

Town prepares for Community Center space study

By Rocco Valluzzo

To better address the needs of various municipal departments, the Town is seeking their input before issuing a request for proposal (RFP) for a Community Center space study. Voters approved \$88,000 at the May budget referendum to fund the study, which will help to assess the needs for programming and other activities at the Community Center.

Last month, First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton met with Park and Recreation Director Rob Blick and Assistant Director Deelia Wadsworth as well as Social Services Director Angelica Fontanez and Heritage Center Program Coordinator Margherita Pilato to discuss current and future uses of space at the Community Center. The Registrar of Voters Office was also included, as voting for elections and

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Photo by Tony Gale

A frog peeks out of the water at Alvin and Betsy Ruml Preserve. If you have a photo you’d like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Local churches see attendance trend upwards

By Pamela Brown

According to new research led by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, American churches have survived many of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and are experiencing notable growth and renewed engagement among congregants. The study surveyed over 24,000 Christian church attendees across over 80 denominations and found that one-fifth of current attendees reported increased attendance compared to pre-pandemic levels. More than one-third of those surveyed joined their current congregation within the past five years, illustrating a wave of new members for Christian churches through church switching, returning to active participation, or first time participation.

Several of the churches in Redding reflect these findings. “Our in-person attendance has been steadily increasing. Our Sunday services are on average anywhere between 75 to upward of 125

attending with holidays or special events cresting over 200,” said Suzanne England, Chair of Church Council and Andrew Cotter, Chair of Deacons of First Church of Christ, Congregational in Redding Center. The church currently has 404 members, and England and Cotter noted attendance can dip during the summer months.

Congregational Churches do not have an overseeing organization like the Catholic Church (Diocese) or Presbyterian Church (The Presbytery). “Each Congregational church is its own entity, tracking their attendance independently. We’re part of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC and report our attendance numbers to the Conference annually,” said England and Cotter, noting the Covid-19 shutdown of in-person worship did have an impact on attendance. “Prior to that, we had healthy attendance for both Sunday worship and Sunday school. After re-opening, our attendance was as low as 20 people on average. We

provided recordings of each service on our website, so many people preferred to stay home and watch,” they explained. Since then, the congregation has seen a steady increase in average weekly attendance, recording a slight dip in 2024 from the prior year followed by a strong uptick during spring 2025.

According to England and Cotter, Easter season saw a large confirmation class and new members joining. “The month leading up to Dean Ahlberg’s departure (who retired in June), we were at the high end of our typical range of 120 and almost doubling that on his last day. While the past few months may be skewed somewhat by the imminent departure of our pastor of 35 years, numbers have been strong all spring hovering around the 100 mark which is higher than the past two years,” they said. Since 2020, the church has had 10 to 20 new members each year who either join as adults or are confirmed. “This

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REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

Summer spontaneity Mary Anne Guitar Preserve

By Eric Lucido



Photo by Eric Lucido

About two hours ago, I hiked the Mary Anne Guitar Preserve and finished my journey on the small pull-off at the Glen Road/Newtown Turnpike intersection. What a journey that was. From spontaneous beginnings to bugs, glistening

brooks, and lots of ferns, it was nothing short of special.

Mary Anne Guitar was a highly dedicated public servant, serving six terms as the First Selectwoman, and playing an instrumental role in establishing Redding Land Trust. She cared deeply about preserving Redding’s natural beauty – spending time in the outdoors is a great way to honor her legacy. Mary Anne Guitar passed away in 2017 at the age of 95.

Parking at the trailhead is limited, so it’s an ideal drop-off hike. My father and I went on one of our cherished Tusk & Cup runs beforehand – I got a frozen lemonade, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I finished the drink just in time to be dropped off at the Preserve’s entrance. We agreed to stay in touch, and I was off. I happened to be wearing slippers and pants on an 86-degree summer day, but that’s

neither here nor there. That added to the experience... but proper footwear is recommended.

My hike began at 10:45 a.m. I was amazed by the expansive woods ahead of me and was quickly introduced to the hilly terrain. Thankfully, my basketball hobby keeps my cardiovascular health in check, so I didn’t find myself short of breath despite my quick pace. I jogged off and on.

The bugs were numerous. I could use my hat to swat them away, which made for a more pleasant experience. As far as wildlife goes, I saw a deer, a barred owl (to my surprise), and many small frogs. I didn’t get any pictures of the wildlife, but I captured the beauty of the trail on multiple occasions.

Things got more interesting about 20 minutes in, when I

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State agrees to borrow \$155 million to offset cost of electric bills

By John Moritz

The State Bond Commission this month agreed to borrow \$155 million to help offset the cost of residents’ electric bills, at least partially delivering on a promise of savings made by lawmakers during the most recent legislative session.

The bonds were issued to pay off a portion of the public benefits charge, which is used to fund state-mandated programs that have become subject to intense scrutiny in the larger debate over Connecticut’s high cost of electricity.

By borrowing money to pay for some of those programs, officials estimated customers could see an average of between \$5 and \$10 savings on their monthly electric bills starting in September, depending on usage and which utility customers get their electricity from.

The Commission, which is led by Governor Ned Lamont, voted unanimously to approve the borrowing at its Friday, August 1 meeting.

“I know how upset everybody is with electric rates,” Lamont told reporters afterward. “We didn’t make a big difference, but we made a difference... at least by reduced rates. I can’t promise you what your bill is going to do, it depends what you do with the air conditioner.”

The authorization to borrow money to provide direct relief to ratepayers came from Senate Bill 4, the omnibus energy savings legislation that lawmakers spent months crafting earlier this year. Lamont signed the bill after it passed both chambers with bipartisan support in early June.

The initial estimates from proponents of that bill were that it would save customers in Connecticut between \$325 million and \$350 million annually off of their electric bills – or about \$100 a year for the typical customer. The bulk of that savings, at least initially, is expected to come from the state bonds.

The initial tranche of borrowing approved by the Bond Commission on August 1 included \$125 million to pay off unpaid bills that accumulated during the Covid-19 pandemic, along with \$30 million to cover the costs associated with the state’s electric vehicle charging program. Both costs were previously included as part of the public benefits charge.

An additional round of borrowing is expected next year, according to Lamont’s office. If approved, the associated savings will last through early 2027.

During the negotiations over S.B. 4, Republicans pushed for an even bigger package of savings by removing the public benefits charge altogether from customers’ bills and instead paying for those programs through the state budget.

While that could have resulted in savings of up to 20% off customers’ bills, the cost – estimated at around \$1 billion annually – proved to be unpalatable for Democrats,

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Slate of candidates for municipal election

Candidate Name	Party Endorsed
First Selectman - November 18, 2025 - November 16, 2027	
Julia Pemberton*	Democratic
Selectman - November 18, 2025 - November 16, 2027	
Diana M. Carlino*	Democratic
Michael P. Thompson*	Republican
Town Clerk - January 5, 2026 - January 3, 2028	
Michele R. Grande*	Democratic and Republican
Town Treasurer - November 18, 2025 - November 16, 2027	
W. Wesley Higgins*	Democratic and Republican
Tax Collector - November 18, 2025 - November 16, 2027	
Patricia J. Moisio*	Democratic and Republican
Board of Finance - November 18, 2025 - November 18, 2031	
Roger E. Van Ausdal*	Democratic
Jenifer Wyss*	Republican
Redding Board of Education - November 18, 2025 - November 20, 2029	
Laura Worosz*	Democratic
Chirag Sadana*	Democratic
Katie R. Risk*	Republican
John Belfatto*	Republican
Board of Assesment Appeals - November 18, 2025 - November 20, 2029	
Liz Candler**	Democratic
Gregory Stackpole*	Republican
Planning Commission - November 18, 2025 - November 20, 2029	
Laurie L. Heiss*	Democratic
Steve Gagnon*	Republican
Jess Gaspar	Republican
Zoning Commission - November 18, 2025 - November 20, 2029	
Amy L. Atamian*	Democratic
William Miller*	Republican
Zoning Board of Appeals - November 18, 2025 - November 20, 2029	
Jonathan Hopkins	Democratic
Jill H. Cito*	Republican
Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate - November 18, 2025 - November 20, 2029	
Sarah Unfried*	Republican
Leif Smith*	Green Party
Constable - November 18, 2025 - November 16, 2027	
Cheryl Graziano	Democratic
Jeffrey A. Boxer*	Democratic
Jeffery Fligelman	Democratic
Ron Derven	Democratic
Urs B. Furrer*	Republican
William R. Cook*	Republican
Leif Smith*	Green Party
Regional 9 Board of Education - December 1, 2025 - December 1, 2029	
Meghan Bendish	Democratic
Kristina Scaviola	Democratic

*incumbent
**current alternate

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POLICE BLOTTER

Police activity July 28 – August 10

By Donna Christopher

Police assisted with 11 emergency medical services calls and four fire department calls.

Suspicious person

On July 28, a report of a suspicious person was made on Lone-town Road. The case is still under investigation.

On July 30, a resident on Olmstead Road reported that two men came to a door claiming to be from Frontier. Both had badges from Frontier and were located by officers and checked to be okay.

On August 5, a suspicious person was reported on Old Redding Road. Police determined the person was a solicitor with a proper permit working for a solar panel company.

Theft

On July 29, a complainant reported that his car parked on Sunset Hill Road had been broken into and a wallet, \$400 cash, ID, and documents were taken.

On August 2, a walk-in to the police station reported that someone had gone through his vehicle parked on Sunny View Drive the night before and taken his wallet.

Traffic

Police stopped 139 motor vehicles, issuing eight misdemeanor summonses for either speeding

or reckless driving, 31 tickets, 52 written warnings, and 47 verbal warnings. One stop resulted in no action. The infraction rate was 28%.

