

# Boards of Education convene before new terms begin

By Anne Young Albanese

On Tuesday, October 28, the Easton, Redding, and Region 9 Boards of Education held their final joint meeting before new Board members are sworn into office. Because the Redding Board of Education candidates and Region 9 candidates from Redding ran unopposed, the new and returning members are not a surprise. (See the *Sentinel's* October 30 issue for profiles of each Board of Education candidate.)

One of the first things discussed at the October 28 meeting was the location of Central Office, where the administrators who serve all three districts work. It has been based in Easton since moving from Monroe in 2009. A committee had been formed to explore options for housing Central Office and ask the question: Does it make sense to

Continued on page 10



Photo by Gary Trust

A bright spot of fall color in Collis P. Huntington State Park during a more muted leaf-peeping year. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, e-mail [editor@reddingsentinel.org](mailto:editor@reddingsentinel.org).

## Uncontested race brings surprise: turnout

By Jessie Wright

Without contested races on the ballot, the results of the municipal election on November 4 were mostly a foregone conclusion. But election officials were “astounded” by the steady stream of voters on Election Day, with occasional lines forming and regular ballots running out around 5:30 p.m. (Extra ballots from early voting were then used, according to election moderator Bill Pardee.)

Of 6,630 active registered voters, a total of 2,315 residents voted for a 34.92% turnout rate. Early voting saw 698 ballots cast, and 59 people voted by absentee ballot.

Turnout this year was higher than the last municipal election held in November 2023 (also

uncontested), for which turnout was 23.67%. The highest turnout in recent memory for a municipal election was in November 2021, with 42.59%. This likely was driven by both a primary challenge and contested seat for First Selectman. Municipal election turnout in other years has tended to hover closer to 30%, with 2019 seeing 29.98% and 2017 seeing 31.4%.

Candidates beginning new terms this year are: First Selectwoman – Julia Pemberton; Selectmen – Diana M. Carlino and Michael P. Thompson; Town Clerk – Michele R. Grande; Town Treasurer – W. Wesley Higgins; Tax Collector – Patricia J. Moio; Board of Finance – Roger E. Van Ausdal and Jenifer Wyss; Redding Board of

Education – Laura Worosz, Chirag Sadana, Katie R. Risk, and John Belfatto; Board of Assessment Appeals – Gregory Stackpole; Planning Commission – Laurie L. Heiss, Steve Gagnon, and Jess Gaspar; Zoning Commission – Amy L. Atamian and William Miller; Zoning Board of Appeals – Jonathan Hopkins and Jill H. Cilo; Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate – Sarah Unfried and Leif Smith; Constable – Cheryl Graziano, Jeffrey A. Boxer, Jeffery Fligelman, Ron Derven, Urs B. Furrer, Jeanine Herman, and Leif Smith; and Region 9 Board of Education – Meghan Bendish and Kristina Scaviola. ■

## REDDING'S BIG OUTDOORS

### Return to Brinckerhoff Preserve

By Tony Gale



Photo by Tony Gale

With so many wonderful trails to explore in Redding, I am often torn between trying something new and revisiting somewhere. For this hike, I opted to revisit the Brinckerhoff Preserve. The only other time I tried this space it was the dead of winter, with bare trees and the odd bit of ice on the path. Hiking the trail with fall color seemed like a worthwhile trip.

I started out at dawn on a chilly, overcast day. The trail into the Preserve starts off Beeholm Road, with a sign and map next to a narrow boardwalk dotted with fallen leaves. I walked along the

boardwalk with the wood bouncing and groaning under my feet. The trail starts as Ensors Trace and threads between private driveways on both sides. The trees and brush did an excellent job of obscuring the houses. I followed the white blazes, some painted, some nailed to the trees, and shortly came to a wide, open field. I was a little uncertain where to go from there, with my memory a little hazy from the last time. I ended up walking along the right edge of the field following the lightly worn-down grass. In retrospect, heading to the left would have been a more direct route.

More private homes came into view, fortunate residents to live right on the edge of the Preserve. The glow of the rising sun was just visible through the trees, soon to be obscured for the day. Finally on the opposite corner of where I entered the field, I picked up the trail once again and headed back into the trees, accompanied by a squirrel that briefly reared its head before scampering away through the fallen leaves. The trail follows along one of the stone walls so common in Redding.

Soon, the trail dropped down, with houses hiding behind. Rocks, with lichen creeping across, punctuated the trail as I passed a “Horses stop here” sign. The trail jogged to the left as private property signs appeared in front of me. I stepped from rock to rock across a nearly dry stream and headed back uphill with moss replacing much of the lichen on the stones jutting into my path. Shortly, I passed a junction where this trail joins with others into Devil's Den. After the junction, Ensors Trace becomes Ross Ramble. Passing a recently fallen small tree, I went back

Continued on page 8

# Assistance agencies and food pantries scramble to feed hungry

By Rob Sample

Approximately 360,000 people in Connecticut receive benefits through the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which helps to bridge the gap in household budgets for food each month.

That changed on Saturday, November 1, when SNAP benefits were paused for the first time in the program's 61-year history due to the current Federal government shutdown. Normally, SNAP benefits appear on benefit cards on the first day of each month.

Last Friday, Federal judges in Massachusetts and Rhode Island determined the SNAP cutoff to be illegal and ordered the Federal government to resume funding immediately. In the rulings, the judges both noted that the government has \$5 billion in contingency funds that could help fund the program.

In a *60 Minutes* interview that aired on Sunday, November 2, President Trump indicated a willingness to resolve the SNAP crisis, particularly with respect to utilizing contingency funds to do so. The administration announced on Monday that November payments only would be partially funded, and noted there may be delays to recipients receiving those benefits.

In the meantime, local governments and non-profits throughout Connecticut have been working to feed the hungry and anticipate a rise in the number of households experiencing food insecurity.

In Redding, between 119 and 159 people rely on SNAP at any given time each month, according to Director of Social Services Angelica Fontanez. “The number can fluctuate because new people are added to rolls, some people relocate out of town, and others are up for redeterminations of benefits,” she said. “Right now, 43 children ages five to 17 receive SNAP, 81 recipients are 18 to 64 years old, and there are 30 seniors on SNAP, for a total of 154 people.”

SNAP benefits differ by state, by family size, and by income level. In Connecticut, the average benefit is approximately \$177 per person per month. The timing of the funding lapse also dovetails with the start of cold weather in the Northeast – when stretched family budgets must also add the expenditure of heating fuel to the mix.

“We encourage residents to support Redding Social Services during this time,” Fontanez wrote in a recent appeal on social media. “Donations can be made through the Town's website or by dropping off gift cards or checks at the Social Services office.” The office is located at the Redding Community Center, 37 Lonetown Road.

The donations received in this manner largely support the Town's ongoing supermarket gift-card program. Fontanez expects there to be greater demand now and is appealing to Redding residents to help their neighbors. “In the past,

Continued on page 7

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### Index

Big Outdoors	1
Police Blotter	2
Letter to the Editor	2
Sports	4
Real Estate	6
Remembering Redding	6
Music Note	7
Book Review	8
Library Corner	8
Business Spotlight	9
The Natural World	10
Calendar of Events	11





# Police Blotter

## Police activity October 27 – November 2

By Donna Christopher

### Emergency medical services

Officers assisted in two emergency medical service calls. On October 29, police performed lifesaving efforts on a person who was deceased at a Black Rock Turnpike residence but were unsuccessful.

### Lost and found

A purse was found on October 27 on Aquarion property and returned to the owner.  
A bag and laptop left near the road on Sunset Hill Road were returned to the owner on October 27.  
An Amazon package was reported missing on October 29 from Portland Avenue.

