REDDING SENTINEL

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State laws effective October 1

AI, Flock cameras, ICE enforcement

By Connor Sharp

Nearly 100 Connecticut laws on a range of issues from immigration enforcement to distracted driving will fully or partially take effect on October 1, 2026.

Connecticut laws are passed by the General Assembly during the legislative session each year – this year's ran from February 4 to May 6 – or in a special session. They typically take effect on January 1, July 1 or October 1.

Here is a look at some of the laws that go into effect this week.

License plate readers

Automated license plate readers are often referred to as Flock cameras because one of the top sellers of these devices, which record data like a vehicle's license plate number, make and model, is the company Flock Safety.

With residents across the state raising data privacy concerns about

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Photo by Dana Moreau

A barred owl, affectionately named "Ludwig" by neighbors, pauses for a rest on Deer Hill Road. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Buildings, roads, and bridges dominate capital planning

By Rocco Valluzzo

Kicking off its annual capital planning process for future Town projects, the Long Range Financial Planning Committee compiled and reviewed requests from various municipal departments at its meeting on Thursday, September 24.

Key discussions focused on the status of major bridge replacements, road stabilization projects, and facility maintenance, with an emphasis on aligning timelines for the upcoming fiscal year budget cycle. Requests totaled $8.2 million.

Water Pollution Control Commission Chair Amy Atamian had requested $680,000 for a new roof of the membrane building at the Georgetown Sewer Treatment Plant a year ago. She noted that the roofs of two other buildings that were budgeted in prior years have been replaced at a cost of about 30 percent of the original estimate, so this number will be revised. There also are other potential capital items involving equipment and electrical work that must be reviewed.

Replacing the cabinets and sinks in the third and fourth grade wings at Redding Elementary School (RES) is planned for the current fiscal year, according to Redding Board of Education Chair Laura Worosz. However, the Board has not yet done a physical walkthrough to determine if there are other areas with more immediate needs.

Future capital items include replacing both boilers at RES and an elevator replacement. Two roof replacements are estimated at $4 million. Worosz indicated that she does not think that the elevator and the boilers need to be replaced this year. The facilities team is set to meet in the next month to review projects and finalize a plan to present to the Board of Education. The Board will then vote in December.

Among the Town's capital items is $1.05 million for the planning and construction of a new mechanics' bay building at the Public Works Department, which would allow lifts to be used to service the Highway Department vehicles.

First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton said that $50,000 for the planning could be included this fiscal year while the $1 million could be pushed out to fiscal year 2027-28 or 2028-29. Other Public Works capital items include $250,000 for a Volvo backhoe excavator, and $350,000 for a six-wheel dump truck, which the Town leases to purchase.

In addition, there are plans to replace the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system in the lower level foyer at the Community Center with a cost estimate of $100,000. Pemberton noted the

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ER9 officials say payroll stabilization is top priority after weeks of errors

By Anne Young Albanese

For several weeks, employees across the Easton, Redding, and Region 9 (ER9) school districts have reported payroll problems ranging from incorrect paychecks to missing deductions and, in some cases, disruptions to health insurance coverage. Central Office administrators say the issues stem from the rollout of new human resources and payroll systems, and that they are working to fix the issues as quickly as possible.

"These issues occurred during the implementation of two new systems: Red Rover for human resources and ADP for payroll," explained ER9 Superintendent Jason McKinnon in an e-mail to staff in September. "Our three-district structure and differing contractual requirements have added complexity to the implementation. While these factors help explain some of the challenges, they do not change our responsibility to ensure that our employees are paid accurately and on time."

Kate Dias, President of the Connecticut Education Association, said administrative errors have caused "major disruptions and ongoing hardships" for Redding Education Association educators.

"These include missing, late, or incorrect paychecks, incorrect tax withholdings, and errors related to teachers' retirement, health savings account, and flexible spending account contributions – irregularities whose negative impacts cannot yet be fully determined," Dias said. "To add to the problem, payroll errors this school year have left several teachers without health insurance coverage."

Dias expressed gratitude for the support that union members have felt from the community amidst these challenges.

"We are asking for greater transparency and a timely resolution to these issues from our school district for this untenable situation," she continued.

Central Office staff say while they are holding daily consultations with ADP, the process to remedy the issues is complex and requires manual intervention. In his e-mail, McKinnon said, "The most significant concern is straightforward: employees must be paid accurately, completely, and on time."

While the *Sentinel* has not seen a final action plan, it did receive a copy of a draft plan that was sent to staff on Friday, September 11.

The draft plan identifies payroll as a critical Central Office operational priority, with the first step being immediate payroll stabilization. Central Office staff have started to establish a written payroll calendar and checklist for each payroll cycle, which will identify

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REDDING'S BIG OUTDOORS

Big dreams of new big outdoors

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

The Factory Pond at the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill.

Earlier this month, I attended The Granite's "Planet Granite" Music and Dance Festival. Parking for the weekend's events was designated in the weedy concrete parking area on Portland Avenue, which overlooks the Factory Pond in the center of the ruins of the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill.

It isn't often that my day-to-day routines take me into the heart of the Wire Mill, and I was mesmerized by the sparkling water of the pond and the structures flanking it on my way to and from the event shuttle.

The Revitalize Georgetown plan, which was developed by Pirie Associates over the last year and now is moving through the approval and adoption phases with various municipal departments, identifies open space and recreational outdoor areas as priorities in re-developing the site. At least 19 acres of dedicated green open space are proposed for the area. Of the three possible approaches that Pirie presented to the community, the first one, "Buildings in the Landscape" garnered the most traction. It's an approach where housing and commercial development are incorporated and complementary to the natural landscape of the area.

The final Revitalize Georgetown plan is now available to explore and read – so I came home from the festival and downloaded it, eager to explore what was envisioned for that captivating pond.

Close your eyes and imagine this: You meet friends for a coffee and a donut – maybe brunch – on Main Street on a beautiful Saturday. Full of delicious food, you cross the street and stroll up a walking

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Editorial

Farewell, but not goodbye

By Jessie Wright

When I sat down to write this, my last editorial as Managing Editor of the *Sentinel*, the first thing I did was re-read the very first editorial I wrote on November 8, 2022.

Freshly hired to guide this new community newspaper through its transition to weekly publishing, I wrote then of my family's experience as newcomers in Redding during the pandemic and slowly catching glimpses of what made this town special. I wrote about how a local newspaper might serve as a guidebook for a community, a tool of a healthy democracy, and an outlet for neighbors and businesses to connect – and my hope that my time and effort would help the *Sentinel* fill those roles for the people of Redding.

Those aspirations have remained my editorial guideposts since then, as a growing group of dedicated reporters, columnists, proofreaders, administrators, volunteers, and supporters have come together to make the paper what it is today. This talented team will carry the *Sentinel* forward, under the guidance of our new Managing Editor, Sten Spinella, who will bring fresh eyes and fresh legs to the paper's coverage each week. It is difficult to step away from a role that has been such a large part of my life the last four years, but it is made infinitely easier knowing I leave it in thoughtful, capable, and eager hands.

My family and the *Sentinel* have grown up together – I attended more than a few municipal meetings and reported on many community events with one of my children strapped to my chest in a baby carrier. As we prepare to welcome our third child this month (keep an eye out for a birth announcement I will be sure to submit!) I marvel at how much we have changed and grown, just as I marvel at how far the paper has come from some of our earliest issues.

