REDDING SENTINEL

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Five sacred relics on their way to St. Patrick

By Pamela Brown

Sacred Heart-St. Patrick Parish will host five sacred relics at Saint Patrick Church on September 29 as part of the celebration of the feast day of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina. The Parish is one of nine across Fairfield County in which the Diocese of Bridgeport will be presenting the relics over a nine-day period in conjunction with The Saint Pio of Pietrelcina Foundation.

The Diocese is inviting the faithful to encounter one of the most beloved and contemporary saints of the modern era and a priest known as a miracle worker of hope and healing whose famous spiritual words, "Pray, hope, and don't worry," have inspired millions.

"He is a modern-day saint who has countless documented miracles associated with him both while he was alive and after his death," said Anne Cunningham, Director of Religious Education at Saint Patrick. "It's a privilege to host his relics

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Photo by Jessie Wright

Early signs of autumn at New Pond Farm. The farm's pastures and meadows will play host to the Hayfield Hustle Races and Family Oktoberfest this weekend on Saturday, September 26. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Welcome fall at the 44th Annual Artisan Fair

By Pamela Brown



Photo by Jessie Wright

Once the first reds and oranges tinge the leaves in Redding Center, residents know the First Church of Christ, Congregational's Annual Artisan Fair is drawing near. Now in its 44th year, this free, family-friendly event will take place on Saturday, September 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine, on the church grounds at 25 Cross Highway.

"The Artisan Fair brings people from Redding and nearby communities together for a relaxed day of fun, connection, and discovery. There's something for everyone," said Kathie Cyr, Chair of the Fair, who noted the main features of the Fair remain the same by popular demand, but attendees will find some new elements. "Every year we have different artisan offerings, new Tag Sale bargains, and surprise offerings in the Jewelry Boutique and in our Studio. Also, this year for the first time in many years, our 18th-century Parsonage will be open to fairgoers to showcase vintage furniture and rugs for sale. The original doors, floors, and fireplaces in the parsonage are a treat," said Cyr. The Studio and Parsonage will feature an array of antique and modern fine houseware, furniture, paintings, writing desks, rocking chairs, trunks, upholstered and caned chairs, tables, mirrors, and more.

An outdoor marketplace will feature nearly 50 local and regional artisans offering original creations for sale. This year's selection includes fine art, handcrafted jewelry, pottery, sculptures, woodworking, fused glass, infused oils, fiber arts, photography, paintings, home décor, gourmet specialties, and more. Five of the artisans hail from Redding, including Erin Deluca Jewelry (silver jewelry), HooksNBrushes (crocheted dolls and animals), Kate Thomason Keeler (paintings and pottery), Rustic Wares (handcrafted wood home décor), and Stephanie Lauren (dog collars, leashes and bandanas).

Continued on page 5

Redding's Big Outdoors

The "meadow" in Meadow Ridge

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

As I enter my final weeks as Managing Editor of the *Sentinel*, I've become prone to a bit of nostalgia. One of the very first "Redding's Big Outdoors" columns I read – back when I was just a subscriber, in September of 2022 – was of a lovely, publicly-accessible trail loop on the grounds of Meadow Ridge.

It has taken four years for me to get out and try this walk for myself; now, at nine months pregnant, the promise of a well-maintained meander through a meadow followed by a shady loop with plentiful bench seating felt like just the right speed.

The afternoon was glorious – crystal clear blue skies and sunny without the oppressive heat of summer – as I made my way up the drive towards Meadow Ridge at 100 Redding Road. There is a designated semi-circle pull-off clearly labeled "trail parking" about two-thirds of the way up the steep climb to the senior living community, and I was the only car there that day.

After parking, I walked about 200 yards further up the hill on the grassy shoulder of the road and came to a mowed path opening at the bottom of Meadow Ridge's namesake meadow. Entering, I began a steady climb into a glorious swath of yellows, greens, and purples. The meadow is alive with goldenrod this time of year; I felt like Dorothy Gale in some inverse of Oz – the road made of grassy emerald, the fields of yellow brick.

I was taken by the absence of invasives and nuisance plants along the path's edges – no poison ivy, very few tangles of bittersweet. Pods from several milkweed plants were burst open, their silky innards pushed back and forth in the breeze.

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Cell phone policy and AI focus of Region 9 discussion

By Anne Young Albanese

A few weeks into the school year, the Region 9 Board of Education's new policy on personal technology devices is being put to the test.

Over the summer, the Board voted to limit the use of personal technological devices during school hours on school grounds only to during lunchtime in the cafeteria. Some community members and staff had advocated for a complete bell-to-bell ban, which the policy stopped short of.

Administrators noted at the September 15 meeting of the Region 9 Board of Education that the new policy has shown success so far. Easton-Redding-Region 9 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Alisha DiCorpo, and Barlow's Head of School, Dr. Mario Almeida, toured the building on the first day of school.

"There were kids without cell phones in the building, not having them out, walking, in class, talking to each other," reported DiCorpo.

Public comment by Redding resident Kristen Anstett at the September 15 meeting raised the question of the new policy's compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), however. Anstett had spoken in favor of a bell-to-bell ban during the policy discussions and revisions period this summer.

Anstett's concern is that the policy's requirement that cell phones can only be used in the cafeteria could defy the legal requirements of Title II of the ADA, which requires state and local governments to give people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from all their programs, services, and activities. Anstett noted there are students who are unable to have lunch in the cafeteria. There may be too much sensory input for students with specific disabilities, or the environment may be overwhelming. Many of these students spend lunch in a lower-stimulation environment to regulate their nervous system before they return to their classes.

Anstett is also concerned about Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, another law that protects individuals with disabilities from discrimination.

"Section 504 requires school districts that receive federal funding to provide students with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from school programs and activities, including non-academic activities," noted Anstett.

When the policy was adopted this summer, the Board noted that it would revisit it sometime mid-year to evaluate its efficacy and consider possible revisions as needed.

In addition, with the rapid rise of the use of artificial intelligence (AI), the Region 9 Board of Education and the school district administration are focused on educating all stakeholders about acceptable AI use. While the district does not yet have an official policy created on the use of AI, some teachers at

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Legal Notices

At a Special Town Meeting held on Monday, September 21, 2026 at Redding Community Center, it was voted to adopt a resolution pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §8-24 to override the disapproval of the Redding Planning Commission with respect to the proposal of the Board of Education for a Project Adventure sign at John Read Middle School. ■

Michele R. Grande, Town Clerk
September 22, 2026

Notice of Tuesday of the Fifth Week Before Election
Corrections Session to Complete Preliminary Registry List

Tuesday September 29th, such session must be held during such hours between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., as the registrars find necessary to complete the preliminary registry list.

At this session (and on any day except election day or primary day), registrars remove electors from the registry list who have died, become disfranchised, or confirmed in writing that they have moved out of town.

An elector is deemed to have confirmed in writing that he has moved out of town if (1) the registrars have received a cancellation form or (2) the elector has notified the DMV of a change of address out of town concerning a driver's license. (DMV notifies the registrars, and the registrars send Notice of Removal.) The names of people removed are not sent to the polls and such people may be restored on election day only if both registrars are contacted and consent to approve the applicant's request for restoration. (§§ 9-32 and 9-35)

Names removed from the registry list must also be removed from the enrollment list. Immediately after session, registrars must post names and addresses of electors removed from registry list and a statement that list of remedies is available from the registrars. (§§ 9-35, 9-35a and 9-64a) ■

Dated at Redding, CT on this 17th day of September, 2026
Jessica Cishek, Democratic Registrar of Voters
Michele Meschi, Republican Registrar of Voters

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Police Blotter

Police activity from September 14 – 20

By Donna Christopher

Police assisted in two fire and 10 emergency medical services calls and assisted one operator of a disabled motor vehicle.

Traffic

In 65 motor vehicle stops, police issued one summons, 16 infractions, 27 written warnings, and 21 verbal warnings. The infraction rate was 26.2 percent.

A motor vehicle struck a deer on Black Rock Turnpike on September 14.

There were three two-car motor vehicle accidents in the one-week time period, all occurring on Black Rock Turnpike. One accident resulted in a reported neck injury.

A motor vehicle hit a tree on Hill Road on September 20. The operator was transported to Danbury Hospital for minor injuries.

Suspicious incidents

Someone reported a black Toyota hatchback on September 16 parked at the barricade for the closed bridge on Sport Hill Road. The caller reported a male wearing glasses "just sitting there." The area was checked, but police were unable to locate the vehicle or male.

In a reported suspicious incident on September 18, a resident on Redding Road reported that a male operating a vehicle with a New York license plate stopped his vehicle to urinate on the lawn. The vehicle was last seen on Route 53 heading toward John Read Middle School, though police were unable to make contact.

Also on September 18, Ridgefield Police Department notified the Redding Police Department that they had received a report of a person possibly passed out in the passenger side of an Amazon delivery truck. The truck was last seen turning into the Church Street area in Georgetown. Redding police were unable to locate the truck.

On September 20, someone on Pheasant Ridge Road reported a suspicious incident by providing video footage from her Ring doorbell camera depicting two white males dressed in formal clothing ringing the doorbell. The complainant wanted the incident documented.

Pup reunited with owner

On September 17, animal control officers took custody of a French bulldog who had been found roaming on the road on Sunnyview Drive near Sunset Hill Road. After posting information online about the dog, the owner went to police headquarters and was reunited with her pet. ■

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Project Adventure sign proposal advances

By Jessie Wright

Voters at a special town meeting on Monday, September 21 voted to override a negative recommendation from the Planning Commission on a proposed Project Adventure sign at John Read Middle School. The project, however, is not yet approved.