Two DWI misdemeanor summonses were issued. The first was issued to a Redding driver on August 8 on Umpawaug Road for failure to have rear lamps and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs. The second was issued to a driver from San Francisco, CA on Black Rock Turnpike on August 9 for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

On July 29, a two-vehicle mirror collision on Glen Road (Route 53) was reported.

On July 31, a single vehicle collided with a deer with no injuries on Pinetree Road.

On August 1, a resident on Redding Road reported that a vehicle pulled over in front of her home and a female yelled help because there was an issue with the child in the back seat.

On August 2, there was a report of a two-vehicle collision with no injuries on Redding Road (Route 107).

On August 2, there was a report of a single car motor vehicle collision on Chalbourn Road with no injuries. The driver struck a stone wall and was issued a ticket. ■

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

To the Editor,

I'm writing to express my support and appreciation for the "Bridge too far" piece submitted by Bruce Nelson in the last edition of the *Sentinel*. When I look around at the time it took to build some of the country's most massive construction projects, it just seems we should be able to repair a small country bridge in less time than what is being proposed. I also recall that years ago, the Town pushed back on the State's influence on the stone railroad bridge repair on Simpaug Turnpike in keeping with the local, country appeal. Is that a feasible consideration today, or has this water already passed under the bridge?

Again, my thanks to Bruce Nelson. ■

David Smith
Redding Road

Pirie Associates developing Georgetown Revitalization concept options

By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Miles Prusa

Laura Pirie of Pirie Associates gathered feedback from families with school-aged children at Mark Twain Library on Tuesday, August 5.

After meeting with focus groups and conducting its first discovery session on the Georgetown Revitalization project, Pirie Associates is now in the process of designing concept options for the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill property and the surrounding area. The firm is also holding discovery sessions specifically for parents with school-age children and residents of Meadow Ridge.

The New Haven-based architectural and landscape firm also will be integrating information from Architectural Preservation Studios, working on a market study, and providing options for development to the Town that include economic costs, benefits, constraints, and other factors.

Since 2022, Redding has received four Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) grants of \$200,000 each and a Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cleanup grant of \$1.9 million. Pemberton said that the Town (with assistance from engineers) is drafting specifications for that work now, which will take until 2027 to complete.

"We've come a long way," Pemberton said at a Board of Selectmen meeting on July 29. "All of this work factors into the narrative that will determine whether our next grant is successful."

To help track the progress of the project, Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee Chair Amy Atamian has created a web-based story map which can be found at <https://arcg.is/0DrOX9>. It also has a contact tab for those who want to help or get more information.

Architectural Preservation Studios is currently on-site at the Wire Mill conducting a building assessment to determine the needs and costs of building stabilization. They will also coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the hazardous building material removal at the Machine Shop building. Pemberton said the Town will apply for a building stabilization/clean-up grant of up to \$6 million from the DECD once its next round of funding opens.

The project's market study indicated that Georgetown is well-positioned to absorb between 140 and

150 new multifamily units. The retail vacancy rate across Redding, Wilton, Weston, and Ridgefield is only 2.3%, which is extremely low.

"Small format, independent businesses have an unmet need," said Laura Pirie of Pirie Associates. "A village is really well-suited for those creative, independent entrepreneurial businesses."

A second community discovery session will be held on Saturday, September 20 at Joel Barlow High School, where Pirie will provide three strategies or designs for the public to review and comment on. Each strategy will be accompanied by a fiscal impact analysis.

The first, which is the lightest touch option, involves stabilizing Wire Mill structures for only municipal and non-profit uses and parking on the Wire Mill site. There would be no change to existing roadways.

Option two includes a more conservative interpretation of the 140 to 150 residential units, possibly reducing that number to 100 units, and planning to realign roadways to try to accomplish this.

The third option would look at including a transit stop (train station) in Georgetown located on the Wire Mill property, in part protecting Church Street and Portland Avenue from extra traffic.

"The options are driven by prioritizing different goals that the Town has so we can actually see what the different options might mean in terms of additional revenue generation cost, public benefit, and addressing the values and the desires of the community," said Pirie. "There are a lot of pieces to this. Hopefully we'll have some visible changes." ■

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Connecticut Humane Society pet resource center sets opening

By Donna Christopher



Photo by Donna Christopher

A 15,000-square-foot pet resource center for the Connecticut Humane Society is in the final stages of construction on Danbury Road in Wilton, just south of the intersection with Route 107.

Executive Director James Bias recently gave the *Sentinel* a tour of the facility, which will shelter up to 100 animals, but also provide a host of other resources including low-cost medical care, a drive-through pet pantry, and behavioral support for families facing difficulty in keeping their pets. The organization hopes these services will further its goal to help more animals remain in their homes rather than face surrender. While most animals are dogs and cats, sometimes guinea pigs, rabbits, mice and even an occasional bird or chinchilla get surrendered to Connecticut Humane Society.

Bias explained that pet owners looking to surrender a pet would do so by appointment, so that staff could help assess the situation and what resources might be needed to keep the pet in their home.

“They might come in and they just say, ‘Look, pet food has gotten expensive.’ And we say, ‘Hey, if we give you food, would you be able to keep your pet?’ Or if they have a minor medical issue, and (say) ‘I just went to the vet, and it was

going to be \$300.’ (We’d say) ‘If we could check you into one of our exam rooms, would you be able to take them?’”

Bias walked through the facility, describing the purposeful layout that takes operations into consideration and is specifically designed for the animals and the people who take care of them. It features three exam rooms, private “get-acquainted” rooms for people considering a pet for adoption, a separate area for aggressive dogs, and end-of-life services with a private entrance for family members in the medical clinic. Comfort is built into the sleek design, with sound-insulated kennels with natural light, sunny rooms with solar tube skylights for cats, and a private space for small animals which are housed separately from larger animals to reduce stress. A laundry room is fitted with washers and dryers including a high-grade commercial machine on a raised slab to prevent shaking of the building when in use. There is a room dedicated for staff to use if they need a quiet place to take a break or for nursing mothers who need privacy.

The clinic will offer medical treatment for the public’s pets by appointment, as well as shelter animals, with the medical portion of

the facility occupying about 60% of the building. The building is equipped with advanced mechanical systems for air handling, fire protection, and technology, ensuring efficient and hygienic operations. Work headed by Viking Construction is in the final phases of layout and equipment for the surgical suites, and equipment has already arrived from the recently closed Westport center to be installed. The building’s designers/architects are Amenta Emma Architects in Hartford and Animal Arts in Boulder, CO. Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department is coordinating on any remaining approvals and inspections.

The project also includes landscaping with native plants, including in the stream on the property where non-native species have been replaced with local flora.

“The landscape architect went with all native plants and preserved the black walnut tree right here,” Bias pointed out outside the building. “All the invasive species have been taken out of the water course.”

The facility also has inside and outside play areas – on permeable surface for water to run through to mitigate potential water puddling. There is ample outside space on the wooded property for volunteers to spend time with the animals and an elevated walking trail behind the property for longer walks.

A capital campaign – still underway – is funding the project. The original goal was \$8 million but has since been revised to \$14 million due to rising construction costs. The facility will open on Friday, August 29, with public open houses that day and Saturday, August 30 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Operations will begin by appointment only.

Learn more or support the project at cthumane.org

Road paving plan gets underway

Bridge design expected by late fall

By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Jessie Wright

Redding’s annual road paving plan is now underway, with milling, paving, and reclaiming expected to be completed by September.

Indus, a company based in Braintree, MA, is now paving Poverty Hollow Road from the Newtown border, continuing to Church Hill Road. Indus will then move on to Woodland Drive and Woodland Drive Extension.

Other roads will have to be reclaimed, a process in which the full thickness of the asphalt surface and a portion of the underlying base is uniformly pulverized and graded to serve as the base for a new road. These include John Todd Way, Fire Hill Road, Fire Hill Lane, and Musket Lane, according to First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton.

“These are some of the roads with the worst rating,” said Pemberton at a Board of Selectmen meeting on July 29. “So we’re taking care of those.”

Starting in August, Shady Lane and Glen Hill Road will be milled, which involves removing the surface layer of an existing asphalt pavement using a specialized machine called a milling machine. This process grinds away the asphalt, creating a textured, grooved surface ready to be paved with new asphalt.

While some roads will be in rough condition in August, Pemberton said it should not affect buses when school begins later in the month.

“Everything is weather-dependent,” she added. “If it rains, everything gets bumped.”

The Town also plans to continue some road work in-house with its own Highway Department crews in September. Roads impacted by road work will be listed on the Town website at reddingct.gov.

Redding has received \$6.065 million from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) State Local Bridge Program (SLBP) for replacement of the four bridges lost in last August’s flooding. This amounts to 50% of the expected costs for replacement.

The Town will also be reimbursed 75 cents-per-dollar of the remaining costs by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The final design and engineering for bridges on Sport Hill Road and Long Wall Road were awarded in May and June respectively. Both projects will be done by engineering firm Tighe & Bond, which will be out on both roads this month to take borings.

Pemberton hopes that by late fall the Town will have the final design for these bridges and the project can go out to bid so that construction can begin in April 2026. A request for funding must be submitted to the Board of Finance.

The Requests for Proposal for design and engineering for the Brookside Road and Green Bush Road bridges are posted on the Town website and will close in mid-August. ■

Summer Celebration

An evening of good food and live music at Poliak Preserve

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Heavy rain date August 24

For tickets, sponsorships, or more info, visit reddinglandtrust.org/summercelebration or scan the QR code:

Redding Neighbors & Newcomers adds family picnic to its summer event line-up

By Pamela Brown



Photo courtesy of Jess Tyson

The RNN Summer Party is always a much looked-forward-to event.