That change will continue, and I am looking forward to seeing it unfold as a continued subscriber and honorary *Sentinel* team member. The people behind the *Sentinel* have become much more than colleagues – they are dear friends, neighbors, advice-givers, and members of my family's "village." That will remain the same, no matter my title – after all, Redding is home. ■

Legal Notice

The Redding Zoning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing for October 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in person at the Town Hall Hearing Room, 100 Hill Road, Redding, CT. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the following applications.

1. **Application #26-04Z – 34 Whortleberry Road (Assessor Map and Lot #13-10) Owner: Adam Czarnik Revocable Living Trust, 27 Virginia Ave. Danbury, CT 06810** – In accordance with Redding Zoning Regulations Section 5.12 request for A Special Use Permit for an attached accessory residential apartment.
2. **Application #26-05Z – 3 Marchant Road (Assessor Map and Lot #12-29) Owner: Connecticut Yankee Council Scouting America, 60 Wellington Road, Milford, CT 06460: Agent: Michael Carpenter Northeast Design & Construction Inc., 31 Sullivan Drive Redding, CT 06896** – Request for A Site Plan Amendment in accordance with section 5.2.2 of the Redding Zoning Regulations to construct a one-bedroom single floor cabin (Campmaster Cabin) to monitor camping activity. ■

Matt Lecher, Chairman
Redding Zoning Commission

Planners give thumbs up to scenic road ADU

By Rocco Valluzzo

Following a review of a special permit application at its Tuesday, September 22 meeting, the Planning Commission approved sending a positive referral to the Zoning Commission for an attached accessory dwelling unit (ADU) at 34 Whortleberry Road.

In its discussion of the proposal, the Commission focused on the ADU's square footage and potential environmental or visual impacts on the designated scenic road frontage. The referral was supplemented by an advisory note ensuring any future alterations to the property's frontage require Planning Commission review due to Whortleberry Road's scenic road designation.

"We're just informing you you're on a scenic road," Commission Chair Laurie Heiss told applicant Adam Czarnik. "And if you want to make any changes after you build, you would have to come back to us."

According to Czarnik, the 608-square foot ADU is contained entirely within a single, proposed structure with a total area of 2,392 square feet. At approximately a quarter of the total home's size, the ADU safely complies with the Zoning Regulation that caps attached ADUs at 30 percent of the overall building area.

Commissioner Elizabeth Jensen noted that because the property sits on a designated scenic road, the Planning Commission must evaluate potential impacts on the roadside view, stone walls, and drainage. Czarnik explained that the driveway is pre-existing from a prior owner's subdivision.

"The prior owners were going to build a house, went through all the motions, and then the husband passed away," said Czarnik. "But the driveway is there. So, it was already something that they did when they subdivided the land a long time ago."

No trees are being cleared for the build, though excavation will occur within the existing footprint to install underground electrical lines. Czarnik added that a stone wall functions as the property division line and will remain entirely undisturbed.

The Commission raised concerns that a blanket positive referral might inadvertently permit future unreviewed frontage modifications, such as stone pillars, gates, or extensive clearing. To protect the scenic road without delaying the project, the Commission agreed to append an advisory note rather than a binding condition, clarifying that it is not a conditional approval.

"In general, I think everything's compliant," said Land Use Officer Mike Moran. "I know this has already gone in front of the Conservation Commission recently. So, I know they've [also] had a chance to review, given all the wetlands and the vernal pool on site." ■

Meet our new Managing Editor

Sten Spinella joins the Sentinel

By Susan Clark



Photo by Tony Gale

Sten Spinella joins the *Sentinel* team as Managing Editor as of October 1.

Sten Spinella has joined the *Sentinel* team as Managing Editor from October 1. (See Jessie Wright's editorial this issue for her farewell.)

We selected Sten from a strong applicant pool after a search that began in earnest in June. Editors and writers from as far away as Texas and Florida and as close as right here in Redding applied to succeed Jessie.

Why Sten? He grew up in Chester, CT, a town not dissimilar to Redding. He has reported for local newspapers – *The Day* in New London and *The Berkshire Eagle* covering Western Massachusetts. Notably, Sten was named the first State Politics and Government reporter in a decade at *The Day*. He has trained and mentored other reporters. A graduate of University of Connecticut, Sten holds a Master's Degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri.

Beyond his education and extensive journalism credentials, Sten seemed the right choice specifically for the *Sentinel*. He shares our mission of proving that local journalism can be successful. Having grown up in Chester, he understands how small Connecticut towns work. But he also is widely traveled and curious about the world. For example, he spent six months last year living in New Orleans and Italy, and he is leading a team making a documentary on food cultures and who benefits financially from them.

Sten has already moved to Redding and has been meeting people around town for a couple of weeks. Please say hello when you see him out and about and welcome him to Redding and the *Sentinel*. In our next issue, Sten will take over the editorial slot and share his thoughts about the future of our local newspaper. ■



Police Blotter

Police activity from September 20 – 27

By Jessie Wright

Police assisted in two fire department calls, 12 emergency medical services calls, and responded to four citizen assist calls.

Traffic

Officers conducted 57 traffic stops in the week-long period, issuing one summons, 12 infractions, 22 written warnings, 20 verbal warnings, and took no action in two cases. The infraction rate was 22.8 percent.

Five minor motor vehicle accidents occurred, none of which involved injuries.

Nor'easter

A nor'easter brought strong winds and heavy rain to Redding from late Friday, September 25 through Monday, September 28. Thirty-five public hazard incidents were recorded from Friday to Sunday as the storm resulted in numerous downed trees, wires, road closures, and power outages across town.

Police worked closely with the Highway Department, Fire Departments, and Eversource throughout the duration of the storm to identify hazards, prioritize blocked roads and affected areas, and coordinate restoration efforts. This allowed crews to safely clear roads, address downed wires, and restore power as quickly as possible. All roads were open as of 10:15 a.m. on Monday, with 41 power outages still being reported, down from 415 outages the day prior.

Alleged Assault

Police are investigating a September 26 report by a man on Sherman Turnpike who alleged he was assaulted by an Amazon delivery driver. ■

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

Visit our website

Election 2026

Connecticut House District 135

The race to represent Redding, Easton, and Weston in the Connecticut State House is between four-term incumbent Anne Hughes and newcomer to electoral politics Darrell Harris. Hughes is a progressive Democrat with an established reputation, while Harris heads Easton's Republican Town Committee, and has been building a reputation with state Republicans since moving to Connecticut in 2019.

While their contest has been relatively subdued, defined by classic conservative and liberal divisions on policy, they were in the news this past month after Harris appeared in an ad for Republican gubernatorial candidate Ryan Fazio, in which he criticized Governor Ned Lamont. Text atop the ad read "I'm a Democrat & I'm voting for Ryan Fazio." The state Democratic Party critiqued the ad, as only two of the four people in it were Democrats. Fazio dismissed the criticisms.

The clearest divide between Hughes and Harris is on taxes, as Hughes views the system as skewed toward wealthy people, and Harris has made lowering property taxes a top campaign issue.

