A TEE TIME

The Golf Performance Center
824 Ethan Allen Highway, Ridgefield, CT

Small Group Coaching
30 minute small group sessions will be held on a first-come, first-served basis prior to Ladies Night. **\$20.00 per golfer**, with no long term commitment. Call to reserve a spot.

REDDING KIDS Summer Edition

Dig in to summer reading at Mark Twain Library



Mark Twain Library is the center for all things summer reading for children, teens and adults – not only can you find good books to read all summer, but you also can keep track of what you’ve read AND earn prizes! Find all summer reads, including lists by age group, as well as all the Redding/Region 9 school

reading and math requirements, in one location at marktwainlibrary.org under “Summer.” We also have lots of great book suggestions with summery themes – find that on our website too by scrolling to the bottom of our Children’s Programs page – or just scan the QR code here! ■

Topstone playground needs some color!



Have you visited Topstone playground yet this summer? Enjoy climbing, sliding, and jumping under the shade of Topstone’s trees, then color this image as creatively as you can!

RIISING 6-9TH GRADERS!

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF REDDING-EASTON

SUMMER 2026 FRIDAYS 6-8PM

TEEN NIGHT AT THE BGCRE

DON'T MISS A MOMENT

JULY 17	Water slide, snack shack, basketball, games and more!
AUGUST 7	Glow party, basketball, kickball, ice cream!

FREE FOR MEMBERS, \$10 FOR NON-MEMBERS

Hangout with our JBHS Staff!



Discover something new, connect with the land, and support sustainability.

101 Marchant Rd, Redding CT
newpondfarm.org

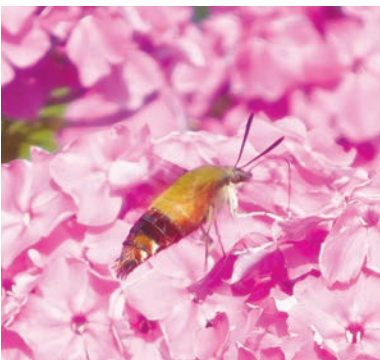
A spectacular summer in Redding | By Mary K. Corcoran



Monarch butterfly

Summer is bursting in Redding! We can see everything from baby birds being fed by their parents, turtles laying their eggs, many trees with their beautiful bright green leaves, to evening displays of firefly lights. You can also see lots of milkweed plants. There are many different kinds (species) of milkweed. By now, their flowers are done, but pods are growing. What’s inside of those things? Well, those handy pods hold and protect the precious developing seeds, along

with the silky string-like material that helps them travel in the wind when the pods open in the autumn. This lets the seeds disperse (move to a different location) to start new plants. That silky material sometimes called, “milkweed floss,” is important on its own. But there’s a bit of history that goes along with it. In the 1940s during World War II, milkweed pods were collected and the “floss” was used to fill life vests for sailors!



Photos by Mary Corcoran
Hummingbird moth

Milkweed is also a “lifesaver” for beautiful Monarch butterflies. They lay their eggs on milkweed plants, which then serve as the food for the larva (caterpillars) once they hatch. That milky liquid in milkweed also is thought to make the Monarchs’ larva (and later adults) have a bad taste, making them less likely to become a predator’s lunch! Those beautiful butterflies undergo metamorphosis, or a change of shape, that starts with an egg. It transforms into a larva (caterpillar), then pupa (changing inside a chrysalis), and finally, to an adult. Just like with butterflies, metamorphosis happens in other animals. Can you think of one group of animals that can live in and around a pond that “changes shape?”

That’s right, one of our favorite amphibians – frogs! Their metamorphosis also starts with an egg, laid in a bunch, usually with a gel-like substance around them. The egg changes into a tadpole which uses gills to get oxygen from the water and a great tail to help them get around. But soon, it’s time for a big change! Tadpoles grow limbs (back and front legs) and lungs, and lose their gills, as well as their tail, allowing them to live on land. Summer is a great time to check out some notable insects, like the dragonflies and damselflies, ladybugs, and even one called a hummingbird moth! Think about one we can see in the evening, perhaps at a campfire or even just looking out your window. Fireflies! The fabulous firefly is actually a beetle. If you look closely at any beetle, you can notice a “line” down the middle of the back. This is the place where the two outer wings meet; those outer wings cover and protect the inner wings. There are a staggering number of about 400,000 kinds of beetles on Earth. So, let’s “shine a light” on fireflies! There are over 2,000 species of fireflies. Each species has their own pattern of flashes. But why do they “flash?”

