

# REDDING SENTINEL

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## Planners defer referral on Sport Hill bridge design

By Rocco Valluzzo

After reviewing the designs for two new bridges to replace those destroyed by an August 2024 storm, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to provide a positive referral to the Board of Selectmen for Long Wall Road but deferred a referral for Sport Hill Road at a Tuesday, April 21 meeting.

The Commission issued a positive referral for the Long Wall Road bridge, contingent on the protective fence being 42 inches in height, which is the minimum the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) code allows. Commission Chair Laurie Heiss and member Elizabeth Jensen discussed the necessity of keeping the protective fence as low as possible.

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Photo by Ilona Struzik

Two beavers spotted during a recent Community Hiking Club outing around Poliak Pond led by Redding Land Trust Vice President Kevin Tschudi to visit a beaver dam. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, e-mail [editor@reddingsentinel.org](mailto:editor@reddingsentinel.org).

## Frog Frolic returns this Saturday

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Debora DeCarlo Rosa

The parking lot at Redding Community Center will be transformed into an all-day carnival and community gathering space on Saturday, May 2 as Mark Twain Library presents its 29th annual Frog Frolic Family Festival.

The event, one of Redding's unofficial kick-offs to spring, brings visitors of all ages to enjoy activities, food, games, live music, and good company. It will take place from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., rain

or shine, at 37 Lonetown Road. The day is free for the community, with certain activities and food available by redeeming tickets that are purchased at the event, with proceeds supporting Mark Twain Library's programming and operations.

New this year, a Cornhole Tournament will foster friendly competition, with family and children's teams competing at 11:00 a.m. and adult teams at 12:00 p.m. (Teams can sign up at [mtlfrogfrolic.org](http://mtlfrogfrolic.org)).

A make-your-own-slime station and interactive scavenger hunt have been added to the long list of activities on offer each year, including bounce houses, a toddler bubble garden, carnival games, and facepainting.

Live entertainment will be on stage throughout the day, kicking off with a performance by children in Kempo Karate, followed by a puppet show by Housatonic Valley Waldorf School, a *Frog and Toad* story hour by Harmonious Tales, and performances by Charlie Widmer (Connecticut's State Troubadour) and Bugs on a Log, who close out the line-up with a mix of folk and bluegrass music. Families can also participate in a children's yoga class and movement and dance exercises in the afternoon.

Nine food trucks and treat and beverage tents will keep visitors fed and happy as they enjoy all the Frolic has to offer. ■

For more information or to sign up to volunteer, visit [mtlfrogfrolic.org](http://mtlfrogfrolic.org)

## REDDING'S BIG OUTDOORS

### Spring sightseeing through Poliak Preserve

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

As soon as this week's page 1 photography submission landed in my inbox, I knew where I wanted my weekly hike to be. Those beavers – in all their wet, determined glory – were a gleeful invitation to explore Poliak Preserve.

Though Redding Land Trust

has hosted their annual summer party there in years' past, and the Community Hiking Club enjoyed a recent outing there, I realized as I drove up to the trailhead that this was my first time visiting Poliak Preserve. It was a lovely spring afternoon, and I parked along the shoulder near 193 Simpaug Turnpike before walking across the private railroad crossing that leads to the entrance of the Preserve.

I had set out to see some beavers for myself but was soon amazed at the number of different species sharing the space with me – the walk around Poliak Pond was teeming with life. A shadow glided over me as I set out, an osprey with her wings outstretched like a creature in a fantasy novel. Two geese honked chattily overhead – too small to be Canada geese, some other type that was gray and slender and beautiful. The trail around the pond – Janice's Loop – was wide

and level and moss-covered. Many of my recent hikes have been of the "scrabble-between-rocks" variety, and it was a relief to take my eyes off my feet and confidently focus on the world around me.

The trail took me over a slab of concrete, a man-made culvert with water pouring down the other side. It reminded me very much of a section of the Pond Trail around Topstone Pond. Thinking this might be a good place to spot one of my furry friends, I sat briefly and squinted across the water. No mammalian heads popped out to greet me, but gentle buzzing, chirping, and dripping filled the air. A few sudden disruptions of the water's surface told me of the busy fishy world just beyond my view.

I scanned the edges of the pond for any sign of a beaver dam, coming up empty. It wasn't until I had

Continued on page 10

## PURA approves deep cuts to public benefits charge on electric bills

By John Moritz

Electricity rates in Connecticut will decline by nearly 15% in May, after state regulators on Wednesday approved changes that will all but remove the public benefits charge from customer bills.

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) voted unanimously in favor of the rate adjustments, which largely affect the costs borne by utilities for various State-mandated policy programs such as clean energy procurements and benefits for low-income customers.

The changes will result in a 4.3 cent-per-kilowatt-hour decrease for Eversource customers – equivalent to about \$30 off the average user's monthly bill – and a 4.9 cent-per-kilowatt-hour decrease for United Illuminating customers, or about \$34 a month, according to PURA. Precise savings will vary depending on each customer's usage and rate class.

Both regulators and utility officials said the biggest drivers of savings were Connecticut's long-term agreements to purchase electricity from two nuclear power plants: Waterford's Millstone Nuclear Power Station and Seabrook Station in New Hampshire.

The cuts also reflected savings that resulted from last year's passage of Senate Bill 4, an omnibus energy bill intended to help provide residents relief from surging energy costs. Proponents of that legislation took a victory lap Wednesday following the announcement of lower rates.

"Today's announcement by PURA is good news for residents, who are soon to get some much-needed relief," Governor Ned Lamont said in a statement. "This is the direct result of the difficult but necessary decisions we made over the past few years, including restructuring utility arrearages and betting on nuclear power to offset the volatility of fossil fuel prices. I'm glad these decisions are paying off and helping to lower bills for our residents."

The new, lower rates will take effect May 1 and last through April 30, 2027. PURA may also decide to enact further changes to the public benefits charge in September.

In response to Wednesday's decision, Eversource spokeswoman Jamie Ratliff cautioned that the decreases in the public benefits charge are only temporary and come at a time when the savings are likely to be offset by higher electricity usage during the summer.

Ratliff also said the utility had pushed for steeper cuts during last year's adjustment of the public benefits charge. Instead, PURA, which was then under the leadership of former Chair Marissa Gillett, opted for a more modest approach. (Gillett stepped down from her

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# EDITORIAL

## Looking back and ahead

Birthdays and anniversaries often serve as an opportunity both to reflect, but also to look ahead and dream about the future.

Last week's fourth anniversary issue of the *Sentinel* was a celebration of community. We heard from so many readers expressing their gratitude for a local newspaper. A long list of local businesses and organizations – thanked on page six of this issue – gave us wonderful “birthday gifts” by advertising, highlighting the valuable partnerships we enjoy with many of the places that make Redding a vibrant place to live. We celebrated in person (a treat for many of us who work remotely) with the team of dedicated professionals and volunteers who help to make this improbable project a reality week in and week out. We are grateful for all of you.

As we step into our fifth year, we also are thinking about what comes next. We know that providing trustworthy, engaging, hyperlocal news will remain our North Star. We have summer interns coming onboard who will bring fresh legs and voices to our coverage and business operations. There are costs to reduce where we can and subscriber and advertiser bases to expand. We hope more local talent considers joining our team of reporters, editors, and photographers. We also have been thinking about AI – we will work to develop an official policy on the use of AI in the creation of the *Sentinel*, and we have ideas on how new technology may enhance our readers' experience (could we make a searchable archive?) and reduce our time and costs spent on certain tedious operational procedures.

Thank you to all for getting us here. We look forward to writing our next volume together. ■

## Bocce Ball working group volunteers needed

By Angela Caes

Redding's Park and Recreation Commission is seeking residents to form a working group to explore the addition of Bocce Ball courts to our community.

The group will be responsible for assessing community interest and

providing recommendations for site selection, installation requirements, and budgeting.

Interested in participating? Please message prchair.reddingct@gmail.com by May 3 to express your interest. ■

### Planners defer referral on Sport Hill bridge design / continued from page 1

The Commission agreed that the fence material should be black vinyl-coated metal to minimize visual impact and “disappear” into the landscape and suggested that native plantings and climbing greenery could eventually obscure the fence. In addition, the bridge replacement must be staged to allow residents to traverse the property.

The Long Wall Road project is maintaining the exact alignment of the roadway and its exact width (20 feet) since it is a dead-end road serving a limited number of houses. The new bridge will be over an 11-foot-wide culvert to meet the 1.2x bank full width requirement (based on a 9.1-foot stream width).

The proposed design for Sport Hill Road, however, calls for a new bridge that is wider than the former bridge by six feet, featuring two 12-foot travel lanes (24-foot total width) to meet CTDOT minimum requirements and match the southern approach to the bridge. It would also feature a precast box culvert design with a natural stream bed to satisfy environmental permitting and utilize a curved road section to avoid impacting existing historic stone walls on adjacent properties.

Members of the Commission noted that the proposed design (specifically road width and alignment) conflicts with the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). Heiss said that the project is inextricably linked to the POCD and must preserve the aesthetic, historic, and cultural resources of the area. She specifically referenced Sections 7.12 and 7.14 of the POCD, noting that Redding's hilly topography and curves are “natural traffic-calming features” that must be retained during maintenance and improvements.