Hughes and Harris will participate in a public debate hosted by the Redding and Weston Leagues of Women Voters at Mark Twain Library, 439 Redding Road, on Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. Questions may be submitted during the debate or sent in advance to lwvreddingct@gmail.com. For residents who cannot attend in person, the debate will also be available live via Zoom Webinar. Registration is available at marktwainlibrary.org. ■

"Seasoned representative" Anne Hughes vies for fifth term

By Rob Sample



Democrat Anne Hughes is a licensed master social worker (LMSW), a profession she still engages in full time in addition to her role as a four-term member of the Connecticut House of Representatives.

In Hughes's view, there is a strong correlation between both roles.

"My focus is on people most at risk," said Hughes, who is now running for her fifth term as a representative for Connecticut's 135th House District, which covers Redding, Easton, and Weston. "We're about to see the magnitude of the harmful effects of Federal cuts to Medicaid, SNAP [Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program], and low-income heating assistance, to name just a few. My focus is always on keeping people insured, fed, with lights on and heating in their homes – especially in times like this."

Hughes noted that her tenure in the State House has given her both knowhow and the connections needed to make positive changes for her constituents on these and other issues. "What keeps me running for the House is maintaining the relationships I've developed and knowledge of the policy framework at the state level," she said.

Hughes currently serves on a host of legislative committees and councils, including Aging, Energy and Technology, Labor and Public Employees, and Human Services. She sees the work of these groups as often interconnected and vital in today's economy, where rising insurance and fuel costs have strained both residents and businesses.

"The costs to some businesses of providing health coverage to their employees have grown out of control, and there's a real risk of these businesses just pulling out of providing coverage," Hughes said. She referenced legislation she plans to introduce that would provide coverage to Connecticut people affected by any such cuts.

At a time when voters are often described as fractured, Hughes, who is Co-Chair of the House Progressive Democratic Caucus, said bipartisanship is important to getting results. "I've been fortunate to have been able to build relationships with all the people in Hartford with whom I work," she said. "I really like my colleagues in the legislature. Nobody's here for status…they want to do the hard work of legislating."

Special education is another issue, particularly in the school systems in the 135th District, Hughes said. On both the District and the State levels, more students are taking part in programs that fall under the category of "special ed." This has put a burden on both parents and educators, she continued, so legislators are constantly working on legislative solutions to address this need.

The work of all the legislative committees is borne out by the sheer volume of legislation that gets raised. Hughes noted that several thousand legislative proposals are introduced in each legislative session; the length can be three to five months depending upon the year. Of those measures, a few hundred make it to the floor for a vote.

The process can indeed be lengthy. Connecticut voters approved a referendum in 2022 enabling early voting throughout the state, but this was the result of a six-year process, Hughes pointed out.

"It's important for all of us as legislators to really know about the things on which we are voting," said Hughes. "This means doing a lot of deep dives and education before anything comes to the floor for a vote. Being a seasoned representative helps me to do that." ■

In first run, Darrell Harris aims to bring local priorities to Hartford

By Rob Sample



Republican Darrell Harris's goals in running to represent Connecticut's 135th House District are to provide a stronger voice for its three towns, and to make the state more affordable for families.

"We're different from other parts of the state, we're not like Hartford, Stamford, or even Fairfield, and a one-size-fits-all approach should not apply," said Harris, who moved to Easton from Southern California in 2019 and appreciates the semi-rural vibe of the area.

"I can't influence national politics, but I can influence power costs and mill rates for our three towns," said Harris. In his view, the Public Benefits charges on consumers' electric bills should be eliminated. Certain charges were mandated during the Covid-19 shutdown of 2020-21 to provide subsidies at a time when unemployment was rampant.

"These charges are no longer appropriate and raise the cost of living in Connecticut," Harris said. "Electric bills should just reflect the power that customers use."

Protecting water resources is another key issue for Harris. Approximately one-half of the land in Easton is protected watershed and reservoir property, chiefly owned by the water utility Aquarion. Smaller percentages of such properties fall within the boundaries of Redding and Weston.

"This affects not just our district, but Fairfield County as a whole and makes it critical that we preserve the rural character of our towns," said Harris. "This is what I hear from people in the district. I want to convey those concerns to Hartford."

Harris believes strongly that by focusing on local matters, Connecticut's representatives can act in a bipartisan manner and make changes that work for the people they represent. Connecticut's strong town-government structure and lack of county governments are statewide strengths, and something elected officials should preserve, he said.

"Connecticut's 169 towns are factories of innovation," Harris said. "We are not like New York, New Jersey, or other states. When change happens for change's sake, you tend to forget why something was made a certain way in the first place."

As part of that local focus, Harris heads Easton's Republican Town Committee. Among other responsibilities, the Committee endorses and supports candidates for various town posts and board assignments. Harris also is Scoutmaster for Troop 62 in Monroe, where his 17-year old-son, Elliot, is currently working on achieving Eagle Scout designation. Harris chairs the board at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Westport.

Harris worked for the Milken Institute, which describes itself as a non-partisan think tank "that works to address global challenges in health, finance, and philanthropy," in Santa Monica, CA. He lived a short distance away in the Westwood section of Los Angeles. Unusual among Angelenos, he took the bus to and from work as the family owned just one car. He grew up in a housing project in the Bronx and earlier lived and worked for some time in Manhattan. Thus, the move to Easton offered a pleasant contrast for Harris.

"I recently attended Georgetown Day, and it was lots of fun there," Harris said of that revitalized district. "Yet just a few minutes away are rolling hills, lots of green space, and quiet. Seven years after moving here, I still cannot believe that I live in a place as beautiful as Easton." ■

Buildings, roads, and bridges dominate capital planning / *continued from page 1*

Town has been performing incremental work on the HVAC system at the Community Center and has already completed the Park and Recreation side and Heritage Center side.

"That building has so many zones," she explained. "It's a larger building than you realize."

Pemberton also gave a detailed update on four major bridge projects, which represent a total cost of $5.48 million. While grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State Local Bridge Program could ultimately cover up to 100% of costs, the Town must manage the upfront cash flow.

"The way FEMA does it is you have to pay up front for the bridges," she said. "The way the State does it, also you're paying up front, but there's more of a guarantee. So, when we have reimbursement grants, we authorize the funding, but we use the unassigned fund balance, the general fund, and then we submit our invoices to the State and the State pays us back."

The Sport Hill Road and Long Wall Road bridges are scheduled to go out to bid later this fall, with construction targeted for the 2027 season. The Town will seek voter authorization for the full cost of bridge projects to enable contract signing, regardless of the percentage covered by State and Federal reimbursement grants. Short-term municipal borrowing (estimated at 3 percent) will be utilized for cash flow on grant-funded projects to protect the unassigned fund balance.

While there is a $900,000 request for annual road paving, Pemberton felt this amount was low given the increased severity of the weather and bad drainage. Design and engineering for the Poverty Hollow Road stabilization project is estimated to cost about $115,000 based on the bids the Town has received, with a cost of $1.25 million for construction.

The Committee's recommendations will be presented to the Board of Finance for review at a later date. ■

State laws effective October 1 / *continued from page 1*

the use of the data collected by the cameras, Connecticut lawmakers passed a law earlier this year restricting the use of the cameras, which entities the data can be shared with and how long the information captured can be kept.

