



# REDDING SENTINEL

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## Mark Twain Library to begin construction on patio and outdoor gathering space

By Rob Sample

Summertime is still a few months away – but thanks to a new project at the Mark Twain Library, you’ll soon be able to read outside there while listening to a nearby waterfall.

The Library is set to break ground on a long-anticipated project to build an outdoor patio and gathering space behind its building. This will provide visitors with a well-designed place for study, reading, and even sizable meetings.

In 2022, the project received approval on its proposal for \$200,000 in funding from Redding’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The Library’s own endowment will provide matching funds for the project, making it a \$400,000 endeavor.

Time is of the essence, said Library Director Erin Dummeyer. “To receive our ARPA funds from the Town, we have to have the project significantly completed by June 30, 2024,” she noted. “So, the next few months will see a lot of action on the patio.”

A landscape design for the patio and the rest of the outdoor area is one element of the project that the Library has now finished. Nancy King, a Redding resident and owner of Seventy Acres Landscape Architecture and Design in Newtown, developed the design. It calls for a large stone patio to hug one part of the circular building, with a pergola extending across approximately one-third its area.

The Library already hosts an array of outdoor events, including the annual Frog Frolic Festival each spring. Both Dummeyer and King expect the number of outdoor events to increase significantly with the addition of this new space.

“The Mark Twain Library is a wonderful community gathering space,” King said. “My goal for this design has been to create a place large enough to set up an outdoor tent if you need it for a big event – but have the space be not so overwhelmingly large that an individual wouldn’t also want to be outdoors for quiet reflection, reading, and even research.”

The Mark Twain Library was founded in 1908 and bears the pen name of one-time Redding resident Samuel L. Clemens. The original building was constructed in 1910 after his death – but the current structure is four times that size, thanks to the circular structure erected in 1972. A renovation

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Photo submitted by a Sentinel reader

Sunset Hill Road was fittingly the backdrop for a striking pink sunset above the treetops earlier this month. If you have a photo you’d like to see featured here, with credit of course, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org

## Aquarion demolishes historic Newtown Turnpike home

By Jessie Wright

On Thursday, February 8, Aquarion Water Company demolished the historic house located at 50 Newton Turnpike (though the building is included on the assessor’s field card for 60 Newtown Turnpike). The utility had previously rented the home to tenants, but its condition had deteriorated with the structure sitting vacant in recent years.

The two-bedroom home was built in approximately 1900, when banker Goyn Talmage of New York City purchased the former Hezekiah Hull farmstead, according to Redding Town Historian Bruce Nelson. Talmage built the house as a summer cottage, and later made it his primary residence, constructing it around a large, existing stone chimney and fireplace. It was an excellent example of one of

the smaller summer homes built during the early part of the 20th century as Redding transitioned from an economy that had been largely based on subsistence farming to one that provided support for the construction and maintenance of multiple large estates.

“To my knowledge, not more than a half dozen of these size homes remain without having had major additions and multiple alterations done,” wrote Nelson in his report to the Town’s Historic Review Committee in July 2023.

The Bridgeport Hydraulic Company (later becoming Aquarion Water Company) took possession of the house in the late 1930s prior to the construction of the Saugatuck Reservoir, which the property directly abuts. Aquarion owns several properties

in the area that are on Class-1 land, including the property at 50 Newton Turnpike; under state statute, this watershed land cannot be sold due to its proximity to vital water sources. The utility had applied to the Town’s Historic Review Committee last summer with its intentions to demolish the structure.

“Aquarion’s core mission is to ensure the delivery of reliable, high-quality water to its customers, which is dependent on our water sources. Source water protection plays a key role in achieving this mission,” said Peter Fazekas, Director of Corporate Communications for Aquarion Water Company. “Following the departure of the previous tenant, Aquarion conducted a thorough

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## REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

### State launches Partnerships in Parks initiative

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

Boat or bicycle rentals, disc golf, campsites, and even special event services like wedding planning are all things that visitors to Connecticut’s state parks might see more of under the

newly announced “Partnerships in Parks” initiative by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP).

The initiative is an effort to encourage more – and more evenly

distributed – usage of state-owned land through partnerships with private businesses and non-profits to offer additional recreational activities and resources at state parks. Its launch seeks to build upon the momentum of increased usage of Connecticut’s parks following the Covid-19 pandemic; according to CT DEEP, demand for outdoor recreation has spiked since the pandemic, with state park visitation increasing from just under 10 million in 2019 to an estimated 17 million in 2022.

CT DEEP is responsible for maintaining 110 state parks, and for a relatively small town like Redding, we are fortunate to have two within our borders – Putnam Memorial State Park and Collis

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## First responders among those in favor of proposed Hoyt cell tower

By Rob Sample

The proposal by Verizon to build a 150-foot cellular-transmission tower at the Hoyt Boy Scout Reservation has stirred up discussion in Redding in recent months, with the Connecticut Siting Council (which has the sole authority to approve or deny the application) holding a series of public hearings over the last several weeks.

The Hoyt tower has been proposed by Verizon Wireless along with MCM Holdings, a Hartford company that selects sites for cellular towers. All Points Technology Inc., of Killingworth, would be the tower’s prospective operator.

Most public comments have come from people who vehemently oppose the tower. Approximately 15 of them signed up to be official intervenors in the approval process for it, which has already taken almost a year. They’ve made their voices known at multiple forums, including a session at Town Hall in June 2023 and at the subsequent hearings hosted by the Connecticut Siting Council.

Less heard, however, are the tower’s supporters in the community. One is Erika Vibbert, President of the West Redding Fire Department down the street from the proposed tower site.

“At the West Redding Fire Department, we do run into similar coverage issues as the other residents in town,” said Vibbert. “From an emergency response perspective, having more cellular coverage in the West Redding area would be a blessing.”

Vibbert described emergency situations during which a cellphone user’s 911 call was routed to emergency responders in Ridgefield, Danbury, and even some towns in New York because the service is so poor in West Redding.

“That bounce to a different town’s communication department causes delays in our response to our taxpayers,” said Vibbert. “It also results in a longer response time if another town’s emergency departments are dispatched to West Redding.”

In Vibbert’s view, emergency responders in West Redding would benefit from a cellular tower in the area. “The aforementioned situations will be reduced, and we can adequately protect and serve our community,” she said.

Vibbert said having a radio transmitter on the tower as well would strengthen radio

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## EDITORIAL

# Another chance at a new year

I went to bed Monday night prepared for yet another forecast of “heavy snow” to shift and leave my winter-starved household disappointed. To our delight, our hedging proved unnecessary. Awakening to a postcard-worthy New England scene unfolding in our backyard, it finally felt again like the first year we moved to Redding, when Nor’easters blew through town monthly, the muddy browns of winter dormancy made clean with puffy layers of white.

Growing up in Minnesota, you learn to know snow through all your senses – the icy smell in the air before it arrives, the burning wet as it finds its way over the top of your boots and around your ankles, the muffled stillness after the flakes stop flying – the world blanketed in quiet. Its relative absence the last two winters hasn’t only had ramifications for our plants and wildlife (the rainy warmth of last winter was a major factor in the loss of more than four beautiful ornamental trees in our yard last year) but it has also affected my sense of place, of rhythm, of happiness.

With schools and municipal offices closed Tuesday and police and highway departments urging residents to stay off the roads unless absolutely necessary, I had the chance this week to experience that unique stillness that comes from fresh snowfall once again. It encouraged me to pause, to wonder, to play.

The world – which had been drab and dead the day before, showing all the imperfections of work left undone and the scars of last year’s mistakes – was made new. A friend told me last week that it is officially too late to wish anyone a “Happy New Year” anymore, but the feeling of a clean slate, a chance to get things right, still washes over me anytime the snow falls.

As we move through many processes in the coming weeks and months that are cyclical and seasonal – a new municipal budget, the close of a school year, a national election – I hope that we all hold onto the feeling that we have the chance to make the future better than the past, and that it doesn’t take much to pause and see the world in a new way. ■

# Pursuing Certified Local Government status may help secure Wire Mill funding

By Rocco Valluzzo

A program through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) could benefit what are designated as historic properties in Redding.

By acquiring Certified Local Government (CLG) status, the Town would gain membership in the National Park Service and become eligible for federal funds that are not otherwise accessible.

“The only thing that you really need to qualify is you need a local historic designation, either in a property or a district form,” said Historic Preservation Specialist Daryn Reyman-Lock at a meeting of the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee on Thursday, February 8. “It doesn’t have to be a very labored process.”

Although there are several National Historic Register properties in town, including Putnam Memorial State Park, the Umpawaug School House, the Redding Center Historical District, and a portion of the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill site, Redding has no locally designated properties. According to Reyman-Lock, anything that has some degree of historic integrity and has some significance that Redding wants to protect can qualify as a local historic property or district and allow the Town to apply for CLG status.

“All it takes is one designated property,” said Reyman-Lock. “You can always add. You just need that first one to trigger the whole process.”

The Town can then establish a Historic District Commission (HDC) in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes. An HDC would oversee any property that is in a locally designated district or is a property that is locally designated in and of itself. Any changes that are viewable from a public way, street, or place must go before the HDC for approval – but they have limits to their jurisdiction.

“They don’t stop development,” said Reyman-Lock. “What they’re there to do is to maintain a streetscape and ensure that any development is sympathetic to what is already standing. You want to preserve what’s there, and you want to sympathetically add to it so that you can see changes over time. You want to add to development but not do it in a way where you’re destroying the integrity of the historic stuff around it.”

Once a municipality receives CLG status and has an HDC, it

must undergo a one-hour state training for commissioners each year. It is recommended to have people with certain qualifications serving on the HDC, like landscape architects, architects, etc. or those with similar design history.

To observe how other towns are redeveloping similar Brownfield properties, Economic Development Committee member Claudio Rodrigo, along with members of Enhance Redding’s Future, visited the Remington Rand property in Middletown two years ago. They also met with Middletown’s Director of Planning, Conservation and Development.

Part of the property had been renovated. Rodrigo described one building as a miniature version of the weaving building on the Gilbert & Bennett property but in better condition.

Several tenants occupy the space in Middletown, including a fitness center, micro brewery, and office/warehouse storage for lighting equipment. Modern offices were put in one corner of the two-story building.

As Middletown identified tenants and signed leases, it prepared the building so that it was safe for occupation. This involved stabilizing the building in terms of the roof, the walls, and putting up protective board for the windows. Once a tenant was secured, the Town would replace the windows.

“They were doing most of the renovation on the first floor, but were now starting to occupy the second floor,” he said. “They renovated as they had more tenants, and as they had more interest, they would invest and renovate sections of the building. They also had to spend some money in that regard in terms of creating power and utilities in sections of the building that would then be sublet to individual tenants.”

Middletown also had a Town employee who not only served as the project manager, but also stabilized, remedied, and fitted the space for future tenants, negotiated the leases, and got the leases pushed through legal and municipal channels.

“If we were to pursue this approach, we need some permanent staff,” Rodrigo said. “I don’t think you do this with volunteers. Our condition in the G & B weaving building is far worse than this, and it’s far larger, so it’s more complex.” ■

# A tax break for CT residents working remotely for NY companies?

Maybe, but there’s a catch | By Erica E. Phillips

It’s long been a sore subject for Fairfield County residents working for New York City companies. New York law requires workers to pay income taxes in the state where their employer is located, and New York’s tax rates tend to be higher than Connecticut’s.

It’s also a source of irritation for Connecticut leaders, who conceded in 2019 to credit the tax bills of residents by the amount of income tax they pay to those states, with laws like New York’s, where their jobs are located. That cancels out hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue to the state of Connecticut each year, administration officials estimate.

Last week, Governor Ned Lamont’s budget chief, Jeffrey Beckham, unveiled a new plan to help the state recoup some of that tax revenue from New York. The proposal, which would require the legislature’s approval, offers a tax break to Connecticut residents working remotely for New York companies if they sue the state of New York to recoup taxes paid between 2020 and 2023 – and win.

“Due to New York’s overreach, these residents pay tax to New York instead of to Connecticut, for work performed in Connecticut,” Beckham said. “This is an incentive to Connecticut residents who challenge New York’s tax. They’ll have to go to court.”

If a plaintiff wins his or her case, and New York refunds their tax payments, Beckham explained, they would receive a one-time 50% discount on the taxes owed to Connecticut for those years. Mark Boughton, Commissioner of the State’s Department of Revenue Services, said the rules, known as “convenience of the employer,” currently go both ways. New York residents who work for Connecticut businesses pay Connecticut taxes.

But it’s not an even trade, he said, since many of the New York-based jobs at issue – Fairfield County residents who work in finance, for example – pay much higher wages than the Connecticut jobs. “We operate at a loss,” he said.

“We want New York to eliminate the practice,” Boughton said. “If they stand down, we’ll stand down.”

That’s unlikely to happen without a court ruling.

Edward Zelinsky, a New Haven resident and law professor at Yeshiva University’s Cardozo School of Law in Manhattan, has been waging his own legal battle over New York’s tax rules for more than two decades. He challenged New York’s law in administrative tax court in 2003 and lost. Then he appealed the decision, and the U.S. Supreme Court ultimately declined to review it.

