

Walking path funding identified

By Jessie Wright

A Community Center walking path is one step closer to reality, with remaining project funding identified in unexpended 2024-25 capital funds.

The half-mile paved loop around the Community Center’s lower fields will be paid for in part by a \$203,856 Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant. The remainder of the funding – estimated around \$112,000 – must be matched by the Town.

The Board of Selectmen have identified two 2024-25 capital projects with cost savings to source those matching funds, including the Community Center’s gabled roof replacement (completed \$50,000 under budget) and the Town Hall sprinkler system retrofit (anticipated \$160,000 under budget due to advances in sprinkler technology).

At the Board of Selectmen’s recommendation, the Board of Finance has approved the use of up to \$120,000 of these available capital funds for the walking path, with the remainder earmarked for road repair. Voters will consider the matter at a special town meeting on Monday, June 23 at 6:30 p.m. ■



Community members marched in the Memorial Day Parade on May 24 before gathering for a short ceremony at the Memorial Stone. If you have a photo you’d like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Photo by Jessie Wright

Georgetown Day to fill Main Street with activity Sunday, June 8

By Jessie Wright

Georgetown will be filled with visitors of all ages on Sunday, June 8 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. for the 22nd annual Georgetown Day. The fun will take place up and down Main Street and across the street in front of The Granite. A free, family-friendly event, Georgetown Day will bring over 90 vendors to its annual street fair with activities for all ages.

Food from a host of local restaurants and vendors along with a mouth-watering Chili Cook-Off will satisfy any appetite as visitors visit booths hosted by local artisans, businesses, community organizations, and non-profits. There will be several hands-on children’s

activities and a full line-up of live music by local bands hosted on two stages.

The event is also an opportunity for community members to get involved in the planning process that the Town of Redding and Pirie Associates are conducting to create a Georgetown Revitalization plan, connecting Georgetown’s commercial and residential areas with the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill site. Pirie Associates will host a booth collecting feedback, the Gilbert & Bennett historical archive will be on view, and shuttle bus tours of the Wire Mill site will be running throughout the day (tours must be registered for in advance

by calling Ginger Fiore at (203) 938-2002, extension 1).

Parking is available at Sacred Heart Church (30 Church Street), Branchville Train Station (787 Branchville Road, Ridgefield) and Temple B’Nai Chaim (82 Portland Avenue, Wilton). Shuttles will run from these lots all day. Handicapped accessible parking is available onsite on North Main Street and at Georgetown Veterinary Hospital. ■

For more information, follow @georgetownday on Instagram and Facebook, or visit georgetownct.org

REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

Alvin and Besty Ruml Preserve

By Tony Gale



Photo by Tony Gale

Some of my fondest memories of childhood are wandering around in the woods, exploring whatever looked interesting. Among the many wonderful things about Redding Land Trust land is that the public is allowed to do that same wandering, unrestricted by trails. This is made even better when considering that there are pieces of land owned by Redding Land Trust that don’t have trails and are still open to the public.

I have passed the fairly new sign for the Alvin and Betsy Ruml Preserve on Dayton Road, just West of Orchard Drive several times, wondering about the area. At the

suggestion of *Sentinel* Managing Editor Jessie Wright, I reached out to Redding Land Trust to ask about it. Very quickly, I had a response from Kevin Tschudi, one of the Land Trust’s Trustees.

“It’s a separate 26.5-acre preserve, donated by the Rumls in 1970,” he told me in an e-mail. “There are no marked trails on the Ruml Preserve, or obvious parking.” He went on to say that it is “a lovely plot to amble around in, and we welcome folks to do so – nothing too steep, few impenetrable thickets, minimal wetlands. And one could safely park on Orchard or Ledgewood.”

With that information, I set out on a warm spring day to wander the preserve. I parked on Orchard Drive just north of Dayton Road and started looking for the best place to enter. The Alvin and Betsy Ruml Preserve stretches from Orchard Drive most of the way to Redding Road, bounded by Dayton Road on the south side and roughly

a stream on the north side. (In places it extends past the stream, and in others, doesn’t quite reach the stream.) I kept checking as I walked to avoid intruding on anyone’s property. There was a fair bit of poison ivy growing along the edge by the road, but close to the corner of Dayton Road and Orchard Drive, there was a reasonably clear spot to get in. Once in, I started following the course of the stream, heading west.

The bright green of spring and dappled sunlight surrounded me with the occasional bird and the soft sound of the stream creating a relaxing soundtrack as I walked. With no trail to follow, I wandered along. After only a few minutes, I heard the splash of a frog jumping into the water; when I peered over, the frog was still there. Lucky for me, it stayed put for some photos. Then I walked through what seemed like endless ferns, followed by some wild lowbush blue-

Continued on page 12

State passes the most significant housing bill in years

By Rob Sample

The availability of housing and its ever-rising cost have recently dominated the news cycle – a crisis that is particularly acute in Connecticut, which has some of the highest housing costs in the nation.

Early last week, the Democrat-led Connecticut House of Representatives passed an omnibus bill aiming to tackle that problem, requiring municipalities to include affordable housing in their planning, among several other measures. The Connecticut Senate then passed the legislation as well. In both the House and Senate, the measure passed by relatively narrow margins after hours of debate. At press time, the bill was awaiting Governor Ned Lamont’s signature.

Supporters argue that the bill will boost the state’s economy by increasing its housing supply, making Connecticut a more attractive place to do business and hire qualified workers. Lower-paid workers would no longer need to cloister themselves in cities where affordable housing has historically been more prevalent.

“Connecticut has one of the most constrained housing markets in the country,” said Representative Eleni Kavros-Degraw, who chairs the Planning and Development Committee. “Our housing is far too expensive for too many families across the income spectrum. Families everywhere are struggling to find homes they can afford. Rent is rising, inventory is scarce, and often, there are barriers to the construction of needed housing.”

As part of a solution, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association has recommended measures such as “upzoning” (increasing housing density) and less-stringent parking requirements. Those requirements also tend to increase the square footage of paved areas, increasing storm-water runoff.

“Zoning reforms remove barriers to building smaller scale, multi-family housing that will not overwhelm communities or infrastructure,” said Kavros-Degraw.

Republicans and some Democrats voted against the bill, particularly the measures it imposes on municipalities. In their view, zoning is a matter of local control and should remain in the hands of towns and cities. The bill mandates a formula that establishes a number of affordable housing units that each town must provide – though it also lets towns team up to work together on some of the bill’s goals.

Representative Anne Hughes (D-Easton), who represents Redding, has been a strong proponent of the bill. She ticked off a host of the bill’s features that, she said, provide necessary support to municipalities to make housing affordable.

“This bill provides towns like Redding with more resources for redevelopment of the Wire Mill, for example, and more middle-housing resources,” Hughes said. “It also offers support for development of a more appropriate housing plan to

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Police Blotter

Police activity from May 12 – 19

By Donna Christopher



Officers assisted in seven medical emergencies and one fire emergency. They assisted one operator of a disabled motor vehicle, processed one firearm surrender, and processed two firearms permits.

Noise complaints were investigated on Limekiln and Side Cut Roads on May 17.

Police made four well-being checks on May 12, 13, and 17 at four different locations. In each instance, the person was located and okay.

Domestic Dispute Arrests

An individual was arrested on May 13 for intimidation on Simpaug Turnpike. Police provided no additional details.

On May 14, a walk-in complainant reported a domestic dispute, which resulted in a husband arrested.

On May 19, officers responded to a domestic dispute on Dry River Court, which resulted in a wife arrested.

Traffic

There were 19 motor vehicle stops, nine of which occurred on Redding Road (Route 53). Officers issued six verbal warnings, seven written warnings, and six tickets, for an infraction rate of 32%.

On May 14 on Redding Road (Route 53), a northbound vehicle veered off into the northbound shoulder and struck a utility pole, cracking the pole in half. The operator told officers he worked extra hours, didn't realize how tired he was, and fell asleep. There were no injuries. A warning was issued for Improper Turning Maneuver.

On May 14 on Meeker Hill Road/Route 58, a vehicle pulled into northbound traffic from Meeker Hill Road, causing a crash. The driver was issued a warning for Failure to Grant the Right of Way at an Intersection. There were no injuries.

On May 14 on Lonetown Road, the operator of a vehicle said he swerved to avoid hitting a deer, then struck a section of wire rope guard rails in the northbound shoulder of the roadway. There were no injuries. There was no enforcement action.

On May 19 on Ethan Allen Highway (Route 7), there was a one vehicle accident reported in the parking lot of the Georgetown Veterinarian Hospital. There were no injuries. No further details were available.

Senator Murphy stops by Georgetown



Photo courtesy of Chris Murphy

U.S. Senator Chris Murphy visited Georgetown on the third day of his ninth annual "Walk Across Connecticut" last week, during which he walks through various communities in the state and speaks with constituents. Murphy said he stopped into the Georgetown Owl after he was "waved inside by some patrons who recognized me" and had a great conversation.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF REDDING SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Legal Voters in the Town of Redding, Connecticut, and those entitled to vote therein are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Redding Town Hall to consider and vote upon the following:

- 1. FY25 line-item transfers within the budget for police overtime.
- 2. Reallocation of available FY25 town capital for local match of Redding Community Center walking path construction and for road repair.
- 3. 2025 CT Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program Proposals.