The bill restricts the amount of time that data is retained to 21 days, and it bans the use of data for immigration enforcement, investigating people who have sought or received abortions or transgender care, or finding the identity of someone "engaged in an activity protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution."

The State also restricts sharing of this data with out-of-state agencies outside of New York, Massachusetts, or Rhode Island, unless the law enforcement agency or task force "provides a written declaration affirming that any data received will be used in compliance with the prohibitions set forth" in the State law.

Immigration enforcement

In response to concerns about U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement actions across the country, State lawmakers passed a law earlier this year that establishes "protected areas" – including schools, hospitals, social service agency facilities, and houses of worship – where people may not be arrested solely on the basis of a civil offense, such as an immigration violation.

The bill also includes a section that allows Connecticut residents to sue Federal law enforcement agents for violations of their constitutional rights.

Wage theft

Lawmakers revised a law this session that already allowed State officials to issue stop work orders to entities being investigated for wage theft.

The revision gives the Comptroller the power to temporarily halt payments to contractors working on State-funded projects if those contractors are being investigated for wage theft violations. The measure was previously introduced in 2025 but did not pass.

AI transparency

The Connecticut Artificial Intelligence Responsibility and Transparency Act, or CART, made significant progress on prior efforts to pass legislation related to artificial intelligence.

Among the law's impact are new expectations for companies that offer AI chatbots to children. The act requires them to implement a protocol to detect and address chats indicating a risk of self-harm.

It also requires employers to provide a written notice when using AI to make decisions that impact employment statuses.

Distracted driving

New language was added to the State's existing laws to clarify and expand what is considered distracted driving. Under the current law, drivers engaged in a phone call or texting while on the road, without using the hands-free feature, are considered distracted.

Under the new law, anyone holding a phone while driving is considered distracted, a change meant to include activities like scrolling. There remains an exception for emergency calls.

Separately, distracted driving in a highway work zone will now be considered reckless driving, currently considered a misdemeanor.

Female genital mutilation

In an effort to stop the ritual which is still performed in around 30 countries, Public Act 26-5 bans female genital mutilation in the state, making it a class D felony.

The law also allows girls 12 years old and under to testify via video recordings from outside the courtroom.

Exempt from the new law are physicians or licensed professional who perform the procedure if it is medically necessary. ■

This article originally appeared in CT Mirror

Sports

Late goals foil Falcons

Girls soccer | ***By Rocco Valluzzo***



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Vika Abukhovich scored the lone goal for the Joel Barlow High girls varsity soccer team in a game at Pomperaug on Thursday, September 24. Barlow lost a 1-2 decision on a last-minute goal.

Following a strong start to the season, the Joel Barlow High girls varsity soccer team suffered its first two losses in contests that went down to the wire last week.

The Falcons, who had outscored the competition 21-0 in their first four games, were derailed by a couple of last-minute goals by two teams.

One came when the Falcons visited Pomperaug on Thursday, September 24. With the possibility of overtime approaching, the host Panthers managed to take advantage of a brief let-down by the Falcons to edge the visitors 1-2 under the lights in Southbury.

"It was an emotional moment," said Barlow Head Coach Ben Weiss, whose team also lost 1-2 to Masuk on a late goal two days earlier. "It's just a tough way to go."

With neither side having a clear-cut advantage, Barlow and Pomperaug battled to a scoreless tie in the first half. Falcon keeper Sophia Bianco was called on to make several saves as the stalemate continued.

But when play resumed, the Panthers were quick to strike. Only 21 seconds into the action, a shot from 30 yards out sailed into the upper left corner of the net and out of Bianco's reach as Pomperaug led 0-1.

The Panthers came close to scoring again in the time that followed. A diving save by Bianco with 33:25 left foiled one attempt, and two minutes later, another shot sailed over the crossbar.

Barlow tied things up with 24:30 left when Cecilia Rahner's cross to the middle was redirected into the net by Vika Abukhovich. It was a whole new game.

Pomperaug maintained the pressure in the time remaining with several offensive pushes, only to be denied on most of them. Barlow's best chance to break the time came with 1:15 left when Liv DiBlasi got past the defense for a shot saved by Pomperaug's keeper.

What would be the last offensive push of the night tipped the scales in Pomperaug's favor. With 44 seconds to go, a breakaway by the hosts clinched the win.

The Falcons, now 4-2 overall, visit Bethel on Tuesday, October 6 at 4:00 p.m. ■

Masuk overwhelms Barlow

Football | ***By Rocco Valluzzo***



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Brady Lynch, right, is stopped by Masuk's Michael Benedetto during a varsity football game on Friday, September 25.

The realities of being a young team soon became apparent for the Joel Barlow High varsity football team when it hosted Masuk.

The Falcons started a number of sophomores on Friday, September 24, many of them new to the varsity level. The larger, more experienced Panthers had little difficulty on both sides of the ball in posting a 0-4 win under the lights in Redding.

Masuk, which lost to Barlow last season for the first time since 1991, showed it meant business from the start, capping off its opening series with an eight-yard touchdown run. The extra point was good, and a 0-7 lead only grew.

While Barlow had little luck with moving the ball on its next two series, the Panthers capped off a 53-yard scoring drive early in the second quarter. A screen pass was good for 27 yards and another score to make it 0-14 with the extra point.

A mishap on Barlow's next two series resulted in two more Panther touchdowns, the first coming when a blocked punt was recovered in the end zone and the second on a high snap on fourth down that gave the visitors excellent field position and an eventual 0-27 lead with 7:13 left in the half.

That was enough time for another pair of Masuk touchdowns, the first on a 58-yard touchdown pass from Aaron Champagne to Andrew Morgenthaler. Barlow appeared to be making progress on its next turn, advancing into Panther territory on runs by Sean Rinaldi, Keeler Pheeney, and Matthieu Grall, only to have Masuk's Jace McGee end the drive with an interception with 50 seconds left. With 27 ticks to go, Champagne hit Tanner Walker with a 69-yard completion for a 0-41 lead at halftime.

After the Panthers scored again on 17-yard run, the game switched to a running clock. Masuk scored a touchdown with three minutes to go, coming on a 23-yard run.

Barlow netted only 51 yards rushing in the game, with Grall getting 19 and Rinaldi finishing with 18. Pheeney completed three of seven attempts for 18 passing yards, with Matt Modafferi catching one for nine yards.

Barlow, now 0-3 overall, looks for its first win when it travels to Branford on Friday, October 2. ■

Joel Barlow High School sports results and schedules

Boys cross country
Results:
September 22: Brookfield 26 / Joel Barlow 33, Joel Barlow 24 / Bunnell 33, Joel Barlow 15 / Harding 50
Record:
Joel Barlow 3-3
Next meets:
October 6: away at Newtown at 4:30 p.m.

Girls cross country
Results:
September 22: Joel Barlow 15 / Bunnell 50, Joel Barlow 19 / Harding 40, Joel Barlow 28 / Brookfield 50 (sixth place rule)
Record:
Joel Barlow 6-0
Next meets:
October 6: away at Newtown at 5:00 p.m.

Field hockey
Results:
September 22: Joel Barlow 2 / Fairfield Warde 0
September 23: Joel Barlow 2 / Newtown 0
Record:
Joel Barlow 5-1
Next games:
October 2: away at New Fairfield at 5:00 p.m.
October 5: away at Brookfield at 5:30 p.m.
October 7: home versus New Milford at 7:00 p.m.

