

REDDING SENTINEL

OCTOBER 27, 2022 | REDDING, CONNECTICUT | Volume 1 / Issue 8 | \$3

Selectmen approve committee charge

By Rocco Valluzzo

To help the town successfully navigate through the Gilbert & Bennett property redevelopment project, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee charge at its Monday, Oct. 17 meeting.

Formed by the Board of Selectmen, the committee will advise the Board of Selectmen on matters related to the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill redevelopment. The Committee will provide reports and/or updates to the Board of Selectmen as needed.

According to First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton, the committee met on Oct. 13 and having reviewed the charge, decided to adopt it pending approval by the Board of Selectmen.

“We’ve discussed it now for a few months,” said Pemberton. “It was a committee that originated as the consultant selection committee, and then an advisory committee and is now formalized with the charge that will advise the Board of Selectmen and other bodies as necessary for the long-term.”

Members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen and include the land use officer, chairpersons from the Zoning Commission, Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, Water Pollution Control Commission, Board of Finance or their designee, and the first selectwoman ex-officio.

The selectmen appointed the following members to the committee: Amy Atamian (Zoning Commission, Water Pollution Control Commission chair), Daniel Barrett (Planning Commission chair), David Pattee (Conservation Commission chair), Matt Lecher (Zoning Commission chair, Historic Review Committee member), Kim Yonkers (Board of Finance chair), Ward Mazzucco (Board of Finance member), Pam Elkow (ad hoc member, environmental attorney), Regina O’Brien (Planning Commission member, landscape architect), Richard Wenning (Economic Development Committee chair), Tracy Kulikowski (Land Use Director of Weston), Aimee Pardee (Redding Land Use and Conservation officer), Pemberton (ex-officio).

The committee may also include other individuals and/or Redding residents, as appointed by the Board of Selectmen, preferably with subject matter expertise. The Committee members will also elect a chair and a secretary who shall serve for a term of one year.

“It is such an incredibly talented and inspirational group,” said Pemberton. “I have to say it’s really very impressive. There’s a lot going on.” ■

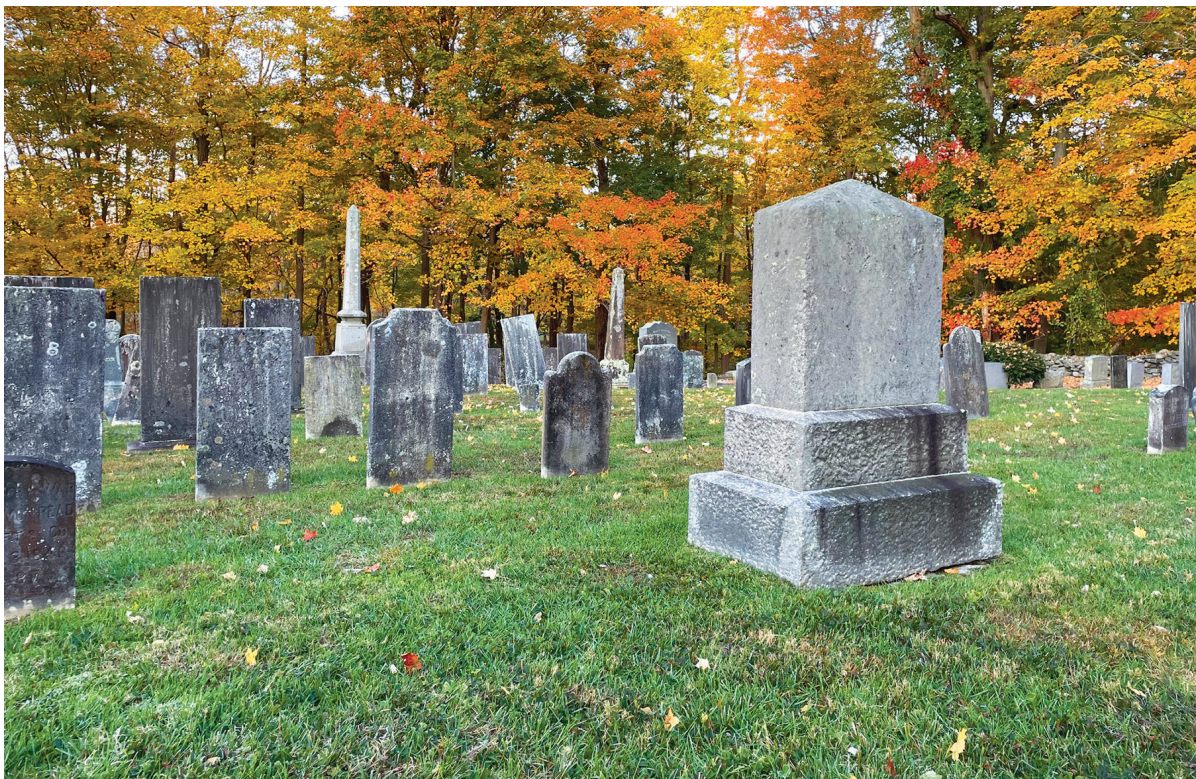


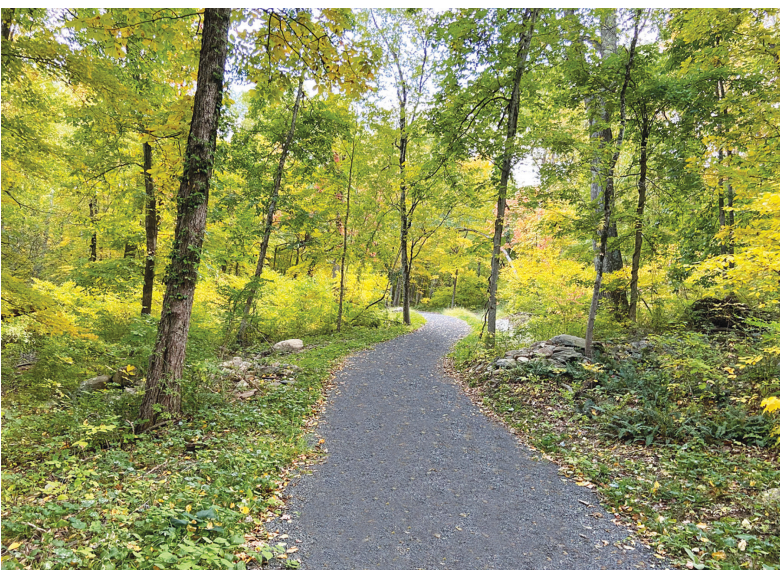
Photo by Susan Clark

Halloween is upon us, so what more fitting photo than a cemetery? This is Read Cemetery on Cross Highway, part of the Redding Center Historic District. Gravestones go as far back as 1786. Although most burials in the cemetery stopped in the mid-1800’s a few families have legacy rights to burial here.

REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

The Norwalk River Valley Trail

By Jason Howard



Photos by Jason Howard

From left to right, before and after photos of Norwalk River Valley Trail.

Picture this: It’s Saturday morning. Your brother and sister-in-law, with their young children, will show up in ten minutes. Your teenager wants to share a single-track burn trail in the Saugatuck Natural area with his uncle. But the cousins are 3 and 6 years old, and one just learned to ride a bicycle. Do you risk young children’s comfort and safety? Time for Redding’s newest trail: The Norwalk River Valley Trail—a ten-foot wide, stone-dust trail that will eventually stretch 30 miles from downtown Danbury to Norwalk’s Calf Pasture Beach, winding through Redding, Ridgefield, and Wilton, allowing walkers, bicyclists, leashed dogs, and runners. Everyone can enjoy exercise and nature together. The NRV Trail could have been buried under the now-defunct Super 7 highway if communities like Redding, Wilton, and Ridgefield had not resisted it for 60 years.

Outdoor enthusiasts envisioned an alternate use for the state land acquired for the highway for several decades. Finally, in the early 2000’s, Friends of the Norwalk River Valley Trail was formed as a 501(c)3 non-profit to raise funds for a trail routing study.

The study would incorporate the state-owned lands and provide access to existing trails and parks. Under the leadership of Stuart Green, Dave Pattee, and Pat Sesto, the group began to raise money to build the path. Initially, the NRV raised funds from individuals in each community, but now funding is from State and Federal grants in partnership with each town and gifts from individuals and corporations.

The first half-mile section of the stone dust trail opened in Wilton in April 2014. By the end of the following year, the route had extended to 2.4 miles. Within one year, Wilton dog walkers voted the trail the most popular amenity in town. Also in 2014, Stuart Green, David Pattee, Kent Stivers, and this writer set out with a GPS to “bushwhack” a trail from Pickett’s Ridge Road to the intersection of Bobby’s Court and Fire Hill — the Redding/ Ridgefield town line. The group discovered many wandering single-track trails surrounded by deep vines like those Reddingites are used to. Also, rough-hewn woods roads, hunters’ chairs in the trees, off-road tracks from nearby neighborhoods, and a pile

of 207 tires dumped across the path to Picketts Ridge. On the next trip, the trail builder taught the team that a multi-use trail for the broadest public use should not have too many challenging hills. Instead, it should stay on one elevation line as much as possible. This spring, the Redding Mile opened, following his design.

The Redding Mile meanders from the four-car parking area at 36 Picketts Ridge Road downhill under a canopy of maple, oak, and ash hovering over typical Redding undergrowth. The thorns are held at bay from the 10 ft trail until it slides to the west, up a slight rise to Fire Hill Rd. The path will soon continue through Ridgefield. The major funding grant for the NRV Trail was obtained from the State of Connecticut, with support from Redding, to build the next 1.5 miles ending at Simpaug Turnpike and Route 7.

Find the Redding Mile in REI’s <https://www.hikingproject.com/> or set your GPS to find 36 Picketts Ridge Rd, Redding. Please do NOT park at the Fire Hill Road end of the trail. More information: <https://www.nrv-trail.com/> ■

Town meeting approves ARPA projects largest turnout in memory

By Rocco Valluzzo

A large turnout of Redding voters approved ten town projects with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) at a special town meeting on Thursday, Oct. 20, at the Redding Community Center. The projects had been reviewed by the town’s ARPA Funds Working Group and recommended by the Board of Selectmen. The funds have to be allocated by Dec. 31, 2024 and spent by Dec. 31, 2026. Originally scheduled for the center’s community room, the meeting was moved to the gymnasium due to the crowd of more than 200 in attendance. Nearly all the projects were unanimously approved and included:

- Up to \$15,000 for the installation of signs as proposed by the Georgetown Village Restoration Inc.

- Up to \$100,000 for the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton for a project (\$80,000 in capital expenses and \$20,000 in non-capital expenses).

- Up to \$45,000 for construction on the main floor of the Redding Grange to include building an Americans with Disabilities Act compliant restroom, installation of air conditioning, and improvements to the electrical wiring.

- Up to \$60,000 for the installation of a retractable room divider in the Heritage Center at Redding Community Center.

- Up to \$83,000 for the Board of Education LOTS program (Lifelong Learning, On-going Assessment, Teacher Training, Safe Spaces). The four-part project will improve and create appropriate learning spaces for students who need to regulate their emotions and feelings in order to be successful in the classroom. Funding will equip the spaces with advanced materials suitable for regulation and flexible learning.

- Up to \$150,000 for improvements to Topstone Park, such improvements to be planned under the direction of the Park & Recreation Commission, subject to regulatory approvals, including the recommendations made by the Planning Commission.

- Up to \$200,000 for restoration of wetlands at New Pond Farm.

- Up to \$200,000 for the Mark Twain Library to support the outdoor patio project.

- A total of \$113,000 to construct two dedicated pickleball courts

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EDITORIAL

What does Connecticut have in common with Mississippi, Alabama and New Hampshire? These four are the only states that do not allow early voting in elections.

On November 8, Connecticut voters will have the opportunity to vote to allow the General Assembly to provide for early voting. The information in the next two paragraphs is from Connecticut’s Office of Legislative Research.

Ballot Question: Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting?

Explanatory Text: Currently, the Connecticut Constitution does not permit in-person, early voting. If this amendment is approved, it would allow the General Assembly to pass legislation establishing in-person voting before the day of an election... The state constitution contains several provisions about the time, place, and manner of elections in Connecticut. These provisions currently require voters to cast their ballots at their polling place on the day of an election unless they qualify to vote by absentee ballot. Because these are constitutional requirements, the General Assembly cannot pass legislation establishing a form of voting that conflicts with them. If this amendment is approved, it would specifically allow the General Assembly to pass legislation establishing in-person, early voting. This authority would apply both to choosing candidates for office and to voting on referendum questions at an election.

Unfortunately, because a “yes” vote on the ballot question simply gives authority to the Connecticut General Assembly to pass legislation to allow in-person voting, we will need to vote on principle rather than on details. How many days of early voting, for example, is unspecified. How the cost of early voting will be covered is unknown.

Taking a stand on principle, any measure that expands access to our constitutional right to vote is good. The few arguments against early voting can be mitigated. These include increasing the cost of campaigns and greater logistical complexity in handling elections. On balance, these do not outweigh the benefit of increased access to the right to vote.

Please read the Opinion piece by the League of Women Voters in this issue of the Sentinel, and then vote YES on November 8 on the ballot question to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting. ■

To the Editor,

Thank you for publishing the candidate profiles for the upcoming 26th Senate District because the responses given by Ceci Maher and Toni Boucher could not be more illuminating.

Like most of the country, many of Connecticut’s residents face rising gas prices, soaring inflation, and rampant crime. Sure, there are some that are wealthy enough to weather these problems, but most Connecticut residents cannot. Faced with these voter concerns and the likelihood that voters are willing to vote for change, Ms. Maher does what all progressives do, she gives lip service to those issues and then runs a scare campaign against Ms. Boucher arguing that if Ms. Boucher is elected, Connecticut’s gun laws, women’s reproductive rights, and LGBTQ+ rights will be repealed. Since the entire state government is controlled by the Democratic Party, we all know that is little more than nonsense.

What all of Connecticut’s residents need, especially those that are the least fortunate, is a voice in Hartford for a return to sanity and a voice that will focus on the real issues that Connecticut’s residents face every day. That voice is Toni Boucher. Please vote for her on election day!

Urs Broderick Furrer
Seventy Acre Road

To our readers,

We began the Sentinel in April of this year, publishing three monthly issues in April, May and June. We took the summer off from publishing, but not from attention to the paper. We worked behind the scenes to get ready to publish bi-weekly from September 1.

