

# REDDING SENTINEL

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## State seeks new contracts for nuclear power, renewables

By John Moritz

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) said on January 30 that it would begin seeking new contracts for carbon-free electricity from large power generators, including the Millstone Nuclear Power Station in Waterford.

The announcement marks the start of the agency's latest round of "grid scale" clean energy procurement, which began in 2011. Several years later, officials used that process to provide a lifeline to Millstone after its owner threatened to shut the plant down due to the difficulty of competing against lower-cost natural gas. As part of a 10-year contract that expires in

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Photo by Toby Welles

Nature bestowed a "snow toupee" on General Putnam at Putnam Memorial State Park. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, e-mail [editor@reddingsentinel.org](mailto:editor@reddingsentinel.org).

## Tuning up for Redding's America 250 Preparations underway for spring events and symphony concert

By Jessie Wright

An idea, a vision, and a challenge to pull it all off – preparations are now underway to bring the Greater Bridgeport Symphony to Redding on May 30 for an historic and educational concert to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the country's founding and Redding's role in the American Revolution.

The concert program, set to take place at Joel Barlow High School, will feature Charles Ives's celebrated work, *Three Places in New England*, specifically the movement titled "Putnam's Camp," which was inspired by the composer's visit to the local landmark. Charles Ives lived in Redding for many years and was a highly influential 20th century composer in American music.

The event is being spearheaded by Sean McNamara, a member of the Redding Historical Cemetery Committee and the owner of Redding Nursery. McNamara, a musician himself who fell in love with music while he was a student at Joel Barlow High School, thought that a concert featuring Ives's work and student musicians was a

perfect intersection of Redding's history, musical legacy, education, and patriotism.

"Problem with Charles Ives, is it's very complicated music," said McNamara. "There was no way that the high school band was going to be able to play it."

Enter the professional musicians of the Greater Bridgeport Symphony. In addition to performing the work on May 30, musicians with the Symphony will be joined by Barlow musicians in the second half of the concert to play beloved patriotic classics together.

The idea and vision are set – now, McNamara, along with a small team of friends and community connections, are working to make it a reality.

"What we need now is to get funding to make it all happen. It's going to cost about \$30,000 to bring (the symphony) in," said McNamara. Half of that amount will be in ticket sales if community interest in the event is high enough. The other half will need to be through donations and sponsorships. McNamara has set up a

website to be the landing page for the project ([redding250.com](http://redding250.com)), and all donations go directly to Greater Bridgeport Symphony, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit.

McNamara also hopes to build momentum for the concert event by partnering with several local organizations for other, smaller Redding's America250 events throughout the spring. This evening, February 5 at 7:00 p.m., Town Co-historians will kick off the efforts with a talk at Mark Twain Library called "Redding During the Revolution." McNamara is in talks with Redding Land Trust, Putnam Memorial State Park, Redding Historical Society, Meadow Ridge, and others to put together additional programming throughout the spring.

"Redding has all these really great groups and great support," McNamara said. "I just want to tie all of that in together if I can and include everyone." ■

Learn more or support at [redding250.com](http://redding250.com)

## REDDING'S BIG OUTDOORS

### Backyard tracking | By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

After five days of single-digit temperatures, my son had had it. "Mom," he implored, "can we please go play outside?" I too had been itching to take our usual weekly outing to one of our parks

or open spaces, but the snow was still too deep and the trails too icy. We settled for our own backyard, bundling up and deciding 18 degrees with sunlight felt downright balmy.

The patio was covered in dark speckles, the shells of the sunflower seeds we had filled our birdfeeder with before the big snow. For days, my kids had pulled up their camping chairs near the door in our kitchen to watch "bird TV" as hundreds of nuthatches, cardinals, sparrows, chickadees, blue jays, and woodpeckers feasted and fought over the oily snacks. As we crunched over the mess they had made, thousands of their delicate footprints – across our patio furniture, under the magnolia tree, along our doorstep – retold the drama.

We trudged through the pathways our dogs had created in

the last week around and across the yard, ribbons of their exuberant daily chases frozen into the drifts. One pathway brought us to a gentle slope on the east side of the yard, untouched by canine romping. Looking more closely, we saw little clumps of four pawprints, about a foot-and-a-half between each group. "What's this?" I wondered. Too big for a squirrel, too crisp for our pups. "Bunny tracks!" I exclaimed, and my son abandoned the ice chunk he had been licking to come look.

Nearby, a group of thin lines in the snow spread out before us like an intricate map. Above them was an adolescent weeping cherry tree, its long branches brushing against the snowpack. I had never thought of trees making tracks before, but

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## Bridges make capital planning a moving target

By Rocco Valluzzo

As it prepares to examine the capital spending plans of several municipal departments, the Board of Finance accepted the report of the Long Range Financial Planning Committee at its Monday, January 26 meeting.

In the report, Town Treasurer Wes Higgins identified \$23.84 million in spending over the next five years. The Town has about 50 projects identified over the next five years, including a renewed road plan.

The largest capital expenditure is the replacement of the four bridges that were destroyed in the August 2024 storm, which on a gross basis is just under \$11 million and net after expected support from the Federal government and State agencies a little over \$4.3 million.

Higgins noted that the bridge replacement program is a complex project in terms of design as well as timing. The Committee recommends using bond anticipation notes as projects play out over the next several years.

"The bond anticipation note allows us to fund these projects as they ramp up with a little more flexibility and lock in long-term financing when we know exactly how much and when our commitment to the bridges will kick in," said Higgins.

Oxford, a town similarly affected by the flood, borrowed \$4 million as part of a \$16 million bond anticipation note for its bridge work at 2.7%. Higgins felt that this perhaps would be a bit lower now that short rates have eased.

Overall, the estimate over the next five years from the Redding Board of Education is about \$4.1 million, said Higgins. It has identified its projects in two ways: those to be completed within the next two years and others that are identified but not yet within near-term focus.

"They freely admit that the roof projects need to be assessed again," he said. "That will be updated in due course as it does not appear as if the roof needs to be accomplished in the next two years or so."

The Water Pollution Control Commission (WPCC) has six capital expenditures totaling about \$1.2 million. Two involve roofing.

The Committee also recommended that, should surpluses occur in this fiscal year or next, the Board of Finance consider designating some or all of those available funds towards future capital spending. This will help cushion the blow of a rather significant spending requirement in the next three years.

Board of Finance Chairman Ward Mazzucco said the timing of the municipal and school projects will have an impact on how much the Town borrows and when. He noted opportunities to defer some of the capital items concerning schools and inquired if there were any other opportunities to

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## EDITORIAL

# The work of today

This week, the first of several events in Redding will take place in celebration of America's 250th anniversary. In many of our neighboring communities as well, events and initiatives are coming together; lectures at libraries and museums, art exhibitions, community arts projects, live performances, and visits to historic sites will be happening throughout the year to celebrate the ideals of the nation's founding and revisit the history of the Revolutionary era.

Redding of course has deep ties to the Revolutionary War and the struggle for independence. Historic battles and army encampments took place next door to where we now do our shopping or where we take our dogs on walks. In speaking with one of our Town historians last week about America250 programming, he reminded me that during the time of the Revolutionary War, there were two distinct groups in Redding – the Congregationalists who were led by Nathaniel Bartlett, and members of the Anglican church led by John Beach. "Half the town wanted to have independence and half the town wanted to remain loyal to the king," he said. Deep, deep disagreement between neighbors, and yet – Redding remains.

The semiquincentennial is coming at a time when many Americans are grappling with what the future of our country will (or should) look like – which ultimately is fitting. The job of maintaining a healthy democracy is never over. It is our duty and privilege to strive for a country built on its founding ideals. "America250" gives us an opportunity to learn more of our history, but also is an acute reminder that, as Girl Scouts Founder Juliette Gordon Low said, "The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers."

We encourage you to attend or participate in the America250 events and initiatives around area. Details on Redding events can be found at [redding250.com](http://redding250.com), [marktwinlibrary.org](http://marktwinlibrary.org), and in our weekly Calendar of Events. ■

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We welcome Letters to the Editor. Please be clear, civil, and concise. E-mail [editor@reddingsentinel.org](mailto:editor@reddingsentinel.org) with submissions.

### To the Editor,

I am writing in response to the recent *Sentinel* article, "Community Garden fence project may not include expansion," to provide additional context based on my involvement with the community garden.

Over the past year, I participated in multiple meetings with the Park and Recreation Director, along with other garden members, to review plans for the garden. These discussions focused on improving the layout, relocating water spigots, and recommending fence features to deter critters. Garden expansion was also actively planned during these meetings, as it seemed like a reasonable and efficient opportunity given that the fence was not expected to be replaced again for 15 to 20 years and interest in gardening in Redding continues to grow.

Based on preliminary layouts, it was estimated that approximately 11 to 15 additional plots could be added, helping address the existing waitlist while leveraging the same construction effort planned for the fence replacement. During the meetings I attended, the septic issue was not identified as a constraint that would halt expansion, nor were concerns raised about impacts to the historic vista. At the time, expansion appeared feasible and aligned with both community interest and long-term planning considerations.

The fence replacement is clearly necessary. At the same time, the expansion plan represented an opportunity to increase access to a well-used community asset that supports food access, sustainability, and community connection. Given ongoing demand for gardening, I hope the Town will consider identifying alternative locations for additional community garden space so more residents can participate. ■

Lesley Barewin, Winding Brook Lane

### State seeks new contracts for nuclear power, renewables / continued from page 1

2029, Connecticut agreed to purchase half of Millstone's output at the set price of \$50 per megawatt hour.

Like all the grid scale clean energy contracts, utility customers pay a premium on Millstone's power whenever it's higher than the wholesale cost of electricity – typically determined by the price of gas. But when the cost of electricity rises above the contract price, customers receive a credit on their bills.