Commissioners also had questions about CTDOT requirements

and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines regarding minimum travel ways for rural roads, specifically whether Connecticut State regulations supersede Federal guidelines regarding rural road safety and width in this specific context. They also wished to clarify if the 24-foot road width is a mandatory requirement for funding or a discretionary design choice.

Jensen agreed that the current proposal for Sport Hill Road does not align with the POCD. She emphasized that the Commission's specific role is to protect the “fabric” of the town by discouraging changes to roadway geometry that increase traffic speeds.

“I would say we're not ready to give that a positive referral,” she said. “There's still more work to do.”

Engineer Jonathan Ives of Tighe & Bond has not yet addressed the Commission's concerns regarding the horizontal realignment of Sport Hill Road. Ives has, however, applied for a design exception to reduce the road width to 22 feet. He noted that the box culvert size (12x7 feet) is mandated by the Army Corps of Engineers for hydraulics and fish passage and is not negotiable.

The Commission also is awaiting a response from the State Connecticut Local Bridge Program (from which the Town will be receiving funds to complete the project) regarding the request to reduce the width of the Sport Hill Road bridge from 24 feet to 22 feet.

The Commission agreed to defer the decision on a referral until its April 28 meeting to allow the project engineer to provide specific regulatory citations justifying the current design. ■



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## Walking path contract terminated

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

The walking path project, originally scheduled for completion last fall, faces another hurdle with the termination of the contract with the construction company meant to complete the work.

On April 27, 2026, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the termination of a contract with Southern Industries, a Westchester County-based firm that had been

selected for the construction of the new walking path around the Community Center. The Board also authorized Town counsel to issue a Notice of Default to the firm and to execute any other documents related to the termination.

The walking path's construction had been delayed last fall, both due to early cold weather and, according to minutes from the Park and Recreation Commission, repeated lack of response from Southern Industries and delays in receiving their required insurance paperwork. At the April 20, 2026 meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission, Chair Angela Caes noted that Southern Industries had let its license and insurance expire, without which construction could not move forward.

The walking path – planned to be a half-mile paved loop around the Community Center fields – will be handicapped accessible with benches and outdoor exercise equipment stations. The project is being funded in part by a \$203,856 Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant from the State of Connecticut, and up to \$120,000 in Town capital funds.

The area where the future path will be will undergo some regrading and restoration this spring, having been impacted by the long and snowy winter, after a review by Stantec, the project's engineers. It was not immediately clear how much of a delay the terminated contract with Southern Industries will present for the project. ■

## Sentinel team celebrates four years



Photo by Vin Rosa

Many of the people behind the making of the *Sentinel* gathered on Wednesday, April 22 to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the newspaper's founding. The *Sentinel* is grateful to all our readers, contributors, advertisers, and supporters for helping us to bring another year of local news to Redding.

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**Publisher, Susan Clark**  
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**Reporters:**  
Anne Young Albanese     Justin Reynolds  
Pamela Brown             Rob Sample  
Donna Christopher        Rocco Valluzzo

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**Contact us at:**  
editor@reddingsentinel.org  
advertise@reddingsentinel.org  
subscribe@reddingsentinel.org  
publisher@reddingsentinel.org  
legalnotices@reddingsentinel.org



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## SPORTS

## Falcons stay focused for lopsided win

Girls lacrosse | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Sophia Sgritta, left, beats Immaculate's Lil Scheckner to a ground ball during a girls varsity lacrosse game on Tuesday, April 21. Barlow dominated in a 16-1 win.

Concentrating on the fundamentals turned out to be exactly what the Joel Barlow High girls varsity lacrosse team needed when it hosted Immaculate last week.

Following consecutive losses to Masuk and Branford, the Falcons used their next game to work on the basics, and it paid off in a big way on Tuesday, April 21. Taking a commanding lead in the first half, the Falcons cruised to a 16-1 win.

"We kind of needed something to help us change our game and change how we played," said Barlow Head Coach Megan Kreitler. "So, we really focused on a lot of just the basics of lacrosse."

The Falcons also used their quickness and superior ball handling to their advantage. While the team started slowly with draw controls, it gained significant momentum as the game progressed.

Despite several shots early, the Falcons came up empty-handed. With 5:35 left in the first quarter, they broke through, coming on a shot by Teagan Candee that bounced off a teammate's stick and into the net to put the hosts up for good.

It marked the beginning of an 11-0 scoring run that continued for the remainder of the half. Emma Ogden, Sawyer Cutler, Lila

Fellows, Jessica Russo, and Caroline Lippoth also found the net as the Falcons pulled out of reach.

When play resumed, Fellows, Cutler, Sophia Sgritta, Gwen Miller, and Russo added to the lead. The Falcons also used the opportunity to build some depth, giving the entire team playing time.

The Mustangs scored their lone goal early in the fourth quarter, coming on a well-executed shot that caught the defense off guard, according to Kreitler.

Cutler led the scoring with four goals. Russo was next with three. Fellows, Ogden and Lippoth each netted a pair while Candee, Miller, and Sgritta netted one apiece.

"We definitely have a lot of people that can score, which is awesome," said Kreitler. "They're all a huge asset to our offense."

Despite getting 32 shots on goal, Kreitler felt her team needs to work on more precise shot placement. A number of shots were stopped by Immaculate goalie Mia Stever.

At the other end of the field, Barlow starting goalie Lillian Friedman had a shutout in the first half. Adrianna Chapin took over in the second, giving up just one goal.

The Falcons, now 6-3 overall, visit Newtown on Thursday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m., are at St. Joseph of Trumbull on Saturday, May 2 at 10:00 a.m. and host Bethel on Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. ■

## Barlow bats hit Harding hard

Baseball | By Rocco Valluzzo

An early offensive display quickly took care of things for the Joel Barlow High varsity baseball team when it hosted Harding of Bridgeport on Wednesday, April 22.

Although the Falcons basically set the tone in the first inning, they were far from finished. Pounding out 12 hits total, they pulled ahead for a 17-1 win in a game that was called after four and a half innings due to the 12-run rule.

The Presidents' lone run came in the top of the first inning on a walk and an RBI single before the host Falcons responded in a big way in the bottom of the frame. While the hosts did manage six hits and batted through their order in the process, they also took advantage of four errors by the visitors.

Gavin Maryott started things with a double to left field, and Drew Gutowski later hit a two-bagger of his own to right field to put Barlow up 2-0. Both also got to bat later in the inning, with

Maryott hitting a two-run homer and Gutowski hitting a triple to center, scoring two more runs. Ken Esposito's RBI single made it 11-1 before the Falcons were retired.

From then on, Barlow pitchers threw scoreless ball. In the meantime, the Falcons would score their remaining runs in the bottom of the fourth.

Singles by Charlie Jimenez and Cassius Cady and a walk by Jackson Schildt loaded the bases for an RBI-single by Eli Kress. Ryan Kelly and Steve Czerkowski walked to force in two more runs before James Coppola and Noah Goldstein each singled to drive in another pair. Another single by Cassius Cady drove in the final run for the Falcons.

Gavin Maryott (two runs, two RBI), Gutowski (two runs, three RBI) and Cassius Cady (one run, one RBI) all had two hits for the Falcons. Kress (one run, one RBI), Jimmy Kennedy (one run, one

RBI), Esposito (one run, two RBI) and Goldstein (one run, one RBI), Coppola (one RBI), Jimenez (one run) also had hits.

Brennan Maryott drew three walks and scored two runs. Kelly and Czerkowski each scored one run and drove in a run. Desmond Cady also scored a run, as did Schildt and Brenden McDermott.

Starting pitcher Quinn Kirik threw three innings for the win, allowing just one run on three hits with seven strikeouts and one walk. Cole Johnson and Kress each pitched an inning, the former allowing one hit with one walk while fanning two, and the latter striking out three.

The Falcons, now 4-4 overall, host Bethel on Friday, May 1, are at Weston on Monday, May 4, and are home against Newtown on Wednesday, May 6. All games are at 4:15 p.m. ■

## Falcons sweep Panthers in key match

Boys volleyball | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Skye Fiuczynski, left, and Max Anstett try to block Pomperaug's Robert Walsh during a boys varsity volleyball match on Saturday, April 25. Barlow won 3-0 (25-13, 25-12, 25-15)

Having successfully navigated a challenging portion of its schedule, the Joel Barlow High boys varsity volleyball team is proving it can compete with top-tier conference opponents.

The Falcons, unbeaten in conference play, took another key match when they hosted Pomperaug on Saturday, April 25. Through tactical discipline and strong setter play, they built comfortable leads in each set en route to a 3-0 (25-13, 25-12, 25-15) victory, their sixth straight.

"We've been preparing for this match for a while," said Barlow Head Coach Kevin Marino. "They're in our class for states. They have one of the best outside hitters in the state."

The team executed a highly specific serving strategy during the match. Although this aggressive plan resulted in more service errors and service faults than usual, Marino noted that the Falcons had amassed comfortable leads which made these mistakes manageable.