Despite losing that case, Zelinsky has become, in his words, “the gray-haired poster boy for this problem.” He has helped draft federal legislation to end the practice. He is now representing himself again before the New York Tax Appeals Tribunal – this time over income taxes he paid to New York in 2019 and 2020, a period during which he was working remotely in part due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Zelinsky said he thinks Lamont’s proposal is smart, although he’s not sure any legal challenges brought by Connecticut residents would be successful. But that may not be the point, he said. “Remote work is for many people the new normal, and the governor is doing the absolute right thing by highlighting this problem,” Zelinsky said. “I’m skeptical as a practical matter that this proposal is going to do much good... That’s not so important. What is important is that the governor keep articulating that this is an unconstitutional overtaxation of Connecticut residents, and we need to keep calling it out.”

The more people are aware of it, the more likely there could be some resolution, Zelinsky said. That could take the form of a ruling in his favor in his current case in New York, or Congress finally passing legislation – which has been raised now several times. “Sunlight is the best disinfectant,” he said.

In another recent lawsuit, New

Hampshire sued Massachusetts in 2020 for taxing their residents during the pandemic lockdown. But the U.S. Supreme Court declined to take up the case on appeal, saying the issue needed to percolate further in lower courts. (Massachusetts was taxing New Hampshire residents working remotely during the pandemic under a temporary rule that has since expired.)

That’s reason enough for Connecticut not to file a similar case against New York, Zelinsky said, because it wouldn’t likely be taken up so soon after New Hampshire’s case fizzled.

Robert Morris, a tax lawyer with Pullman & Comley in Bridgeport, said it’s worth considering the issue from the employer’s point of view. Businesses have to pay taxes to the state in which they operate, and they could be held liable for not withholding taxes on their employees’ income, Morris said.

On the other hand, if a New York business withholds Connecticut taxes from a remote employee, it’s possible the business would have to register to operate in Connecticut, which adds costs, Morris said. This gets at why the laws are known as “convenience of the employer rules,” he said. “Everybody’s caught in a quandary of who collects, and does the employee have to pay tax to two states. And we all know that’s not very popular.”

Still, Morris said he thinks Lamont’s proposal is “kind of brilliant” because “it is putting this whole issue before the courts.”

Boughton said he’s optimistic for a favorable verdict – if any Connecticut residents, incentivized by this proposal, were to launch a legal challenge in federal court – but he acknowledged the process could be time-consuming and expensive.

“It’s a long play,” he said. “It’s not something that’s going to happen overnight, but you’ve got to start somewhere.” ■

This article originally appeared in CT Mirror

## LEGAL NOTICE

The Redding Zoning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing for February 28, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in person at the Town Hall Hearing Room 100 Hill Road, Redding CT. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the following applications.

**1. Application #24-01Z – 33 & 43 Lonetown Road (Onion Field) (Assessor’s Map and Lot #21-13) – Town of Redding:**

**Agent: Drum Hill Chapter NS-DAR & Town of Redding Historic Cemetery Committee, Wilton CT 06897** – In accordance with Redding Zoning Regulations Section 5.11 request for a Special Limited Duration Permit for “Revolutionary War encampment and reenactment of by the Brigade of the American Revolution” on April 26-April 28, 2024 rain date TBD

**2. Application #24-02Z - 34 Mountain Road (Assessor’s Map and Lot #41-8): Owners Ronald J. DeSantis and Donna M. Livolsi.** In Accordance with Redding Zoning Regulations Section 5.5, request for a Special Use Permit for earth moving in excess of 300 cubic yards. ■

Matt Lecher, Chairman, Redding Zoning Commission

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# Historians launch new digital Redding CT History Project

Easy access to digitized collections | By Donna Christopher



Photo shared on Redding CT History Project

A historic photo of the station house building at 3 Side Cut Road, recently shared as part of the Redding CT History Project.

A digitized collection of historical files, maps, documents, and photos is now readily available through the new Redding CT History Project. The endeavor was established by Town of Redding Co-Historians Bruce Nelson and Brent Colley.

The purpose of the project is to allow easy access to everyone interested in learning about Redding's history. Specific requested information is available via e-mail, and Nelson and Colley share regular historical posts containing both images and stories on the Redding CT History Project's new Facebook page.

Nelson pointed out that their collection includes over a dozen historical town maps that date between 1856 and 1964, each containing the names of the residents at every house location depicted.

Among other items of interest to current residents are historic home histories. "We have a list of over 325 houses that contain

at least some amount of historical data. Information in some of those files includes the late Town Historian Margaret Wixted's well-researched house histories. We maintain over 1,000 photos and about 2,000 Redding history-related files in our archives, all of them digitized. This allows us to respond to inquiries usually within an hour or two," Nelson said.

The obvious advantage of having digitized records, Nelson said, is not having to search through records and photos stored in boxes and file cabinets. Digitally-recorded items in the massive collection can easily be found by searching with keywords or phrases. "If you want to know something about the property at 10 Cross Highway, we can usually find it within minutes," explained Nelson. The time frame for providing information is usually within a few hours of the request being received.

Social media, he added, is ideally suited to convey historical

information directly to the public in shorter, more digestible stories about Redding's past.

"Most people enjoy short, rather than longer, pieces about local history. Multiple photographs grab their attention. We can take three to five photos and add a 100-to-300-word write-up that explains the history that accompanies them. It also allows people to share. Most people in Redding are hungry to learn the history of the town in which they live."

Nelson and Colley came as a pair in taking over the role of Co-Town Historians in 2018.

Nelson grew up on Sport Hill Road and Colley on Peaceable Street. Nelson went to school with Colley's parents, so the historians' age difference is an advantage in terms of their knowledge about the town, according to Nelson.

"Not only do we come from different generations, but we bring a different perspective about different areas within Redding. My expertise is Poverty Hollow and the Ridge, while Brent is really strong on Georgetown; but we are both well versed about the town as a whole."

The launch of the Redding CT History Project is supported by the work of Stuart Reeve, Kathleen Von Jena, and the late Lynne Barrelle. "Much of the credit for what we do is shared with them for their constant support and their unselfish willingness to share so much of their own research," said Nelson. ■

Contact the Redding CT History Project at [hsectresearch@gmail.com](mailto:hsectresearch@gmail.com) or follow them on Facebook at [facebook.com/groups/342939111908200](https://www.facebook.com/groups/342939111908200)

## OBITUARY

### Eugene T. Connolly, Jr. February 25, 1931 – February 2, 2024



Eugene T. Connolly, Jr., passed away peacefully after a brief illness on February 2, 2024, just shy of his 93rd birthday. The love and cheer he shared with his family and friends, his deep faith, and his appreciation for culture and conservation fueled many years.

The son of Ellen Louise (Lane) and Eugene T. Connolly, Gene was born on February 25, 1931, and raised in the sailing capital of Marblehead, MA. He graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy, Yale University, and New York University Graduate School of Business Administration. In 1959, he and Virginia ("Bunny") Yates married, then lived in Maine before settling in Redding, where they proudly nurtured a family of six (not including many pets) atop Meeker Hill, where fields, fauna, and fun filled nearly five decades.

In 1991, Gene retired after a successful career as vice president of Citytrust Bank in Bridgeport, but he continued to dedicate his wisdom and energy to many organizations, including the Redding Land Trust, Redding Historical Society, Friends of Kensington Playground (New Haven), and local political campaigns.

A year after his bride of 54 years passed, Gene moved back to "The Elm City," where he enjoyed

every day, including activities at his University Towers, nearby St. Thomas More Chapel, and across the Yale campus – meetings, lectures, operas, museum exhibits, hockey games, and more. And he engaged with everyone along the way, from flaggers to pharmacists. His volunteer efforts and leadership throughout his life enriched his communities with contributions that will remain long after his departure.

He is survived by his six adoring children and their spouses, Rachel Hart Connolly (Steve Kwack), Nicholas Duffy Connolly (Mariluz Medina), Deirdre Lane Coughlin (Crosby Coughlin), Virginia Butler Connolly (Owen Cocking), E. Thomas Connolly (Pam Richards), and Andrea Connolly Peabbles (Frank Peabbles); 14 grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Sincere thanks to the staff members at University Towers, Yale-New Haven Hospital and The Grimes Center for their wonderful care. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 20, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church, Redding, with a reception to follow nearby. In lieu of flowers, a donation to Save the Sound or Redding Land Trust may be considered. As Captain Gene would say, Alleluia and Blessings to All! His friendship, enthusiasm, and stellar toasts – along with his harmonica – will be greatly missed but fondly remembered. ■

*Publisher's Note: Eugene Connolly was an early and committed supporter of the Sentinel. He will be missed.*

# Redding School Board passes 2024-25 budget

By Anne Young Albanese



The Redding Board of Education held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 6 and accepted Superintendent Dr. Jason McKinnon's proposed 2024-25 fiscal year budget to be presented to the Board of Finance. The proposed figures represent a total increase of 4.65% from the current fiscal year.

One of the main budget drivers includes medical insurance, which will increase by 11%. Redding certified staff will increase by 4.18%, while non-certified staff will increase by 6.52%. Like the

rest of town, Redding schools anticipate a rise in electricity costs, budgeted at a 10% increase. Finally, transportation will increase by 6.77%.

Redding schools will continue to focus on six priorities for the coming 2024-25 school year.

- Providing high quality teaching and learning
- Developing a culture that promotes a nurturing and welcoming climate and deeper, more engaged learning
- Improving school facilities to ensure student safety, long-term sustainability, and enhance student learning
- Meeting the needs of all learners
- Developing a K-12 portrait of a graduate that emphasizes real-world experiences and innovative learning
- Promoting effective operations and skillful staff

There are also a few large

improvements that will be voted on separately as capital improvement expenditures. These are typically one-time costs, although some may need to be evaluated regularly to ensure safety. The first is to develop a connection with a secondary well at John Read Middle School (JRMS). The current well water is potable, but it starts to run low by Fridays. A second well will allow JRMS to maintain water throughout the school year. This is estimated to cost \$150,000.

Another capital improvement includes roof repairs for Redding Elementary School (RES) and JRMS. These include flashing and membrane repairs. The estimated cost for both schools is \$50,000.

An investment of \$115,000 will also offer RES and JRMS expanded internet access, which has reportedly been a challenge at both schools. The final capital improvement slated for next year is phase 2a of a multi-phase school improvement program;

the Board has divided classroom renovations and modernization projects into multiple years to prevent the enhancements from being cost prohibitive. Next year, the Board is looking to modernize the band room and instrument storage area at JRMS. They will also be improving some of the science classrooms and certain grade-level rooms. The cost is estimated to be \$375,000. This creates a capital improvement plan of approximately \$690,000.

The bulk of the rest of the meeting was focused on a presentation from Brown and Brown, ER9s insurance broker, regarding the 2024-25 health insurance plan. Redding uses a self-insured plan. The Board voted unanimously to accept the proposed plan.

School administrators also provided updates on some of the recent happenings at both the elementary and middle schools. The RES PTA hosted a family bingo night on February 9 and

band, orchestra, and chorus concerts will take place mid-month. RES has also recently purchased Chromebooks for each of their kindergarten students, which will help provide them with additional learning opportunities.

JRMS hosted several events in January, including socials for fifth, sixth, and seventh graders and the winter concert. Eighth graders were invited to attend the Program of Studies event at Joel Barlow High School. Students then met with their high school advisors to plan their freshman-year schedule. Eighth graders now can participate in a new Invention Convention Club. The group will be dedicated to creating a unique invention and then competing with others at the school, state, and national levels. The annual Winterfest event also took place Friday, February 9.

The March meeting of the Redding Board of Education will be held at JRMS at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5. All residents are welcome. ■




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# First significant snowstorm of 2024



Photo by Jessie Wright

Plows worked to clear Redding roads on Tuesday, February 13 after a Nor'easter dumped over eight inches of snow on the town. Schools, municipal offices, and many organizations were closed on Tuesday as the storm brought fast and heavy snow to Redding through the morning and early afternoon. Locals reported measuring total snowfall at different locations in town between eight and nearly twelve inches.

## SPORTS

## Barlow is 11th at conference finals

Wrestling | By Rocco Valluzzo

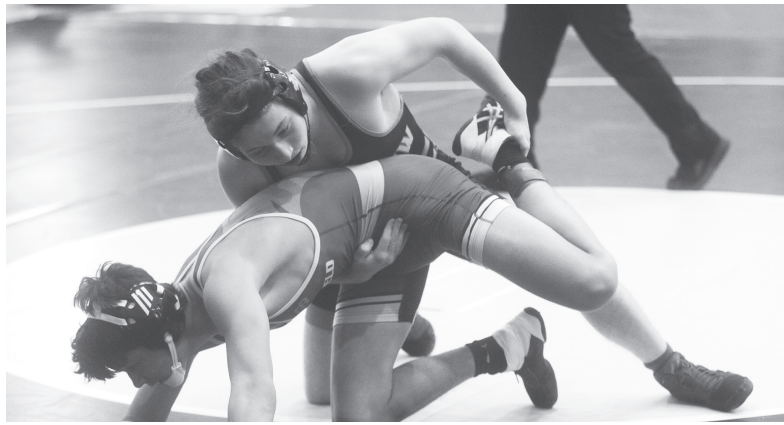


Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Anthony Azzara (top) competes against Brookfield/Shepaug's Nathaniel Smith in the 144-pound class at the South-West Conference finals on Saturday, February 10. Barlow finished 11th out of 12 schools with 38 points.