### Theft

On November 2, someone reported a theft from a motor vehicle on Redding Road. The vehicle’s window was broken while the owner was at a nearby open space. The complainant reported that a gray fanny pack which was left in plain view was stolen, which held her license, multiple credit cards, a check, and \$40, estimating the loss at \$240.

### Traffic

Police conducted 45 motor vehicle stops, issuing three summonses, 16 tickets, 10 written warnings, 14 verbal warnings, and took no action in two cases. The infraction rate was 42%.  
A two-car motor vehicle accident October 27 on Pine Tree Road caused property damage but no injuries. A two-car motor vehicle accident on October 29 on Umpawaug Road caused property damage but no injuries.

### Other matters

On November 2, officers responded to a call for disorderly conduct at Glen Road, in which a resident reported her ex-husband showed up at the house earlier on that day, despite a court order not allowing this. Police said there was no such order in place. The matter is settled.  
On November 2, someone reported a suspicious incident on Deer Hill Road in which a resident spoke to a male claiming to be from Frontier Communications. The complainant wanted it documented. No action was taken. ■

# What’s the deal with door-to-door?

By Donna Christopher

In almost every week’s Police Blotter, residents are reporting suspicious incidents involving door-to-door solicitors. This week, a resident wanted documentation of an interaction with someone claiming to be from a utility company. The *Sentinel* wanted to know: What are the requirements in Redding to allow solicitors to go door to door? How can residents know if a company representative is legitimate? How can a solicitor register their business with the Police Department? Are commercial sales regulated in the same way as something like children selling Girl Scout cookies?  
In providing insight to these questions, Police Chief Robert Kalamaras pointed to Chapter 320 of the Town Code which regulates door-to-door solicitation. Here is a summary of the key points:  
**Registration Required:** Anyone over the age of 16 soliciting orders for goods, services, or materials – whether for immediate or future delivery – must register with the Redding Police Department before soliciting.  
**Registration Process:** Individuals are required to provide identifying information, including name, date of birth, physical description, valid photo ID, contact information, corporate affiliation, and the nature and duration of what they’re soliciting.  
**Certificate of Registration:** Once approved, the Police Department issues a certificate of registration signed by the Chief or designee, which includes an

expiration date.  
**Permitted Hours:** Registered solicitors may operate only Monday through Saturday, between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Soliciting is not allowed on Sundays or legal holidays.  
**Prohibited Persons:** Anyone convicted of a felony or violent misdemeanor, or who violates this chapter, is prohibited from soliciting in town.  
**Penalties:** Violations are subject to a fine of up to **\$90**.  
Exemptions: Activities protected by the First Amendment, such as political, religious, or charitable canvassing (for example, evangelists, Girl Scouts, or local fundraisers), are generally not required to register, provided they respect private property and “No Soliciting” postings.  
In short, commercial solicitors (like solar sales representatives) must register with the Police Department, while non-commercial or charitable canvassers are typically exempt. When residents call about suspicious solicitors, officers confirm whether they’ve registered and are following permitted hours.  
“Our goal is not to discourage legitimate businesses or community groups,” Chief Kalamaras said. “But registration helps us ensure that residents know who is going door-to-door in their neighborhoods. It’s an important safeguard that deters scams, protects residents from unwanted contact, and gives our officers the ability to verify who’s operating lawfully in town.” ■

# 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,

This is a copy of an e-mail I sent to Governor Lamont in this time of SNAP cut-off emergency.  
Dear Gov. Lamont: Please, please find rainy day funds to help feed the 360,000 Connecticut residents (many with children) who may be going hungry this week now that our Outlaw President has cut \$500 million from the Emergency Food Assistance Program which food banks all over our state rely on. As a civilized state, we must care for the least of our little ones.  
Thank you for your kind attention to this matter. ■

Susan Auslander  
Redding Road

# Conservation easement on Highstead property donated to Aspetuck Land Trust

By Jessie Wright

A conservation easement donation by the Highstead Foundation to the Aspetuck Land Trust was finalized on Thursday, October 23, ensuring permanent protection of a 167-acre natural area along Lonetown Road.  
The announcement highlights the shared values of the two organizations, with Aspetuck Land Trust characterizing it as “a powerful collaboration” to preserve Redding’s rural character, protect biodiversity, and secure vital open space.  
Highstead, which was founded in 1982 as an arboretum, is now a regional conservation non-profit working through science, sound stewardship, and collaboration with partners to speed the pace of land conservation in New England and beyond. Aspetuck Land Trust

is a publicly supported regional non-profit land trust that currently includes nine towns and cities in Fairfield County. While Redding is not one of those towns, the easement on Highstead is not the first property in Redding that Aspetuck Land Trust has acquired, according to Executive Director David Brant.  
“This easement represents everything we value – science-based conservation, community benefit, and long-term land protection,” said Brant.  
Aspetuck Land Trust, one of the largest regional land trusts in Connecticut, will be responsible for monitoring the property annually to ensure its natural state remains intact. The property is within the headwaters of the Saugatuck River and includes mature forest,

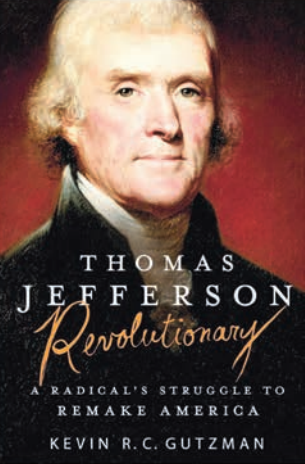
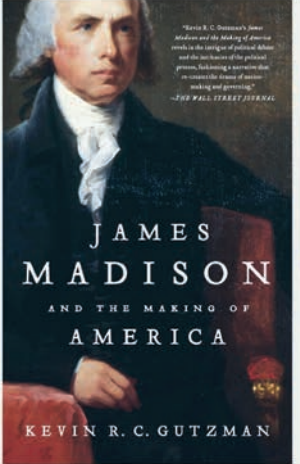
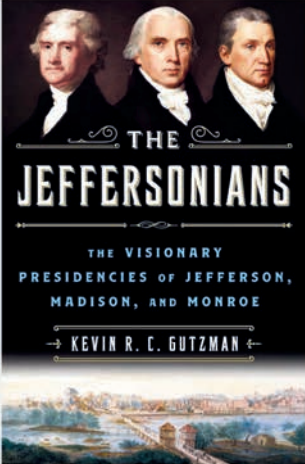

meadows, wetlands, and critical wildlife habitat. It supports uncommon species such as purple milkweed, New England cottontail, and bobolink, and lies within an Audubon-designated Important Bird Area. Its permanent protection will help prevent habitat fragmentation, enhance ecological connectivity, and protect regional drinking water supplies.  
“These kinds of collaborations are critical to help us meet the growing challenges of climate change and habitat loss,” added Aspetuck Land Trust President Bill Kraekel. “We applaud Highstead’s leadership and are honored to help ensure this land remains protected forever.” ■

**Correction to the October 30, 2025 issue:**  
In “Proposed Smith and Church Streets Historic District moves to next phase” on page 1, the article omitted two of the four streets that the historic district would include. The proposed district includes Smith Street, Church Street, Church Street South, and North Main Street. The public hearing date has been set for November 24, 2025. Following the public hearing, edits may be made, then a ballot will be mailed to all property owners in the proposed district, who will have 30 days to respond. A two-thirds majority vote is required before the matter may proceed to the Board of Selectmen and Special Town Meeting. We regret this error. ■

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SPORTS

Barlow wins fourth straight league crown

Girls volleyball | By Rocco Valluzzo



Joel Barlow High's Zoriana Olexy receives a serve as Val Alesi looks on during the South-West Conference girls volleyball championship.