Football
Results:
September 25: Masuk 54 / Joel Barlow 0
Record:
Joel Barlow 0-3
Next games:
October 2: away at Branford at 7:00 p.m.

Boys golf
Results:
September 22: Joel Barlow 162 / New Milford 184
Record:
Joel Barlow 4-2
Next matches:
October 1: home versus Brookfield at 3:00 p.m.

Boys soccer
Results:
September 22: Joel Barlow 1 / Masuk 1
September 24: Pomperaug 1 / Joel Barlow 0
Record:
Joel Barlow 1-3-2
Next games:
October 1: away at Bassick at 5:00 p.m.
October 3: home versus Cromwell at 3:00 p.m.
October 6: home versus Bethel at 7:00 p.m.

Girls soccer
Results:
September 22: Masuk 2 / Joel Barlow 1
September 24: Pomperaug 2 / Joel Barlow 1
Record:
Joel Barlow 4-2
Next games:
October 3: home versus Immaculate at 11:00 a.m.
October 6: away at Bethel at 4:00 p.m.

Girls swimming
Results:
September 22: Joel Barlow 96 / Bethel-Danbury-Immaculate 72
Record:
Joel Barlow 2-0
Next meets:
October 1: away at Newtown at 4:30 p.m.

Girls volleyball
Results:
September 22: Joel Barlow 3 / Harding 0
Record:
Joel Barlow 3-2
Next matches:
October 5: home versus Pomperaug at 5:30 p.m.
October 7: away versus Immaculate at 6:00 p.m.





Redding's Big Outdoors: Big dreams of new big outdoors
continued from page 1

path or landscaped sidewalk to the edge of the pond. Your kids bound ahead, taking turns sliding at the brand-new playground. Bikers and walkers pass by as you make your way to a boat launch at the water's edge. Maybe you skip a few stones into the water as neighbors pull kayaks and paddleboards out to enjoy a weekend outing. The sun is warm on your face, and the breeze moves reeds and native plantings along the shore.

The Revitalize Georgetown plan outlines a few "mandatory design qualities" for this area that include:

- A variety of cultivated and naturalized green spaces of meadow character with limited woodland edges and slopes
- Pedestrian lighting, boardwalks and trails, sidewalks, and street trees along roadway
- A new playground for public use (reference images include "naturalistic playscapes" using natural materials and design)
- A cascading, multi-use, occupiable hardscape platform for water access
- A water retention area for ice skating during the winter

It all paints a picture of a centralized, vibrant area where residents can connect while enjoying the outdoors. And while not a rocky woodland trail like so many that we currently enjoy, if executed as envisioned, I think this pond could feel right at home in our beautiful Redding. ■

Read the entire Revitalize Georgetown report at reddingct.gov/revitalize-georgetown-project

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.

New counseling curriculum established at Barlow

By Anne Young Albanese



Photo by Anne Young Albanese
Director of School Counseling Catherine Hilser

Catherine Hilser, Director of School Counseling for Joel Barlow High School and leader of the Student Services team, has developed an official counseling curriculum this year for the Guidance Department. While the new curriculum incorporates many aspects of what the Department had already been doing, the curriculum codifies some of the practices and aims to develop more consistency across students' experiences.

A key aspect of the new curriculum is developing written goals that students can revisit throughout the year. Every year, all students will meet with their counselors more frequently than before the new curriculum was established, either in a classroom setting or individually, to support them in developing many of the skills they will need to be successful in high school and their post-secondary careers.

Freshman Year

The new curriculum starts in ninth grade, with a focus on "Transition and Awareness." The priority during freshman year is to help students to adjust to high school expectations.

With the increase in schoolwork and extracurricular activities, counselors help students to develop healthy academic habits and time management skills. In addition, students will be able to identify strengths and areas that could benefit from growth.

This also is when students begin their career exploration and create an initial four-year academic plan. These plans may look completely different by a student's senior year. As a student's schedule become busier, their counselor will help them to develop stress-management strategies.

Sophomore Year

The focus in tenth grade is on "Exploration and Decisions." Students will reflect on the progress they made as freshmen and re-identify growth areas. They will use a series of career tools to explore different options and identify those careers or pathways that might be appropriate to explore depending on skills and interests.

Based on the interests and expertise of every student, their four-year academic plan will be refined. Students will strengthen their decision-making skills and start planning for post-high school.

Junior Year

Eleventh graders are more focused on their future than in the lower grades. Since they spent the last two years exploring a variety of post-secondary options, they will explore different career options and how to get there.

Students may investigate colleges, trade schools, or the military. They will be taught about admissions processes and financial aid. They will develop a personalized transition plan and start moving from exploration of different options to firmer choices, to ensure that their high school experiences are preparing them for potential future careers in which they are interested.

Students in their senior year enjoy much more freedom than in the younger grades at Joel Barlow High School. During junior year, students work with their counselors to prepare for those freedoms to give them the tools to manage them.

Senior Year

In 12th grade, students need to finalize their plans for after graduation. Students who are interested in college, trade school, or the military will manage their applications and deadlines. They will learn more about managing their independence and self-advocacy.

Students will prepare for their post-secondary transition to ensure they have met all the requirements. They will have the opportunity to reflect on their high school experience. By the time graduation arrives, students should have a clear, actionable plan.

In addition, students will work on their resumes. This consolidates any extracurricular activities, as well as any other pursuits and employment.

With thousands of colleges to choose from and a variety of alternative post-secondary options, counselors will serve as guides for students.

"We know how to do research, so we have the skill set to be able to find… good information, to be able to help students to navigate that and to find what it is they need," explained Hilser. "So, think of us as more skilled researchers than experts in every field in every college." ■

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ER9 officials say payroll stabilization is top priority after weeks of errors
continued from page 1

deadlines, responsible staff, required reports, Red Rover to ADP transfers, verification approvals, and final reconciliation. They also are developing a log that documents payroll errors, which will allow Central Office staff to identify patterns and transition from repeatedly correcting transactions to eliminating the underlying causes of the payroll errors.

On Monday, September 14, a payroll specialist with significant, hands-on ADP payroll experience was scheduled to begin consulting with the Central Office staff. They provided specialized expertise in ADP, oversaw the integration of payroll information from Red Rover, and served as the Central Office's internal payroll subject-matter expert. Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations, and Technology Sara Scrofani confirmed that costs associated with bringing on this temporary consultant were covered by "repurposing existing funds."

ER9 also plans to retain an independent accounting/audit firm with payroll expertise to conduct a comprehensive review of the payroll workflow from Red Rover through ADP to payment. The auditors are expected to identify unnecessarily complex areas and areas that require excessive manual processing, which increase the likelihood of errors.

The Central Office will review every active employee's payroll setup, validating that all wages, hours, contracts, withholding, insurance deductions, and other employee-specific payroll settings are correct.

A team including McKinnon, Scrofani, the internal ADP consultant, the Director of Human Resources, and financial coordinators and secretaries are monitoring progress.

One school staff member who participated in a Zoom call with ER9 officials shared that Dr. Robert Miller, ER9's Director of Human Resources, has since resigned. Scrofani confirmed that the payroll issues had nothing to do with his resignation.