A tough field of competitors awaited the Joel Barlow High wrestling team at the South-West Conference finals.

The Falcons were represented in several weight classes on Saturday, February 10. Few would get past the quarterfinals, however, as Barlow finished 11th out of 12 teams with 38 points at Newtown High.

Defending champion New Milford won its third straight title, this time with 278.5 points. Host Newtown was runner up with 248.5, and New Fairfield took third with 123.

Barlow's Ben Azzara, the sixth seed at 106 pounds, lost his opening match by a pin in one minute, one second to New Fairfield's Ryan McVeigh. He had better luck in the consolation quarterfinals, getting a 6-1 win

over Stratford's Dante Cavallo before getting pinned in 58 seconds by New Milford's Joe Fleming in the semifinals.

At 120 pounds, Kai Lee was pinned in his opening match in 1:06 by Masuk's Chase Walser. In the consolation bracket, he lost by a pin in 2:26 to Pomperaug's Colin Bensley.

Stryder Hanson opened the 138-pound class by pinning Bunnell's David Pires in 3:34. He then lost by a major decision to Brookfield/Shepaug's Dan Carozza. He finished in a consolation round of four, losing to Newtown's Grayson Renkert.

Representing Barlow at 144 pounds, Anthony Azzara was pinned in 1:12 by New Milford's Victor Ignacio. He then pinned Brookfield/Shepaug's Nathaniel Smith in 2:17, but was in turn

pinned by Weston's Weston Jandrucko in 2:54.

Barlow's best performance came from second-seeded Scott Romano at 150 pounds. He needed only 46 seconds to pin New Fairfield's Cristhian Robles in the quarterfinals and then did likewise to Stratford's Patrick Spellman in 1:22 in the semifinals.

The only Barlow wrestler to reach the finals in his weight class, Romano lost a close 7-2 decision to top-seeded Jake Maddox of Newtown.

R.J. Gasper was pinned by Pomperaug's Ian Carlin in his first match at 157 pounds. Moving to the consolation round, he was pinned by New Fairfield's Alex Gutierrez in 19 seconds.

In the 175-pound class, Barlow's Logan Bacas was pinned in 4:33 by Masuk's Evan Deleo. His last match was a loss by decision to New Fairfield's John Coniglio.

Dylan Cooke lost by decision to Masuk's Kauan De Sant'anna before losing by injury default to New Fairfield's Anthony Mckague.

Getting a win in the quarterfinals of the 215-pound class, Chad Pranzo defeated Notre Dame of Fairfield's T.J. Serrano by a close decision. A loss by pin in 1:46 to Newtown's Tom Morgan in the semifinals sent him to the consolation bracket, where he was pinned by New Fairfield's Ryan Greutzner in 1:07 in the semifinals.

Barlow next competes in the state Class M finals at Guilford High on Friday, February 16 and Saturday, February 17. ■

## Spartans top Knights in overtime

Hockey | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow/Weston/Abbott Tech's (JBWA) Robert Krueger is pursued by Shepaug Valley's Gunnar Ough during a hockey game on Wednesday, February 7. JBWA lost 2-1 in overtime.

With less-than-a-minute remaining in overtime, little had been settled in the game between Joel Barlow/Weston/Abbott Tech (JBWA) hockey team and Shepaug Valley last week.

The host Knights and the Spartans battled to a 1-1 tie, forcing an eight-minute extra period on Wednesday, February 7. But with less than 30 seconds to go, what could be described as a fluke goal gave Shepaug Valley a 2-1 sudden victory at the Danbury Ice Arena.

It was the third one-goal loss for JBWA so far this season.

The Knights were also playing without team captain and key scorer Emmett Arees, who was sidelined due to injury.

Although a defensive battle from the opening faceoff, the game featured the Knights having the better of possession for most of the time. Despite having an 8-4 advantage in shots for the first period, they were turned away by Spartan goalie Miles Wilson. At the other end of the ice, JBWA's Connor Thomas also helped keep things scoreless.

Not much changed as the second period got underway, although the Knights just missed on one opportunity in particular. With just under seven minutes to go, Theo Spitzer came close to getting his team on the board with a shot that ricocheted off the pipe.

A slashing call put the Spartans down a player with 4:33 left, but they killed off the penalty to preserve the scoreless tie after two full frames.

The Knights finally ended the stalemate in the third period. Despite being down a player due to tripping, they broke through when Dylan Staunton stole the puck from a defender and slipped it by Wilson to give his team the lead with 10:28 left in regulation time.

The Spartans, however, were quick to respond. Just over two minutes later, Henry Keil scored off a pass from Conor Segers to tie it up. Barlow managed several shots the rest of the period, but the tie stood.

As in regulation time, the Knights seemed to have the advantage in the extra period, although it remained a 1-1 game. Shepaug Valley came close with a shot off the post with 5:08 left, but the contest would not be decided until the final minute.

With 28.5 seconds left, a shot by Cameron Goethner bounced off the back of Thomas and into the net for the win, prompting celebration on the ice as well as the Shepaug Valley bench.

"Just a lucky shot with seconds to go," said Barlow Head Coach Bob Stearns. "I thought we played hard physically, but not a great mental game."

JBWA visits New Milford on Wednesday, February 21 at 7:15 p.m. at the Canterbury School's O'Neill Arena. ■

## Despite conditions, times improve

Downhill skiing | By Rocco Valluzzo

Warmer than usual temperatures were not enough to keep the Joel Barlow High ski teams off the slopes last week.

Despite less than ideal conditions on Thursday, February 8, the Falcons actually improved their overall times a bit from their previous race. With a total time of 316.63 seconds, the Barlow boys were fifth out of nine Class S schools at Mount Southington.

The Falcons had three racers finish in succession. All had combined times within a span of 0.15 seconds.

Andrew D'Amaro led the way with a 50.29 in 27th overall, just 0.03 seconds faster than teammate Luke Mutuski, who was one spot later. Immediately following him was Tom Colby with a 50.44.

A gap of a few seconds followed before the next finish by Barlow. Taking 51st, Christian Jhilar had a 54.74. Right behind him was Matt Luca in 54.85.

It was a close call for 64th. Sam Walker was edged by Cheshire's Tyler Cieslewski. Both came in at 55.99.

Also skiing in the varsity race for Barlow, two more team members posted back-to-back finishes. Taking 74th was Sebastian Cowles in 58.45, and Barrett Commisso was one spot and 0.09 seconds later.

In 79th was Grayson Lapine with a 59.16. Alex Dyar was 81st in 59.72.

The Falcons girls improved their overall time considerably from the previous race, by more than 23 seconds. With a 334.38, they were sixth out of ten Class S teams.

As she has done in each race so far this season, Ava Kulikowski posted the fastest time for Barlow. She was also the only Falcons skier in the top ten, taking ninth in 48.98, 0.01 seconds ahead of Brunswick/Greenwich Academy's

Pierson Bancroft.

Consistently Barlow's number two skier in the order this season, Helena Zima again was second for the team. A 52.13 earned her 22nd overall.

Her sister Lucille was next in 54.78, good for 37th. Next was Ruby Ludwig in 48th with a 57.65.

Katherine Stowell also finished under the one-minute mark in 59.5, taking 55th. Completing the scoring for Barlow, Hailey Watson was 63rd in 61.34.

Sophia Boehlert was three spots later in 61.66. Taking 75th in 63.28, Na'ama Klein was 0.03 seconds behind Brunswick/Greenwich Academy's Emma Jones.

In 90th was Sophie Peterson in 67.4. Holly Landa completed the varsity slate in 110th with 80.82.

Barlow finishes the regular season this week before completing the season with the state finals on Thursday, February 29. ■

## Falcons take gold, bronze medals in Class M

Indoor track | By Rocco Valluzzo



of Hillhouse.

Points also went to Barlow in the 1,000 meters. Alex Bardani ran a 3:17.10, taking fifth with a personal record.

Two competed for Barlow in the 1,600. Olivia Kotula led the way in 5:40.18, and Alex Bardani was ninth in 5:48.23, both personal records.

In the 300 meters, Abukhovich was sixth with a personal record of 43.28, 0.38 seconds ahead of Najjar, who was seventh. Taylor also competed, taking 22nd in 45.19.

Representing Barlow in the 1,600 sprint medley relay, Holub, Lauren Klein Wassink, Stephanie Bardani, and Sydney Borofsky were 14th in 4:51.51. Klein Wassink also competed in the shot put, taking fourth with a personal record toss of 34 feet 5 inches, half-an-inch better than Foran's Alex McWatters.

The Barlow boys had a small contingent competing this year. With only three athletes, they scored 10 points, tying Branford for 15th out of 26 schools.

Lyman Hall was the winner with 79.5, dethroning defending champ East Lyme, which was runner-up with 52. Third went to Ledyard with 42.

Many of Barlow's points came in the 1,600 meters. For the second straight year, Jackson Sobelman captured the bronze medal, this time in 4:32.41.

Also scoring for Barlow, Devin Tala ran the 3,200 in 9:54.13, good for fourth and a personal record. Sobelman was 12th in 10:24.09. ■

## Junior wrestling team gears up for state qualifiers

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Elizabeth DeSantis-Correa

Members of Redding's junior wrestling team. From top left to right: Coach Brian Swedrock, Finn Swedrock, Alex Woodward, Gabe Correa, Chase Saris, Jeremy Funk, Eric Reisch. Bottom left to right: Theo Deck, Jack Massaro, George Bonomo, Freddy Deck, Ethan Reisch

The season for the Redding's junior wrestling team is winding down, with strong showings by several elementary school

wrestlers in the recent Western CT Elementary & Middle School Championships ahead of the state championship qualifiers on

Sunday, February 18.

At the Western CT Elementary & Middle School Championships, Gabe Correa took first place, Chase Saris and Finn Swedrock placed second, Alexander Woodward and Eric Reisch placed third, and Jack Massaro placed fourth in their respective age and weight brackets. The tournament included wrestlers from teams in Bethel, Bristol, Brookfield, Danbury, Darien, Fairfield, New Canaan, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Stamford, and Westport.

Wrestlers on the team range from age 5-11. The state championship qualifiers will be held on Sunday, February 18 at Trumbull High School. Any wrestler winning their weight class will qualify for the state tournament in New Haven on Sunday, February 25. ■



## The Spring Backyard Farmer Seminar Series

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\$50 per session or \$200 for five sessions paid at sign-up  
Register at [whimsybrookfarm.com](http://whimsybrookfarm.com) or call 203-938-3760



## Barlow Debate takes top medals in state open competition

By Rob Sample



Photo courtesy of Randall Smith

The Barlow Debate team at the state open competition on Saturday, February 2.

Like the song, you could call Barlow Debate “unstoppable.” On Saturday, February 2 the team continued to earn top honors in a statewide competition at Coginchaug High School in Durham.

This was the fifth of six such statewide debate tournaments, which take place under the auspices of the Connecticut Debate Association (CDA) – of which Joel Barlow High School is a member. During these tournaments, debaters participate in four rounds of argument: two rounds for and two rounds against the topic being debated.

Joel Barlow sophomores Kosta Nani and Andrew Jortner took first place in the novice competition. This duo was 4-0 for the day, and this was Nani’s and Jortner’s second final of the year.

In varsity competition, junior Owen Fellows and senior Siddharth Gupta placed second as a team, losing the exhibition final against Simsbury High School 2-1. Fellows, Gupta, Jortner, and Nani also earned medals for public

speaking.

“Students in grades 9 and 10 compete in novice until they become juniors – or they earn an award in freshman year and move up in sophomore year,” explained Randall Smith, a social studies teacher at Barlow who coaches the team. “Juniors and seniors must start in varsity. Now and then you have a grade 9 or 10 student who competes in varsity, but it’s rare. For instance, sophomore Yu-Min Cho went varsity at Coginchaug because his partner was not available, and he finished 11th speaker overall, ahead of many of our juniors.”

Nobody knows the topic until an hour before the debates begin, Smith added. Students then receive a packet of articles from which to draw evidence and ideas about the topic at hand. “During the hour of preparation time in the morning, they can consult with each other and their coaches – but they cannot use the internet,” he noted.

The topic at the February 2 debate competition was one that is currently before the U.S.

Supreme Court, challenging the legal doctrine of “Chevron deference.” This dates to the Court’s 1984 decision in the case *Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, in which the Court established a rule of deference to administrative agencies in interpreting federal regulations. Two plaintiffs are throwing that into question by challenging a requirement for commercial fishing vessels to pay for the professional observers who monitor their catches.

“One line of argument is that Chevron deference was wrongly decided, because the Court ceded the right to interpret law to the Executive Branch, violating the fundamental balance of power between the branches,” said Smith. “Others argue that it is better for experts to write regulations than judges – who rely on briefs filed by interest groups to understand complicated policy questions.”

The next statewide open competition will take place Saturday, March 2 at Stamford High School. The State Finals follow on March 23; the location is still to be announced by the CDA.

“State is invitational, open just to kids who earned trophies during the regular season,” said Smith. “There is no play-off. State is a one-and-done, winner-take-all tournament that determines the year’s champions.” Thus far, 12 Barlow students have qualified for the state finals, including Yu-Min Cho, Brady Decker, Cade Fravel, Priti Kiefer, Arianna Pereira, Griffin Speck, Maansi Tibrewal, Dylan Winegar, Owen Fellows, Siddharth Gupta, Kosta Nani, and Andrew Jortner.