It is still summertime, and that means party time. This month, Redding Neighbors & Newcomers will be doubling their usual fun with the addition of a family-friendly summer party, which joins its annual adults’ bash in August.

“We used to do only an adult summer party, but this year we’re adding a family-friendly event,” said Jess Tyson, RNN President. “By facilitating events like this, people can meet their neighbors and become more connected in town. Adding a summer picnic for families felt like a natural progression to be more inclusive of all our residents.”

The inaugural summer Family Picnic, for all ages, takes place on Saturday, August 16 from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Topstone Park. Parents must stay and supervise all children. Tickets are \$5 per person (this does not include admission fees or passes to use the Topstone beach and boats).

“The picnic is a chance for the community to casually come together. People can swim and play with the sand toys at Topstone. Beach games are welcome,” Tyson said, encouraging people to bring a picnic. Ice Cream Emergency, a mobile ice cream parlor, will be offering build-your-own-sundaes with a variety of flavors and toppings.

“Adults will have another opportunity for their families to engage with each other and enjoy our beautiful outdoor space at Topstone Park,” Tyson added.

RNN’s annual adults-only summer party is Friday, August 22 at the residence of a longtime member. “It is a special celebration of our town and all its residents. It has become a Redding tradition,” said Tyson. “I love that this party is relaxed and welcoming. It provides a

sense of friendship and community, and a fun night to mingle with old friends, meet new ones, and enjoy a summer night outside.”

The adults-only summer party is open to anyone 21 years old and up. Tickets are \$60 per person for non-members and \$50 for members. “RNN actively welcomes non-members to join us. That’s why we’re offering a three-month free trial membership to newcomers who attend,” Tyson explained.

A buffet-style meal will be catered by Sand Wedge of Ridgefield and will include an assortment of salads, pastas, chicken, meatballs, steak, salmon, shrimp, and roasted vegetables, along with passed appetizers. RNN will provide soft drinks and water, with BYOB alcoholic beverages.

“The dessert portion is potluck. Many of our members love to cook and bring their creations to our events. We always have an abundance of delicious treats,” said Tyson, noting participants who bring something will be entered into a raffle to win a free RNN membership and Redding swag.

Music will be provided by the B-Side Band, a cover band playing mostly ‘70s songs. “It’s a much-loved local band that includes RNN members. They’ve performed for RNN in the past and they’re back by popular demand,” said Tyson. “At both parties, you know that everyone you meet will be an RNN member, resident, or friend, which makes for a safe, welcoming environment. They’re a great way to introduce people to our wide variety of activities and help us engage as a community with both new and long-time neighbors in Redding.” ■

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit redding-neighborssandnewcomers.org

Town prepares for Community Center space study / continued from page 1

referendums is typically held at the Community Center.

“What we talked about was that this is much more than just a strategic plan for any particular one program,” said Pemberton at a Board of Selectmen’s meeting on July 29. “Those individuals were tasked with documenting all of their office needs, square footage needs, each program and the space they use.”

Pemberton has since received a preliminary report from the Social Services Department and Heritage Center and expects one from Park and Recreation before meeting again toward the end of August. Feedback from these departments will be analyzed before the RFP is finalized.

“These are all the pieces that we’re thinking about,” said Pemberton. “I don’t want to put out an RFP that doesn’t meet everyone’s expectations for what we want back in the study. It’s too important to rush something out.

She noted that enrollment numbers are down Park and

Recreation’s Extended Day after-school program. Part of the reason is due to a lack of reliable access to space.

Although the Extended Day program previously had access to the Redding Elementary School cafeteria, the space is now frequently used for two musical productions during the academic year put on by the school’s Parent Teacher Association. Extended Day does have use of other space, but the locations vary.

“They’re not spaces where kids can come after school,” said Pemberton. “It’s not structured. To run a quality Extended Day program, we cannot rely on the schools. So, to design an Extended Day program that is successful that can be reliably revenue generating, we need to be able to count on a certain amount of square footage in the space that is to be used for the program.”

Pemberton hopes to have all the necessary feedback in time to issue an RFP for the space study in September. ■

Firm chosen for redesign of Barlow STEM spaces

By Anne Young Albanese

For the past year, the Region 9 Board of Education has been discussing and identifying the needs for a redesign of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) spaces at Joel Barlow High School. The Board recently selected Silver Petrucelli & Associates (SP&A) of Hamden to assist with the redesign. While part of the appeal of SP&A was the firm’s competitive pricing, the Board said it was also impressed by their strong portfolio of similar STEM-focused educational projects. The firm’s approach to its designs emphasizes flexible, collaborative, and hands-on environments, which aligns with the Board’s instructional vision for 21st-century STEM education.

“We’re confident that their design will support the Board’s vision of creating innovative, student-centered learning spaces

that inspire critical thinking and collaboration,” said Mike D’Agostino, Director of Facilities & Operations for Easton, Redding and Region 9 (ER9).

Some of SP&A’s recent projects include the STEAM Education Center in Glastonbury and Career and Technical Education spaces at Foran and Jonathan Law High Schools in Milford.

“We are excited to work with Silver Petrucelli & Associates to design a space that enhances student learning and provides a dedicated environment for hands-on, inquiry-based learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,” said ER9 Superintendent Dr. Jason McKinnon.

The redesign comes as STEM fields grow in importance in an increasingly technologically-advanced world.

“We look forward to working

with them and the Joel Barlow community to create learning spaces that will prepare our students for a rapidly evolving world where innovation, analytical skills, and creative problem-solving are essential for success,” added Todd Johnston, Chair of the Region 9 Board of Education.

The next step will be for SP&A to conduct stakeholder feedback sessions, including with students, staff, and community members. SP&A will hold these sessions throughout the design process to ensure that the new spaces at Joel Barlow High School reflect the needs and aspirations of the entire school community. Feedback will be incorporated as the firm develops educational specifications, conceptual drawings, and high-level cost estimates for both design and construction. ■

Schools recognized again by National PTA

By Anne Young Albanese

The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has again designated both Redding Elementary School and John Read Middle School as Schools of Excellence. This designation honors schools for the 2024-2026 school years and recognizes them for their effective family-school partnerships. Redding Elementary School has received the designation since 2020, and John Read Middle School since 2022.

“We are incredibly excited to have John Read Middle School designated a National PTA School of Excellence this year,” said John Read Middle School PTA President Beatrix Eriksen. “We’re grateful to the administration and members of our school community who supported our efforts and worked so

hard in achieving this goal. There are five main steps involved in the year-long process, which includes gathering and analyzing community feedback in the fall, identifying areas of strength and opportunities for improvement based on the fall findings, building and creating an Excellence Action Plan to improve and increase family engagement, and deploying a second community feedback survey in the spring to measure progress and success. (This) allows us to identify immediate, medium- and long-term goals geared at increasing and improving family engagement at every level.”

Kristina Scaviola, Redding Elementary School PTA President, said that their work over the past year and in the coming year will

be primarily focused on increasing their community engagement.

“I am honored and proud that Redding Elementary School has been recognized as a PTA School of Excellence. This prestigious distinction reflects the strong partnership we’ve built between our school, our families, and our broader community,” added Redding Elementary School Principal Melissa Labroschiano.

The School of Excellence program is designed for local PTAs to make a direct impact at their schools. Only three schools in Connecticut and 330 schools total across the country have earned the designation of School of Excellence for the 2024-2026 term. ■

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Meadow Ridge residents raise \$260,000 for student scholarships

By Pamela Brown



Photo courtesy of Meadow Ridge Lillian Condosta was one of 47 scholarship recipients this year.

Forty-seven students were granted scholarships and honored at a ceremony at Meadow Ridge on June 12 for their commitment to their academic careers.

This year, the Meadow Ridge Scholarship Fund raised \$260,000 and awarded 47 scholarships, the highest number of awards since the Fund was established in 2004. The Fund was started by two Meadow Ridge residents to support associates, or the children of associates, in continuing their education. This year's recipients will utilize the funds at various academic institutions – 35 will be attending a college or university, 10 will be attending a community college, and two will be attending a trade program.

The money was raised by residents of Meadow Ridge.

“The mission of the Meadow Ridge Scholarship fund is to help improve the lives of the staff and their children by providing funds to further their education. It’s been satisfying to award scholarships to help these recipients continue their education and reach their career goals,” said Ruth Wolsch, Chair of the Scholarship Selection Committee along with John Corcoran, Cynthia Ervin, Nick Lacey, and Lynn Scott. Bill Balch and Dick Farrell also are members of the Scholarship Fund Committee, responsible for the Fund’s promotion and fundraising.

Applicants completed a comprehensive application and were interviewed by a six-member selection committee with scholarships awarded based on academic or work performance, personal statements, letters of recommendation, and financial need.

Recipient Peyton Rysz, a sophomore at The University of New England, will use the funds to offset her tuition. “It will allow me to focus more on my education and less on financial stress, bringing me one step closer to achieving my goal of someday becoming a restaurant owner,” said Rysz, adding, “My connection to Meadow Ridge runs deep. Not only do I work there, but so does my mom. It’s more than a workplace; it’s a community that I’m excited to be a part of every day. Through my role, I’ve had the

honor of building real relationships with the residents, listening to their stories, sharing laughs, and being inspired by their wisdom.”