This issue of October 27 is the last of our bi-weekly issues. Thanks to your support and interest, we’ll be publishing weekly from next week’s issue, November 3. I write that sentence with not a little fear and trepidation. But, I am confident we’ll figure it out – and hopeful that when we hit bumps in the road you, our readers, advertisers and contributors, will be understanding.

Part of what gives me confidence in our future is the team that has coalesced around the Sentinel. Thank you to each and every contributor, advertiser, reporter, freelancer, photographer, proofreader and all-around-helper for making sure each issue of the Sentinel happens as we planned. Onward!

Town meeting approves ARPA projects largest turnout in memory
Continued from page 1

at the Redding Community Center in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen. An earlier ARPA Funds Working Group vote on the project was split at 4-4. The Board of Selectmen later recommended sending the proposal to a public vote.

This was also the only project that had a split vote at the meeting. It was approved by a vote of 128 to 52.

- Up to \$250,000 for the Region 9 School District to undertake the Barlow Fields Improvement Project. This includes the

construction of a building at the stadium that provides an ADA compliant restroom with related septic facilities, team rooms, and a functional kitchen.

The public also approved funding for the Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) trust for a total of \$300,000 for fiscal year 2022-2023 through four installments of \$75,000 transferred from the town’s unassigned fund balance. The funding will be invested following the investment policy statement and target allocation established by the OPEB Trust Board. ■



Photo by Susan Clark

The overflow crowd at the special town meeting voting on the pickle ball court motion.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome Letters to the Editor. Please be clear, civil and concise. Publication preference will be given to letters that suggest solutions to challenges identified.

To the Editor,

I was interested to read Lisa Tancredi’s take on the Man on the Subway story. This is a story I have valued through the years and is, as I remember, the foundation of the paradigm shift that sets the stage for Stephen Covey’s first Seven Habits book. Her piece is a timely reminder to us all of the worlds that can be open, and the attitudes that can be sorted out with an open mindset— so needed in these so highly contentious times.

Ginny Keim
Sunset Hill Road

To the Editor,

CECI MAHER FOR THE 26TH

I am proud to support Ceci Maher, candidate for the CT 26th State Senate District. Ceci has the experience, background and education that will be an asset for the District and our state. Understanding the worry that parents feel about their children’s futures and how to survive in difficult times brought her to leading Sandy Hook Promise and People-to-People. She has a proven record of bringing people and all stakeholders together to find real solutions to problems facing people every day. Ceci supports protecting our children from gun violence and keeping our neighborhoods safe, bringing down the cost of living and taxes, increasing access to healthcare, lowering the cost of prescription drugs, upgrading our infrastructure so CT can remain competitive, and supporting our local businesses. Because of her past record and work, she is endorsed by CT Against Gun Violence (CAGV), Moms Demand Action, the Sierra Club, the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, Planned Parenthood and the CT Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). In these unprecedented times, Ceci is committed to bringing her experience and fresh ideas to the State Senate in order to find workable solutions to our most critical problems.

Janet August
Seventy Acre Road

To the Editor,

In support of Boucher and Burns

I would like to appeal to my neighbors not to be misled by non issues in this upcoming election. You are pro-choice? Fine it is protected in CT and these candidates are pro-choice. You are for gun control? Great we already have some of the toughest gun control laws in the nation. Let’s not cloud the real issues in our state. What we do need our state officials to do is:

- address rising crime, consequences not more laws!
- leave zoning decisions with the towns.
- leave education local
- responsible spending, no more tax increases
- have a business-friendly environment so it is affordable to stay in CT

With this in mind, I am confident that Toni Boucher for State Senate and Alex Burns for State Representative are the correct choices.

Tina Dahm
Umpawaug Road

To the Editor,

There was another mass shooting today. Maybe you didn’t even hear about it. As I write this, there have been 562 mass shootings in the U.S. this year. That’s almost two a day. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lists guns as the leading cause of death among children and teens.

Ceci Maher, candidate for State Senate, has been endorsed by CT Against Gun Violence and was named a 2022 Moms Demand Action “Gun Sense Candidate”, recognizing her willingness to stand up for gun safety measures. She was also the Executive Director of Sandy Hook Promise, whose mission is “protecting America’s children from gun violence in honor of the precious lives that were lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School.” She understands what is at stake.

Ceci Maher is also a social worker and her candidacy was endorsed by the National Association of Social Workers. She recognizes the importance of mental health services, but that they and education alone will not end gun violence. She is committed to sensible legislation that limits the bulk purchase of firearms, and for increased safe storage requirements, and to close the loopholes in current gun safety laws.

Connecticut’s assault weapon ban and high capacity magazine laws have been challenged in Court, and we need people in Hartford, like Ceci Maher, who are committed to protecting us. Please join me in voting for Ceci Maher for State Senate on Tuesday, November 8th, along with the other candidates on Row “A”.

Respectfully yours,

Diana M. Carlino
Huckleberry Road

To the Editor,

Why vote for Toni Boucher for the state senate 26th district? Because she actually cares about Connecticut.

As a facilitator for the National Institute for Civil Discourse, Toni knows how to “work across the aisle” to get things done.

So what has she done?

Toni has:

- Established the Connecticut College Trust Fund program (CHET)
 - Reduced CT’s gas tax by \$.14 which was the highest in the country
 - Passed the law that created the Norwalk River Valley Trail and helped fund it
 - Wrote the first CT R&D tax credit bill for the biotech and life science industry and sponsored bills to
 - promote start-ups in Connecticut
 - Spearheaded the passage of the Holocaust education mandate of 2018
 - Saved the Danbury Metro North train line in 1997 from permanent closure (and is a member of the
 - “Advisory Committee on the Future of the Danbury Train Line”)
 - Co-sponsored a global warming bill 5600-(a) to drastically reduce CT’s emission levels
 - Phased out the inheritance and gift tax in CT
 - Supported the gay adoption bill and antidiscrimination bill for a person’s sexual orientation
 - Stopped new taxes on deliveries, repealed nuisance tax on newspapers, financial services, advertising
 - Increased CT penalties on those taking advantage of children and the elderly
 - Has fervently driven positive change throughout Connecticut and is ready to do it again.
- So if YOU care about Connecticut, please vote for Toni Boucher on Tuesday, November 8th!

Holly Hill
Sanfordtown Road

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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To the Editor,

PROTECT DEMOCRACY

My vote in November will be to protect democracy and that is why I am voting blue, for the Democrat, in every race on my ballot. The Republican party is now the MAGA party, and as such, it supports authoritarian goals including removing women’s reproductive rights, attacking the rule of law, openly suggesting violence against those who disagree, restricting voting rights, allowing state legislatures to override the will of the voters and ignoring corruption. Our democracy barely held against the coup attempts of the fake elector conspiracy, the January 6th assault on the capitol and the continued assault by election deniers. It is frightening how many well-respected Republicans, who once opposed the MAGA agenda, have willingly jumped on the train and show fealty to anything MAGA and Trump. MAGA and Trump-endorsed candidates are on the ballot in CT, as they are in many states in the country. I am skeptical that Republican candidates in Connecticut have the courage to stand up against the MAGA party line. I am not willing to risk it. As such, I plan to vote for the Democrat in every race and ask others to vote for Democrats and against the growing authoritarianism we now face.

Amy Atamian
Seventy Acre Road

To the Editor,

On November 8th, I am asking you to support the re-election of our Connecticut State Rep. Anne Hughes. My name is Aaron Bricker, I am a resident of West Redding, CT. You see, I believe in democracy—the idea that every voter has a voice and that everyone’s voice should be heard. I urge you to vote for Anne Hughes to be our voice in Hartford.

She supported access to PPE during the pandemic, the CT Family Paid Leave Act as well as a data privacy bill. Anne also worked to expand reproductive freedom and protections. She is also a champion for environmental protections.

While Anne has not represented the residents of West Redding in the past, she has worked for all citizens of CT through her legislative accomplishments and advocacy.

With her re-election, Anne will continue to work for Redding residents and all other citizens of Connecticut. Please vote for her on November 8th!

Aaron Bricker
Lamppost Drive

To the Editor,

It’s time to take action.

On November 8th, we can elect Ceci Maher as State Senator of Connecticut’s 26th District. As a licensed social worker and as the Executive Director of Person-to-Person, Maher has an impressive track record of getting results. She has worked closely with families affected by gun violence, including at Sandy Hook Promise. And she’s not just talking about making change; she’s showing us how to actually make it happen.

Maher wants to create opportunities for people in Connecticut — especially those who are underrepresented or vulnerable — and she’ll have the resources to make that happen. As a State Senator, she will be able to make sure that we’re creating opportunities for our children and grandchildren today and tomorrow. We need leaders like Ceci Maher in our government because they will fight for us every single day.

Make a plan to vote on November 8th and vote for Ceci Maher!

Nicole Bricker
Lamppost Drive

To the Editor,

Jennifer Collins for Probate Judge in Redding

Attorney Jennifer Collins, Partner with the law firm Cramer & Anderson is the best choice for Probate Judge in the 45th District, which includes Redding, Bethel, Newtown, and Ridgefield.

In addition to her law firm experience, Attorney Collins has served as a Judicial Magistrate for over 10 years, issuing more than 300 written decisions. In her esteemed legal career, she has vigorously and compassionately represented the disabled, the injured, the elderly, children, and parents in crisis in Fairfield and Litchfield Counties. In my interactions with Attorney Collins, she is a caring and considerate person who is highly engaged. Her experience and demeanor make her perfect for Probate Judge.

I hope Redding voters will support Attorney Jennifer Collins.

Jenifer Wyss
Redding, CT

To the Editor,

I am writing in support of Toni Boucher for Connecticut State Senate. As a former member of the New Canaan Board of Education (2013-2021) and Chair (2015 -2018), I had the opportunity to see first-hand the passion and commitment Toni holds for the children of Connecticut. Toni was always available to discuss pending legislation that would impact kids and schools and she was willing to really listen. Education has become a lightning rod recently, Toni has the knowledge and experience to bring us together for the benefit of all Connecticut’s kids. We need Toni’s voice and experience back in Hartford!

Dionna Carlson
New Canaan

To the Editor,

Ned’s Mixed Messaging

In recent radio and television ads for Ned Lamont, the spokesperson attempts to draw comparisons between Connecticut’s current Governor and Bob Stefanowski, the Republican candidate running for the Governor’s office. In the ads, she says “Ned Lamont is getting illegal guns off the streets” – Tell that to residents of Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven. Next she follows with “Bob Stefanowski has an “A” rating from the NRA” – And one statement relates to the other how? On one hand, getting illegal guns off the streets is an obvious necessity for the safety of all communities. On the other, suggesting that a recommendation from the NRA, an organization founded on, and dedicated to the preservation and protection of the rights of law-abiding gun owners is somehow a negative. Ned Lamont approved this message, which demonstrates an astonishing lack of awareness of our current crisis of violent crime. The administration in Hartford has failed miserably at addressing this issue, and others. It is time for a change. Please cast your vote for Bob Stefanowski for Governor on November 8th.

C. Cilo
Dorethy Road

To the Editor,

Toni Boucher: all the right qualities.

First, the right priorities. (1) Education excellence: our kids are worth it. Local voices especially parents strengthen our schools’ character. (2) Localized Zoning. Towns know best about their own needs and treasures. The whole reason for zoning was to move control from Hartford to the towns. Later re-centralization decimated affordable small dwellings on large developments, because they “didn’t count.”(3) Safety from crime. (4) Unburdening taxpayers. Second, knowing what to do, exactly. Third, knowing how to do it. Toni’s mastery of educational governance is unsurpassed. As member and Chair of Wilton’s Board of Education, Commissioner on Connecticut’s State Board of Education, Co-Chair of the Legislature’s Education Committee, and seven-time Children’s Champion Award (just examples) she knows every hard question and how to address it. Multiple elections to leadership prove she’s esteemed for effectiveness.

Relocated after 27 years in Wilton, with two terms each on Wilton P&Z and Board of Education, I acclaim Toni as a friend, mentor, architect and builder of unity and good works, always possessing an informed vision of the future and readiness to shape it wisely, as a public servant, not a politician.

John Benson
Chesapeake, Ohio

OPINION

Right to Choose: Medical Aid in Dying in Connecticut

By Douglas Renfield-Miller

Death is never an easy subject. Medical aid in dying for the terminally ill is a particularly difficult subject. It raises ethical, religious, and existential questions. Redding-based nonprofit GoodEnding Inc. views aid in dying as ultimately about agency. Terminally ill patients should have agency over how they die.

To quote Compassion and Choices, the oldest and largest organization in the US working to improve end-of-life care and options, “Medical aid in dying allows terminally ill adults to get a prescription they can take to end their life peacefully.” The words “terminally ill” and “can” are critical to understanding aid in dying laws. In most jurisdictions, medical aid in dying is restricted to the terminally ill and anyone considering aid in dying must be evaluated and approved, often by at least two doctors. It’s not a spur of the moment decision or quick process. Once approved, agency rests with the individual. Important to note, as reported by Death with Dignity, a national leader in end-of-life advocacy and policy reform, few with a terminal illness avail themselves of medical aid in dying, and of these about 30% of patients who receive aid-in-dying medications never take the drugs. Simply knowing the option is available appears to ease

their pain.

Nine U.S. states and a growing number of countries currently authorize medical aid in dying. A recent survey of Connecticut voters showed that more than three-fourths (including almost 70% of Roman Catholics) said medical aid in dying should be legalized. Earlier this year, the Connecticut Public Health Committee voted to advance SB 88, “An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients”, by a bipartisan vote of 22-9. However, the Judiciary Committee, employing a rarely used political maneuver, prevented the bill from advancing further. We hope that the next legislative session will bring it to a full vote.

GoodEnding reached out to candidates for the upcoming election to ask where they stand on SB 88. Ceci Maher, running for State Senator, and Anne Hughes, running for State Representative, responded voicing strong support. Anne noted she has been “...a proud co-sponsor and testifier of SB 88 and the Medical Aid in Dying proposals over the past 3 legislative sessions”. Toni Boucher, running against Ceci Maher, and Alex Burns, running against Anne Hughes, did not respond. Something to consider when voting on November 8th. ■

Redding League of Women Voters supports early voting

By Kim O’Rielly

Many people feel that voting in-person on Election Day is nothing less than fulfilling one’s “civic duty” as an American citizen, yet for many it can be challenging or nearly impossible to get to the polls between the hours of 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Connecticut is one of only four states with just one day of in-person voting and it is time for our state to move towards providing more opportunities for eligible citizens to cast their ballot in person – and not just on Election Day.

On November 8th , we have a chance to change that. Connecticut voters will be asked to vote on this referendum question: “Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting?”