With the help of several service points by Ryan Puglio, the Falcons

jumped out to an 8-3 lead in the first set and never looked back. The gap later grew to 15-6 on an ace by Miles Prusa before the Panthers called a timeout to try to stop the momentum.

Barlow was also helped by a number of hitting errors on Pomperaug's part. Strong net play by Rylen Brennan only kept the visitors within 10 points before the Falcons finished the set.

Kills by Prusa helped put Barlow up 9-3 early in the second set. While the Falcons later scratched on a number of serves, they more than made up for it with other aspects of their play, particularly passing and at the net, leading by as much as 13 points (24-11) before going up 2-0 in sets.

The Panthers gave Barlow more of a fight early in the third set as they trailed 6-4 but hurt their cause with hitting errors. Kills by Alex Stinson and Prusa later on helped increase Barlow's lead to 15-7, and the Falcons remained in good shape for the win.

"Alex Stinson, Skye Fiuczynski, Kyle Sullivan, they all contributed today," said Marino, who also praised the play of setter Sam Stinson. "He moves that ball around. He's really sharp."

The Falcons, now 8-2 overall, visit Shelton on Friday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m., host Brookfield on Monday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m., and travel to Pomperaug for a rematch on Wednesday, May 6 at 4:00 p.m.

"It's kind of starting to feel like our time, now that we've ironed some things out," said Marino. "They're a younger team, so they're kind of learning what it takes to win. We're just trying to get to the best point before May and June hit." ■

## Joel Barlow sports results and schedules



## Boys lacrosse

## Results:

April 21: Joel Barlow 19 / Immaculate 7  
April 23: Weston 13 / Joel Barlow 3  
April 25: Joel Barlow 8 / Greenwich 7

## Record:

Joel Barlow: 3-5

## Next games:

May 2: away at Notre Dame of West Haven at 1:00 p.m.  
May 5: away at Bethel at 6:00 p.m.

## Boys track and field

## Results:

April 21: Joel Barlow 100 / Kolbe Cathedral 35, New Milford 95 / Joel Barlow 54, Bunnell 87 / Joel Barlow 57

## Record:

Joel Barlow 2-4

## Next meet:

May 5: away at Brookfield, Bassick and Immaculate at 4:00 p.m.

## Girls track and field

## Results:

April 21: Joel Barlow 80 / Kolbe Cathedral 41, New Milford 82 / Joel Barlow 61, Bunnell 88 / Joel Barlow 58

## Record:

Joel Barlow 1-5

## Next meet:

May 5: away at Brookfield, Bassick, and Immaculate at 4:00 p.m.

## Softball

## Results:

April 20: Barlow 19 / Bassick 5  
April 22: Joel Barlow 12 / Harding 6

## Record:

Joel Barlow 3-5

## Next games:

May 1: home versus Bethel at 4:15 p.m.  
May 4: away at Weston at 4:15 p.m.  
May 6: home versus Newtown at 4:15 p.m.

**Note: Baseball, Girls lacrosse, and Boys volleyball information is included in the articles adjacent to this list.**



# Volunteers Needed



## Attention High School Students

Are you interested in becoming a camp counselor someday? Join us this summer as a Counselor in Training to assist our campers and counselors as they explore the outdoors.

Rather spend time with animals? Help us care for our turtles, lizards, bunnies, and more! Animal care volunteers help feed and provide enrichment for our ambassador animals.



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# Redding Elementary goes off to see the Wizard School play delights crowds

By Anne Young Albanese



The Tin Man, played by Ethan Graae; the Cowardly Lion, played by Maia Simon; Dorothy, played by Kate Campbell; the Scarecrow, played by Benjamin Funk; and Toto, played by Greta Ostromer are threatened by the Wicked Witch of the West.

On April 24 and 25, third and fourth graders at Redding Elementary School performed *The Wizard of Oz* for their families and fellow students. The production used the Young Performers edition of the musical, which is especially adapted for elementary and middle school performers and lasts 60 minutes.

“Watching the show had me smiling ear to ear the whole time,”

said audience member Mark Rosenbloom. “The kids were so impressive from start to finish, and looked like they were having the best time. It was incredibly heartwarming.”

Matthew Farina, a gifted and talented teacher at Redding Elementary, directed the musical. In addition to his strong background in professional and community theater, Farina has directed plays for his classes at Redding Ele-



Photos by Anne Young Albanese

The Munchkins come out of hiding after believing that Dorothy, played by Kate Campbell, is a good witch.

mentary School, Joel Barlow High School, and now, for the Redding Elementary School community. Redding Elementary School staff member Bobbie Granskog and parent Tara Patrick produced the show. Maddie Baker, a music teacher at Redding Elementary school, served as Music Director, and Ashley Capalbo, a first-grade teacher, was Choreographer. ■

# Outstanding student writers lauded for portfolios

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Courtney Hylak

Director of Barlow Writing Center Tim Huminski congratulated students on April 10.

An academic rite of passage for every Joel Barlow High School student, the Junior Writing Portfolio is a collection of five pieces of writing that every 11th grader assembles in the fall to be assessed by a team of staff in the spring. On Friday, April 10, a group of 41 talented Joel Barlow juniors was recognized for achieving the highest marks on their portfolios,

securing either an “Exemplary” or “Commendable” score.

Tim Huminski, Director of the Barlow’s Writing Center, offered writing advice combined with encouragement and humor at a special reception recognizing these students’ achievements. He then presented the students with certificates of accomplishment and a journal for them to continue honing their writing skills.

Now in its 33rd year, the Junior Writing Portfolio is an integral part of the Joel Barlow curriculum, and completion of the portfolio at an “Effective” level is a graduation requirement. Select portions of the portfolios serve as models in the Writing Center’s annual publication, Standouts, which is distributed to all upcoming juniors in the fall.

Carolyn Hopstaken was the only

student to receive an “Exemplary” score this year. The students receiving “Commendable” scores were: Victoria Abukhovich, Ariana Almodovar, Christopher Alvarado, Valeria Amador, Austin Bradford, Austin Cameron, Rose Carney, Gabriella Casatelli, Edward Chiaromonte, Jade Collins, Anjali Dhar, Lila Fellows, Hayden Goldstein, Chloe Gustavson, Abigail Hall, Sara Jones, Mackenzie Kassner, Iris LaMastro, Molly Lapatine, Austin Lehberger, George Manna, Aurelia Martin, Grace Masone, Sofia Mendes, Milo Mutuski, Arjun Nambiar, Kurt Nelson, Douglas Pheaney, Melissa Ploss, Allison Prugh, Bridget Rexford, Sean Rinaldi, Lyra Robinson, Ripley Robinson, Amelia Samon, Melanie Schrade, Katherine Stowell, Roger Ungerer, Isabella Valvo and Frances Wood. ■

# Homeschooling bill passes House, heads to Senate

By Theo Peck-Suzuki

A controversial bill to create a limited system of oversight for homeschooling in Connecticut passed during a lengthy session of the House of Representatives on Thursday, April 23 by a vote of 96-53.

House Bill 5468 has faced strenuous pushback at each step of the legislative process, and Thursday’s debate was no different. Education Committee Ranking Member Representative Lezlye Zupkus, R-Prospect, went painstakingly through the lines of the bill as she fired an hourlong barrage of questions at committee Co-Chair Representative Jennifer Leeper, D-Fairfield. Nevertheless, Democrats had the votes to send the legislation to the upper chamber – after further whittling it down through a floor amendment.

“Initially, this bill was very hard to swallow. But we did work on this bill to make it better,” said Representative Anthony Nolan, D-New London, who urged his colleagues to support it.

In its latest form, the bill requires all Connecticut parents – not just those homeschooling – to indicate each year where they plan to send their kids to school. Then, if a parent wants to begin homeschooling, there’s a one-time check to see if anyone in the household has an open case with the Department of Children and Families or is on the State’s child abuse and neglect registry. If the answer is yes, the individuals in question would not be allowed to homeschool.

Under current Connecticut law, parents need only inform a school district once in writing if they intend to withdraw a child from the system, and there is no check with DCF. Proponents of H.B. 5468 have linked this lack of oversight to a number of high-profile child abuse cases in recent years, including last fall’s discovery of the body of 11-year-old Jacqueline “Mimi” Torres-García.

“This bill proposes modest steps to build a safety net for children and identify people who are not, in good faith, homeschooling their children, but using our previous lack of regulation to hide child abuse and neglect,” said Leeper at the outset of the floor debate.

Homeschool advocates that gathered at the Capitol before Thursday’s vote remained unpersuaded.

“This particular bill is not really fixable,” said Olivia Tummescheit, a former homeschooled student who now studies at CT State Community College Capital.

While many homeschool advocates were hesitant to speak with reporters, Tummescheit held a sign encouraging others to ask her questions. One core problem with the bill, she said, is that it tries to screen for abuse based on whether or not someone opts to homeschool.

“I feel like this bill is trying to address a valid concern, but it’s sorting for the wrong demographic,” Tummescheit said.

Tummescheit said a better approach would be to screen kids for abuse based on other factors,

regardless of whether those kids are homeschooled or not.

“Maybe the child is not with their married, biological parents. There’s a stepparent in the home, a caregiver uses alcohol or drugs. I think that a bill that somehow is able to sort through those risk factors would make more sense,” Tummescheit said.