In an interview, DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes said the agency's latest round of bidding "could write a new chapter for the future of Millstone," as well as the Seabrook Station Nuclear Power Plant in New Hampshire.

"Energy market prices are higher," Dykes said, referring to the rising costs of both natural gas and electricity in New England. The result, she said, is that customers could get a better deal from nuclear and other forms of clean energy.

"Our context for this [request for proposals, or RFP] is not necessarily driven by trying to prevent a retirement, but instead we think that there's an opportunity through this RFP to potentially extend the hedging value of signing on to a long-term contract for Millstone's output at a lower price, potentially, than what we might see in the energy market and then providing that revenue certainty that we know these nuclear facilities prefer."

Millstone produces about one-third of all the electricity generated in Connecticut, as well as the vast majority of the state's carbon-free power. The plant's two reactors are licensed to continue operating until 2035 and 2045, respectively, though its operators are seeking an extension that will allow Millstone to run for several decades beyond that.

The Millstone contract attracted scrutiny following a temporary spike in electricity prices in 2024.

But Dykes said the deal with the two nuclear power plants together has saved utility customers \$153 million over the last six years.

Susan Adams, a spokeswoman for Millstone's owner, Dominion Energy, said in a statement Friday that company is reviewing DEEP's latest procurement request with the "goal" of submitting a bid.

"We recognize that several New England states have expressed interest in participating, and DEEP has indicated it will coordinate bid evaluation and selection with those states, though details on that process have not yet been provided," Adams said. "Importantly, Millstone's existing power purchase agreement remains in place."

In addition to nuclear, Dykes said DEEP will also accept proposals for solar, wind, energy storage, hydropower, and associated transmission projects.

In its latest round of clean-energy procurement announced in December, the agency selected three solar projects in Connecticut and Vermont with a total output of 67 megawatts. That round was expedited to take advantage of federal tax credits that are being phased out by the Trump administration.

Other projects that have been selected under DEEP's previous clean-energy procurement include the Revolution Wind farm off the coast of Rhode Island.

The bidding process also has at times highlighted challenges in the development of clean, affordable electricity. In order to be selected, projects must be deemed to be in the best interest of utility customers and any contracts to purchase power need to be reviewed and approved by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority.

In 2024, Connecticut passed on selecting any new offshore wind projects after officials, including Governor Ned Lamont, raised concerns about the cost of the bids. Since then, President Donald Trump's efforts to halt offshore

wind projects has dimmed the outlook for that industry.

"There's quite a bit of uncertainty around what financing might look like," for renewable energy projects, said Kate McAuliffe, a senior policy advocate at the Acadia Center, a non-profit research and advocacy group focused on clean energy in the Northeast. "I think that makes it even more imperative for the state to move quickly on this," she added. "Anything that [DEEP] can do to expedite the process, whether that's in permitting or approvals, to make sure that other mature projects can go online, that'll be really important. And then the results that we see in response to this will be pretty illustrative of what the industry is going to look like."

The year's grid scale energy procurement will also be the first conducted under a new law requiring DEEP to coordinate with at least two other New England states over agreements to buy nuclear power. The states may also collaborate over non-nuclear, bids, though they are not required to do so. Dykes said that Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont and Maine have all expressed interest in participating.

Dykes said that DEEP will also consider projects that have bid into a similar solicitation from Maine Public Utilities Commission for the development of on-shore wind and transmission lines in the northern parts of that state.

Lauren Savidge, the director of DEEP's Office of Energy Supply and Infrastructure, said that officials will begin evaluating bids this spring, before announcing winners in the second quarter of this year. The state's electric utilities, Ever-source and United Illuminating, will then enter into negotiations with the winners before submitting any contracts for PURA review by the end of this year. ■

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## LEGAL NOTICE

### Notice of Balloting Regarding Proposed Establishment of Redding Historic District #1 Pursuant to Section 7 147b of the Connecticut State Statutes

Ballots were sent via First Class Mail on Thursday, January 15, 2026, to each property owner of the proposed historic district eligible to vote in such balloting. Completed ballots must be signed and dated, inserted in the provided inner envelope, and returned to the Town Clerk in the outer envelope having the words "Official Ballot" on the outside. The ballots must be received by the Town Clerk no later than 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. ■

Michele R. Grande,  
Redding Town Clerk

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### Bridges make capital planning a moving target / continued from page 1

determine if other expenditures could be deferred.

Higgins said the WPCC indicated that its roof requirements are flexible in terms of timing. The roofs are identified as past their scheduled replacement dates but are not in difficulty yet and could be deferred.

"The key here is really to see what progress is made over the next

two or three months in the discussion of bridge design, execution, and funding," Higgins clarified. "That's the big piece that seems to slide around on us when we start doing forecasts."

The Board of Finance will consider the report and make detailed approvals at its next meeting on February 23. ■

**Redding Sentinel Ltd**  
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**Publisher, Susan Clark**  
**Managing Editor, Jessie Wright**  
**Creative Director, Debora DeCarlo Rosa**  
**Assistant Graphic Designer, Connor Feeney**  
**Marketing Operations Manager, Nicole DuBois**

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

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**203.938.3800**

**Contact us at:**  
**[editor@reddingsentinel.org](mailto:editor@reddingsentinel.org)**  
**[advertise@reddingsentinel.org](mailto:advertise@reddingsentinel.org)**  
**[subscribe@reddingsentinel.org](mailto:subscribe@reddingsentinel.org)**  
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## Survey on school counseling departments to be sent to John Read and Joel Barlow families

By Anne Young Albanese

At the Tuesday, January 27 joint Boards of Education meeting (including Redding, Easton, and Region 9 Boards of Education), the group discussed an upcoming survey for middle and high school students and their families. The survey is a needs assessment for the counseling departments and is being developed based on national counseling standards. The target for distribution of the survey is mid-February, prior to February break.

Joel Barlow High School counselors have been working with their counterparts at John Read Middle School and Helen Keller Middle School in Easton to look at the work they do and to ensure that it aligns, starting in fifth grade up through senior year. The goal is to create a system that builds upon itself, year over year.

While the specific survey questions are not currently available, they will include questions about academics, friendship, coping feelings and communication, school and community, and career-related topics. There will be three different surveys: one for parents, one for high school students, and one for middle school students. The focus of the questions will remain the same across the surveys, but the questions will be adjusted to

be developmentally appropriate for students in each school.

One of the drafted questions that was discussed at the joint Boards meeting appears on the parent survey. It asked what the most important domain is for the parent's child to focus on in the counseling department, with the domain options being social, emotional, personal development, career development, and academic development. The original draft of the survey asked parents to pick one category. The Boards thought it would be more effective to ask parents to rank the areas in order of importance. In addition, the question will allow parents to answer, "I don't know."

Another point of discussion was a question from the student survey addressing peer pressure. Members from the Boards wanted to clarify whether the students were being asked about their personal skills when addressing peer pressure, or if they knew how to get help to address it. The question will identify each student's feelings about their personal skills to see if that is an area where the counseling departments should focus.

Board members also discussed a question about the students' organizational skills. The original phrasing focused on general organization,

and Board members wanted to narrow that question to address organizing schoolwork and homework specifically. The same type of issue was raised about group projects. Board members pointed out that some students may respond that they do not work well with others when they actually mean that they feel that they do more than their fair share of project work.

The largest challenge for the schools when they are conducting surveys is a low response rate. Board members discussed some options to increase participation, such as giving students time during the school day to respond to the surveys. The administration also has been asked to work with parents to determine the most effective method of distribution.

There is no additional cost associated with distributing the survey; the process is incorporated into the counseling and curriculum departments. The surveys will be distributed online, although the exact method has not yet been determined. The results of the survey will be used to identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities in relation to state and national standards for the school counseling framework. ■

## Zoning Commission keeps hearing open on proposed accessory apartment

By Rocco Valluzzo

Needing more information regarding the application and site plan, the Zoning Commission opted to keep a public hearing open for the second time on a special use permit application for a detached garage and accessory apartment at 70 Cross Highway. The public hearing will continue February 11. The Planning Commission, which has been discussing the matter and will make a referral for Zoning to consider, also opted to continue their discussion before issuing its referral. Its next meeting is February 10.

Owners Edward and Stacey Steinmetz, who live across the street at 67 Cross Highway, wish to provide an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) for their son and daughter-in-law. Stacey's mother currently lives in the main residence at 70 Cross Highway.

Zoning regulations require an owner to reside in either the main residence or ADU on a property throughout the duration of the ADU's use. Zoning Enforcement Officer Mike Moran said he confirmed with the Town Attorney Steve Stafstrom that "owner" simply meant someone listed on the deed of the property, allowing the Steinmetzes to deed only a small portion of the property to their son to comply with that regulation. Tim

Draper of T & M Lawn and Landscape, agent for the owners, said that their son will soon become a 1% owner of the property.

The proposed garage structure is 28 feet x 28 feet, and approximately 700 square feet. The second-floor ADU above the garage will be approximately 680 square feet. The ADU would include two bedrooms and one bath.

According to Draper, the owners have no plans to subdivide the 4.6-acre property. The proposed site work will disturb less than 0.5 acres.

The property is home to what many call the "Daffodil Field." Every spring, more than 40,000 daffodils bloom on the property, planted and divided by the property's former owner, Bud McQuade, as a tribute to his wife. Draper has informed the Zoning Commission that the Steinmetzes plan to continue allowing public access to their private land while the flowers are in bloom.

Both commissions cited a letter from abutting property owner Susan Lockwood which stated the application was incomplete and did not meet the requirements for a special use permit according to Section 5.2 of the Zoning Regulations. She noted the plot plan omits the exterior stairs, which is

the only entrance and exit. Electric and telephone lines are also not shown. Some of the drawings in the application file also are from a project with the same dimensions that Draper built for other clients.