Barlow Debate won varsity state championship titles in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2020, and 2022. The team also won novice state championship titles in 2018, 2020, and 2022. ■

## John Read’s CyberPatriot team takes bronze in state competition



Photo courtesy of John Read Middle School

Students on one of John Read Middle School’s five CyberPatriot teams took third place in the 2023-24 state competition. The members of the bronze-medal team were Sydney Dossmann, Chloe Rose, Vivian D’Amico, and Sophia Tian. CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program created by the Air & Space Forces Association to inspire K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to the nation’s future. The teams are coached by Gabriella Intemann and Rebecca Richards.

## Summer day camp registrations open

By Jessie Wright



Photo courtesy of Two Coyotes Nature School

Even with a fresh blanket of snow on the ground this week, now is the time that both families and local organizations have summer vacation at the top of their minds. Registration for many area day camps opens this month, and from outdoor exploration to sports and the arts, there are offerings for all ages and interests this year.

**Redding Park and Recreation**  
**Information available:**  
[townofreddingct.org/parks-and-recreation](http://townofreddingct.org/parks-and-recreation)

**Registration opens:**  
March 1, 2024

The Park and Recreation Department will again offer a full slate of different camps this summer, from seven weeks of full day camp for K-6 students to specialized series, including Lego, travel camp, painting and drawing, junior chef, tennis, ultimate frisbee, T ball, martial arts, pickleball, field hockey, baseball, soccer, and basketball.

**New Pond Farm**  
**Education Center**

**Information available:**  
[newpondfarm.org/education/summer-camp/summer-camp](http://newpondfarm.org/education/summer-camp/summer-camp)

**Registration opens:**  
Enrolling now

New Pond Farm Education Center is holding three different types of summer camp this year at its 102-acre outdoor classroom, two of which are brand-new offerings. Summer Sprouts (new this year) is designed for kids ages 4-5 who have not yet been to kindergarten. Held Tuesday-Friday mornings, campers will have the opportunity to explore nature and have outdoor adventures. Nature Trekkers will offer six, one-week sessions for students entering grades 1-5. Camp activities include exploring in the stream, critter hunting, visiting the cows, harvesting veggies, hiking the trails, creating nature art, and swimming in New Pond Farm’s pool with a lifeguard’s supervision. Wayfinders (also new this year) is specially designed for campers entering grades 6-8. There will be weekly themes and experiments with overnight campouts, and the opportunity for Wayfinders to serve as “counselors-in-training” for younger campers.

**Four Oaks Day Camp**  
**Information available:**  
[fouroaksdaycamp.com](http://fouroaksdaycamp.com)  
**Registration opens:**  
Enrolling now

Located on 36 acres in West Redding, Four Oaks Day Camp serves campers ages 4-13 and focuses on fun summer activities in addition to meaningful relationships and connections with campers and counselors. The camp offers team sports, the performing arts, cooperative and competitive group games, swimming in three heated pools, archery, climbing and ropes, and nature and science.

Four Oaks offers four, two-week camp sessions, and campers can attend one or multiple in a row. Session two and three (July 8-19 and July 22-August 2) are currently waitlist only, but sessions one and four in June and August are open for enrollment.

**Camp Gordyland at Riverbrook Regional YMCA**  
**Information available:**  
[wiltonymca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-Program-Guide.pdf](http://wiltonymca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-Program-Guide.pdf)  
**Registration opens:** Enrolling now

Camp Gordyland offers a “traditional day camp” experience that takes full advantage of the Riverbrook Y’s spacious campus & facilities, including swimming pond, pools, and splash pad. Led by dedicated camp counselors, campers build confidence and friendships through activities that include archery, river fishing, arts, drama, ropes course, sports, street hockey, outdoor living, instructional swimming, recreational swimming, dance, music and mini-golf. Sessions are offered for grades 1-6, 3-8, and 7-8.

**Two Coyotes Wilderness School**  
**Information available:** [twocoyotes.org/programs/youth-programs/summer-camp](http://twocoyotes.org/programs/youth-programs/summer-camp)  
**Registration opens:** Mid-February

Two Coyotes Wilderness School is run by a Redding native and will offer eight, one-week day camp sessions at their Newtown & Granby locations. Each session is led by skilled nature mentors who introduce craft living skills, including how to earth handmade tools and art projects from natural materials, track animals, identify bird language, make friction fires, build forts and shelters, and forage for safe wild edibles. Nature-inspired games, songs, and free time to explore streams, mountainsides, and other areas are also part of the fun. In addition to day camp, they also offer Advanced Survival, Scout Tracker and Wildwood Rangers camps for ages 12-15. ■

## Colorful new murals at JRMS



Photos courtesy of John Read Middle School

John Read Middle School (JRMS) students Sawyer Cutler, Isabel Hotchkiss, Harper Cowan, and Christopher Caldwell used their creative talents and hard work to paint three new murals this winter to beautify the hallways of the JRMS building, guided by Art teacher Bonnie Spies.



# Make the most of February Break

With the re-instatement of February Break this year from February 19-23, kids (and parents!) may be looking for fun ways to fill those five days off of school.

Enjoy some of these recommendations for local spots and winter activities.

## Family 5

### Indoor and outdoor ice-skating rinks | By Pamela Brown

Lace up those skates. With February Break around the corner, kids can take to the ice for fun, to play hockey, or join a program to sharpen their skills. Many local rinks offer year-round public skating for both children and adults, space for ice hockey, and some host evening skating events for families. For convenience, most of the indoor rinks offer skate and helmet rental. If you find you really enjoy skating, the rinks also offer leagues, hockey programs, figure skating clinics and camps, lessons, and more. Sharpen your blades and get on the ice for some skating fun!

Note: Due to the milder winter weather, some outdoor rinks are not open all the time. Call ahead to confirm the venue is open for use.

#### 1. Redding Community Center Seasonal Ice Rink

Redding Community Center parking lot, 37 Lonetown Road (203) 938-5036 extension 3

This seasonal skate-at-your-own-risk outdoor rink is open to Redding residents and their guests. Skating is allowed only during designated times when posted as "OPEN FOR USE." Call the Park and Recreation cancellation line at (203) 938-5036 extension 3 to find out if the rink is open that day. When the rink is open, the hours are from "dawn until dusk" with no supervision; children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult or someone 16 years and older. Helmets are recommended. Park and Recreation reminds skaters to be aware of the weather and its effect on changing ice conditions; it may vary on any given day or any part of the ice surface.

"Sticks and Puck" time provides hockey players with a designated time to play hockey on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. No full-size nets are allowed; milk crate height goals are permitted. Protective hockey equipment is recommended (at least hockey gloves and helmets with a face shield). Skates must be worn on the ice surface. For additional safety, skaters are asked to skate respectfully and at a speed mindful of other skaters of varied abilities; no food, beverages, or skating aids allowed on the ice surface; no dogs are allowed on the ice surface.

#### 2. Westport PAL Rink at Longshore

260 Compo Road South, Westport (203) 226-7465 or wpalrink.com

Operated by the Westport Police Athletic League, this outdoor rink is open to the public for recreational skating seven days a week, including evenings. Cost

ranges from \$10-\$15, depending on skater age and if it is a weekday or weekend/holiday. Skate rental and sharpening are both available. Check the website for Open Skate times; no need to book reservations for public skating. A concession stand offers food and beverages. Private lessons and a learn-to-skate program are also offered. A rink webcam on the website offers live daily video of the rink.

#### 3. Danbury Ice Arena

1 Independence Way, Danbury (203)794-1704 or danburyice.com

Skate where the pros skate. This indoor arena is home to the Danbury Hat Tricks, a professional ice hockey team and the 2022-2023 FPHL Commissioner Cup Champions. A popular ice rink in the area, the professional-style arena has two full NHL ice rinks open for public skating for all ages and abilities on Saturday and Sunday and holidays. To attend, skaters must register by name on the website. Skating sessions are supervised. Cost: \$17.00 per session; skate rental: \$5.00. The arena also has a state-of-the-art arcade with a full redemption center along with food and beverages.

Every Friday night through April, from 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m., the arena hosts a DJ Skate with strobe lights and upgraded sound system with a DJ spinning top hits. Visit website for rates. Other skating options include Sticks and Pucks where players have fun with stick time and Open Hockey designed to give players seeking extra ice time the opportunity to play in a non-competitive environment. Players work on their individual skating or stick-handling skills or play small hockey games with friends. The arena has a full Learn to Skate program and its own Danbury youth program for ages 5-18-years-old.

On February 23 and 24, take a break from skating and watch a night of professional hockey as the Danbury Hat Tricks play two home games.

#### 4. Winter Garden Ice Arena

111 Prospect Ridge, Ridgefield (203) 438-4423 or wintergardenarena.com

Public recreational skating is available at this community indoor ice rink on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m., and Sundays from 3:00 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. Friday night is Disco Skate from 9:00 p.m.— 10:00 p.m. According to owner Melissa McCarty Webdale, during February break, the rink will offer Sticks & Bucks on

Monday-Friday, 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.; public skating, 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m., and Sticks & Pucks again from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The rink also offers seasonal membership for weekday skating, September through March. "We have a great group of adults who enjoy coming, and being social to get their exercise," said Webdale. The rink has a variety of vending machines offering drinks, snacks, and candy.

Home to one of the largest youth programs in Connecticut, the rink also welcomes participants in its Ice Mice, (3-5 year olds), Learn to Skate, (ages 6-18), and Rangers learn to play hockey (ages 5-10) programs. The Ice Mice and Learn to Skate programs offer free skates and helmets to borrow and the Rangers provides a full set of equipment from helmet to skates. "As a parent of three children, we do this to not cause extra stress for parents or children who are learning something new," said Webdale, adding their tagline, "Our rink is warmer than you think," describes how children feel at the rink while learning to skate and working their way through the programs onto their high school teams.

#### 5. Brewster Ice Arena

63 Fields Lane, Brewster (845) 279-2229 ext. 10 or brewstericearena.com

Serving the hockey and skating communities for 27 years, this three-level, 90,000-square-foot arena has two regulation-sized indoor ice rinks, an outdoor rink/pond, and a studio rink.

The arena is open to the public seven days a week, including evenings, 364 days a year. Indoor public skating for all recreational levels is available – check the website for open skate times. Rink guards are on-site for supervision. Adult: \$12.00; children under 12: \$10.00; Skate and walker rentals are available.

Owner Steve Santini said the arena offers additional sessions on school holidays. He suggests visiting their website or Facebook page that's updated daily for special events. The arena also has a snack bar on the first floor.

The arena also offers Sticks & Pucks both in the arena and on the pond (\$20.00) and open hockey (\$15.00). On February 24, children ages 4-9 can participate in Try Hockey for Free day from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. This nationwide initiative by USAHOCKEY introduces children to the sport. "We have programs for all ages and abilities, Travel/Rec/Adult Leagues all year, and camps in the summer," added Santini. ■

## What's playing?

### Take a staycation at your local theater

By Pamela Brown

Redding schools may be starting February Break on Monday, but kids can start having fun watching some great movies on Saturday. Local theaters are featuring fun for young cinephiles next week, from heartwarming movies to a free nature documentary.

#### Edmond Town Hall

45 Main Street, Newtown (203) 270-4285 or edmondtownhall.org  
General admission: \$4.00

The 1930 Georgian-style building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, features a 500-seat proscenium theater with a concession stand offering classic snacks and beverages.

#### Wonka – February 17-20:

1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

A 2023 musical fantasy starring Timothée Chalamet in the title role that tells the origin story of Willy Wonka, a unique character in the 1964 best-selling novel, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl.

#### My Octopus Teacher –

February 18: 3:30 p.m.

The Catherine Violet Hubbard Sanctuary, a non-profit that promotes compassion and healing through human-animal connection, is offering its very first free movie series. This Netflix original documentary won the 2021 Oscar for Best Documentary Feature. Documentary-maker Craig Foster shares the story of his friendship with an eight-armed octopus, a resourceful, self-reliant predator, while living in the South African kelp forest.

#### Greenwood Features

269 Greenwood Avenue. Bethel (475) 256-1130 or greenwoodfeatures.com  
Matinee/Kid/Senior - \$10;  
Adults after matinee - \$12

On Monday, February 19, this cozy local theater will open for limited Presidents Day hours. Check their website for up-to-date information. An expanded concession area offers classic snack favorites, including organic popcorn, Honest juice boxes, and Unreal Candy.

#### Migration – February 19:

Time TBD.

This action-packed comedy follows a funny, feathered Mallard family vacation as they embark on a journey to tropical Jamaica where their well-laid plans quickly go awry.

#### Prospector Theater

25 Prospect Street, Ridgefield (203) 438-0136 or prospectorthater.org  
Adult: \$15.00;  
Children: \$13.00

This non-profit movie theater,

featuring stadium-style seating with state-of-the-art Christie projectors, Dolby Digital surround sound, and Dolby 3D, provides inclusive employment to people with disabilities, called Prospects. The Heads Up Café offers coffee, tea, beer, wine, and sweet and savory Prospector Popcorn.

**Ordinary Angels** – February 22: 7:00 p.m.; February 23-25: 1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

Based on a true story, the movie centers on Sharon Steves (Hilary Swank), a fierce but struggling hairdresser in small-town Kentucky who discovers a renewed sense of purpose when she meets Ed Schmitt (Alan Ritchson), a widower working to make ends meet for his two daughters. With his youngest daughter waiting for a liver transplant, Sharon will move mountains to help the family.