The proposed sign measures five feet by thirteen-and-a-half feet, placed between two 20-foot-high steel poles at the site of the school's outdoor Project Adventure challenge course. Visible from Redding Road, it is intended both to mark the course and to serve as a memorial to seventh grader Luke Sorce, who died earlier this year.

Given the size of the proposed sign, the Board of Selectmen referred the application to the Planning Commission in July under Connecticut General Statue 8-24, which requires local planning commissions to review and report on specific public projects before a municipality can move forward. Town counsel Steven Stafstrom weighed in on that action, noting that the size of the installation made the proposal a "substantial improvement to municipal property" and subject to Statute 8-24.

The Planning Commission ultimately did not endorse the project as proposed, citing concerns that its scale did not fit with the surrounding civic landscape and residential neighborhood.

To override this negative report, a special town meeting was

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Sewage plant upgrades aim to prevent frozen doors and failed equipment

By Rocco Valluzzo

Using funds from its current operating budget, as well as previously authorized Town capital funds, the Water Pollution Control Commission approved Georgetown Sewage Treatment Plant infrastructure repairs and other improvements at its Wednesday, September 16 meeting.

The plant serves residents and businesses in the Georgetown area, as well as Meadow Ridge. It is also intended to supply sewer service to the future re-developed properties at the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill site.

The Commission specifically approved $2,900 from its operating budget to re-wire the membrane room fan to straight three-phase power, including a new motor starter with SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) compatibility.

According to Plant Manager Matthew Lereau, the current variable frequency drive set-up is problematic. The approved electrical work will provide a hand-off-auto switch and allow the fan to be controlled via thermostat or SCADA. This upgrade is critical to prevent the membrane room door from freezing shut during winter.

"As soon as it hits 32 degrees or below, that door freezes shut," said Lereau. "I'm out there with a torch trying to open it."

Lereau noted the tank slide gates have failed due to clamp failure during a tank switch and will need to be replaced. He has since performed a temporary fix using new clamps and rubber seals. He also recommended moving to stainless steel plates for long-term durability, noting that the existing aluminum plates had corroded solid after 15 years of disuse.

"I think we should do the stainless steel, then you never have to replace them again," said Lereau. "It's that simple."

In addition, there are currently 11 broken meters (five residential, six commercial). The goal is to move toward uniform meters and remote reading software to streamline billing and maintenance. Lereau emphasized a "plug and play" approach to ensure all equipment reads in consistent units.

"If you wanted to stay analog, that's fine," he said. "We've got somebody that can go out there. It takes an hour and a half to do it. But let's just make sure that they work, you know, and they all read the same ones in gallons, in cubic feet or whatever."

Commission Chair Amy Atamian said BMP Construction is scheduled to begin a week-long project on the administration and odor control building roofs, which received prior Town capital funding approval. The stone ballast will be stored on-site.

"We may be able to use that as weed suppression on the other side of the gate between the fence and the highway, right, along the fence there," she added. "But we have to have somebody remove the weeds first."

Lereau noted that brush clearing is required along the fence line. He has already performed some manual clearing to address trees leaning on the fence. Discussion remains open on whether to perform brush clearing now or wait until early spring when visibility is better after leaf-drop.

"It's like a wall of green back there," he said. "After the leaves are off might be the better idea." ■

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Historical Society hopes to make Zalmon Read Barn "formal museum"

By Sten Spinella



Photo by Sten Spinella

Redding Historical Society President Janice Dimon addresses members gathered at the Zalmon Read Barn on Sunday, September 20.

The Redding Historical Society hopes to transform the Zalmon Read Barn into a legitimate museum. It's going to take time and money.

On a rainy Sunday, September 20 at the Zalmon Read Barn, the Historical Society gathered for their annual meeting to share their recent accomplishments, determine their officers for 2027, and to listen to a presentation by Ellery Thomas Leary on John Read.

President Janice Dimon told the 10 people gathered — attendance was dampened by the weather — that the Society has raised about $25,000 in the past year for the barn's restoration. Dimon said the group is working to get a contractor on site to shore up the front and left walls of the barn, as the other two walls were already fixed in recent years.

Dimon said commercial businesses and private donations in town "will allow us to continue the second phase of barn restoration."

"We've started a collection of all tools representing the livelihood, the agricultural history in town," Dimon said. "We intend to make this a formal museum."

Dimon proposed amending the Society's bylaws so that it doesn't have to approve next year's officers by the third week in September, saying the group will come together early next year to confirm the slate. The biggest change will be that Dimon plans to step down as President next year, though she plans to stay on with the group. Her replacement has yet to be determined.

Next year, the expectation is that Dimon will move to a Director role, Leary will service as Vice President, Denise Jankovíc will be Treasurer, John Dorsey will be Secretary, Michael McKee will be a Director and Pamela Reese will be a Director.

In addition to the Board changes, the Historical Society anticipates that next year the group will be working to more effectively monetize their popular Rock 'N Roots Music Festival and Fireworks Show, which, Dimon said, typically pays for oil and electricity at the Lonetown Farm Museum.

"We made enough at this year's to pay for the oil next year. That's not a whole lot if you see the scope of this entire undertaking," Dimon said. "This year, we've decided that we're starting earlier with this event. Someone will be joining the Board in 2027 who is committed to making Rock 'N Roots the money-making event we need it to be."

Dimon congratulated Dorsey for inventorying roughly 1,000 books in the Lonetown Farm Museum. She also praised Eagle Scout Nate Hill for his mapping of the final resting places of local veterans. (*Editor's note: See the Sentinel's July 23, 2026 issue, page 5 for a feature on Hill's project.*)

Before Leary began their presentation, Dimon spoke of a goal for the upcoming year: maintaining the Umpawaug District School, also known as the Little Brick Schoolhouse.

"Much of the schoolhouse needs structural assistance," Dimon said. "We have applied for at least three grants in the last 10 years. We're trying to work with the Town to make sure we have the schoolhouse taken care of, that there's clear Town commitment to that schoolhouse. It was built the same year George Washington became president, 1789. It is one of the last surviving brick schoolhouses." ■



Highway crews work to move road projects ahead before winter

By Rob Sample

Redding emerged unscathed from several heavy rains that took place in recent weeks – making for a well-deserved quiet period in the Town's Highway Department.

Yet, that's not necessarily a good thing, noted Highway Department Director Jamie Gracy. "I'd rather be finishing things up right now and shifting gears for the winter months," Gracy said. "Usually, our contract for road salt comes out in October."

Gracy detailed several remaining road projects the Town needs to finish prior to the winter season. These include repairing and repaving a large pothole along Simpaug Turnpike, which was caused by recent flooding there and is currently protected by a large steel plate. In addition, sections of Umpawaug Road and Wayside Lane are slated for repaving work.

Several larger projects also are scheduled to go out to bid soon. These projects are being managed by Tighe and Bond, the Town's consulting engineers. They include major repairs to Poverty Hollow Road and the replacement of a bridge over a small, unnamed waterway along Sport Hill Road.

Rainy weather and leftover damage from an August 2024 storm and subsequent flooding have meant that other municipalities also have road projects needing completion.

"This means Redding is competing with bigger-ticket projects from larger municipalities, which tend to gain the attention of contracting companies," said Gracy. "And with so much work to be done, contractors understandably can get backed up at this time of year."

Gracy said the Town has been fortunate thus far in avoiding much weather-related road damage. He spent the weekend of September 12 and 13 anxiously watching reports from satellites and local weather radar stations, hoping the big storm forecast for that weekend would bypass Redding.

It proved to be a close call, with Westport and Fairfield getting seven inches of rain. Towns a mere 10 miles to the north – including Redding – had a wet day, but minimal impacts.

"Based on the forecast, we were all worried we'd see a repeat of the storm of August 18, 2024, and we were very fortunate," he said. "My phone didn't even ring once all weekend!"

Meanwhile, at the Highway Department headquarters on Great Oak Lane, contractors are now putting the final touches on the installation of a new 50-kilowatt generator. The generator will provide back-up power to the facility in the event of an Eversource power outage.

"The old one was 40 years old and gave out," Gracy said. "After we bid out the new generator earlier this year, we got bids from 12 different companies, which we narrowed to three to four finalists and ultimately chose the winning bid."

Gracy also had good news to report to the beleaguered residents along Simpaug Turnpike, where a culvert favored by beavers was found to be the culprit for recent flooding on a section of the road.

"Metro-North recently installed a Beaver Deceiver and it seems to be working well," said Gracy.

Beaver Deceivers are the product of a Vermont-based company bearing the same name. This system utilizes a combination of piping and a protective cage or fence to disperse water over a larger area, thus preventing any strong current or rushing-water sounds. The system acts to fool the beavers' waterfall-sensing instincts.

And to get a jump on next year's warmer seasons, Gracy recently conferred with the Finance Department. With their approval, he plans to issue an early request for bids for milling and repaving work anticipated for several Town roads.

"If we can line up a contractor now, I can get that work put on the schedule faster once spring comes," he said. ■



Planet Granite Music and Dance Festival delivers community revelry

By Jessie Wright









Photos by Jessie Wright

The twangs of banjo and mandolin drifted over the crowd gathered on the lawn behind The Granite on Saturday, September 19 as children blew bubbles and crafted tambourines near the banks of the Norwalk River.

"We're going to go check out the country two-step dance lesson," a friend told me, as she and her family drifted into the indoor workshop room, adjacent to where I had seen some remarkable young fiddlers perform earlier that day.

My son took an enormous bite of a smashburger from Uncorked's stand across the lawn, melted cheese dribbling down his wrist. "Can we stay for the next band?" he asked. We had grabbed a few open Adirondack chairs near the stage where the band Timothy was finishing their set.