Tummescheit also echoed concerns from other homeschool advocates that H.B. 5468 would compel schools to “report” families to DCF – and potentially pull them into the orbit of Connecticut’s child welfare system.

Leeper has spent much of the past two months trying to disabuse people of that fear. The DCF check, she said, would be done through a portal schools already use to conduct background checks for employees. Querying the portal does not file any complaint with DCF and does not start an investigation – in fact, the latest version of H.B. 5468 explicitly states on line 180 that the records check does not constitute a report to DCF of abuse or neglect.

If there’s no open investigation when the check happens, and no name pops up on the registry, that’s the end of the matter. The family can homeschool.

But Tummescheit said she’s still worried the bill could harm well-meaning families.

“I know personally that homeschoolers are sometimes reported to DCF by people hostile to homeschooling,” she said.



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# Cook up new memories with the RES PTA cookbook

By Anne Young Albanese



“We are excited to launch the *RES PTA Family Favorites Cookbook* that embodies the spirit of togetherness in our community. We invite families and friends to gather around the table and create lasting bonds through the joy of cooking!” said Kailee Scales, the Vice President of Programs for the PTA, who spearheaded the cookbook’s development.

A digital or wire-bound version of the cookbook is now available to purchase for anyone who loves to cook. Both can be purchased (at this time, wire-bound versions may be pre-ordered) online through the QR code below. Once the print version has been completed, it also will be available at all RES PTA events and at New Pond Farm Education Center. ■

A new fundraising effort by the Redding Elementary School PTA will give hungry residents plenty of reasons to experiment in the kitchen and try new dishes together. The group has recently published the *RES PTA 2026 Family Favorites Cookbook*, featuring about 60 recipes submitted by RES parents that are favorites for each family.



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As currently written, the bill would not affect someone already homeschooling when a DCF report is made.

Leslie Wolfgang, a lobbyist with the Family Institute of Connecticut representing homeschooling families, said she thinks it’s a violation of rights to prevent parents who are still under investigation by DCF from homeschooling.

“If these people have not been convicted, then what right does the State have to tell you that you can’t [homeschool]?” Wolfgang said.

Wolfgang said she’d rather see the flow of information reversed. Rather than schools querying DCF about families, she said, DCF should provide schools with a list of families on the registry. That way, she said, schools could screen for potentially problematic cases without passing any information to DCF.

Leeper said the bill does not cause children’s information to be shared with DCF. Wolfgang also said she’s concerned about, as she put it, “universal registration of homeschoolers.”

“When you submit your personal information, the names of your children, where you live, their ages, and the State gets that information, they keep that list, and that’s a registry,” Wolfgang said.

House Minority Leader Vincent Candelora, R-North Branford, told reporters his caucus is not opposed to the idea of a DCF check per se.

“We don’t want people removing their children from schools in

order to prevent an investigation of abuse or neglect, and we think that certainly is a problem,” Candelora said.

At around 10:15 p.m., several hours into the debate, Republicans proposed their own amendment that largely aligned with Candelora’s words. Their version of the bill, coming in just over two pages, did not require parents to show where they intend to educate their children. It did keep a DCF check, with some changes from the Democratic amendment adopted earlier in the day.

Leeper criticized the amendment for abandoning an effort to collect some kind of data on where students who do not attend public and non-public schools might be.

“We require information for all of our children, annually, who are in public schools, who are in nonpublic schools, and have no requirements whatsoever to even know children who are not in those two settings exist,” Leeper said.

She added that the Democratic amendment adopted earlier in the session would help close that gap.

The Republican amendment failed by a party-line vote.

Tummescheit suggested H.B. 5468 was “a ‘foot in the door’ for further legislation.”

“The various amendments and versions of the bill point to this as well,” she wrote in a text.

*Continued on page 6*

## OBITUARY

## Stephen Joseph Kozma

December 8, 1937 – April 16, 2026

Stephen Joseph Kozma, a longtime resident of Redding, passed away peacefully at his home in Wesley Chapel, Florida, on April 16, 2026. He was born on December 8, 1937, in Páty, Hungary.

Stephen trained as a butcher in Budapest before immigrating to the United States in 1956 during the Hungarian Revolution. He began his career working in several meat markets in Norwalk, where he quickly learned English and embraced his new life in America. In 1962, he became a proud naturalized U.S. citizen.

In 1958, Stephen met the love of his life, Ruby “Bunny” Kozma. They were married in 1961 and shared more than 64 devoted years together. They made their home

on Glen Road in Redding, where Stephen built two houses and raised their family. He is survived by his two daughters, Sarah Kozma Ewud (Paul Kilburn) and Kara Kozma Connor (Craig).

In 2020, Stephen and Bunny relocated to Florida with several family members. He had been living with Alzheimer’s disease since 2012, facing it with quiet strength, patience, and an unwaveringly positive spirit.

Stephen will be remembered as a loving husband, devoted father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and as a role model to all who knew him. His life was marked by humility, kindness, and steadfast faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In addition to his wife and

daughters, Stephen is survived by his eight grandchildren: Rachael Ewud Munkwitz (Rich), Jessica Ewud, Stephanie Ewud Merritt (Marshall), Caleb Connor (Kaitlyn), Jordan Ewud (Tatum), Noah Connor (Haley), Joshua Connor, and Abigail Connor; and his seven great-grandchildren: Abel and Judah Merritt; Madigan, Briella, and Brody Munkwitz; Jace Jordan (J.J.) Ewud; and Vera Ragna-Mae Connor. He is also survived by his sisters, Piroska Agocs, Sarika Tugyi, and Ilonka Nagy.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to “Credl Warriors” in honor of Stephen’s great-grandson, Jace, at [give.rarevillage.org/campaign/721110/donate](http://give.rarevillage.org/campaign/721110/donate). ■

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## “Trust, flexibility, and service”

### Redding notary travels to you for moments big and small

By Justin Reynolds



Photo courtesy of  
Redding Mobile Notary Public

Joanna Horodyska founded Redding Mobile Notary Public in 2020 and prides herself on helping people as they face important life transitions.

When important legal documents need signing, one Redding entrepreneur brings notary services directly to clients.

After running a construction-related business, “life happened,” and Joanna Horodyska was forced to forge a new career path. In 2020, she launched Redding Mobile Notary Public, an on-demand notarization service catering to clients across Connecticut.

“Instead of clients having to travel to an office, I come to them, whether it’s their home, workplace, hospital, or another agreed location,” she said. “My goal is to make the notarization process simple, accessible, and stress-free – especially for people with busy schedules or limited mobility.”

As a notary public, Horodyska acts as an impartial witness,

verifying identities and ensuring legal documents – including things like real estate paperwork, affidavits, powers of attorney, and parental consent forms – are signed willingly and correctly.

“I also assist with documents related to family matters, school requirements, and identity verification,” Horodyska said.

Notaries do not provide legal advice, a common misconception, she said.

Horodyska was born and raised in Poland, graduating from college with a degree in European architecture. After moving to the United States in 2004 and learning her diploma wasn’t recognized for licensure, Horodyska pivoted, working as an antique furniture renovator and in the retail and transportation industries.

In 2012, she started her first business. Five years later, she purchased a home in Redding, where she lives with her three children; she was drawn to town for the sense of community and the quieter environment.

“As a single mother, my family is my priority, and everything I do professionally is centered around creating stability and a better future for my children,” she said.

For Horodyska, who also is a justice of the peace in Redding, becoming a notary “felt like a natural fit.”

“It allows me to continue working closely with people, helping them during important moments while building an independent business based on trust, flexibility, and service,” she said.

As a notary, no two days are the same – part of what makes

working as a notary so enjoyable for Horodyska.

“Some days involve multiple appointments across different towns while others may include last-minute or urgent requests,” she said. “I coordinate appointments, travel to meet clients, and make sure documents are properly executed according to Connecticut law.”

Being a mobile notary public is not without its challenges.

“People may not realize how much responsibility is involved,” she said. “Every notarization must follow strict legal requirements, and even a small mistake can invalidate a document.”

Other challenges include traveling in any conditions, accommodating urgent requests, and working with clients in stressful or emotional situations.

“Accuracy and professionalism are critical,” she continued.

In addition to notarization, Horodyska also offers administrative assistance, supports clients as a life coach, and prepares immigration forms as a non-attorney, she said.

“My work often overlaps with helping clients navigate important life transitions – especially single mothers,” she said. “I focus on making the process clear and efficient while ensuring everything is done correctly. I come to the client and make sure they feel comfortable and informed throughout the process.” ■

For more information, visit [reddingmobilenotarypublic.com](http://reddingmobilenotarypublic.com)

### Homeschooling bill passes House, heads to Senate / continued from page 5

To get the necessary votes, the latest version of H.B. 5468 removed a previous section requiring parents to show evidence of “equivalent instruction” – such as a portfolio of student work – once a year, as well as a section allowing homeschooled students to take up to two classes in public schools and participate in extracurriculars.

Leeper said the idea in earlier versions of the bill was to give some teeth to an existing – but as yet unenforced – State requirement that homeschooling families teach in subjects equivalent to public schools.