#### Ridgefield Playhouse

80 East Ridge, Ridgefield (203)438-5795 or ridgefieldplayhouse.org  
Admission: \$25.00;

Members and seniors: \$20.00

#### National Theatre Live - Romeo & Juliet: February 22 – 1:00 p.m.

In defiance of their feuding families, Romeo and Juliet chase their future together as violence erupts around them. This new film brings to life the backstage spaces of the National Theatre in which desire, dreams, and destiny collide to make Shakespeare's romantic tragedy sing in an entirely new way.

#### The Maritime Aquarium

10 North Water Street, Norwalk (203) 852-0700 or maritimaquarium.org  
Tickets for 4D movie: \$7.00;

Aquarium admission is optional.

Watch short movies through 3D glasses (which are cleaned and turned in after every show) to enjoy a cool cinematic experience on a two-story screen. Thrill-enhancing sensory special effects, such as scents, bubbles, wind, and mists, add to the experience. Two films are shown throughout the day.

#### RIO: The 4D Experience (13 minutes)

When the last blue macaws on Earth, Blu and Jewel, are captured by bird smugglers, they embark on the adventure of a lifetime to Rio de Janeiro where they dodge beach balls, umbrellas, carnival floats, and beach-goers to escape Nigel, the evil cockatoo.

#### BBC Earth's OCTOPUS:

Blue Planet II 4D Experience (12 minutes)

Inspired by the critically acclaimed BBC series Blue Planet II, the movie explores dynamic oceanic landscapes and the octopus, one of the most captivating creatures that dwells there. ■

## Scholarships for every interest and achievement

By Jessie Wright

A week without classes may be the perfect time for high schoolers to apply for one of the many scholarships now open for submissions. A range of organizations, businesses, and individuals offer both recognition and financial awards each year to Redding students – there are close to 50 scholarship applications open for submissions between February 16 and May 1 with awards ranging from \$500 - \$40,000. Students can visit [tinyurl.com/reddingscholarships](http://tinyurl.com/reddingscholarships) for more details on each award, application requirements, and

deadlines.

- The Kathleen Reilly Scholarship
- The Weller Foundation-Computer Science/Technology Scholarship
- The Weller Education Scholarship
- The Weller Foundation Louis J. Lacroce Medical/Health Sciences Scholarship
- The Weller Foundation- Robert Swart Engineering Scholarship
- The Weller Foundation- Vincent Voccia Vocational Award
- Columbus Citizens Foundation Scholarship Programs
- The Connecticut Building Congress Scholarship
- The Dare Greatly Foundation

Scholarship

- The Carol P. Duggan Nutmeg PTA Scholarship
- The Connecticut PTA Scholarship Award
- The Joseph G. Pearson Scholarship
- The Howard Jennings Scholarship
- The Lud and Marie Hoffman Scholarship
- The Michael Johnson Scholarship Isidore Wise Scholarship
- Better Business Bureau- Diverse Student Ethics Scholarship
- Better Business Bureau-Military Line Student Ethics Scholarship
- Better Business Bureau- Student Ethics Scholarship
- The Connecticut Society of

Civil Engineers

- The Horatio Alger Scholarship
- The Ride-4-Justin: Justin Wisniewski Firefighters Scholarship
- CT Roberta B. Willis Need-Merit Scholarship
- The Latino Scholarship Fund
- The Gary DeSalvo Memorial Scholarship
- The "No Sweat" Scholarship Glenn Moon Scholarship
- The Lockheed Martin STEM Scholarship
- The Orazio DiMauro Foundation Scholarship
- The Joe Lieberman Connecticut Scholarship
- Steven A. Merrihew Performing

Arts Scholarship

- 2024 Workers' Memorial Day Scholarship Essay Contest
- The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship (early action deadline)
- The Elizabeth Sonier Grant
- The Hannah Griswold Grant
- The Lee Formica Grant
- The Margaret Rose Nielsen Grant
- Bethel Veterinary Hospital Scholarship
- The Joel Barlow High School Scholarship
- The Mary Clinton Scholarship
- The Dennis Malone Scholarship (CT Parks Association)

# Talking cents: Is it time to be greedy, or fearful? | *By Randy Beeman*

The equity market (as measured by the S&P 500) recently hit a new all-time high and came within spitting distance of hitting the 5,000 level for the first time ever. For those who have some of their savings invested in the stock market, that likely means good news as they watch their portfolio increase in value. It's ok to be happy about this milestone, but it's also the time to start thinking about what to do next. As investors, should we be greedy and maybe add more to our equity allocation here, or is it more prudent to be a little fearful and maybe take the opportunity to reduce our equity market exposure?

Well, if we take the counsel of the "Oracle of Omaha", undoubtedly one of the best, if not THE best investor of all time, Warren Buffett, we should be fearful. In one of his annual letters to shareholders, Warren gave the shrewd advice that the best way to become rich was to "Be fearful when others are greedy, and greedy when others are fearful". According to the weekly survey of

U.S. Investor Sentiment produced by the American Association of Individual Investors (AAII) the most recent level of "positive" sentiment has fallen from its three-year peak at the end of 2023 but remains significantly elevated above the long-term average. So, investors are a bit less "greedy" than a month ago, but still pretty darn optimistic of a further upward advance.

At its most basic level, the day-to-day movement of the equity market is essentially a reflection of the opinion of the mass of investors who trade daily. As another great investor, Benjamin Graham, once famously stated, "In the short run, the market is a voting machine, but in the long run, it is a weighing machine". Understanding the behavior of crowds is a very complex, and often confusing science. It is also one of the many reasons individual investors are probably best served to take a long-term approach to their investment decisions. I recently read a book by Rory Sutherland (Alchemy: The Dark Art and Curious Science

of Creating Magic in Brands, Business and Life) that contained an example of how complacency in group decision making in the short term can sometimes lead to unfortunate outcomes.

Many of us old enough remember the disaster that befell the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger on January 28, 1986. What most of us don't know, or perhaps don't remember, is that the shuttle wasn't originally scheduled to launch on that fateful day. It was originally supposed to launch a week earlier on January 22, but it was postponed several times (first to January 25, then to January 26) due to the delay of another NASA mission. Then, rain pushed it to January 27. On that day, there was an issue with a handle of one of the hatches and by the time it was remedied, the winds had picked up and they scrapped the launch.

On the night of January 27, the day before the rescheduled launch was to take place, record low temps descended over Cape Canaveral. One lone engineer, Allan McDonald, who was part

of the team that built the rocket booster, spoke up and warned that the cold might pose a problem. The rubber O-rings that created the seals in the joints of the rocket boosters could potentially stiffen and lose their flexibility. Other experts downplayed the risk, and the launch went forward. Sadly, 73 seconds into the flight the world would see that McDonald was right – though at the time, no one outside the launch team knew of his warning – and all seven crew members were lost.

Sutherland poses the hypothesis that the sequence of events leading to the successive postponements could also have led to the launch team deciding to downplay the engineer's warning of the potential failure of the O-rings. The more the launch was postponed, the more eager the launch team was to get on with the mission, despite the presence of increased risk. It was the increased pressure of group thinking in making the final decision that potentially led to the team's complacency of the risks and its devastating outcome. As he

notes in the book, at some point the question "is it safe to launch?" was replaced by "are we going to delay the launch again?" It illustrates how the misconceived perception of risk by the crowd and peer pressure can play a sometimes-large role in decision making. At times, even to the extent of ignoring reality.

So, I ask again, should we be greedy or fearful with the equity market at all-time highs? ■

*Randy Beeman is a Redding resident and has more than 25 years of experience managing financial assets for individuals, retirement plans, and businesses.*

*Randy currently serves as the Director of Wealth Management for Glass Jacobson Wealth Advisors. He co-hosted a popular live, call-in radio show (The Wise Investor Show) on WMAL 630 AM and 105.9 FM in Washington, D.C., for 15 years.*

*He is the co-author of "Value Returns: Wise Investing for the Next Decade and Beyond"*

## REAL ESTATE

### January 2024 real estate report

*A look at trends in the local housing market | By Bill Whitehead and John Talley*

Do not let the fact that only three properties sold in the month of January deceive you... the spring selling season is already here. There are nineteen properties in Redding currently "under-contract" as of the beginning of February!

Activity at open houses is brisk, which indicates that buyers continue their determined search for new homes as the year begins, eager to enjoy their new houses in time for the summer. The average sale price year-over-year in January increased by 61%. ■

*Bill Whitehead and John Talley are REALTORS® with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services New England Properties*

January 2024													
Town	Current Inventory	Homes Sold		Average Days on Market		Average List Price		Average Sale Price		Percent Sale Price >/< List Price		Average Price/SqFt	
	As of 2/10/24	January	2024	January	2024	January	2024	January	2024	January	2024	January	2024
Redding	16	3	3	144	144	\$933,333	\$933,333	\$962,000	\$962,000	3%	3%	\$302	\$302
Ridgefield	28	16	16	76	76	\$991,559	\$991,559	\$1,031,556	\$1,031,556	4%	4%	\$387	\$387
Weston	23	2	2	39	39	\$1,747,000	\$1,747,000	\$1,735,000	\$1,735,000	-1%	-1%	\$341	\$341
Wilton	15	27	27	47	47	\$1,026,015	\$1,026,015	\$1,030,556	\$1,030,556	0%	0%	\$384	\$384
Easton	13	6	6	75	75	\$1,030,483	\$1,030,483	\$984,317	\$984,317	-4%	-4%	\$271	\$271
Bethel	16	9	9	67	67	\$503,167	\$503,167	\$506,933	\$506,933	1%	1%	\$291	\$291
Newtown	34	20	20	62	62	\$748,519	\$748,519	\$730,188	\$730,188	-2%	-2%	\$300	\$300
<b>Average</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>\$997,154</b>	<b>\$997,154</b>	<b>\$997,222</b>	<b>\$997,222</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>\$325</b>	<b>\$325</b>

REDDING SOLD - January	Sale Price	List Price	%/ List Price	Price/Sqft	Days on Market
6 Little River Ln	\$640,000	\$675,000	-5%	\$214	135
109 Umpawaug Rd	\$921,000	\$799,000	15%	\$421	19
358 Newtown Tpke	\$1,325,000	\$1,326,000	0%	\$304	278
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$962,000</b>	<b>\$933,333</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>\$313</b>	<b>144</b>

REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft	Days on Market	REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft	Days on Market
56 Portland Ave, Unit #7	\$385,000	\$310	3	195 Umpawaug Rd	\$1,150,000	\$398	113
66 Great Pasture Rd	\$416,000	\$185	5	65 Umpawaug Rd	\$1,450,000	\$426	194
152 Redding Rd	\$569,900	\$383	1	66 Sanfordtown Rd	\$1,595,000	\$669	16
33 Black Rock Tpke	\$669,000	\$263	6	4 Hemlock Trl	\$1,650,000	\$358	60
20 Little Boston Ln	\$669,000	\$345	142	710 Redding Rd	\$1,975,000	\$531	103
55 Old Stagecoach Rd	\$699,000	\$344	2	273 Newtown Tpke	\$2,775,000	\$498	74
79 Cross Hwy	\$715,000	\$360	74	241 Black Rock Tpke	\$6,750,000	\$454	258
3 Bartram Dr	\$775,000	\$317	53	229 Umpawaug Rd	\$8,500,000	\$1,265	613
		<i>continued on right side of table</i>		<b>Average</b>	<b>\$1,921,431</b>	<b>\$444</b>	<b>112</b>

Aquarion demolishes historic Newtown Turnpike home | *continued from page 1*



*Photo courtesy of Bruce Nelson*  
A 1907 photo of the summer cottage at 50 Newtown Turnpike

inspection and determined that a significant investment would have been required to make the property habitable again. After careful consideration, it was decided that returning this land to its natural, forested state would better serve the goal of protecting our water sources."

In cases like these, Redding has a 180-day Demolition Delay Ordinance it can enforce on owners

wishing to demolish historically significant structures on private property. The delay is intended to provide historians and town officials time to document the architectural details, homeowner histories, and exterior and interior of a structure "before it is lost to memory," said Nelson. Unless a house is part of an official historic register or district, the Town has no recourse to forbid a demolition



*Photo by John Talley*  
Crews demolished the home on Thursday, February 8.

on private land.

"Following all the proper procedures, Aquarion appeared at a Historic Review Committee meeting announcing that no matter what the Committee decided that they (Aquarion) would demolish the house at 50 Newtown Turnpike," said Committee Chair Ray D'Angelo.

Nelson conducted a field visit of the site on July 11, 2023 along

with Redding Archaeological Consultant Stuart Reeve, Redding Land Use Director Aimee Pardee, and Aquarion Real Estate Manager Shawna Salato, and found the house to be both historically significant and in sound structural condition.

"This house was in very good structural shape from what I could see," said Nelson. "It sat square on the foundation, the outside shingles on the siding were good, the roof was in very good shape, all the chimneys looked like they were in very good shape – I went inside, and the floors were solid, nothing was sagging, the plaster was in reasonably good shape."

Nelson noted that most of the visible deterioration had resulted from the home not being heated for the last few winters after the last tenants had vacated and a broken window that had gone unfixed, causing peeling plaster and evidence of wildlife. He estimated

an investment of \$125,000 or so could have brought the house back to its historic, livable condition.