The grounds of The Granite were alive with music and fun all weekend – with activities moving indoors on Sunday when the weather turned wet – for the non-profit's first Planet Granite Music and Dance Festival. Fourteen bands performed, sharing the sounds of bluegrass, Americana, and country music, alongside four types of dance, open jams, and workshops.

We ran into neighbors, took in great music, and discovered new corners of The Granite's building and grounds we had never seen before. It was an ambitious undertaking, executed beautifully. ■

Sports

Fairfield Ludlowe delivers first loss

Girls field hockey | ***By Rocco Valluzzo***



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Mackenzie Franklin, left, battles Fairfield Ludlowe's Nora Smith for control of the ball at a varsity field hockey game on Saturday, September 19. Barlow was shut out 0-5 for its first loss of the season.

After making short work of its first several opponents, the Joel Barlow High varsity field hockey team was in for a far greater challenge when it hosted Fairfield Ludlowe.

The Falcons, who had outscored the competition 14-2 in their first three games, were in for a battle on both ends of the field on Saturday, September 19. Consistently pushing into Barlow territory, Ludlowe's offense built a comfortable lead while its defense turned away the host's offensive efforts in a 0-5 win.

"They're always a strong team," said Barlow Head Coach Nora Curley, whose team lost 0-6 to the same opponent a year ago. "We knew that coming in."

Barlow found it hard to contain Ludlowe's Lily McClay, who scored four goals. The first came just five-and-a-half minutes into the action.

Ludlowe's execution of penalty corners played a big part in the outcome of the game, managing 19 in all. While the Falcons turned away many of them, Ludlowe was awarded one with no time on the clock, and McClay made it 0-2 at the end of the first quarter.

The visitors did not let up in the next frame. Another penalty corner with 4:32 left in the half made it 0-3.

Conversely, whenever Barlow attempted to penetrate the offensive end, Ludlowe's defense was quick to collect the ball and transition back into an attack, preventing Barlow from sustaining momentum.

Continuing to get into Barlow's circle in the second half, Ludlowe came through in the third quarter with McClay again scoring on a corner. With 4:21 left in the game Coco Biggs added one of her own, coming on another corner to finalize the score.

Despite the loss, the game served as a vital benchmark for the Barlow team's progress against a high-caliber opponent known for its post-season success.

"We had this one kind of circled on our calendar as like a good test to see where we're at," said Curley. "It definitely exposed some things that we need to work on, but overall, I thought the girls played with a lot of heart and a lot of effort."

Barlow, now 3-1 overall, hosts Watertown on Saturday, September 26 at 10:00 a.m., is home to Bethel on Monday, September 28 at 4:30 p.m., and visits Immaculate on Wednesday, September 30 at 4:00 p.m. ■

Falcons take fourth, eighth at Wilton Invitational

Girls and boys cross country | ***By Rocco Valluzzo***

A test of how the Joel Barlow High cross country teams could do in a large field of competitors came early in the season.

Girls cross country

Running in the small schools division at the Wilton Invitational for the second straight year, the Barlow girls took fourth overall with a score of 115 on Saturday, September 19, at Allen's Meadow.

New Canaan dominated the race, taking first with 24, placing all its scorers in the top 10 places. Guilford was second with 77, and host Wilton took third with 90.

Barlow's best finish came from Kate Duggan. Crossing the line in 15:17.46, she broke into the top five with fourth overall. The Falcons had one other runner finish in the top 20. Clara Mehner ran a 16:38.05 to take 16th.

While Barlow did have a small "pack" of runners that finished within a span of less than 30 seconds, it was further back in the field. Third for the team and 35th overall, Viv D'Amico finished in 18:02.47. Two places later was Sadie Troy, finishing in 18:09.02. Completing the scoring for the Falcons, Ellie Fenzel was 42nd overall in 18:31.78.

Also in the race, Katie Kinyon took 54th in 19:31.78. Leah Rudd followed in 57th in 19:59.36, and Jane Manna was 61st in 20:41.36.

Boys cross country

One runner in particular led the Falcon boys team. The majority of its runners were in the second half of the field, helping the team take eighth with 228.

Newtown led with 64, a point ahead of Pleasantville, N.Y. Guilford was third with 75.

Barlow's lone top-five finisher was Max Mehner. With a 16:48.81, he was fourth. More than two minutes elapsed before Barlow scored another runner. With a 19:07.84, Ryan Wheatley was 44th.

It was a close call for 65th. Breaking the 20-minute mark, Barlow's Didier Mejia-Morneau finished in 19:57.20, 0.35 seconds ahead of Conard High's Aidan Lawrence.

The Falcons' last two scorers crossed the finish line within the span of less than a minute. Jack Laedke took 79th in 21:21.67, three places ahead of Rowan Weiss, who had a 22:15.11.

Also running in the race, Elias Marsh finished one spot later in 22:23.59. In 84th was Sebastian Cano Cowles in 22:28.28.

Barlow is at New Fairfield on Tuesday, September 29, also taking on Masuk and New Milford. The girls' race will take place at 4:30 p.m. and the boys' race will take place at 5:00 p.m. ■

Despite narrow loss, Falcons show resilience

Boys soccer | ***By Rocco Valluzzo***



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Freshman Alex Solis was one of several underclassmen starting for the Joel Barlow High boys soccer team in its game at New Milford on Thursday, September 17. Although the Falcons lost a close 0-1 decision, they showed the ability to compete with one of the South-West Conference's top teams.

While it was not the desired outcome, the Joel Barlow High boys varsity soccer team showed much promise when it visited New Milford last week.

Despite the narrow 0-1 loss on Thursday, September 17, longtime Head Coach Paul Winstanley felt the team demonstrated significant growth and a return of the "Barlow spirit." Its ability to compete with top-tier opponents using a young roster signaled a bright outlook for the remainder of the season.

"My guys are starting to get the feel of what it takes to compete," Winstanley said. "Today especially, I felt like I was watching the old Barlow spirit. The legacy came back."

The team showed marked psychological improvement compared to its 0-3 loss against defending South-West Conference champ Weston two days earlier. Barlow remained aggressive and continued to threaten New Milford until the final whistle.

The roster currently features two-to-three sophomores and a freshman in the starting lineup, with additional freshmen contributing off the bench. This stands in stark contrast to opponents like Weston, which boast 16 seniors.

"They did the opposite of what happened against Weston," said Winstanley. "We didn't wilt. We looked like we got stronger."

While New Milford controlled more possession and territory in the first half, the game remained a balanced "50-50" contest for the majority of the match. Winstanley was proud of the team's defensive stand and overall effort throughout the game.

"In the first half, I thought they definitely won," he said. "They had more possession than us. They might have had more territory. But in the second half, I feel like our boys really stepped up."

After a scoreless first half, the Falcons threatened to capitalize about 10 minutes into the second. A shot by Waldy Vasquez bounced off the hands of New Milford keeper Sebastian Romero before hitting the crossbar, preserving the tie.

The lone goal came with 17:29 left to play. A corner kick by New Milford's Masharo Vasquez found the head of Tyler Bowman, who redirected the shot out of reach of Barlow keeper Tom Swabsin.

While the scoreboard reflected a loss, Winstanley viewed the game as a turning point for the program's culture. If the team can secure a playoff spot, he believes it will become a "dangerous" opponent.

Barlow, now 1-2-1 overall, hosts Pomperaug on Thursday, September 24 at 5:00 p.m., is at Immaculate on Saturday, September 26 at 1:00 p.m. and is home versus Brookfield on Tuesday, September 29 at 5:00 p.m. ■

Project Adventure sign proposal advances / *continued from page 2*

statutorily required, which is what brought 38 voters to the Community Center on Monday, September 21.

Public comment ranged from residents' concerns over the sign's size, to disapproval of the approach the Planning Commission had taken when rendering their opinion, to legal arguments on the appropriateness of applying Statute 8-24 in the first place. Emotions at times ran high, given the sensitive nature of a memorial for a lost student being subject to municipal land use procedures.

The vote to be taken that evening, however, was limited to one question: Did voters want to overturn the Planning Commission's decision and move the project along to the next steps in the approval process? Town Clerk Michele Grande noted that if the Planning Commission's decision were to be overridden, the proposal would still be subject to all other necessary approvals, which would likely include receiving a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

"It strikes me that many of the comments that people are making about looking for revisions… that's built into the process going forward – or it gets killed now," noted resident Jamie Barickman. "So, moving it forward to the next stage seems like it's going down the stage of thoughtful negotiation."

A majority of the 38 voters voted in favor of overriding the Planning Commission's recommendation, with six voting "nay." ■

Joel Barlow High School sports results and schedules

Boys cross country
Results:
September 15: Immaculate 25 / Joel Barlow 31, Bethel 25 / Joel Barlow 32, Joel Barlow 23 / Kolbe Cathedral 32
Record:
Joel Barlow 1-2
Next meets:
September 29: away at New Fairfield at 5:00 p.m.

Girls cross country
Results:
September 22: Joel Barlow 22 / Immaculate 36, Joel Barlow 22 / Bethel 39, Joel Barlow 18 / Kolbe Cathedral 50
Record:
Joel Barlow 3-0
Next meets:
September 29: away at New Fairfield at 4:30 p.m.

Field hockey
Results:
September 14: Joel Barlow 4 / Weston 0
September 16: Joel Barlow 4 / Pomperaug 1
September 19: Fairfield Ludlowe 5 / Joel Barlow 0
Record:
Joel Barlow 3-1
Next games:
September 26: home versus Watertown at 11:00 a.m.
September 28: home versus Bethel at 4:30 p.m.
September 30: away at Immaculate at 4:00 p.m.

Football
Next meet:
September 18: Plainville 49 / Joel Barlow 20
Record:
Joel Barlow 0-2
Next games:
September 25: home versus Masuk at 7:00 p.m.