Reaching the South-West Conference championship is nothing new for the Joel Barlow High girls varsity volleyball team.

The Falcons have advanced to the title match in each of the past three seasons, beating Newtown each time. Although a different opponent would await them for their most recent trip, the outcome would remain unchanged, with the defending champs sweeping second-seeded Masuk 3-0 (25-19, 25-21, 25-15) on Tuesday, October 28, at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury.

"It never gets old," said Barlow Head Coach Carol Conti, whose team won its 13th league crown in the past 14 seasons. "It doesn't."

Barlow, the top seed, came out a little tentative at the beginning, committing a few passing errors early in the first set as the second-seeded Panthers jumped out to a 1-5 lead. But just as quickly as Masuk took the lead, the Falcons rallied with four straight service points by Olivia Sickinger to erase



The Joel Barlow High girls varsity volleyball team defeated Mausik 3-0 on Tuesday, October 28, to win its fourth straight South-West Conference championship.

the deficit.

It remained a one-point affair for much of the way. The Panthers led by the net play of Grace Kehoe, until they scratched on a serve. Barlow responded by reeling off six straight service points by Zoriana Olexy for a 17-10 lead. Kills by Mia Roberts in the points that followed helped the Falcons close the set with a win.

"The fact that we played here last year, I think that was a huge advantage for us because it's not easy to play in this gym," said Conti. "Last year we really struggled in this gym. This year it just felt really slow again too."

Masuk also took a slim lead early in the second set before going up 9-14, prompting Barlow to call a timeout to settle down. Kills by Roberts and Madi Furrer helped them draw closer, tying it at 17-17 on a block by the latter.

Julia Miranda's ace, followed by a kill from Furrer, put the Falcons out in front 19-17, and Barlow was ahead to stay.

After several ties and lead changes early in the third set, the Falcons reeled off four straight service points by Miranda for a 10-6 lead. Three straight points from Sickinger and another block by Roberts helped contribute to an eventual 17-10 lead.

Barlow continued its strong play at the net to lead by as many as 10 points (22-12) before scratching on a couple of serves. One more kill brought the Falcons to victory's doorstep, and Sylvie Candee served up the final point for the win.

"I think we were very confident, but we didn't want to be overly confident," said Furrer, who was named MVP for the tournament. "We knew we could do it. We've been working hard all season."

Barlow, now 19-2, enters the state Class M tournament as the number two seed with a bye in the first round. It hosts the winner of the Granby Memorial/Weaver match on Thursday, November 6 at 6:00 p.m. ■

Falcons just miss in league semi-finals



The Easton-Redding Falcons competed in the semi-final tournament game of the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League on Sunday, October 26. They were defeated by Eastchester, 7-8, in the last inning after leading for much of the game.

Season ends at Class M races

Girls and boys cross country | By Rocco Valluzzo

**Girls cross country**

Some of the toughest competition of the season came at the end for the Joel Barlow High girls cross country team at the state Class M meet. The Falcons were one of 15 teams running at Wickham Park in Manchester on Saturday, October 25. Running on a longer course than usual (5,900 meters), they finished ninth overall with 226 points.

Daniel Hand of Madison was the winner with 78, dethroning defending champ New Fairfield with 82. Nonnewaug took third with 100.

A field of more than 100 runners proved challenging. Barlow's best finish came from Clara Mehner, who completed the race in 22:31.2, taking 24th overall.

A young team, the Falcons had just two seniors in the race. For her final high school meet, Olivia Kotula was 46th in 23.30.2. It was also

the last race for Stephanie Bardani, who was 51st in 23:42.8. She led a small group of Falcon runners who finished in a span of less than 36 seconds.

Two places later was Viv D'Amico with a 24:11.5. Completing the scoring for Barlow, Katie Kinyon was 56th in 24:23.9, 0.3 seconds after New Fairfield's Summer Nozsko.

Also in the race, Leah Rudd was 72nd with a 25:04, 0.04 seconds after Ellington's Shannon Shealyn.

**Boys cross country**

The Barlow boys team also faced a tough field of runners. With a score of 365, they were 16th out of 21 teams. Ledyard was the winner with 74, with Tolland a close runner-up with 77. Ellington was third with 94.

Barlow's best time came from

a freshman. In his first state race, Max Mehner led his team with an 18:54, good for 44th overall. He was one of two Barlow runners in the top 50. The other was Steve Czerkawski, who was 48th in 19:02.4, a half a second ahead of Suffield's Tim Johnson.

More than a minute followed before the next Falcon runner crossed the finish line. Taking 88th, Hunter Wildgoose clocked a 20:08.7.

Teammate Ryan Wheatley followed less than two seconds later in 20:10.6 for 90th, just getting touched out by Sheehan's Dylan Bogert, who had the same time. Completing the scoring for Barlow, Didier Meija-Morneau was 98th in 20:25.9.

Also in the race, Jack Laedke was 120th in 21:13, two places before Bauer Heres, who had a 21:15.1. ■

Swim team caps off remarkable season

Girls swimming | By Rocco Valluzzo



Abby Kazmierczak took 11th overall in the 100-yard breaststroke for the Barlow/Bethel/Immaculate (BBI) girls swim team at the South-West Conference championships on Saturday, November 1.

An increase in numbers helped make a difference for Joel Barlow High/Bethel/Immaculate (BBI) in the South-West Conference championships.

The team had at least one swimmer in just about every event, scoring in nearly all of them to earn 251 points and fifth out of 10 teams at the Masuk High pool on Saturday, November 1.

Defending champ Weston won its third straight title, this time with 467. Weston was a close runner-up with 456, and Brookfield took third with 410.5.

"They all swam pretty well," said Head Coach Eileen Earle. "We're happy."

Under Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) rules, co-op teams are evaluated every two years. Since 15 of BBI's swimmers are from Joel Barlow High School and with interest in the program growing, the arrangement will end after this season, with Barlow likely competing on its own next year.

BBI scored in all the relays, including the 200-yard individual medley to start the meet. Makayla Pederson, Abby Kazmierczak, Danika Roche, and Annabella Tam broke the two-minute mark to take fourth in 1:58.07.

"Our relays swam well," said Earle. "That was important."

Jae Godfrey represented the team in the 200 freestyle, taking 15th in 2:17.91, beating her seed time by more than three seconds and less than a second behind Pomperaug's Julia Capellini.

Three would score for BBI in the 200 IM, including Tori Swearingen in 10th with a 2:31.37, beating her

seed time by more than 10 seconds and 0.01 seconds behind Weston's Asha Douglas. Abby Bonoff was 15th in 2:38.62, and Mackenzie Messinger was right behind her in 2:40.38.

For the 50 free, Lily Friedman clocked a 29.92, taking 12th. BBI had no competitors in the diving event a few days earlier but took seventh in the 100 butterfly with Roche finishing in 1:04.22.

Tam had BBI's best finish in the 100 free, taking fourth in 57.76 to beat Brookfield's Gretchen Janney by 0.03 seconds. Friedman was 13th in 1:03.10 and Kazmierczak was 16th with a 1:03.68.

Pederson earned two silver medals, the first coming in the 500 free. Going the distance in 5:21.81, she was runner-up to Pomperaug's Caroline Suter.

Friedman, Kelly Allen, Messinger, and Kailyn Welsh combined to form the 200 free relay team that took eighth in 1:57.66.

Pederson gained her second silver in the 100 backstroke, finishing in 58.83, 0.15 seconds after Janney. Roche (sixth) and Swearingen (tenth) also scored for BBI with times of 1:04.05 and 1:06.41 respectively to surpass their seed times.