"They were basically letting that house be – demolition by neglect," said Nelson. "It's really a shame."

Following Nelson's site visit and report, the Historic Review Committee voted to impose the full 180-day demolition delay, which expired last month. D'Angelo indicated that the Committee had hopes of meeting with Aquarion to discuss preservation of some of its other historic properties.

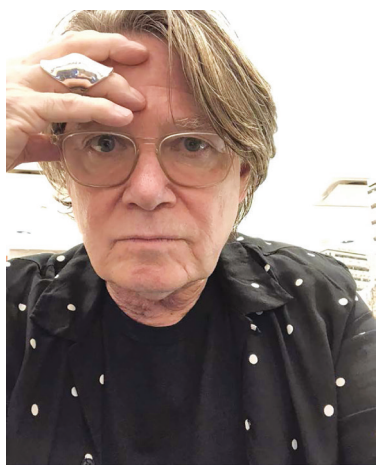
"Redding needs affordable housing desperately," said Nelson. "To be able to add a house like that, or keep a house like that, for affordable housing would help the Town, but Aquarion didn't care."

According to Fazekas, the utility currently owns four houses on Class-1 land in Redding, which are currently leased. ■

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

# Thinking about starting your own business?

Some advice from a few of Redding's entrepreneurs | By Justin Reynolds



**Robert Lee Morris**  
Artwear / Custom Jewelry Design



**Deb Owen**  
Deb's Cookie Cupboard



**David Kaye**  
Nod Hill Brewery



**Jess Tyson**  
Don't Panic Management and  
Georgetown Collective



**Bob Ponturo**  
Quarternote Coffee

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a record-breaking 5.5 million new business applications were filed in 2023 — including 48,373 in Connecticut, good for a 10.2% year-over-year uptick in the Nutmeg State.

While there are tons of benefits to starting a business — you get to be your own boss, you have the freedom to set your schedule, there's no limit to how much money you can make, and you can take advantage of several tax incentives — challenges come with the territory.

To help would-be entrepreneurs navigate those challenges, this reporter recently picked the brains of several Redding-based business owners to find out what advice they'd give to other folks starting their own companies.

For Robert Lee Morris, jewelry designer for the stars, all new businesses “must project an identity, a personality, a brand style, or characteristic that makes you stand out and be remembered.”

“It could be amazing photography, clever humorous one-liners, or a distinctive logo,” said Morris, who ran a gallery called Artwear in Soho for nearly 20 years and maintains the venture online today at robertleemorris.com. “It's also more like the soul of the business.”

You also need to trust the process and trust your plan.

“It was such a thrill to have our first customer walk in, pick a product, and pay for it — it was like playing store when I was eight years old, but for real,” he said. Additionally, Morris encourages entrepreneurs to never underestimate the value of impressive customer service. “This was how we built strong relationships with repeat customers who became a foundation of financial security.”

When she launched her baking business, Deb Owen — the force behind Deb's Cookie Cupboard (debscookiecupboard.com) — was pleasantly surprised by the outpouring of support that came in once she advertised on a local Facebook page.

“My advice? Be committed to your idea and confident in yourself, as there will be all sorts of moments along the journey,” she said. “Stick with it, as after the initial blast, orders may wane. But remind yourself your product is still just as good as when you started. Stay creative with your marketing and forever hopeful in your heart.”

David Kaye, who started Nod Hill Brewery with his father, his wife, and a good friend, and is now General Manager, encourages business owners to “cultivate connection and goodwill within your community.”

“If done authentically, it will

ensure meaningful support and longevity for your business,” Kaye said, adding another piece of advice he admits is cliché. “When you're getting things off the ground, be prepared for everything to take three times as long and cost three times as much as you expect.”

As Nod Hill continued to grow, Kaye and his team were eventually able to hire full-time staff.

“What I wasn't expecting was that the most fulfilling thing about our business is knowing that we have a level of success where the company can provide a living for several people,” he said. “It's a very gratifying feeling.”

As the founder of both Don't Panic Management, a virtual assistant agency, and Georgetown Collective, a new co-working space in the heart of Georgetown, Jess Tyson has met tons of entrepreneurs over the years.

“Entrepreneurs are known for being visionaries, which is great but can be difficult when you start running the business day-to-day,” she said. “A lot of people I meet have a hard time whittling down their ideas, and they get paralyzed by overanalyzing each decision. The best thing you can do at this stage is get extremely clear about your target audience, what solution you're providing to them, and why it matters. For example, my business provides virtual assistant

services, but the solution I'm providing them is more time to work on their business, doing what they love.”

Tyson started her business out of college and figured her job would simply entail doing the work she wanted to do to support her clients. She quickly found out there's a lot more involved than that.

“Running a business includes way more than just the product or service you offer, and the operational side can be daunting,” Tyson said. “Make sure you have a trusted accountant, bookkeeper, and assistant to help you get the backend business tasks done right so you can focus on serving your customers. Don't be afraid to ask for help — nobody has ever succeeded alone.”

(Tyson is hosting an inaugural entrepreneurial meetup geared towards women, the Founders Circle, on March 7 at Georgetown Collective; visit georgetowncollective.org to learn more.)

Bob Ponturo, who runs Quarternote Coffee with his son, Will, reminds business owners to do their due diligence and ensure they're complying with all relevant regulations.

“It's important to be aware of all required licenses on both the Town and State level,” he said. “I thought I had it covered until another requirement would be brought to my attention.”

When you're launching a business, it's important to know who your customers are and listen to them, Ponturo said.

“When we first started, we signed up for every farmers' market, whether it be with our mobile coffee trailer or just selling beans under a tent,” he said. “The only way to know which ones work best is to try them all. We originally wanted our coffee in as many stores as possible, but there comes a point where if you're spinning your wheels with too much time spent and too little return, it's time to let go of the underperforming accounts and spend extra time and energy on the ones that are profitable.”

Ponturo also advises business owners to stay on top of inventory and check in with store owners periodically.

“They should know who you are when you walk in the door.”

Anything else?  
“Never underestimate the importance of having eye-catching packaging as well as, in our case, following our core beliefs of being eco-friendly, organic, and sustainable,” Ponturo said. “Stay passionate, excited, and — most importantly — have fun!” ■

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### Redding's Big Outdoors: State launches Partnerships in Parks initiative / continued from page 1

P. Huntington State Park. For enthusiasts of “Redding's Big Outdoors”, what might this new initiative mean for our parks?

The answer is — we're not sure yet. The Partnerships in Parks initiative is still in its planning stages and requires organizations and individuals to propose potential activities and ideas. CTDEEP is currently encouraging private sector stakeholders to submit concepts to an “intentionally broad” Request for Information (RFI) to “encourage innovative, creative concepts that meet the following goals: elevate outdoor recreation and visitor experience; expand tourism destinations; and provide equitable and sustainable access to the outdoors.”

Some examples of concepts that CT DEEP has shared to help spark ideas include outdoor music events or venues; farmers markets; campsites or “glamping” options; equestrian experiences; bike and boat rentals; gift and gear shops; guided rock climbing; food trucks; ADA/adaptive sport activities; electric car or boat charging stations; special event venues and services; and more.

Some of these concepts are characterized as “low impact” and could be implemented as early as this year — the deadline to submit those ideas is Friday, March 1. A low impact concept would be an event or pilot partnership that doesn't exceed one year and wouldn't involve modifications

or repeated occupation of state facilities. The submission deadline for all concepts, including higher impact projects with longer implementation timelines, is Tuesday, April 30.

Residents wishing to chime in about the Partnerships in Parks initiative itself or any of the proposed or potential ideas can submit their public comments in writing by e-mail to [deep.partnershipsinparks@ct.gov](mailto:deep.partnershipsinparks@ct.gov) by Friday, February 16, 2024. ■

### First responders among those in favor of proposed Hoyt cell tower / continued from page 1

communications in the area. She noted that any such measure would need to be approved by the First Selectman's office as well as MCM and Verizon.

“That transmitter atop the tower at Hoyt Boy Scout Camp would strengthen our coverage in West Redding,” said Vibbert. She also noted that a project to upgrade radio communications was approved by the Town in 2018-19, and that West Redding was identified as an area needing more transmitter sites and coverage.

Redding Fire District #1 has also expressed its support for the Hoyt tower. “Since the proposed Hoyt tower is not in Fire District #1, we are not involved in the proceedings,” said Bennett Pardee, one of the District's commissioners, “but we do have an identical tower and a positive tower experience.”

In a letter to the Board of Selectmen on June 4 of last year, Pardee and fellow commissioners Dave Hermenze and Phyllis Magnussen noted that their district has been a tower operator since 1998. They also noted that MCM Holdings, in its role as a cell-tower management firm, has been a firehouse tenant since 2013.

“MCM has been a rational and responsible business partner throughout this time,” the commissioners noted. “MCM has always obtained all needed permits for work done on our site and has maintained our site in a neat and orderly manner at all times.”

The letter went on to note that the tower has antennas from both AT&T and Verizon, mounted at the 150-foot mark, as well as the district's radio antennas, and Redding Police and Highway Department antennas, mounted at 80 feet.

“This improves public safety by providing good radio coverage of the eastern part of Redding,” they stated. “The Town's radios are backed up by the MCM emergency generator, providing continued coverage during natural disasters.”

Drummer Lane resident John Reilly also sees the benefits of the proposed tower. “I'm in favor of progress,” he said. “I especially don't like letting people dictate what happens on land they don't own.”

Reilly said poor cellular service can be life-threatening during an emergency, particularly at a time when many people no longer have landline phones in their homes. A recent incident he learned about underscored the need for better West Redding service.

“One day this fall I was doing yard work and heard sirens,” said Reilly. He went on the Broadcastify app, which provides live audio streams of public safety, aircraft, rail, and marine radio to which any resident can subscribe. Once on the app, he learned that the West Redding Fire Department received an emergency call that was quite garbled.

“If you're having a medical emergency, you want responders to know where you are, get to you quickly, and bring you to the hospital,” Reilly pointed out. “This kind of diminished cell service can interfere with response in a crisis.”

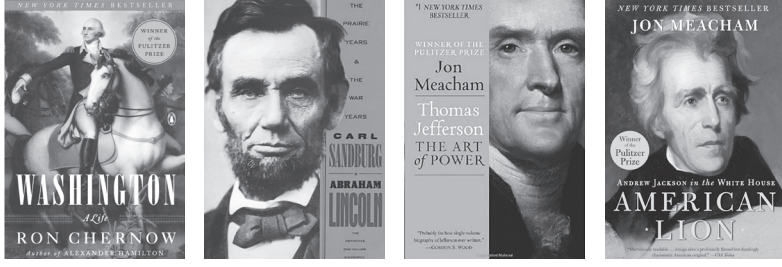
“This is not conjecture,” he added. “We all know about the poor cell service on that side of town. And it has real-life impacts.” ■



## BOOK REVIEW

# Biographies to pick up this Presidents Day

By Tom Casey



There are few better ways to expand knowledge and understanding of a period than to read biographies of leaders of those times. Presidents, military brass, diplomats, and other players come to power and influence as a consequence of unique necessities or opportunities. Reading biographies of policy makers is the most entertaining and edifying way to move from the general to the particular in evaluating an era.

Presidents Day is a promising opportunity to choose a presidential biography from a host of notable authors. Ron Chernow's *Washington: A Life* comes highly recommended as a biography that brings forth the man himself, heretofore historically opaque. Chernow's intricate research takes the reader from Washington in childhood, through his victories in the French and Indian War, and as a horseman, hunter, farmer, winning general of the American Revolution, and finally our first U.S. president (Chernow has also written *Grant*, a biography of Ulysses S. Grant).

Abraham Lincoln stands as the most documented president and presidential administration in American letters. Carl Sandburg's six volume magnum opus *Abraham Lincoln* is a long-term reading project well worth the effort, but a condensed single-volume version has specific focus on Lincoln's prairie and Civil War years and is eminently manageable. Personal taste and curiosity will guide choices and, as with Washington, there are many.

And there are other highly readable presidential biographies published in the last twenty years. Thomas Jefferson was America's third president, in office from 1801 – 1809. His authorship of the

Declaration of Independence and overseeing the Louisiana Purchase (which doubled the size of American territory in 1803) are perhaps his best-known achievements. He was also an architect who built Monticello, a founding father of this nation, founder of the University of Virginia, and a farmer, slaveowner, and abolitionist. Jon Meacham's *Thomas Jefferson, The Art of Power* is perhaps the most engaging recent acclaimed biography (2012).

Meacham's study of the seventh president of the United States is also recommended: *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*. This biography won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize. One reviewer called Meacham's style "agile prose." This is true of Meacham; his research is thorough, but his presentation is uniquely vivid and clarifying.

Leaders of this caliber did not have average histories. Readers learn about Washington's strategy and resolution, Lincoln's understanding of national peril, Jefferson's five years in Paris, and that Andrew Jackson disarmed a potential assassin himself after the assailant's weapon failed to fire twice at point blank range (the weapon later fired successfully). These were uncommon personalities with unique stories.

In Redding, we have a special resource. For reading of this kind and scope, the Mark Twain Library is perhaps the best source of access to the many presidential biographies worth a reader's time and attention. Make this Presidents Day an occasion to read some of the histories. ■

Tom Casey is the author of *Human Error* and *Stranger's Gate*

## LIBRARY CORNER

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

February is Black History Month, so it's the perfect time to read a book by a Black author. Here are some hand-picked recommendations from your friendly neighborhood librarian.