Boys golf
Record:
Joel Barlow 3-1
Next matches:
September 24: away at Orange Hill Country Club at 3:00 p.m.
September 28: away at Rock Ledge Golf Club at 10:00 a.m.
September 29: home versus Masuk at 3:00 p.m

Boys soccer
Results:
September 15: Weston 3 / Joel Barlow 0
September 17: New Milford 1 / Joel Barlow 0
Record:
Joel Barlow 1-2-1
Next games:
September 24: home versus Pomperaug at 5:00 p.m.
September 29: home versus Brookfield at 5:00 p.m.

Girls soccer
Results:
September 15: Joel Barlow 6 / Weston 0
September 17: Joel Barlow 4 / New Milford 0
Record:
Joel Barlow 4-0
Next games:
September 24: away at Pomperaug at 7:00 p.m.
September 26: home versus Immaculate at 11:00 a.m.
September 29: away at Brookfield at 6:00 p.m.

Girls swimming
Results:
September 15: Joel Barlow 66 / New Fairfield 66
Next meets:
September 25: away at New Milford at 7:00 p.m.

Girls volleyball
Results:
September 14: Fairfield Ludlowe 3 / Joel Barlow 1
September 17: Joel Barlow 3 / Kolbe Cathedral 0
Record:
Joel Barlow 2-2
Next matches:
September 25: away at Greenwich at 4:00 p.m.
September 29: home versus Weston at 6:45 p.m.
September 30: away at New Milford at 7:00 p.m.

Barlow students stand out as school year begins

By Anne Young Albanese

The school year has begun, and several students at Joel Barlow High School already have distinguished themselves by taking on new academic challenges and receiving recognition for their service to the community.

AP and ECE course enrollment

This year, the school introduced several new Advanced Placement and Early College Experience (ECE) courses. The ECE courses are a new development in partnership with the University of Connecticut that allows students to register concurrently to earn University of Connecticut college credits. The AP Calculus BC ECE class has 16 students registered. AP Business has two sections with 21 students in each section. UConn French 4 has 15 students. UConn AP Spanish has 11 students. UConn Sports Dynamics has 11 students who are registered for next semester.

National Merit Scholarship announces high scorers

The National Merit Scholarship Program announced its 2027 commended students and semifinalists moving onto the next level of competition. Barlow senior Austin Bradford was named a semifinalist. Bradford is one of the highest scorers on the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) in Connecticut, and in the top one percent of students in the country. He now may apply to become a National Merit finalist. Half of all finalists earn scholarship awards.

Eight students reached the "commended" rank at Barlow, including Ariana Almodovar, Christopher Alverado, Samuel Cooper, Sara Perales-Hudson, Allison Prugh, Lyra Robinson, Ripley Robinson, and Melanie Schrade. These students placed in the top three percent of scorers nationwide. They receive a letter of commendation but are not eligible to apply for a National Merit Scholarship.

Peter Burton Hanson Award for Humanity

Every year on the anniversary of 9/11, a Joel Barlow High School student is awarded the Peter Burton Hanson Award for Humanity. Peter Hanson was a Barlow alumnus who died with his wife and daughter on Flight 175 on September 11, 2001. The winner selected for the award embodies Peter's characteristics of dedication to social justice, appreciation of cultural differences, love of the arts, concern for the environment, volunteerism, and sensitivity to issues of peace. This year's winner is Anjali Dhar. Dhar will receive a $1,500 scholarship. ■

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Five sacred relics on their way to St. Patrick / *continued from page 1*

here at Saint Patrick Church, and we hope his presence here will encourage others to learn more about this holy man."

The Saint Pio of Pietrelcina Foundation, an international nonprofit charitable institution that promotes the knowledge of and devotion to Padre Pio, says that the pilgrimage of the relics is to bring people closer to God and offer the faithful an opportunity to have a spiritual encounter with him, to pray to him, and seek his blessings.

Born Francesco Forgione in Pietrelcina, Italy, in 1887, Padre Pio entered the Capuchin Franciscan order as a young man and was ordained a priest in 1910, according to the Diocese of Bridgeport. In 1918, he received the stigmata, the visible wounds of Christ, which he would bear for 50 years. Word of his holiness spread far beyond his friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, where the faithful came by the thousands to attend his Mass and to seek him in the confessional, a ministry to which he gave himself tirelessly. He founded a hospital, the Home for the Relief of Suffering, as a sign that faith and care for the sick belong together. Saint Pio died on September 23, 1968, and was canonized by Pope John Paul II.

The five relics will be available for viewing and veneration at Saint Patrick Church at 169 Black Rock Turnpike following the 8:30 a.m. Mass through 9:00 p.m. on September 29. A Holy Mass will be held at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Litany of St. Pio (prayers), and a veneration of the relics. No registration is required.

The relics include St. Pio's brown fingerless glove that he wore over his stigmata; a piece of St. Pio's Mantle; the handkerchief St. Pio used during Mass to wipe his tears; a lock of his hair; and crusts from his stigmata wounds he bore on his body for 50 years.

"They are actual items, or a portion of an actual item that is preserved in a vessel, and are a way for every viewer to connect to Saint Pio," said Father Terrence Walsh.

"Relics are important to Catholics because they're associated with the saints – men, women, and children who lived holy lives, many of whom were martyred for their faith. Those saints did God's work on Earth. God often uses their relics to bring about great graces to those praying in faith as they ask for the intercession of that particular saint," explained Mrs. Una Callanan, leader, Padre Pio Prayer Group of Sacred Heart-Saint Patrick Parish. "The Parish is one of three parishes in Connecticut (only two in the Diocese of Bridgeport) that have a registered Padre Pio Prayer Group through San Giovanni Rotondo, in Italy," she said. "The parish Prayer Group, which was inactive during Covid and during the merger between Sacred Heart and Saint Patrick, re-registered and began meeting at the beginning of 2026. We don't think it is a coincidence that Padre Pio's relics will be at Saint Patrick this year."

Father Walsh shared that having access to these important relics is a gift for the church and the Parish, and he encourages all to attend. "The ability to have such close contact in modern day with this holy man is a special event for Catholics, particularly our parishioners," he said. "We welcome all to respectfully view the relics and learn more about this holy man." ■



In Redding, home internet is close to universal

By Justin Lindholm

In Redding, home internet is nearly universal. Census figures show that essentially every child in town lives in a home with a connection, and only a handful of households in the entire town have no internet access of any kind. Among older residents, the share without home internet is just 3.4 percent.

The contrast is what makes these numbers worth noting. Across the country, about one in 20 children lives in a home with no internet, and in many rural counties the figure runs far higher, a quarter or even a third of homes. Even within Connecticut it varies from one town to the next. Redding is among the places where the gap has essentially closed.

Income and the reach of wired service are the two forces that usually decide where a community lands, and Redding's numbers reflect both a well-served area and the means to stay connected.

Near-universal access is easy to take for granted, but nationally it is the exception rather than the rule, and it is the baseline many communities are still working toward. ■

These figures come from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. CompareInternet compiled the county and community breakdowns and published them, along with the method, at compareinternet.com.

Welcome fall at the 44th Annual Artisan Fair / *continued from page 1*



Photo courtesy of First Church of Christ, Congregational

For the first time in several years, the 18th-century Parsonage will be open to browse through vintage furniture and rugs.

"In addition to welcoming many of our favorite returning artisans, we're excited to introduce several talented new exhibitors this year," said Kara Morgan, Artisan Fair Co-ordinator.

The Giant Tag Sale will present hundreds of houseware items, home décor, holiday items, vintage figurines, a huge selection of toys, games, and more. The Jewelry Boutique will showcase a vast collection of vintage and one-of-a-kind jewelry, in addition to costume jewelry, scarves, handbags, and fashion accessories, all donated by church and community members.

"This year, there will be an expanded fine jewelry section highlighting silver and turquoise jewelry, vintage pieces, and unusual necklaces. For the second year, we're also offering women's vintage fashion jackets," said Cyr.

Delicious food, prepared by volunteers, is served throughout the day, include homemade Congregational soup ladled from a cauldron over a wood fire, fresh apple pie, grilled burgers, pulled pork, hot dogs, sausage and peppers, veggie burgers, fries, popcorn, and beverages provided by the Fellowship Committee. Children may enjoy lemon swizzles, cotton candy, and face painting.

Live performances will be provided by The Keelers (10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.), a Redding-based band who blend harmonies, old and new songs, and community connection; Enchanted Garden Dancers (12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.) who are returning to offer energetic performances showcasing a variety of dance styles; and Snakeskin Boots Band (1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.), an American country rock band from Fairfield County performing original songs and covers.

In addition, attendees can purchase seasonal mums, pumpkins, gourds, and cornstalks, and take part in the Great Raffle, featuring more than 50 prizes donated by local businesses and supporters.

"The Fair is an opportunity for neighbors to come together while supporting First Church's outreach mission," said Cyr. "The proceeds help us continue serving local families, community organizations, and charitable ministries throughout the year." ■

Free parking and shuttles are available at Redding Elementary School, 33 Lonetown Road. For more information, visit firstchurchredding.org

Cell phone policy and AI focus of Region 9 discussion
continued from page 1

Barlow are already using the tools in their classrooms.

During convocation this year, Matt Woodward, a faculty member from UConn's Digital Media and Design Department who specializes in AI, came to discuss the technology with Joel Barlow High School teachers. DiCorpo plans to sit down with Woodward, Superintendent Dr. Jason McKinnon, and Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations, and Technology Sara Scrofani to develop an educated approach to its use in the districts. In addition, DiCorpo will attend school department meetings to hear directly from staff about how they are using AI. There was mention of possibly developing a class on AI in the future, but there will be no decision until more research and information has been compiled.