"I'm not comfortable weighing in on a project if it's not the drawings that are actually for the grade at this property," said Planning Commission member Kate Perry. "It's a similar grade, but no two properties are ever going to be identical. I feel very uncomfortable with the fact that there aren't accurate drawings to this property. I don't understand how it's a complete application if it's not drawings for this specific property."

Draper noted the building plans were for a similar structure already built and were basically a stock set of plans. He has spoken to the Steinmetzes, and the plans will be updated to meet the necessary requirements.

Planning Commission member Elizabeth Jensen felt more information was needed to feel comfortable with making a referral to the Zoning Commission.

Zoning Commission Chairman Matt Lecher also cited the need for an accurate survey map and a detailed site plan demonstrating compliance with regulations. ■

## Boards of Ed approve 2026-27 Central Office budget

By Anne Young Albanese

At the January 27 joint Boards of Education meeting (including the Easton, Redding, and Region 9 Boards of Education), ER9 Superintendent Dr. Jason McKinnon presented a \$2,463,564 Central Office budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Representing a 3.89% increase from the current fiscal year, the budget was passed unanimously by all three boards.

The three school districts share the Central Office, which houses district administrators and certain resources that are shared among the districts' five schools. Employee salaries make up 75% of the Central Office budget, which for

2026-27 comes to \$1,855,572, an increase of 4.5%. Employee benefits are 13% of the overall budget at \$314,526. This is an increase of 7.2% or \$21,100 from the current fiscal year.

Lease, building maintenance, and utilities are 6.5% of the Central Office budget, with a total cost of \$159,264. This is an increase of 12.9% or \$18,239 above the current fiscal year. Legal/audit and other professional services account for 2.4% of the Central Office budget, for a total of \$60,000, with no increase from this year. Technology and phone/internet are 1.3% of the budget for a total of \$33,000. This

is a decrease of \$28,000 or 45.9% from this year. Dues, fees, conferences, and travel make up 1% of the overall budget, with no change from this year. The final cost center is supplies, which makes up less than 1% of the budget. It will decrease by \$900 or 5.1%.

Each district's share will be \$821,188. Central Office costs make up 3% of Redding's current total proposed 2026-27 budget. Since the Region 9 proposed budget will be presented later this month, the Central Office percentage of that budget is not yet available. ■

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## POLICE BLOTTER

### West Redding stop sign relocated

Police activity January 19 – February 1

By Donna Christopher



Police responded to 10 citizen assistance calls and six emergency medical service calls in the two-week period. They responded to two untimely deaths, one juvenile emergency, and made a well-being check to a residence. Two emergency committals were carried out for residents experiencing a mental health crisis.

#### West Redding stop sign

Police moved a stop sign on Side Cut Road a short distance to be nearer the railroad crossing because it was out of compliance with the Department of Transportation's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Chief Robert Kalamaras said. A road safety audit by the Connecticut Department of Transportation was conducted by the T2 Center at the University of Connecticut, which determined that this was the more appropriate location.

The stop sign had been installed at its previous location in front of 3 Side Cut Road in April 2023 by the Public Works Department, who had coordinated with the Police Department at the time on placement.

#### Traffic

In 58 motor vehicle stops during the two-week period, police issued two summonses, 17 infractions,

eight written warnings, and 30 verbal warnings, and one case where no action was taken. The infraction rate was 33%.

A car hit a pole on Stepney Road just before 1:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 20. The airbags deployed and the operator was transported to Danbury Hospital.

A postal worker struck a mailbox on Kimberly Drive on Friday, January 23.

#### Snowstorm

Police assisted two motorists with disabled vehicles on Gallows Hill Road the day of the snowstorm on Sunday, January 25. A vehicle left in the roadway on Newtown Turnpike that day was towed.

#### Suspicious incidents

Police responded to three suspicious incident calls. One was a report from Topstone Road of a car alarm going off for hours.

Another was a report from Winding Brook Court from someone who said a male had come to the door to pick up a stand-up mixer, which the caller did not have. Police made no contact.

On Hopewell Woods Road on January 28, police were called to a silver sedan parked with its lights on and engine running, with the driver gone on arrival.

#### Fraud

There were two calls for fraud in the one-week period. On January 19, someone reported fraudulent activity on a credit card. On January 22, someone opened a credit card using a complainant's name.

On Hemlock Trail, someone reported on January 19 that a scammer was leaving harassing messages on their phone. ■

## Applications now open for Redding Republicans' Matthew L. Berry Memorial Scholarship

By Tom Derderian

Applications are now open for the Matthew L. Berry Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship, which is sponsored by the Redding Republican Town Committee and funded by the Berry family, will award \$2,000 to a qualifying applicant who is a legal resident of Redding. Applications are available at Joel Barlow High School Counseling Office. Contact Jean Talamelli at jtalamelli@er9.org.

The Matthew L. Berry Memorial Scholarship was established seven years ago to honor the memory of Matthew L. Berry, a 2009 graduate of Joel Barlow High School who loved America, was intensely interested in the political process, and

was committed to participating as an engaged, informed citizen. The goal of the scholarship is to recognize and support a college-bound senior who has distinguished himself/herself through a record of academic and extracurricular achievement, involvement, and leadership in school and community activities and a desire to use their future education to make a positive difference in the world.

Last year's recipient was Willow Bradford, who is currently a freshman at Barnard College and pursuing a major in Political Science.

The deadline for filing applications for this year's scholarship is April 10, 2026. ■

## SPORTS

## Victory over Kolbe is first in years

Girls basketball | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Gwen Miller scored 13 points in a girls varsity basketball game against Kolbe Cathedral on Wednesday, January 28. Barlow won 38-33.

What its defense started in the first half, its offense would help finish in the second for the Joel Barlow High girls varsity basketball team when it hosted Kolbe Cathedral.

The Falcons held the competition to less than 10 points in the entire first half on Wednesday, January 28. The Cougars did have better luck in the second, but by then Barlow's offense got in gear for a 38-33 win. It was Barlow's first win over Kolbe in six years.

"I think our defense frustrated them," said Barlow Head Coach Joe Carollo. "They're not used to scoring that low."

Barlow clung to 2-0 lead for much of the first quarter on a basket by Gwen Miller until Kolbe's Aaliyah Martinez netted her team's first points with just under three minutes to go in the frame. The latter also scored with less than a minute remaining in the first quarter to give her team its only lead of the night (3-4) before the Falcons' Mia Tartaglia (who had gotten a free throw earlier in the quarter) hit a shot with under 10 seconds left to make it a 5-4 lead for the hosts.

Offensively, both teams fared only slightly better in the next frame, getting several open shots but often coming up empty. While the Cougars did get a number of defensive rebounds, the Falcons were more concerned with keeping the former's transition offense in check, which they accomplished.

A three-pointer by Kolbe's Faith Booth cut the lead to one (8-7) but three points by Tartaglia in the last minute and a basket by Emma Ogden gave their team some breathing room and a 13-9 lead at halftime.

"Our concern going into the game was not only their size and their athleticism, it was how much

they like to get the ball into the paint and create problems," said Carollo. "We spent a lot of time in practice having multiple people patrolling defensively in the paint, getting hands on passes... being active and holding them to nine (first half) points is fantastic."

Both teams picked up the pace offensively in the second half with the Falcons keeping a step ahead of the competition. Even with Kolbe's defense concentrating on stopping Tartaglia, she still managed to score 15 points in the second half. At the other end of the court, the defense of Miller, Ogden, Paige Jarvis, Ava Gillon, and Sara Fenzel kept the Cougars under control.

"They dedicated and locked in on the defensive end," said Carollo. "They all really were fantastic."

Tartaglia finished with 21 points, including 10 of 14 free throws down the stretch. Miller scored 13, while Jarvis had 11 rebounds, 11 deflections, and a driving layup with about two minutes left. Emma Ogden also scored two.

Barlow, now 10-4, hosts Bethel on Thursday, February 5 at 6:00 p.m., visits Harding of Bridgeport on Friday, February 6 at 6:15 p.m., and is at New Milford on Monday, February 9 at 6:00 p.m. ■

## Lancers pull out of Falcons' reach

Boys basketball | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Ben Noome scored eight points for the Joel Barlow High boys varsity basketball team in its game against Notre Dame Prep on Thursday, January 29. Barlow fell 38-78.

Containing its opponent's offense was a tall order for the Joel Barlow High boys varsity basketball team when it hosted Notre Dame Prep.

Right from the start, the Lancers used their speed to their advantage on Thursday, January 29. Racking up the points, the defending Southwest Conference champs set the tone early for a 38-78 win.

"They're super athletic," said Barlow Head Coach Corey Stevens. "They shot super well tonight too."

The Lancers took an early 0-6 lead before the Falcons responded on Ben Noome's shot with 5:15 left to go in the first quarter. The momentum then swung the Lancers' way, as they reeled off 15 consecutive points.

Josh Charlot's free throw started the rally, and the Lancers also scored a number of points in transition off Falcon turnovers plus consecutive three-pointers by Charlot and Jaise Greaves to lead 2-19.

With less than 10 seconds left in the frame, Alex Jezowski stopped the run with a shot down low as Barlow trailed 4-21.

Barlow's offense improved substantially in the next frame, actually outscoring the competition 16-15. Handling the Lancers' press better, the Falcons relied in part on a combined nine points by Noome and Sean Gabriel to keep pace with their opponent. The Lancers used a balanced scoring effort, however,

with six players finding the net for a 20-36 lead at halftime.

"We'd like to be able to press a little more, but they're a tough team to press," said Stevens. "They move it so quickly up and down the floor."

When play resumed, any threat of a Falcon comeback was soon extinguished as the Lancers outscored the hosts by better than a 2-1 margin for the third quarter. After Chase Bonanno's successful shot down low, Notre Dame embarked on a 0-18 scoring run, featuring three-pointers by Kieran Blake, Greaves, and Jameer Reed to take control of things and eventually lead 32-67 at the end of three frames.