As of Friday, September 25, some of the payroll issues had been solved, but one staff member shared that their paycheck was still incorrect. The *Sentinel* has been unable to determine how many staff members have been affected by the ongoing errors.

"We understand the frustration and anxiety these problems have caused our employees," said McKinnon in a written statement. "Stabilizing payroll remains our top operational priority. We will continue this work until outstanding corrections have been addressed and we have demonstrated sustained accuracy and reliability across multiple payroll cycles." ■



HOUSES THAT MAKE REDDING SPECIAL

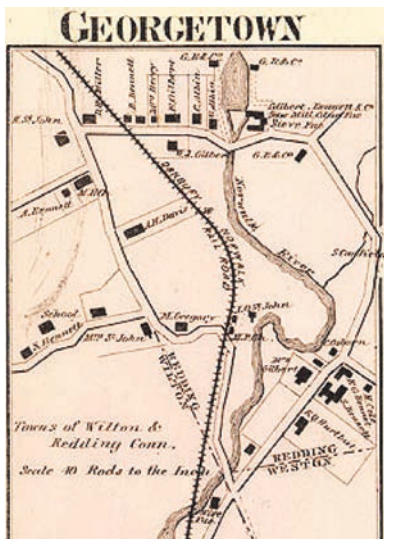
Chapters of Georgetown's history at 18 Church Street | *By Brent Colley*



The house at 18 Church Street is an example of Italianate architecture prevalent in Georgetown in the late 19th century. It houses 150 years of history of several Georgetown families.



An 1856 map of the area, showing the house had not yet been built at 18 Church Street.



By 1867, maps of Georgetown show the Aaron H. Davis house at its current location.

The opportunity to share the early history of 18 Church Street in Georgetown, known as the Aaron H. Davis House, is very meaningful to me. My grandfather and father grew up there, and a portion of the original property is still occupied by our family on Smith Street. For me, the house is more than an old Georgetown landmark – it is part of our family's history.

The original owner, Aaron H. Davis, was an impressive man whose life reflects the factory town history of Georgetown from 1850 to the 1950s. Born in Danbury, Aaron H. Davis moved to Georgetown from New Canaan at a young age and became an exemplary example of local leadership and community service. The Georgetown area was filled with these individuals, and I very much enjoy sharing their stories. I share them with the hope that future generations will continue to tell and re-tell them.

The 1860 U.S. Census provides the first glimpse of his life at that time. At 25 years of age, Aaron H. Davis was working as a carriage maker with a reported personal wealth of $500. He was married to Lucy Bennett, 23, and the couple lived with Lucy's parents, Aaron and Mary Bennett. The Bennett property stretched from Church Street to Route 7. Imagine a substantial rectangular lot extending roughly from the Methodist Episcopal Church to Route 7. Aaron Bennett worked at the Gilbert & Bennett Manufacturing Company as a sieve maker; his property was valued at $1,300 with a personal wealth of $200.

Just two years later, Aaron H. Davis and his father-in-law signed a call to town meeting in Wilton to vote on a bounty of $100 for Civil War service; this vote was in August of 1862. By November of 1862, Aaron H. Davis was leaving Georgetown, elected by his peers as Sergeant in Company E of the 23rd Connecticut Volunteers, a unit of men from the Georgetown area. This regiment mustered out of New Haven and would see action in New Orleans and Gettysburg. Aaron H. Davis survived the conflict and returned to Georgetown, where he would go on to build a remarkable career with the Gilbert & Bennett Manufacturing Company.

It was after his return from the Civil War that Aaron and Lucy acquired their property lot from Matthew Gregory and commissioned the St. John family to build their Italianate home.

From the mid-1840s through the early 1900s, the managers, investors, and owners of Gilbert & Bennett Manufacturing Company all lived in the neighborhoods that surrounded the factory. Italianate architecture was a favored style, characterized by their square design, flat roofs and foliated brackets carved in high relief, set off with austere façades; Palladian windows added over the porticos on several of the homes was an interesting and successful combination of the Georgian and Italianate architecture. Gilberts, Bennetts, Millers, St. Johns, Davises, and Gregorys all awoke to the factory whistle, as did their employees.

The Hiram St. John's Italianate house at the corner of West Main Street, Church Street, and North Main Street is my personal favorite from that period. The other Italianate homes in the neighborhoods surrounding the factory included John St. John's house, the Davis house, and the homes of David H. Miller, Edwin Gilbert, and William J. Gilbert on North Main Street. Sadly, the latter three homes no longer exist.

Real estate companies have listed the Davis house as being built in 1848, but that is incorrect. There are no homes on the stretch from Church Street South to West Main Street on Clark's Fairfield County Map circa 1855-56. You will, however, find Matthew Gregory's house at Church Street South and Hiram St. John's house on West Main Street. That map, along with the 1867 map that does show the Davis lot, are shown here.

Aaron H. Davis and his wife, Lucy, added at least one addition to the original home in 1895; we know this because it was reported in local newspapers as were most of the Davis family activities.

From the mid-to-late 1860s, Aaron H. Davis spent over 50 years with the Gilbert & Bennett Manufacturing Company, serving as an assistant superintendent, superintendent, and investor. At the same time, he was deeply involved in the Georgetown community. He was a charter member of Ark Lodge, F. & A.M., Georgetown, where he served as treasurer for over 40 years. He also was active in the Methodist Episcopal Church of Georgetown, serving as its treasurer for more than four decades. In addition, Davis served two terms in the Connecticut General Assembly, representing Redding.

My family's connection to the Davis Home began after 1915 when Aaron H. Davis died. My great-grandfather, John Colley, purchased the Davis home and property. John Colley managed the construction of Gilbert & Bennett employee housing on Portland Avenue from the early 1900s until his death.

My grandfather, Harry L. Colley, was born in 1917 and provided recollections of his home and its property throughout his lifetime,

Continued on page 7

The Aaron Davis House

18 Church Street | Georgetown, Connecticut



A historic Georgetown original, thoughtfully reimagined.

1848 Italianate Victorian | Walk to town | Separate carriage house

A story worth stepping into.

Built in 1848, the Aaron Davis House is a piece of Georgetown history, with interiors by an award-winning decorative artist and town a stroll away. Across the grounds, a separate carriage house offers studio, guest and creative space with a loft, office, kitchenette and full bath.

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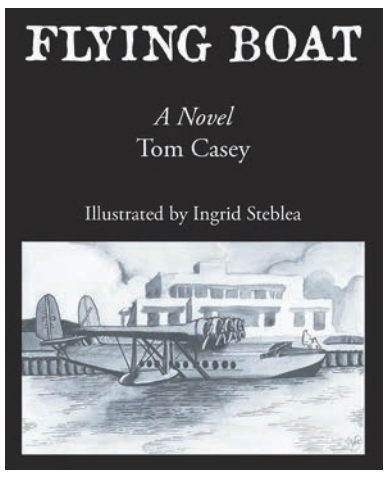
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Book Review

Flying Boat

By Tom Casey

340 pages / Page Publishing



You guys have known Tom Casey for years. He's a reliable presence in the *Redding Sentinel's* fantastic literary corner. I met Casey for the first time at a Mark Twain Library event for authors and was immediately struck by his *joie de vivre*, colorful vocabulary, and frizzy white hair. We bonded over owning dogs named Phoebe and how weird it is to be a writer. I consider him a classic Redding-ite, as so many residents in this town are wildly creative and care deeply about the community.