To do any and all things legal and necessary to accomplish the above-named purpose and to take any other action that may legally and properly come before the meeting. ■

Redding Board of Selectmen Julia Pemberton, Diana M. Carlino, Michael Thompson
DATED at Redding, Connecticut this 27th day of May 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2025 CT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT PROGRAM PROPOSALS

A public hearing will be held on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Redding Town Hall Hearing Room, 100 Hill Road, Redding, CT to consider 2025 CT Neighborhood Assistance Act Program proposals from the BeFoundation, Inc. (Granite Church), Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, Inc., Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton, and The Redding Historical Society, Inc. ■

Redding Board of Selectmen Julia Pemberton, Diana M. Carlino, Michael Thompson

TOWN OF REDDING NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OFFICE OF BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION AND DEVELOPMENT CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GEORGETOWN REVITALIZATION BROWNFIELD AREA WIDE PLANNING GRANT

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Joel Barlow High School Auditorium, 100 Black Rock Turnpike, Redding, CT to uncover values and goals important to the public for the success of the Georgetown Revitalization project. The meeting will gather information to create a primary vision plan by building upon preliminary goals identified with the work group and focus groups. The vision plan will guide the development of concept options and identify value added opportunities. ■

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals held on May 20, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, the Board reached the following decision.

Application #05-01-25 – 19 Great Oak Lane (Assessor's Map and Lot #21 & #125): Owner: Tatiana Solimchuk & Nugzari Alavidze: Requesting a variance to reduce side yard setback from 40' feet to 37' feet for a Pizza Oven. Redding Zoning Regulations Section 4.6.5. **Variance requested is 3' feet. Denied due to lack of stated hardship.** ■

Beth Williams – Chairman / Redding Zoning Board of Appeals

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the residents of the Georgetown Fire District of the Annual Meeting of said District to be held here at the Georgetown Fire District Office, 61 Redding Rd, Georgetown CT on Tuesday the 10th of June 2025 at 7:00 p.m. ■

The call of the meeting will be as follows: 1. To hear the reports of the officers / Dated this 15th day of May 2025.

Will Ely – Commissioner / Elio Cavicchia – 1st Deputy Commissioner / Dan Mecozzi – 2nd Deputy Commissioner

At a meeting of the Redding Conservation Commission on 5/20/2025, the following action was voted:

App'l #25-06, Grant Cox & Elizabeth Sager, 659 Redding Road. Approved with conditions an application for new residential construction, install drainage systems, perform tree removal, grading topsoil and seeding within the regulated area.

The above-referenced file is available for inspection at the Redding Land Use Office. ■

David R. Pattee – Chairman

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Lead a llama in a walk around the pasture
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For more information, visit our website:
www.povertyhollowllamas.com

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State senate passes bill requiring licensing for municipal camps

By Donna Christopher

Municipal camps are currently exempt from state licensing requirements, but that could change. State Senate Bill 6, passed in the Connecticut Senate on May 13, would increase oversight of municipal summer camps, requiring licensing by the Office of Early Childhood. The bill is now awaiting consideration in the House of Representatives.

State Senate Bill 6, “Act Concerning Resources and Supports for Infants, Toddlers, and Disconnected Youths”, focuses on enhancing oversight of municipal summer camps as well as early childhood nutrition programs, early childhood development resources, and support for disconnected youth.

Many city and town camps, including those offered in Redding and run by the Park and Recreation Department, already have high internal standards such as background checks and mandatory staff-to-camper ratios in place – but these are not required or overseen by the State.

Elements of the bill under consideration were introduced in response to a sexual assault case occurring during municipal programming in Bethany, in which Anthony Mastrangelo, a longtime counselor in the summer camps and after-school programs and a substitute teacher at the elementary school, was charged with two counts of first-degree sexual assault, four counts of illegal sexual

contact, five counts of fourth-degree sexual assault and one count of risk of injury to a minor. The bill would enhance background checks for camp staff and improve oversight of safety protocols.

Lawmakers opposing the legislation say it could unintentionally shutter low-cost child-care options for parents that rely on it in summer, the *Connecticut Mirror* reported.

Ceci Maher, D-Wilton, and the Co-chair of the Committee on Children, has argued that concerns about cost increases are overblown, and that leaving a loophole open that allows camps to operate without oversight has a disproportionate impact on low-income families that can’t afford private camps, according to *Connecticut Mirror*.

“We know that for many, many low-income families, summer camps, municipal camps, are in essence child-care,” Maher said. “It is an equity issue that we must oversee municipal camps to make sure they are safe and licensed at the same level as private camps are,” Maher said.

Nevertheless, some municipalities have voiced opposition to the bill as it pertains to camp licensing, citing the increased costs for compliance.

In written testimony, Town of Newtown Community Center Director Matt Ariniello, stated, “Municipalities already operate under multiple layers of oversight and

currently adhere to many of these proposed practices. Imposing additional requirements will significantly increase operational costs and capital expenditures to bring facilities up to compliance, ultimately straining local budgets.”

“Having to get the municipal camps licensed is a challenge for many towns as there are various costs involved, and we have challenges related to having to be flexible with space provided within the school,” Redding Park and Recreation Director Rob Blick told the *Sentinel*. “Many towns run camps at parks or playgrounds at multiple sites and some of the nurse requirements present a financial challenge, which might end up making many programs impossible to run. While we follow most of the guidance provided within the regulation for private camps (ratios, age of staff, background checks, waterfront staff, certifications) the physical space will always be a challenge for towns to offer a more affordable alternative to private camps.”

Under the bill, the new provisions would take a year to go into effect.

“If this passes and becomes law, it will perhaps affect next year’s summer camp programs, and we will need to adjust our fees and staffing accordingly,” said Blick. ■

You can track the status of Senate Bill 6 at cga.ct.gov

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Four proposals for state tax credit program

By Jessie Wright

The Town of Redding has received four proposals from community organizations to participate in the 2025 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Tax Credit Program. The state program provides a business tax credit to corporations that make donations to participating municipal and tax-exempt organizations. The project proposals must be approved by both the Town of Redding and the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services.

The BeFoundation is proposing \$84,280 in NAA funding for window and door repair and restoration at The Granite Church building. The project would replace aluminum storm windows with new storm windows, repair wooden elements and trim, and replace broken glass in existing windows. The project aims to improve energy efficiency of the building and cut down on heating and cooling costs. The BeFoundation would also provide a \$84,280 funding match.

The Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton’s proposal is for \$16,000 in NAA funding to install an upgraded, energy-efficient HVAC system at the non-profit’s clubhouse. Their application cites improved air quality and more

consistent temperatures for students as goals, along with increased energy efficiency and cost savings that will be able to be redirected into youth programs.

The Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company is again proposing its participation in the NAA to help fund the ongoing solar installation project at the Georgetown Firehouse. The 2025 funds raised, proposed at \$87,000, would support the continued work on the solar installation. The Company estimates the solar installation will provide 86% of the building’s electricity once installed and save \$350,000 over the 25-year life of the system.

Redding Historical Society is proposing \$24,000 in NAA funds to help it establish a farm tool museum at its historic Zalmon Read Barn. The museum would “showcase tools and equipment representative of Redding’s farming and agricultural life from the early 18th century through the 20th century.” The Historical Society hopes the museum will educate a wider population about agricultural life.

The four proposals will be considered at a public hearing on Monday, June 23 at 6:00 p.m. and a special town meeting following at 6:30 p.m. ■

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SPORTS

Falcons impress at league championships

Girls and boys track and field | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Phoebe Cora Smith placed first in the 100 high hurdles at the South-West Conference girls track championship on Monday, May 29.

Girls track and field

Having overcome illness and injury in the regular season, the Joel Barlow High girls track team would surprise a number of opponents at the South-West Conference championships. The Falcons took the opportunity to finish higher than several teams who had beaten them in dual meets this year. With a score of 72 points, they took fourth out of 13 on Monday, May 19 at Weston High. Defending champ Newtown won for the third straight year, this time with 140. Host Weston was second with 116, and Bethel was third with 90. “We dealt with a wild season of injuries and illnesses,” said Barlow Head Coach Ryan Swift. “We were confident that if we got to full health, that we would be competitive at the meet.” Barlow’s first points came in the 4x100-meter relay. Sofia Benitez, Vika Abukhovich, Jordan Carr, and Olivia Taylor combined for a personal-best time of 51.56 seconds, good for third overall. Taylor scored for Barlow in the 100 meters, finishing in 13.02 seconds for eighth. Taking the same spot in the 1,600 meters, Olivia Kotula ran a 5:37.86.

The first of several Barlow gold medals came in the 100 high hurdles. Taking second last year, Phoebe Cora Smith ran a 14.71, defeating defending champ Aashni Shetty of Newtown for the win. For the second straight year, Smith also captured the gold medal in the 300 intermediate hurdles, this time in 45.58. The Falcons took another gold medal in the 400 meters with Abukhovich breaking the one-minute mark in 59.51. Two would score for Barlow in the 800 meters, which featured Ally Bardani taking the bronze medal in 2:28.33 and Clara Mehner finishing fourth in 2:30.03. One of three Falcons to score in the 200 meters, Abukhovich was sixth in 26.40, a tenth of a second ahead of Taylor and Smith, who were seventh and eighth respectively, each with a 26.41. Kotula was seventh overall in the 3,200 meters, going the distance in 12:47.03. Barlow’s lone medal in the field events came in the pole vault. For the second straight year, Carr won the gold medal, this time clearing 12 feet. “I was very happy to have finished in fourth,” said Swift. “If we spread ourselves out a little more and had some of our athletes compete

in four events, I think that we could have finished even higher.”