**Come and Get It by Kiley Reid** - This highly anticipated novel by the author of *Such a Fun Age* tells the story of Millie, a Black senior RA at the University of Arkansas. A visiting professor and writer offers Millie an opportunity that challenges personal and professional boundaries. Reid is a fantastic writer in her prime.

**The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride** - As I write this column, this is currently the most popular book at Mark Twain Library. In the neighborhood of Chicken Hill in Pottstown, Pennsylvania in 1972, developers are digging the foundation for a new development when they uncover at the bottom of a

well a skeleton with a gold chain with a mezuzah. Flashback to 1925 when this mostly Black and Jewish neighborhood housed the Heaven and Earth Grocery Store, a mom-and-pop shop where people gathered. The story unfolds over the decade following 1925 when America experienced shifts in racial relations and the rise of Nazism in Europe, but at the center of the novel is humanity and community.

**James by Percival Everett** - This reimagining of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, told from Jim's perspective, follows our protagonist, an escaped enslaved person, as he navigates the Mississippi River. Set in Antebellum Missouri, Jim and Huck escape steamship fires, con men, and enslavers in this adventure story. A supreme retelling of an American classic – this book comes out March 19, so place your holds now.

**Legacy by Uché Blackstock** - Did you know that just 2% of all physicians in the United States are Black women? This memoir by a second-generation Black woman doctor examines the systemic and racial inequities in medicine and how they have a negative effect on patients.

**Soil by Camille T. Dungy** - In the predominantly white area of Fort Collins, Colorado, Dungy sets out on a mission to diversify her garden, which becomes a metaphor for how homogeneity affects the future of our planet and nature as we know it. Join the Mark Twain Library to discuss this book at New Pond Farm Education Center, in partnership with Redding Land Trust, on February 21 at 11:30 a.m.

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

## Good books for good readers

By Susan Clark

Sometimes I intentionally read books on a theme – Icelandic novels, for example, if I happen to be traveling there. Other times, I realize after the fact that I've just read several books that share a main element. I have just come through a series of books about pianos, of all things. (I am not the least bit musical.)

The first one, non-fiction, is by British journalist and author Sophy Roberts. *Lost Pianos of Siberia* begins as Roberts documents the search for the right piano for a certain pianist. But the book is more about the pianos taken to towns and cities across Siberia by Russian intellectuals, mostly when

they were sent into exile. There are many, and Roberts locates them one by one and tells their stories. She explores the history of fine piano-making in Russia and lets us in on the importance of music to the Russian soul

Then, a memoir by Paris-based writer Thad Carhart, *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank*, was recommended by a piano-playing friend. Carhart becomes fascinated by a piano shop near where he lives. He decides to find a piano and rediscover a long-ago passion for playing. It's not that easy a task – the shop owner won't have much to do with him until he is formally introduced by a friend who is a

client of the shop. This small book reveals a passion journey all can understand.

The final book (so far) in my piano series is *The Piano Tuner*, the first novel by Daniel Mason. The story is about a piano tuner, Edgar Drake, who is sent to a Burmese jungle by the British War Office in 1886. His mission is to fix a rare Erard piano owned by a powerful lieutenant-colonel. This unusual premise brings the reader tale after amazing tale throughout the journey and at its conclusion.

I wouldn't have sought out pianos as a theme, but I'm glad these books found me. ■

## Nod to the pod

**Grammar Girl: Episode 965: "The listener show!"** By Amy Maloof



Each week, a one-episode recommendation from a podcast you might love.

Author (and grammarian) Mignon Fogarty shares quick and helpful grammar tips on her podcast *Grammar Girl*. Whether you're a word nerd who loves to know the rules just to know

the rules (and lord them over friends and family), someone who struggles with writing, or anyone in between, this podcast is for you. Each episode is short and sweet, usually under 20 minutes, and Fogarty keeps things breezy. She gives the history and background of grammar, explains why we make the mistakes we make, and leaves out the judgment.

This episode fields questions from listeners, covering such juicy subjects as the omission of a doubled I in 'canceled' (blame Noah Webster, lover of simplified spelling) and whether the phrase is "you've got another *thing* coming" or "another *think* coming" (spoiler: the latter is the original?!). It's fun hearing others ask the questions I've always wondered about, too.

I teach English to speakers of other languages, and hoo boy – there are some baffling things out there. When I'm up at the board, confronted with a question I don't have a quick answer for (e.g., the seemingly random rules of irregular verbs... I'm looking at you, swim/swam/swum) I've learned to be honest and say I'll circle back later; and then I run to my books and Fogarty for answers. It can be a little overwhelming when I realize I'll never come close to knowing it all, but the wise and steady guidance of the Grammar Girl sure helps. ■

Mark Twain Library to begin construction on patio and outdoor gathering space / continued from page 1



A bird's eye view of the Library's proposed rear stone terrace, seat wall, and pergola celebrating the architecture of the round "drum" building. The radial space will provide a seamless connection between the indoors and outdoors.

in 2000 included the construction of a children's wing.

Dummeyer noted that a 2019 survey of Library patrons identified outdoor space as one of the Mark Twain Library's greatest needs. "Then the pandemic hit, and the need for a place to gather outdoors became even more evident,"

she said. "Public, open space is the reason many people move to Redding, so shouldn't the Library have some of that too?"

In King's design, the pergola area and the open patio make for a seamless transition from indoors to out. What's more, at the rear of the patio is a "bump-out" containing



The proposed outdoor gathering space will provide open air seating and Wi-Fi. The terrace is designed for small and large gatherings and outdoor presentations and activities.

wide steps to the lawn. This area can double as a speakers' podium, where speakers and presenters can address attendees gathered on the large lawn.

At the same time, native stone walls and plants will afford privacy for individual readers. "And since it's surrounded by woods, if

you're there in the summer you're not going to sizzle in the sun," said King.

King established her landscape company in 2010 and typically works on large residential properties whose owners want a design with an environmentally-sustainable slant, though her firm has also

designed gathering places for larger institutional buildings before. She said the Library is in many ways like one of those large residential buildings.

The outdoor space will also offer Wi-Fi connectivity throughout. "From a design perspective this wasn't relevant, but we also do have to ensure that the whole area will have lots of electrical outlets for people to use and to charge their devices," said King. "What's more, we had to identify contractors who could do that installation work while fitting into our budget."

King described the project as in tune with Redding residents' interests and lifestyles. She predicts that people will even bring blankets to enjoy sitting outside during winter.

"Redding people are hardcore nature lovers, outdoor enthusiasts, and readers," she said. "I predict this new patio and outdoor space will be used for all four seasons of the year." ■

# February is Heart Health Month

Show yours some TLC | By Pamela Brown



February places a focus on Valentine's Day, but it's also nationally recognized as American Heart Month. This year, the American Heart Association (AHA) asks everyone to "reclaim your rhythm" by reclaiming control of your mental and physical well-being and recognizing the need to understand, prevent, and treat heart issues.

According to the AHA's "Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics - 2022 Update," over 874,000 Americans died of cardiovascular disease in 2019, and it remains the nation's leading cause of death. It's vital for everyone to give their heart tender loving care daily to live long, healthy lives.

At Meadow Ridge, heart health is a priority. "Every day is heart day in my book. We all need to treat our heart with the utmost importance," said Jaime Silverman, Fitness Manager at Meadow Ridge. "From a science and anatomy perspective, a healthy heart effectively pumps nutrient-rich blood and oxygen all around the body to help it be more effective and efficient at performing all activities, especially those that keep seniors active and independent."

Silverman offered easy exercises for seniors to improve heart health:

- Aerobic or cardiovascular exercise, like walking, swimming, biking, or pickleball to help improve circulation, reduce blood pressure and stress, increase energy, improve mood, and more.

- Strength or resistance training

like squats, calf raises, pelvic tilts, and biceps curls to help strengthen muscles and improve body composition by reducing body fat (along with a healthy diet).

- Balance and flexibility training like yoga and stretching. Although this training doesn't have a direct effect on the heart, Silverman said it can reduce injuries from falls and keep the joints pain free and mobile, allowing for a more active, healthy lifestyle.

- Activities outdoors are also beneficial for mind and body. "Getting outside for some fresh air, vitamin D, and a change of scenery helps motivate people to move more," Silverman noted.

And what about heart-healthy foods? Silverman shares a secret. "There's really no bad food – just how much you eat of it! As we age, our requirements for certain nutrients change. For seniors, it's important to consume more protein to help repair and maintain muscle like fish, chicken, beans, lentils, etc." She added, "Then there are phytonutrients, which are compounds produced by plants and can be found in fruits, veggies, wine, chocolate, and spices. You cannot forget the importance of water which helps get those healthy nutrients to the cells of your body."

Silverman's top tips for senior heart health are: get moving, even if you have to start small and work your way up; check your blood pressure and other vitals regularly; eat a healthy, balanced diet; and get plenty of rest.

For some fun indoor exercises to get the heart pumping, Riverbrook Regional YMCA in Wilton has options for all ages. "It's important to be reminded of ways we can keep ourselves moving for good health. The American Heart Association recommends 150 minutes of

moderate intensity exercise each week. This can be done through a variety of activities such as walking, swimming, group fitness classes, paddle tennis, or pickleball," said Rhoda Kasperek, Director of Healthy Living at Riverbrook. The facility offers a variety of Group Fitness and Aquatic Exercise Classes in a safe environment led by certified instructors. "They provide the right amount of motivation and guidance you need to get results. Participants often make friends in these classes and look forward to returning week-after-week."

The YMCA also has cardiovascular and strength training equipment in its Fitness Center. "Those who prefer a little friendly competition might like to drop in for some basketball or pickleball in the gymnasium," Kasperek added. She also noted the importance of limiting foods high in salt, saturated fat, and sugar. "Read the labels and just try to be more conscious of what you're eating," she encouraged.

Kasperek also offered three heart health tips. "I suggest finding a good physician that you trust and feel comfortable with; finding ways to exercise that you enjoy; and exploring mind-body options like yoga and meditation that complement your overall health by improving your mental health and well-being."

This month, and going forward, be attentive to your heart health. "With people focusing on love and happiness in February, we can use this time to remind people the importance of taking care of not only our own hearts but checking in on friends and family members," said Silverman.

For the signs and symptoms of a heart attack or stroke and the differences experienced between women and men, visit [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)

# "Souper Bowl" features tasty touchdowns by local cooks

By Jessie Wright



Winner, Debora DeCarlo Rosa, with her winning entry made by husband, Vinny Rosa.



Photos by Margherita Pilato  
Five of the nine competitors in Redding's first-ever Souper Bowl.

Just days before the San Francisco 49ers and Kansas City Chiefs battled it out in Las Vegas, Redding hosted its own "Souper Bowl" competition at the Heritage Center on Thursday, February 8. The community cook-off event encouraged local cooks to make their most competition-worthy soups, with participants and eaters enjoying and judging the results. Nine competitors submitted soup entries, with flavors ranging from hearty winter squash to savory Italian favorites, and 33 tasters attended. Debora DeCarlo Rosa won the inaugural competition with her "Coconut Curry Sweet Potato" entry, made by her husband, Vinny Rosa.

The entries included:

- **Susan Green:** *Butternut, Ginger, Apple*
- **Jinny Cohen:** *Minestrone with Sweet Sausage*
- **Debora DeCarlo Rosa:** *Coconut Curry Sweet Potato*
- **Bezo Morton:** *Vichyssoise*
- **June Fagan:** *Butternut Squash*
- **Ellen Cody:** *Meatball-Mushroom*
- **Helen Gore:** *Cauliflower-Leek*
- **Karen deFriesse:** *Butternut Squash*
- **Lauren D'Onofrio:** *Pasta e Fagioli*

## "Souper Bowl" 2024 Winning Recipe Coconut Curry Sweet Potato Soup

Inspired by NY Times Recipe / by Melissa Clark

### Ingredients:

- 6 tablespoons coconut oil or neutral oil
- 1 ¾ pounds carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes (about 5 cups)
- 1 ¾ pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes (about 5 cups)
- 5 to 8 tablespoons red curry paste (use the lesser amount if you have a very spicy paste)
- 2 ½ teaspoons fine sea or table salt, plus more to taste
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup unsweetened coconut flakes
- 1 cup chopped shallots or red onion
- 1 jalapeño, seeds removed if you like, minced
- 3 fat garlic cloves, minced or finely grated
- 2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger
- 1 quart vegetable stock
- 2 (13-ounce) cans coconut milk

### Directions:

- Heat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. In a large bowl, toss together 4 tablespoons coconut oil, the carrots, sweet potatoes, 4 tablespoons red curry paste, 1 ½ teaspoons salt, and the black pepper until the vegetables are well coated with the curry paste. Spread the vegetable mixture in an even layer on two rimmed baking sheets (lined with parchment if you like). Roast, tossing occasionally, until tender and caramelized, about 35 to 45 minutes.
- Meanwhile, add the coconut flakes to a large soup pot without any oil, and toast, stirring often, until they are fragrant and pale golden at the edges, 1 to 3 minutes. Transfer to a plate to cool.
- Add remaining 2 tablespoons coconut oil to the pot and heat until it thins out, about 20 seconds. Stir in shallots and cook until golden brown, 4 to 6 minutes. Add the garlic, ginger, and 1 teaspoon salt, and cook until fragrant, 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in remaining 1 to 4 tablespoons red curry paste until well combined.
- Add stock, coconut milk and roasted vegetables to the pot. Bring liquid to a simmer. Cook, over medium-low heat, partly covered, for 15 to 20 minutes, until everything is very tender.
- Use an immersion blender (or a regular blender, working in batches) to purée the soup. Taste and season with salt, if using, to taste. To serve, ladle the soup into bowls and top with toasted coconut flakes.