“We were trying to create that framework, and we were trying to do it slowly and thoughtfully, and it was a little too ambitious for folks in year one,” Leeper said.

“As the Co-Chair of the Education Committee, of course, I would have loved to see some framework around ensuring children are actually receiving an education,” she later added.

When asked whether that means the General Assembly will pursue further homeschooling regulations in years to come, House Speaker Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, steered the conversation back to the text of the latest amendment. Future bills, he suggested, are a question for future general assemblies, not this one.

“Let’s move off of hypotheticals. This – the term slippery slope is the laziest intellectual argument that has ever existed in mankind, because it can be used for anything,” Ritter said. “I hate it. So, I don’t want to hear about slippery slopes.”

Despite efforts to make the impact of H.B. 5468 as small as possible for law-abiding homeschooling parents, Tummescheit said it still creates a very large psychological burden.

“It is putting suspicion on homeschooling parents, parents who are particularly involved and loving, by suggesting that they are more likely to abuse their children,” Tummescheit wrote.

She added, “The bill is like TSA taking away nail clippers at the airport. It feels like it’s keeping people safer, but it’s actually not helping anything and is distracting from the real problem.” ■

This article originally appeared in CT Mirror

## Scam aware

### Living in the age of robocalls

By Anthony Freyberg

Robocalls – automated telephone calls that deliver prerecorded messages – are a persistent nuisance and have become a serious consumer protection issue. The volume of these calls increased significantly in 2025 by 15.6%. They’re commonly used for telemarketing, political campaigns and, increasingly, fraudulent schemes. They often impersonate government agencies, financial institutions, medical insurance companies, and tech support services. It’s a cheap and easy way for scammers to harass you from anywhere in the world. Sadly, with the advent of new technologies like AI, they’re likely to become an even bigger problem and continue to plague us for the foreseeable future.

AI can help these thieves acquire information about us from data breaches and social media accounts to create scenarios that are more likely to fool us. They pretend to be from a government agency calling about your social security number, unpaid taxes, or Medicare offers. Classic fear-based robocall scams include saying you’ve missed jury duty, owe penalties for overdue car tolls, or owe delinquent taxes. Callers demand immediate payment “or else.” If you don’t pay or refuse to give them your personal

information, they threaten something bad will happen.

Spotting these calls isn’t always easy. You can’t rely on caller ID. It’s simple for scammers to impersonate local utilities, hospitals, and even police numbers. You’re not going to eliminate robocalls completely, but you can reduce them dramatically. The National Do Not Call Registry, designed to stop unwanted sales calls, has been around for a while. Though it hasn’t proven as effective as was hoped, it is still worth registering to be on it. The major phone carriers also offer good options: AT&T’s app is called Active Armour; Verizon has a call filter feature; and T-Mobile has Scam Shield. All of those are free with optional upgrades. Some of the best third-party call companies for those willing to pay a nominal monthly charge are: Hiya, Truecaller, Nomorobo, and RoboKiller. There are also settings on your mobile phones that can screen and block numbers from unidentified callers.

Earlier this month, Connecticut Attorney General William Tong announced Operation Robocall Roundup, a multistate effort to crack down on robocalls nationally. We can join with him, fight back, and stay scam aware. ■

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## BOOK REVIEW

# The Infinity Machine

*Demis Hassabis, DeepMind, and the Quest for Superintelligence*

By Sebastian Mallaby / 456 pages / Penguin Press / \$32

The book's title, *The Infinity Machine*, accurately sets up the story British journalist Sebastian Mallaby tells – it's about the quest for artificial intelligence first, and Demis Hassabis the person, the company, and the models he built, second. Not just a biography of Hassabis, it is also the story of the young men who competed (and still compete) to develop AI.

Demis Hassabis was born in London to a Chinese Singaporean mother and a Greek Cypriot father. His parents were strivers; their focus and determination to succeed became part of Hassabis's persona as well. First came chess. Demis started winning championships at the age of four and reached Master status at 13. He finished his school A levels at 16. Too young for university, he had to sit out a year before attending Cambridge.

Hassabis became a top-rank video game designer. His skill in this field informed later developments at DeepMind, the AI company he founded in 2010. The early AI models were trained on Atari games – game results are binary, win / lose, yes / no. But also, AI models were tested and improved based on games because playing video games was what Hassabis and his colleagues knew.

Hassabis earned a graduate degree in Cognitive Neuroscience from University College London following Cambridge. He believed he needed to understand human intelligence and apply that understanding to the development of artificial intelligence models.

Developing AI models requires significant amounts of computing power. The race to develop the winning model is not just about technical skill, but also about fundraising. In 2014, Hassabis decided to sell DeepMind to Google to relieve the pressure he felt constantly to search for investors. With the enormous computing power of Google, he would be able to focus on further developing DeepMind's models.

By 2016, one model, AlphaGo, could beat world-class Go players. Most notably, DeepMind released a model that predicted protein structures, AlphaFold, in 2021 and resulted in Hassabis being awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2024.

There is not a news source these days, it seems, that doesn't report on AI. Some predict AI will save the planet, others foresee the destruction of humanity. What comes through in Mallaby's book is how human the super-achievers like Hassabis are. They were not looking for world domination, just to beat the other team. All profess utopian attitudes and concern about the possible impacts of their technology, which is somehow comforting.

On the copyright page of *The Infinity Machine*, this sentence appears: "Please note that no part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner for the purpose of training artificial intelligence technologies or systems." ■

Review by Susan Clark

## LIBRARY CORNER

# Have you heard this froggy folktale?

By Erin Shea Dummeyer



Photo by Jessie Wright

The frog statue on Mark Twain Library's loggia.

In honor of this Saturday's Frog Frolic Family Festival, I would like to share the story of our frog statue, now cheerfully perched in a corner of our loggia. Sculpted by pop artist Leo Jensen, it was cast in bronze in 1995. Jensen was born and raised in the circus, and worked as a rodeo clown until age 13 when he became interested in art.

Mark Twain Library's frog statue has four big brothers... four bronze, 3,000-pound, 11-foot tall big

brothers that sit atop the Willimantic Bridge, which spans the Willimantic River in Connecticut. These frogs commemorate a Connecticut legend called the "Windham Frog Fight."

In the summer of 1754, Windham, Connecticut residents lived in fear of the unknown, feeling unsettled because of the effects of the French and Indian War. As the legend goes, there was one night when residents heard disturbing sounds coming from the woods, as

if a fight had broken out. A drought had reduced the area's water supply to one small pond. Every frog in the area descended on the Windham and Willimantic area searching for water. The commotion was the sound of thousands of frogs battling each other for the precious resource. In the morning, the ground was littered with dead frogs, as if a massive frog fight had taken place. The frogs on the Willimantic Bridge commemorate this Connecticut legend, and they sit on top of spools of thread as an homage to Willimantic's long history of textile and thread manufacturing.

Mark Twain Library has a much smaller replica on our back loggia as a nod to Mark Twain's famous short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" but few know its ties to this 18th-century Connecticut folktale. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

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## REDDING'S OWN

# Drummer-turned-bookseller makes it in NYC | By Donna Christopher



Photo by Nat Esten

Book Club Bar at 197 East Third Street, New York is owned by Redding native Nat Esten and Erin Neary.

Next time you're in New York City, think about going downtown to see what all the fuss is about at a bookstore-café-bar in Alphabet City.

*Untapped Cities* highlights 10 "Cozy Bookstore" bars in the city, with Book Club Bar at 197 East Third Street topping the list last year. The East Village destination will be opening its second location this weekend in Bushwick at 380 Troutman Street and is owned by

Redding native Nat Esten and his wife, Erin Neary.

Esten, a drummer-turned-bookseller, recounted how the pair opened their business at an inopportune time, just before the pandemic in November 2019. Quickly adjusting their strategy to keep the business open, they offered coffee, cocktails, pastries, and light snacks at the counter while Esten biked around the eerily empty streets of New York making book deliveries.

"We had to get pretty creative to survive during that time," Esten recalled.

Once the Covid-19 scourge had lifted, they resumed their plans to provide a bookstore and café by day, and a bar at night. The niche offering caught on quickly in the East Village neighborhood the couple calls home, with Esten living there since 2008, both performing as a drummer and as a talent booker for various musicians.

Neary was raised in Milwaukee, WI, arrived in New York in 2011, and never left. Her background is in marketing and hospitality. With a "deep passion for books," she is the head book buyer for both Book Club Bar locations.

The store's inventory of more than 5,000 titles covers all genres – fiction, mystery, romance, sci-fi/fantasy, history, current events, children, and a special New York section. Book Club Bar buys books both from the major publishers and small presses, which the owners find their audience enjoys. They also accept pitches and submissions from self-published authors on the company website.

Esten is a professional drummer who studied at Berklee College of Music and still plays on weekends,

along with running Book Club Bar with Neary. His years of booking his own band and working in music has brought him valuable event-planning experience to apply to the business's schedule of readings, acoustic performances, and storytelling nights.

He described the Bohemian spirit that the neighborhood is lauded for as a "mix of punk rock history, nightlife, and great food that makes it our heaven." Notable East Village residents have included Douglas Stuart, Amor Towles, Arthur Nersesian, and Ada Calhoun, adding a literary allure for locals and visitors.