Our election laws are part of our state constitution, so to make Early Voting a reality, eligible voters must vote “yes” on the referendum question November 8th. Once the referendum passes, it will be up to our elected state representatives to delineate how we will conduct Early Voting in Connecticut. The Redding League of Women Voters urges all voters to say, “Yes,” because Connecticut’s

busy citizens deserve more time to vote in-person, not just the 14 hours on Election Day.

Some facts to consider:

- It is difficult for many voters to get to the polls on one day — a weekday. Working parents, seniors, commuters, voters with disabilities, and many others all face circumstances that make getting to the polls difficult.
- Early voting increases democratic participation at the ballot box.
- Early voting will decrease long lines and wait times.
- In-person Early Voting is NOT the same as Absentee Voting, for which a voter must explain why he/she cannot vote in person.

The League of Women Voters’ mission is to defend democracy and empower voters, and that includes providing access to the ballot box. A “yes” vote on the Early Voting question will give voters who want to cast their ballot in-person but cannot make it to the polls during the hours of voting on Election Day, another in-person option.

Let’s give Connecticut voters more freedom to participate in our democracy and vote “Yes” for Early Voting on November 8th. ■

To the Editor,

Ceci Maher is the candidate we need in Hartford, and she’s running for Connecticut’s State Senate Seat for the 26th District.

Ceci has a track record of delivering results, and that’s why we need her in Hartford. After a successful business career, Ceci moved into the nonprofit world. As Executive Director of Person-to-Person, she helped build an organization focused on meeting the needs of individuals and families and putting them on a path to economic stability. Most recently at Sandy Hook Promise, she advocated for change to enhance school safety and mental health services.

As state senator, Ceci will be focused on creating opportunities and meeting the needs of Connecticut’s 26th District. She’ll fight for better schools and better opportunities so that every child has access to a good education, regardless of where they live or how much money their parents make. She’ll fight for better jobs with higher pay that give people a chance to succeed and support their families. She will work to ensure that everyone in our community has access to affordable healthcare so that no one is left behind because of a lack of health insurance.

Make a plan right now to vote on November 8th by going online at vote.gov/register/ct/ or vote411.org, so we can elect Ceci Maher as State Senator of Connecticut’s 26th District!

Roger Van Ausdal
Orchard Drive

SPORTS

Falcons remain unbeaten | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo
Joel Barlow High's Andrew Zaia, left, and Cole Peterson tackle Brookfield's Kevin Robinson during a varsity football game on Friday, Oct. 14. Barlow won 49-8.

Between executing its game according to plan and taking advantage of a few miscues by its opponent, the Joel Barlow High varsity football team proved unstoppable in its game against Brookfield.

Right from the start the Falcons dominated play on both

sides of the ball. Scoring on their first six possessions, they never looked back in a 49-8 South-West Conference win at home on Friday, Oct.14.

“Our guys executed the game plan very well and they were dialed in,” said Barlow head coach T. J. Cavaliere, whose team

is now 5-0. “That was exactly what we needed.”

After taking the opening kickoff, Brookfield had little luck in moving the ball on its first series before being forced to punt. A penalty against Brookfield gave the Falcons good field position on the Bobcat 29 yard line. On first down, quarterback Danny Shaban found the end zone and with Cooper Zuccerella's extra point Barlow was already up 7-0 with 10:51 left to play in the first quarter.

Dylan Taylor intercepted a pass on Brookfield's next series to help set up the Falcons' second score. On second down Shaban hit Evan Corazzelli with a 43-yard touchdown pass and with the extra point it was soon 14-0.

Following another Brookfield punt, Shaban went up the middle for 47 yards before getting stopped on the Bobcat two thanks to a touchdown-saving tackle by Brett Palmer. It only delayed the inevitable, however, as Scott Romano found the end zone on first down and the Falcons soon led 21-0.

Things continued to go wrong

for Brookfield on the ensuing kickoff when Barlow's Lucas Sergi recovered a fumble on the visitors' 25. Three plays later shapeShaban found the end zone again, this time from half a yard out, and the Falcons went up 28-0.

Before the first quarter was finished, the Falcons would score one more time thanks to an interception by Taylor on the Brookfield 44. On first down he found some running room For the touchdown and with 22 seconds left in the quarter the Falcons were up 35-0.

After another punt by the Bobcats, the Falcons had some minor setbacks on their next series but still scored again, this time on a 24-yard run by Taylor and before the half was over the Falcons were up 42-0.

Soon after taking the second-half kickoff the Falcons scored their final touchdown. This one came on a 48-yard run by Romano down the right side and good for a 49-0 lead with the extra point.

Brookfield's lone touchdown came later in the quarter when Harrison Jenkins recovered a fumble on his own 47. This helped

set up a 15-yard reception by Kevin Robinson for the score. The two-point conversion worked and the Bobcats ended the shutout.

It was not until the fourth quarter when the Falcons had to punt for the first time in the game. While the Bobcats did have some luck moving the ball on what would be their final series, time ran out before they could put any more points on the board.

“Defensively, we were a little concerned with their two-back run package,” said Cavaliere. “But coach (Rob) Tynan did a real good job of making sure we were ready for it.”

He also praised the offensive and defensive line of seniors Kyler Cartmel, Aidan Skidmore, Colin Furrer,Tristan Counter and Andrew Zaia.

On offense, Shaban scored two touchdowns. He also passed for one to Corazzelli. Taylor ran for two touchdowns, as did Romano. Zuccerella kicked seven extra points.

Cole Peterson led Barlow with five tackles. Jack Gilbert had four. Taylor finished with two interceptions. ■

Green Wave shuts down Falcons | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo
Joel Barlow High's Brooke Bishop, left, clashes with a New Milford opponent during a varsity field hockey game on Oct. 17. Barlow lost 2-0.

A key piece of the puzzle was missing for the Joel Barlow High varsity field hockey team in its game against New Milford.

While the Falcons moved the ball well and their defense held up for the entire first half, finding the goal proved elusive. When their opponent ultimately broke through later on they had no answer in a 2-0 loss on Monday, Oct. 17.

“I would say that our team had a lot of chances,” said Barlow head coach Clara Ambrose. “We just didn't convert but I'm happy with the progress that they've made.”

She felt the first half was tightly played between the two teams. The Falcons did get close to the Green Wave goal a few times but only managed one shot and came

up empty.

With the score still 0-0 going into the second half, New Milford threatened when it was awarded several penalty corners. One with 9:28 left in the third quarter did it for the Green Wave, Meaghan Sheedy found the back of the net and the hosts were ahead to stay.

New Milford's other goal came off a transition play in the fourth quarter. After clearing the ball away from its goal, the Green Wave got the ball up field where Grace King took a pass from a teammate and sent the ball past Falcon goalie Julia Champagne to finalize the score.

“Sometimes that catches you off-guard a little bit,” said Ambrose. “We struggle a little

bit sometimes with that counter attack. Overall, I think it was a really good game and they played well.”

New Milford had a 7-1 advantage in shots on goal. Champagne made 2 saves in goal for Barlow, now 2-8-1 overall. ■

Barlow is tenth in league | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo
Sydney Borofsky, right, was first for the Joel Barlow High girls cross-country team and 19th overall at the South-West Conference championships on Wednesday, Oct. 19. Barlow finished 10th overall.

Throughout the season, the Joel Barlow High girls cross country team faced stiff competition from its opponents in the South-West Conference. Things did not change much in the league championship.

The Falcons, who finished with a 3-10 record during the regular season, were running in a much larger field of competitors on Wednesday, Oct. 19. Out of 11 teams, they finished tenth overall

with 240 points at the Mark Goodwin cross country course at Bethel High.

Defending champ New Milford easily won the team title again, this time with 34 points. New Fairfield was runner-up with 50 and Pomperaug was third with 73.

“They're still young,” said coach Ryan Paola, whose team only had one senior this year.”They all pushed through it.”

New Milford not only took the team title, it had four runners finish in the top ten places. Barlow's best performance came from Sydney Borofsky. Taking 19th overall in 21 minutes, 30.40 seconds, she was the only Barlow runner named to the All-SWC second-team.

The rest of Barlow's top five were more spread out among the field. Next came Eleanor Walker, who was 47th overall in 24:31.92.

A time of 25:28.92 got Sophie Peterson 53rd overall. Barlow's next 2 runners finished in succession.

Emily Wyszynski, the team's lone senior, was 62nd in 26:41.42. One spot later was Katherine Chan in 26:58.23 to complete the scoring for Barlow.

Also running in the varsity race, Emily Capeci was 67th in 27:52.63. ■

Homecoming week activities planned at Barlow

By Linda Meyer Mitchell

- Joel Barlow High School has a number of activities planned for Homecoming this year including spirit week as well as a homecoming dance, football game, and bonfire.
- Monday**
Halloween theme (school appropriate please!)
- Tuesday**
BBQ Dads / Soccer Moms
- Wednesday**
Class Colors Day (Seniors pink, Juniors purple, Sophomores blue, Freshman red)

- Thursday**
Senior Citizen Day
- Friday**
Black & Gold Day
- The Homecoming Dance is back after a few years Covid hiatus. The dance will be held at school on Friday, November 4th from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Cost of the dance is \$10 and the tickets will be on sale online and during lunch hours. Dance attire is semi-formal.
- Saturday at 3:00 p.m. is the Homecoming football game against Bethel High School. The community is invited to come and support the Falcon football team, who are having a great season.
- The game will be followed by a Homecoming Bonfire for students in the front field at school.
- The Bonfire will feature live music and food trucks. ■

Trick or Treat at Redding Town Hall

When? Monday, October 31, 2022

From 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Who? Elementary aged children please!

Wear a costume and get a treat!

There are interior shots of the Welles house -- one scene near the end shows Anne inside the kitchen before she runs out into the snow -- in the movie, although Bono does not know where they were filmed.

“They were not made in the parsonage probably because it was too primitive, or perhaps Edmonds did not want it. I do not know where they were shot. I do know that, in 1980, it was still pretty

basic.”

Among movie locations, according to IMDb, the Lawrenceville Inn and Village Green scenes were filmed in Bedford Village; Katonah train station was used to film scenes of Lawrenceville train station.

Victoria Ford grew up in a house on the Green but was too young to remember the time the movie was made.

“I watched the film for the first

time while living in Los Angeles and working in the camera department on films. My house is on the Green facing the church. I grew up playing on the one street in front of the parsonage so it was very nostalgic when watching those scenes. It's amazing how similar the green and church still look (today), minus the old barn,” she recalled.

“The movie itself was a huge hit,” Joe Meyers said. ■

John Read students enter CyberPatriot competition | *By Linda Meyer Mitchell*

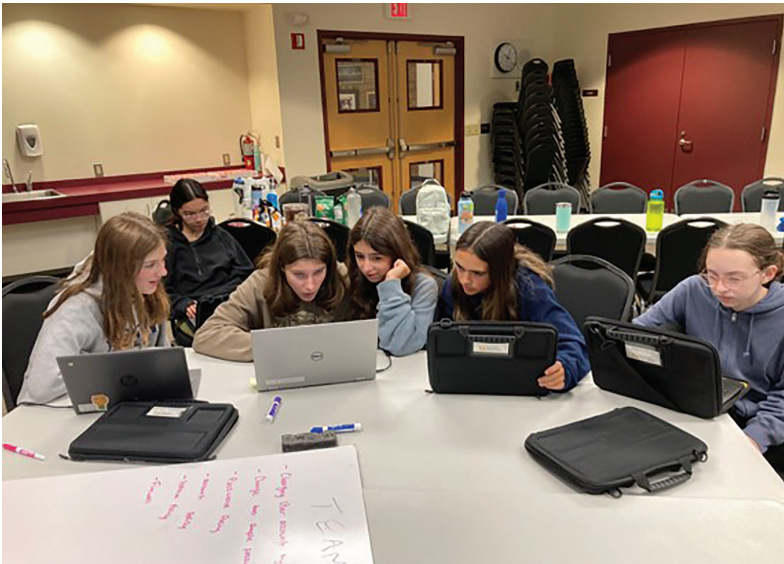


Photo by Bryan Holmes
CyberPatriot Team Four at John Read Middle School. Members (left to right) include Clara Mehner (team manager), Katie Kinyon, Carolyn Hopstaken, Sara Perales-Hudson, Hannah Whitney (team captain), and Jade Collins.

Students at John Read Middle School have the opportunity to get involved in an intriguing contest that involves one of the hottest topics around – cyber security. Twenty-four students under the direction of science teacher Bryan Holmes are currently participating in the Air Force sponsored CyberPatriot Competition. It takes place over several months and involves the students being presented with virtual computer systems where they have to

evaluate the security risks and other problems presented and come up with solutions to make the networks secure. The idea to offer this program to our 8th grade students came from Bryan Holmes, who began teaching science at John Read last year. Holmes was an Air Force pilot for 20 years prior to beginning his teaching career. He was looking for some ideas to enrich the science experience for students and came up with this

competition, which is sponsored by the Air Force Association and run as an extracurricular program at the school. So many enthusiastic students signed up to participate, the school currently has four teams of six students participating in the middle school division of the competition. Participation in the CyberPatriot Competition is a big commitment, but the students gain significant skills and learn about potential careers in the high demand cyber security world. There is no previous knowledge required; any student with interest can join the program and be successful. Students began weekly training sessions with Mr. Holmes in September to increase their cyber knowledge, utilizing free training materials provided by the Air Force Association. They are also fortunate to have Sean Mehner as team mentor. Sean, a parent and owner of Connecticut Information Security, has professional experience that is helpful to the team. To be successful, students need to put in time at home learning the material, in addition to the sessions at school. The weekly trainings cover a variety of topics related to security, with participants learning how to work with systems such as Linux, Ubuntu, and Windows.

The competition takes place over several days and is all done virtually via computer from the various participating schools. Round 1 took place at John Read on October 14th, when the students had the equivalent of an “in-school field trip” and spent six hours competing. Each team has a captain to help allocate the work during the competition, and the team has a manager as well to help set things up for competition days. Participants are presented with three different virtual computer systems which have a large number of security issues and problems to solve. The students function as system administrators of the networks, and each team has to utilize their training and the resources provided to design solutions that make the networks secure. Participants may be asked to maintain and improve critical services, fix vulnerabilities, remove malware from the systems, and answer forensic questions. In addition, on the same day teams participate in the Networking Challenge sponsored by Cisco. This involves a quiz and a Packet Tracer Exercise, which is a network simulator in which the students create virtual networks.