Recipient Lillian Condosta, 19, who is from Redding and is a sophomore at the University of Rhode Island, was awarded \$6,000. “The scholarship is a powerful message that the residents believe in my future and for that, I’m thankful,” said Condosta, who has worked at Meadow Ridge since 2023. “I’ve come to know Meadow Ridge not just as a workplace, but as a second home filled with genuine connection. It’s comforting and inspiring to know that the residents I see every day care deeply about the future of younger generations.” At work, Condosta has gained valuable life experience. “I’ve had the privilege of hearing many stories filled with wisdom, resilience, and perspective. The residents treat me with respect and genuine care, and the same goes for the staff and administration. Working at Meadow Ridge is a unique experience because I’ve had the opportunity to get to know over 400 residents. It’s not about serving food, it’s about seeing familiar faces, hearing their stories, and building respectful, professional relationships.”

According to Wolsch, Lily and Peyton were strong candidates. “They wrote comprehensive statements, received very good recommendations, and were comfortable and articulate during their interviews,” she said. ■

Scout opens food pantry on Main Street in Georgetown

By Rob Sample



Photo courtesy of Lynn Van Wagner (Left to right): Dean Santo-Haines, Eagle Scout candidate Quintin Haines, and Bill Dexter dressed as Uncle Sam - who with his wife Lea helps to keep the pantry stocked with food. Dexter often dresses in costume to boost his fundraising efforts; he can be found at the Georgetown Holiday Festival as Santa Claus while Lea dresses as Mrs. Claus.

Giving back to one’s community is a key part of becoming an Eagle Scout – Scouting’s highest designation. One local Scout’s community project has had an immediate impact on Georgetown and the surrounding area.

Quintin Haines, a member of Troop 66 in Easton, built a street-side food pantry on Main Street in Georgetown. It has proven so successful that local volunteers have had to redouble their efforts to keep the pantry stocked with essentials.

“I was deciding what to do for my Eagle Scout project – and my mom has friends in Georgetown who said, ‘we need a food pantry’,” said Haines, who has been involved in Scouting since age six and will be a senior at the Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet High School in Bridgeport in September. “This was my first big woodworking project, and we mainly used materials left over from my mom’s previous projects. That saved a lot on costs.”

Mom Dean Santo-Haines, who serves as a Scout leader, assisted her son on the project, along with fellow Scouts Brian Sideleau, Miles Papageorge, and Brady Decker. “We had a work party,” said Haines. “We assembled the back and sides.”

Over the following two months, Haines added the pantry’s door, roof, and shelving, and he and his mom painted the unit off-white to match an existing “little library” near where it would be placed. “We

had to modify the plans somewhat to make the pantry bigger, but the Georgetown folks wanted it to match the lending library,” said Santo-Haines.

They brought the finished pantry to its new home on Main Street. “I dug holes and sunk posts to secure the pantry to its location,” Haines said.

Once in place, the community nature of the project became immediately evident. “The pantry really took off, with sightings of young mothers with children utilizing its shelves,” noted Lynn Van Wagner, vice president of the Georgetown Community Association and a member of Georgetown Village Restoration, Inc. “This signifies that the need is great, right here in our backyard.”

Community members have taken on the responsibility of keeping the pantry stocked. Parishioners from several area churches are involved, as are the Daily Bread Food Pantry in Danbury and the Georgetown Lions Club. Local businesses have also lent their assistance, including Uncle Leo’s and Rosny Café and Fairfield County Bank. Both now have food collection bins.

Marge Hansen, a parishioner at Georgetown Oratory of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, launched a food collection campaign there. Additionally, Redding’s Bill and Lea Dexter personally see to it that the pantry stays stocked as part of their own campaign to combat hunger.

The pantry’s small size is intentional. Smaller units can be more easily assembled, they take up less room, and thus they can be installed in more public spots. More pantries mean more hungry people get the food they need closer to where they live.

“We are all so excited to have our new food pantry on Main Street in Georgetown,” noted local realtor Bonnie Sassano-Troy.

Haines has one last step to finish: the paperwork describing the project, how he built the pantry, and its positive impact on the community. He said he hopes to be approved for the Eagle Scout designation in September. A Court of Honor ceremony will take place in December, Haines’s 18th birthday.

“We couldn’t be more pleased with the results,” said Van Wagner. “Quintin did a great job.” ■

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State agrees to borrow \$155 million to offset cost of electric bills / continued from page 1

including Lamont, who argued they would have had to cut spending in other areas.

Still, some Republicans on Friday bemoaned the level of savings even as they joined with Democrats to approve the bonds.

“It doesn’t go far enough,” said Representative Joe Polletta, R-Watertown, who is a member of the Bond Commission. “It’s a good first start, I think I credit both sides of the aisle for negotiating the bill, but Republicans have been calling for reducing that public benefits charge even further and getting a lot of those items into the general fund, where we can debate them, have a public hearing and we can vote on them.”

The savings attached to the bonds come on top of earlier rate relief that most customers already experienced in July as a result of a drop in standard supply rates at both of the state’s largest utilities, Eversource and United Illuminating. In May, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority also approved rate

adjustments lowering the public benefits charge portion of customers’ bills.

“There’s stuff that’s happening organically anyways, and then there’s stuff happening as a result of our bill getting passed,” said Senator Norm Needleman, D-Essex, who was one of the principal authors of S.B. 4. “Hopefully, this piece hits in September and brings the bill down more.”

In addition to public borrowing, S.B. 4 also authorized utilities to securitize their storm costs and the rollout of advanced metering technology. Those bonds, which were not a part of the Bond Commission’s agenda on August 1, will be paid back by utility customers through their bills, but over a longer period of time and at lower interest rates than under the current law.

In its other business on August 1, the Bond Commission approved nearly \$1.6 billion in transportation bonding to finance a wide array of upgrades to Connecticut’s aging network of highways, bridges and

rail lines. Two of the largest initiatives involve \$157.5 million to replace the Norwalk River Rail Bridge, a four-track span that serves the Metro-North commuter line and Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor lines, and \$50 million for continued rehabilitation of the Gold Star Memorial Bridge, which carries Interstate 95 across the Thames River between New London and Groton.

It also approved \$40 million to cover the first half of the \$80 million Town Aid Road grant due to Connecticut municipalities this fiscal year. Communities use those funds to cover repaving, drainage work and other routine road maintenance and to purchase sand, salt and other materials to support winter snow removal. The state is expected to deliver the remaining \$40 million due cities and towns after January 1. ■

This article originally appeared in CT Mirror

The Redding Country Club awards 25 scholarships

By Susan Dorenbosch



Photo courtesy of Susan Dorenbosch

On Wednesday, July 23, The Redding Country Club (RCC) hosted its 4th Annual Employee Scholarship Fundraiser to provide financial assistance to Club employees pursuing higher education or skills development.

RCC General Manager Tim Seifert described the event as one of his favorite days of the year at the Club. “Thanks to the generous support of our members, we come together for a truly special day of celebration. It’s inspiring to see our staff and their families recognized and celebrated by the very members they serve every day. It reinforces the strong sense of community at RCC and highlights

the best of who we are as a Club.”

The event included a golf outing and silent auction, followed by dinner and scholarship presentation. This year, scholarships were awarded to 25 employees from Redding, Bethel, Danbury, Newtown, and surrounding towns. Recipients represented greens and course maintenance, food and beverage service, housekeeping, the snack bar, and the lifeguard team. Their academic paths are just as diverse, spanning the fields of medicine, law, chemical engineering, fashion and textiles, education, health sciences, criminal justice, finance, psychology, and nail technology.

Continued on page 9

Scam aware

Think you won't get scammed? Think again *By Anthony Freyberg*



Connecticut residents lost approximately \$85 million to scams in 2024, setting a new record. Imposter scams were the most reported type in 2024, involving criminals posing as officials and demanding payment. Scams remain a significant concern in Fairfield County and Connecticut, and they're not going away any time soon.

Many of today's scammers – about 53% – pose as trusted companies or government employees trying to help residents solve a problem. One new scam starts as

an online pop-up warning about a problem with your computer and instructing you to call a number to speak to a federal agent. When you call, the fake agent tells you that identity thieves have hacked into your computer and are using your accounts to purchase and download child pornography. The fake agent instructs you to type in a special key to protect your devices, but it actually gives the scammer remote access to the computer and all your accounts connected to it. The scammer then pulls up your banking information and pretends to transfer money from your savings account into your checking to prove, before your own eyes, that someone has hacked into your account. The fake agent then instructs you to move all your funds into a protected government account, which is in fact a Bitcoin account. Bitcoin accounts often are used in scams by fraudsters who exploit the cryptocurrency's

decentralized, irreversible nature for various fraudulent schemes. Bitcoin transactions are generally irreversible.

- Remember, you should always log into your accounts through official websites and apps, never through a secondary link from an e-mail or alert.
- Block pop-ups on your computer so you won't see those types of scams and be tempted to click. Never click on malware alerts. If you ever get one, unplug your computer for five minutes and that screen will go away.
- Hang up if callers ever threaten to arrest you, freeze your accounts, or ask you to make a quick payment to fix a problem.
- Be suspicious of any entity that directs you to use an ATM that exchanges cash for Bitcoin.

Remain scam aware and have a wonderful rest of the summer. ■

I am new to Connecticut – should I update my estate plan?

By Elizabeth Edwards

When most people hear “estate planning” they think it only applies to the wealthy or the elderly. In truth, estate planning is essential for everyone who wants to protect their family and their assets and ensure their wishes are stated clearly, appropriately, and will be effective.

Estate planning involves creating legal documents that state how you want your assets managed and distributed after your death or if you become incapacitated. It frequently includes tax planning to take best advantage of the tax structure at the federal and state level, and can include: wills, living wills (healthcare directives), powers of attorney, trusts, and various other documents.