As the fourth quarter got underway, both sides gave their starters some rest. Although the Falcons came up short on a number of three-point attempts, they did get four points from Jezowski and two from Charlie Cruz.

Noome and Gabriel (two three-pointers) led Barlow with eight points apiece. Jezowski sank six and Bonanno netted five.

Ryan Kelly finished with four and Eli Kress hit one three-pointer. Cruz and Tyler Stark each had two points.

Barlow, now 6-8 overall, is at Bethel on Thursday, February 5 and hosts New Milford on Monday, February 9. Both games are at 7:00 p.m. ■

## Times show big improvement

Downhill skiing | By Rocco Valluzzo

Recent snowfall again made for some favorable conditions for the Joel Barlow High ski teams last week.

Heading to Mount Southington on Thursday, January 29, the Falcon boys cut more than 32 seconds off their total time since their first opening race. Clocking in at 327.57 seconds, they took ninth out of 13 teams.

The race still featured a fast field, with only one Barlow finisher in the top 30 places. Matt Luca's combined 51.29 put him 27th overall, just 0.04 seconds behind Weston's Ryder Zullo.

Barlow's next three skiers all posted within a span of less than a second. With a 53.24, Grayson Lapine was 46th. It was a close call for 51st. Barlow's Dylan Walker

posted a 53.65, beating Darien's Brendan Riley by 0.01 seconds. Three places later, Barrett Commisso was 54th in 53.73, 0.02 seconds after Cheshire's Patrick Roth.

It was also a close finish for 67th, with Barlow's Sebastian Cano-Cowles getting a 55.54, only 0.01 seconds ahead of Hand's Colton Tsialas.

Completing the scoring for Barlow, Bryce Hopkins was 106th in 60.12.

Barlow's girls team also shaved more than half a minute off their team time from their first race. With exactly 347 seconds total, they were 11th out of 14 teams in another fast race.

The Falcons had two skiers in the top 35. Eliska Beksa led the way for her team in 32nd with a 52.01,

0.06 seconds faster than Stamford's Gina Gawronski, who was in turn 0.03 seconds ahead of Barlow's Carolyn Lippoth, who took 34th in 52.10.

Next for the Falcons, Katherine Stowell was 48th in 54.91. Taking 73rd was Hailey Watson with a 57.69.

A little further back in the field was Elizabeth Kimball with a 63.64 for 116th, just 0.01 seconds behind Pomperaug/Newtown's Cece Wesley. Completing the scoring for the Falcons was Holly Landa in 66.65, taking 127th. Also in the varsity race was Bluet Collins with a 71.3 for 139th.

The Falcons are back at Mount Southington on Thursday, February 5 for their final race of the regular season at 4:40 p.m. ■

## Joel Barlow sports results and schedules



## Boys basketball

**Results:**  
January 28: Kolbe Cathedral 46 / Joel Barlow 44  
January 29: Notre Dame Prep 78 / Joel Barlow 38  
**Record:**  
Joel Barlow 6-8  
**Next games:**  
February 5: away at Bethel at 7:00 p.m.  
February 9: home versus New Milford at 7:00 p.m.

## Girls basketball

**Results:**  
January 28: Joel Barlow 38 / Kolbe Cathedral 33  
January 29: Notre Dame Prep 47 / Joel Barlow 32  
**Record:**  
Joel Barlow 10-4  
**Next games:**  
February 5: home versus Bethel at 6:00 p.m.

February 6: away at Harding at 6:15 p.m.  
February 9: away at New Milford at 6:00 p.m.

## Hockey

**Results:**  
January 27: Fairfield Warde-Fairfield Ludlowe 4 / JBWA 3  
January 31: Milford Mariners 7 / JBWA 2  
Joel Barlow / West/Abbott Tech (JBWA) 1-8-1  
**Record:**  
JBWA 1-6-1  
**Next games:**  
February 7: away at Masuk at 7:45 p.m.  
February 11: away at New Milford at 8:00 p.m.

## Indoor track and field

**Next meet:**  
February 7: away SWC championships at 5:00 p.m.

## Boys swimming

**Results:**  
January 22: Pomperaug 98 / Joel Barlow-Bethel 75  
January 27: Masuk 91 / Joel Barlow-Bethel 76  
**Record:**  
Joel Barlow-Bethel : 1-5  
**Next meets:**  
February 6: home versus Weston at 4:00 p.m.

## Wrestling

**Results:**  
January 28: Joel Barlow 48 / New Fairfield 35  
**Record:**  
Joel Barlow 3-3 (SWC)  
**Next matches:**  
February 7: away at Granby at 9:15 a.m.  
February 9: away at New Milford at 6:00 p.m.

Check up-to-date game and meet schedules at [arbiterlive.com/School/Calendar/11297](http://arbiterlive.com/School/Calendar/11297)

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# From Sinatra to Broadway: Meet David Brandom, professional jazz musician

By Justin Reynolds



David Brandom

When Frank Sinatra offers you a gig, of course you say yes. So, when David Brandom got the call to play with the “Chairman of the Board” at venues like Radio City and the Kennedy Center, he quickly agreed.

“Then they said, ‘You’ll be playing bari sax, bass clarinet, flute, and clarinet,’” Brandom said. “Great! Except that I didn’t own a bari sax, and I’d never played a bass clarinet.”

He managed to track down both instruments.

“And actually, there for a while, the bari sax opened many, many doors for me – including concerts with Tony Bennett.”

Over the last 50 years, Brandom has played with tons of amazing musicians, like Billy Joel, Elton John, and They Might Be Giants.

“I guess as a player, one of my strengths has been my ability to blend in an ensemble,” he reflected.

Brandom describes himself as a professional saxophone, flute, and clarinet player; a music educator; a band leader; a composer; and an arranger. He’s released two albums under his own name — *Home* in 2002 and *No Way Out* in 2007 — and released an album during the pandemic called *What’s Going On*, “a collection of pop tunes that we arranged for a jazz quartet.”

“I think all three hold up pretty well,” he said. “I’m most proud of my writing and arranging on these.”

Brandom also was a member of The Westchester Jazz Orchestra for 10 years.

“We put out two great albums and many great concerts,” he said. “The band was one of the best things I was ever a part of.”

Brandom’s father was a machinist “who loved music, sang tenor in church and in a few barbershop quartets, and even studied jazz guitar for many years,” he said. “He had a small collection of jazz records that included Stan Getz, Gerry Mulligan, Paul Desmond, and even Charlie Parker, and those

records made me fall in love with the sound of the sax and the feel and spirit of jazz.”

His mother was an art teacher and a “very good painter.”

“I think her aesthetic definitely pulled me toward the artistic mindset,” said Brandom.

Brandom went to school to study music for one simple reason: He loved it.

“I wanted to learn how music worked,” he said. “I figured I would get an education degree and become a high school band director. But I wanted to learn how to play professionally as well so I could pass that knowledge onto my students.”

Other influences on Brandom’s musical sound include Cannonball Adderley, Sonny Rollins, John Coltrane, and Joe Henderson — “the cats we all listened to,” as he described them.

“Besides his saxophone playing, Wayne Shorter’s writing has been a huge influence,” Brandom explained. “Same with Michael Brecker, Herbie Hancock, [and] Pat Metheny.”

In addition to sharing the stage with legends, Brandom also had a career on Broadway, playing music for shows like *A Bronx Tale*, *Annie*, *Beautiful*, *Billy Elliot*, *Grease*, *Hairspray*, and *Jersey Boys* — gigs he landed through networking.

“In the city, you meet people who do Broadway; they hear you play and might ask you to sub for them,” he continued. “As a woodwind player, you’ve got to be able to play at least sax, flute, and clarinet. Most of my Broadway career was subbing for other people. At one point, I had nine different chairs that I was subbing on — that’ll keep you on your toes.”

The first time he subbed at *Victor/Victoria*, life threw Brandom a bit of a curve ball.

“As I’m warming up, nervous as hell, they announced that Julie Andrews was ill and that the following numbers would be in a different key,” he said. “I knew that the first act ended with an 8-bar flute solo and sure enough, that was one of the new key tunes. It was difficult enough in the original, which I had practiced many times, but now it was even more difficult. I guess I played it well enough. There are many, many war stories from the Broadway pits.”

You don’t have to venture far to hear Brandom’s world-class talent. This summer, he played at the Concert on the Green series, and he also plays at First Church of Christ, Congregational and La Zingara in Bethel.

“[The quintet] is the format I’ve been using lately — two horns, piano (or guitar), bass, and drums,” he said. “For many years, it was a quartet, but I really enjoy playing lines with another lead instrument. The past two years, I’ve been playing with a 10-piece jazz-funk group every Monday night and in a big band led by the great arranger, Michael Abene.”

Brandom and his wife, Stacy, moved to Redding nearly three years ago after raising three boys in Larchmont, where they lived for more than 30 years.

“Our two grandsons live in Cheshire, so we wanted to be a little closer to them but not so far from the city and all of our friends,” he said. “We love Redding. We’ve made so many friends here in a short time. We love walking our dog on the many trails near us. We love the peace and quiet. This is a wonderful community, and we are so happy that we decided to move here.”

In addition to performing, Brandom spent years helping students unlock their musical potential, teaching at Purchase College and Lehigh University as an adjunct professor before ultimately landing a full-time teaching gig in the Edgemont School District in Scarsdale, NY.

“I taught for 11 years — all the while playing Broadway shows at night,” he said. “I am extremely proud of the work I did at Edgemont. I set the bar high and my students would surpass my expectations. I’ve always enjoyed teaching — regardless of whether the student is a beginner or an adult. I take great pride in helping students become better readers, improve their tone, technique, or prepare for Western Regionals or All-State auditions.”