Boys track and field

Several standout performances accounted for the majority of the points scored by the Falcon boys team. With 38, they finished sixth out of 14, also finishing ahead of several opponents who had defeated them during the regular season. Bethel won the team title with 196. Bunnell was runner up with 109, and Weston took third with 103. It was a fast field in the 4x100 meters, but the Falcons managed to score. Nate Dyar, Ethan Peters, Lucas Jandura, and Kyle Rwabukamba combined for a 45.42, taking eighth, less than a quarter-of-a-second behind Brookfield. Rwabukamba also scored in the 110 high hurdles and the 300 intermediate hurdles with a fifth-place finish in both. He ran a 17.65 in the high and 43.63 in the intermediate, a personal record. Going the distance in the 1,600 meters, Steve Czerkowski finished in 4:49.35, taking seventh. The Falcons claimed three medals in the field events, including the silver in the long jump which Dyar accomplished with a jump of 20 feet, five inches. “Nate had a PR with 20’ 5”, which I knew could happen,” said Barlow Head Coach Ryan Paola. “But having a bad previous meet, I wasn’t sure.” Barlow’s best event was the javelin, which produced two medals. Noah Beninati won it with a throw of 165 feet 5 inches, and Sam Walker took the bronze with 140 feet 1 inch. Both were personal records. “Noah winning was not expected, and he had two PRs that day,” said Paola. “Sam coming in third with a PR as well was also a surprise. They had thrown well all season but to have a first and third was not what I thought would happen.” Also scoring in the field events, Ben Azzara was sixth in the pole vault by clearing 9 feet 6 inches. “Overall, I really wasn’t sure what to expect going in,” said Paola. “We had a small squad there, but some definite talent and I was impressed with their sixth place.” ■

Rebels hold off Falcons in title game

Boys lacrosse | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Frankie Branca is pressured by New Fairfield’s Tyler Mango, left, and Kingston Pitt during the South-West Conference boys lacrosse championship on Tuesday, May 27.

All throughout the regular season, the Joel Barlow High boys lacrosse team’s attack was a menace to most of the competition. The Falcons averaged better than 11 goals per outing. It was another matter in the South-West Conference championship last week. The defending champs, the Falcons found second-seeded New Fairfield’s defense tough to penetrate, scoring just a pair of goals in a 2-4 loss on Tuesday, May 27 at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury. The loss also stopped a seven-game winning streak for Barlow. “They’re a good defensive team,” said Barlow Head Coach Taylor Leahy, whose team defeated the Rebels 5-2 during the regular season. “They’re very well-coached. We had our chances, and their goalie made a lot of saves.” Top-seeded Barlow, which dispatched eighth-seeded Masuk 15-3 and fifth-seeded Bethel 14-4 in the quarterfinals and semifinals respectively, was surprised early in the first quarter. A shot by the Rebels’ John Alit was stopped by Falcon goalie Cole Bonanno, but Alit grabbed the rebound and sent it into the net for a 1-0 lead just 43 seconds into the action. New Fairfield continued its fast pace and added two more goals before the quarter was finished. Following a save by goalie Tristan Cunningham (10 saves), the Rebels quickly moved the ball upfield, setting up a goal by Josh Kruger. Alit assisted with 7:23 left in the frame. Five minutes later, Jack Perun added another on a shot from the left side, and the Rebels led 3-0 by the time the quarter was done. Anchored by Jim Fidaleo, Matt Fritzsche, and Kingston Pitt, New Fairfield’s defense held off the Falcons long enough for Mike Trainor to make it a 4-0 game with 9:45 left in the first half. It was only after that Barlow responded, countering with a goal by Joey Bonanno with 4:04 left in the half. Despite scoring four goals in the first half, the Rebels were shut down by Barlow’s defense in the second. Cole Bonanno also turned away all shots, finishing with nine saves in the night. “Cole played awesome,” said Leahy. “They scored that one kind of flukey goal in the beginning, but otherwise he played out of his mind.” Midway through the third quarter, Barlow drew a little closer thanks to a goal by Chase Bonanno. Two penalties put them down a couple of players for a minute, but they escaped unscathed and were still in contention going into the final frame. Barlow kept up the pressure on for the remainder of the game and forced a number of Rebel turnovers, but time ran out before they drew any closer. “They played their hearts out,” said Leahy. “I’m proud of their effort. Unfortunately, we came up a little bit short this year.”

Barlow, now 14-5, begins in the state Class M tournament this week. Ranked second, it hosts the winner of the East Catholic/Manchester game in the second round on Saturday, June 7 at 3:00 p.m. “We didn’t win this one, but we still have a state championship ahead of us to play for over the next couple of weeks,” said Leahy. “That’s what we’re going to hit the reset button and focus on.” ■

Masuk takes league crown from Barlow

Boys volleyball

By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Mike Murcia, left, and James Pereira try to block Masuk’s Owen Lafond during the South-West Conference boys volleyball championship on Thursday, May 29. Barlow lost 1-3 in a rematch of last year’s championship. What was a rematch of last season’s South-West Conference championship produced different results for the Joel Barlow high boys varsity volleyball team. The defending champs, the Falcons, held off Masuk 3-2 in a close five-setter a year ago. Propelled by their strong play at the net, the Panthers pulled off a 3-1 (25-19, 23-25, 26-24, 25-21) win at Newtown High on Thursday, May 29, for their first league title since 2015.

It marked the fifth time the two teams have faced each other in the title match. Masuk leads the series 3-2. “I think Masuk played great the whole day,” said Barlow Head Coach Kevin Marino, whose team defeated the Panthers twice during the regular season. “I credit them. They did really well.” Top-seeded Barlow jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first set before Masuk responded; it wound up being a one-or two-point affair for the next several exchanges. A kill by second-seeded Masuk’s Nate Kurkowski put his team on top at 13-12 and the lead grew from there. Hitting errors on Barlow’s part widened the gap to 21-15, forcing them to call a time-out to regroup. Consecutive kills by Sam Stinson kept the Falcons within five points of their opponent before the Panthers closed out the set. Helped by kills from Erik Schmid and hitting errors on Masuk’s part, the Falcons led by as many as four in the second set, the last time coming at 21-17. Kills by Masuk’s Dan Ferris and Mike Majersky helped result in four straight points, as the Panthers tied it at 22-22. Mark Meschi’s kill got the Falcons the lead again, and they

held on for the 25-23 win to tie the match at 1-1. Highlighted by numerous ties and lead changes, the third set was a back-and-forth affair until the Panthers stepped up with kills by Ferris, Jack Hanna, and Owen Lafond to build an 18-13 advantage, which later grew to 24-17. After Masuk scratched on its serve at set point, the Falcons rallied with six straight service points by Stinson, who was helped with kills by Meschi and James Pereira to tie it at 24-24. Following a time-out, Masuk won back the serve on a kill by Lafond and held on for the win. Numerous ties and lead changes followed in the fourth set as well. The Falcons last had the advantage at 17-16 on Schmid’s kill before falling behind again as Masuk took the set and the championship. “Our blocking let us down,” said Marino, whose team starts the state tournament this week. “We have to get back to work on that.” Now 16-5, Barlow is the top seed in Class M. The team opens the tournament on Thursday, June 5 when they host the winner of the Newtown/Rockville match at 6:00 p.m. ■

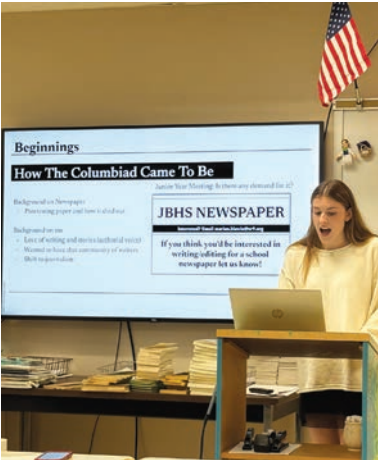
Bethel dethrones Barlow

Baseball | By Rocco Valluzzo

Unlike in the earlier rounds of the South-West Conference play-offs, a late offensive push remained out of reach for the Joel Barlow High baseball team in the championship. With things tied at 3-3, the defending champ and fifth-seeded Falcons were unable to score in the top of the seventh inning against second-seeded Bethel last Wednesday, May 28. The Wildcats, on the other hand, got the opportunity they needed in the bottom of the inning to push across the go-ahead run in what resulted in a 4-3 walk-off win in the rain at Hunt Field. Bethel, which had also beaten Barlow during the regular season, scored the majority of its runs in the bottom of the first inning. With one out, Gianluca Baia singled to left field and Logan Fesh walked. Although Anthony Boniello popped out, consecutive doubles by Tom Martin and Bob Durkin brought in three runs. The Falcons would answer in the third with three runs of their own. Brennan Maryott was hit by a pitch, and Ken Esposito singled to center field before a walk to T.J. Baer loaded the bases with no one out. Connor Thomas was hit by a pitch, driving in one run and Gavin Maryott singled to left to tie it at 3-3. Despite Barlow still having two runners on with no outs, Bethel starting pitcher Sam Ferrier

Continued on page 6

Student creativity marks end of school year



(Clockwise, from top left): Crowds filled the hallways of Redding Elementary School on Thursday, May 29 for the RES Art Show; The Joel Barlow Robotics Team demonstrated their robot's capabilities during Barlow Palooza on Thursday, May 22; Grace Blauwie presented on her efforts restarting Joel Barlow's newspaper *The Columbiad* during Barlow Palooza; Artwork by fourth graders on display at the RES Art Show; a Joel Barlow student led a hands-on art demonstration for attendees young and old at Barlow Palooza.

Photos by Jessie Wright

Spring fever turns to summer excitement with final school events

Graduation, amusement parks, and more | By Anne Young Albanese

The last day of school at Joel Barlow High School (JBHS) is Thursday, June 12, while students at John Read Middle School (JRMS) and Redding Elementary School (RES) will finish on Monday, June 16. Each school has special events lined up to celebrate the end of the school year and mark the transitions many of their students will make once the summer begins.

Joel Barlow High School

Seniors started their finals on Monday, June 2, while lower-classmen begin theirs on Monday, June 9. Senior exams will finish on Thursday, June 5, while underclassmen will finish their finals on Thursday, June 12.