Some people are good at more than one thing. (It's annoying, right?) Before Casey began his career as a novelist, he spent 30 years as a pilot. His flying experience inspires much of his writing, in which he incorporates a pilot's perspective (often a bird's-eye, ha!) to craft complex plots and settings.

Flying Boat is Casey's fourth novel. He describes it as a historical novel, as the main character is not so much a person but rather an aerospace relic. The star of this show is the "clipper," or a seaplane that has a main hull shaped like a boat. This special shape allows the aircraft to float, land, and take off directly on water. Used for both military and commercial purposes, it enjoyed a brief spell of popularity around the turn of the century and leading up to World War II.

The novel is a celebration of this now-extinct airplane, but specifically the freedom and joy of the life of a pilot. The heart of the story follows the journal entries of seaplane pilot Kyle Winter, whose flight pattern finds him enmeshed in a love story as well as tangled up with underground resistance groups in South America. Casey's prose is thoughtful, often spare, and occasionally lush with descriptions. His characters frequently reflect an openness to the world and willingness to receive its lessons. The scenes in Rio de Janeiro made me want to hop on my own "clipper" for a few of the beaches and villages. *Flying Boat* also includes charming illustrations by illustrator Ingrid Steblea as well as photographs from the era, which add an extra level of visualization to the world Casey's characters inhabit.

Read *Flying Boat* outside on a day when there are no clouds. And, as you admire the vapor trail, think of Redding classic Tom Casey and his big-dreaming characters. ■

Review by Carolyn Prusa, author of ***None of This Would Have Happened If Prince Were Alive***

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44th Annual Artisan Fair
on Saturday.

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Rain and wind can't dampen Fair spirit

First Church of Christ, Congregational's Artisan Fair















Photos by Susan Clark, Jen Wastrom and Jessie Wright

A powerful nor'easter couldn't keep eager attendees away from the 44th Annual Artisan Fair at First Church of Christ, Congregational on Saturday, September 26. Though the outdoor artisan tents were unable to be set up, visitors still enjoyed warm soup and fresh apple pie with plenty of deals to be found at the indoor Studio and Parsonage furniture sales, Jewelry Boutique, and Giant Tag Sale.

Library Corner

"Yes, and…"

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

This week I decided to do something I've always been scared to do: I attended an improv comedy workshop at the Library. During college, my roommate was really into improv and continued doing it afterward in New York City. So, I have been to hundreds of improv comedy shows in my life. I have always been very happy to be in the audience, with no interest in performing improv on stage. But this past Tuesday, in the interest of challenging myself to try something new, I participated in the Mark Twain Library's workshop.

The group is led by two experienced actresses, and this week's attendees included a few theater people, an aspiring author, and someone who performed at Woodstock. Only one of us had improv experience. We played some improv games designed to get us out of our heads and more connected with one another. Then we did some scenes which forced us to build off one another's improvisations. The trick to improv is to always be thinking, "Yes, and…" which helps your fellow performers expand on their ideas or scenes. I found it to be incredibly difficult, but also the funniest scenes seemed to happen when we all stopped trying to be funny and instead just tried to keep the scenario going.

All in all, I am not sure if I have a future in improvisational comedy, but I'm glad I did it. Even though I was pretty terrified to try, it was a welcoming and supportive group. Their next workshop is Tuesday, October 27 at 11:00 a.m. here at the Library. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

Chapters of Georgetown's history at 18 Church Street / ***continued from page 6***

both with me and with the members of the Georgetown History Tours he provided with his friends Bertil Rosenthal and Art Moore. Norwalk River Watershed Association and Georgetown Village Restoration Association hosted those walks.

John Colley died when my grandfather was nine years old, so, roughly 1926.

Our family kept the 18 Church Street property after his passing, largely due to my grandfather's sister, Florence. Florence Colley, later to become Florence Dollar, took over the management of the family's real estate and finances, and did a very good job. The Dollar homes are now on Smith Street. After the Colleys left the Davis house in the mid-1950s, it was later owned and further improved by the Townsend family, who purchased the home in the early 1970s.

The home's current owners, who have lived at 18 Church Street for nearly two decades, said they recall meeting my grandparents when they were putting up a mailbox – after inviting my grandparents inside, my grandparents shared memories of seeing changes to the house over the years, including the addition of indoor plumbing.

"We have now been here 23 years and adore the house and its history," shared owner Heidi Holzer. "We have done extensive restoration of the porch balusters, which I noted are the same as the fence of Christ Church in town, restored the original radiators by having them sandblasted and powder coated, and replaced numerous panes of glass throughout with historic glass. As a designer, I have tried to be thoughtful to introduce renovations in ways that speak to the house."

Today, 18 Church Street stands as a reminder of a notable period in Georgetown's history – and, for my family, a tangible connection to the generations who came before us. ■

Brent Colley is Co-Historian for the Town of Redding and Co-Founder of the Redding CT History Project

Special thanks to Julie Hughes, Bruce Nelson, Jack Sanders, and John W. Colley for their assistance with this article.

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Fall Edition

Water you up to today?

Wonders await at The Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk

By Lee Whitmore



Photo courtesy of The Maritime Aquarium

What do stingrays, sturgeons, sharks, jellyfish, and spider crabs have in common? They are all in touch tanks for you to meet up close at The Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk.

These immersive exhibits are entertaining and full of education opportunities for all ages. The Aquarium focuses on experiential learning: staff and volunteers are eager to share information about each animal including fun facts, their habitat, what they eat, and where you might find them. A total of 6,800 animals live here! Our very own Long Island Sound is featured and provides many animals on display including an intertidal area touch and learning tank with oysters, clams, horseshoe crabs, and other low tide creatures.

Other favorites include the shark tank, octopus, and the seal enclosure. Happy seals swim around Pinniped Cove in a two-story glass enclosed tank with feeding and informational sessions twice daily. Other displays feature animals from around the world: meerkats, a sloth, dart frogs, and even a porcupine!

There is also a 4D theater where your 3D glasses bring the action right to you. The wind, bubbles, or even a surprise little spray enhance the venue.

A new exhibit showcases Puffins and Common Murres. Here's what I learned:

"At The Maritime Aquarium, a new seabirds exhibit invites families to step into a world where ocean, land, and people are deeply connected – and seabirds are the link between them. From the moment you enter, you're surrounded by the sights and sounds of the Atlantic coast, where charismatic Atlantic puffins and sleek common murres dive, soar, and thrive in the ocean and cliffsides they call home."

The Sea our Star Stage invites a close-up learning experience twice daily.

The Aquarium wants to speak to you – so, come listen to the stories of wonder in nature's diversity. We hope you leave with your own wonderful story from your day and a sense of responsibility for conservation of the animals here and around the world. Plus, you can't help but smile after your visit and feel as though you have made new fishy friends!