While Brandom is thrilled to be able to call Redding home, there is just one tiny item on his wish list.

“Redding and this area in general have many venues for live music, but generally it’s more rock- or folk-oriented,” he said. “I do wish there were more opportunities to play jazz, but I’ll figure it out.” ■

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



# Superbowl snacks from your local eateries

By Pamela Brown

It’s Super Bowl LX Sunday on February 8, and that means a battle between the Patriots and Seahawks and get-togethers that involve lots of good food.

While kick-off this year is in Santa Clara, CA, a variety of restaurants right here in Redding are featuring football-worthy dine-in and take-out menus to enjoy good eats while watching the game. Whatever you prefer, these restaurants have something for everyone. Food pre-orders for pick-up must be made by February 6.

## Uncorked Georgetown

7 Main Street  
[thesouthendgroup.com/uncorked](http://thesouthendgroup.com/uncorked)  
To order, call (203) 587-1088 or e-mail: [ben@thesouthendgroup.com](mailto:ben@thesouthendgroup.com)

This new restaurant is noted for their wide selection of small plates alongside wine on tap, craft and inspired cocktails and mocktails, and tap, canned, and bottled beer. Their brunch menu along with their Sunday All Day Happy Hour specials will be available on Super Bowl Sunday from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

This year, Uncorked is highlighting their Super Bowl catering menu. “Let us do the work while you enjoy the game. We have an award-worthy platter of the greatest hits from Uncorked that you can order and pick up on Sunday,” said Ben Sinon, General Manager. The catering menu features wings; Nonna’s meatballs stuffed with pork, veal, and ricotta; roasted chicken dumplings with a ginger-soy glaze and crispy garlic; double, double cheeseburgers (cut at ¼-inch) with their special burger sauce and house-made ketchup; and cheesesteak, a sliced ribeye with American cheese. Upon pick up, the platters, each serving four people, are hot and ready to serve.

## Wiremill BBQ

12 Old Mill Road  
[wiremillbbq.com](http://wiremillbbq.com)  
(203) 544-9988

Wiremill BBQ calls itself “THE Super Bowl Party headquarters.” If you enjoy smoked meats, this is the place for you. Gino Marsili, chef and owner, said there is no set menu for the big game; instead, he encourages customers to come and enjoy a meal at the restaurant while watching the game on two TVs or pre-order anything from their regular menu a la carte for at-home get-togethers. The restaurant will be open from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

“Smoked wings are the most popular,” noted Marsili. All of the items are smoked and slow cooked on the premises and seasoned with the restaurant’s own special, flavorful rub. Other party favorites on their menu include pulled pork

and ribs, chicken, beef brisket, and homemade smoked sausage. In addition, they have burgers, sandwiches, salads, and a variety of appetizers. A wide range of take-out packages are available that serve 2-4 or 5-7 people, or parties of 10 or more.

## Milestone

2 Main Street  
(203) 587-1700 or [milestonect.com](http://milestonect.com)

“It’s always fun at Milestone,” said owner Peter Fine. The restaurant will be open until 9:00 p.m. on Super Bowl Sunday. Their winter menu features all kinds of comfort food such as flaky chicken pot pie, short ribs, and rich rigatoni bolognese, along with burgers, pizza, soups, and more. In addition to their regular menu, Milestone will be serving up their own special wings with house-made traditional buffalo flavor along with beer specials and a full bar featuring curated seasonal cocktails. Three TVs will be broadcasting the game. Customers can dine in or take out.

## Redding Roadhouse

406 Redding Road  
(203) 938-3388 or [thereddingroadhouse.com](http://thereddingroadhouse.com)

The Roadhouse is always ready for Game-Day fun. They will be open on Super Bowl Sunday from 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. to get you excited for kick-off at 6:30 p.m. The kitchen will be featuring chicken wings roasted with their signature seasoning before being deep fried and tossed in house-made sauces and rubs. On tap will be their award-winning beer line up, including 10 draft lines featuring the popular NEBCO Fuzzy Baby Ducks, Radeberger pilsner, Guinness Stout, Nod Hill Supermantis, Allagash White, and rotating between seasonal favorites and fresh local beer.

The bartending team will be having a Seattle vs. New England cocktail battle – Seattle’s signature cocktail is the “Last Word,” and New England’s signature cocktail is the “Cape Codder.” In addition to their usual menu, they will be serving dry-aged burgers and smoked brisket cheesesteak along with their new winter cocktails. Customers also can pre-order from the catering menu on their website featuring wings, meatballs, dips, and sandwiches.

“It’s everything you need to host the ultimate Game-Day party,” said Shawn Reilly, owner. ■

## MUSIC NOTE

# Favorite love songs, rediscovered

By Pamela Brown

Love, music, and an evening out are on the bill for Valentine’s Day at The Granite. *Love and Heartbreak: A Valentine’s Day Concert* will feature a string quartet performing covers of love songs on Saturday, February 14 at 8:00 p.m. The event will run about 75 minutes with an intermission. Tickets include one adult beverage and are on sale at [thegranitechurch.org](http://thegranitechurch.org).

The concert will celebrate Valentine’s Day through heartfelt, affective music.

“This will be a fully acoustic performance – the music will be bright and beautiful, but the lights will be low,” said Simon Bilyk, a local violinist who is a member of the Hartford, New Haven, and

Eastern Connecticut Symphonies. “This concert will feature songs that we’ve lived with at different times in our lives but, performed by acoustic strings, they will bring us to a different place. You’re not just hearing these songs, you’re rediscovering them.”

Bilyk is excited to be presenting a concert at The Granite for the first time. “It’s my local stage. I live in Georgetown and walk on Main Street nearly every day, so getting to make music here is a dream.” Bilyk will be joined by violinist Lana Auerbach, of Newtown, a recent graduate of Bard College’s “The Orchestra Now” Orchestral Masters program, who performs a wide range of genres between her

chamber ensemble the Solstice Piano Trio, her old time/bluegrass band Bugs On A Log, and orchestras throughout the Northeast; cellist Jill Emerson, a graduate of The Hartt School, a Harmony Fellow with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, and newly appointed Orchestra director at Music Haven, and performs with the band Alexandra Burnet and the Proven Winners; and violist Kal Sugatski, an imaginative creator who has performed with the New York Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, NYC Ballet, International Contemporary Ensemble, and ChamberQUEER, as well as The National, Andrea Bocelli, and Stevie Wonder.

“We have played together in

different configurations, but this will be the first time this group of musicians has played together. The sound and chemistry will be fun,” said Bilyk. “I’ve been programming pop and rock string quartets for a couple of seasons with the Hartford Symphony and love it. The opportunity to create this concert from scratch for my local community and make music with my friends is very special.”

Richard Wenning, Executive Director of The Granite, is looking forward to the concert. “The Granite loves hosting events for our community like this and are delighted that Simon and Lana have taken the lead in producing this one,” he said. “I’m thrilled about

the amazingly talented local musicians, like Lana and Simon, who are making our Classical Series a reality.”

The quartet will be playing a variety of classic and pop love songs, including tunes by Elvis, Etta James, Frankie Valli, Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish, and Ariana Grande. “There is a lot of nuance in live performance,” said Bilyk. “It’s the difference between listening to a recording of someone sing the ABCs and having them sing it directly to you. You’ll be surprised how much volume our four instruments can create when we’re all unified.” ■

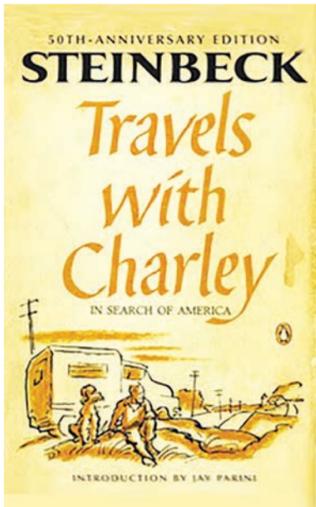
Tickets at [thegranitechurch.org/events](http://thegranitechurch.org/events)

## BOOK REVIEW

# Travels with Charley In Search of America

By John Steinbeck

207 Pages / Penguin Classics / \$9.39



*Travels with Charley* by John Steinbeck is an evocation of America on the eve of a tumultuous decade. It is, as the promotional copy says, “a self-portrait of a man who never wrote an autobiography.” It was published in 1962, beginning the decade. The sixties were culturally bookended at the finish with the 1969 film, *Easy Rider*, another travel story with a grim analysis of the national soul.

Prominent voice of that time, William F. Buckley, Jr., who founded the still flourishing *National Review*, claimed that “The Sixties,” so named, was a period of time existing roughly between 1966 and 1974.” Culturally speaking, Buckley is probably correct. Some use the Kennedy assassination as signaling the beginning of a turbulent national history that included assassination, the divisive Vietnam War, and a moon landing. Buckley’s 1974 was tied to the war’s end. Steinbeck’s observations carry a broader interpretive agenda.

John Steinbeck won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1962. In addition to writing thoughtfully and beautifully about social privation, Steinbeck, an irascible drinker, conceived this tour to affirm in his mind and imagination a reconnection to his native land. Not 200 years old, America was nascent when he wrote about it. In Steinbeck’s developing America, there are still remote settlements, voices that recall the dubious Indian wars, and many pockets of national potential married to growth but un-resolved. Steinbeck reports what he observes and draws conclusions. His occasional wrong predictions pointedly stand out: that

trailers and trailer parks will house America’s future, for example.

One simple conviction hovers above this work: the future is on us. Is the America we have known fading away or becoming vivid on a wrong road? What have we been and what will we become? Steinbeck found a land to love in Montana. “It seemed to me that the frantic bustle of America was not in Montana. Its people did not seem afraid of shadows...People had time to pause in their occupations to undertake the passing art of neighborliness.” According to John Steinbeck during his travels, among the states he knew, Montana was best suited to a positive American future.