Once the seniors are done with finals, senior week begins. On Friday, June 6, the seniors will take a trip to Lake Compounce, an amusement park in Bristol. On Tuesday, June 10, they will have graduation rehearsal, followed by a banquet, traditionally called the White Party. All of the seniors wear white, and there are many raffle prizes. The PTA is still looking for raffle prizes to provide one for each senior. Community members may contribute by purchasing prizes on the PTA's wishlist at tinyurl.com/JBHSwishlist. Gifts will be sent directly to the PTA and must arrive by Monday, June 9. The White Party will take place at Tashua Knolls Golf Course in Trumbull. The senior class will have another graduation rehearsal on Wednesday, June 11, followed by the Senior BBQ.

On Thursday, June 12, JBHS seniors from Redding will visit RES and JRMS. This traditional walk-through allows the younger students to see the seniors and get

excited about their future studies. That evening, graduation will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the Joel Barlow High School football field. The rain date is Friday, June 13.

John Read Middle School

With the spring socials for fifth through seventh graders already in the rearview mirror, most of the focus this month is on eighth graders.

The eighth graders will be fêted to honor their rise to high school next school year. The celebrations started on Wednesday, June 4, with a luau at The Redding Country Club. On June 11, they will visit Holiday Hill, an event site in Prospect which offers activities such as a ninja course; a rock-climbing wall; a lake with rowboats, kayaks, and canoes; and two heated pools. It is closed to the public, and all other attendees will be middle school students from different school districts. The Moving Up Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 10, at 5:30 p.m. on the John Read Middle School field. If it rains, the ceremony will be moved indoors to Joel Barlow High School.

Redding Elementary School

The entire school celebrated Field Days earlier this month. On June 2, students in first through fourth grade enjoyed Field Day, participating in fun activities and games with their classmates and teachers. Students in Preschool 4 and kindergarten celebrated Field Day on June 4. Preschool 3 students enjoyed their own Field Day-like activities during their gym periods.

On Friday, June 6, the PTA will be hosting Quassy Day. The amusement park will be exclusively reserved for RES PTA members and their guests. According to Tara

Patrick, President of the RES PTA, "Families are invited to enjoy an evening of fun and community with access to rides, games, and a variety of food options. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect, relax, and celebrate together." The event is weather-dependent. If Quassy Park needs to close due to poor weather, ticket holders can redeem their tickets for one evening of admission during the 2025 season.

Next week, the entire RES community will count down the last days of school with daily fun activities to keep students engaged. On Monday, June 9, a school-wide dance party is planned. When music is played over the announcements, all students will take a break and dance in their classrooms. On Tuesday, June 10, all students are encouraged to wear their favorite sports jerseys for Jersey Day. Wednesday, June 11 will be Game Day when students can have fun playing a variety of games at school. Thursday, June 12 is Surfer Day. Students are encouraged to wear their favorite summer outfits and bring a beach towel and their favorite book. The school will provide leis for students and staff. Friday, June 13 will be Bubble Day, and students and staff will be provided with bubbles. Monday, June 16 is the last day of school. RES will host Your Future's SO Bright You Have to Wear Shades Day by providing sunglasses for students and staff.

The fourth graders will have their Stepping Up Ceremony on Friday, June 13. Parents had an opportunity to visit John Read Middle School on May 29, and students visited for Orientation on May 30. ■

RELAX team wins state tournament



Photo courtesy of Erin Tiernan

The seventh grade girls Redding/Easton Lacrosse Team (RELAX 7) won their state tournament bracket on Sunday, June 1, hosted by the Connecticut New York Lacrosse Association. The team edged out Ridgefield by one goal in the championship game at Reese Stadium at Yale University. The team is coached by Kristi Sogofsky and is part of the Redding-Easton Youth Lacrosse program.

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State-wide Halo Awards recognize Barlow theater program

By Anne Young Albanese



Photo courtesy of JBHS
Students attended the Halo Awards at the Palace Theatre.

On Tuesday, May 27, over two dozen students from the Joel Barlow High School theater program and three chaperones attended the Halo Awards at the Palace Theatre in Waterbury. The awards recognize excellence in high school theater across Connecticut and are presented by Seven Angels Theatre in Waterbury. Joel Barlow received 18 nominations and won two awards for its productions of *Twelfth Night* and *Urinetown*.

Alexia Sanchez, a senior at Joel Barlow, won Best Performance in a Supporting Female Role in a Play for her portrayal of Olivia in *Twelfth Night*. Therese Unfried, who lives in Easton and is a freshman at magnet school Fairchild Wheeler, won a Special Award: Up and Coming for her performance as Little Sally in Joel Barlow's production of *Urinetown*.

"Congratulations to our winners, our nominees, and the entire cast, crew, and band members who helped make our 2024-2025 theater productions a huge success. Your talent, creativity, and character continue to amaze us!" said Marcelle Morrisey, who directed both productions.

Joel Barlow High School's other nominations included:

- The cast and crew of *Urinetown*: Best Contemporary Musical
- The chorus from *Urinetown*: Best Chorus
- Simone Lupo: Best Performance in a Featured Male Role in a Play as Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*
- Hannah Gourad: Best Performance in a Featured Female

Role in a Play as Feste the Jester in *Twelfth Night*

- Kate Krug: Best Performance in a Supporting Role in a Musical as Penelope Pennywise in *Urinetown*
- Hannah Gourad and Therese Unfried: Best Performance by a Couple or Dynamic Duo in a Musical
- Skylar Giblin: Best Performance in a Leading Male Role in a Play as Orsino in *Twelfth Night*
- Skylar Giblin: Best Performance in a Leading Male Role in a Contemporary Musical as Bobby Strong in *Urinetown*
- Kristina Stranik: Best Performance in a Leading Female Role in a Play as Viola in *Twelfth Night*
- Annie Peters: Best Performance in a Leading Female Role in a Contemporary Musical, as Hope Cladwell in *Urinetown*
- Grey Krois: Best Costume Design and/or Execution for *Twelfth Night*
- Grey Krois and Addison McCarthy: Best Costume Design and/or Execution for *Urinetown*
- Angela Humphry, Randy Rivera, Abby Becker, and Iris LaMastro: Best Lighting Design and/or Execution for *Twelfth Night*
- Ezra Nemore: Best Scenic Design and/or Execution for *Urinetown*
- Felicia Van Malderghem, Jade Collins, and Lessandro Cruise: Best Props Design for *Urinetown*
- Alisson Espejo: Best Stage Management for *Twelfth Night*
- Angela Humphrey: Best Program Art for *Twelfth Night*

"One hundred and five schools in Connecticut entered the Halos with 185 total shows and over 6,000 student participants!" said Andy Pohlen, Technical Director for Joel Barlow High School's theater program. "The awards take place over four nights, with about 26 schools per night. We were up against some of the largest schools in the state, and the students had a blast." ■

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Julie Hughes honored for her historic preservation work | *By Donna Christopher*

By Donna Christopher



Photo by Donna Christopher
Nan Merolla, Drum Hill Chapter
Vice-Regent, and Julie Hughes at the
award ceremony May 17.

Julie Hughes, PhD, was honored with the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Excellence in Community Service Award, a prestigious honor for her historic preservation work in Georgetown and Wilton. The Wilton Drum Hill Chapter, NSDAR, hosted a reception for Hughes at the Wilton Historical Society on May 17.

Hughes, the Wilton History Room archivist and an historic preservation activist, was lauded for her research, which led to the discovery of the long-lost Colonial-era Spruce Bank Cemetery.

Unknown numbers of enslaved and free Black and Indigenous Wilton residents are buried in the unmarked cemetery. The finding was confirmed through ground-penetrating radar obtained by a State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) grant awarded to the Wilton Historical Society, based on Hughes's research and leadership in bringing the site to SHPO's attention.

Louise Wagner, Drum Hill Chapter Historic Preservation Chair, praised Hughes's ongoing efforts at the Spruce Bank Cemetery, where preservation and memorialization remains "a work in progress." While no documentation has survived that can conclusively identify any of the buried individuals, there is anecdotal evidence from the late 1800s suggesting that members of the Black and Native American Tonquin family, who were enslaved in Wilton, may have been laid to rest at Spruce Bank, according to Hughes.

The award also honored Hughes

for archiving thousands of Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill industrial documents, the majority of which had never left the site and were stored in old factory and office buildings. Additional historical materials belonging to the Georgetown Community Association were stored at the Gilbert & Bennett School building. When the Town of Wilton closed that building last year citing health hazards, Hughes and Georgetown Community Association members rescued as many of the documents as they were able to locate and moved them to the old Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Office, where Hughes is the volunteer archivist for the Gilbert & Bennett Manufacturing Company Collection. Many of the archival items will be on view to the public during Georgetown Day on Sunday, June 8.

“The documents in the Gilbert & Bennett archives are a fantastic source of information about grandparents and great-grandparents who worked at the company... The records also tell us so much about the neighborhood and all the buildings at the Mill,” said Hughes. “We have maps dating back to the early 1900s showing what all the buildings were. We have the original design specifications for all the duplexes on Portland Avenue. We have the records of the local masonic society and everything they did to support their members and the community. We even have a few papers from some of the local churches and local temperance societies. And so much more!”

Hughes has also been active in the community response to the Town of Wilton's closing of the Gilbert & Bennett School building and eviction of the building's tenants in September 2024.

“[The building] maintains an architectural and historical significance to the community, and the potential further deterioration of the building represents a loss of both a notable historic landmark and a valued community space,” according to the Wilton Historical Society.