Esten's business acumen comes from having a family with a business background, with his father also owning his own business. Esten handles much of the music and event side of Book Club Bar's operations, and the couple shares credit for shaping the bar's mix of books, cocktails, and programming, work they've distilled into a forthcoming cocktail-and-book guide that "puts into a nice little book" what they've learned over the years about hosting book groups and events.

The idea to open a second location in Brooklyn came about because the couple enjoys spending

time in Bushwick. "There's a lot of great nightlife and a lot of great restaurants and clubs," Esten said, adding that "there isn't a bookstore that sells new books," and that many of the people who spend time there are "very similar to the types of people who spend time in East Village." "So, it just felt like a very natural fit."

Book Club Bar gets walk-in traffic during the day, opening at 9:00 a.m. "Usually, certain people read, some people come in and work on meetings. And then at night, we transition to more like a bar," Esten explained. "We have some events at night. Sometimes we'll have people in the back doing poetry or a trivia night or an author event. On weekends, we're just a cocktail bar. We have all types of people who come into the shop."

Customers go in to buy a book and have a cocktail. Some people just come in looking for coffee or tea. Others attend events, look around, and say, "Oh wow, this is unique," Esten related. "We like to make it a really cozy space." ■

Book Club Bar's second location will open in Bushwick on May 2

Learn more at [bookclubbar.com](http://bookclubbar.com)



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# REDDING KIDS Spring Edition

## Spring into reading with Mark Twain Library



Mark Twain Library has a whole list of books to get you into the spirit of spring and celebrate the turning of the seasons. Here's a snapshot of what you can check out – from picture books for the little ones to poetry and arts books for older children. For the full list and to check them out virtually, scan the QR code.

**Shake a Leg, Egg!**  
By Kurt Cyrus

**In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb**  
By Marion Dane Bauer

**Beneath the Trees: First Spring**  
By Dav. ■

**Chicka Chicka Peep Peep**  
By Julien Chung

**And Then It's Spring**  
By Julie Fogliano

**Sketching Outdoors in Spring**  
By Jim Arnosky

**When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons**  
By Julie Fogliano



## Crossword Puzzle

### Springtime at New Pond Farm

**Across**

- A baby cow
- This grows into a plant
- Often seen basking in the pond
- Where plants grow
- What a farmer drives
- A very important pollinator

**Down**

- A baby bird
- Contains nectar
- A young plant
- Where birds lay their eggs
- A young frog
- Food for many farm animals
- A baby sheep



## Activity Corner

### Word Search

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

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden → and ↓ and ↘

- |                |            |          |        |      |
|----------------|------------|----------|--------|------|
| BOYS AND GIRLS | COUNSELORS | SOFTBALL | CRAFTS | CLUB |
| FIELD HOCKEY   | WRESTLING  | HANGOUT  | GAMES  | FUN  |
| AFTER SCHOOL   | BASEBALL   | FRIENDS  |        |      |

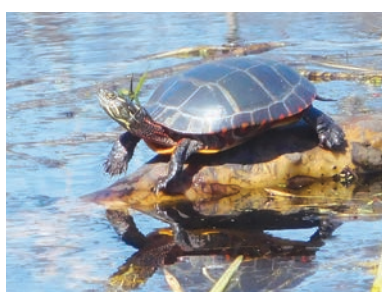
### Quiz Test your knowledge about the Boys & Girls Club

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>1. Where is the birthplace of the Boys &amp; Girls Club Movement?</b></p> <p>A. Connecticut<br/>B. Georgia<br/>C. New York</p> | <p><b>2. Which of these celebrities are famous Boys &amp; Girls Club Alumni?</b></p> <p>A. Jennifer Lopez<br/>B. Denzel Washington<br/>C. Whoopi Goldberg<br/>D. All of the Above</p> | <p><b>3. The Boys &amp; Girls Club is the official charity of which professional sports organization?</b></p> <p>A. NBA<br/>B. MLB<br/>C. NFL<br/>D. NHL</p> |
|--|---|--|

The first Boys' Club was created in Hartford, Connecticut in 1860, by three women—Elizabeth Hamersley and sisters Mary and Alice Goodwin—to give young boys a safe, positive alternative to roaming the streets.

Answers: 1. A / 2. D / 3. B

## Spring to it! Keep an eye out for lots of activity this season | By Mary Corcoran



An Eastern painted turtle



Fiddlehead ferns



Photos by Mary Corcoran  
An osprey

Spring has sprung! Many of us know and love spring. Let's take a look at what is happening in our natural world during this glorious season.

Many animals and plants spring into action after a good rest. Look around! There seems to be something happening everywhere.

Starting with damp, darker places in forests, fun things to look for are ferns, a type of green plant. We see ferns in the summer, but at first, they grow with their fronds all coiled up. This makes them look like the top of a violin or "fiddle head."

While you're in the forest, you might spot a black-capped chickadee looking to set up a nest, perhaps in a dead tree. Don't miss the migratory birds that are back from their winter spots. Look for little hummingbirds and great blue herons!

Wait, did you hear that? That was the call of an osprey. This amazing bird of prey is nesting now. You might even see them flying with a fish in their talons.

Some of our more well-known mammals (coyotes, foxes, bears) have had their babies and are busy nursing them.

I think I see Virginia! Yes, the Virginian opossum, our only marsupial (animals with a pouch). If they could talk, they would remind you to use the "o" in their opossum name, and not just possum (which is reserved for other kinds of marsupials in Australia and New Guinea).

The dad and mom opossum, called a jack and a jill, have young called joeys, bee-sized babies that must climb up to their mom's pouch (marsupium) after birth. Joeys will stay there, nursing, for around 7-10

weeks. Imagine the sight when the joeys, up to 10 at a time, get free rides on top of their mom's back!

This passel of opossum will do their job in the ecosystem, eating dead material as well as up to 5,000 ticks each year, helping to prevent the spread of Lyme disease. Have you ever seen an opossum hanging by its prehensile tail? Maybe they will yawn and show you their 50 teeth!

Shhh...raccoons are sleeping! They're nocturnal (active at night), but they will sometimes make an appearance during the day. Their cool name comes from the Powhatan, an indigenous people; their word means, "animal that scratches with its hands." Baby raccoons called kits, are born in the spring. They must wait and develop for about three weeks before they can see and to grow more fur. Raccoons

are known for sometimes dunking their food in water before eating it.

Spring also is a great time for reptiles like our Eastern painted turtles. Coming out of their muddy winter homes on the bottom of ponds, they seem to enjoy their time in the spring basking in the sun on top of rocks or logs, getting warmed up. Since they are ectotherms (cold-blooded), they have to depend on heat sources like the sun to warm them.

A painted turtle female leaves the water to make her nest and lay eggs. She may travel very close to the pond to make a nest, or she may travel farther, having to cross a road. Sadly, turtles are hit and killed by cars, many of them are females that are pregnant, looking for a place to make a nest. So, drivers must be very aware of turtles and other wildlife crossing the roads!

A painted turtle's nest is a hollow space in which she lays five or six eggs and covers them with soil. The temperature of the nest determines whether the turtle becomes a male or a female! After about 70 or 80 days, the young are ready to meet the world.

These wonderful reptiles do face other human-created problems, though. Sometimes, people with non-native red-eared slider turtles

as pets release them into the wild. This causes our painted turtles to have to compete for food and space.

What else can you do to help wildlife this spring? It's so important to leave turtles and other wildlife in the wild – do not try to make them pets! We can also put out bird houses, bat boxes (bats eat lots of mosquitoes!), or an owl nesting box.

Here's another super important tip: keep house cats inside and supervise dogs. Baby birds who are fledglings (young birds that still depend on their parents but have left the nest) can be killed by household pets. It's heartbreaking. Sometimes, parent wildlife temporarily leave babies for a short time but will return. Even fledgling birds may appear abandoned. Take the time to watch and ask experts like the wonderful people at Wildlife in Crisis in Weston, or those at DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection).

So, spring to it and enjoy all the wonders of nature in Redding this spring! ■

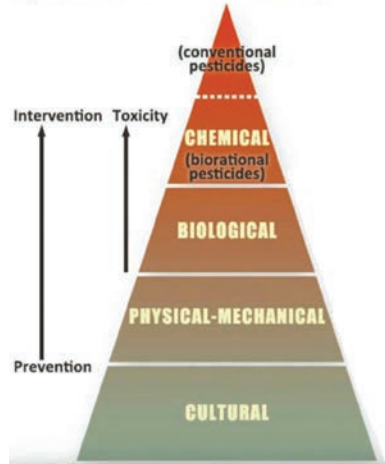
Mary K. Corcoran is a published children's book author and science teacher living in Redding

# THE NATURAL WORLD

## A field guide to synthetic, natural, organic, and biorational pesticides

### Integrated Pest Management: Part II | By Terry Karpen

#### Pyramid of IPM Tactics



A “garden variety” parody by Lester J. Hink of William Shakespeare’s most famous soliloquy from *Hamlet*:

*“To spray, or not to spray, that is the question:*

*Whether ’tis nobler in the mind to suffer*

*The slings and arrows of outrageous insects,*

*Or to take arms against a sea of aphids*

*And by spraying, end them.*

*To die—to sleep,*

*No more; and by a sleep*

*to say we end*

*The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks*

*That plants are heir to...”*

Last month’s article on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) provided the definition for this practice as: “An ecologically based approach to managing pests with an emphasis on using multiple management strategies, while minimizing risks to human health, beneficial organisms, and the environment.” The article explained the foundation of IPM, an approach that combines a range of biological, organic, cultural, mechanical, and chemical options for pest problems. Building on the IPM hierarchy presented in that article, moving up the pyramid of tactics ensures that pesticides are applied only when necessary and are specifically targeted toward an identified pest, whether it be a disease, insect, vertebrate, or weed.