Kazmierczak took 11th in the 100 breaststroke in 1:18.35.

Ending the meet in the 400 free relay, Tam, Friedman, Roche, and Pederson came in at 4:00.57 for fourth overall.

BBI will next compete in the state Class LL meet on Saturday, November 8 at the Cornerstone Aquatic Center in West Hartford at 5:30 p.m. ■

First-round win at state

Girls soccer



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# Creativity abounds at the annual RES Halloween Parade



Photos by Anne Albanese

The Halloween Parade is an annual tradition at Redding Elementary School. On Friday, October 31, costumed students and staff marched around the Bus Circle to celebrate Halloween, with hundreds of families attending. (From top left, clockwise): Ms. Waring’s second grade class; Ms. Merritt’s second grade class march and show off their creative costumes; Mrs. Ballard’s kindergarteners wait patiently to be called to the Halloween Parade; Mr. Dayton’s fourth-grade students.

# John Read Middle School launches robotics club

By Anne Young Albanese



Photo by Mandy McCubbin

Brianna Rivera and Everett Duggan have gotten their robot to work! Rivera’s older brother is the captain of the Joel Barlow High School FIRST Robotics Team.

STEM/STEAM and Robotics teacher Mandy McCubbin has started a robotics club for students in sixth through eighth grade at John Read Middle School. The club meets once a week, and the students work in small teams to build, code, and troubleshoot robots and control them. This semester, the students are building robots to pick up an item and drop it into a vase.

According to McCubbin, the club works on the engineering process from beginning to end.

“The students also get hands-on experience as opposed to just in-the-brain work. So, they’re actually touching materials. They’re putting things together; they’re taking them apart,” McCubbin said. “They’re seeing what went wrong. I believe that it is a wonderful way to learn about life, because if you can build something and make something, then you can accomplish anything you’d like.”

Benji Young, a student in the club, shared, “I think robotics club is really fun. It’s kind of like Lego but more mechanical than that, which I really like. It’s really imaginative.”

The club also helps to hone skills like following directions, troubleshooting, collaborating, and cooperating.

“Right now, a robot is not working, and I’m trying to troubleshoot it with a new controller. I think it’s really engaging and trying to help you learn real-world problems,” said club member Owen Wendell.

Interest in the new club has been strong; it currently has 20 students, which is the maximum that can participate. McCubbin is hoping to hold another club in the spring and have space for other students. John Read Middle School also offers an elective robotics class. ■

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REAL ESTATE

October 2025 real estate report *A look at trends in the local housing market*

By Bill Whitehead and John Talley

Nine properties sold in October, two fewer than in October 2024. The current number of properties for sale in Redding is 25, versus 27 at this time last year. The average price of houses sold in Redding so far this year is \$1,127,467, a 7% increase from 2024. There are currently 15 properties under contract in Redding as of this month’s report. The average price-per-square-foot of houses sold year-to-date in 2025 rose by \$14-per-square-foot to \$357. ■

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

October 2025													
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 Nov 4	October	2025	October	2025	October	2025	October	2025	October	2025	October	2025
Redding	25	9	95	91	99	\$1,096,667	\$1,133,162	\$1,103,000	\$1,127,467	1%	-1%	\$438	\$357
Ridgefield	44	19	188	83	80	\$1,237,837	\$1,222,289	\$1,282,495	\$1,284,674	4%	5%	\$428	\$446
Weston	26	11	117	90	96	\$1,710,727	\$1,522,509	\$1,714,455	\$1,554,270	0%	2%	\$454	\$420
Wilton	18	21	183	70	78	\$1,309,714	\$1,387,271	\$1,360,595	\$1,462,578	4%	5%	\$436	\$441
Easton	14	8	81	105	89	\$1,284,578	\$1,068,560	\$1,249,063	\$1,079,546	-3%	1%	\$315	\$336
Bethel	23	11	126	64	75	\$582,605	\$585,513	\$585,045	\$591,007	0%	1%	\$319	\$294
Newtown	65	24	255	71	79	\$733,854	\$723,487	\$732,148	\$728,880	0%	1%	\$305	\$294
Average	31	15	149	82	85	\$1,136,569	\$1,091,827	\$1,146,686	\$1,118,346	1%	2%	\$385	\$370

REDDING SOLD - October	Sale Price	List Price	%/ List Price	Price/Sqft	Days on Market
6 Old Mailcoach Rd	\$575,000	\$525,000	10%	\$683	76
110 Gallows Hill Rd	\$599,000	\$685,000	-13%	\$227	149
181 Picketts Ridge Rd	\$775,000	\$795,000	-3%	\$439	85
76 Farview Farm Rd	\$900,000	\$935,000	-4%	\$275	127
23 Mountainview Dr	\$980,000	\$995,000	-2%	\$323	68
168 Sunset Hill Rd	\$1,323,000	\$1,375,000	-4%	\$360	91
23 Sanfordtown Rd	\$1,475,000	\$1,475,000	0%	\$428	111
46 Dayton Rd	\$1,600,000	\$1,685,000	-5%	\$507	78
37 Chalburn Rd	\$1,700,000	\$1,400,000	21%	\$700	36
Average	\$1,103,000	\$1,096,667	1%	\$438	91

REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft	Days on Market	REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft	Days on Market
280 Newtown Tpke	\$399,000	\$386	4	28 Sunnyview Dr	\$1,249,000	\$339	118
219 Redding Rd	\$554,000	\$449	145	16 Black Rock Tpke	\$1,250,000	\$302	167
477 Newtown Tpke	\$589,000	\$364	13	61 Marchant Rd	\$1,539,000	\$371	68
18 Great Meadow Rd	\$659,000	\$328	158	34 Fox Run Rd	\$1,550,000	\$198	339
81-83 Picketts Ridge Rd	\$675,000	\$352	26	56 Cross Hwy	\$1,625,000	\$464	202
22 Lonetown Rd	\$769,000	\$313	133	32 Beeholm Rd	\$1,799,000	\$734	166
45 Great Pasture Rd	\$849,900	\$213	277	65 Umpawaug Rd	\$1,895,000	\$474	1183
15 Bartram Dr	\$949,000	\$382	46	2 Longwood Dr	\$1,995,000	\$319	77
283 Redding Rd	\$949,000	\$403	97	29 Goodsell Hill Rd	\$3,200,000	\$582	61
22 Ledgewood Rd	\$979,000	\$274	11	241 Black Rock Tpke	\$4,495,000	\$302	896
90 Old Stagecoach Rd	\$985,000	\$320	25	229 Umpawaug Rd	\$7,495,000	\$1,116	175
118 Sanfordtown Rd	\$999,000	\$321	166	63 Turney Rd	\$8,600,000	\$913	126
15 Tunxis Trl	\$1,065,000	\$346	23	Average	\$1,884,516	\$423	188
Listings continue on right side of table							

REMEMBERING REDDING

Greek Survival – 66 Hill Road | By Bruce Nelson



The house at 66 Hill Road in 1937.

It wasn’t until the late 18th century that some houses in interior New England began to take on a unique appearance, as those who were more affluent started to adorn their new homes with more decorative millwork and fancier masonry. Some even adopted the more elegant architectural styles found in Europe.

The vast majority of New England’s pre-1850s homes were built around a massive center chimney that began in the basement. Those chimneys traditionally included three fireplaces on the main level. If the home was large enough to have a second level with designated bedrooms, there was often at least one more fireplace on the second floor that provided an additional source of heat. With three or

more fireplaces all burning wood at the same time, most homes could maintain enough heat for the occupants to remain comfortable.