Following her research, DiCorpo expects some pressure from different areas as more large school districts and states impose moratoriums or outright bans on the use of AI in schools and delays on further study. DiCorpo said she is very focused on the intersection of technology and curriculum and how to use them successfully in all three school districts (Easton, Redding, and Region 9).

The next Region 9 Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Learning Commons at Joel Barlow High School, 100 Black Rock Turnpike. ■

Celebrating a F

How 'bout them apples?

Silverman's Farm blends Easton's farming heritage with family-friendly fall traditions

By Donna Christopher



Photo by Alan Pittman

Silverman's Farm in next-door Easton offers much more than just pick-your-own apples

It's apple season, making it an ideal time to experience Easton's working farms. Visiting one may seem like an everyday part of life for locals, but for many families from around Connecticut and New York, apple picking and cider donuts have become an annual tradition.

At Silverman's Farm, owners Jake Conover and Julie Almy hope visitors come for the apples but stay to experience everything else the farm has to offer. Beyond its pick-your-own orchards, families will find a five-acre animal farm and petting zoo, a market stocked with fresh produce, homemade goods, seasonal events, and plenty of opportunities to spend an afternoon outdoors.

Silverman's has been part of Easton's agricultural landscape for more than a century. Founded by Benjamin Silverman in 1920, the family farm evolved from a traditional produce operation into one of the region's best-known agritourism destinations before Conover and Almy purchased the business in 2025. Today, they are continuing that tradition while building on the farm's long history.

Conover said introducing visitors to agriculture is one of the most rewarding parts of the job. He grew up in central New Jersey, working on a nearby farm he could reach by bicycle before he even had his driver's license. Conover lives in Easton with his wife, Brittney, who owns and operates nearby Shaggy Coos & Creamery, and their two children.

"I grew up working for a farm and really just became part of their family," Jake said. "I got the itch from there and then realized I could continue my education and learn more about it. So I decided to do that."

He went on to study agriculture at Delaware Valley University in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where he also met his wife, who focused on zoology and large animal science. That combination of hands-on experience and formal agricultural education eventually led him to purchase Silverman's.

Today, Silverman's encompasses about 50 acres, including orchards, a five-acre animal farm with more than 100 animals, a farm market, and parking areas. The hillside orchard features about 20 apple varieties. Visitors can either walk into the orchard or ride a tractor to pick their own apples.

The market offers seasonal items such as jams, jellies, and preserves made from "gleaned" fruit – perfectly good produce that might otherwise go to waste. Visitors can also pick up the farm's popular cider donuts, made for Silverman's by Connecticut-based Chavez Bakery.

Throughout the year, the farm also offers seasonal experiences, including berry picking in summer and farm-to-table dinners.

For Conover, however, the farm is about more than selling produce.

He and Almy also serve on the Easton Agricultural Commission, and he believes farms help children understand where food comes from while creating lasting family memories. He encourages visitors to make a full day of their trip by exploring Easton's other farms as well.

"Easton is kind of a gem in Fairfield County," Jake said. "We're surrounded by other wonderful farms. Every farmer here really pours himself into their business. If you're coming to Easton, make it an all-day thing. Of course, check out Silverman's, but also go and explore some of the other farms that we have here because they all have something special going on."

The five-acre petting zoo or "animal farm" has rabbits, llamas, alpacas, cows, sheep, and larger species like bison. Conover said they work to keep the mix of animals diverse and fun so that families who return year after year always have something new to see. The space also includes a small playground with slides for younger children and is available for birthday parties inside the animal farm.

Silverman's attracts both residents and visitors from throughout Fairfield County and the greater New York metropolitan area.

"We definitely get a good flow of locals," Conover said, "but a lot of our business certainly does come from the greater New York area and lower Fairfield County – people looking to get out of the hubbub of busier, more urban development. If you're coming from the city, it's a short drive."

For the latest picking conditions, seasonal offerings, and hours, visit silvermansfarm.com ■

Weekly produce drive continues to share fresh food with those in need

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Mercedes DeMasi

Peach salsa made from items received through the Grange's weekly produce drive.

Now in its fourth season, Redding Grange's weekly food drive collecting surplus produce from local growers continues to serve neighbors in need.

Produce dropped in collection coolers at Redding Grange (399 Newtown Turnpike), Mark Twain Library (439 Redding Road), and The Granite (5 North Main Street) every Wednesday morning is distributed to the Town's Social Services Department and ARC Comida Food Pantry in Danbury through a partnership with Food Rescue U.S. – Fairfield County.

Redding Grange member Mercedes DeMasi said that she has been able to use produce she receives through the effort to cook fresh meals for her family and local disabled and house-bound friends.

"One of the things I made with ingredients almost wholly from the produce drive was one of the best salsas I've ever had: peaches that were a little too ripe and got smooshed in the bag, a tiny handful of tomatillos (the perfect amount for the salsa), a hot pepper, monarda oxymel from last year, and a bit of supermarket market onion with a pinch of salt," she said. "I'm so grateful to be a recipient, it was wonderful to be included."

Redding residents have embraced the initiative in the last four years, with many gardeners contributing to the collection week to week. Warrup's Farm and Iron Hill at Holbrook Farm also have been anchor providers for several seasons. Volunteers put out and take back the collection coolers every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and Grange Treasurer, Cathy Smeriglio, is the main coordinator of the entire effort. As Grange President Elizabeth Jensen noted, "Feeding a village takes a village!" ■

The produce food drive will continue weekly on Wednesdays through October 14

Your guide to local harvest festivals and fare

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Susan Clark

The Redding Grange's 5th Annual Agricultural Fair will celebrate local farming and agriculture on Sunday, October 25.

From pumpkin weigh-offs and cider-making to tractor pulls through farmland, fall offers a host of family-friendly events to enjoy the local fruits of this year's harvest.

New Pond Farm's Hayfield Hustle and Family Oktoberfest
Saturday, September 26
9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
101 Marchant Road

New Pond Farm offers a new combination of fall events this weekend, kicking off with morning races, including a Children's Sap Run, 5K and 5-mile course through the properties that help harvest and provide hay to the farm's animals. Participants can then enjoy an afternoon festival with Oktoberfest food and drink, hayrides, live music, animal encounters, and a property-wide scavenger hunt. Tickets and registration required.
newpondfarm.org

Harvest Moon Farm and Orchard's Fall Festival
Weekends in September and October
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
130 Hardscrabble Road, North Salem, NY

A regional favorite each year, the Harvest Moon Farm and Orchard's Fall Festival offers fall fun every weekend of September and October. Live music, hayrides, pick-your-own-pumpkins and apples, a kids fun zone, photo ops, a country store, and food vendors are on the menu Saturday and Sunday. Each weekend features a different theme, from Ciderfest to Pumpkin Palooza to BBQ, Beer, and Bourbon. Days sell out, so register and pick your visiting day early.
harvestmoonfarmandorchard.com/fall-festival

Ridgefield's 14th Annual Giant Pumpkin Weigh Off
Sunday, September 27
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Ballard Park, 485 Main Street, Ridgefield

Some of the largest fruits of the harvest are celebrated at this annual free event, with pumpkin growers from all corners of Connecticut coming to compete for the title of "most giant pumpkin." Last year's winner weighed in at a whopping 2,352.5 pounds! Ballard Park will be filled with this year's pumpkin entries, as well as tents with local vendors, food trucks, kids' activities, farm animals, live music, and shopping. The weigh-off begins at 12:00 p.m.
facebook.com/Ridgefieldpumpkinweighoff

Danbury Garden Club Plant and Harvest Fair
Saturday, October 3
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Hatters Park, 7 East Hayestown Road, Danbury

Think spring is the only time for planting? Think again! The Danbury Garden Club will host their Plant and Harvest Fair, featuring a huge selection of natives, perennials, bulbs, seeds, mums, flowers, baked goods, produce, and preserves. Expert gardeners will be on hand to answer questions as visitors select their fall plantings, one of the best times of year to be planting in your garden.
danburygardenclub.org

Earthplace Fall Festival
Saturday, October 3
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
10 Woodside Lane, Westport

Help support Earthplace's conservation and education programs with a day of family-friendly harvest fun. Admission includes a corn pool, arts and crafts, pumpkin bowling, nature exploration, a rotten log hotel, tree weave, eagle's nest, and animal encounters. Earthplace's Birds of Prey Exhibit also will officially reopen during the event, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11:00 a.m. Other fall activities will include hayrides and games like apple slingshot, a hay search, and donut on a string. Pre-registration and tickets are encouraged.
earthplace.org/festival

Hollandia Nursery's 34th Annual Fall Festival
Saturday, October 3 – Sunday, October 4
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturday
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Sunday
103 Old Hawleyville Road, Bethel

An abundance of fall plants, produce, and gardening supplies will serve as the backdrop to Hollandia Nursery's annual Fall Festival, now in its 34th year. A collection of antique farm equipment, classic cars, and tractors will delight visitors, and families can enjoy hayrides, tractor pulls, food, and fun. Plan out next year's garden while enjoying what is billed as an "old fashioned good time."
ctgrown.com

Fairfield Harvest Market
Saturday, October 17
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Old Town Hall Green, 611 Old Post Road, Fairfield

Local vendors, pumpkins, apples, cider, live music, and food will fill Fairfield's Old Town Green for the Fairfield Harvest Market. A dog costume parade will begin at 12:00 p.m. and visitors can try their hand and guessing the weight of a giant pumpkin on display. Fairfield Rotary will present a beer garden, and seven food trucks will keep guests fed and happy. Rain date is Saturday, October 24.
fairfieldctchamber.com

Redding Grange 5th Annual Agricultural Fair
Sunday, October 25
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Redding Grange, 399 Newtown Turnpike

Greet your neighbors and marvel at judged entries in several categories of agricultural fun, from baked goods to feathered friends. Hyperlocal, the Grange's Agricultural Fair celebrates Redding and local farmers, growers, and friends, and will also feature food, drink, animals, children's games, and shopping. Sign up to be a sponsor by contacting community@reddinggrange.org.
reddinggrange.org ■

ruitful Harvest

Redding farmstands bursting with colorful bounty

Roadside pick-ups by local growers create true farm-to-table opportunities | ***Photos by Jessie Wright***












A tour of several of Redding's farmstands last weekend yielded a colorful cornucopia for visitors, right on the roadside. (*From top left, clockwise*): Dahlias, eggs, produce, and baked goods at Great Meadow Farm at 2 Old Hattertown Road; A stocked stand welcomed visitors at Marchant Farm at 55 Chestnut Woods Road; All sorts of harvest goodies were available at this Georgetown stand at 88 Portland Avenue; Fresh chocolate milk was a must-try from New Pond Farm's dairy annex at 101 Marchant Road; Grab-and-go bouquets from Little River Flower Farm at 4 Old Field Lane; Organic produce at Great Meadow Farm; Two-toned squash at Marchant Farm.