Pesticides are an umbrella term for substances used for controlling, preventing, destroying, repelling, or attracting any biological organism considered to be a pest. Pesticides are categorized by their targets using the Latin suffix “-cide” (meaning “to kill”). Common types of pesticides are insecticides for insects, herbicides for plants and weeds, fungicides for mold and mildew, rodenticides for rodents, and antimicrobials for bacteria and viruses. The boundaries between synthetic (man-made), natural, and

organic pesticides are often blurred, leading to significant confusion.

**Synthetic Pesticides** – These are man-made in a laboratory, created through industrial chemical processes, and designed to repel, control, or kill “pests.” Many are “persistent,” meaning they don’t break down and stay in the soil or water for a long time. Some can be toxic to non-target species, like bees or humans, if not handled correctly. Synthetic pesticides are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**Natural Pesticides** – The term “natural” refers to the origin of the substance. If it comes from a plant, mineral, or bacteria found in nature, it’s “natural.” Generally, pesticides derived from natural sources break down more quickly in the environment than synthetics. But natural does not mean “non-toxic.” It is a fallacy to assume botanical origins equate to zero risk. For instance, Pyrethrin is highly toxic to fish and should never be applied near open water, even though it is derived from chrysanthemum flowers. When a product is labeled “natural,” consumers often skip the precautions (gloves/masks) they would normally wear when handling “synthetic” chemicals. “Natural” is not a regulated term for marketing. A product can claim to be natural but still contain synthetic additives or be used in ways that aren’t environmentally friendly. Natural pesticides are regulated by the EPA.

**Organic Pesticides** – It is a common misconception that “organic” means “pesticide-free.” Organic pest control is about the source and regulation of the substances used rather than their total absence. It isn’t a chemical-free guarantee. It generally refers to products derived from natural sources (plants, minerals, or animals) the same as for natural pesticides and different from synthetic chemicals. “Organic” describes the rules those ingredients must follow and are regulated by the USDA and tested and certified by OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute). The National Organic Program maintains what they call the “National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances.” This list is the ultimate rulebook for what counts as an organic pesticide.

**Biorational pesticides** – The term “biorational” was coined by the chemist and Stanford University professor, Carl Djerassi (1923–2015). In the late 1960s, Djerassi began exploring alternatives to conventional, broad-spectrum pesticides like DDT. At the time, the disastrous environmental consequences of these chemicals were becoming evident. Djerassi

wanted a term that differentiated his new approach from “traditional” pesticides. He proposed “biorational” – a blend of biological and rational. “Bio” meaning from natural sources and “rational” denoting scientific. Djerassi’s definition of biorationals was: “Any type of insecticide active against pest populations, but relatively innocuous to non-target organisms and therefore, non-disruptive to biological control.” Today, the term is used by the EPA and global agricultural organizations, but the biorational approach isn’t a legal definition as for an organic designation; it’s a functional one. A product is biorational if it has a low environmental footprint and breaks down quickly. Biorational pesticides are the least toxic options. To be classified as biorational, a substance generally must meet two criteria: it must be highly effective against a specific target pest and possess low toxicity toward non-target organisms. Biorational pesticides are typically divided into two main camps: biological (living) and chemical (non-living but naturally derived).

**Organic vs. Biorational Pesticides** – The two terms overlap significantly but are not identical: Organic control must comply with strict standards. Biorational is a functional and ecological guideline. Biorational pesticides align with the guiding principles for Integrated Pest Management because they align with its core goals.

**Pest Identification** – “The first, and most critical, step in any pest management program is to identify the pest correctly so that you can be sure that a problem is related to pest damage and not to some other cause.” This is sound advice from the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Organization.

According to IPM specialist, Frank Niccoli, “Chemical control is used after all other control strategies are deemed inappropriate or ineffective. Target-specific, low-toxicity pesticides should be applied in a manner that will maximize the effectiveness of pest management and minimize the exposure to humans and other non-target species. Spot treat if possible to reduce exposure.”

The moral of the story: reduce your exposure to pesticides.

A future article will look at choices of natural, organic, and biorational pesticides and their use in IPM strategies. ■

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



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## Notes from a neighbor

### Interpol anxiety | By Carter Wiseman

Some weeks ago, I got a letter from the police department in the medieval Italian city of Gubbio. I assumed this had to do with a trip my wife and I had made there last year. But my Italian is shaky, so I took the mailing to the proprietor of my favorite Italian restaurant for translation.

It turned out that, while out for dinner in Gubbio, we had inadvertently parked in a restricted spot. The fine itself was not great, but since several months had elapsed since our visit, the accumulated penalty was not nothing. I love Italy, but I confess that one of its charms for me has always been its flexible attention to rules, so I thought I would let the ticket slide and hope the Carabinieri wouldn’t notice. But I then realized that computerization may have changed the old ways, and if I ignored the fine, Interpol might put me in the slammer the next time I tried to return.

This angst was fueled by my wife’s recent run-in with our own local authorities while driving back from New York City. My wife is a highly skilled driver, but she admits that she does have a rather heavy foot, so I was not shocked to get a ticket for \$200. What did surprise me was a follow-up notice that there was a \$300 add-on reflecting the number of miles over the limit. Scores of fruitless phone calls and e-mails in protest persuaded us that we might end up on Rikers Island, so we paid.

My growing paranoia over traffic surveillance only got worse some weeks later when I was pulled over doing about 35 on my way to Trader Joe’s. The cop explained that my registration had expired. But how would you know that if I was driving under the speed limit and using my turn signals, I asked. He explained that his dashboard camera automatically fed images of license plates into a master computer, and that my number was flagged as overdue. When I showed the officer my current – valid – registration, he waved me on, sheepishly muttering something about software malfunctions.

I drove off feeling vindicated but then thought that if my own police force can pinch me by mistake for something I didn’t do, I might want to rethink my feelings about the Italian justice system.

As I said, my Italian is not great, but one expression that has worked in most crises on past visits is *Mi dispiace*. It translates roughly as, “I’m sorry.” On the Post Road, I think I’m better with, “Yes, officer?” Meanwhile, I am hoping that Italy has retained some of its traditional inefficiencies. Should that not be the case, we are thinking that our next trip abroad might be to France, Spain – or perhaps Germany.

I understand that the *Bundesbahn* no longer runs on time. ■

**Redding’s Big Outdoors: Spring sightseeing through Poliak Preserve / continued from page 1**

rised to my feet and looked behind me in the direction of the rushing water (in hindsight, of course, this is where I should have looked first) that I saw two massive ones, evidence of the hardworking creatures I sought. I marveled at the beavers’ workmanship and waited for a while to see if any were in the construction mood. No dice, but I didn’t mind. The outing had already been well worth my time.

Such an enjoyable afternoon it was, I decided to veer off and extend my walk slightly with the walking of Saul’s Loop. Into the woods I went, marveling at a vast marshy wetland. I’m sure it was filled with its own menagerie of creatures.

As I joined back up with Janice’s Loop for the final one-third or so of the walk around the pond, I spotted something moving on the opposite side of the water. A great blue heron was wading elegantly, curving and stretching its neck as it reveled in the sunshine. Pleased I had spotted a water creature after all, I returned to my car, tucking this place away for a future return, this time for a “creature hunt” with my two children. ■

*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*

**PURA approves deep cuts to public benefits charge on electric bills / continued from page 1**

role in October, and the board has since been filled with four new members.)

“The former PURA leadership set the rates higher than the actual cost of those State-mandated contracts last year, despite our strong recommendation to the contrary,” Ratliff said. “Customers are basically seeing a refund of that cost.”

Ratliff said customers could experience another increase in the public benefits charge once that payback period ends next year. And, while she acknowledged that the newly-appointed PURA board has taken some steps toward stabilizing price swings within the public benefits charge, she said the company is “committed to advocating for bill stability and predictability for customers and [is] eager to continue working with the new PURA commission on solutions to advance that goal.”

PURA’s decision did little to alter the two largest components

of electric bills: supply and distribution charges. New summer supply rates are typically announced in June.

“The issue is supply, and at the end of the day you’re nibbling around the edges when you’re talking about public benefits,” said House Speaker Matt Ritter, D-Hartford. “We need more supply.”

One of the top Republicans on the legislature’s Energy and Technology Committee, State Senator Ryan Fazio, R-Greenwich, predicted on Wednesday that much of the reduction to the public benefits charge would wind up shifted onto other parts of customers’ bills due to circumstances mostly outside of lawmakers’ control. (Fazio is also seeking the Republican nomination for governor in this year’s elections.)