# Valentines for local veterans

West Redding Fire Department hosts inaugural event

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Nina Stietzel

Robyn Priano, Mallory, Scarlett, Polina Hochreiter (event organizer), Briana, Captain Cooper Whiteside, Penelope, Emma, Isaac, Lieutenant Nick McBergin, and Volunteer Firefighter Geoffrey Dilenschneider at the Valentines for Veterans event on February 10.

"Dear Hero, Thank you for your bravery. We love you."

This was the message from local 9-year-old, Declan Cooper, for a Redding veteran this Valentine's Day.

On Saturday, February 10, families and firefighters gathered at the West Redding Firehouse for "Val-

entines for Veterans", a special event organized by Polina Hochreiter to show appreciation and love to neighbors who have served our country.

The group crafted 90 Valentine's Day cards and enjoyed an afternoon of creativity and holiday refreshments. Redding resident



Photo courtesy of Polina Hochreiter  
Families and firefighters made 90 creative Valentines Day cards on Saturday, February 10 to send to Redding veterans.

Masako Nakamuta was also on hand to teach both kids and adults how to make heart origami.

The cards were then sent out through the West Redding Post Office to be delivered on February 14 to Redding veterans. ■

[www.danburylaw.com](http://www.danburylaw.com)

### Members

Richard L. Emerson  
James J. Flaherty, Jr.  
Timothy M. Herring  
Richard S. Land  
Alyson R. Marcucio

Ward J. Mazzucco  
Francis G. Pennarola  
Thomas M. Rickart  
Christine M. Szafranski  
Shelby L. Wilson

44 Old Ridgebury Road  
Suite 320  
Danbury, CT 06810  
203-744-1929

830 Post Road East  
Suite 110  
Westport, CT 06880  
203-744-1929

900 Main Street South  
Suite 102  
Southbury, CT 06488  
203-693-8530

Estate Planning - Probate - Elder Law  
Litigation - Tax - Business  
Real Estate and Land Use

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies  
R = registration required

## This Week's Featured Events

### Lunch & Lincoln

**Wednesday, February 21**  
12:15 p.m. Lunch,  
12:30 p.m. Film Start  
There will be a 10-minute  
intermission.  
Heritage Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
E-mail mpilato@  
townofreddingct.org or call  
(203) 938-9725

### Parents' Night Out

**Friday, February 23**  
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
For grades K-6.  
Drop your kids at the Community  
Center for activities and fun and  
enjoy a night out.  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
townofreddingct.org/parks-and-  
recreation

### Full Moon Hike

**Friday, February 23**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Outdoor hike for adults and  
families with school-aged  
children.  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
newpondfarm.org

### Want to feature an upcoming event?

E-mail us at  
[advertise@reddingsentinel.org](mailto:advertise@reddingsentinel.org)  
for more information.

## ARTS

**Saturday, January 20 –  
Saturday, February 24**

### Kathy Coe "What We Keep" Art Exhibition

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays-Sundays  
Redding resident Kathy Coe and  
Helena Kiely's exhibition of oil  
paintings and sculpture.  
George Billis Gallery  
1700 Post Road, Fairfield  
[georgebillis.com](http://georgebillis.com)

**Tuesdays February 20 and 27**

### Beginner Watercolor Course

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Free 3-week watercolor course  
for beginners. Materials will be  
provided.  
Heritage Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
E-mail mstillman@  
townofreddingct.org or call (203)  
938-9725.

R

**Wednesday, February 21**

### Lunch & Lincoln

12:15 p.m. Lunch, 12:30 p.m.  
Film Start  
There will be a 10-minute inter-  
mission. The film has a 2.5-hour  
run time.  
Heritage Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
E-mail mpilato@townofreddingct.  
org or call (203) 938-9725

R

**Sunday, February 25**

### The Allen and Helen Hermes Arts Series presents: Yale's Whim 'n Rhythm

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Enjoy this elite, collegiate a capp-  
ella group perform two 30-minute  
sets followed by a reception.  
Space is limited – register early.  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
[marktwainlibrary.org](http://marktwainlibrary.org)

R

**Tuesday, February 27**

### Jazz Journeys with David Morgan

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Free, live jazz piano performance  
with audience interactions.  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
[marktwainlibrary.org](http://marktwainlibrary.org)

R

## CHILDREN | TEENS

**Friday, February 16**

### Celebrate Black History Month by Building Your Own History Book (Grades 5-8)

8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.  
Presented by Mark Twain Library,  
held before school at John Read  
Middle School (you do not need to  
be a JRMS student to participate).  
486 Redding Road  
[marktwainlibrary.org](http://marktwainlibrary.org)

R

**Sunday, February 18**

### STEM at New Pond Farm – Candy Science

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
For grades K-4  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
[newpondfarm.org](http://newpondfarm.org)

\$, R

**Monday, February 19**

### Presidents Day Enrichment Day with Pasta Making

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
For grades 1 and older  
Scavenger hunt, games, trivia,  
crafts, pasta making, and more.  
WorkspaceCT  
16 Trowbridge Drive  
Bethel  
[workspacect.org](http://workspacect.org)

\$, R

**Monday, February 19**

### Presidents Day LEGO Workshops

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
For grades K-4  
12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
For grades 5-8  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
townofreddingct.org/parks-and-  
recreation

\$, R

**Friday, February 23**

### Parents' Night Out

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
For grades K-6. Drop your kids at  
the Community Center for activ-  
ities and fun and enjoy a night out.  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
townofreddingct.org/parks-and-  
recreation

\$, R

**Wednesday, February 28**

### Discover Gap Years! (Teens and Adults)

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Zoom  
Mark Twain Library  
[marktwainlibrary.org](http://marktwainlibrary.org)

R

## CRAFTS

**Friday, February 16**

### Ladies' Night Out: Card Making

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
BYOB and make hand-made pop  
up or quilled cards.  
WorkspaceCT  
16 Trowbridge Drive  
Bethel  
[workspacect.org](http://workspacect.org)

\$, R

**Sundays, February 18  
and March 3**

### Knitting by the Fire: Cable Knit Cowl

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Two session course, all supplies  
provided.  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
[newpondfarm.org](http://newpondfarm.org)

\$, R

## FOOD | WINE

**Saturday, February 24**

### From Prep to Plate: Dairy Delights – Cheese

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Bring your family for this hands-on  
cheesemaking workshop.  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
[newpondfarm.org](http://newpondfarm.org)

\$, R

**Saturday, March 2**

### Troop 306 Gourmet Pancake Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Registration now open.  
West Redding Firehouse  
306 Umpawaug Road  
[zefly.com/en-US/ticketing/e5c2d514-7a7a-441e-8505-505049b98910](http://zefly.com/en-US/ticketing/e5c2d514-7a7a-441e-8505-505049b98910)

\$, R

## HEALTH | WELLNESS

**Thursday, February 15**

### Sit to Be Fit: A Chair Yoga Series with Viki

12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  
Zoom  
Mark Twain Library  
[marktwainlibrary.org](http://marktwainlibrary.org)

R

**Tuesday, February 27**

### Fireside Yoga

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Bring mat, towel, and water bottle.  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
[newpondfarm.org](http://newpondfarm.org)

\$, R

**Tuesday, February 27**

### Beating Osteoporosis: With Experts from RVNAhealth

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
In person and via Zoom  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
[marktwainlibrary.org](http://marktwainlibrary.org)

R

## NATURE

**Thursday, February 15**

### CT Humane Society Animal Resource Center Info Session

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
RSVP to  
[kshettleworth@cthumane.org](mailto:kshettleworth@cthumane.org)

R

**Saturday, February 17**

### Pruning 101

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
[newpondfarm.org](http://newpondfarm.org)

\$, R

**Saturday, February 17**

### Astronomy: Viewing the Night Sky

Check website for times  
Dress for the weather, all ages  
welcome.  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
[newpondfarm.org](http://newpondfarm.org)

\$, R

**Wednesday, February 21**

### Nature Book Club: *Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden*

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Presented by New Pond Farm  
Education Center, Mark Twain  
Library, and Redding Land Trust.  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
Register at [marktwainlibrary.org/  
calendar](http://marktwainlibrary.org/calendar)

R

**Friday, February 23**

### Full Moon Hike

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Outdoor hike for adults and  
families with school-aged  
children.  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
[newpondfarm.org](http://newpondfarm.org)

\$, R

**Saturday, February 24**

### Backyard Syruping Workshop

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Dress for the outdoors.  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
[newpondfarm.org](http://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  
[bethlehemlutheranct.org](http://bethlehemlutheranct.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](http://cibcredding.org)

### Christ Church, Episcopal

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.  
184 Cross Highway  
[christchurchredding.org](http://christchurchredding.org)

### First Church of Christ, Congregational

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
25 Cross Highway  
[firstchurchredding.org](http://firstchurchredding.org)

### Long Ridge United Methodist

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.  
201 Long Ridge Road, Danbury  
[longridgeumc.com](http://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](http://sacredheart-stpat.org)

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**Thursday, February 15**

### Yale Science in the News: Made to Connect

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Learn about neural networks,  
individual actions, and  
collaborations with an impact on  
the world.  
Zoom  
Mark Twain Library  
[marktwainlibrary.org](http://marktwainlibrary.org)

R

**Thursday, February 15**

### Where did the Internet, Stealth, GPS, and Covid mRNA vaccines come from? The role of DARPA in Fostering Disruptive Technologies

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Wilton Historical Society  
224 Danbury Road  
Wilton  
[wiltonhistorical.org](http://wiltonhistorical.org)

R

**Thursday, February 22**

### Cutting the Cable: Exploring Options for Home Viewing

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
[marktwainlibrary.org](http://marktwainlibrary.org)

R

## MEETINGS

**Thursday, February 15**

### Board of Selectmen Special Meeting

2:30 p.m.  
Zoom  
[townofreddingct.org](http://townofreddingct.org)

**Thursday, February 15**

### Historic Review Committee

7:00 p.m.  
Zoom  
[townofreddingct.org](http://townofreddingct.org)

**Thursday, February 15**

### Region 9 Board of Education with Budget Presentation

7:00 p.m.  
Joel Barlow High School / Library  
Learning Commons  
100 Black Rock Turnpike  
[er9.org](http://er9.org)

**Tuesday, February 20**

### Conservation Commission

7:00 p.m.  
Old Town House  
23 Cross Highway  
[townofreddingct.org](http://townofreddingct.org)

**Tuesday, February 20**

### Board of Selectmen

7:30 p.m.  
Town Hall / Hearing Room  
100 Hill Road  
[townofreddingct.org](http://townofreddingct.org)

**Wednesday, February 21**

### Board of Assessment Appeals

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Town Hall / Hearing Room  
100 Hill Road  
[townofreddingct.org](http://townofreddingct.org)

**Wednesday, February 21**

### Water Pollution Control Commission

7:30 p.m.  
Zoom  
[townofreddingct.org](http://townofreddingct.org)

**Monday, February 26**

### OPEB Trust Board

6:00 p.m.  
Town Hall / Hearing Room  
Subject to change to virtual or  
hybrid  
100 Hill Road  
[townofreddingct.org](http://townofreddingct.org)

**Monday, February 26**

### Board of Finance

7:30 p.m.  
Town Hall / Hearing Room  
Subject to change to virtual  
or hybrid  
100 Hill Road  
[townofreddingct.org](http://townofreddingct.org)

**Tuesday, February 27**

### Region 9 Board of Education Budget Workshop

7:00 p.m.  
Joel Barlow High School / Library  
Learning Commons  
100 Black Rock Turnpike  
[er9.org](http://er9.org)

**Tuesday, February 27**

### Planning Commission

7:30 p.m.  
Town Hall / Hearing Room  
100 Hill Road  
[townofreddingct.org](http://townofreddingct.org)

**Wednesday, February 28**

### Zoning Commission

7:30 p.m.  
Town Hall / Hearing Room  
100 Hill Road  
[townofreddingct.org](http://townofreddingct.org)

**Monday, March 4**

### Park and Recreation Commission

7:00 p.m.  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
[townofreddingct.org](http://townofreddingct.org)

\*Note: Town offices will be  
closed on Monday, February 19  
for Presidents Day.

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**REALTY**



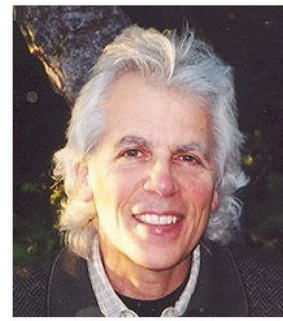
**Mike Anderson**  
203.770.3349



**Peri Bartro**  
203.240.5919



**Alexis Bennett**  
203.313.3110



**Kim Cuniberti**  
203.733.6976



**Tim Dent**  
203.470.5605



**Donna DiBartolo**  
203.858.0597



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

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