In his catalogue of change, we see a breakdown into good and bad. Sleep is good. Dogs are good. The odors of the land and its seasons are good. Guns are good. Liquor is good. Strangers surprise you, but they are good. Television is bad. A dog leash is bad. Cellophane on food is bad. Where the government intrudes is generally unwelcome and bad, but where its intrusion results in superhighways, it is, provisionally, okay.

Steinbeck’s great fear for the nation’s future was an American tendency to emphasize comfort and eliminate nature from strategies for development. This idea dominates his vision in this account of a modest voyage of discovery. Upon returning to his childhood home in California: “This four-lane concrete highway slashed with speeding cars I remember as a narrow, twisting road where wood teams moved, drawn by steady mules.” Approaching Seattle, he sees new factories: “I wonder why progress looks so much like destruction.”

He experienced misogyny, racism, and antisemitism in his travels. And this would undergird the drama of the ‘60s. He saw himself as a subversive artist and novelist (invited to the Kennedy inauguration, he and his wife watched it on television). In the appendix to this novel, not published in the 1962 edition, his last sentence is summary: “And I do know this — the big and mysterious America is bigger than I thought. And more mysterious.” ■

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

### Redding’s Big Outdoors: Backyard tracking / continued from page 1

I was soon imagining the wind as we slept each night moving the branches like figure skaters leaving twirls and triple loop-marks on the rink.

Underneath our mulberry tree was my favorite set of tracks that we found that day. There were two little pawprints — each with five tiny fingers perfectly defined — just ahead of a big splotch with a little round notch in the middle. I could almost see the gray squirrel that had rested here and feel its nervous energy as it pressed its paws into the snow, twitching its tail, planning its next move.

Growing impatient with our

outing’s close study of the snow’s surface, my son threw out a challenge. “Chase me!” he yelled as he stepped off the path. Lifting his little legs high as he sunk into snow past his knees, he forged ahead, determined and laughing. I followed — “I’m going to get you!” — taking care to land my boots into the small, fresh tracks he left between us. ■

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

## LIBRARY CORNER

# Bestselling for a reason

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Part of my job as a librarian is to be aware of what people in town are reading and what books we need to have on our shelves. Because of this, I rarely dig into things on the New York Times best-seller list for my personal reading. I already know our patrons are reading them, we have to buy them, and I can recommend them to people without having to read those books myself. But this month, I’ve been trying to spend less time looking at my phone which has somehow translated into me dipping my toe into the waters of the bestseller lists. And now I am reminded that bestsellers are bestselling for a reason! Because they’re pretty dang good! Here are a few that have hit the spot lately.

*Strangers* by Belle Burden — Belle is sheltering in place at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic at her home on Martha’s Vineyard with her husband of 20 years and their two teenage daughters. While mopping the floor, she receives a text from a man, informing her that his wife has been having an affair with Belle’s husband. This memoir is juicy, and Belle and her (now) ex-husband are very wealthy which adds some pizzazz to this jaw dropping account of the unraveling of a marriage.

*The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans — This epistolary novel is told through letters and e-mails from Sybil Van Antwerp to people in her life. She is a retired lawyer and has lived a very full life, which

is indicative of the content of her letters, which often refers to events from her past. This novel is perfect for readers who appreciate great character development.

*Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghy — This story takes place on a remote island off the coast of Antarctica. The island’s caretaker and his three children are protecting a seed bank on the island when a woman quite literally washes up on shore, looking for her husband who had been conducting field research there. Secrets are uncovered! There is romance, there are cliff hangers, and the sea level is quickly rising. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library



# New Pond Farm

# Summer Camp

Registration opens at 9:30am based on age group!

**Tuesday,**  
**February 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Summer Sprouts  
(Ages 4-5)  
Wayfinders  
(Grades 6-8)

**Thursday,**  
**February 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Nature  
Trekking  
(Grades 1-2)

**Friday,**  
**February 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Nature  
Trekking  
(Grades 3-5)

Register at [Newpondfarm.org](http://Newpondfarm.org)

## OBITUARY

# John Esher McLeran

August 7, 1940 – January 15, 2026



John Esher McLeran, a long-time resident of Redding, passed away just before noon on January 15, 2026.

John was born in 1940 to Helen and Allan McLeran on an August night so stormy that lightning split the great maple just outside the family’s Katonah, NY home. Its stump became a base for childhood adventures ranging over field, forest, and waterway. An outdoorsman from birth, his early years in the Boy Scouts were marked by significant fishing trips and merit badge projects.

St. George’s School in Rhode Island hosted his high school years, where his abilities as athlete and student leader stood out, perhaps unexpected in a soft-spoken kid with no stated ambitions in either field. But he excelled at soccer, ice hockey, track and field, and in his senior year, served as Prefect.

Though he always returned to New England, John spent a memorable summer in the mid ‘60s at Paradise Ranch, where he rode the range, felled trees, and drank beer under the pretext of managing the

ins and outs of an active ranch and hiking outfit in Wyoming. He’d be the first to tell you that he was no cowboy, but throughout his life, he strove to incorporate both quality outdoorsmanship and beer into many an activity.

During his undergrad years at Middlebury College, his love of poetry and literature led to an English degree. He was active in the Chi Psi fraternity, spent time at the Middlebury Ski Bowl and entered the ROTC program.

ROTC at Middlebury led John to the U.S. Army, where he served as a First Lieutenant and Provost Marshall in the Military Police from 1966-71. Active duty in North Central Turkey, as a part of the U.S. presence in Europe during the Cold War, provided John with a lifetime of tales with which to regale patient audiences. Whether delving into the subtleties of the French Bordeaux available on a U.S. Army base (and unmatched since), Muslim rules for circus bears outside of Ankara, or the many Greek ruins that were easily reached by sportscar, he found travel enchanting and took great joy in learning about life in a new place.

After his military service, John entered the corporate world in book publishing, riding the train to New York City and working in sales, marketing, product management, and as an editor. While in publishing, John married the beautiful love of his life, Penny Frost, to whom he remained married for 55 adventurous years, until his death. John and Penny settled in Redding in 1973 in the house still lived in today. There,

they raised their two children, Ian and Amy.

While between jobs in the 1990s, John developed a love for dragonflies that would be a fixture of the second half of his life. His photography and documentation of dragonflies led to collaborations with the Town of Redding, Highstead Arboretum, the University of Connecticut, and others in the field. John’s work with dragonflies, a true life passion, led him to the field that one might argue he should have been working in all along, that of a naturalist. In his later career, he held Director roles at Woodcock Nature Center in Wilton and the Pratt Center in New Milford.

John was a valued member of his community, active in the Boy Scouts for many years as Committee Chairman, helping to organize a Book Club for seniors, and leading nature programs for various schools and town programs. At the time of his passing, he was still serving as Land Manager for the Town of Redding and the Redding Land Trust. An Outdoorsman to the last.

John is survived by his wife Penny, his kids Ian (Susan) and Amy, his sister Nancy, and his grandchildren August and Simon. He was pre-deceased by his parents, Helen and Allan.

A celebration of John’s life will be planned for the spring, when warm sunny weather will, hopefully, allow for outdoor reveling. Donations in his memory may be directed to Redding Land Trust, Mark Twain Library, and New Pond Farm Education Center. ■

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# Winter vs. travel *Physics always rules* | *By Jim Cameron*



Photo by Jill Morgan photography / Courtesy of CT Mirror

I hate winter. And winter hates transportation.

Growing up in The Great White North (Canada, eh?), winter seemed to last about six months. This winter in Connecticut seems even longer. But feet of snow and sub-freezing temperatures don't have to stop you if you follow some tried and true travel hacks.

### Traveling by car

If a storm is coming, get your car off the street and into a garage. That way the trucks can plow and you don't have to dig out your ride. If you do have to clean off your car after a storm, include the roof in your efforts. Otherwise, your car may start launching "ice missiles" at unsuspecting targets as you're driving down I-84. That can mean a fine and possible injury to others.

Keep your gas tank full. Your windshield washer tank, too... with ice-melting fluids, not water. Replace worn wipers before winter storms. Frozen, shredded rubber on dirty glass turns night driving into roulette.

When you start your engine, let it idle for at least 20 to 30 seconds before driving to ensure adequate oil distribution. Don't race the

engine. This isn't Daytona, and cold oil doesn't respond well to your enthusiasm.

Drive with your traction control turned on and proceed with caution. Just because you're in a SUV, don't assume that because your car is bigger it's safer.

Check your tires. For every 10-degree drop in temperature you lose one PSI in tire pressure. Under-inflated tires mean longer stopping distances (before factoring in the ice), lower fuel economy, and higher risk of blowouts.

If you're in an EV, anticipate that your car won't charge as well in the cold. And expect to lose 20-40% of your normal driving range. Pre-conditioning the battery while plugged in can claw back some of that mileage.

Without sounding like a scolding parent, just assume the worst because winter always does. Keeping an emergency kit handy – a blanket, flashlight, phone charger, and gloves – and in the car isn't paranoia, it's planning.

### Traveling by train

While train travel is much safer in bad weather, it's not immune to physics. Sub-zero temperatures are

the enemy of all things mechanical.

To their credit, Connecticut's railroads have a much better record of performance in winter than in years past when service was pre-emptively cancelled to avoid stranding passengers. But remember... parts of this railroad are 100+ years old, and centenarians don't like playing in the snow.

While apps like TrainTime have vastly improved communications, they're not perfect. Trust your eyes and crowd-source any mistake you see to the Twitter account @CTRailCommuters to advise your fellow riders.

If your station's waiting room is locked or the platform is not shoveled / sanded, document it and call your town hall. Commuters deserve heat and a safe path to their train.

Grabbing the first train in the morning darkness turns you into a guinea pig as it encounters frozen switches and doors so later trains don't have to. Overhead power lines can snap and strand you without heat, so opt for diesel-powered trains if they're an option.