Hughes has pored over Town of Wilton and Gilbert & Bennett

company records to better understand what terms the company demanded and received, before they were willing to issue a quit claim deed to the Town in 1964. She spent days combing through hundreds of boxes of files stored in Town Hall's basement, looking for documentation to corroborate the company's records, which said that the Town had promised the people of Georgetown perpetual access to the building as their community center. She has shared her findings with the Georgetown Community Association, which is leading the efforts to save the school and prevent the Town from selling the building.

Hughes is also noted for first identifying a house formerly owned by an emancipated man, John C. Wally, who had been born into slavery in Wilton – and then drawing attention to the need to save that house when it was threatened with demolition. Now portions of the structure at 232 Danbury Road that are original to Wally's residence will be removed and preserved by the Wilton Historical Society.

Much work remains to be done, however, said Hughes. “Spruce Bank Cemetery is still privately owned. There is no public access to it. It is not memorialized on site in any way. The Gilbert & Bennett School is very much up in the air and needs support. And the Gilbert & Bennett archives, you know, I’m working on them, but we always need support there, too. I can always use volunteers and other support.”

"I can't even begin to tell you how many achievements Julie has had for us in our communities, Wilton, Redding, and possibly Weston," said Wagner during her remarks at the award ceremony. "Local historic discussions are referred to Julie for her research knowledge and insight. She is one of the foremost historians in our community. We are very, very lucky to have her." ■

If you would like more information on how to volunteer or support these ongoing historic preservation projects, contact Julie Hughes at jhughes@wiltonlibrary.org

Sport Hill Races return

By Bruce Nelson



Photo by Bruce Nelson

It was a warm August evening in 1960 when I accompanied my dad in his 1919 Dodge Touring car to the Blue Ribbon Garage in Bridgeport. It had been in business since the late 1800s when the company built carriages, and they had been selling motorcars since 1908 – first Packard and Cadillac, and beginning in 1914, Dodge.

That evening, Dad handed me the thickest scrapbook I had ever seen. It contained clippings that dated back to before the turn of the century, covering the history of the company up until the beginning of WWII. What captured my imagination the most in that collection were the articles that described the hill climbs in Easton during the first decade of the 20th century.

Over the years, I have always been fascinated by that history, often imagining how exciting it must have been trying to navigate the steep incline and sharp curves that once made up the southern part of that road from the Fairfield line to the top of the hill – all while driving a car that was even older than Dad's 1919 Dodge!

The first hill climbs in Easton took place in 1902. Subsequent years saw the event grow into one of the three largest hill climbs on the Eastern seaboard, attracting factory-sponsored cars driven by the most accomplished drivers of their time. At its peak in 1909, the Memorial Day event drew more than 10,000 spectators and was reported in many newspapers throughout the country. Some of those cars still exist – a few in museums and a few in private collections.

It was early November of last year when I received an e-mail from Shenton King, President of the Fairfield County Horseless Carriage Club of America. He had read about an upcoming talk of mine about the Sport Hill Races and wanted to attend. He indicated that they were thinking of staging a re-creation of the hill climb sometime in 2025. I was immediately sold on the idea.

On Saturday, May 24, 50 antique motorcars began filling the parking lot at the Easton Library beginning

around 7:30 a.m. Among those vintage cars was Alex Dragone's 1906 Locomobile racer – one of only two race cars the company built for competition. That car finished third at the 1908 Vanderbilt Cup race on Long Island. In all, we had nearly 20 pre-1916 vehicles, with most of the owners anxious to run in the three scheduled demonstration events that day.

First to cross the starting line at 10:30 a.m. was Kobus Reyneke in his home-built quarter-scale replica of the 1911 Fiat S76 racer known as "The Beast of Turin." Remarkably quick and remarkably unstable, Kobus thrilled the crowd as he roared up the hill, trying desperately to keep his tiny machine going straight enough to remain on the roadway.

A pristine blue Hupmobile driven by Parker Ackley chugged slowly up the course, followed by an incredible 1911 Pierce Arrow owned by the Tomko family of Redding. Restoration expert Mark Herman piloted a 1910 Stanley Steamer, while Chris King drove one of his family's impeccably restored Pope Hartford Touring cars. His brother Shenton sped up the hill in his 1914 Mercer 450 racecar. The final car to run in each heat was Alex Dragone in the beautifully prepared 1906 Locomobile Number One racer.

It wasn't about the speed – let's face it, most of these early cars were not incredibly fast – it was about the love and joy these car owners share with the rest of us when they create such an event.

But the happiest person there on Saturday was likely the 12-year-old boy who still lives inside of me. On the second run of the day, I rode shotgun with Mark Herman in the Steamer, and suddenly I was living in 1910 – if only for a few moments!

Great thanks to the Horseless Carriage Club of America and Shenton King for making this event a reality. ■

*Bruce Nelson is Co-Historian
for the Town of Redding and
Co-Founder of the Redding,
CT History Project*

Bethel dethrones Barlow / *continued from page 4*

recorded the next three outs.

“Bethel bats were hot in the beginning,” said Barlow Head Coach Matt Griffiths. “But I’m proud of the way our guys answered back.”

For the next three-and-a-half innings it became a pitchers' duel between Ferrier and Barlow reliever Connor Thomas, who was making only his second appearance on the mound this season. The Falcons did get a runner aboard in each of the fourth and fifth frames, but to no avail.

Bethel, which also had few opportunities, got the chance it was looking for in its last turn. With a runner on second and no one out, Barlow reliever Baer struck out the next batter before Baia singled down the third base line to drive in Connor Richmond for the

walk-off win.

Gavin Maryott had one hit and drove in two runs for Barlow. Thomas also had a hit and drove in a run.

Esposito pitched one-and-a-third innings, giving up three runs on three hits with two walks. Thomas went four-and-two-thirds innings, with one earned run and five strikeouts.

“Connor did tremendously,” said Griffiths. “He did more than enough to win. But we missed a couple of opportunities there – and that’s baseball.”

Baer pitched a third-of-an-inning, giving up one hit and striking out one.

Barlow, now 17-5, enters the state Class M tournament this week as the fifth seed. ■

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Book Review

Pledging My Time Conversations with Bob Dylan Band Members

By Ray Padgett

453 pages / EWP Press / \$24.99

Pledging My Time, Conversations with Bob Dylan Band Members, is an accurate title: in their own words, 40 band members tell verbatim stories of touring with an American original, Bob Dylan. Author Ray Padgett reveals, through these voices, how Bob Dylan is a relatively normal individual with an extraordinary talent who neither invites nor responds to adulation he has been subjected to for a lifetime. Dylan’s qualities of character generate his unique mystique that draws out dreams in other people. In these pages, exceptional professional musicians give their testimony, which reveals a deep admiration of a mercurial impresario with notoriously uneven musical expertise, where nevertheless, in their professional contribution, they see themselves, memorably, in a best light.

“I’m a poet, and I know it. I hope I don’t blow it.” This was a lyric recorded by Dylan in his early twenties. He didn’t blow it. In 2016, Bob Dylan won the Nobel Prize for Literature. Some think a composer of “pop” songs should not have been considered for literature’s top award. In a famous *60 Minutes* interview with Ed Bradley in 2004, Dylan quoted the soaring first verse of “It’s Alright, Ma, I’m Only Bleeding,” and said to Bradley, “Try and write something like that. There’s a kind of magic to it.” A sense you get after reading Ray Padgett’s collection of interviews is that Bob Dylan does not really know why he writes what he writes, or how. And his eccentricities have evolved as a reasonable defense against fame. He is surrounded by guards and uses an alias constantly. He guards his privacy in a way any normal person subjected to endless prying by strangers would if they could.

The testimony of Dylan’s band members over the years paints a picture of Bob Dylan as a man trapped in his destiny and driven to be who he is, a captive of songs so powerful and opaque that an indefinable profoundness is understood

to exist. There is a strong sense of imprisonment in fame.

Pledging My Time records the impressions of band members from over six decades of touring. They are for the most part intrigued and in awe of a talent they can feel and see, but not entirely comprehend. The strength of the book is how close these musicians have been to an icon, and how mysterious Dylan remains to them in creative and professional ways. The surprise for the reader is how human Dylan remains after a lifetime of inhuman invasions of privacy. Often isolated, Dylan remains mercurial in appearances among the staff on tour. Misapprehensions about him continue. Musicians who find themselves on the same stage as their idol get surprising glimpses of him. Dylan’s response to one musician’s query about musicianship: “Don’t ask me. I’m just the poet.”

Finally, *Pledging My Time* presents eyewitness accounts of a phenomenon of our time. It is an up close, if not personal, testimony. The reader sees that Dylan has ideas about how to present his material, and it is clear that he commands the show. He comes and goes in these pages like a shadow, appears and vanishes again. In one case, tapping on the window of a bandmate after not communicating for 37 years, Dylan is welcomed as an old friend. If you are a fan of Bob Dylan and his extraordinary music, this is an essential volume to add to your collection. If you are interested in music or pitfalls of celebrity, this book will captivate you. If you are the sort of reader who enjoys the inside story, Ray Padgett will make you a bug on the wall of a popular musical phenomenon who, at 84-years-old, is still performing what is called The Endless Tour. ■

Review by Tom Casey,
author of *Human Error*,
Strangers’ Gate, and a
new novel, *Unsettled States*,
available now

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Library Corner

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Mark Twain Library will be the first public library to send an object into space. (I can’t completely prove this, but I have a hunch.)

Since March, we have had two teams of nearly 20 teenagers meeting each week and over the week-ends to learn the scientific method with the eventual goal to perform an experiment which includes launching an object into space. In their first session, our facilitator Caroline Hunter posed a problem and invited the students to solve it. Using design thinking, the students have been learning the difference between the engineering design process versus the scientific method.