On competition days each team receives points along the way for the solutions they come up with and points are subtracted for mistakes made. The second round of the competition will be November 4th, and total points earned during the first two rounds will determine who advances to the state and national competitions held December through March. Stay tuned for information on how our Redding teams fare as they go through the competition. The National Youth Cyber Education Program was started by the Air Force Association several years ago to inspire middle and high school students to pursue careers in cyber security or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines which are critical to our nation’s future. This competition is part of that program, along with summer camps, an elementary school cyber education initiative, a literature series, and a Cybergenerations program designed to teach older generations about cyber awareness and how to avoid scams. More information about the programs can be found on the website uscyberpatriot.org ■

Historic house in Redding Center was Anne’s home in Valley of the Dolls

By Donna Christopher



Photo by Donna Christopher

A quintessential New England backdrop for fictional Lawrenceville in the 1967 movie adaptation of the Jacqueline Susann novel Valley of the Dolls has a local scene. There’s an exterior shot of an 18th-century white clapboard colonial next to First Church, Congregational in Redding Center. The scene is near the end of the movie when Anne Welles, played by Barbara Parkins, has come home. The house is referenced again in the final scene when she runs out into the snow in flats down a wooded path, a white house blurred in the background. In New York City, native New Englander Anne Welles (Parkins) becomes a secretary at a theatrical law firm and falls in love with attorney Lyon Burke (Paul Burke). Anne befriends up-and-coming singer Neely O’Hara

(Patty Duke), whose dynamic talent threatens aging star Helen Lawson (Susan Hayward) and beautiful but talentless actress Jennifer North (Sharon Tate). The women experience success and failure in love and work, leading to heartbreak, addiction, and tragedy. In the movie version, unlike the novel, Anne and Lyon never marry and do not have a child together. Rather, she leaves Lyon and returns to Lawrenceville, described as where she found real happiness. Movie trivia on Valley of the Dolls IMDb page says the movie’s original screenwriter Harlan Ellison had his name removed from the credits because he did not agree with the added happy ending the studio (20th Century Fox) wanted. The opening scene shows Anne on the train for the city. It was

snowing. The movie’s first and last scenes set the tone for Anne’s story in the movie, said Joe Meyers, film critic and the director of Programming of Focus on French Cinema in Greenwich. “Connecticut where Anne lives is presented as an idyllic setting, a beautiful place. It presents like picture postcards. It’s a stereotype of a beautiful New England town,” he said. Recalling the plot, Meyers said “She goes into the city and introduces us to the world of show business. At the end of the movie when Anne has gone through all this hell - the Patty Duke character was an addict. Anne also experiments with drugs - she ends up going back to Lawrenceville and it looks like a postcard.” The snowy scene at the end is when she comes full circle. “She’s in the kitchen and puts on her

fur coat and takes a hike in this beautiful area behind the house. The guy she had the affair with comes out to Connecticut and she says I’m not sure what I’m going to do. She’s kind of restored to her sanity when she comes home.” The book, Meyers recalled as a “top-seller” of all time. Everyone was reading it when it came out in paperback.” The movie was “very racy. Everybody thinks the character Patty Duke plays was Judy Garland and she runs into a movie star everyone was thinking was Ethel Merman. They thought they were getting an inside view.” Garland was initially cast to play Helen Lawson and was replaced by Susan Hayward. Marc Bono is the church’s historian, a member since 1980 the year his family moved to Redding. He lives in Stratham, N.H. In 1967 when the movie was made Bono was a college freshman in New Jersey, having grown up in New York City and “never heard of Redding.” The movie he recollected was “pretty cheesy and overstuffed with cliches. But it was daring, I suppose and so it caused a sensation. There were references in the film that, although he did not sleep there, George Washington dipped in the well, and that the house was there during the Revolution. That is not true. It was built in 1789. Also in the film, it is said that Paul Revere “rode by.” If he did, he must have been incognito. We used to joke about the place being used in the film,”

Bono said in an e-mail. The property was only used in external shots, made from across the Green, some directly and some from the four-way stop intersection, according to him, and there were some scenes that show cars parked on the diagonal cut-off and “folks walking between the opening in the fence and the street,” he continued. At the time of the movie filming the property was changing ownership. The church parsonage then was owned by Thaddeus Abbott, a deacon in the congregation. “He made carriage sleighs in what we call the studio today. He in fact donated some adjacent land to the local Methodist Society that wanted to build a place of worship. “The boundary of that donation was just a few feet larger than the building footprint. There was minimal land around it. The parsonage was purchased in the 1920s by Harry Edmonds, who had established the International House in NYC to serve as a residence for international students. Mr. Edmunds sold it and all the adjacent land and buildings to the Congregational Society soon after the (movie’s) filming.” The property today looks very different, Bono noted. There is a brown barn to the left of the Meeting House and a garage in the movie. The barn was torn down and the garage moved somewhere else on the property when the church built a Sunday School where the barn was. *Continued on page 4*

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MUSIC NOTE

Local band Vintage to play at fall festival this Sunday | By Linda Meyer Mitchell



Photo by Todd Bennett

Vintage band members Chris Howard, David Monson, Barlow student Julian Davies (guest appearance), Matt Champagne, Kris Singleton, Todd Bennett.

Redding Residents attending the fall festival at Barlow this Sunday will be entertained with live music by the local band Vintage. The band plays music that appeals to a wide variety of people and is

comprised of all local Redding residents. Current members include Todd Bennett on vocals and guitar, Matt Champagne on guitar, Chris Howard on bass, Kris Singleton on vocals and

harmonica, and David Monson on drums. A Barlow student, Julian Davies, occasionally joins the band and will be playing guitar with them at the festival this Sunday. Vintage was founded in 2017 by five Redding residents. The original members all knew each other through their families as they had kids in the same schools and sports teams and often found themselves at the same events. They decided it was time for the dads to have some fun as well as the kids and they all shared an interest in rock ‘n roll music, so the band was born in a basement with drums, a few guitars and the hope of one day playing live gigs. The name Vintage was inspired by a cool sign for Vintage Wine spotted on a band member’s trip to Napa Valley.

The band has now played more

than 20 gigs in the area since its founding and first appearance at the Westport bar/restaurant The Port, where they packed the house. The band has a significant and enthusiastic following of Redding residents who know them and enjoy the good mix of fun and danceable music. The band members clearly enjoy performing together and play cover songs from a wide variety of artists including Billy Joel, Foo Fighters, The Black Crowes, Pearl Jam, The Beatles, Elvis, and Tom Petty, among others. The band has recently been inviting Barlow freshman Julian Davies to join them. According to Todd Bennett, Julian is a young but amazingly talented guitar player, and the band is really happy to offer him a safe place to showcase his talent in public.

This Sunday band members are volunteering their time to play

at the fall “Fest for the Nest”, a community festival for all ages to raise money for a potential new fieldhouse facility at Barlow. Vintage has a goal to help support the community through music and has previously played at other fund-raising community events to help raise money for the Boys and Girls Club of Redding and Easton and Barlow sports teams. The band is available to play at local venues and private parties. Upcoming engagements include performances November 11th at Sugar Hollow, December 10th at Molly Darcy’s in Danbury, and a fundraiser December 2nd at Nod Hill Brewery to raise money for the Barlow Girls Lacrosse team. Check the website Vintagecoverband.com for additional information on Vintage. ■

Light up your holiday with a magical walking tour | By Pamela Brown



Photo by Pamela Brown

If you want to light up your season in a mesmerizing way, LUMAGICA USA will take your holiday to a new level of enchantment. The incredible walking trail and light show returns to Harvest Moon Farm and Orchard in North Salem, New York for its second year with a new theme – Enchanted Forest. It runs November 18 – December 31, from 4:00 p.m.to 9:00 p.m. Depending on your walking pace, the experience takes between 45 – 60 minutes. “It’s something different, unusual, and pretty magical. I’ve never seen anything quite like this. It’s pitch black and you feel like you’re walking up into the woods and then it’s illuminated with different themes, structures, and displays,” says Kristina Jahaly, manager, of the one-of-a-kind, family-friendly light experience that meanders through an expansive enchanted forest. The trail spans ten acres of apple orchards that are transformed into

six entrancing spaces illuminated by over 750,000 LED lights. “This is another opportunity to welcome folks from far and wide and from the community to our farm,” said Jahaly. Harvest Moon Farm and Orchard is a family-owned and operated apple orchard located in Northern Westchester County. In addition to apples, vegetables, and stone fruits, the orchard offers farm fresh produce, pasture-raised meats, and local dairy, hosts a variety of seasonal events, has a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, and a farm store and bakery that’s open from April through Christmas. They also sell Christmas trees, wreaths, greens, and more. The trail is filled with marvelous animal structures, festive decorations, surprises around every corner, and a long tunnel to walk through. Visitors will be able to step through Sparkling Light, Into the Wonderland, Magical Trees, A Great Celebration, Treats

and Sweets, and Beyond the Forest. “It’s pretty powerful when you’re in it and experiencing it. It’s completely immersive,” said Jahaly. Some of the whimsical creatures include a unique peacock light show that lights up the night, a larger-than-life soaring parrot, and a 25-foot-tall reindeer overlooking the entire forest. “I want people to feel surprised and invigorated. We want people to forget about the world and just get lost in the experience. It’s an opportunity to step into a magical space.” A hilltop stone patio is adorned with enormous sculptures. “Kids can actually sit on a huge teddy bear for a 3-D experience,” notes Jahaly. At the patio there will be hot cider, sweet, hard and mulled cider, and hot cocoa available for purchase. At its base, there’s an outside bar where hot food, fresh donuts, and beverages will also be available for purchase. The event is created by the world-renowned company who designs the exterior holiday displays along Fifth Avenue and Radio City in New York City and installations throughout Europe. This is one of 30 LUMAGICA parks around the world. “It’s a special experience for all ages and all kinds of people,” adds Jahaly. “It’s something to look forward to and to kick off the holiday season.” Harvest Moon Farm and Orchard, 130 Hardscrabble Rd, North Salem, NY. For tickets and more information, visit: harvestmoonfarmandorchard.com or call (914) 485-1210. (Note: Show takes place unless weather makes the walking path unsafe). ■

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INFLATABLES – VENDORS – PET PARADE – RAFFLE –
KICK BALL – VOLLEYBALL – WIFFLE BALL – CORNHOLE
– FACE PAINTING – HAIR BRAIDING – SLIME MAKING**

THENESTATBARLOW.COM

Connecticut Album Release Party

Friday, October 28

Doors open at 7:00 PM | Show at 8:00 PM

Tickets: \$20 | All Ages
Bijou Theatre, 275 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605

100% of your ticket purchase supports music education for Connecticut students. Music Empowers!

North County Band

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Toe-tapping Connecticut Country!

North County Band embodies country music from Connecticut. Performing a mix of originals and covers from Allman to Grateful, Waylon to Dwight, Wilco to Skynyrd, they are sure to get any wallflower dancing.

This event celebrates the release of their debut album "Connecticut" and supports Redding-based SpreadMusicNow. The title track is a love song to a woman, inviting her back to our great state of Connecticut. Anyone from the area will appreciate the references to the Huskies, the shoreline, and local greats like Mark Twain and Helen Keller.

OBITUARY

Anthony Steven Kaufmann March 19, 1942 – September 30, 2022



Photo from the family

Anthony Steven Kaufmann passed away suddenly on September 30, 2022. Tony was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, a passionate collector of books and friends, and an exceptional lawyer and book publisher.

This “forever student” had a photographic memory and loved regaling friends with stories of his global travels as a corporate lawyer and publisher. He treated friends to enthusiastically shared memories of his alma maters, Dartmouth College, Oxford University (graduate study in Anthropology) and the University of Pennsylvania (JD in Law). Rolled in would be stories of his Dartmouth days that inspired

“Animal House” and memories of his thespian days performing a small part, while in England, in Dr Faustus with Sir Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. Tony spoke five European languages and savored good food; calling on his background in anthropology, he took delight in chefs from around the world in their native tongues, with conversations that explored food, culture, and people.

Following Law School, Tony worked as a lawyer at Nixon, Mudge, Rose, Guthrie, Alexander and Mitchell, where he met his wife, Marianna, and then Botein, Hayes, Sklar & Hertzberg, which represented many publishing clients. Next Tony joined Grolier Incorporated, publisher of the

New Book of Knowledge, Encyclopedia Britannica and many publications sold internationally. As corporate attorney, Tony traveled extensively.

On leaving Grolier in corporate law, Tony purchased The Illustrated Bartsch, a scholar’s compendium of hard cover volumes, exquisitely and lovingly printed, of the greatest illustrators the world has known. During his stewardship the number of volumes grew from 62 to well over 140.

Tony was an exceptional skier, member of the Dartmouth Ski Team and a lifelong tennis player. He was generous with family and friends advising each on legal matters without charge.

He is survived by his loving

wife of 50 years, Marianna; his daughter Alexis, and husband Chris Herron; his son Matt and wife Kelly; and his beloved granddaughters, Reilly, Madeline and Diana. He is predeceased by his parents, Johanna and Theodore and his sister, Christine. He was a true original, great role model there will never be another like him. How lucky we were to know him, to learn from him and be inspired by him...for that we are all just a little bit better, open to new cultures and to helping others.

LEGAL NOTICES

WARNING: Notice of State Election - November 8, 2022

The Electors of the Town of Redding are hereby warned to meet at the polling place in said town on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, for the following purposes:

I. To cast their votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, United States Senator, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate, and Registrar of Voters.

II. To vote on the following question for the approval or disapproval of a proposed AMENDMENT to the Constitution of Connecticut, a vote of “YES” being a vote for approval, and a vote of “NO” being a vote for disapproval:

1. Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting?

The full text of such proposed questions with explanatory text, printed in accordance with §2-30a of the General Statutes, is available at the Town Clerk’s office for public distribution.

The vote on the proposed questions is taken pursuant to the Constitution of Connecticut.

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling place is as follows:

Voting District:
District #135

Location of Polling Place:
Redding Community Center

37 Lonetown Road,
Redding, CT

Absentee Ballots will be counted at the polls.

Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o’clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o’clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).

Election Day Registration will be conducted by the Registrars of Voters in the Town Hall Hearing Room, 100 Hill Road from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Dated at Redding, CT this 27th day of October, 2022. ■

Michele R. Grande,
MCTC-MMC
Redding Town Clerk

ARPA Town Meeting

At a Special Town Meeting held on October 20, 2022 at the Redding Community Center, it was voted as follows:

To use ARPA funds for projects as follows: \$15,000 for Georgetown signs; \$100,000 for Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton improvements; \$45,000 for construction and improvements at Redding Grange #15; \$60,000 for moveable wall at The Heritage Center; \$83,000 for Redding Board of Education “LOTS” Program; \$150,000 for improvements at Topstone Park; \$200,000 for restoration of wetlands at New Pond Farm; \$200,000 to support outdoor patio project at Mark Twain Library; \$113,000 for two pickleball courts at Redding Community Center; and \$250,000 towards the Joel Barlow “NEST” fields

improvement project.