In general, probate court handles the administration of estates, which includes managing and overseeing the distributing of assets after someone dies, resolving disputes,

and various other related legal matters. The cost and time involved in settling a probate matter is determined by the value of the estate, the complexities involved, and whether or not the deceased had an estate plan.

However, probate courts are instruments of the state. Each state has its own rules, fees, and procedure, which can differ substantially from one state to the next. In Connecticut, probate is required if the deceased owned any individually-held property without a beneficiary designation; the value of the estate exceeds \$40,000; and/or the deceased had a sole interest in real property of any value.

Moving from one state to another will not invalidate a will or an estate plan, but because rules and tax structures differ from state to state, your estate plan may need

Continued on page 10

REAL ESTATE

July 2025 real estate report *A look at trends in the local housing market* | By Bill Whitehead and John Talley

Twenty houses sold in July, providing further evidence of the strong spring and summer markets this year. Average days-on-market dipped to 82 days, with the average price for a house sold in Redding rising by 8% year-over-year, to \$1,094,264. The price-per-square-foot has also increased by a modest 4% from a year ago to \$353. The current inventory of houses for sale in Redding is 35, which is up from 2024 by 14 properties. ■

Bill Whitehead and John Talley are realtors with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

July 2025													
Town	Current Inventory	Homes Sold		Average Days on Market		Average List Price		Average Sale Price		Percent Sale Price >/< List Price		Average Price/SqFt	
	As of August 11	July	2025	July	2025	July	2025	July	2025	July	2025	July	2025
Redding	35	20	64	82	100	\$1,199,295	\$1,093,306	\$1,236,975	\$1,094,264	3%	0%	\$343	\$353
Ridgefield	42	24	123	67	78	\$1,057,000	\$1,186,961	\$1,109,498	\$1,259,171	5%	6%	\$430	\$451
Weston	27	16	80	70	99	\$1,686,525	\$1,535,776	\$1,742,938	\$1,587,024	3%	3%	\$417	\$423
Wilton	30	34	121	70	80	\$1,432,647	\$1,355,724	\$1,533,797	\$1,446,911	7%	7%	\$454	\$440
Easton	23	7	50	74	97	\$1,036,143	\$1,080,076	\$1,015,000	\$1,091,300	-2%	1%	\$329	\$336
Bethel	21	20	84	74	76	\$668,480	\$602,205	\$686,725	\$607,713	3%	1%	\$299	\$283
Newtown	67	37	165	61	84	\$719,381	\$701,351	\$726,257	\$709,250	1%	1%	\$311	\$293
Average	35	23	98	71	88	\$1,114,210	\$1,079,343	\$1,150,170	\$1,113,662	3%	3%	\$369	\$368

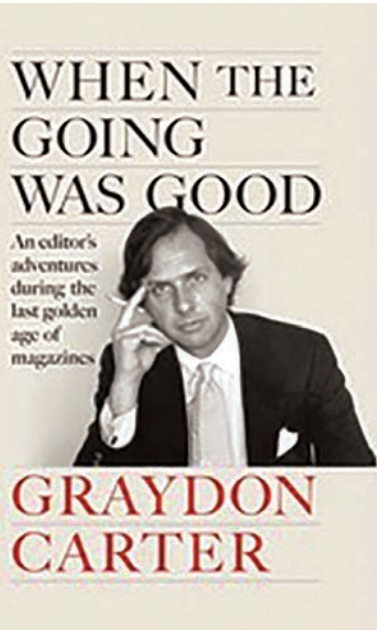
REDDING SOLD - July	Sale Price	List Price	%/ List Price	Price/Sqft	Days on Market
13 Bayberry Ln	\$595,000	\$550,000	8%	\$384	60
21 White Birch Rd	\$675,000	\$660,000	2%	\$495	111
116 70 Acre Rd	\$725,000	\$725,000	0%	\$191	109
14 Parsons Ln	\$798,000	\$798,000	0%	\$274	86
24 Newtown Tpke	\$800,000	\$795,000	1%	\$274	69
6 Middlebrook Pond Rd	\$900,000	\$874,900	3%	\$362	53
36 Pheasant Ridge Rd	\$914,000	\$929,000	-2%	\$309	63
4 Ledgewood Rd	\$942,000	\$949,000	-1%	\$360	85
23 Old Mailcoach Rd	\$1,051,500	\$1,100,000	-4%	\$355	95
75 Stepney Rd	\$1,052,000	\$1,049,000	0%	\$263	74
6 Windy Hill Rd	\$1,199,000	\$1,199,000	0%	\$394	92
24 Pine Mountain Rd	\$1,200,000	\$1,095,000	10%	\$291	51
12 Old Redding Rd	\$1,275,000	\$899,000	42%	\$546	74
12 Rob Rider Rd	\$1,399,000	\$1,399,000	0%	\$338	72
9 Beck Rd	\$1,400,000	\$1,395,000	0%	\$244	54
3 Dan Beard Ln	\$1,600,000	\$1,450,000	10%	\$324	50
12 Long Meadow Ln	\$1,755,000	\$1,725,000	2%	\$320	100
17 Fire Hill Ln	\$1,850,000	\$1,895,000	-2%	\$388	69
2 Meadows Edge	\$2,009,000	\$1,999,999	0%	\$348	95
4 Longwood Dr	\$2,600,000	\$2,499,000	4%	\$410	174
Average	\$1,236,975	\$1,199,295	3%	\$343	82

[illegible]

BOOK REVIEW

When the Going Was Good
An Editor’s Adventures During the
Last Golden Age of Magazines

By Graydon Carter



When the Going Was Good, by Graydon Carter, is a retirement autobiography of Carter, co-founder of *Spy Magazine* (1986-1998) and former editor of *Vanity Fair* (1992-2017). Carter recounts stories, adventures, and personalities he’s met along a sequined way. It is a fast-paced account of a dynamic time in American culture, captured in part and symbolically brought to life or death by the magazine *Vanity Fair*, a Conde Nast creature. When the Going Was Good, like the magazine culture it reports upon, is a tragicomedy. The title infers that the going is not good now, and we must ask, why is that? History is leavened by time and written for ages. A magazine is of a moment. Subjects, dire in immediacy, frequently evanesce over time. Does anyone care about the “revenge dress” worn by Princess Diana to an event? Relevance depends on history’s assessment. The pointed disclosures of Carter come in moments devoted to the magazine, which came into his life at a propitious time. Was he right for the job? The answer is: Yes. But what does that mean? The reader must decide whether Carter’s stewardship of *Vanity Fair*, however astute as an editor, was relevant to the larger world his magazine sought to reveal.

The internet has changed habits of readers, and Carter’s story speaks in part to that challenge. But for less obvious answers, we must analyze the messenger. This is a book of memories, of a large life, of dinners consumed, of names dropped with a dull thud, of extravaganzas now forgotten. Like finding Mick Jagger at 83 in a dark room, alone, meditating his tambourine, we find less than we thought we would. What does dancing and prancing around really mean? *Vanity Fair* was Graydon Carter’s tambourine. Memories like his beg interpretation. There were many nights of extravagance that don’t hold up. Putting aside for the moment that the subject is also the author, Graydon Carter is, by personal disclosure, a near perfect fit for his job at *Vanity Fair*. He is aspirational without the sharp elbows of ambition, a self-confessed “beta,” with the nose of a sleuth; an editor of magazines with an eye for content without the egotism of writers, and an unregenerate name dropper, which probably goes with his territory. *Vanity Fair*, during his time there, sold celebrity culture to itself. Reading Graydon Carter’s autobiography is like visiting Hollywood or Las Vegas for the first time and for the last time. His story doesn’t leave you with a bad taste, but rather with a sense of futility. His life was something highly desirable as it was lived, but its essence was sugary and melts easily under scrutiny. That is not to say it is tasteless or bad. His tales of town have an airless quality, and it is a claustrophobia of excess. This autobiography is interesting the way a hangover has a story, or the way an awards ceremony excites interest. Yes, we remember it, but wasn’t that all a part of, well, a vanity fair? ■

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

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Redding’s Big Outdoors: Summer spontaneity /
continued from page 1

realized I didn’t have a route planned. In hindsight this would have been helpful, because then I would have known where I was going to end up. It seems obvious now, but the spontaneity of the experience didn’t allow for this. With that being said, the thrill of “I don’t know where I am or where I am going to end up...” was quite entertaining. Next time, I’ll put a plan in place. I found myself stopping several times to soak in the beauty of the woods. As described in the short blurb about the trail in the *Book of Trails*, I passed a small pile of quartz. It was a nice checkpoint and reminder that I was on the right path. My destination ended up being the Reservoir at the small pull-off at the Newtown Turnpike/Glen

Road intersection (the double stop sign). Thankfully, there was cell service there, I was able to call my dad and let him know I was ready to be picked up. It was a 90-minute adventure in total. Being a senior in college, I have been careful not to take this summer for granted. This may be the last extended period of free time I have, so soaking it in by going on adventures such as this one is an ideal way to spend my time. I would highly recommend this trail to all nature lovers and those who like good exercise. The rolling hills of the Mary Anne Guitar Preserve provide for beautiful scenery and perfect hiking terrain! ■

Eric Lucido is a graduate of Joel Barlow High School and a Redding Sentinel summer intern

LIBRARY CORNER

Reads for the last days of summer

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Even though the Back-to-School sales have started and mornings are back to bearable temperatures, summer isn’t over! Here is a list of end-of-summer reads handpicked to transition you into fall: A *Marriage at Sea* by Sophie Elmhirst – In 1972, Maurice and Maralyn Bailey were sailing to the Galapagos when a dying whale struck their boat and capsized it. They then spent 118 days on a rubber raft with quickly dwindling food and water until their eventual rescue by a South Korean fishing boat. This is one of those nonfiction books that reads like fiction – it’s “unputdownable” and even though

we know there’s a happy ending, it’s still unbelievable what this couple went through to survive. And they stayed married! *One Golden Summer* by Carley Fortune – After Alice’s grandmother breaks her hip, Alice decides to accompany her to Barry’s Bay, a lake community in Canada. Alice hasn’t spent a summer there since she was 17, and – surprise – the hunky guy she remembers from that summer seems to be back as well. He seems unavailable, but what follows is some serious spice as Alice tries to wrestle with her feelings toward him and his emotional unavailability.

Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid – From the author who brought us *Daisy Jones and the Six*, this suspenseful yet character-driven novel follows NASA’s space shuttle program in the 1980s. The main character Joan Goodwin has always been obsessed with the stars. Now participating in the highly competitive astronaut training program, she must navigate new relationships and professional competition in incredibly stressful situations. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is
Director, Mark Twain Library

Good books for good readers | By Margi Esten

Laura Lippmann is the author of over 20 novels that have won numerous awards including Agatha Award, Edgar Award, and Gumshoe Award. What could be stock detective fiction is brought to new heights with her extraordinarily clever writing, masterful development of characters, intriguing plots, and her obvious incredible sense of humor. They can be light reading but hardly insignificant, as

her stories and characters stay with you long after the last page. Her most recent book is *Murder Takes a Vacation* with a minor character (Mrs. Blossom) from one of her earlier books as the lead protagonist here. It is an absolutely delightful read and one I hated to see end. In fact, if everyday life hadn’t taken me away, I would have read it in one sitting. I “think” I have read every one of

her books, particularly featuring Tess Monaghan, her smart, spunky detective, beginning with *Baltimore Blues* published in 1997. We follow Tess and her exploits in at least 12 books, but her stand-alone novels are just as wonderful. My favorites are *Every Secret Thing*, *What the Dead Know*, and *I’d Know You Anywhere*. ■

Nod to the pod
What Went Wrong: “The Sound of Music” | By Amy Maloof

A one-episode recommendation from a podcast you might love. *What Went Wrong* covers a new film each week, recounting each production’s unique offscreen drama. Their picks run the gamut from critically-acclaimed classics to box office duds, proving that every film has some kind of behind-the-scenes tea to be spilled. Each episode is meticulously researched, and the hosts have great chemistry; it’s one of those shows I can just relax into. Here, hosts Chris Winterbauer and Lizzie Bassett guide listeners through the soup-to-nuts story of how *The Sound of Music* came to be – and the many ways it almost didn’t. Initially, to my surprise, no self-respecting director or actor wanted to attach themselves to the film. The Broadway play of the

same name – though a massive financial success – was seen as saccharine and corny, and many struggled to see how a good movie could come of it. But a sharp and more nuanced screenplay helped change minds, and the film was made. Bassett then delves into the tension between Christopher Plummer and the production team, designers accommodating the child actors growing using the magic of glue and lifts, and how a helicopter repeatedly knocked Julie Andrews over. I love Hollywood trivia, and this delivers. The first time I watched *The Sound of Music*, I was in Maine, squished next to my family on a scratchy loveseat in my grandmother’s wood-paneled living room. I was completely delighted when, halfway through, that

iconic script popped up announcing “Intermission”; I stretched my legs and happily settled in for more. Much to the surprise – and chagrin – of my mom (who saw the movie during its initial release in 1965 and liked to say “If I see that movie one more time it’ll be too soon”), I fell in love with the whole film and never seemed to tire of it, frequently putting it on throughout my childhood. “This again?!” she’d sigh. I was glad to learn the podcast’s hosts were equally taken with it, albeit not till adulthood. It just holds up! In September, for its 60th anniversary, theaters are screening *The Sound of Music*. Time to iron my lederhosen. ■

Local churches see attendance trend upwards / continued from page 1

year, we had a large confirmation class of 22 and have had five members join so far.” According to Fr. Terrence Walsh of Sacred Heart-Saint Patrick Parish who took over in November 2021, the parish experienced a gradual rebuild after the pandemic and the merger of parishes in February 2021. “People were eager to be together, though it changed the dynamics of packing the pews,” he said. “The Bishop’s office recently released a statement that the parishes of the diocese are at 94% of pre-Covid attendance. Our attendance continues to grow. Last year we registered 20 new families.” Currently, the parish has about 429 families. The parish strives to encourage participation. “Our religious education team has been putting a lot of effort into providing resources – from our youngest parishioners to our seniors – to build community, and engage and teach more about the faith in many different formats,” said Fr. Walsh. The parish offers Bible studies, retreat speakers, sacramentals, exhibits, and Eucharistic Adoration and rosary. “We also reinstituted coffee hours

following the Sunday Masses to connect parishioners and visitors physically, began hosting an annual parish picnic, monthly senior events, and pop-up events around holy days. We have started a youth group (grades 4-8) which meets on Fridays to provide a safe hangout space and wholesome activities. If you are new to the area, these are easy ways to meet others. We aim to be a welcoming, caring and peaceful place where the faithful can encounter God at every turn,” he said. Calvary Independent Baptist Church in West Redding averages 50-70 congregants. According to Pastor Ken Brooks, Covid-19 had no appreciable impact on membership. “Our people are consistent and faithful. Since beginning with 13 people in September of 1995, we’ve seen steady, slow growth unaffected by what’s going on in the world,” said Brooks, noting as Baptists, there is no mass. “We gather as a New Testament assembly or church. We follow the Bible, in which one finds individual, autonomous congregations in fellowship with one another but not operating

under any type of denomination or diocese. We keep track of our own attendance and membership.” Brooks noted their focus is not on numbers but on lives changed for the better, families helped, marriages strengthened, and souls that come to Christ for forgiveness and everlasting life. Fr. Michael Novajosky, Rector of the Georgetown Oratory of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, took over leadership in January. “In my five months, the total amount that we see at the Sunday Mass is roughly in the 230s. The low end, such as 4th of July weekend, was about 200. On the high end, we can be over 300 in attendance,” he said. “With the upheaval over the last few years, some people have left, while others have come in. Some people are regulars while others come occasionally. Generally speaking, it seems that there is a growing desire for deeper spiritual realities, which is a good thing.” ■

Editor’s Note:
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
and Christ Church Parish were
contacted but did not supply
comment on attendance numbers

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

How Nautilus Farm helps horseback riders reach their full potential | By Justin Reynolds



Photo courtesy of Nautilus Farm

More than 30 years ago, Donna Goddard Pace helped start Sunset Hill Farm in Redding. In 2015, she decided to follow her dreams of being her own boss and created Nautilus Farm. Six years later, Pace moved her operation to Easton, where it’s currently located at Double A Stables on 120 Eden Hill Road.

“Nautilus Farm is a boutique hunter-jumper show barn that also offers lessons and leasing for riders of all ages and abilities,” Pace said. “A hunter-and-jumper barn is a place where riders come to learn and continue to hone their skills in the English riding discipline, specifically the hunter or jumper disciplines.”

You don’t often hear about

horseback riding operations named after mollusks.

“I love the ocean, and the nautilus shell represents expansion, growth, and renewal,” Pace explained.

The farm caters to children five years old and up, along with adults of all ages and abilities. Its students range from beginners to riders who are competing on the national level at some of the top horse shows in the country.

While many riders at Nautilus Farm have their own horses, not all of them do.

“For riders without a horse of their own, Nautilus Farm does have lesson horses for riders who are looking to take one or two lessons a week,” she said.

“Our facility offers many things that other facilities in the area don’t, like an attached heated indoor ring with GGT footing, a covered automatic horse walker, gated and camera security, and a large outdoor ring with GGT footing,” Pace explained. “We also offer custom nutrition programs for each horse and private lessons for personalized training.”

Pace has been training horseback riders in Fairfield County for decades.

“I enjoy training riders of all ages and experience levels and also training young horses,” she said. “My approach to training allows my students to reach their full potential as riders while enjoying themselves at the same time.”

In addition to being a great rider inside the ring, Pace believes it’s equally important to develop a strong relationship with your horse or pony outside of it.

“Nautilus Farm is truly a welcoming place where all riders consider themselves to be part of the Nautilus Farm family,” she said. ■

Learn more at nautilusfarm.com

The Redding Country Club awards 25 scholarships / continued from page 6

“I’m incredibly grateful to be a recipient of The Redding Country Club Employee Scholarship for the third consecutive year. Now in my fourth summer working at the Club, I return each year because of the supportive, close-knit community between members and staff,” said Holly Mauro, who will begin graduate school at Fairfield University this year.

Jenn Romash, a parent whose triplet sons are all RCC lifeguards, shared her appreciation. “We are extremely grateful. I’m truly proud of Joey, Luke, and Cole. They took on their first ‘real job’ at The Redding Country Club three years ago and learned to navigate schedules, priorities, customer service, and relationships... Being surrounded by successful, kind, and generous

people has given them invaluable life lessons.”

John Neeson, The RCC Scholarship Program founder, reflected on the program’s impact.

“Being able to play a small part in the academic journey of those who work at RCC is incredibly rewarding,” he said. “We are all very proud of them.” ■

Notes from a neighbor
The roller revolution | By Carter Wiseman



I was happy to hear from some neighbors with a taste for romance that they had booked passage this summer across the Atlantic on the *Queen Mary 2*, the last of the great ocean liners that once included the *Olympic*, the *Ile de France*, and the *Leonardo da Vinci*. While today’s monster cruise ships flood Nassau and Venice and Dubrovnik with day-trippers, the Cunard Line’s *Queen Mary 2* still plies the North Atlantic for a nostalgic few who savor a sojourn at sea.