The house at 66 Hill Road in Redding was built by physician Thomas Peck on land he obtained from his first father-in-law, Lemuel Sanford sometime in 1796. Thomas and his wife Mary had two children, Sophia, born in 1797, and Aaron, born a year later in 1798. Mary died due to complications from childbirth that same year. She was only 22 years of age.

Thomas then married Susanna Heron, the daughter of Redding’s infamous William Heron, the man who hosted both British and Continental Army officers on the same Saturday in 1777 as the British marched towards Danbury with



The Greek Revival structure in 1938.

the Continental Army in pursuit just a few hours behind them. Susanna gave birth to the couple’s only child, Caroline, in 1800. Thomas’s son Aaron died in 1809 at the age of only 11, and his father passed only a few months later at the age of 37.

Doctor Peck accumulated a fair amount of wealth and a great deal of land during his 37 years on this earth. At the time of his death, he owned a total of 115 acres comprised of about a dozen plots within Redding. Also on the inventory list of Peck’s possessions was a slave named “Ceasar” (*sic*). He would have been among the 12 slaves listed in the 1800 census, but since there were no slaves in Redding listed in 1810, it can be assumed that Caesar was given his freedom shortly after the good doctor’s

death in November 1809. In Peck’s will, dated that October, life use of the house was given to Susanna and his two daughters.

The home Doctor Peck had built for his wife and children was more elaborate than most, being an early example of the Greek Revival style of architecture. While the 1988 Bedford and Lucas survey of Redding’s historic homes suggests that the Greek Revival style may have been the result of an earlier renovation, the 1938 accounting of the renovation by renowned New England architect Frazier Forman Peters indicates otherwise. From Peter’s description, the house had every appearance of being completely original when the restoration work commenced.

Earle Henry Balch was born in



Earle H. Balch in 1915.

Lakeville, Minnesota on November 11, 1893. After graduating from the University of Minnesota and then Harvard, he taught for a short time before moving to New York and taking a job working for G.P. Putman and Sons in the publishing business. In 1924, he established his own publishing firm: Minton, Balch, and Company. Then, in 1930, he merged his firm with that of his previous employer and became the executive vice president of Putnam’s from 1932 until his retirement in 1947.

Balch remained single for his entire life. In 1937, he came to Redding in search of a summer home. Like so many other older homes in the area during the Great

Continued on page 7



MUSIC NOTE

Synchronicity and sound  
Classical Sundays series to launch at The Granite

By Jessie Wright



The artists behind the new Classical Sundays music series at The Granite gathered last weekend to talk programming and hear the new piano. (From left to right): Andrew Levine, Lana Auerbach, Sarah Hawkey, Beryl Diamond Chacon, and Richard Wenning.

The Granite is celebrating a symphony of synchronicity with the start of its new Classical Sundays series this weekend. The series will kick off on Sunday, November 9 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at 5 North Main Street with its inaugural concert *Two by Two by Three: American Chamber Duets and the Legacy of Aaron Copland*. Executive Director Richard Wenning said the aim of the series is to present a classical concert monthly, with additional programming in the works. This new offering, which will feature The Granite’s recently donated grand piano, emerged from a perfect alignment of place, passion, and unexpected connections.

Andrew Levine, one of the artists spearheading the Copland concert, is a long-time Ridgefield resident who trained at the Manhattan School of Music and went on to get a master’s in composition. He is returning to his classical roots after spending the last decade producing theater and music in New York. Levine came upon The Granite when he and his collaborator, violinist Beryl Diamond Chacon, were looking for a location to perform. Upon meeting Wenning, whom Levine calls a “magnet for collecting diverse experiences that people have in the arts,” he found immediate enthusiasm. Wenning offered the space and, upon hearing more about Levine’s background, encouraged him to get involved. “I quickly got sucked into the idea of building some kind of community for classical music,” laughed Levine. The Granite itself proved ideally suited for the project. The acoustics of the space are excellent for classical music, particularly due to

the natural material of stone. “You can really hear the integrity of the tone,” marveled Chacon, as she drew her bow across her instrument at a rehearsal last weekend, the note’s resonance filling, but not overwhelming, the space. For Levine, the energy and mission of the venue, the timing, and the people made his involvement seem right. “Everything just felt in alignment,” he said. Another key to bringing the classical series to life was the acquisition of a donated grand piano. Renting a piano was being explored when Wenning recalled that Redding resident Charles Frederick Secrease had previously inquired about donating one. At the time, The Granite had no heat in most of the building and wasn’t in a place to consider such a gift. But now, with the building ready to host a range of programming, Wenning reached back out. The piano, an 1899 Mason & Hamlin, was made by one of only a few major American piano companies still in operation. It was purchased in the 1950s by Secrease’s mother, who was a serious student of music. Secrease’s father, a concert pianist and music professor, also played it over the years, and Secrease (who himself is a classically trained musician, actor, and director) and his siblings grew up playing the instrument. “It’s seen multiple generations within our family of serious pianism,” said Secrease. When Secrease’s mother passed away in 2020, he couldn’t bear to part with it. He started the process of restoring the piano, but then it sat in storage because Secrease didn’t have the space for it. “That’s just the worst thing,”



Photos by Jessie Wright Andrew Levine (piano) and Beryl Diamond Chacon (violin) at The Granite’s new piano.

he said, who noted pianos, like old cars that need driving, need to be played. He inquired with a few charities, but many said they planned to sell the piano. “I decided I’d rather get no money for it, and see it go to a good home where it can be enjoyed,” he said. Levine’s technician evaluated the instrument and noted its great potential. Levine also realized its size – a parlor grand – was “perfect” for The Granite. The piano is now situated in its new home and has received several more hours of restoration to ready it for its new life. The Copland program As the first concert in the new Classical Sundays series, and with Levine a composer himself, celebrating the legacy of Aaron Copland in many ways felt meant to be. “Aaron is that kind of quintessential American composer,” said Levine. “He was so instrumental in finding and defining what the sound of American music was going to be like.” As Levine and Chacon began to research and dig into Copland’s music, “all these synchronous things started to happen,” Levine recalled, including discovering links to Tennessee Williams, Copland’s master teacher Nadia Boulanger, and Lehman Engel and the American Composer’s Alliance. The program will weave some of these stories in with the musical performances, which will include Copland’s *Violin Sonata*, Nadia Boulanger’s *3 Pieces for Cello* (performed by An-Lin Bardin) and three works by 21st century American composers. ■ Learn more at thegranitechurch.org

Assistance agencies and food pantries scramble to feed hungry continued from page 1