The Maritime Aquarium is at 10 North Water Street in Norwalk. Visit maritimeaquarium.org for more information. There are a Gift Shop and Café on premises. Parking is available. ■

Lee Whitmore is a volunteer-in-training at The Maritime Aquarium

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF REDDING-EASTON

WORD SEARCH

L	L	H	T	P	I	N	D	N	E	Q	S	Z	L	F
E	E	M	E	I	B	R	E	D	D	I	N	G	V	M
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D	R	S	C	S	C	H	N	Z	F	W	G	H	L	I
E	N	T	E	P	R	M	J	C	L	L	C	G	B	E
R	T	X	S	I	E	F	O	O	M	X	R	J	L	A
S	E	N	C	R	N	C	Y	M	E	A	E	V	I	S
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I	T	R	U	E	M	X	O	A	S	V	A	T	S	O
P	I	O	R	N	B	C	B	S	T	E	T	E	G	R
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F	A	Y	O	U	T	H	N	C	E	E	H		K	V

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"All About Fall" reading list from Mark Twain Library



Mark Twain Library has a host of book recommendations for kids eager to learn more about fall… from the season itself to apples to autumn colors to pumpkins!

Full of Fall
By April Pulley Sayre

Discover the magic – and the science – behind fall leaves with this companion to the celebrated *Raindrops Roll* and *Best in Snow*.

Counting on Fall (Math in Nature)
By Lizann Flatt

As young readers journey into the natural world, they will discover that numbers, patterns, shapes — and much more! — can be found by observing everyday plants and animals.

Why Do Leaves Change Color?
By Betsy Maestro

This book explains the magical process of how leaves change their color in autumn. Also included are simple activities and places to visit so that you can enjoy the fall foliage with your family.

How Do Apples Grow?
By Betsy Maestro

Have you ever eaten part of a flower? You have if you have eaten an apple! Find out how an apple grows from bud to flower to fruit – ready for you to pick!

How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?
By Margaret Mcnamara

Mr. Tiffin asks his class how many seeds are in a pumpkin as they gather around the big, medium, and small pumpkins on his desk. From a million to 22, the guesses are all over the place!

Secrets of the Seasons: Orbiting the Sun in Our Backyard
By Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

The family from *Secrets of the Garden* is back in a new book about backyard science that explains why the seasons change. ■

For a complete fall reading list, use the QR code here!

Where have you seen this?

Test your knowledge of Redding landmarks

By Mary Corcoran



In which park can you find this building?

What is this building used for?

When was the park created and why?



What is this building called?

Where is it located?

What was this building used for in years past?

(Answers will be published in our October 8, 2026 issue)

Cub Scout Pack 118

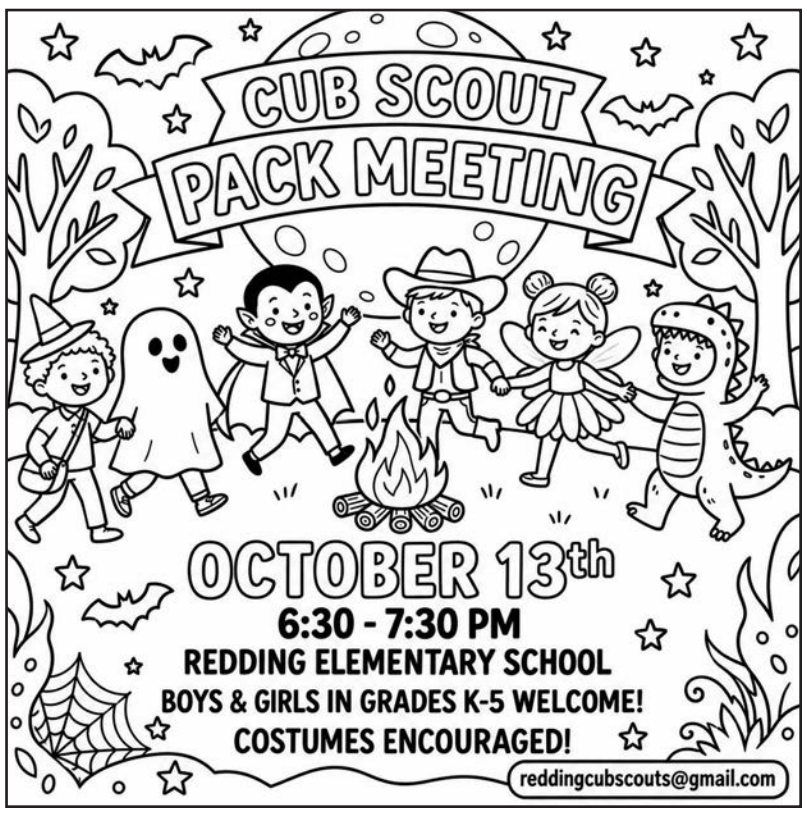
Fall pack meetings are open to all!



Photo by Katie Barraco

Pack 118 kicked off the new Scouting year with a bang! At the September meeting, every Scout built their own rocket and launched it into the sky with a big stomp. Rockets soared, kids cheered, and everyone lined up again and again for another try.

Curious about Cub Scouting? Pack 118's upcoming meetings all are open to non-members, and they're a great way to see firsthand what Scouting is about. Kids in grades K–5 and their families are welcome to drop in, join the fun, and meet the pack – with no registration or commitment required. All events are held at Redding Elementary School, 33 Lonetown Road. ■



Calendar of Events

$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week's Featured Events

Free Kids Night Out

Friday, October 2
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

Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company's Oktoberfest and Fire Safety Day

Sunday, October 4
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

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
Also available to stream live on Zoom
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org

Want to feature an upcoming event?

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

Arts

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
$

Saturday, October 3

Joseph Fucigna and In Process… & Material Culture Closing Receptions
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
GTown Arts
5 Main Street
gtownarts.com

Children | Teens

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

Saturday, October 3 – Sunday, October 4

Halloween Costume Swap
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Browse and pick up lightly-used costumes, organized by Redding Neighbors & Newcomers and Park and Recreation
Redding Community Center Pavilion
37 Lonetown Road

Sunday, October 4

Floating Pumpkin Patch
1:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Bring your swimsuit, towel, and fall spirit
Wilton YMCA
404 Danbury Road
Wilton
wiltonymca.org/floating-pumpkin-patch
R

Nature

Saturday, October 3

The Art of Honey Tasting
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sample honey with apiary manager Ann Murray
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
$, R

Saturday, October 3

Redding Community Hiking Club – From Trail to Table at Great Meadow Farm
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Walk through organic farm and sample treats; register by October 1
2 Old Hattertown Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Saturday, October 10

NPF Walking Group: Trail Maintenance Hike
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
R

Special Programs

Saturday, October 3

Fall in Love with Ridgefield
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Music, scarecrows, facepaint, and shopping and dining specials
Main Street
Ridgefield
inridgefield.com/events

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 a.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
marktwainlibrary.org

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
5:30 p.m.
Family Simchat Torah Shabbat and Rabbi Strom's Installation
82 Portland Avenue
templebnaichaim.org

Meetings

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

Registrar of Voters Tabulator Testing
6:00 p.m.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown 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

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

Monday, October 12

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

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



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SloperTeam@yahoo.com



2231 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield | $569,000
Listed By Tim Dent Team | 203.244.2277
TimDentTeam.com



56 Portland Ave Unit 3, Redding | $399,900
Listed By The Marilyn Caravetta Team
Michelle Woodward | 203.788.4629
Christopher Barre | 203.767.7893



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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.