The news triggered memories of the classic 1935 Marx Brothers film, *Night at the Opera*, in which the nutty trio wrestle with each other (and Margaret Dumont) in a trans-Atlantic stateroom piled high with steamer trunks.

In the great days of ocean voyages, those trunks and the rest of one’s luggage would be plastered with colorful stickers documenting the passengers’ ports of call – London, Istanbul, Shanghai – and the places they stayed – the Connaught, the Ritz, any number of Grand Hotels. The stickers were a public display of the little stamps in one’s passport, which were a record of all the exotic borders one had crossed.

In those days, of course, upper-class travelers had porters to haul hefty hatboxes up and down gangplanks. Now that most of the great ships have been replaced by Boeings and Airbuses, we have to schlep for ourselves. Happily, if

we don’t have staff, we have roller bags.

I confess to having resisted roller bags when I first saw them. It seemed to me that one should “carry one’s own,” even if it meant pain and delay. But I began to notice in airports that the flight crews were tugging little bags on wheels. And if those people were the ones flying the planes, I assumed that they probably knew something else I didn’t.

Now, of course, the idea of a “valise” or a “suitcase” seems primitive. Backpacks make some sense, but mostly for backpackers. The wheel was invented long ago. What took us so long to attach them to bags? There is, however, a small price to pay for the ease of contemporary travel. Most roller bags are made of super-light space-age materials that will not age, crack, or mold. They also make it hard to attach any sticker unless it is secured with tape, taking some of the subtle fun out of impressing friends with where you had been, especially if they had not been there.

Fortunately, somebody is working on this. Steamline, a company I found online, has developed a line of vintage luggage “inspired by the greatest period of traveling, the roaring 1920s.” The bags have the straps and buckles and corner-protectors of old, and they all come with – wheels! From the photos online, it looks as if their leather cladding may also be able to handle stickers – if your hotel in Rome still has any. If not, a graphic artist named Annie Atkins, who worked on *The Grand Budapest Hotel* movie, is now flogging a line of luggage labels designed to look as if they were stuck in the past.

All aboard! Full steam astern! ■



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The Natural World

To prune, pinch, shear, cut back, deadhead, or deadleaf?

By Terry Karpen



Photo by Terry Karpen

Perennials are non-woody plants that live for more than one year, usually with their foliage and stems dying back in fall or winter and returning the following spring from roots that survive underground. The term “perennial” is used to describe herbaceous plants that die back to the ground each winter, as opposed to woody plants like trees and shrubs. While there are both flowering and nonflowering varieties of herbaceous perennials, they are most often associated with flowering plants.

Perennials in your landscape are like dessert. They can balance and complement, much like a delicious dessert rounds out a meal. Perennials provide an immense variety of color, foliage, texture, and form. Flowering perennials bloom at different times, creating a delightful display from spring through fall.

Pinching, shearing, cutting back, deadheading, and deadleafing are all pruning techniques. All these actions can be beneficial for herbaceous perennials, and are specific to each type of plant, but the necessity and frequency depend on the specific plant and your gardening aspirations. A moderate amount of maintenance is needed to keep a garden looking tranquil and organized. A minimal effort may mean the difference between a garden that is lackluster and one which brings you comfort and pleasure.

“Lest you worry that the following suggestions will burden you with an even longer to-do list, try to think of maintenance in the perennial garden as simply gardening.” This is sage advice from a Ramsey County, Minnesota Master Gardeners blog post.

Pinching – Pinching is a type of pruning that is mostly done on young plants by removing the growing tip (terminal bud) of a stem

or branch and the first set of leaves. This can be done with your fingers (thumbnail and forefinger) or hand pruners. The purpose is to encourage bushier growth by redirecting the plant's energy into developing side shoots, leading to a fuller, more compact plant. Pinching also promotes more blooms while it delays or extends blooming time. Pinch the stem tips back once or twice in late spring or early summer, but no later than early July.

Shearing – Cutting entire plants back by 25-50% after they finish blooming is a pruning option that benefits some perennials. This pruning can be done with hand pruners or hedge shears. There are perennials that rebloom after being sheared; others will not rebloom but will produce a fresh flush of young foliage. This type of pruning is ideal for perennials with lots of tiny flowers that bloom all at once. Plants should be sheared as soon as flowering begins to taper off – no later than early August.

Deadheading – This process of pruning by removing dead flowers on perennials is done throughout the growing season as blooms fade. The reasons for deadheading are specific to each type of perennial (not all flowers require deadheading). For some, removing dead flowers improves appearance, or can extend bloom time, stimulate rebloom, or promote the health of the plant. Most perennials will not rebloom with deadheading, although many perennials can continue to produce flowers for a longer period of time if they are not allowed to go to seed. Deadheading isn't difficult, but it can be time-consuming. Faded flowers can be pinched off or cut with hand pruners.

Some perennials produce flower stalks that are separate from the rest of the foliage. For these, the entire flower stalk is cut back to the base of the plant. Lastly, guidance from Gladys Fowler of the Peterborough Horticultural Society in Ontario, Canada. “Perennials like purple coneflower, bee balm, sedum; Siberian iris, Joe Pye weed and rudbeckia have ornamental seedheads. These not only provide interest in the garden through fall and winter, they also provide food for birds. Remove two thirds of the seedheads and leave one third on the plant.”

Cutting the entire plant back – This pruning method can be done on some spring blooming perennials like *Dicentra* (bleeding heart) and bulbs like daffodils and tulips, as well as and rhizomes, like iris, where the foliage has died back and the plant begins its dormancy. While not necessary for plant health, it can be done for aesthetic reasons, and should only be done after the foliage naturally fades. Cut the foliage to the ground, leaving about an inch sticking through the soil.

Deadleafing – Deadleafing is the removal of dead leaves. It is a term popularized by garden writer Tracy DiSabato-Aust in her seminal book *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden*. Aptly described by the Piedmont Master Gardeners Association, “It simply refers to pinching or snipping off leaves that are dead or damaged due to sun scorch, lack of water, disease, insect and animal chewing, or weather. It also refers to cleaning up dead foliage from spring-flowering bulbs such as daffodils or tulips.” Why remove dead leaves? The results are improved appearance, disease prevention, and it promotes growth.

It is useful to research the specific characteristics and needs of each perennial to determine the most beneficial approach and then establish a routine for regular maintenance pruning. Recommended reading: *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden – An essential guide to planting and pruning techniques, Third Edition* by Tracy DiSabato-Aust, published in 2017.

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

Battle of Ridgefield details are revealed through new archaeological survey

By Sally Sanders



Keith Jones and Dr. David Naumec discuss a musket of the type that would have been used in the Battle of Ridgefield.



Photos courtesy of Sally Sanders
A button from a Continental uniform discovered during the survey, funded by a National Park Service grant.

What can a snaffle bit or a butt plate tell us about the Battle of Ridgefield? Quite a lot, apparently. (One is part of a bridle, the other, part of a rifle.) To the Heritage Consultants LLC team now doing a high-tech archaeological survey in Ridgefield, artifacts like those can confirm they've found a skirmish site.

Heritage, working under the Ridgefield Historical Society's direction, has made several exciting discoveries during its first weeks in town. The goals of their survey, supported by a second National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program grant awarded to the Historical Society, are to pinpoint the sites of key engagements and the boundaries of the Revolutionary War Battle of Ridgefield in April 1777.

The Battle was part of the 1777 British incursion to raid Danbury; militia from throughout the region, including Redding, responded.

The Heritage teams, using metal detectors and ground penetrating radar to find artifacts, believe they have established the location of the Second Engagement of the Battle (the First having been along North Salem Road near Lake Mamansco). Both of these attacks on the British forces of General William Tryon were led by General David Wooster, who was mortally wounded in the Second Engagement.

Dr. Kevin McBride, a Principal Investigator for Heritage, explained how the artifacts they found confirmed the Second Engagement's location:

“...We've been finding a lot of battle-related objects, maybe a dozen musket balls, a lot of buttons, non-military, which suggests they're militia buttons. We found a couple of musket balls we think are American... The density of battle objects is really high. It's not an occasional musket ball sniping... There's too much other material... associated with the musket balls... There are buttons all over the place. But these are all 18th-century musket balls right around it. We found some other interesting things, like a watch winder for a pocket watch, 18th century. ... You can imagine the Americans are being attacked and routed. They're panicked, and they're dropping a lot of things. They're running, they're getting wounded, they're getting killed.”

At another location recently, Ridgefield Historical Society members watched as the team did

its work and discovered items that included a button from the uniform of a Continental Line soldier. Heritage staff explained how the archaeological work is done and showed the types of guns that would have been used during the battle, as well as some of the musket balls and shot that have been recovered.

Dr. David Leslie, Director of Archaeological Research for Heritage, spent a day operating ground-penetrating radar near Main Street, searching for evidence of burials associated with the Battle of Ridgefield. Working in a busy town presents technical challenges, but the exciting discoveries the team is making prove the hurdles have not stopped them.

“One of the hardest challenges of a battlefield survey like this one in Ridgefield is that it's not Gettysburg. It's not this preserved landscape... Instead, this happened in a town where people lived. And so, we have this urban and suburban landscape where people have been depositing their detritus before the battle, after the battle. ...That's why we're using so many different lines of evidence. We're using historical documentation. We're using the written record, mapping documents, geophysical surveys in the form of ground penetrating radar, metal detector surveys...”