I’ve only been able to provide gift cards of \$50 to \$100,” she said. “In the current situation, we hope to be able to increase that amount.” Fontanez noted that in a normal month, when SNAP benefits are intact, the grocery gift cards that the Town provides are intended as a supplement. “When you consider that the average family might spend \$800 to \$900 a month on food, there is always going to be a gap,” she said. Single moms are especially hard hit by the situation, she added. “The maximum SNAP benefit that a single mom with one child can receive is \$546,” Fontanez stated. Benefit amounts are set by the State of Connecticut’s Department of Social Services (DSS). Area food banks went into crisis-planning mode to cope with anticipated increased demand for services. Moreover, Governor Ned Lamont recently allocated \$3 million in emergency state funding to Connecticut Foodshare, a non-profit organization with a large network of food bank partners and mobile food pantries. “The suspension of SNAP benefits due to the Federal shutdown affects approximately 360,000 Connecticut residents, including the elderly, disabled, and children and their families who rely on SNAP to meet a basic human need, access to healthy food,” said State Department of Social Services Commissioner Andrea Barton Reeves. “This emergency funding will help Connecticut Foodshare expand its capacity to meet the urgent needs of our communities. But we are also asking everyone to help keep our friends and neighbors from experiencing food insecurity by donating as generously as you can to your local food pantry. Donations of canned and boxed foods and monetary donations are especially needed now.” Two of the sizable operations close to Redding are Daily Bread Food Bank in Danbury, and the food pantry at Walnut Hill Community Church in Bethel. Daily Bread is extending its normal six-hours-per-day schedule to accommodate the increased demand it expects during the SNAP crisis, said Daily Bread President Peter Kent. He pointed out that Daily Bread also is extending an invitation to families of Federal employees, most of whom are unpaid during the government shutdown. Daily Bread’s services are no questions-asked, but there is a process to follow. New individuals and families must register and go on a two- to three-week waiting list for an appointment. “We’re a large operation,” Kent said, “and to serve the big numbers of people that come here, we have to operate on

an appointment-only basis.” When visitors arrive at the appointed time, they shop as they would at a usual supermarket. Daily Bread also partners with DoorDash to deliver food to those who cannot travel to the facility. “We’ve been building up our inventory,” said Kent, “because as this goes on, more and more people will seek help.” Hailey Hills, Food Pantry and Service Coordinator for Walnut Hill Community Church, runs both the Bethel food pantry and a smaller one at the church’s Derby location. This food pantry accepts donations of food – particularly nonperishables – in addition to monetary donations. At the top of the list are high-protein canned foods, though the pantry also aims to provide patrons with frozen meats. One element that distinguishes the Walnut Hill operation is that it’s a drive-up pantry. Thus, patrons must have a vehicle or a ride in order to drive in and be served. The Bethel pantry distributes food on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month; distributions in Derby take place on the third Wednesday. The Bethel pantry served 4,571 people in October. That’s a big undertaking – from unpacking the large tractor-trailers that deliver food, to sorting it, to packing it into bags for patron pickup. “We try to provide balanced meals for every family who comes,” said Hills. “So, we always can use new volunteers – especially now. And because we are now getting into the colder months, a lot of our elderly volunteers will no longer be able to work outdoors.” Fontanez has issued a special appeal for donations – both for the ongoing SNAP crisis and for the coming winter months, when the Social Services Department assists approximately 50 Redding households with their fuel costs. The fuel subsidy ranges from \$375 to \$500. There is also a crisis benefit to households that are in danger of a shutoff. “One half of the recipients are seniors,” she noted. ■ Contact Fontanez at (203) 938-3580 or afontanez@townofreddingct.org or donate to Redding Social Services at reddingct.gov/government/services/social-services For more information on Daily Bread, visit dailybreadfoodpantry.com, or call (203) 826-8252 For more information or to donate or volunteer at Walnut Hill, visit walnuthillcc.org, or call (203) 796-7373 ext. 217

Remembering Redding: Greek Survival – 66 Hill Road / continued from page 6

Depression, the old Peck house on Hill Road was for sale and in a state of great disrepair. The eight-room house was the perfect size, but it needed to be brought into the 20th century by adding running water, a decent kitchen, a central heating system, and indoor bathrooms. Balch loved the Greek Revival style and was financially capable of taking on the project. Frazier Forman Peters was already an established architect who was known for building stone houses in Weston, Wilton, and New Canaan. The restoration and modernization of a late 1700s house was not his forte, but he agreed to take a look. Impressed by the home’s hidden beauty, Peters noted in his September 1938 House Beautiful magazine feature about the property that he had only seen one or two others in the area that resembled that design. After consulting with contractor Vernon Gifford of Westport, the two of them agreed to restore and update Balch’s house. It would be a true restoration with only a minimal number of alterations made to accommodate the larger kitchen, and the two new bathrooms on the

second level. It was only Balch’s willingness to spend more than he could ever recoup that made such a project feasible. According to Peters, the locals were surprised to see the building undergoing a complete restoration. The normal course of action would have been to tear the place down and begin anew with a clean slate. Peters recalls one town resident taking such a lingering look at the progressing work that he crashed his automobile into a tree as he passed by. Peters explained to Balch the limitations that a proper restoration would place on modernizing the house to the level that most people might expect from such an expensive project. The central heat would need to be provided by hot water as there was no room to fit large air ducts into the narrow walls. The bathrooms would need to be rather spartan in their appearance since the thin lath walls weren’t capable of carrying the additional weight that tile would add. Walls within the house would show bulges and appear uneven since many of the old timbers used in the original framing had been hand-hewn and

varied in their dimensions. The sills had rotted and were replaced. The chimney was in need of serious repairs, and the sagging roof needed to be replaced. Some of the interior batten doors were certainly original to the house, but as Peters explained to Mr. Balch, many of those doors would have been designed to be temporary when the original owner built the house, and he might have eventually replaced them with solid raised panel units imported from France or England once more money became available. In the case of Doctor Peck’s home, it appeared that the sudden death of his first wife and the early demise of his young son may have made those upgrades seem less important. One of the largest challenges that faced Peters was attempting to redesign the front entrance to correct a fundamental flaw that had been present since Doctor Peck first built his house nearly 150 years earlier. It appeared to Peters that Peck might have ordered his elaborate front entrance door and side lights to be delivered from Europe, and that he needed to frame the entryway and complete it prior

to the arrival of the millwork. The problem was that the wall between the living room and the dining room had already been built, and that the opening for the new door and side lights had been made too small. Rather than rip apart and move the interior partition, Doctor Peck instead installed the new front door and side lights with the interior wall completely obscuring the eastern side light. That side light was then plastered over on the inside and remained hidden for the next 150 years. With Balch not wanting to discard the original door and lights, Peters got creative with the millwork and kept the original unit in place by covering up both side lights with decorative inserts and moldings on the exterior and plastering them over on the inside. That solution has stood the test of time, as the front entrance looks the same today as it did in 1938. According to Peters, the only alteration to the shell of the original house was the addition of a bay window on the rear that overlooked the new patio Peters had designed for outdoor entertaining. Since the interior of the old house

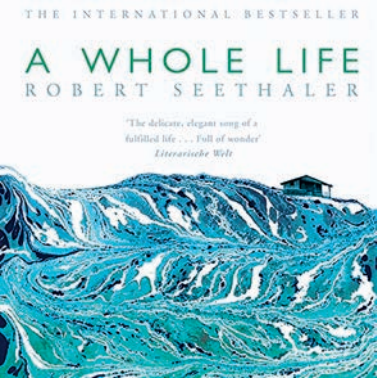
had been completely gutted prior to commencing the work – a move that Peters and Gifford had decided necessary before giving Balch a solid quote on the project – Balch was then free to design most of the new floorplan. The only limitations came from the need to work around that massive chimney and those three main level fireplaces. Earle Balch eventually made this house his permanent residence. By 1951, he presided as Chairman of Redding’s Board of Education and was President of the Mark Twain Library Association. Balch became the Chief Cultural Affairs Officer at the United States Embassy in Iran in 1952, a position he held in the Eisenhower administration until 1955. He served as the cultural attaché to The Netherlands from 1955 until 1960, and then served under President Kennedy in the same position in Turkey between 1960 and 1962. Balch died in his home state of Minnesota on July 1, 1977. ■ Bruce Nelson is Co-Historian for the Town of Redding and Co-Founder of the Redding CT History Project



BOOK REVIEW

A Whole Life | By Robert Seethaler

160 pages / Picador / \$12.89



*A Whole Life*, by Robert Seethaler (translated from German by Charlotte Collins), tells the story of a man named Andreas Egger, born 1902, a lame orphan reluctantly taken as a child into a foster home of relatives after the death of his single mother. Uneducated, he is married briefly until his wife dies, and then he lives alone until his death at 79 years old. He leaves his mountain village only once, to serve in World War II. He serves after being rejected twice for his game leg. Eventually taken into the army, he is captured nearly frozen to death and survives the war as a Russian prisoner. After a hardscabble life with little material comfort during challenging times, is he ready for the end of it? Robert Seethaler gives us the answer in the last sentence of the novel: “‘Not just yet,’ he said quietly; and winter settled over the valley.” *A Whole Life* is a celebration.