In collaboration with NASA, the students plan to send conductive nylon tape into space strapped to a rocket. If this sounds extremely cool to you, that’s because it is.

Over the past few months, the students participating in the Mark Twain Library Space Program have learned the difference between quantitative versus qualitative research, how to write scientifically, and even a bit of rocket science. This work will soon culminate with the teams presenting virtually at FlightFest, a conference taking place at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum at the end of June. Then in July, their conductive

nylon tape will be sent into space, strapped to a rocket launched from the Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. Afterward, the group will take the summer off and then discuss what they learned after seeing how outer space affected their nylon tape. This incredibly unique program was executed thanks to a generous private gift. And now we get to make the claim that Mark Twain Library is the very first public library to send stuff into space. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is
Director, Mark Twain Library

Library Director laces up her skates

By Pamela Brown



Photo courtesy of Erin Dummeyer

Never say never. For Mark Twain Library Director Erin Dummeyer, that popular refrain led her back to a favorite pastime. A competitive ice skater when she was in middle school, Dummeyer returned to the ice last month to compete in the 2025 Southern Connecticut Open held at the Darien Ice Rink. “It was exhilarating! I loved it,” she said. “It was a great day, and I am so happy to have completed this

goal before my 40th birthday.”

Dummeyer competed in the Adult Pre-Bronze level and completed a sit spin, a single salchow, a half-flip and a single toe loop jump, a waltz jump, and an upright spin. “To compete at this level, you have to be 21 years-old, so I was competing against some young whippersnappers. I came in fifth place, but I was the happiest last place finisher there. I skated a clean program and was happy with how I did. One of my competitors came all the way from Georgia because she is trying to win a medal in all 50 states,” she said.

Skating became part of Dummeyer’s life when her best friend in elementary school started taking lessons. She continued through her freshman year of college and for one year as part of a synchronized skating team that made it to Nationals in San Diego before hanging up her skates.

Dummeyer credits her mother for getting her back on the ice. “She’s been begging me to skate

again ever since I left the sport 20 years ago. I tried it one day last year and was surprised at how much I still enjoyed it,” she said. “I started making small goals for myself: use up a 10-pack of skating sessions, buy a new pair of skates, hire a coach, choreograph a routine, and register for a competition. I really wanted to do this before I turn 40 later this year.”

For the competition, Dummeyer practiced once a week at 6:00 a.m at Twin Rinks in Stamford. She and her coach choreographed her routine to “The Wind” by Cat Stevens. “It’s a song I loved when I was 16, so it was fitting to skate to something I was listening to back when skating was such a big part of my life,” said Dummeyer, who is now looking forward to competing again next year. “I’m working on landing my loop and flip jumps and incorporating them in a new routine. That will help me score more points with the judges,” she said. “And I want an excuse to buy a new costume.” ■

Nod to the pod So True with Caleb Hearon: “Fortune Feimster Keeps it Positive”

By Amy Maloof

A one-episode recommendation from a podcast you might love.

I wanted to find a pod to recognize and celebrate Pride month, but just like heading to a thrift store with a very specific item in mind (this never works), once I started looking for something particular, I couldn’t find just the right thing. But then I stopped looking for the perfect corduroy overalls, so to speak, and they found me.

Caleb Hearon, an actor, writer, and comedian, has sometimes struggled to get consistent work in mainstream media, but eventually found a faithful (and sizable) audience with his podcast. He is warm and opinionated, both irreverent and earnest. He films his podcast recordings, and many of his more outrageous moments land on

TikTok, helping grow his fanbase even more.

His guest is Fortune Feimster, actor, writer, and comedian, who first got my attention as a member of the motley crew co-starring on the 2010’s sitcom *The Mindy Project*, a breath of fresh air in a business that can specialize in cookie cutter clones. Her comedy career has skyrocketed since, producing Netflix specials and selling out tours. Hearon and Feimster’s conversation is funny and gentle, a sweet exploration of their hometowns, favorite fast foods, double-wide trailers, and finding love as a queer person. It’d be difficult to find a better pairing to help celebrate Pride.

I listened to an above-average-for-me number of podcasts this

week to find one that hit the right note, taking a circuitous route to get there. This one rose to the top after my daughter sent me a short of a stand-up comedian we love (Gianmarco Soresi – a very tall, very goofy delight), being a guest on Hearon’s pod. I was aware of his work, but not his show, so I checked it out. When I discovered Feimster had an episode, that was that. I’ve been a fan for over a decade, consistently drawn to her whole deal. Lovable, unique, and really funny, she always helps me recalibrate my worldview when I’m feeling off. Feimster is defiantly joyful, a genuinely optimistic soul shining a light for those who might be in search of one. ■

Babette Bloch’s *Egrets* featured in Westport’s “Sculpture in the Parks”

By Tom Casey



Photo courtesy of WAAC
Sculptor Babette Bloch installing
Egrets in Canal Green.

Long-time Redding resident Babette Bloch is a pioneer in the use of laser-cut and water jet-cut stainless steel in figurative sculpture. Her work has been shown and is part of art collections worldwide.

Bloch’s sculpture *Egrets* was recently installed in Westport’s Canal Green as part of Westport Arts Advisory Committee’s (WAAC) “Sculpture in the Parks” initiative, launched in cooperation

with Westport’s Parks and Recreation Department.

Sitting upon a heightened base and surrounded by natural grasses, *Egrets* captures a graceful moment of birds in repose and flight.

“*Egrets* was created in celebration of the joyous lyricism of birds,” Bloch noted. “The sculpture actively interacts with the landscape, reflecting colors that shift with the seasons and the daylight and clouds.”

“Westport is fortunate to have representation in its sculpture collection by an artist as esteemed as Babette Bloch. She is a Connecticut treasure,” said Westport’s Town Curator Kathie Bennewitz.

On Saturday, May 31, Bloch thanked the WAAC and all who helped make the installation possible. Also speaking were Bennewitz, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair David Floyd, and Westport Poet Laureate Donna

Disch, who read a poem she wrote for the sculpture.

Redding is proud of its artists, writers, architects, musicians, and photographers. Their expressions celebrate beauty and grace. Their sounds, shapes, and stylish images make arrangements that highlight the natural word in ways that lead us to deeper appreciation of what is in front of us. And Redding is happy to say about its artists: They live among us. ■

MUSIC NOTE

Four new bands to play Concerts on the Green

By Pamela Brown

Exciting new music is on the bill for this year’s Concerts on the Green.

“Every year we try to mix old bands, returning bands, and new bands. The Park and Recreation Department has booked some talented musicians this year, including four new bands who have never played here before,” said Park and Recreation Director Rob Blick.

Concerts are held on the Town Green at 100 Hill Road on Sundays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. from June 15 through August 24. This year’s line-up includes Jen and Tonic (June 15); CT Grateful Dead Allstars (June 22); Already Gone (June 29); Goza (July 6); Logical Pretzel (July 13); Bone Dry (July 20); David Morgan (July 27); Forgotten by Friday (August 3); David Brandom (August 10); Kala Farnham (August 17); and The Currys (August 24).

“I thought these performers would be appropriate for the concert. I made sure their quality was high, and I try to vary the type of music, so we don’t have any of the same,” noted Blick.

New this year is Jen and Tonic, a four-piece family-friendly band from the Connecticut shoreline opening the series on June 15. They’ve been described as a ‘50s-style rock and pop group that plays recognizable material from the ‘20s through the ‘80s with a “rockabilly”, country-swing styling. On July 13, Logical Pretzel, a Fairfield County-based, eight-piece band that was rained out last year, will be performing the music of Steely Dan.

In August, two performers also new to the series will take the stage: David Brandom, a jazz saxophonist, composer, and arranger, was rained out last year and will perform August 10. Brandom is a founding member of the Westchester Jazz Orchestra and toured for many years with Frank Sinatra. Kala Farnham, performing August 17, is the 18th Connecticut State Troubadour and award-winning artist who offers intimate performances featuring folk songs with soul-stirring vocals and mystical harp, piano, and guitar.

“The concerts are about community coming together and enjoying an evening of music and socializing. It’s a laidback, hang-out, picnic, family-type of atmosphere,” said Blick, who encourages attendees to bring a chair or blanket. Food and alcohol are allowed. The Girl Scouts will be selling hamburgers, hotdogs, and desserts.

Blick reminds everyone that the concerts are solely funded by business sponsors and private donations. “Please make sure you and your friends contribute to this great community event,” said Blick. “We’re grateful to the community for making our Concerts on the Green series a success and continuing this tremendous community tradition.” ■

To support the concerts, contact Blick at rblick@reddingct.gov or call (203) 938-2551 x 6

Biennial Art Show at New Pond Farm

By Pamela Brown



Photo courtesy of New Pond Farm Education Center
Sculptor Joanne Bryant (left) and Kristine Holm, Art Show Chair

New Pond Farm Education Center is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its biennial Invitational Art Show with a week of special programming June 7-15. The community is invited to enjoy artwork inspired by nature and agrarian life, speak with some of the region’s finest artists, take part in a class to inspire their creativity, and explore New Pond Farm’s picturesque grounds.

“New Pond is the perfect location for this event, because it offers a first-hand experience of nature on our beautiful property... and, seeing the artwork, you can experience it again through an artist’s interpretation,” said Kristine Holm, Art Show Chair.

After a Preview Party event on Friday, June 6, the Art Show will be open to the public. It will feature a variety of work inspired by the natural world, a silent auction to support education programs at New Pond Farm, art demonstrations, and activities for all ages. The gallery will be open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

“We invite about 50 artists and display about 100 pieces of art and several portfolios in our beautifully recreated barn space with antique beams, large windows, and soaring ceilings,” said Holm, adding many of the artists are from Redding and the local region. “We showcase a delightful variety of mediums and styles ranging from traditional oil paintings to whimsical resin sculptures. We’ve also had works in watercolor, pastel, acrylic, paper collage, and clay in styles ranging from representational to abstract. It’s different every year and all comes together in one beautiful show.” After viewing the artwork, organizers encourage people to explore the farm and pick up a free sketchbook to create their own art.