Heritage will also use standard archaeological methods like excavation and shovel testing to expand its investigations. The archaeologists' efforts are painstaking, but breakthroughs like finding the never-before-pinpointed location of the Second Engagement are tremendously exciting and make the effort worthwhile.

Any artifacts relating to the Revolutionary War that are discovered will be added to the National Park Service collection and preserved locally in the Ridgefield Historical Society's climate-controlled vault at the Scott House. They will serve the community as an educational resource for current and future generations. ■

Giving the Heritage archaeologists permission to conduct non-invasive surveys using metal detection contributes greatly to the success of this project. If property owners are interested in joining this effort, information and permission forms are available at ridgefieldhistoricalsociety.org

I am new to Connecticut – should I update my estate plan? / continued from page 7

updating to take best advantage of the state in which you currently reside. Therefore, if you are newly arrived in Connecticut, it's important to discuss your estate plan with a local Connecticut attorney. It's also important to update your estate plan periodically to be sure it continues to reflect your life changes such as marriage, divorce, births, deaths, etc.

A well-crafted estate plan can help ensure your wishes are clearly stated, and take advantage of

Connecticut's laws and tax structure. Take the time today to ensure your future peace of mind and security for your loved ones. ■

Attorney Elizabeth A. Edwards is located at 462 Danbury Road, Wilton and practices in the areas of estate planning, real estate law and family law

She can be reached at beth@eedwardslaw.com or (203) 544-9945

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***Pickleball -Adult & Youth**

***Youth Arts**

***Chess**

***Cooking**

***Lego Engineering**

***Flag Football**

***Dodgeball**

***Preschool Programs**

***OPEN GYM - Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer**

***Babysitter Awareness for ages 11-15**

***Special Events & Trips**

Kids Night Out

FALL TRAVEL CAMP

special trips and activities for Teens only!

Save the Dates

Sept. 20, Oct. 18

Oct. 18 -Theater "Maybe Happy Ending"

Nov. 22- Radio City Spectacular

...more to come

Extended Day Aftercare @ RES

Youth & High School Basketball League

Lyric's Coffeehouse

SCAN ME

203-938-2551

reddingct.gov

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

Redding Neighbors & Newcomers Summer Family Picnic

Saturday, August 16
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Topstone Park
72 Topstone Road
Beach, ice cream truck, playground
reddingneighborsand-newcomers.org
\$, R

Redding Land Trust Summer Celebration

Saturday, August 23
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Celebrate the Land Trust’s 60th anniversary with food, bluegrass music, and natural surroundings
Poliak Preserve
213 Simpaug Turnpike
reddinglandtrust.org
\$, R

64th Annual Mark Twain Library Book Fair

Friday, August 29 – Monday, September 1
Times vary, check website for details
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org

Want to feature an upcoming event?

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

ARTS

Tuesday, August 19

Compton & Newberry: Return to Old Time Music
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Friday, August 22

Cat Lines
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Enjoy live music
The Redding Roadhouse
406 Redding Road
thereddingroadhouse.com

Sundays, August 17 and 24

Concert on the Green Series
Kala Farnham (August 17)
The Currys (August 24)
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Redding Town Green
100 Hill Road
reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation

CHILDREN | TEENS

Saturday, August 16

Redding Neighbors & Newcomers Summer Family Picnic
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Topstone Park
72 Topstone Road
Beach, ice cream truck, playground
reddingneighborsandnewcomers.org
\$, R

Thursday, August 21

Drizzle Paint
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Teen program for grades 5+
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Friday, August 22

Outdoor Movie Night
8:00 p.m.
Enjoy *E.T.* and pizza food truck
Redding Elementary School
33 Lonetown Road
reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation

Sunday, August 24

Kittens and Kites
12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Decorate your own kite and meet adoptable cats and kittens
Michael’s Tap Room
37 Stony Hill Road
Bethel
happilyforeverafter.org

Monday, August 25

Back to School Story Time for Incoming Kindergartners
1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Monday, August 25

Summer’s End Party
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Pizza, ice cream party and a movie
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Saturday, August 30

Back to School Party!
12:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
An afternoon of popsicles, cookout, floaties, and a movie
Riverbrook Regional YMCA
404 Danbury Road / Wilton
wiltonymca.org
\$

Friday, September 12

Free Kids Night
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Open to Grades 1- 4 for dinner, games, and more
Hosted by Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton at Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
bgcre.net
R

FOOD | WINE

Thursday, August 14

You Be the Judge... on Beer with Advanced Cicerone
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
Must be 21 and over
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Saturday, August 16

Coed Potluck Poker Night
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Private Residence in Redding
reddingneighborsandnewcomers.org
\$, R

Wednesday, August 20

Pub Trivia Night with Bobby Csugie
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Nod Hill Brewery
127 Ethan Allen Highway
Ridgefield
nodhillbrewery.com

Fridays, August 22 and August 29

Chef Jeff’s BBQ Open House
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Wilton Historical Society
224 Danbury Road / Wilton
wiltonhistorical.org

Thursday, September 4

A Night of Great Food, Drinks & Community
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Proceeds benefit Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton
Uncorked Georgetown
7 Main Street
bgcre.net
\$, R

Saturday, September 13

Harvest Dinner at New Pond Farm
4:30 p.m.
Live music, auction and freshly harvested food
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

HEALTH | WELLNESS

Wednesday, August 20

Meditation
12:00 p.m.
Virtual event through Heritage Center
E-mail mpilato@reddingct.gov
R

Thursday, August 21

Pilates at the Library
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
Designed for all levels
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Thursday, August 28

Trail Thursday with CT Run Co
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
All levels welcome and 3 – 4 mile run through trails
Woodcock Nature Center
56 Deer Run Road
woodcocknaturecenter.org

NATURE

Sunday, August 17

Woodcock Day in Biergarten
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Nod Hill Brewery
137 Ethan Allen Highway
Ridgefield
nodhillbrewery.com

Saturday, August 23

Redding Land Trust Summer Celebration
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Celebrate the Land Trust’s 60th anniversary with food, bluegrass music, and natural surroundings
Poliak Preserve
213 Simpaug Turnpike
reddinglandtrust.org
\$, R

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Saturday, August 16

Caturday at the Library
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Meet adoptable cats and kittens through Happily Furever After Rescue
Bethel Public Library
189 Greenwood Avenue
Bethel
happilyforeverafter.org
\$, R

Friday, August 22

RNN Adults Summer Soiree
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Live music, great food, and mingle with neighbors
Private residence in Redding
reddingneighborsandnewcomers.org
\$, R

Friday, August 29 – Monday, September 1

64th Annual Mark Twain Library Book Fair
Times vary, check website for details
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org

Saturday, September 6

Creative Conversations
9:00 a.m.
Discuss potential events, volunteer opportunities, ideas, and more
The Granite Church
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org

Wednesday, September 10

A History of Energy, Technology and Culture in Connecticut: 1600 – 2025
12:30 p.m.
Examining the historical relation between energy systems, technology, and culture in Connecticut
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road
E-mail mstilman@reddingct.gov or call (203) 938-9725
R

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Temple B’nai Chaim
Friday, August 15
Shabbat at Meadow Ridge
5:00 p.m.
100 Redding Road
Friday, August 22
Schmooze into Shabbat
6:30 p.m.
82 Portland Avenue
templebnaichaim.org

MEETINGS

Thursday, August 14

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

Thursday, August 14

Fire District #2 Commissioners Meeting
7:00 p.m.
West Redding Firehouse
306 Umpawaug Road

Monday, August 18

Board of Selectmen
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, August 19

Region 9 Finance and Operations
5:30 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School / Library Learning Commons
100 Black Rock Turnpike

Tuesday, August 19

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

Tuesday, August 19

Region 9 Board of Education
7:00 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School / Library Learning Commons
100 Black Rock Turnpike

Wednesday, August 20

Water Pollution Control Commission
7:30 p.m.
Virtual

Thursday, August 21

Historic Review Committee
6:00 p.m.
Virtual

Thursday, August 21

Democratic Town Committee
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Monday, August 25

Board of Finance
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, August 26

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

Tuesday, September 2

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

Tuesday. September 2

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

Tuesday, September 2

Redding Board of Education
7:00 p.m.
Joel Barlow Middle School / Community Room
486 Redding Road

**Town Offices will be closed on Monday, September 1 for Labor Day.

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THE GLOBAL LUXURY DIFFERENCE



COLDWELL BANKER
REALTY

Celebrating the Unique
Character of Redding

Redding is home to a beautiful variety of residences – from charming antique homes that reflect our town’s rich history to newer constructions that blend seamlessly into the natural landscape. This diversity is part of what makes living here so special. We enjoy a peaceful, private lifestyle surrounded by scenic beauty, yet we’re never far from the amenities that make life convenient and fulfilling. Whether it’s hiking the trails at Topstone Park, listening to a band at the Redding Roadhouse, or simply enjoying the quiet charm of our neighborhoods, Redding offers a lifestyle that’s both tranquil and connected.



110 Gallows Hill Road, Redding | \$685,000

Listed by:
Sharon Hoverman | 203-733-5073
SharonHoverman@gmail.com



76 Farview Farm Road, Redding | \$935,000

Listed by:
Tim Dent | 203-470-5605
TimDentTeam@gmail.com



16 Black Rock Turnpike, Redding | \$1,300,000

Listed by:
Jodi Langford | 203-733-8044
Langford@optonline.net



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203.313.3110



Marilyn Caravetta
203.512.1822



Kim Cuniberti
203.733.6976



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203.715.8584



Tim Dent
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John Frey
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Liz Furrer
203.733.0678



Debbie Gore
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Marilyn Sloper
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THE
TIM MARTIN
Team

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