Seethaler makes a powerful statement about how nearly any life can be evaluated positively without authoritarian doctrines of acceptable behavior. There are no commandments to guide thought

and action. Meaning and purpose (and survival) come in response only to the moods of the mountain and seasonal weathers around it. When Egger’s wife is killed in an avalanche, he barely survives. After she is buried, he lives alone. His life continues.

The story of Andreas Egger is meant to question comforts and conveniences of modernity. We are a species that builds for ourselves what we think we want or need, or must have to call ourselves “happy.” Robert Seethaler joins ranks with those who think, persuasively, that nature and its uneven perils bring proper essence to life, and that paying attention to the immediate environment is a way to better understand worlds, both inner and outer, in a real — one might dare say *sacred* — sense.

*A Whole Life* can be seen as a secular novel written and presented to counter so many novels where success in life is tied to faith in God or material abundance. Neither is present here, which is probably the point. The message here is straightforward: Life is fleeting and change is constant; peril and ignorance always exist, but human beings are given senses and emotions to know the world and find protection from harm. More is gained from engaging nature, and more is lost from turning away from it than most comprehend. ■

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

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Good books for good readers | By Margi Esten

Another look at my overflowing night table:

*Heart the Lover* by Lily King is her intimate new novel of desire, friendship, loss, and the lasting impact of love. King is the bestselling author of six novels most notably *Writers & Lovers*, which is not a prequel but both books share some of the same characters. (Note: See the *Sentinel*’s October 16 issue for Tom Casey’s review.)

*And Every Morning The Way Home Gets Longer* and *Longer* is a novella by Fredrik Backman telling the story of a family coping with an aging grandfather’s dementia and impending death. Backman is best known for his novel *A Man Called Ove*, but personally I love his *My Friends*.

*Held* by Anne Michaels is a poetic epic spanning four generations. Set in France during World

War I, the story begins with John, a wounded English soldier returning from the battlefields. Michaels is a Canadian poet and musician and also the author of *Fugitive Pieces* and *The Winter Vault*.

*Killing Moon* by Jo Nesbo, published in 2022, is the 13th crime novel in the Harry Hole series. Nesbo is a prize-winning Norwegian crime novelist and musician, and his books have sold over 50 million copies worldwide.

*The Wrong Sister* by Claire Douglas is told from the points of view of Tasha, her mother Jeanette, and a mysterious lady named Bonnie. We follow the characters over a period of six months. Douglas is an English author and former journalist and known for her best-selling thrillers that place women in key roles. ■

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LIBRARY CORNER

A film screening to remember | By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend a screening of the film *The Librarians* and participate in a panel discussion afterward. This documentary follows a group of what many may consider unlikely heroes in the fight against censorship and our First Amendment Rights: Librarians. The film opens with the “Krause List,” a list of 850 books that Texas lawmaker Matt Krause tried to ban in 2021. Many of the books on the list – disproportionately so – feature characters or authors who identify as LGBTQ+ or BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color). The film follows the story of librarians from across the country who chose to stand up to the highly organized political groups leading the effort to remove these books from library shelves.

We were lucky to have Martha Hickson, one of the librarians

featured in the film, join our panel discussion afterward. While Martha was a high school librarian in New Jersey, a political group attended a Board of Education meeting for her district to demand that *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe and *Lawn Boy* by Jonathan Evison be removed from the school library’s shelves. At a public meeting, she was accused of being a pedophile and pornographer. But rather than keep her head down and quietly remove the books, she refused. She endured personal attacks, hate mail, and death threats so severe that she had to take time off from doing the job she loved. During the Q&A session, I had the opportunity to ask Martha, “How did you take care of yourself during such a difficult time?” Martha looked at me, “I got organized.”

She galvanized support from

the community, her students, and authors of frequently banned books. She attended meetings, consulted colleagues, and helped other librarians through book ban attempts at their libraries. She was ultimately victorious, and the resolution to ban those books was voted down in a school board meeting later that year. I left the screening so inspired by Martha’s story and so grateful that we have librarians like her standing up for books, intellectual freedom, and one of democracy’s main principles: the free flow of ideas.

*The Librarians* is playing again at the Avon Theatre in Stamford on Monday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.

■

*Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library*

Notes from a neighbor Watch your mouth

By Carter Wiseman

All of us who ride the trains to and from New York City have had the experience: a fellow traveler chatting at high volume with no clue about the effect on other passengers. I have heard long conversations about what’s for dinner, how the middle-school softball game went, and how many shares to sell. Whether I am trying to nap or read texts, the practice tempts me to intervene. It’s not quite road rage, but close. I am happy to say that I am backing off, and not because I expect chastising a chatterer might provoke a knife fight.

The reason is that my son, who lives in Chicago and relies on that city’s mass transit system, recently reported that he fell into conversation with an elderly traveler who was shushing a seat-mate for talking loudly while the old-timer was trying to read. As a former resident of Manhattan in the days of the subway vigilante Bernard Goetz, I would have advised my son to keep clear, but he gently

butted in to ask the offended party if he would complain to a phone-free traveler about having a normal conversation about, say, what’s for dinner. The veteran conceded that he would not, and when the person on the phone signed off, all three joined in a discussion. The caller’s first response was to apologize for being a disturbance, but then he explained that he was a sponsor for Alcoholics Anonymous and that he was talking a “friend of Bill” – the group’s name for someone seeking help for addiction – through a crisis.

From my son’s telling, the shusher was appropriately embarrassed, and when I heard the story, so was I. It triggered a memory of sitting for hours in the waiting room of the local Honda service center trying to sort out the world’s problems while being bombarded with a loud phone conversation three chairs over. Just as I was about to take action, the woman on the phone said, “I think you are making great

progress. Your father may not have been as bad as you thought.” My fellow Honda-waiter was evidently a shrink, as I realized when she said the session was over and that she had another patient ready to go. Had I been one of them, I would prefer that she not review my emotional history in a public waiting room, but everybody is busy these days and short on office space. And for all I know, she may have headed off a case of patricide.

With Covid behind us, the trains are getting crowded again, and I sense that patrons are increasingly sensitive about inadvertently dropping stock tips on what my daughter calls the “private equity express.” This might account for what seems to be a lowering of the volume of cell phone conversations. Whatever the reason, the next time I’m tempted to discipline someone else’s call on the 5:36 out of Grand Central, I’ll wait to find out who is on the other end of the line. ■

Nod to the pod Nobody’s Listening, Right? Episode 192: How Is Our Cat Still Alive? | By Amy Maloof

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

Married couple Elizabeth Laime and Andy Rosen have been podcasting together since 2010, but I only found them this year. That makes me a little sad, because I find so much joy listening to their conversations, and I missed 15 years of them. Once a week, they talk for an hour “like nobody’s listening” while we the listeners get to eavesdrop. New episodes land in my feed each Wednesday, and I always try to make myself wait before hitting play – because as soon as it’s over, I have another whole week to wait – but I never can.