Their lights help them to communicate and find a mate. How do they light up? They use chemicals, including one called luciferin, oxygen, and an enzyme; the result is light. The organs involved in this “bright idea of lighting up” are on the underside of the insect’s abdomen (the end part or third segment of their body). But how will a male and female find each other? Well, a male will fly near the ground, flashing. If a female sees that he is the same species as she is, she will flash back and they have found each other! The ability of living things to produce light is called bioluminescence; bio (life), luminescence (light). Some animals, one-celled organisms, bacteria, fish, and even some fungi can be luminescent! Does it seem like their light might make them a prime target for predators? It might, but the fantastic firefly has a “secret weapon!” They can release a liquid that tastes bad. Yuck! There’s so much to see this summer in Redding. Enjoy! ■

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

Acoustic Series at Topstone – Matt the Electrician Monday, July 27 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Adult concert featuring folk music Topstone Park 72 Topstone Road reddingct.gov/ parks-and-recreation	Easton Fireman’s Carnival Tuesday, July 28 – Saturday, August 1 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Carnival rides, games, food, and fun for the whole family 1 Center Road Easton \$	Primary Tuesday, August 11 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetwon Road See page 2 for notices and Early Voting hours	Want to feature an upcoming event? E-mail us at advertise@reddingsentinel.org for more information.
---	--	---	---

ARTS

Saturday, June 20 – Saturday, July 25 Summer Love 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays Tenth anniversary exhibition G-Town Arts 5 Main Street gtownarts.com	Friday, July 24 Dance the Line 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Line dancing and lessons, beginner and improver friendly The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org \$, R	Saturday, July 25 Artist-in-Residence Open Studio Program 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Meet July’s Artist, Jane Skafte, enjoy arts activities, and learn about the Artist-in-Residence program Weir Farm National Historical Park 735 Nod Hill Road Ridgefield nps.gov/wefa/index.htm	Sundays, July 26 and August 2 Concerts on the Green 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Snakeskin Boots (July 26) Marc Berger and Ride (August 2) Redding Town Green 100 Hill Road reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation	Monday, July 27 Acoustic Series at Topstone – Matt the Electrician 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Adult concert featuring folk music Topstone Park 72 Topstone Road reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation	Thursday, July 30 Bluegrass Nights 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. A monthly celebration of bluegrass music with a house band opening at 8:00 p.m. The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org	Friday, July 31 The Hazel Project 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Stories of labor, loss, and the enduring human spirit The Granite 5 North Main St thegranitechurch.org \$
---	--	---	--	---	--	---

Tuesday, August 4

Find Your Rhythm: Ballroom Dancing 101 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Step onto the dance floor this summer for a fun and welcoming evening of foxtrot and swing ballroom dancing Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R	Friday, August 7 ROAR Benefit with Faster Things 6:00 p.m. Annual benefit for ROAR, with a special performance by Faster Things, Allman Brothers tribute band Nod Hill Brewery 137 Ethan Allen Highway Ridgefield nod-hill-brewery.turntabletickets.com \$, R
--	---

CHILDREN | TEENS

Monday, July 27 Tie Dye Time! 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Calling all teens! Come enjoy an afternoon outside designing your own tie dye creation Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R	Sunday, August 2 Family Campfire 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Enjoy a summer evening with a classic campfire treat by the fire Woodcock Nature Center 56 Deer Run Road Wilton woodcocknaturecenter.org/upcomingevents R	Friday, August 7 Teen Night at the BGCRE 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Glow party, basketball, kickball, and ice cream Boys and Girls Club 170 Cross Highway bgcre.net/summer-hangouts \$
--	--	--

FOOD | WINE

Saturday, August 1 Bethel Beer Fest 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. VIP admission starts at 2:00 p.m. Craft beer tastings, food trucks, live music; 21+ event 1 School Street Bethel \$, R

NATURE

Wednesdays, July 29 and August 5 Redding Grange Annual Garden Produce Drive 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Drop off surplus garden produce and nourish our community Redding Grange, The Granite Church, Mark Twain Library 399 Newtown Turnpike, 5 North Main Street, 439 Redding Road reddinggrange.org	Thursday, July 30 Restorative Blooms: Flower Workshop 2:00 p.m. Easton non-profit, Restorative Blooms, works with local flower farms and also rescues flowers from grocery stores Heritage Center 37 Lonetown Road E-mail mpilato@reddingct.gov \$, R
---	--

Wednesday, August 5

Beyond the Trail: Take a Walk with our Executive Director 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Walk and talk on this easy hike for adults only. Woodcock Nature Center 56 Deer Run Road Wilton woodcocknaturecenter.org/upcomingevents R	Saturday, August 8 Plant Swap! 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Bring plants or take plants! Rainy Day Paperback Exchange 81 Greenwood Avenue Bethel bethelctpride.com R
---	--

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Thursday, July 23 Tabulator Testing 5:30 p.m. The public has the right to be present to inspect the preparation, testing and sealing of voting equipment Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road R	Friday, July 24 The Art of Calm: Meditation with Ancient Wisdom for Modern Lifestyles (Virtual) 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Join Jackie DeLise, CMMI & CMWI, for an uplifting virtual session of meditation, mindfulness, and gentle body relaxation Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R	Tuesday, July 28 – Saturday, August 1 Easton Fireman’s Carnival 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Carnival rides, games, food, and fun for the whole family 1 Center Road Easton \$
--	---	--