And don't forget to download and activate your ticket before boarding; this in case cell service is lost and you're hit with an \$8 fine under Metro-North's new rules.

Keep your cell phone (and its winter-hating battery) fully charged and close to your body heat to preserve its power. Stashing your phone in a bag or outside pocket will drain your power quickly.

Finally, ask yourself, "Is this trip really necessary?" Sometimes the smartest winter travel decision is deciding not to travel at all. ■

*This article originally appeared in CT Mirror*

# Notes from a neighbor

*Creaks with a past* | *By Carter Wiseman*

We have had any number of workers come to our house over the years to fix what ails it: electricians to handle frayed wires, plumbers to clear the kitchen drain, and carpenters to replace rotting windowsills. Our house goes back only to 1936, but after they moan about the wobbly infrastructure, every workman is amazed by the paintings on the walls.

The paintings were hand-done in the style of Carl Larsson, a Swedish folk artist. Larsson enjoyed a vogue in the 1930s, but we do not know what the builders of our house saw in him. They had no Swedish family roots, but were quirky; she was a celebrated photographer, and he was an adventurous engineer. They left us no records, so we can only wonder about what romantic fantasy caught them when they decided to decamp from a Park Avenue apartment in Manhattan to Connecticut.

We have not found old newspapers in the walls. George Washington did not sleep here. But some interesting people lived where we live now, and I wish we had known what drew them to what was then deep country to build a cottage inspired by a tradition to which they had no links. Our house is now surrounded by others three times its size. I confess to some envy of the grand staircases, the in-home theaters, and the lap pools. But when I walk into these buildings, I have a strange reaction. The sound is different, perhaps because the walls are made of Sheetrock instead of plaster and lath, or because there isn't enough furniture to cushion the shouts of young children and

adult cocktail parties. It takes time and materials to create resonance.

I understand that current designers are working on the problem, creating "distressed" surfaces to produce a "vintage" look. We have several matched sets of books by Balzac, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Hart Crane bought by my Ohio grandparents in the days when such things marked one's arrival as educated Americans. I doubt that they read more than a few of those volumes, but it disturbs me to learn that interior decorators now purchase the stripped bindings of collections by the linear foot for their clients' "libraries" to create a patina of cultivation.

Whatever our walls may have witnessed, the floors have their own stories to tell. So, I was happy to hear of a local architecture firm that was commissioned to renovate an 18th-century building in our neighborhood. The foundations were so rotted that the owners risked dropping through to the root cellar. They considered calling Lumber Liquidators, but decided instead to go the extra feet. Among the specifications to the architects was that the new floors should creak, just as they had since George Washington may have walked on them.

We don't need such architects in our house; the floors creak without them. And when they do, I listen carefully in case I might catch a bit of the conversations that went on above them about picking a Swedish folk artist to decorate the walls. And, since it was the 1930s, I might also catch the rattle of ice cubes in a Martini shaker. ■

## REAL ESTATE

# January 2026 real estate report

*A look at trends in the local housing market* | *By Bill Whitehead and John Talley*

Six properties sold in Redding this January versus four in January 2025. Inventories remain consistently tight year-over-year, at nine properties for sale versus 10 properties a year ago. The average price of the homes sold in January was \$975,667 with average price-per-square-foot at \$430. The average days-on-market is 115. We expect to see activity to begin to pick up after Super Bowl Sunday, when the spring real estate market officially kicks off! ■

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

January 2026													
Town	Current Inventory	Homes Sold		Average Days on Market		Average List Price		Average Sale Price		Percent Sale Price >/< List Price		Average Price/SqFt *	
	As of Feb 2	January	2026	January	2026	January	2026	January	2026	January	2026	January	2026
Redding	9	6	6	115	115	\$960,483	\$960,483	\$975,667	\$975,667	2%	2%	\$430	\$430
Ridgefield	21	9	9	95	95	\$1,132,167	\$1,132,167	\$1,161,008	\$1,161,008	3%	3%	\$415	\$415
Weston	14	6	6	114	114	\$1,302,833	\$1,302,833	\$1,313,317	\$1,313,317	1%	1%	\$381	\$381
Wilton	16	4	4	137	137	\$1,517,250	\$1,517,250	\$1,572,028	\$1,572,028	4%	4%	\$449	\$449
Easton	7	6	6	120	120	\$996,000	\$996,000	\$975,133	\$975,133	-2%	-2%	\$334	\$334
Bethel	11	9	9	103	103	\$594,422	\$594,422	\$598,967	\$598,967	1%	1%	\$310	\$310
Newtown	38	17	17	92	92	\$753,829	\$753,829	\$747,545	\$747,545	-1%	-1%	\$275	\$275
<b>Average</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>\$1,036,712</b>	<b>\$1,036,712</b>	<b>\$1,049,095</b>	<b>\$1,049,095</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>\$371</b>	<b>\$371</b>

REDDING SOLD - January	Sale Price	List Price	%/ List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market
10 Shady Ln	\$630,000	\$649,900	-3%	\$418	78
477 Newtown Tpke	\$650,000	\$589,000	10%	\$402	76
81-83 Picketts Ridge Rd	\$650,000	\$675,000	-4%	\$339	98
90 Old Stagecoach Rd	\$955,000	\$985,000	-3%	\$310	92
15 Tunxis Trl	\$1,170,000	\$1,065,000	10%	\$380	110
32 Beeholm Rd	\$1,799,000	\$1,799,000	0%	\$734	237
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$975,667</b>	<b>\$960,483</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>\$430</b>	<b>115</b>

REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market	REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market
71 Picketts Ridge Rd	\$539,000	\$580	18	12 Werf Dr	\$1,750,000	\$434	27
2 Brick School Dr	\$925,000	\$361	11	2 Longwood Dr	\$1,849,000	\$295	28
299 Redding Rd	\$979,000	\$374	28	229 Umpawaug Rd	\$7,495,000	\$1,116	266
41 Deer Hill Rd	\$1,199,000	\$306	96	63 Turney Rd	\$8,600,000	\$913	50
34 Fox Run Rd	\$1,550,000	\$198	430	<b>Average</b>	<b>\$2,765,111</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>106</b>

*Listings continue on right side of table*

*\* Calculated using livable square footage*

# THE NATURAL WORLD

## The Outside Story: Soil microbes in winter

By Maggie Weng

Like any good animal, we sense the change of seasons through a hundred subtle clues. Leaves change and shed, becoming crispy piles underfoot. Geese cross the bright sky. Other signs of winter are harder to define: the morning chill deepens its bite, the afternoon light becomes pale. Although we may be aware that other creatures are preparing for the cold, building their nutritious stockpiles and cozy dens, few of us think about the ground beneath our feet. Yet here too a whole world is getting ready for winter.

A handful of soil contains an invisible ecosystem as complex as the forest aboveground. Its citizens are microbes, mostly single-celled organisms. Microbes exist across all three domains of life: Eukarya, Archaea, and Bacteria. Although they are often associated with dirtiness and disease, most microbes are indifferent to humans and thrive in every kind of natural environment. In forests they are guardians of soil health, responsible for breaking down dead matter and recycling nutrients. Forests store about one-third of our carbon emissions thanks in no small part to microbes, which help draw down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and fix it in stable forms. But like most creatures, microbes are vulnerable to icy temperatures. How do they survive the harsh New England winters?

Many rely on a thick coat of snow to stay warm. It may seem counterintuitive, but snowpack actually helps insulate the ground beneath it, preventing the soil from

freezing solid. Sheltered from the elements, microbes can continue the important work of decomposition, breaking down fallen leaves and recycling nutrients that will soon be needed by growing plants in the spring. But despite recent snowfall, snow here doesn't come like it used to; in the Northeast, warming temperatures have accelerated three times faster in winter than in spring and summer. To better understand how declining snowpack impacts forest soils, researchers at Dartmouth have set up an ongoing experiment called DeFROST that melts snowpack in experimental plots. By comparing their measurements to plots of undisturbed forest, they found that removing snowpack allowed moisture in the ground to freeze, filling up the pore space and blocking the movement of oxygen and other gases. In other words, the soil couldn't breathe.

These changes altered the way microbes lived their lives as well. "[We found] a shift away from decomposition and nutrient recycling towards low-oxygen processes that could lead to the destabilization of stored carbon," said Joanna Ridgeway, a PhD student at Dartmouth and the lead author of the study. The lack of oxygen meant that microbes got their energy from processes that didn't require it, producing potent greenhouse gases such as methane and nitrous oxide. Longer term, Ridgeway worries that continued winter warming could decrease the ability of forests to store carbon by creating less nutrient-rich soils and increasing emissions.

"I feel like it's my job to bear

witness to the end of winter," said Dr. Caitlin Hicks Pries, whose lab runs DeFROST. "We're losing winter really fast, and we don't even know what exactly is being lost. That's what we hope this project can help us figure out." She pointed out that the loss of winter snow also affects the rest of the year. Typically, winter microbial activity leads to a surplus of just the right nutrients during the growing season. If these processes are slowed or altered, plants will take longer to put out fresh growth, dragging stick season into mud season and leading to increased uncertainty about when to plant crops.

When snow does come to New England, its dazzling surface makes the day after the storm a celebration. As a kid, I would sometimes lie on it — not to make snow angels or go sledding, but just to feel the way it cupped my body like memory foam. I would stay there until the snow started melting in my hat, sharing the silence with the hemlocks who tucked their roots in the hardworking dirt. I was warm in my winter coat and, though I didn't yet know about them, the microbes were too: safe, protected, bundled up. ■

*Maggie Weng is a writer and scientist currently working as a NASA postdoctoral fellow.*

*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*

## A snowstorm's hidden hazard *The dreaded ice dam*

By Justin Reynolds



Following the January 25 winter storm that cloaked Redding with a little under two feet of snow, the town quickly transformed into a picturesque winter wonderland.