The Town Meeting voted further to fund the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust (OPEB) the total amount of \$300,000 from the unassigned fund balance for FY 2022-2023. ■

Michele R. Grande,
MCTC-MMC
Redding Town Clerk
October 21, 2022

Daylight savings time ends November 6 | By Grace Whitmore



Whether you’re an early bird or a night owl, a high school student or the parents of one, the semi-annual changing of the clocks affects you.

“Spring ahead, fall back” is how we were taught to remember the seasonal adjustment.

But why do we bother? Back in the day, we were told it was because the barbecue lobby wanted longer daylight hours in summer so we could all spend more time grilling – and more money on grills. Now, it seems to be about children waiting for school buses in the dark.

The roots of daylight savings time go far back in our history – to Benjamin Franklin, who proposed aligning clocks with daylight hours in order to save candles. Nothing came of that idea then. But by the early 20th century some countries began to adopt the practice of moving clocks ahead

an hour in the spring and taking back that hour in the fall. Some – including Germany, the UK and the US – over the years have adopted seasonal clock-changing and then reversed course, going back to natural time. And then reversing themselves yet again to adopt the practice.

Those jurisdictions changing their clocks are in the minority, with only countries in latitudes where the practice makes a meaningful difference going along. Daylight savings time is rare in Africa and Asia and along the equator.

In the US, all states except Hawaii and Arizona change clocks twice a year. And it seems like every year Congress considers changes to this long-standing practice, with one group arguing for permanent Daylight Savings Time and another trying to legislate against the time-shifting

completely. As with many issues in Congress, there is a rural / urban divide. Rural interests tend to be against Daylight Savings Time while more urbanized areas are in favor.

Until the stand-off ends in Congress, be ready to turn your clocks back an hour in the early morning hours of November 6. Or rather, let your clocks and phones and devices turn themselves back while you sleep in an extra hour. ■

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Fire department gives Jaws of Life demo

calls for volunteers, tells of building plans | By Donna Christopher



Photos by Donna Christopher

Ambulance: EMT Mike Kiyak and Fire Police Aileen Mozdzer, At table with personal protective gear: Firefighter Sassya Karm, Firefighter-EMT Madison Opalinski, Firefighter Peter Cowherd, Demo with extriction tool: Firefighter Peter Cowherd

What do you wear in a heat wave? As little as possible.

So, imagine wearing heavy firefighter turnout gear and hiking toward smoke a mile-and-a half-into the woods to find and put out a brush fire.

The three town fire departments responded to that mutual aid call at Saugatuck Reservoir in August. One volunteer from Redding Fire & EMS Company 1 was injured and hospitalized from burns. He has since recovered.

A turnout coat consisting of several layers of fire-resistant materials weighs 20 pounds. Add 40 pounds for a helmet, pants, gloves, boots, and hood, self-contained breathing apparatus, including a mask and compressed air cylinder that weigh 35 pounds. Other equipment includes a radio, thermal imaging camera, and flashlight adds 10 pounds to the load.

“It was 95 degrees that day. First, we had to find the fire,” said Captain Joe Cowherd at an Oct. 16 open house event at the firehouse on Black Rock Turnpike.

Firefighters Sassya Karm and Peter Cowherd (Joe’s son), and Firefighter-EMT Madison

Opalinski displayed the turnout gear and offered for visitors to hold it or try it on.

Turnout refers to the time-saving practice of turning out the pants over the top of the boots so the firefighter can step directly into the boots and pull the pants and suspenders up in one move.

Karm said when she wears the personal protective gear it feels hot initially “as soon as you have everything on” though she gets used to it. On fire calls, “They give us a lot of breaks,” she said.

“We have to have this stuff on us when we walk, crawl into is more accurate, a building on fire, especially the breathing apparatus,” Joe Cowherd said.

The duties of the volunteers have inherent physical challenges and danger.

Joe Cowherd said everyone is required to have annual physical exams and approval from a doctor to do assigned tasks: whether as fire police, EMT, and/or firefighter. “We provide physicals to those who prefer, or physicals can be done by each member’s personal physician.”

“In August Redding was burning. We had to red flag after

the Saugatuck fire. It took one hour to get to it. We had to bring the brush truck on an unused trail. Nine departments responded. We had an injury and someone went to the hospital. That was an illegal campfire, intentionally set. That fire was a fluke and there is danger, but we mitigate the risk,” the captain continued.

Behind the firehouse, volunteers assisted Peter Cowherd as he tore off the driver’s side door of a Subaru with the extrication tool as a demonstration of how rescuers remove trapped victims in car crashes.

It took minutes of grinding and twisting of the metal until the door came off the car.

A small piece of debris hit one side of Cowherd’s goggles but did not harm. “Imagine if he wasn’t wearing the protective glasses,” Joe Cowherd said, children wearing goggles as they watched the activity with their family.

“He and I have used the Jaws together on calls to car accidents,” Joe Cowherd said.

The tools are heavy. The Jaws of Life hydraulic rescue tool weighs 51 pounds. The firefighters also pack a ram weighing 45 pounds,

an Omni Tool weighing 40, and a cutter that weighs 50 pounds, for rescues.

A CPR demonstration and information on carbon monoxide and fire safety was part of the day. The event was also a chance for Company 1 to put the word out it needs new volunteers, like all three fire departments in Redding.

Additionally, the fire commissioners were there to answer questions from property owners in the taxing district about their higher bills this year that will help fund a proposed new firehouse. A presentation was given about the district’s plans to demolish the existing structure, expand the parcel, and build a modern-day facility. The cost is \$7.7 million.

About 25 people came that morning, some locals and others from out of town. A Bethel family was among the rescue demonstration spectators. The open house ran into the afternoon.

David Hermenze, one of the district’s fire commissioners said there are about 500 households (property owners) in the district. Anyone can become a volunteer.

“There’s a fair amount of effort

that goes into this. We need more members,” Joe Cowherd said.


“This is the primary reason” for the event, he maintained.

“We’re short-handed. Everything we do would benefit from having more people. We’re always busy. We all have professional lives aside from volunteering here. That’s exactly what we would expect anyone would be interested in doing this work. It is extremely rewarding, fulfilling for members, and absolutely essential for the town.”

Edward Wypychoski, who lives near the firehouse, wanted to learn about the proposal.

“I’ve been in town since 1987. I want to know more about it. I haven’t attended the meetings. I remember when this firehouse was renovated in the 90s. There were a lot of controversies. I don’t remember the details.”


“Our volunteers are from age 16 to 83 and everything in between and don’t think the 83-year-old would not be active anymore. Everybody here has a talent and something to give,” Joe Cowherd said. ■




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Q&A with candidates for U. S. House of Representatives, 4th Congressional District

By Pamela Brown



Jim Himes

The race for five seats in the U.S. House of Representatives is a highly anticipated contest between Democrats who hold all seats and Republican candidates vying for control. The election for the U.S. House of Representatives, 4th Congressional District is a face-off between Congressman Jim Himes (Democrat - incumbent) and Jayme Stevenson (Republican - Independent). The 4th district covers 12 towns and cities in Southwestern Connecticut, including most of Fairfield County and some of New Haven County.

Congressman Jim Himes (Incumbent - Democrat)

Resident: Cos Cob
Married for nearly 30 years
Two children: Emma and Linley
Education: BA in Social Studies from Harvard. Awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University where he received a MA in Latin American Studies.

Congressman Jim Himes, who is currently serving his seventh term, serves as the Chair of the Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth as well as the National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy Subcommittee of the House Financial Services Committee. He recently shared his views in a phone conversation.

Jayme Stevenson (Republican -Independent)

Jayme Stevenson was born in Reading, Pennsylvania and received her B.S. in Telecommunications & Business Management from Arizona State University. She began her career as a bond analyst for Standard & Poor's and then as Vice President, Asset-Backed Finance. Jayme and her husband John, a native of Stamford and Darien, have been married 35 years, raised a family of five children and have two grandchildren.

Stevenson served as First Selectman of Darien from 2011-2021. During her tenure she was elected Chairman of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments, Chairman of



Jayme Stevenson

the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency, and First Vice-President of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. She recently shared her views in a phone conversation.

Why run for re-election?

Himes: We've made huge progress and I want to continue. We cut prescription drug prices for seniors, passed a generational infrastructure investment bill that will have a huge positive impact on Southwestern Connecticut, passed bipartisan gun safety legislation, we've buttressed our semiconductor industry, and reformed the Post Office. The Republicans are succeeding in taking away Americans' rights. They started with Roe v. Wade and I want to push back. The Republican Party has given up on our democracy. More than half of the Republicans running for House or Senate have cast doubt on the election of 2020.

What made you run for Congress?

Stevenson: August 26, 2021 when our president pulled us out of Afghanistan. I have a lot of family who have served in the military, and I said, 'This isn't the America I know and love. We don't leave citizens and allies behind and have American military gear in the hands of terrorists.' That was representative of so many things that have been, and are, going on in this country.

How do you define yourself?

Himes: I'm the sum of my experiences. I've spent 12 years in business so I call myself a pro-business democrat. I listen to business leaders when they say the number one problem in Fairfield County is transportation infrastructure and housing. I spent 5 years in the non-profit sector helping to build affordable housing so I have a good handle on the ways we can address the housing problems in our area.

Stevenson: I'm a fiscal conservative and social moderate.

What accomplishments are you proud of?

Himes: We passed the Affordable Care Act which today is providing health insurance to more than twenty million Americans. My wife just went through a fight to survive breast cancer so I had a real personal feel for what it would be like to not have health insurance. Secondly, the infrastructure bill we passed two years ago. It's going to have a transformative effect on southwestern Connecticut.

What are the main issues you want to address?

Himes: We need to continue the journey to clean sustainable energy. We made some progress but we have a lot of work to bring down the price of health care. I'd like to highlight the need to fix our system of training and education. We need to bring our system into the 21st century, focus on apprenticeship programs, alternatives to the traditional 4-year college, and craft a way for students to attend college without taking on crushing debt.

Stevenson: Inflation and crime. That terrible ambush of two police officers in Bristol seems to be the state of crime across our country. We're in a precarious place with crime not only across this country, but here in Connecticut. Immigration is a top-level issue for me. I believe in sustainable legal immigration.

What changes need to be addressed?

Stevenson: I will be a champion for skilled, well-trained law enforcement. I hear it on the campaign trail people want to feel safe and not afraid.

I'm passionate on women's rights. If we don't make change in Congress right now there will be changes that really set women back in terms of their equal rights. As a woman I don't appreciate the issue of abortion being broken down into a sound bite of pro-life/pro-choice. I favor a woman's right to make her own decision about her health, but I'm also pro-life. As a Republican who believes strongly in freedom and personal liberty, I don't think you can pick and choose what freedom you want to uphold and which you don't. The Supreme Court's decision this summer has set back those rights for many and it has also created a system of medical inequality for women across this country.

How are you a leader of change?

Himes: People of this district have always put a high premium on bipartisanship. I've always tried to honor that. I have lots of

friends across the aisle. Candidly, January 6th hurt that pretty badly in the Congress, but we're rebuilding and our system is such that it's very rare to get anything done on a purely partisan basis. I'll continue to work with the other party with respect and civility to make progress.

How do you set yourself apart from your opponent?

Himes: I'm speaking with a lot of clarity in a difficult time. I'm willing to say something that Mrs. Stevenson is not, which is I will unconditionally support a woman's right to choose, and unconditionally fight to support marriage equality, access to birth control, all of these things the Republican party has put into jeopardy.

Stevenson: I'm a woman. It's been 75 years since a woman sat in this seat. It's time to send a woman who has common sense, is pragmatic, who has boots-on-the-ground experience of serving as a local and state leader, to understand how government policies affect families, children, and small businesses. I'm a mom of five so I understand the challenges of families and how expensive it is to raise and educate children and how important high quality public education really is, not to pay lip service to it but to actually make sure every single child gets a high-quality education no matter what town or city they live in, and to partner with our governor to bring more diverse businesses and higher paying jobs.

What are your thoughts on this male vs. female race?

Himes: I'm in favor of more women in positions of power but they better be women with a record like mine of taking every opportunity to support women as opposed to the Republican party which has worked very hard to take away the freedom and opportunities women have fought for for several generations.

What are your greatest strengths?

Himes: I take very seriously that I'm a Democrat but I represent lots of Republicans and unaffiliated people so the key is listening. Way too many politicians speak first and listen second and I think that's the wrong order. My constituents know they will always get a fair hearing with me.

Stevenson: I'm a great listener and I have a unique ability to be able to hear the concerns that are in the minds and hearts of people and connect it back to policies and

bring people to the table to address issues, solve problems, and get projects done.

What issues are critical for you at this time?

Himes: Mental health. Many people are struggling with the effects of isolation imposed by Covid. My opponent was dangerously misinformed on Covid. She denied the value of vaccinations. One of the ways we made an investment in mental health is when we passed the bipartisan gun safety legislation and made available substantial resources to schools to work with their students on mental health issues. The various Covid bills provided funding for schools and other community groups to deal with the things that come out of a difficult time.

I've always been a supporter of our police departments and I've always voted to provide the resources they need to do their jobs. I also think some crime is attributable to some challenged inner cities, to the fact that there are urban populations that don't have a lot of other alternatives. I think we can do a much better job by providing them with jobs and programs that will take a young person off the streets into a more productive activity.

What is something people don't know about you but should?

Stevenson: I grew up in Reading, PA, one of the poorest cities in America with the highest incident of drug overdoses. I grew up in a really different place from here that has been foundational to my life's path. My father worked for a steel company headquartered in Reading but also had a factory in Bridgeport. I remember him coming up to Bridgeport until America began buying steel from China. My father lost his job two years before he was eligible for a pension. My mom had to go back to work. It was a difficult time for us.

Secondly, my oldest daughter had mental health trouble as a senior in high school, had a downward spiral, and got into trouble using drugs. She successfully recovered and came back into society. The challenges we had finding immediate and transitional care and getting insurance companies to help defray the cost of her care took us years. I'm keenly aware that every American, every family, needs to have access to affordable health care and mental health care services. ■

Candidate profile: Leora Levy, Republican *challenging Democratic incumbent*

Richard Blumenthal | By Donna Christopher



Leora Levy

Leora Levy is the Republican nominee in the 2022 United States Senate election in Connecticut running against. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who is seeking a third term.