Thursday, July 30

Redding B2B: Networking at MTL 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Redding B2B brings together local business owners, professionals, and entrepreneurs Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R
--

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Sundays at 10:00 a.m. 44 Portland Avenue bethlehemlutheranct.org	Calvary Independent Baptist Church Adult and Child Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. / Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m. Nursery provided for all services. 711 Redding Road cibcredding.org	Christ Church, Episcopal Sundays at 9:00 a.m. 184 Cross Highway christchurchredding.org	First Church of Christ, Congregational Sundays at 10:00 a.m. 25 Cross Highway firstchurchredding.org	Long Ridge United Methodist Sundays at 11:30 a.m. 201 Long Ridge Road Danbury longridgeumc.com	Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish St. Patrick Church: Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. Confessions: Saturdays 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. and Mondays and Thursdays 7:30 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. and before/after Weekday Mass Eucharistic Adoration: Mondays and Thursdays 7:00 p.m. 169 Black Rock Turnpike sacredheart-stpat.org
--	--	---	--	---	--

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

Temple B’nai Chaim No services scheduled 82 Portland Avenue templebnaichaim.org

MEETINGS

Thursday, July 23 Poll Worker Training 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	Monday, July 27 OPEB Trust Board 6:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room and Virtual 100 Hill Road and Zoom	Monday, July 27 Board of Finance 7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	Tuesday, July 28 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room and Virtual 100 Hill Road and Zoom	Monday, August 3 Redding Fire District #1 Annual Meeting 7:00 p.m. Redding Ridge Firehouse 186 Black Rock Turnpike	Monday, August 3 Parks and Recreation Commission 7:00 p.m. Redding Community Center / Multi-Purpose Room 37 Lonetown Road	Monday, August 3 Republican Town Committee 7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	Tuesday, August 4 Conservation Commission 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	Tuesday, August 4 Redding Board of Education 7:00 p.m. JRMS Community Room 486 Redding Road	Monday, August 10 League of Women Voters 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Town Hall / Conference Room 100 Hill Road	Tuesday, August 11 Primary 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetwon Road See page 2 for notices and Early Voting hours	Tuesday, August 11 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	Tuesday, August 11 Redding Fire District #1 7:00 p.m. 186 Black Rock Turnpike	Wednesday, August 12 Zoning Commission 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	Thursday, August 13 Gilbert and Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee 6:00 p.m. Town Hall Conference Room / Virtual 100 Hill Road / Zoom	Thursday, August 13 Redding Fire District #2 7:00 p.m. West Redding Firehouse 306 Umpawaug Road
---	--	---	--	--	---	---	--	---	--	---	---	--	---	---	---

AugustWest[®]
Chimney, LLC
Making Redding's Chimneys Safer Since 1973



www.AugustWestChimney.com
203-226-0416



Live well with Coldwell.

Your dream home starts with a trusted advisor – and the top brokerage in Fairfield County.¹
#1 in Ridgefield/Redding.²



43 Catoonah St, Ridgefield | \$1,899,000
Listed By: Tim Dent Team | 203.244.2277
TimDentTeam.com



24 Mark Twain Ln, Redding | \$1,800,000
Listed By: Heather Lindgren | 646.932.4075
HeatherLindgrenHomes.com



281 Newtown Turnpike, Redding
NEW PRICE \$1,295,000
Listed By: Alexis Bennett | 203.313.3110
AlexisBennettSellingCT.com



Alexis Bennett
203.313.3110



Marilyn Caravetta
203.512.1822



Kim Cuniberti
203.733.6976



Tim Dent
203.470.5605



Margi Esten
203.241.8453



John Frey
203.240.0624



Jefferson Guthrie
203.788.9400



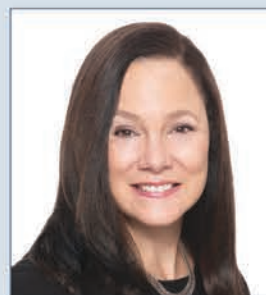
Carol Hanlon
203.240.1233



Sharon Hoverman
203.733.5073



Charlie Knoche
203.731.7770



Heather Lindgren
646.932.4075



Anne Schmiedel
203.470.9159



Marilyn Sloper
203.770.6240



Terri Tournas
203.561.5893

Every sale represents a story, a family and a future.
Let us help you write yours.
Live well with Coldwell.SM

398 Main Street | Ridgefield, CT | 203.438.9000 • 16 Old Mill Road | Redding, CT | 203.544.9591



Follow Us @ColdwellBankerReddingCT



Tim Martin
SVP of Mortgage Lending
NMLS 16273
203.917.2800
GRARate.com/TimMartin
tim.martin@grarate.com

THE
TIM MARTIN
team

guaranteedRate
AFFINITY



Joseph Porricelli
Branch Vice President
203.515.6310
joe.porricelli@cbrealty.com



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

1 & 2 Based on information from Greenwich Association of REALTORS, SmartMLS Inc. 1/1/2025-7/6/2026. The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2026 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logo are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.