Connecticut’s contracts to purchase nuclear power perform best, Fazio argued, when the price of natural gas is high — as it was this

winter and since the beginning of the Iran war in February.

At the same time, the state — like the rest of New England — relies on gas to fuel many of its power plants, meaning higher prices also drive up the cost of electricity generation that is paid for through the supply portion of customer bills.

“Today’s announcement is mostly because of external factors — not entirely, but mostly because of external factors — like the supply rate of electricity on the market going up,” Fazio said.

The Millstone contract, in particular, was widely blamed for a temporary spike in utility bills that occurred during the summer of 2024. Since then, that agreement and similar deal with Seabrook have returned \$450 million to the State’s electric customers over the last two years, according to Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Katie Dykes.

“Because these contracts lock in energy at fixed prices, it demonstrates the benefits and the foresight of the State’s investment in zero-carbon, nuclear energy and other renewable resources,” Dykes said. “We appreciate that this has been a critical tool to help insulate us and our ratepayers, from some volatility in fossil fuel prices that are driven by geopolitical events.”

PURA’s decision on Wednesday also allowed Eversource to add \$100 million to a reserve fund used to pay down the costs of responding to various storms between 2018 and 2023. Eversource has been engaged in lengthy discussions with PURA about recouping those costs — which the company says amount to more than \$1 billion in total — including the possibility of securitizing them in order to lessen the impact on customers.

Interim Commissioner Everett Smith addressed the storm costs issue in his comments prior to last

week’s vote, saying he would have preferred to utilize the timing of reduced rates to set aside up to \$250 million toward paying down those costs.

“Accumulated storm costs are a bill that will have to be paid,” Smith said. “Taking advantage of this and every opportunity to do so now reduces the ratepayer impact in the future.”

Eversource officials have urged PURA to resolve the issue of storm costs in time to coincide with the introduction of new electric distribution rates in mid-2027. Those rates will be determined through proceedings with PURA that are expected to begin later this year. ■

*This article originally appeared in CT Mirror*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies  
R = registration required

## This Week's Featured Events

### Mark Twain Library's Frog Frolic

**Saturday, May 2**  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Annual free outdoor family festival with food, games, live music, and activities  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
mtlfrogfrolic.org

### Tickets on sale now: Troop 15 Spaghetti Dinner

**Saturday, May 2**  
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
West Redding Firehouse  
306 Umpawaug Road  
reddingtroop15.org  
\$

### Revitalize Georgetown - Vision Plan Public Session

**Sunday, May 3**  
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Hear about the final redevelopment plans for Georgetown  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
reddingct.gov/revitalize-georgetown-project

### Town & Region 9 Board of Education Budget Referendum

**Tuesday, May 5**  
6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
reddingct.gov/government/town-administration/registrars-voters/2022-upcoming-elections

## MEETINGS

**Monday, May 4**

**Region 9 Annual District Meeting**  
7:00 p.m.  
Joel Barlow High School / Library Learning Commons  
100 Black Rock Turnpike

**Monday, May 4**

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

**Monday, May 4**

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

**Tuesday, May 5**

**Town & Region 9 Board of Education Budget Referendum**  
6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
reddingct.gov/government/town-administration/registrars-voters/2022-upcoming-elections

**Tuesday, May 5**

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

**Tuesday, May 5**

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

**Tuesday, May 5**

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

**Tuesday, May 5**

**Board of Finance**  
8:15 p.m.  
Virtual

**Wednesday, May 6**

**Ives Trail Meeting**  
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Town Hall / Conference Room  
100 Hill Road

**Monday, May 11**

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

**Tuesday, May 12**

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

**Tuesday, May 12**

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

**Wednesday, May 13**

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

**Wednesday, May 13**

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

**Thursday, May 14**

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

\*See meeting agendas and minutes at [reddingct.gov/agendas-minutes](http://reddingct.gov/agendas-minutes)

## AMERICA 250

**Thursday, April 30**

**Charles Ives, His Life and Music**  
7:00 p.m.  
Learn about Charles Ives and his musical legacy and the ties to the upcoming May 30 concert celebration put on by Redding's America 250  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
redding250.com  
R

**Thursday, April 30**

**Creative Survival: African Heritage Enslavement & Freedom in Early New England**  
7:00 p.m.  
Presentation by Rhode Island's Historian Laureate  
Helen Keller Middle School  
360 Sport Hill Road  
Easton

**Thursday, April 30**

**The Importance of Connecticut to the Revolution with Mike Allen**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Wilton Historical Society  
224 Danbury Road, Wilton  
wiltonhistorical.org/  
america-250-wilton-300  
\$, R

**Saturday, May 30**

**Redding 250 Concert**  
7:00 p.m.  
Performance by Greater Bridgeport Symphony Orchestra and Joel Barlow High School musicians of patriotic music, including *Three Places in New England* by Charles Ives  
Joel Barlow High School  
100 Black Rock Turnpike  
redding250.com  
\$

## ARTS

**Saturday, May 2**

**Weavings, Wires, Roots, and Branches: Artist Talk**  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Printing demonstration, artist talk, and live musical accompaniment  
The Granite  
5 North Main Street  
thegranitechurch.org

**Sunday, May 3**

**Classical Guitarist Bret Williams: Allen & Helen Hermes Art Series**  
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Intimate session of live music  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwinlibrary.org  
R

**Friday, May 8**

**Friday Cocktail Hour and Curator Walkthrough**  
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Kick off your weekend with group exhibition "Charged Field"  
GTown Arts, 5 Main Street  
gtownarts.com

**Friday, May 8**

**Rock Hearts**  
7:00 p.m.  
Five-piece bluegrass band  
The Granite  
5 North Main Street  
thegranitechurch.org  
\$

## CHILDREN | TEENS

**Friday, May 1**

**Stories and Strolls (ages 1-5)**  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Seasonal stories and exploratory walks through farm's property  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
newpondfarm.org  
\$, R

**Saturday, May 2**

**Mark Twain Library's Frog Frolic**  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Annual free outdoor family festival with food, games, live music, and activities  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
mtlfrogfrolic.org

**Tuesday, May 5**

**Topstone Family Story Time**  
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Birth to 5, weather permitting  
Topstone Park  
72 Topstone Road  
marktwinlibrary.org  
R

**Thursday, May 7 – Saturday, May 9**

**JRMS Players present Annie Jr.**  
7:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday  
2:00 p.m. Saturday  
Run time 1 hour and 15 minutes  
Joel Barlow High School  
100 Black Rock Turnpike  
jrms.booktix.com/dept/CS/e/2026  
\$

## HOLIDAYS | SEASONAL

**Sunday, May 3**

**Pre-Mother's Day Book Talk with Easton Author Danielle Sanjenis**  
3:30 p.m.  
Talk on *You Can't Scare Me, I Have Three Daughters*  
Greiser's  
299 Center Road  
Easton  
greisers.com/greisers-events  
\$, R

**Sunday, May 10**

**Mother's Day at The Roadhouse**  
11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Four seatings available  
The Redding Roadhouse  
406 Redding Road  
thereddingroadhouse.com  
\$, R

## FOOD | WINE

**Saturday, May 2**

**Tickets on sale now: Troop 15 Spaghetti Dinner**  
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
West Redding Firehouse  
306 Umpawaug Road  
reddingtroop15.org  
\$

## NATURE

**Wednesday, May 6**

**Spring Migration: Birding with Joe Bear**  
7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
Leisurely two-hour walk with expert birder  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
newpondfarm.org  
R

**Saturday, May 9**

**Redding Garden Club Plant Sale**  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Community event with plants, advice, activities, and non-profit groups  
Lonetown Farm  
43 Lonetown Road  
reddinggardenclub.org/upcoming-events  
R

**Saturday, May 9**

**Community Hiking Club: The Great Ledge with Peter Lunde**  
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.  
Register for The Great Ledge and Bedford Trail Loop  
marktwinlibrary.org  
R

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**Saturday, May 2 – Monday, May 4**

**Minks to Sinks Tag Sale**  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Saturday  
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sunday  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Monday  
Wilton High School grounds  
395 Danbury Road, Wilton  
familyandchildrency.org/minks-to-sinks

**Sunday, May 3**

**Revitalize Georgetown - Vision Plan Public Session**  
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Hear about the final redevelopment plans for Georgetown  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
reddingct.gov/revitalize-georgetown-project

**Thursday, May 7**

**"Mom, I Have Something to Tell You" Screening and Discussion**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
In Partnership with Mental Health Connecticut & Triangle Community Center, discussion on supporting loved ones coming out about sexual orientation  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwinlibrary.org  
R

**Friday, May 15**

**Annual Community Tag Sale**  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
E-mail mpilato@reddingct.gov or (203) 938-9725 to sign up as vendor



Want to feature an upcoming event?

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**Joseph Porricelli**  
Branch Vice President  
203.515.6310  
joe.porricelli@cbrealty.com



**Jennifer Margnelli**  
Assistant Brokerage Manager  
646.245.1383  
jennifer.magnelli@cbrealty.com

1 & 2 Based on information from Greenwich Association of REALTORS, SmartMLS Inc. 4/1/2025-3/31/2026. The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2025 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logo are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.