Aged 65, Levy has lived in Greenwich for 34 years. She has been married to husband Steven Levy for 37 years and has three adult sons.

Q: Have you served in a previous public office?

A: Leora Levy has not served in a previous public office. She is a first-time candidate and was endorsed by former President Donald Trump. She is a committeewoman on the Republican National Committee, she said in a phone interview. The responses were provided in that

conversation and in a follow-up e-mail.

Her family immigrated from communist Cuba to the U.S. in 1960. She graduated with an A.B. in international relations from Brown University in 1978 and worked in the financial industry, including as a commodities trader at Phibro Salomon.

Why are you running for the U.S. Senate?

Richard Blumenthal is on the wrong side of every issue. I was waiting for the right time. He voted for policies that created an artificial energy crisis. People are having a tough time now. The price of home heating is so high it has families saying, 'Do I feed my family or heat my house?' I'm very concerned.

If I win, I will be the first Latina from Connecticut in the U.S. Senate. I am one of the first women in international commodity training. As chair of an organization called Shelter Our Strays, we partnered with the Bruce Museum to raise money for the new municipal shelter in Greenwich in 2009 and still have money left.

I have served on the Republican National Committee, and on the finance committee for four presidential campaigns.

I grew up in Charlotte, N.C. I went to public school when it was

integrated. My parents tried to force me to go to private school, I could have gone to private school. I got into all of the ones I applied for but I believed in integration. As a Jewish Hispanic woman, I experienced racism and antisemitism. I will always stand up for anybody who experiences discrimination. I will condemn anyone who fuels hateful sentiments.

I love door-knocking and my supporters and I have been all over the state. I speak English and Spanish. We raise money for our campaign door-knocking.

Q: What are the most important issues facing your constituents and what do you intend to do about them?

A: The economy and high price of heating oil and electricity, immigration at the border, the indoctrination of children with critical race theory, and the division in society between races.

I'm very concerned. The reason our electricity bills are so high is thanks to my opponent. Connecticut pays the nation's highest electricity prices and it will be winter soon. The prices are going up and we are in a cold state.

After 37 years in office, he is out of touch, and on the wrong side of every issue. He aligned himself with Biden's Green Dream agenda and their policies have

created an artificial energy crisis. People are having a hard time now. The price of home heating oil is \$5.68 a gallon when it was \$2 and change a year ago. Many families are having a difficult time paying for these rising prices - my own oil company called me months ago asking whether I wanted a full tank or half a tank because many cannot afford to pay for a full tank at a time. It is a failure of leadership when families have to decide whether they feed their family or heat their home. Winter is coming, and it will only get worse with energy resources at historic lows in the Northeast.

Q: What is the major difference between you and the other candidate (U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.) for this office?

A: He's a career politician and has been for 37 years. He's voted for all these policies. Unlike my opponent, I am a career American. I suffer from the same rising prices and energy costs while he lives in his DC bubble. He is out of touch with how his vote translates to making life unaffordable for families and the middle class here in Connecticut, but everywhere I go people are saying enough is enough.

"I want to hire more border control and revamp our legal immigration system. I want to tell

them it doesn't have to be like that, we can stop the influx of fentanyl and illegal immigrants from crossing our southern border with more boots on the ground, increased electronic surveillance, and a border wall. Instead of unleashing 87K IRS agents to go after the middle class and their hard-earned dollars, we should hire 87K border patrol agents to secure our border and keep Americans safe."

"I completely support parents against teaching critical race theory. It is cultural Marxism. Parents know what is best for their kids. It is not up to teachers, teachers' unions, or liberal school boards to decide when students should be exposed to specific subject matters. Our students have suffered from historic learning loss and test scores prove this to be true. We need to remove radical progressive ideologies from the classroom and return to teaching the fundamentals like math, reading, writing, science, grammar, civics, American Exceptionalism, and most importantly critical thinking."

Senator Richard Blumenthal has not responded to multiple requests for an interview. If we hear back from his office, we will publish his candidate profile in next week's issue of the Sentinel. ■

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Homefront Farmers brings a yard-to-table dining experience to your front door | By Justin Reynolds



Photo by Justin Reynolds

Interested in growing organic vegetables in your own backyard but not sure where to start? Give the folks over at Homefront Farmers a call. Headquartered at 130 Picketts Ridge Road on an 11-acre farm, Homefront Farmers builds and maintains organic gardens for clients across Fairfield County, Westchester County, and beyond. The business was founded in 2011 by John Carlson. At the time, he'd been doing corporate work, was called to switch careers entirely, and felt like environmental stewardship was very important to focus on. "He wanted to inspire people to get more involved with the local environment and believed the easiest way to do that was through food," explains Marissa Perri, director of sales and marketing for Homefront Farmers. "We bring people a yard-to-table experience, growing organic heirloom food in your backyard. We're gardeners and we build absolutely beautiful gardens. But our real bread

and butter is maintenance and education." In addition to building organic gardens at client's homes, Homefront Farmers—which has 25 employees—also gives customers the option to enlist the services of a homestead manager for upkeep and maintenance if the homeowner doesn't want to manage the garden themselves after it's built. Under this arrangement, the manager comes to your house once a week for a couple of hours to pick organic heirloom vegetables and ensure the garden is in tip-top shape. While some clients choose to shadow these managers, learn from them, and ultimately take on responsibility for managing their own gardens, others are happy to outsource the process entirely. "We've built 700 gardens since our inception and currently have 220 clients and service their gardens on a weekly basis," Perri said. "We develop 360-degree relationships with our clients. They ask us questions, we teach

their kids." Pricing is based on the square footage of plantable growing space, Perri explained. "Some just have a couple of planters," Perri said. "Other clients grow all of their own food in really big gardens." When you hire Homefront Farmers, the team comes to your property to determine where the best place for a garden might be, considering factors like whether the land is flat or has a slope, whether the space gets enough sunlight depending on what you're trying to grow, and whether there's good irrigation and drainage. "Then we lay out our build options from there," Perri explained. "No matter what the property is like, we can come up with a solution most of the time." One of the biggest obstacles preventing homeowners from building their own gardens is that they're worried the garden won't "look beautiful," Perri said. "Our gardens are gorgeous and made with cedar wood," she explained. "We build the garden soup to nuts, make sure it's built with nutritious soil, put cloth down to make sure pests can't get in, and put gravel down so that the aisles are nice and trim. When we're done, you have a ready-to-go garden." On top of this, Homefront Farmers also offers beekeeping services that work largely the same way. You can either opt for a hands-off installment and let Homefront manage a hive on your property for you, or you can borrow protective gear and enjoy

a more hands-on experience, shadowing the expert. Additionally, Homefront offers a maple sugaring service, where the team tours your property, looks for maple trees that are suitable for tapping, and installs sap collection buckets accordingly. As the sugaring season arrives, the Homefront team returns to your property, collects the sap and brings it back to their sugar shack where they boil and filter it. Next, the team bottles your sap, applies your family's own label to it, and then returns a case of it to your front door. Last but not least, Homefront grows mushrooms in a mushroom fruiting room and also sells "inoculated logs" to clients that will ultimately produce shiitake mushrooms on their own properties. "We tell clients to keep the log wet, put it somewhere shady, and they can watch mushrooms grow," Perri said. "Most farms are not working on mushroom fruiting." Prior to 2017, Homefront Farmers operated out of Carlson's home. He found the Picketts Ridge property in 2017 and decided to clear part of it for the business. Since then, the team itself has built up the property substantially, which now includes a 100-foot greenhouse, a pollinator meadow, and a farmhouse. "Everyone here is very proud that our gardening crew erected all of these structures," Perri explained, adding that building up the property has enabled Homefront Farmers to

host all kinds of events, including beekeeping lessons, gardening lessons, and organic heirloom plant sales. "The farm has become a community hub." Recently, Homefront hosted a kid's birthday party; guests learned how to pull weeds, prune plants, and even pick their own vegetables. "The look of surprise on a kid's face when they pull a carrot out of the ground is like nothing you've ever seen," Perri said. Everything that Homefront Farmers grows on its farm is certified organic, Perri said. "One of the best aspects of the property is that we have the ability to custom-grow amazing things for our clients," she explained, adding that the team has grown vegetables clients who moved to America miss from their home countries. To bring agriculture to underserved communities, Homefront Farmers donates 5% of its profits to Green Village Initiative, a nonprofit committed to creating a "more just food system" in Bridgeport, according to its mission statement. "Bringing agriculture to these communities is near and dear to our hearts," Perri said. If you're interested in learning more about Homefront Farmers, "give us a phone call, email us, or stop by," Perri said. For more information, visit <https://homefrontfarmers.com/> or call 203.470.3655. ■

The Nutcracker get in the holiday spirit | By Pamela Brown



Photo by Thomas Giroir Connecticut Ballet

It's not the holiday season unless you see a performance of The Nutcracker. The classic fairytale brings delight to all ages as they follow Clara on her Christmas adventure with the Nutcracker to the Land of the Sweets. Multiple performances are being presented throughout the area that will dazzle you with Tchaikovsky's music, enchanting scenery, and exquisite dancing. Some are nearby, while some require a bit of a drive. Get your tickets early. Many are already on sale! **The Bushnell:** November Performances: The Ballet Theatre Company of West Hartford returns with a refreshed version of the holiday classic. In an effort to address the lingering cultural appropriation in the 130-year-old ballet, artistic director Stephanie Dattellas has reimaged a new, vibrant, and cheeky Act II featuring magical treat-foods that would wow a

19th-Century young lady in a dreamscape and will delight modern audiences. Ballet Theater Company is ecstatic to welcome Lauren Lovette, former principal with the New York City Ballet as she returns to perform for a second year as the dazzling Sugar Plum Fairy. Performances: Nov. 26, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and Nov. 27, 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. December Performances: After hundreds of performances throughout Connecticut and New England, Artistic Director Brett Raphael's Connecticut Ballet brings its Nutcracker to The Bushnell's Belding Theatre for the first-time. It features major guest stars from American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet dancing the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and Her Cavalier. A meet-and-greet autograph/photograph opportunity with guest artists follows each performance. Performances: December 10, 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. and

December 11, 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Bushnell, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford. For more information, call (860) 987-5900 or visit bushnell.org. **Conservatory of Dance of Wilton:** A 10th anniversary production features a cast of dancers ages five to adult with choreography by the Conservatory of Dance staff. Performances: December 10, 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Wilton High School, Clune Center for the Arts, 395 Danbury Road; For tickets visit conservatory-of-dance.com or call (203) 544-8455. **Danbury Music Centre:** Performed for over 50 years, this community event features over 200 dancers, accompanied live by the Danbury Symphony Orchestra. The production is staged with beautiful scenery, costumes, and lighting. Performances: December 9, 7:30 p.m. and December 10 and 11, 3:00 p.m. Danbury High School, 43 Clapboard Ridge Road. For tickets, visit danburymusiccentre.org or call (203) 748-1716. **Dance Factory of Ridgefield:** The studio's fifth annual production is presented in partnership with Savatara Corporation. All proceeds benefit the Susan Vallo Memorial Dance Scholarship Program which provides tuition assistance and scholarships for dancers experiencing financial hardship in the Ridgefield community. Performances: December 10, 6:30 p.m. and December 11, 4:30 p.m. Klein Memorial Auditorium, 910 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport; For tickets visit theklein.org. Box Office is open one hour before each show for ticket purchases at the door. **Edmond Town Hall:** As part of the 37th annual festival hosted by Newtown Youth and Family Services, the Newtown Centre of Classical Ballet & Voice is presenting The Nutcracker Suite, a 60-minute version, under the artistic direction of Tory Gozzi.

The show features 60 dancers ages 3 -- 17. Elite singers from Jockey Hollow Middle School in Monroe are the Snowflake Chorus. Afterwards, young audience members can step onstage to meet the dancers and try some dance steps. Performances: December 4th, noon and 2:00 p.m. Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street, Newtown. For tickets, visit newtownyouthandfamilyservices.org/Special-Events/holiday-festival-2022/ or call (203)270-4335. **Main Street Ballet Center:** Main Street Ballet's Nutcracker has been growing and flourishing for over 30 years, delighting audiences of all ages. Each year brings more vibrant and colorful costuming, beautiful sets, and intricate staging. Pomperaug High School, 234 Judd Road, Southbury. Performance: December 10 at 7pm. For information call (203)263-5107. To buy tickets online, visit: mainstreetballet.org. Tickets will be available at the door. **Palace Theater (Waterbury):** As part of the World Ballet Series, The Nutcracker is performed live by a multi-national cast of 50 professional ballet dancers. The family-friendly event is accompanied by Tchaikovsky's timeless score and features over 150 hand-sewn costumes, hand-crafted sets, and classic Marius Petipa choreography. Performance: November 25, 7:00 -- 9:30 p.m. with intermission The Palace Theater, 100 East Main Street, Waterbury. For tickets, call (203) 346-2000 or visit palacetheaterct.org/shows-and-events/main-stage/world-ballet-series-nutcracker **Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance** presents The Nutcracker under the direction of Mary Beth Hansohn. Young dancers create the magical world of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker featuring exquisite choreography, custom-designed costumes, and a soaring score. Performances: December 9, 6:00 p.m.; December 10, 2:00

p.m. and 6:00 p.m.; and December 11, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge Road. For tickets, visit ridgefieldplayhouse.org or call (203) 438-5795. **Rockwell Dance Center of Trumbull:** The Center's annual A Winter Ballet features performances by ballet students of all ages and engagingly narrated by the magical Herr Drosselmeyer. The third act features a variety of different styles of dance, including hip hop, contemporary, modern, classical and contemporary ballet. Performances: December 10, 3:00 p.m. and December 11, 2:00 p.m. Mertens Theater, Arnold Bernhard Arts & Humanities Center of Paier College, 84 Iranistan Avenue, Bridgeport. Tickets available online by e-mailing: rockwelldancecenter@gmail.com or call (203) 502-8315. **The Hip Hop Nutcracker** takes audiences on a journey that celebrates love, community and the magic of the holiday season. In this re-mixed and re-imagined version of the classic, the dynamic performers of the production join hip hop pioneer Kurtis "The Breaks" Blow, the first rapper to be signed by a major label in 1979. Performance: December 30, 7:00 p.m. Shubert Theatre, 247 College Street, New Haven; For tickets, call (203) 562-5666 or visit shubert.com. **Connecticut Ballet,** with Artistic Director Brett Raphael, presents its Nutcracker featuring major guest stars from American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet dancing the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and Her Cavalier. A meet-and-greet autograph/photograph opportunity with guest artists follows each performance. Performances: December 17, 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and December 18, 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Stamford Center for the Arts' Palace Theatre, 61 Atlantic Street. For information, call (203) 325-4466 or visit palacestamford.org ■

Mural honoring former principal unveiled at RES

By Linda Meyer Mitchell

A whimsical and wonderful mural honoring former principal Bob Bernstein was unveiled at Redding Elementary School on October 11th. The mosaic mural was donated to the school in honor of Bob’s many years of contributions to the school and to the Redding community. Mr. Bernstein, 93 and long retired, was present at the ceremony along with the current RES principal Melissa Labroschiano, and he thoroughly enjoyed the visit to his former school. Also present at the ceremony were the creators of the mural, Barb Waters and Bob’s wife Bobbie Bernstein. Bev O’boza, who is the only remaining staff member at RES who had worked with the retired principal, introduced Mr. Bernstein.