In the days that followed, however, many residents learned the hard way that this beauty had its dark side, as ice dams formed on their roofs and threatened their unique brand of havoc.

Ice dams form when heat from your home gets to the attic due to insufficient insulation on the attic floor and melts the snow on your roof. That water then travels down the roof and freezes at the edges, creating solid blocks of impenetrable ice, or ice dams.

The cycle repeats as more snow melts over the ensuing days. With nowhere to go, water does what it always does: seeks its level.

Unfortunately, in many cases, that means becoming an uninvited guest in your home — damaging walls, ceilings, and insulation.

As ice dam numbers surged across town, Mike Demo — partner and general manager at Hudson Exteriors (recently acquired by another local company, George's Seamless Gutters) who routinely shares his expertise on roofing, siding, and related homeownership quandaries in the Redding 411 Facebook group — and his team got to work.

When I spoke with Demo last Thursday for a forthcoming

business feature, he'd already inspected several homes with ice dam issues. During our call, his phone beeped several times as other homeowners sought his help.

Demo, who also operates "The Energy Efficient Roofer" Facebook page and lives in town, says that the easiest way to fight back against ice dams is prevention.

"In most cases, ice dams form because there isn't enough intake venting," Demo said. "Proper ventilation makes sure that air flows through your attic or roof space properly, which prevents ice dams. When your roof is done the right way, you won't have any concerns."

By the next day, Demo had personally inspected eight homes with ice dams, and his team was in the process of clearing a total of 13 — "as of now," he added. One day later, that number had climbed to 23.

If ice dams have already taken hold of your roof, it's too late to fix ventilation issues.

To prevent water damage, you'll either have to hire professionals, take matters into your own hands with a roof rake (assuming the temperature cooperates), or try filling a stocking with calcium chloride ice-melting salt (not rock salt!) and placing it perpendicular to the ice dam to create a channel where water can flow (there are tons of good YouTube videos on this).

Not keen on fixing a ventilation problem even as a long-term fix? Roof rakes can also be a prophylactic of sorts, provided you scrape snow off your roof before it has the chance to melt and refreeze.

Which reminds me: I've got a purchase to make. ■



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies  
R = registration required

## This Week's Featured Events

### Redding's Revolutionary Years: America @ 250

**Friday, February 6**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
In-person and virtual presentation with Redding's Town Co-historians  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwinlibrary.org  
R

### Lyrics Coffeehouse – Marc Berger

**Friday, February 6**  
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
Live music in a relaxed atmosphere  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation  
\$

### Take Your Child To the Library Day

**Saturday, February 7**  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Enjoy donuts and bagels, toys, crafts, book browsing, treats, and a raffle  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwinlibrary.org

### Conversations: Truth, Myth, and Democracy

**Wednesday, February 11**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Virtual discussion on the speech made by Toni Morrison at Howard University  
Mark Twain Library  
marktwinlibrary.org  
R

## ARTS

**Friday, February 6**

**Creative Cocktail Hour – First Friday**  
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
GTown Arts  
5 Main Street  
gtownarts.com

**Friday, February 6**

**Lyrics Coffeehouse – Marc Berger**  
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
Live music in a relaxed atmosphere  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation  
\$

**Saturday, February 7**

**Artists' Talk and Closing Reception**  
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Into the Looking Glass exhibition events  
GTown Arts  
5 Main Street  
gtownarts.com

## CHILDREN | TEENS

**Saturday, February 7**

**Take Your Child To the Library Day**  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Enjoy donuts and bagels, toys, crafts, book browsing, treats, and a raffle  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwinlibrary.org

**Sunday, February 8**

**Sundays on the Farm: Family Nature Art**  
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Play and learn together – for families with children 3+  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
newpondfarm.org  
\$, R

**Tuesday, February 24**

**National Charity League Information Session**  
7:00 p.m.  
Mothers and daughters (grades 6-8)  
Easton Library  
691 Morehouse Road  
Easton  
E-mail membershipreddingarea@nlonline.org  
R

## FOOD | WINE

**Thursday, February 5**

**In Season: Baking on the Farm – Savory Bakes with Wine Pairings**  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
newpondfarm.org  
\$, R

**Thursday, February 12**

**Lunch Series: Homemade Beef Stew**  
12:00 p.m.  
Meal made by local chef  
Heritage Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
RSVP to mstillman@reddingct.gov  
or (203) 938-9725  
R

## HEALTH | WELLNESS

**Thursday, February 12**

**The Art of Calm: Meditation with Ancient Wisdom for Modern Lifestyles**  
12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  
Virtual meditation session  
Mark Twain Library  
marktwinlibrary.org  
R

**Thursday, February 12**

**Love Letters – A Meditation & Mindfulness Session**  
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Mindfulness session followed by letter-writing to future selves  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwinlibrary.org  
R

**Tuesday, February 24**

**Optimizing Vitality**  
12:30 p.m.  
Program with Dr. Wendy Hurwitz  
Heritage Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
RSVP to mstillman@reddingct.gov  
or (203) 938-9725  
R

## HOLIDAY | SEASONAL

**Tuesday, February 10**

**Learn the Art of Collage for Valentine's Day**  
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Create meaningful "love" messages with guidance from artist Alice Smith  
Heritage Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
RSVP to mstillman@reddingct.gov  
or (203) 938-9725  
R

**Saturday, February 14**

**Drop-In Community Crafting: Pocket Hearts**  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Drop by and create soft pocket hearts to keep or share  
The Georgetown Owl Market  
19 Main Street  
georgetownowl.com/market

**Saturday, February 14**

**Pretty in Pink '80s Valentine's Bash**  
6:00 p.m. Crafts and nail designs  
8:00 p.m. Movie screening  
Celebrate the 40th anniversary of *Pretty in Pink* with an '80s-themed craft and screening of the movie  
Greenwood Features  
269 Greenwood Avenue  
Bethel  
greenwoodfeatures.com/  
pretty-in-pink-80s-valentines-bash  
\$

**Saturday, February 14**

**Love & Heartbreak: Valentine's Day Concert**  
8:00 p.m.  
String quartet covers of your favorite classic and pop love songs  
The Granite  
5 North Main Street  
thegranitechurch.org  
\$

## NATURE

**Monday, February 9**

**Redding Garden Club Meeting: Garden Conservancy**  
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Program with Garden Conservancy historian Julia Censenbaugh  
Heritage Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
reddinggardenclub.org/  
monthly-meetings

**Thursday, February 19**

**Spring Flower Workshop: Grow Anemones and Ranunculus at Home**  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Hands-on workshop by Redding Flower Farm Shops at Auburn Landing  
28 Main Street  
reddingflowerfarm.com  
\$, R

**Saturday, February 28**

**Backyard Syruping for Adults**  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
newpondfarm.org  
\$, R

**Saturday, February 28**

**February Open Day**  
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
newpondfarm.org

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**Mondays – Fridays**

**The Breakfast Club**  
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.  
Ongoing Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, every weekday  
Christ Church Episcopal  
184 Cross Highway

**Friday, February 6**

**Redding's Revolutionary Years: America @ 250**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
In-person and virtual presentation with Redding's Town Co-historians  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwinlibrary.org  
R

**Saturday, February 7 – Sunday, February 8**

**The St. Thomas Formal Dress Exchange**  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Saturday  
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Sunday  
Open to anyone, regardless of ability to donate formal attire  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
95 Greenwood Avenue  
Bethel  
E-mail dawnfaw@aol.com  
with questions

**Wednesday, February 11**

**Conversations: Truth, Myth, and Democracy**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Virtual discussion on the speech made by Toni Morrison at Howard University  
Mark Twain Library  
marktwinlibrary.org  
R

**Thursday, February 19**

**Israel Putnam: The Man & The Myth**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Presentation by author Robert Ernest Hubbard  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwinlibrary.org  
R

**Friday, February 20**

**Refreshments with Friends**  
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Heritage Center  
37 Lonetown Road

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
44 Portland Avenue  
bethlehemplutheranct.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  
cibredding.org

**Christ Church, Episcopal**

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.  
184 Cross Highway  
christchurchredding.org

**First Church of Christ, Congregational**

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
25 Cross Highway  
firstchurchredding.org

**Long Ridge United Methodist**

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

**Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish**

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

**Georgetown Oratory of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**

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

**Temple B'nai Chaim**

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

## MEETINGS

**Monday, February 9**

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

**Tuesday, February 10**

**Planning Commission Special Meeting**  
5:45 p.m.  
Town Hall / Hearing Room  
100 Hill Road

**Tuesday, February 10**

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

**Tuesday, February 10**

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

**Wednesday, February 11**

**Region 9 Curriculum Committee**  
8:30 a.m.  
Location TBD

**Wednesday, February 11**

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

**Wednesday, February 11**

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

**Thursday, February 12**

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

**Thursday, February 12**

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

**Thursday, February 12**

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

**Tuesday, February 17**

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

**Tuesday, February 17**

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

**Wednesday, February 18**

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

**Thursday, February 19**

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

**Monday, February 23**

**OPEB Trust Board**  
6:00 p.m.  
Virtual or Town Hall / Hearing Room  
100 Hill Road

**Monday, February 23**

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

**\*\*Town offices will be closed on Monday, February 16 for Presidents Day**



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SVP of Mortgage Lending  
NMLS 16273  
203.917.2800  
GRARate.com/TimMartin  
tim.martin@garate.com

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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

Based on total number of units from SmartMLS for the state of Connecticut in all price ranges as reported on February 3, 2026 for the period Jan. 1-Feb 1, 2026. Sales volume is calculated by multiplying the number of buyer and/or seller sides by the sales price. One unit equals one side of a transaction (buyer or seller). Source data is deemed reliable but not guaranteed. The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2026 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logo are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.