At Community Garden, a once-bustling space grows quiet

By Donna Christopher



Photo by Jessie Wright

Weeds have overtaken several of the plots at the Community Garden after septic leaching fields were discovered under the site last spring.

It has been a strange harvest this year at Redding's Community Garden.

In April, Elizabeth Sager was looking ahead to an early spring planting at the plot she has tended for about 12 years at the site behind the Redding Historical Society on Lonetown Road. Those plans were thrown into disarray, however, when septic leaching fields for nearby Redding Elementary School were discovered underneath a portion of the garden.

While Sager's plot was not directly affected, the potential for a permanent closing of the site or relocation of the space has impacted her and other gardeners this growing season, some of whom did not return this year.

Sager's roughly 20-by-20-foot plot doesn't just yield an ample supply of garlic, onions, shallots, tomatoes, kale, lettuce, arugula, and (in better years) green beans, it also represents years of work building up good soil and a strong connection to the place. A prolific gardener, Sager has her soil tested regularly at UConn and brings in her own compost; she told the *Sentinel* earlier this year that the news about the septic situation "devastated" her and fellow gardeners.

The Park and Recreation Department manages the Community Garden, where there are about two dozen fenced-in garden plots. The Park and Recreation Commission formed a working group this summer to research and identify solutions to the septic issue, including identifying alternative suitable sites or configurations for the garden. That work is ongoing, with the Board of Selectmen and Land Use Commissions considering workable options.

In the meantime, Sager described this season as a mixed experience: Her own gardening went relatively well, but the overall community atmosphere suffered as many plots

Continued on page 8



Book Review

Flesh

By David Szalay

368 pages / Scribner

After reading *Flesh*, by David Szalay, admonitory phrases of other writers come to mind: "Love and nothing else soon becomes nothing else." (Walter Lippman); "The unexamined life is not worth living." (Socrates); And "One is either self-determined or other-determined." (Deci and Ryan).

Szalay has created a character in István so feckless and unguided by anything like self-determination that his profoundly empty life appears significant to outsiders. His big house. His Bentley. And it is true he stumbles into a wealthy life of ease. István is beset with uncanny luck, which seems at first objectively good, but is finally shown to have been, in reality, devastatingly bad. István becomes a gilded failure. He is a failure in love, in business, as a father, and finally as a human being who must navigate life's obstacles to survive with an identity. He procrastinates into isolation. He is empty. István has no identity.

And yet, Szalay has written a fascinating novel. *Flesh* won the 2025 Booker Prize for fiction. It would be tempting to equate flesh of the title to sex as a corrupting force in the book, but the narrative does not support that premise. The title seems to suggest, rather, that in the end, István's failure to engage life renders him irrelevant. He is not a person, just flesh.

His stepson becomes a drug addict, his wife and natural son die in an accident. These dire events, and his tolerant and non-confrontational nature and tendency to procrastinate eventually will cause his world to collapse. An adamant subtext urges that István's toxic choices dramatize the cliché that money won't make you happy. Money doesn't make István happy when his lover's wealthy husband dies.

Szalay is an original novelist. Because his way of telling a story stays away from linear time, the reader expects certain things to happen after the narrative jumps forward. And events do happen in ways the author intends and the reader expects – characters are given challenges and situations that reveal their natures — but always István is peripheral while being central to the narrative. It is an artful twist, to have a main character so beside his own point. This is a risky but effective authorial strategy. But Szalay shows how it works well in a novel that details organically what can happen when human values of love and family cohesion are not given proper place. Chaos, division, addiction, and a serious risk of irrelevance moving in a direction of social invisibility, is the fabric Szalay offers as a consequence of such disconnect. The reader is made to agree.

If the duty of a novelist is to present truth and consequences, David Szalay's *Flesh* succeeds. He succeeds as a writer, but more important is that his artist's message urges a re-evaluation of emotional connections that sustain identity and culture. External, material insufficiencies might be a part of life, but how a person survives defines character. There is no God to petition by showing good intention. The author of *Flesh* creates a character whose luck turns bad on choices passively made in a context of supposed good fortune – shown to be, in this case, horrific. ■

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



Library Corner

Essential, whether you use it or not

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

A new poll released by the Knight Foundation suggests that the majority of Americans view libraries as an essential public service. A staggering 93% say budget cuts to their local public library would impact their community.

We have seen this in action here in Redding. While the way people use Mark Twain Library is ever-changing, the steadfast support from people in town remains unwavering. The rate at which people borrow books has remained relatively flat, but more and more folks have been coming through our doors to attend programs or use our services. And, anecdotally, some of our biggest supporters are not huge library users. Rather, they are people who see the value of having a fabulous library in their community and they believe in its mission.

I can relate to this, as I never seem to make it to the library in my town outside of Redding. It's like the old proverb "The cobbler's children have no shoes" – it's difficult to bring kids to a library program when I have spent my entire day in a library. But when I see my monthly gift to my local library come out of my checking account, it makes me feel good. My electric bill though…that's a different story. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

Notes from a neighbor *Talk with me*

By Carter Wiseman

I love small dinner parties with neighbors, especially when the conversation goes beyond the trading of family foibles and local gossip. But recently I have noticed a disturbing trend: inter-talking, or interrupting while others are talking. It's not a term that has yet entered common usage, but we need it.

Lovely as our dinner parties usually are, there is occasionally a guest who feels entitled to claim more conversational real estate than the others. I can usually spot the offender making speedy eye movements when someone else has the floor. The message is that the guest is waiting to plug a gap in the group chat. The most frequent device of the inter-talker is to butt in with, "That reminds me." What follows may or may not be relevant to what the group had been talking about, but the focus was on the speaker, not the group.

Another familiar opening is: "I knew somebody just like that in school." The tale might be about mean girls at the cool-kids lunch table, or some hanky-panky under the bleachers at a football game, but it was not about the person who had been talking.

A former neighbor of ours who thought very well of himself had a variation on this strategy. Whenever we attended a meeting that included time afterwards with the speaker, our neighbor would raise his hand and, if called upon, would say: "Question!" But instead of referring to what the speaker had said, he would deliver a personal pronouncement laced with names of famous people he knew.

It turns out that the theatre world has a way of addressing this. It is called "passing the ball." Actors are reminded by directors to pay attention to their fellow performers – not to outdo them, but to complement them. In therapeutic circles, it's also called "listening to understand."

While I was brooding about this, a friend told me about the ancient tradition of the "talking stick." In many indigenous American societies, she explained, members who gathered to discuss important matters would pass a sacred staff from one person to another to establish who was allowed to speak. No stick, wait your turn.

The closest I have come to this is the practice of a friend who gave lively dinners that often provoked heated exchanges, and lots of "inter-talk." His great skill was to step in as things got testy to say, "I wonder if there is another way to look at this." He had no stick, but his graceful intervention made us all realize that we could share in a solution, rather than compete for attention.

If the stick doesn't work at our next dinner party, I may move to a talking bat. ■

At Community Garden, a once-bustling space grows quiet / *continued from page 7*

were abandoned after the septic issues. With only about half of the plots in use by her estimate, untended beds have filled with weeds and wild growth, changing the feel of a once-bustling garden that used to have a waiting list. As she put it, in terms of gardening, "it's gone fine, relatively okay," but "in terms of the community, because of the community aspect this once vibrant place where we had a waiting list, people just didn't show up."

Sager explained that many gardeners whose plots lay over the septic fields did not return this season because health regulations required them to switch from in-ground gardening to containers or raised beds filled with new soil. This requirement created significant cost and logistical barriers.

"Of all the plots that were over the septic that had to go to containers and new soil, only one of those people came back," she said.

Sager says she would "personally like to stay" at the current garden, where she's spent over a decade improving the soil, bringing her own compost, and enjoying its beautiful setting near the Community Center that draws in passersby.

While she did not give a specific idea for what the future garden might look like if it has to relocate, she mainly expressed uncertainty and a desire to remain where she is, calling her current plot "a perfect spot" and noting that "it's not known yet what exactly is going to happen." ■

On the menu with… *Shannon Renzulli of Weekend Bakeshop*

By Pamela Brown



Photo by Shannon Renzulli

Ah, fall. It brings forth warm and cozy aromas of cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and even the orchard crispness of apples and pears. Home cooks can kick off the season with a fall-spiced granola infused with seasonal ingredients, modified by Redding's own Shannon Renzulli of Weekend Bakeshop.

"Fall is a great time for this recipe, because anytime is a great time for granola. I really enjoy baking as a part of my fall traditions, and this recipe is an easy way to have something going on in your kitchen without too much effort or time," said Renzulli.