Many Redding residents remember Bob, who served as principal at the elementary school for 25 years, from 1968 through 1993. He lived in Westport but became an integral part of the Redding community and felt very much at home at Redding Elementary School. Bob has remarked that each day at RES was a joy for him. He appreciated the wonderful support he had from the great staff and community. He felt the school should be open to the community as it was theirs and he welcomed parents to participate in the school in various ways. He also felt strongly that students should be encouraged to play and use their imaginations as well as work. Mike Mitchell, a student at RES from 1969 to 1974, remembers Mr. Bernstein as a friendly and encouraging principal



who did not believe in homework. The mural came to exist from a chance meeting between Mr. Bernstein’s wife Bobbie and professional mural artist Barb Waters, who met in an art class in Danbury. The two became fast friends, decided to work on a piece of art together, and ultimately chose to make a mural in honor of Bob and donate it to the elementary school. They met weekly for a year to discuss ideas and work on the piece, which is a very colorful mural made of glass, beads, and other items. According

to Bobbie, it was important to them that the mural represent Bob’s belief in a childhood filled with opportunities for imagination, play and creativity. The result of their efforts is the intricate and fun mural you see at RES. Thanks go to Stephen Pomazi and team, who installed the mural at the entrance to the school to be enjoyed by all students and visitors. Barb Waters, one of the two creators of the mural, is an artist who has produced several original murals for schools in the Danbury area and elsewhere. ■



Photos by Linda Meyer Mitchell

Left: A whimsical mural in honor of former RES principal Bob Bernstein was unveiled on October 11th at Redding Elementary School. Pictured with the mural (left to right) are Barb Waters, artist, Melissa Labroschiano, current RES principal, Bobbie Bernstein, and Bob Bernstein.

Right: Can you find 2 kids doing handstands, a dog, 2 bunnies, 3 dragonflies, 2 bumble bees, a spider, a girl with a butterfly net, 6 butterflies, a girl jumping rope, a boy flying a kite?

Burns, Hughes Vie to Represent Connecticut’s 135th

By Rob Sample



Anne Hughes



Alex Burns

The two candidates for Connecticut’s 135th district both voiced support for measures to stop or limit the proposal by Eversource to remove a stretch of mature roadside trees in Redding. The 135th district encompasses Easton, Redding and Weston and is currently represented by Democrat Anne Hughes, who lives in Easton and has served two terms since her election in 2018. She is being challenged in the 2022 election by Republican Alex Burns, a Weston resident and chairman of the Weston Republican Town Committee. Burns works for the Fairfield law firm of Russo and Ruzio, working with Land Use attorneys and preparing briefs for zoning issues for both residential and commercial properties. For his part, Burns said Eversource embarked on a similar tree-cutting program near his home. The utility did not remove the trees, he pointed out, but pruned them severely and the trees have since died. The result was a more dangerous situation than what the trimming measure sought

to remedy. “So, I totally see where the people in Redding are coming from,” said Burns. “From a personal standpoint, there’s nothing quite like driving through Weston and Redding on a fall afternoon and seeing the leaves changing. So, I’m opposed to it [cutting down trees].” Hughes pointed out that she has worked with the state’s attorney general and other officials to explore alternatives to Eversource’s proposed tree-cutting. “They plan to clear-cut 3.5 miles,” she pointed out. “All of Redding is a biosphere for the watershed of lower Fairfield County. Those trees are also protection from future storms.” While the two candidates generally agree on the need to preserve trees in both Redding and other Connecticut towns, they diverge on what they consider the most pressing issues of the day. Hughes sees a need to prioritize both green measures and abortion rights, and on the latter was part of a group of legislators who recently

developed and passed one of the least-restrictive abortion laws in the U.S. The latter resulted in part from the Supreme Court’s decision in May on Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health, which invalidated the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide and returned the issue to state legislatures. Hughes said the Dobbs decision will have a cascading impact on other prior Supreme Court cases, including ones involving same-sex marriage, contraception, and interracial marriage. “We have to be on the front lines and champion these rights in this country...it’s certainly not business as usual,” Hughes said. Hughes has also championed green-energy initiatives during her time in the legislature, including the Connecticut Clean Energy Act. This new law took effect on July 1 and among other measures, establishes a goal of deploying 1,000 megawatts of clean-energy storage by year-end 2030. In addition, tax credits for the installation of residential solar panels – which had been curtailed several years ago – have been restored. “Connecticut is a coastal state and we have to work hard to ensure a renewable future,” said Hughes. “We only get one shot at this.” A third priority Hughes has is expanding healthcare access in the state. It’s familiar territory. In addition to her elected duties Hughes is a licensed master social worker (LMSW) for Jewish Senior

Services’ Institute on Aging in Bridgeport and is Coordinator for its Center for Elder Abuse Prevention. “Affordable healthcare is always going to be a priority for me,” said Hughes. “We now have new plans [on the state’s healthcare exchange] that cover singles and the self-employed, extending coverage to 44,000 more Connecticut residents.” Known as CoveredCT, these new plans carry high deductibles, but also offer zero premiums for those who qualify for them based on income level. These are people who otherwise would be unable to obtain coverage they can afford. Burns said fiscal issues are especially problematic in Connecticut and described himself as a “fiscal hawk.” Despite recent budget surpluses the state still has the highest taxpayer debt in the U.S. However, Burns noted that through careful attention the state can keep budgets balanced without gutting essential social services. “My number-one priority is to work to make Connecticut fiscally solvent,” Burns said. “Balanced budgets are important, both in one’s personal life and in government, and having debt is never a good thing. Debt becomes a tax not just on ourselves but on people who haven’t even been born.” “I’m a firm believer that our state can be both fiscally solvent and socially responsible,” added Burns. He also champions the need for Connecticut to maintain its

system of strong local government. “One of the best things about living in New England is how well things are run on the local level,” Burns said. “With this approach accountability is all important. People in state government won’t always know Redding, Connecticut from Redding, California.” When local government is designed to promptly respond to issues, you’ll always get proper attention from your first selectman or mayor – and then, your state representative, he said. Burns currently serves on Weston’s Planning and Zoning Commission, a group characterized by bipartisanship in its operations. Burns said he learned this firsthand in a family that consisted of both Republicans and Democrats. Both sides of the aisle can have good solutions to problems, he said. He called upon both Democrats and Republicans to listen to each other and join forces, instead of turning every issue into a battle for control. “I think level headedness and understanding is the way to go,” he said. “That approach makes me unusual in this age of hyper-partisanship.” That said, Burns is running because he feels Connecticut needs to go in a different direction. In particular, he believes his message will appeal to unaffiliated or undecided voters. “If you value management skill and leadership over ideology, I’m your guy,” Burns said. ■

Milestone hosts Comedy Spectacular on November 2

By Aline Weiller



Local comedians will perform on Wednesday, November 2nd at 8:00 p.m. at Milestone in Georgetown. Come for dinner around 6:30 or 7:00 p.m., then stay for the show. Reservations are encouraged and there’s a suggested entertainment donation of \$5. Or, just come for the 8:00 p.m. show.

IN PHOTO, FROM LEFT: Laura Von Stein, Dr. Heidi Aishman, Trish Gernert, Aline Weiller Not shown, but also performing: Laurie Newkirk, Glenn Smith, Dave Tarpey, and a special “Kid Bit” performance by tween, Peter Zeitz

The Natural World

Flora | By Terry Karpen



Photo by Terry Karpen

Welcome and thanks to Terry Karpen, author of this week’s Flora column.

Did you know that Flora can mean?

- the Roman goddess of flowering plants.
- the plants of a particular region,

habitat, or geological period.

- the Latin word for flower.

Putting Your Garden to Bed for Winter:

Fall gardening chores and maintenance are a process, like housekeeping, but for your

landscape.

Evaluate your garden and landscape:

Fall is a great time to assess this year’s gardening successes and failures and begin planning for spring. Take notes and photos. Consider winter interest for a four-season landscape. A good four-season landscape has a combination of perennials, annuals, shrubs and trees with different colors, textures and blooming seasons.

Plant:

Fall is the ideal time to move plants, plant new or divide existing perennials (move ornamental grasses in spring only). In the fall a plant’s energy is used in rooting, not in foliage or flowering. Plant spring-flowering bulbs. Plant deciduous trees and shrubs (those that lose their leaves in winter) until the ground freezes.

Don’t prune:

The rule on fall pruning is don’t prune in the fall. Pruning stimulates new growth just when the plant is trying to go dormant. New growth does not have enough time to gradually adapt to frost exposure before freezing temperatures hit. There is one exception to the rule on pruning during the fall: dead, damaged and diseased branches or limbs can be pruned at any time of year.

Cut backs:

Perennials can be cut back or leave plants with seed pods or flower heads that provide winter interest or food for birds. These will then be cut down in the spring.

Water: Continue to thoroughly water lawn and planting beds until the ground freezes. This is especially important for evergreens which continue to lose moisture through their foliage.

Leave the leaves:

Leaving the leaves on planting beds is a great way to add organic matter and nutrients to your soil. This will improve the health of the soil and provide natural mulch. Make a leaf pile and jump in! Being outside increases your happiness and health. ■

Terry Karpen is proprietor of Queen Of Spades Gardens and Landscapes

Redding Grange #15 held its Agricultural Fair October 23

“a booming success” said one participant



Photo by Alice Smith

Democratic candidates enjoyed the Grange Fair along with Redding residents. From left, Eric Russell (State Treasurer), Diana Carlino, Anne Hughes (incumbent Representative 135th district), Virginia Keim, First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton. Back row John Talley, Bill Whitehead



Photo by Bill Whitehead

Grange Pomona Karen Staff won first prize in the “Best corn something” category with her whimsical display of corn cobs eaten by local animals.



Photo by Susan Clark

Girl Scouts Ellie Edwards and Maya Khanna, pictured here with Redding Grange President Elizabeth Jensen, were junior judges at the Grange Agricultural Fair on Sunday, October 23.



Photo by Elizabeth Jensen

Grange member Sandi Martin and graphic designer Nigel Holmes. Nigel designed the eye-catching graphic for the Grange Fair.



Photo by Michael Mitchell

Becky Dowd, of Little Birdie Cookies, judged the “Best Family Cookie Recipe” and shows the special Grange cookies she made for the Fair.



Photo by Alice Smith

Redding artist Jimmy Grashow judged the “Best Farm-esque art” category at the Grange Fair.



Photo by Michael Mitchell

Cecelia Stanton, judge for the Chicken Beauty Contest, shown with blue ribbon prize winner Maverick from Farm Jibe It.



Photo by Michael Mitchell

Adam Brower, first prize winner in the “Best Farm Costume” contest, sporting his much admired carrot tie.



Photo by Elizabeth Jensen

John Iles with the giant chicken at the fair where people could put their head through a hole to be photographed. Or just have a good set-down.

Real estate update

By John Talley and Bill Whitehead

We discovered the data used for last issue’s September real estate report were incomplete and therefore year-to-date sales and averages were understated. This is a corrected version of the report. Apologies.

Thirteen houses sold in Redding in September ranging in price from \$400,000 to \$1,295,000. Days on market were as few as four, and as many as 83. The market is softening, with average price per square foot declining in Redding and all but one of our surrounding towns.

| Redding Sold - September | Sale Price | List Price | %/ List Price | Days on Market |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 37 Portland Hill Rd | \$ 400,000 | \$ 399,000 | 0.25% | 55 |
| 299 Redding Rd | \$ 440,000 | \$ 449,000 | -2.00% | 61 |
| 6 Packer Brook Rd | \$ 450,000 | \$ 419,900 | 7.17% | 36 |
| 55 Long Ridge Rd | \$ 452,000 | \$ 400,000 | 13.00% | 4 |
| 26 Deer Hill Rd | \$ 600,000 | \$ 619,000 | -3.07% | 33 |
| 40 Fire Hill Rd | \$ 600,000 | \$ 515,000 | 16.50% | 26 |
| 89 Hill Rd | \$ 630,000 | \$ 649,000 | -2.93% | 51 |
| 54 Dayton Rd | \$ 735,000 | \$ 750,000 | -2.00% | 49 |
| 42 Ledgewood Rd | \$ 735,000 | \$ 799,000 | -8.01% | 83 |
| 68 Wood Rd | \$ 765,000 | \$ 795,000 | -3.77% | 28 |
| 14 Dorethy Rd | \$ 805,000 | \$ 772,000 | 4.27% | 4 |
| 34 Sunset Hill Rd | \$ 1,100,000 | \$ 1,175,000 | -6.38% | 80 |
| 8 Packer Brook Rd | \$ 1,295,000 | \$ 1,295,000 | 0.00% | 69 |

| September and YTD trends | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----|--------------------|-----|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------|--------|
| Town | Current Inventory | Sold | | Avg Days on Market | | Avg List Price | | Avg Sale Price | | Percent Sale Price >/< List Price | | Avg Price/SqFt | |
| | 8-Oct-22 | September | YTD | September | YTD | September | YTD | September | YTD | September | YTD | September | YTD |
| Redding | 34 | 13 | 108 | 45 | 48 | \$ 695,146 | \$ 883,193 | \$ 692,846 | \$ 894,663 | -0.33% | 1.30% | \$ 273 | \$ 303 |
| Ridgefield | 46 | 33 | 302 | 40 | 46 | \$ 978,909 | \$ 961,697 | \$ 983,482 | \$ 990,482 | 0.47% | 2.97% | \$ 322 | \$ 336 |
| Weston | 30 | 22 | 170 | 61 | 56 | \$ 1,736,318 | \$ 1,295,826 | \$ 1,771,817 | \$ 1,349,173 | 2.04% | 4.12% | \$ 420 | \$ 363 |
| Wilton | 37 | 24 | 207 | 42 | 45 | \$ 1,125,529 | \$ 1,119,893 | \$ 1,165,560 | \$ 1,184,762 | 3.56% | 5.79% | \$ 355 | \$ 354 |
| Easton | 33 | 10 | 86 | 47 | 60 | \$ 766,990 | \$ 931,315 | \$ 781,400 | \$ 962,838 | 1.88% | 3.38% | \$ 269 | \$ 268 |
| Bethel | 18 | 13 | 110 | 50 | 43 | \$ 451,595 | \$ 492,718 | \$ 457,531 | \$ 506,502 | 1.31% | 2.80% | \$ 271 | \$ 246 |
| Newtown | 53 | 33 | 257 | 62 | 53 | \$ 533,130 | \$ 564,049 | \$ 542,184 | \$ 579,961 | 1.70% | 2.82% | \$ 249 | \$ 245 |
| Average | 36 | 21 | 177 | 49 | 50 | \$ 898,231 | \$ 892,670 | \$ 913,546 | \$ 924,029 | 1.52% | 3.31% | \$ 308 | \$ 302 |

John Talley and Bill Whitehead are Realtors with Vincent & Whittemore Real Estate.