“The Art Show furthers our mission, because it connects people to nature. It has brought many new people to the farm, not just artists and art lovers, but also – since we are open to the public at this time – anyone curious to find out what we are all about,” said Holm. All the art is for sale with proceeds going to support New Pond Farm’s programming.

On Sunday, June 8, expert on plein-air painting (painting outdoors) John Forgione will be on site offering a hands-on art demonstration. Free, after-school art programs for children ages 8 to 12 will also be running Monday, June 9 through Saturday, June 14 from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., with themes including Journey Sticks, Luna Moth Capes, Owl Friends, Plant Presses, and Fairy Farms. Pre-registration is required.

Visitors of all ages are welcome to participate in Earth Art throughout the day on Saturday, June 14.

“People are invited to come and create these ephemeral works of art using no tools but only what nature provides, such as leaves, petals, twigs, stones. When finished, people are encouraged to photograph their work as a keepsake,” explained Holm.

On closing day, Sunday, June 15, there will be a final opportunity to view and purchase artwork. Light refreshments will be served as Silent Auction winners are announced.

“New Pond Farm is a welcoming place. Many first-time visitors have said they feel a sense of well-being from the moment they step foot on our property. It’s a peaceful sanctuary where you can immerse yourself in nature, by the pond, woodlands, wetlands, and pastures with grazing animals,” said Holm. “In addition to seeing some beautiful artwork every two years, there are also myriad educational programs and events being offered to people of all ages. It’s our hope the Art Show reaches more people so they can experience all the farm has to offer.” ■

For more information, visit newpondfarm.org/artshow



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Celebrate the natural beauty of New Pond Farm and the surrounding countryside through stunning local artwork. Enjoy artist demonstrations and fun art activities for all ages.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

A family-owned business brings special events to life *Abbey Tent & Party Rentals* | By Justin Reynolds



Photo courtesy of Abbey Tent & Party Rentals

For nearly seven decades and multiple generations, the Szondy family has been helping hosts ensure their social events, private gatherings, galas, and fundraisers are unforgettable experiences with their business, Abbey Tent & Party Rentals.

Founded in 1956 by Helen and Steven Szondy, Abbey Tent has grown into a premier tent and event rental company serving Connecticut, Westchester County, Hudson Valley, and Rhode Island. If you're putting on an event, the company has pretty much any item you could need – tables, tents, linens, glassware, silverware, you name it – available for rent.

"We've been a trusted, family-owned business for almost 70 years," said George Szondy, Helen and Steven's son who took over the

company with his brother, Steven Jr., in 1982, expanding the business to include tent rentals. "We work with homeowners, event planners, caterers, and most of the local surrounding universities."

Continuing the family tradition, George's son, Matt, also recently joined the business.

Abbey Tent, which had an office in Georgetown for several years, maintains a showroom in Fairfield "where you can meet with an event rental consultant and choose items to customize your event," George said.

Over the years, Abbey Tent has done several events for Mark Twain Library, including the Book Fair and other fundraisers.

"During the summer, not a week goes by without one of our trucks on the road in Redding," Matt said.

"[We are] passionate about working with the local community and businesses to deliver high-quality rentals and top-notch service."

George explained that as a small, family-owned business, they work with a long list of legacy clients. Their team is "very involved in the day-to-day operations" for each event they service.

Over the years, Abbey Tent has been involved with countless events. But one experience stands out above all else: collaborating with other rental companies during the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

"Working through the logistics and set-up process leading up to the event opened us up to the greater rental industry, and we continue to work with our industry associates across the state and New England to deliver premier service and outstanding events," said George.

Abbey Tent prides itself on its flexibility, variety of inventory, and deep experience in the industry, all of which enable the company to serve a wide variety of clientele.

"If a potential client is inspired by our aesthetic and design style, we would love to connect and see how we can work together," George said. ■

For more information, visit abbeytent.com or follow on Instagram @abbeytent

Dr. Mike's Ice Cream celebrates 50 years | By Pamela Brown

Not many businesses can say they've been around for half a century, but Dr. Mike's Ice Cream Shop in downtown Bethel has that sweet honor.

"It feels great. I feel lucky," said David Nussbaum, a former customer who purchased Bethel's iconic shop in 2020. "It turned out being an enjoyable part of my life. Ice cream is a staple. It tastes just as good on a cloudy day, and we even have lines in winter."

Established in 1975, the shop will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with "Dr. Mike's Day" on Saturday, June 7. Prices will be rolling back to 1975, with ice cream cones for 50 cents from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and free toppings from 4:00 p.m. until closing. The day will also feature raffles, surprises, and a grand prize drawing for kids 12 and under for a chance to make ice cream with Nussbaum. At 1:00 p.m., Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter will be presenting Nussbaum with an official Town proclamation. Peter Seltzer, co-founder of Dr. Mike's with his business partner, Mary Burnham, will be on hand for the festivities as well as the Bethel Fire Department and EMS.

For Nussbaum, being part of the community is rewarding.

"It's all about the people in town – Bethel, Redding, Danbury. Everyone has been so supportive," he said. "People come here and everybody is happy. We have customers from one-year-old to 90."

The shop makes its ice cream on-site daily in small batches, offering seven steady flavors and eight rotating flavors, along with some vegan and dairy-free options. "Our ice cream is phenomenal – it's made from local ingredients with the highest butterfat to make the ice cream dense, rich, and creamy. Our portions are great, and our prices are fair," Nussbaum added. The shop also offers online ordering and delivery of hand-packed quarts and pints (including delivery to Redding).

Dr. Mike's has come a long way from the time when the original owner used a cigar box to dispense change. "We've made some logistical changes and improved the systems. Our register is more efficient and faster. We used to be cash only but now process credit cards," said Nussbaum, who also installed take-out windows and added more flavors and creations. "It's right where we want it."

Nussbaum also announced he will be opening a second Dr. Mike's in Stamford. "My goal is to maintain the quality of the ice cream. I'm semi-retired but I'll be at both stores," he said. "I love engaging with the people. Everyone who comes here is in a good mood and wants a good experience. It's very enjoyable and we're anticipating a great day on Saturday!" ■

Learn more at drmikesic.com

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portofinorestaurantandwinebar.com

Notes from a neighbor Come sit awhile | By Carter Wiseman

An architect friend recently told me that she was flying off to Venice for the Biennale, an international gathering of high-end design folks that attracts many of the most distinguished people in their fields.

I assumed that my left-leaning friend was supporting some state-of-the-art sustainability project for low-income housing. I was wrong. She said that she was taking part in a presentation on porches. Even though I have a background in architectural history, I had never thought of porches as a major art form. My image of a porch runs to Norman Rockwell: Some kindly codgers with corn-cob pipes idling away in rockers with grandchildren romping at their feet. The message to passersby is: Hi, what's the latest? Come on up and chat awhile.

I grew up in New York City, which is not known for its porches. I learned about them first-hand in a little town upstate, where our family rented a house for several summers. The house was nothing you would find featured in Architectural Digest. No pool, no paddle-tennis court shrouded by Hamptons-grade hedges from public view. On the contrary, it had a porch fronting on the street.

Even though we were "summer folk," I found that after a few weeks lingering on the porch in the afternoon made me feel as if I were almost a local. Indeed, one day, the crusty woodsman who ran our kids' day-camp ambled by. We were linked only through our children, but I invited him up to the porch. Iced tea? Beer? Beer. It went well.

We talked about teaching the J-stroke to pre-teens who had never used a canoe. That visit made me think that our porch was more than an open-air room with a roof; it was a special zone linking community and intimacy. And it seems to be uniquely American. Unlike French and German, the modern English language no longer makes a distinction between formal and informal forms of address (you vs. thee). It can take months or years for a German to invite you to address them as Du instead of Sie. Similarly, the American porch, unlike backyard patios and terraces, is usually out front. The popular website in our neighboring town is called "Westport Front Porch," not "Back Porch." And, unlike a French courtyard, the porch is open to all.

Porches need a lot of work. Since they are open to the weather, their floors and railings need looking after. Traditionalists who stick to wood have to sand and paint them. Even folks who use Trex have to shovel them in the winter and sweep in the summer. The furniture may be pinched by naughty neighbors in the dark of night. There is a growing concern about "porch-nappers" who grab your Amazon deliveries before you can. And there is always a chance that a guest who has been too warmly welcomed may topple over the railing, or crash through it.

But the risks seem well worth taking. Pull up a rocker. Espresso? Martini? What's the latest? ■

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The Natural World

The outside story: Mosquitoes in the rain

By Rachel Sargent Mirus

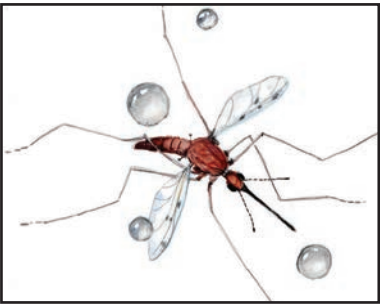


Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol

If you’re a mosquito and it’s a warm spring afternoon, you are out cruising the air currents on your tiny wings. But as you buzz around, the sun warming your exoskeleton, the clouds roll in, heralding a spring shower. Balls of water up to 50 times heavier than your body begin plummeting out of the sky. You’re too slow to evade the giant drops; it’s only a matter of time before one will hit you!