The baker shared one of her favorite recipes that she has tweaked from an offering by Chef Daniel Humm, owner of Eleven Madison Park, a three-star Michelin restaurant located New York City.

"The cinnamon and pie seasoning mixed with the maple syrup really gives the granola a cozy warmth. It's quick, easy, and makes the house smell amazing while it's baking and it just tastes like fall," she said. "I enjoy creating and testing recipes. I like that it gives my brain a break from the outside world. There are a lot of heavy things happening outside globally when you look around, but not in my kitchen – my kitchen is always a soft place to land."

Renzulli said the best thing about granola is that it is incredibly easy to adapt and put together.

"You don't like pistachios? Use cashews. Nut allergy? Just eliminate nuts altogether! The addition of the cinnamon and pie spice gives it the essence of fall, but leaving those out still leaves the granola with a perfect sweet and savory blend," she explained.

Renzulli recommends it as a topping on yogurt or ice cream, adding it to an apple crumble or tart, or just grabbing a handful for a tasty snack. It also makes a great homemade holiday gift.

"The recipe produces a large amount of granola, so it's very easy to portion and share. I like putting it into a clear bag and tying it with a ribbon on top, or putting it into a pretty glass jar," said Renzulli.

Fall holds a special place in her family's traditions.

"My son was born on the first day of fall, and his first excursion outside of the house was to Blue Jay's Orchard in Bethel where we went apple picking. We have a family tradition to pick apples there every fall around his birthday and then come home and make a French apple tart together," she said. "Growing up in Southern California means that fall is a relatively new concept to me, although I've been living on the East Coast for 13 years now. I am still charmed every year by the fall of leaves and their change in color. It feels like a joyous, grand welcome to the holiday season." ■

Fall Granola

Recipe by Chef Daniel Humm, modified by Shannon Renzulli

Ingredients:

2 and 3/4 cups rolled oats
1 cup shelled pistachios (or cashews)
1/3 cup raw pumpkin seeds
1 cup unsweetened coconut flakes (not shredded coconut)
1 tablespoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon apple pie seasoning (or pumpkin pie seasoning)
1/2 cup light brown sugar
1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1/3 cup maple syrup
3/4 cup dried sour cherries (or dried cranberries)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 300°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a medium bowl, mix together oats, pistachios (or cashews), pumpkin seeds, coconut flakes, cinnamon, apple pie seasoning, and salt. Set aside.

In a small saucepan, combine brown sugar, olive oil, and maple syrup. Bring heat to medium and whisk until sugar has dissolved. Pour over oat mixture and stir to combine.

Spread oat mixture on prepared baking sheet. Bake until lightly golden, about 35 minutes. Remove from oven and mix in dried fruit.

Store in an airtight container at room temperature. The granola can last a few weeks.

Renzulli's tip: *"I like to move the granola around on the sheet every 15 minutes while it is in the oven to make sure everything is baking evenly. After 30 minutes, I like to check on it every few minutes for doneness. Everyone's oven cooks a little differently, but for my oven, this granola is usually perfect at 33-35 minutes."*

WEEKEND BAKESHOP

Bring Your Family & Celebrate the Fall

COME TO OUR 44TH ANNUAL ARTISAN FAIR

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL
AT HISTORIC REDDING CENTER



- 48 Artisans
- Delicious Apple Pies & Baked Goods
- Our Fall Favorite Homemade Soup
- Tasty Grilled Food
- The Great Raffle – $10,000 in Prizes
- Giant Tag Sale and Boutique
  Early Bird Admission 9:00 - 9:45 (Fee)
- Fall Mums, Pumpkins and Gourds

Our Entertainment Schedule

The Keelers (10:30 am – 12:00 pm)
Redding's dynamic duo blends rock, soul, blues, and country into their own "cosmic American music," featuring Kate Keeler's vocals and Dylan Keeler's vocals and guitar.

Enchanted Garden Dancers (12:00 pm – 12:45 pm)
Returning by popular demand, the Enchanted Garden Dancers will delight Fairgoers with energetic performances featuring a variety of dance styles and the enthusiasm that captivated audiences last year.

Snakeskin Boots Band (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)
This Fairfield County country-rock band combines original songs and covers with rich vocals, soulful harmonies, and energetic performances that showcase their distinctive sound and on-stage chemistry.

GIANT INDOOR TAG SALE & BOUTIQUE

Saturday, September 26th
10:00am - 4:00pm

Free shuttle bus and parking at Redding Elementary School
First Church is located at 25 Cross Highway • FirstChurchRedding.org

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The Natural World

The Outside Story: Native sunflowers, solar avatars

By Colby Galliher



Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol

Among the most widely cultivated and recognizable plants growing in gardens this time of year are sunflowers, members of the genus *Helianthus*. The showiest species and hybrid varieties within this cheery botanical club, such as common sunflower, often steal the limelight for their size and color. But it's worth getting to know northern New England's three native *Helianthus* species: woodland, pale-leaved, and thin-leaved sunflower.

Etymologically speaking, *Helianthus* is a blissfully straightforward genus. The name is derived from two Greek words: *Helios*, for sun, and *anthos*, for flower. There are 56 Helianthus species within the genus. Many of these originate in North America, largely in the Midwest, and can now be found around the world as crops and, in some cases, invasive plants.

The native sunflowers of northern New England all inhabit woodlands and their edges. Woodland sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*) and pale-leaved sunflower (*H. strumosus*) do well in fields and meadows, while thin-leaved sunflower (*H. decapetalus*) may also be found in floodplains and other wet areas.

The botanically curious may want to hone their plant identification skills with a different genus. All three native sunflowers sport the circular yellow flowers characteristic of the genus at large, but The Native Plant Trust warns that to tell *Helianthus* species apart, "observation of small flower and fruit parts are necessary. You will need a good hand lens and a ruler with millimeter divisions." Eastward range expansion by Midwestern species and the spread of cultivars from gardens into natural landscapes have allowed many non-native species to hybridize with our three native ones, making positive identification in the field all the more difficult. Distinctions are often found only among each species' bracts, stems, and rhizomes.

While most species of sunflower provide some amount of wildlife value, our three natives have co-evolved over millennia with the assemblage of species found in our region. This makes them the best choice for supporting native insects and wildlife. All three native sunflowers are a boon for many stripes of pollinators. Bees, from tiny sweat bees to swaggering bumblebees, frequent them, often in the company of butterflies, syrphid flies, and wasps. Several species of mining bees, genus Andrena, specialize on them, along with a handful of mason bees, leafcutter bees, and resin bees. The nectar of woodland sunflower, in particular, is reportedly a favorite of the endangered Karner blue butterfly.

Our native sunflowers' wildlife value extends beyond the sustenance they offer pollinators. All three are larval host plants for the silvery checkerspot, a small butterfly considered extirpated in New Hampshire and very rare in Vermont. Another butterfly, the painted lady, also uses woodland sunflower as a host. Sunflowers' hollow stems provide overwintering sites for wild bees, while muskrats incorporate the stems of thin-leaved sunflower into their lodges. In fall, songbirds and game birds, as well as small mammals, feast on the ripe seeds. A favorite childhood memory of mine is watching goldfinches pluck the seeds from sunflower heads in my mother's garden at the close of summer, the black-and-yellow color schemes of the birds' feathers and the flowerheads a near-perfect match.

These plants offer other curiosities. Sunflowers exhibit heliotropism, a behavior whereby the flower buds of seedlings rotate to follow the sun's daily east-west parabola. After sunset, the seedlings will reorient their buds toward the east in preparation for sunrise. Blooming flowers become fixed in their eastward direction, perhaps to take advantage of the warmth of the sun's early rays at a time when pollinator activity is at its morning height.

The disc florets within the larger sunflower head, meanwhile, are arranged according to the Fibonacci sequence, a pattern of numbers that, when represented in nature, forms the "golden spiral," showing up in everything from gecko tails to galaxies to – yes – sunflowers. Add mathematical marvel to sunflowers' list of enchantments.

The sweeping selection of sunflower varieties available at commercial nurseries is evidence of our longstanding infatuation with this genus. But as with so many other plant genera, there are delightful species native to our region that deserve just as much attention and reverence, if not more, for how they support local ecosystems. Keep an eye out for them these next few weeks as you stroll in or around your favorite woodland. ■

Colby Galliher writes about conservation, ecology, and environmental policy. Visit his website to learn more about his work. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.

Redding's Big Outdoors: The "meadow" in Meadow Ridge / ***continued from page 1***

The trail continues for about a quarter-mile under the open sky, steadily climbing. I was grateful to see it turn left into the woods ahead toward a secluded pond, the cool of the shade within reach. A wide dirt path brought me past the first of many benches, offering me a place to stretch my calves.

White wood aster popped up cheerfully along the way as I made my way towards the water. The trail offers a loop around the pond, starting opposite a sturdy, screened gazebo at the water's edge. I imagined the book groups or knitting circles that could come out here to enjoy a peaceful chat, the picnics that might be had.

Just above the pond's surface, the air teemed with a host of dragonflies. I was grateful for their industrious beauty, as I realized not one mosquito had bothered me – something I can't say for any corner of my own back yard this time of year. I stopped to admire a small, delicate specimen with a brilliant red and black body and silvery wings that had alighted on long reed of grass beside me. After a few moments, it was up and back on its way – and so was I.

I finished the pond loop and headed back up and out of the woods, looking forward to the downward slope that awaited. Out and back, as if no time had passed. There's that nostalgia creeping in again! ■

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

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If trees could talk

What makes a tree belong?

By Laurie Heiss



Photo by Laurie Heiss

An approximately 170-year-old Sycamore maple on a Liberty Street property line in Nantucket.