State Treasurer Candidates

By Rob Sample



Erick Russell

Erick Russell is an attorney at Pullman and Comley in Bridgeport – where his area of specialization focuses chiefly on the financial world. He is running as the Democratic candidate for Connecticut Treasurer. Russell practices law as part of his firm’s Public and Private Finance Department. In that capacity he represents state and municipal governments in the issuance of tax-exempt and taxable bonds and other debt obligations. He also represents issuers of 501(c)(3) bonds and other types of investments. Russell has made the state’s debt and pension obligations a priority of his campaign. “The state treasurer is charged with issuing and managing the state’s bonded debt, which funds critical infrastructure such as schools, housing, transportation, child-care facilities and clean-water programs,” Russell said. “I will apply my experience to guide the treasurer’s office in making critical investments that provide

for continued economic growth and more vibrant communities.” Russell also pledged to pay down unfunded pension liabilities and help the state remain fiscally sound, while facilitating continued investments at the lower borrowing costs that would result from better bond ratings. Almost 300,000 state and municipal employees, teachers and retirees are pension plan participants and beneficiaries. “We must keep the commitments our State has made to current and future employees and retirees who have paid into our plans and ensure that we protect the long-term solvency and funding of our pension for the future,” Russell said. Russell would build a diversified investment portfolio that could weather inflationary conditions and would optimize asset allocation. He also would maximize investment returns, minimize investment fees and increase overall fund efficiency. Russell has also called for greater involvement by the state treasurer in the governance of the investments it owns. For starters, he aims to divest the state of any investments in gun manufacturers and begin to move away from fossil fuels. He would also place a stronger emphasis on diversity. “As a gay, black attorney working in the financial industry, I know how critical it is to have diverse voices represented in board rooms and in state government,” Russell said. Russell previously worked as a

litigator at Pullman and Comley. Earlier in his career, Erick represented low-income taxpayers before the Internal Revenue Service and the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services as part of the University of Connecticut School of Law’s Low-Income Tax Clinic. “What I love is that I get to give back to communities across the state,” said Russell in an interview with the alumni magazine at University of New Haven, where Russell received a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. “These are the projects that make our communities and our state stronger, more stable and more reliable. It is what families rely on. My work has a direct impact on people in the state, and it is rewarding.” In addition, Russell would work to institute a “baby bond” program for children who are in the state’s HUSKY health-insurance program. It would set aside funds in an investment trust for these children, money they could use at age 18 for education, starting a business or a first home purchase. In concert with that program, Russell would institute a financial-literacy initiative. This would include a curriculum to be offered by school districts throughout the state, with a goal to help people become more financially resilient. Russell grew up in New Haven and received his bachelor’s degree in 2009. He received his juris doctorate from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 2012. He and his husband Chris live in New Haven. ■



Harry Arora

Harry Arora, the Republican candidate for Connecticut State Treasurer, is running on a platform that emphasizes debt reduction, improving pension returns and streamlining Connecticut’s \$1 billion-plus unclaimed-asset fund. Arora is a former investment manager who currently serves as the state representative for Connecticut’s 151st district. “The state treasurer manages \$50 billion in pension assets and \$30 billion in debt,” Arora said. “For more than 20 years I worked successfully in the financial markets. I’ve also served several terms as a state representative. I’m the only candidate with the right qualifications to manage our treasury.” Despite a recent budget surplus, the state’s debt burden increased from \$65 billion to \$100 billion during the years 2016-2021. “The state could have refinanced our debt at lower interest rates last year – but didn’t,” said Arora. His solutions would include more judicious debt issuances and bonding, extending debt maturities at low-interest rates when market opportunities arise and lowering overall debt-service costs. In similar fashion, Arora said the state’s pension plan has been marked by underperformance and excessive investment-fee payments. It ranks near the bottom among states’ pension funds and currently has just 40 percent of the monies it needs to pay its pension obligations. That puts present and future pensioners on shaky ground. “We pay investment fees of \$150 million each year and we’re not even beating indexed funds,” Arora noted. “The role of treasurer is complex: It’s less about politics

and more about finance. But for the past 20 years, there hasn’t been a financial person in the job. That has taken a toll.” A third objective of Arora’s would be revamping the state’s unclaimed-assets fund. There are a variety of ways an individual might end up with assets in this fund, such as an inactive bank account. The money in such accounts can ultimately wind up in the state’s unclaimed-assets fund. Moreover, the money in the unclaimed-assets fund increases each year. Yet, the process of reclaiming such assets by the owner is often cumbersome and slow. With today’s technology, there should be no reason for this to happen, in Arora’s view. “We are supposed to return those funds as fast as possible to their rightful owners but that isn’t happening,” said Arora. “I will make it happen. For starters, when any new funds that come in we will identify the owner and his or her location and – boom – they’ll get it back without delay.” Arora holds a bachelor’s degree in engineering from Delhi University in India and an MBA from the University of Texas, Austin. He holds a second master’s, in policy administration, from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. Arora was born in India and came to the U.S. 27 years ago, when he was in graduate school. He became a naturalized American citizen in 2004. He lives in Greenwich with his wife and their three children. In addition to serving as a legislator, he manages his own hedge fund, AlphaStrat, from an office in Greenwich. It specializes in identifying promising investments in alternative energy sources. As a fourth initiative, Arora would set up a program within the treasurer’s office to improve financial literacy – a goal that overlaps with some of what Democratic candidate Erick Russell has also proposed. Arora’s program would focus on five areas: budgeting, investing, borrowing, insurance and identity protection. ■



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ARTS

Sunday, Oct. 30

Watercolor and Landscape Painting Instruction
1:00 — 4:00 p.m.
Weir Farm National Historical Park
735 Nod Hill Rd
Wilton
nps.gov/wefa

CHILDREN, TEENS

Saturday, Oct. 29

Making Wildlife Feeders
10:00 — 11:00 a.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
Registration required
newpondfarm.org or
203-938-2117

Tuesday, Nov. 1

Story Times at Topstone Pond
10:30 — 11:00 a.m.
Story, song- bring beach chairs/
beach blankets.
Registration required
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org

Saturday, Nov. 5

Fall Flashlight Walk at Topstone Park
Grades 5-12
5:00 — 6:30 p.m.
Scenic walk, roaring fire, fall treats- bring a flashlight
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
Contact sarah@marktwainlibrary.org

Saturday, Nov. 5

Nature Prepares for Winter
10:00 — 11:00 a.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
Registration required
newpondfarm.org or
203-938-2117

Sundays, Nov. 6, Dec. 4

Poetry Workshop Series: Social Justice and Activism
Grades 5-8
3:00 — 4:00 p.m.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
Contact sarah@marktwainlibrary.org

CRAFTS

Saturday, Nov. 5

Festival of Crafts
Brookfield Historical Society
9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
Whisconier Middle School
17 W. Whisconier Road
Brookfield

Saturday, Nov. 5 -
Sunday, Nov. 6

CRAFTWESTPORT
Westport Women’s League
Saturday 10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.
200 modern American artists and makers
Staples High School
70 North Avenue
Westport
artrider.com/craftwestport2022

Sunday, Nov. 6

Knitting & Spinning by the Fire
12:00 — 3:00 p.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
Registration required
newpondfarm.org or
203-938-2117

FOOD

Sundays, Oct. 30, Nov. 6

Georgetown Farmers Market
10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.
4 Old Mill Road
Georgetown
Info at
geremiagardens@yahoo.com

HALLOWEEN

Fri. Oct. 28, Sat. Oct. 29

Ambler Fright Night
6:00 — 8:00 p.m.
Grades 3 - 5
Drop-off event, registration required
Ambler Farm
257 Hurlbutt Street
Wilton
amblerfarm.org

Saturday, Oct. 29

Ridgefield’s Halloween Walk 2022
10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
Main Street
Ridgefield

Saturday, Oct. 29

Halloween Spooktacular & Boo Bash
9:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m. (Ghosts)
11:15 a.m. — 1:15 p.m. (Goblins)
1:30 p.m. — 3:30 p.m. (Gremlins)
6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m. (Boo Bash)
EverWonder Children’s Museum
31 Pecks Lane
Newtown
everwondermuseum.org

Saturday, Oct. 29

Trunk or Treat Street
3:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Bring one individually wrapped bag of candy per child
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
reddingneighborsandnewcomers.org.

Sunday, Oct. 30

Trek Fairfield Halloween Ride
Bike ride
8:00 a.m.
Collis P. Huntington State Park
Sunset Hill Road
Redding, CT 06896
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/trek-fairfield-halloween-ride-tickets-420860654547

Monday, Oct. 31

Tiny Tots Halloween Party & Parade
Ages birth - 5
10:30 — 11:15 a.m.
Costumes, stories, songs, movie, snacks
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org

Monday, Oct. 31

Trick or Treat
Elementary school-aged children
3:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Redding Town Hall
100 Hill Road

Monday, Oct. 31

Halloween Party
6:30 — 8:30 p.m.
Food, games, prizes
Georgetown Firehouse
6 Portland Avenue
gtownfire.org/events

Friday, Oct. 28 -
Tuesday, Nov. 1

Norwalk Fright Nights: Into the Deep
Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts fundraiser
30 minutes haunted event
The SoNo Collection
100 N. Water St.
Norwalk
norwalkfrightnights.com

MUSIC

Friday, Oct. 28

Toe-tapping Connecticut Country!
North County Country Band
Doors open 7:00 p.m., show at 8:00 p.m.
Bijou Theatre
275 Fairfield Ave.
Bridgeport
spreadmusicnow.org

Saturday, Oct. 29

RSO Quartet in Concert
Inspired by 52 Artists: A Feminist Milestone
6:00 p.m.
Aldrich Museum
258 Main Street
Ridgefield
thealdrich.org

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Tuesday, Nov. 1

Building The Fieldwork Archive: Organizing Oral History with Folklorist Derek Piotr
7:30 — 8:30 p.m.
Lecture by folklorist Derek Piotr who conducting fieldwork in Appalachia, documenting traditional songs and stories passed through the generations
Hybrid
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org

Wednesday, Nov. 2

Three Children Who Changed the World
11:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
Real-life stories about three young people who individually changed the landscape of compassionate generosity.
Comstock Community Center
180 School Road
Wilton
rvnahealth.org

Sundays, Oct. 30, Nov. 6

#HandsOnHistory: It Takes a Village
11:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
Family demonstrations
Blacksmithing, shoemaking
Skilled craftspeople, and artisans
Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center
132 Main Street
Ridgefield

Wednesday, Nov. 9

Women and Money Roundtable: How to Make Sense of Today’s Financial Markets
1:00 — 2:00 p.m.
Virtual
Registration required
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org

Saturday, Nov. 19

New Pond Farm Education Center Presents - It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play
Elementary school-aged children
3:00 — 5:00 p.m.
Redding Town hall
100 Hill Road

SEASONAL

Saturdays and Sundays

Pick Your Own Pumpkins and Gourds
Hayrides, hot pumpkin lattes
10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Warrup’s Farm
11 John Read Road
Redding
Warrupsfarm.com

Seven Days a Week

Pick Your Own Apples and Pumpkins
11:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Blue Jay Orchards
125 Plumtrees Rd.
Bethel
bluejayorchardsct.com

MEETINGS / EVENTS

Thursday, Oct. 27

Redding Historic Cemetery Committee Special Meeting
2:00 — 3:00 p.m.
Town Hall Hearing Room
100 Hill Road
townofredding.org

Friday, Oct. 28

ER9 Boards of Education Policy Committee
9:00 a.m.
Central Office or virtual via Zoom
654 Morehouse Road
Easton
er9.org

Tuesday, Nov. 1

Economic Development Committee Special Meeting
8:30 a.m.
Town Hall Hearing Room
100 Hill Road
townofredding.org

Tuesday, Nov. 1

Redding Board of Education
7:00 p.m.
John Read Middle School
486 Redding Road
johnreadps.org

Tuesday, Nov. 1

Conservation Commission
7:30 p.m.
Virtual
townofredding.org

Wednesday, Nov. 2

Ives Trail Task Force
9:30 — 11:00 a.m.
Town Hall Conference Room
100 Hill Road
townofredding.org

Wednesday, Nov. 2

Brown Bag Lunch with the First Selectwoman
1:00 — 2:00 p.m.
Town Hall Hearing Room.
100 Hill Road
townofredding.org

Friday, Nov. 4

ER9 Boards of Education Policy Committee
9:00 a.m.
ER9 Boards of Education Central Office or Virtual via Zoom
654 Morehouse Road
Easton
er9.org

If you have an event you’d like featured here,
or if you’d like us to showcase additional categories of events,
please e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org

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OFFERING PLENTY OF PRIVACY**



49 Deer Hill Road, Redding | \$929,000
Private two-acre retreat, with in-ground pool, on a lovely, quiet street that is close to everything. 3,400+ SF inside and a gorgeous tree-lined property, this four-bedroom Colonial has it all!
Listed by:
John Frey | 203.240.0624



5 Winding Brook Court, Redding | \$735,000
Appealing and expanded Colonial situated on two acres in desirable central Redding. Country Kitchen with granite & stainless-steel appliances. Four-season Atrium/Sunroom overlooking a private back lawn.
Listed by:
Sharon Hoverman | 203.733.5073



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