For tiny flying insects, such as mosquitoes and their relatives, rainfall is a completely different experience than it is for other animals. Their relative size to the raindrops makes it a potentially life-threatening situation. When drops hit a larger creature, they break apart in a splash, and the only result is a wet animal. But what happens to insects, when being hit by a raindrop is a full-body, mid-air collision?

Andrew Dickerson, a researcher at the University of Tennessee, who investigates how liquids flow under different conditions, asked this question. He put mosquitoes in enclosures and dropped water on them at about half the speed of falling rain. He described this experiment as “the human equivalent of raindrops the size of Volkswagen Beetles falling from the sky.”

Flying insects do have an advantage over humans when dealing with water: they are extremely water-repellent. They have wax-coated hairs on their bodies that make them more hydrophobic than their aquatic or terrestrial cousins. This means that when they are hit by water, it is more likely to slide or bounce off than it is to remain stuck to them. “It would be like us walking around with a coating of Teflon,” Dickerson said.

Natural raindrops vary in weight and size, but usually come in around 4-100 milligrams, with a radius of 1-4 millimeters. Insects that weigh in at under 3 milligrams, including mosquitoes, blackflies, and fruit flies, are smaller than a raindrop. When one hits their body, it remains mostly spherical and doesn’t break apart into a classic crown-shaped splash. Instead, it gives the insect a solid push downwards. When this happens, they experience accelerations that are 100-400 times stronger than gravity. By comparison, the greatest acceleration humans can survive is 50 times gravity.

Small insects can shrug off these extreme accelerations because they have so little mass that the actual forces generated are also small. Additionally, smaller animals are proportionately stronger than their larger counterparts. If we imagine doubling the mass of a mosquito, that super-mosquito would be stronger, but it wouldn’t double in strength relative to a normal-sized mosquito. While getting hit with balls of water 50 times our body weight sounds terrifying for a human, flying insects are actually better prepared to survive such an

experience than we are.

Perhaps this is why Dickerson’s mosquitoes didn’t appear alarmed about water collisions. In his lab experiments, he never saw mosquitoes attempt evasive maneuvers before being struck by water drops. A mosquito’s maximum flight speed is so much slower than the speed of a falling raindrop that Dickerson calculated they would rarely, if ever, succeed at avoiding such a collision even if they did try. Although, if they reacted quickly enough, they might turn a full body strike into a glancing blow.

He also never saw mosquitoes attempt to actively shed water after being hit, like how mammals shake to dry off more quickly. They didn’t show any behavioral tricks to free themselves from the water. Instead, they relied on their natural water repellency to passively separate from a ball of rainwater.

Still, the intensity of the everyday experience of rain for insects is hard to imagine. A mosquito braving a raindrop collision is “like a Teflon-coated Hulk being hit by a car,” said Dickerson. So next time you feel mildly inconvenienced by the rain, imagine instead that you’re cruising the air as an insect. Each drop is a giant ball of water which can send you plummeting towards the ground. When one hits you, you tumble downwards at terrifying speeds before recovering and continuing your flight. Just another day in the rain. ■

Rachel Sargent Mirus is a teaching artist and writer. 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



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Redding’s Big Outdoors: Alvin and Betsy Ruml Preserve / continued from page 1

berry and witch hazel. Crossing a stream that merged with the one I was walking along, the smell of pine filled the air as the evergreens became more frequent.

I heard a couple more frogs jump into the water, but they were stealthier than the first, and I wasn’t lucky enough to see them. Walking carefully to avoid stepping on the maple and oak saplings dotting the forest floor, I continued on my way. I caught the scent of very occasional ramps and heard a woodpecker making its presence known with its characteristic rat-a-tat. As I turned to loop back and walk farther from the stream, I walked on what felt like an old, abandoned

road for a bit. With so much history in Redding, maybe it was a road at some point. Then, coming across the first real thicket of Japanese barberry, I skirted along the edge and balanced on rocks to cross back across the small stream.

Walking back, I stayed closer to Dayton Road. As always, going back felt much faster. Soon, I exited near the sign for the preserve and headed back to the car, that joy of wandering still very much intact. ■

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.

MAKE MUSIC

Georgetown

Saturday, June 21

Celebrate the musician in everyone!

Join us for this FREE all day event across Georgetown.

makemusicday.org/georgetown



Featuring Kira McSpice capping off the day with all new music at The Granite!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

Georgetown Day

Sunday, June 8
12:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Street fair with organizational tents, music, crafts, food, chili cook-off and more.
Main Street
georgetownct.org/georgetownday

Gallop for Good: A Night at the Farm

Saturday, June 14
5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Marchant Farm
55 Chestnut Woods Road
theserenityprojectct.org
\$, R

Concerts on the Green – Jen and Tonic

Sunday, June 15
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Town Green
100 Hill Road
reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation

Topstone Park Playground Grand Opening

Wednesday, June 18
1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Music, scavenger hunt, italian ice and photos
Topstone Park
72 Topstone Road
reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation

ARTS

Saturday, May 31 – Saturday, July 26

Summer Dreams Group Exhibition
Contact for appointment
Special viewing during Georgetown Day on Sunday, June 8 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center
5 Main Street
gtownarts.com

Thursday, June 5 – Sunday, June 28

Redding Land Trust 60th Anniversary Photography Show
On view during Library hours
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org

Thursday, June 5

If / Only / And / Then – Opening Reception
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Featuring artwork by Sonja Langford, Faye Pamintuan, and Rachel Volpone
Exhibition runs through Sunday, July 20
Anonymous Society
268 Simpaug Turnpike
anonymoussocietygallery.com

Saturday, June 7 – Sunday, June 15

New Pond Farm Art Show
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org/artshow

Saturday, June 7

Danbury Concert Association presents the Essex Septet
3:00 p.m.
WCSU Visual and Performing Arts Center
43 Lake Avenue Extension
Danbury
wcsuvpac.eventbrite.com
\$

Sunday, June 15

Concerts on the Green - Jen and Tonic
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Town Green
100 Hill Road
reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation

CHILDREN | TEENS

Monday, June 9 – Friday, June 13

Art After School
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
For ages 8-12, free arts workshops with hands on projects like journey sticks, luna moth capes, owl friends, plant presses, and fairy farms
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
R

Tuesday, June 17

Checkout Chat & Chew
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Connect with families over toys, books, and donuts
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

FUNDRAISERS

Monday, June 9

Easton Lions Club Charity Golf Tournament
7:30 a.m.
Blackhawk Golf Course
385 Oronoque Lane
Stratford
E-mail topdown999@gmail.com
\$, R

Monday, June 9

Putt Fore Paws – The Joyce Allen Memorial Golf Tournament
11:00 a.m.
Proceeds support Danbury Animal Welfare Society (DAWS)
The Redding Country Club
109 Lonetown Road
dawsgolf2025.givesmart.com
\$, R

Saturday, June 14

Gallop for Good: A Night at the Farm
5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Proceeds benefit The Serenity Project
Marchant Farm
55 Chestnut Woods Road
theserenityprojectct.org
\$, R

NATURE

Saturday, June 7

New Pond Farm Open Day
10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Enjoy the Farm’s grounds and learn about its programming
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org

Saturday, June 7

Community Hiking Club – Saugatuck Falls – Birds of the Forest
9:00 a.m.
Register by Thursday, June 5
Saugatuck Falls Natural Area
Location shared with registrants
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Sunday, June 8

Gardening Drop-In
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
R

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Sunday, June 8

Georgetown Day
12:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Street fair with organizational tents, music, crafts, food, chili cook-off and more.
Main Street
georgetownct.org/georgetownday

Wednesday, June 11

Redding Prevention Council Meeting
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org/events

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 Sacred Heart Church:

Saturday Confessions: 10:00 a.m. at Pryor Hubbard Hall
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.
Saturday Eucharistic Adoration: 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
12:00 noon LATIN
Weekday Mass: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. LATIN
30 Church Street

St. Patrick Church:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Saturday Confessions: 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Weekday Mass: Monday – Friday at 8:30 a.m.
Weekday Confessions: Mondays and Thursdays: 7:30 p.m., before or after mass, or by appointment
Eucharistic Adoration: Mondays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
169 Black Rock Turnpike
sacredheart-stpat.org

Temple B’nai Chaim

Friday, June 6
Tot/Family Shabbat 5:00 p.m.
82 Portland Avenue
templebnaichaim.org

MEETINGS

Thursday, June 5

Redding Safety Committee
4:00 p.m.
Virtual

Tuesday, June 10

Planning Commission
7:00 p.m.
Virtual

Tuesday, June 10

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

Wednesday, June 11

Commission on Aging
9:00 a.m.
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road

Wednesday, June 11

Zoning Commission
7:30 p.m.
Virtual

Thursday, June 12

Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee
6:00 p.m.
Virtual

Thursday, June 12

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

Tuesday, June 17

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

Tuesday, June 17

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

Tuesday, June 17

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

Wednesday, June 18

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

****Town Offices will be closed on Thursday, June 19 for Juneteenth.**

Annual Fundraising Dinner & Event for The Serenity Project

55 Chestnut Woods Road Redding, CT 06896



Saturday, June 14
5:00 - 6:00: VIP Hour
6:00 - 9:00 PM: Main Event

Catered Dinner • Open Bar • DJ • Silent Auction • Raffles

Tickets



Donate

“The mission of The Serenity Project is to provide a safe and compassionate healing space for individuals to heal through intimate and profound interactions with horses.”

COLDWELL BANKER | REALTY



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At Coldwell Banker Realty, we believe in celebrating milestones, honoring traditions, and supporting the diverse communities we serve. This season is a time of pride, achievement, and reflection—and we’re proud to stand alongside those making a difference, reaching new goals, and building lives rooted in purpose, unity, and home.



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