On the question of the value of native trees versus non-natives, there was always a firm red line. But – I've been rethinking that. Certainly, native trees in the Redding landscape will be more likely to adapt, or possibly have already started to adapt, to conditions just outside of their microclimate comfort zone. But many other non-native trees have been planted by humans or perhaps propagated through bird droppings in our environments, and they have thrived, adding beauty and meaning to our green-scape.

In Nantucket, for example, Sycamore maples – handsome trees – were planted to mark property lines throughout the town. They are wind-resistant and rather fire-resistant, so the whalers of Nantucket, who traveled the world, wisely planted them after the massive 1848 fire that destroyed most of the town. The Sycamore maples were not native, but many have survived over 170 years and are quite firmly "part of the native scene." But they are disparaged because they didn't originate here. Huh?! Should they apply for the native list, having been contributory and part of the beauty of life in this area? I don't know.

I do know that Redding is blessed with many true native trees, alongside delightful other trees, and that The Nature Conservancy created a matrix to evaluate CT/Westchester towns for "resiliency" well over a decade ago. Their project has expanded across the country since then. If you'd looked at Redding on their map back then, it was in the center of a large, irregular red glob. Red meant 'BEST' for resiliency back then but admittedly looked alarming (the color scheme since has been modified I believe). So, Redding was mostly in an area that scored the highest on a matrix of climate resiliency factors. If I were a realtor, I'd be adding this priceless attribute to my sales pitch about "Why Redding?"

Or maybe not… our paradise has been discovered and our house prices – high enough – reflect that. When we get the Revitalize Georgetown and Wire Mill re-development right, Redding becomes a true diamond. But remember: If you are handing your land and trees down to future generations, your trees' ability to survive, to adapt, and to provide the best natural disaster defenses is truly significant. Redding is graced with their strength now, but even moreso a century hence. ■

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

Calendar of Events

$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week's Featured Events

Conversations: The Constitution and Our Rights – Part I

Thursday, September 24
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Virtual discussion with scholar Robert Post on the First Amendment
Mark Twain Library
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Congregational Church Artisan Fair

Saturday, September 26
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Shop handcrafted items, antiques, jewelry, and furniture, enjoy food, live music, and community
First Church of Christ, Congregational
25 Cross Hwy, free shuttles from RES parking lot
33 Lonetown Road
firstchurchredding.org

Sacred Heart and St. Patrick Parish Oktoberfest

Saturday, September 26
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Authentic German food and beer, games, crafts, and fun
St. Patrick Church
169 Black Rock Turnpike
sacredheart-stpat.org

2026 State Representative Candidate Debate

Tuesday, October 6
7:00 p.m.
Debate between Anne Hughes (D) and Darrell Harris (R)
Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Redding and Weston
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road

Arts

Friday, September 25 – Sunday, September 27

The Big Creative Moving Sale
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Shop arts and crafts deals as Georgetown School of the Arts prepares to move
Georgetown School of the Arts
25 Old Mill Road
georgetownarts.com

Friday, September 25

Drinks with the Artist
6:00 p.m.
Browse exhibitions on view and enjoy refreshments with the artist
G-Town Arts
5 Main Street
gtownarts.com

Sunday, September 27

Each Melodious Measure
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Americana music concert
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org/events
$

Sunday, September 27

An Afternoon of Personal Stories with Michael Tucker & Jill Eikenberry
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Afternoon with acclaimed actors known for roles on *L.A. Law*
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Thursday, October 1

The Songs We Carry: Folklore, Fieldwork and The Human Voice
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Dive into fieldwork with folklorist and researcher Derek Piotr
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Saturday, October 3

Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra Visions Concert
7:30 p.m.
Pieces by Hensel, Piazzolla, and Beethoven
Ridgefield Playhouse
80 East Ridge Road
Ridgefield
ridgefieldsymphony.org
$

Children | Teens

Monday, September 14 – Monday, September 28

Halloween Costume Drop-Off
Place costumes in bins for a swap on October 3-4
37 Lonetown Road
170 Cross Highway

Friday, October 2

Free Kids Night Out
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Drop off Boys and Girls Club event for grades 1-4; dinner, games, and activities
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
bgcre.net/special-events
R

Sunday, October 18

American Red Cross Babysitting Training
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Training and certification for 11 to 15-year-olds
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation
$, R

Food | Wine

Sunday, September 27

The 4th Annual Nod Hill Oyster Fest
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Nod Hill Brewery
137 Ethan Allen Highway
Ridgefield
nod-hill-brewery.turntable-tickets.com
$, R

Fundraisers

Saturday, September 26

New Pond Farm's Hayfield Hustle & Family Oktoberfest
9:30 a.m. Children's Run
10:00 a.m. 5K and 5 mile races
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Family Oktoberfest
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
$, R

Wednesday, September 30

JRMS PTA's 5th Annual Georgetown Sip & Stroll
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Specials and experiences from local Georgetown businesses
Georgetown
jrmspta.org
$, R

Tuesday, October 13

Redding Police Department Golf Classic
9:00 a.m. Registration
10:00 a.m. Shotgun start
4-person scramble with lunch buffet and beverages
Redding Country Club
109 Lonetown Road
redding-police-department-golf-outing.perfectgolfevent.com
$, R

Nature

Sunday, September 27

Redding Community Hiking Club: September Harvest Moonwalk
7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
Led by Redding Land Trust Trustee Ilona Struzik, registration required
Couch Hill Preserve
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Special Programs

Thursday, September 24

From Wire Mills to Microchips: Wilton's History of Technology
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Wilton Historical Society
224 Danbury Road
Wilton
wiltonhistorical.org/events
$, R

Thursday, September 24

Conversations: The Constitution and Our Rights – Part I
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Virtual discussion with scholar Robert Post on the First Amendment
Mark Twain Library
marktwainlibrary.org
R

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Congregational Church Artisan Fair
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Shop handcrafted items, antiques, jewelry, and furniture, enjoy food, live music, and community
First Church of Christ, Congregational
25 Cross Hwy, free shuttles from RES parking lot
33 Lonetown Road
firstchurchredding.org

Saturday, September 26

Sacred Heart and St. Patrick Parish Oktoberfest
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Authentic German food and beer, games, crafts, and fun
St. Patrick Church
169 Black Rock Turnpike
sacredheart-stpat.org

Sunday, September 27

GCA's Community Picnic Potluck
1:00 p.m.
Bring a dish to share and a lawn chair
G&B School Field
49 New Street
Wilton
E-mail gtowncommunityassoc@gmail.com with questions

Saturday, October 3

Colonial Tavern Night
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Food, fun, trivia, and games
Wilton Historical Society
224 Danbury Road
Wilton
wiltonhistorical.org
$, R

Saturday, October 3 – Monday, October 5

Minks to Sinks
9:00 p.m – 5:00 p.m. Saturday
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sunday
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Monday
Giant tag and consignment sale
395 Danbury Road
Wilton
minkstosinks.org

Sunday, October 4

Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company's Oktoberfest and Fire Safety Day
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Food, drink, stein-holding competition, fire safety demonstrations, and more
Georgetown Firehouse
6 Portland Avenue
facebook.com/gtownfire

Tuesday, October 6

2026 State Representative Candidate Debate
7:00 p.m.
Debate between Anne Hughes (D) and Darrell Harris (R)
Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Redding and Weston
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road

Thursday, October 15

Georgetown After Dark
5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Shop local, enjoy dinner and drink specials, live music, and food drive
Georgetown
georgetownct.org/home

Religious Services

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

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

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

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

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

Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish
St. Patrick Church:
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.
Confessions:
Saturdays 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. and Mondays and Thursdays 7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.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, September 25
5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m. Family Sukkot Shabbat
7:15 p.m. Potluck oneg
See website for complete High Holy Days schedule
82 Portland Avenue
templebnaichaim.org

Meetings

Thursday, September 24

Long-Range Financial Planning Committee Special Meeting
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Thursday, September 24

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

Monday, October 5

Park and Recreation Commission
7:00 p.m.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road

Monday, October 5

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

Monday, October 5

Republican Town Committee
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, October 6

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

Tuesday, October 6

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

Wednesday, October 7

Region 9 BoE Curriculum Committee
8:30 a.m.
Joel Barlow High School
100 Black Rock Turnpike

Wednesday, October 7

Brown Bag Lunch with First Selectwoman
12:00 p.m.
Town Hall
100 Hill Road

Thursday, October 8

Redding Historic Cemetery Committee
2:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Thursday, October 8

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

Thursday, October 8

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

Monday, October 12

League of Women Voters
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Conference Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, October 13

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

Tuesday, October 13

Redding Fire District 1
7:00 p.m.
186 Black Rock Tpke

***Town offices and the Transfer station will be closed Monday, October 12 for Columbus Day**

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

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



110 Bart Road, Monroe | $650,000
Listed By Terri Tournas | 203.561.5893
TerriTournasTeam.com



81 Pine Hill Road, New Fairfield | $1,375,000
Listed By Tim Dent Team | 203.244.2277
TimDentTeam.com



8 Indian Rock Place, Wilton | $1,490,000
Listed By Heather Lindgren | 646.932.4075
HeatherLindgrenHomes.com



Alexis Bennett
203.313.3110



Marilyn Caravetta
203.512.1822



Kim Cuniberti
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Tim Dent
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Margi Esten
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Jefferson Guthrie
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Carol Hanlon
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Sharon Hoverman
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Charlie Knoche
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Heather Lindgren
646.932.4075



Anne Schmiedel
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Marilyn Sloper
203.770.6240



Terri Tournas
203.561.5893

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1 & 2 Based on information from Greenwich Association of REALTORS, SmartMLS Inc. 1/1/2026- 9/1/2026. The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2026 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logo are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.