Each host brings to the table a little list of things they want to discuss, and it runs the gamut: Career

issues, noteworthy trips to Costco or CVS, things they’ve found on the Internet, bones they have to pick with each other, etc. In this episode, Laime discovers her Yelp reviews from 15 years ago, and Rosen reads them aloud. It’s so entertaining (and made me go find my own ancient ones – man, I was mean).

Both Laime and Rosen are naturally funny people, and so they easily turn the minutiae of their days into great stories, but they don’t steer clear of deeper topics either. Laime lost both her parents at a young age, while Rosen just lost his dad, and they frequently explore the topic of grief, somehow in a way that doesn’t suck all the air out of the room, as Rosen would say.

They seamlessly move between everything that makes up a life while giving us all a small break from our own.

So many people in my life only listen to interview podcasts where each week there’s a new expert: parenting tips, nutrition tips, life-hacks, how to avoid toxic narcissists – and on and on. I feel so flooded with clickable links to maximize my best self that I’m pretty close to throwing my phone into the ocean. But Laime and Rosen aren’t telling me how to be better. They eat like normal people, fight like normal people, and make me laugh more than most normal people. It’s an hour of comfort and realness I’ve come to find essential. ■

Return to Brinckerhoff Preserve / continued from page 1

downhill, my jacket occasionally tugged on by errant twigs and thorns. Across the stream again, with a bit more standing water here, and then further along the trail.

My favorite thing about this hike is, almost without fail, when uncertain which direction the trail goes next, it is the way that looks the most fun. Wonder what is at the top of that rock face? The trail goes there, dodging gnarled roots! Parts were like a puzzle waiting to be solved, a little reminiscent of Fiery Furnace in Arches National

Park. It really made me feel like a kid again.

The hike soon offered two options: The blue trail as a sort of short cut, or continuing on Ross Ramble. After consulting the OnX Backcountry trail app on my phone, I stayed on Ross Ramble and zig-zagged my way up and down rock ridges and through the trees, pausing on some of the high points to take in the view and enjoy the moments of quiet and solitude.

All too soon, the trail met up with the blue trail cut through,

and I continued to the open field. Retracing my steps across the boardwalk, I returned to my car, once again grateful to have places like this available and so close to home. ■

*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*



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Raising amazing  
Gene Nazzaro brings wagyu beef to Redding | By Justin Reynolds



Photo by Justin Reynolds  
A strip steak from Amazing Graze, personally delivered.

After Gene Nazzaro’s son, Ross, took the reins of the 80-year family business – local excavating and general contracting company Nazzaro Inc. – Gene took a step back and launched an entirely new venture. The life-long Redding resident began Amazing Graze Wagyu (named by his wife, Sadelle) in 2023, raising American Wagyu cattle and bringing high-quality, locally raised beef to town.

Wagyu cattle originate in Japan. Wagyu beef, among the most sought-after meats in the world, is highly marbled, tender, juicy, and tasty – the result of selective breeding designed to produce this precise outcome.

Amazing Graze Wagyu continues this tradition, just with an American flair. Nazzaro connected with a veterinarian in Vermont who deals with cattle and large animals and together they began building the herd.

“Our American Wagyu are sired by full-blooded Wagyu bulls that are cross-bred to French Charolais, Angus, and Holstein cattle,” Nazzaro explained, adding that the bulls “carry the heritable genetics for excellent marbling.”

Amazing Graze sells a full range

of cuts, including filet mignon, ribeye, New York strip, flank steak, skirt steak, sirloin, brisket, short ribs, ground beef, and marrow bones. Whole, half, and quarter carcasses are also available upon request.

Unlike traditional cattle that are contained and force-fed, Nazzaro lets his cattle roam. His herd is bred in Vermont and brought to Redding to graze in the summertime when Nazzaro has available pasture.

“They’re exposed to grain and grass forage,” he said. “The grain is 14% dairy feed, with a very high percentage of protein. You’ll taste the difference. You’ll eat less of it per steak or per burger. It’s very satisfying. You don’t have to consume a lot of it.” Nazzaro also noted that wagyu beef has health benefits conventional beef lacks, from its high content of heart-healthy monounsaturated fats, rich omega-3s, and omega-6, to being easier for the body to digest.

With Amazing Graze, Nazzaro is following his childhood dreams.

“As a kid, I thought it would be really awesome to be a farmer,” said Nazzaro. “I bought, sold, and raised cattle for many years. I didn’t like the quality of grass-fed beef – it was very inconsistent from animal to animal, and it just spun into this.”

Amazing Graze Wagyu is available at The Georgetown Owl Market & Cafe, Community Shellfish in Bethel, and various local restaurants. If you live in Redding and order online, it’s also available on your front stoop; Nazzaro says he’ll drop it off himself.

As our interview was winding down, Nazzaro told me I couldn’t write this piece without trying his

beef and asked whether it was okay for him to swing by and drop some off. As a carnivore at heart who merely masquerades as an omnivore, I quickly obliged.

About 15 minutes later, there was a knock on my door. It was Nazzaro, who graciously brought along a small selection of his wares, including a strip steak. Grinning ear to ear with a welcoming smile that seems almost permanent, Nazzaro talked through his cuts of meat with passion and excitement. He handed them off to me, we shook hands, and he was on his way.

Unfortunately, that was around 11:15 a.m., and I had to spend the rest of the day hammering the keyboard and hopping on Zoom calls, trying to be productive. All I could think about was dinner.

When quitting time finally came, I threw a dash of salt on the strip steak and reverse seared it – in my opinion, to perfection. Each bite, so succulent, so tender, so juicy, almost like you could drink it.

From our phone call and brief interaction, it’s obvious Nazzaro is doing what he loves and has found his groove as a man who raises cattle, the type of guy who has fulfilled his childhood dream.

“I just really like the people you meet in the farming community,” Nazzaro said. “New England agriculture is comparatively small to other farming regions. I want to preserve our farming heritage here. Redding has been a farming community for years and years, and it’s very important to maintain that.” ■

For more information, visit [amazinggrazewagyu.com](http://amazinggrazewagyu.com) or follow along on Instagram @amazing\_graze\_wagyu

Lyrics Coffeehouse kicks off with touring U.K. blues guitarist | By Pamela Brown



Brooks Williams

Music lovers are in for a treat at the 21st season of Park and Recreation’s Lyrics Coffeehouse. Performances take place on Fridays every month at the Community Center starting at 7:30 p.m. The series sets a relaxed, comfortable mood, with visitors encouraged to bring friends, refreshments, and even projects to work on while enjoying the music.

Opening night on Friday, November 7 will feature Brooks Williams, a well-known UK-based singer-songwriter-guitarist who is a master of country, blues, and folk. “When I saw that he was going to be in New England, I snagged him,” said Director of Park and Recreation Rob Blick excitedly. “He’s not to be missed. Brooks Williams is very cool. He’s a blues guitarist extraordinaire.”

Williams is listed in the *Top 100 Acoustic Guitarists*. “He usually brings three to four guitars with him. He has an interesting sound with the way he presents the blues,” Blick continued. In his 35-year career, Williams has performed all over the country and released 35 recordings. “His music is undeniably great. I turn people on to him and they love him. They

travel here to come see him,” added Blick, quoting *The Irish News* description of him: “ ‘Melodic virtuosity that runs like liquid from his fingers.’ He’s great – unbelievable.”

Following Williams, fan-favorite David Morgan, Redding resident and owner of The Music Shed, returns to the Coffeehouse on December 6. A world-class jazz piano player who studied under the legendary Ellis Marsalis, Morgan offers an interpretation of classic songs along with originals. Morgan has toured internationally and collaborated with acclaimed artists such as Wynton Marsalis and Peter Himmelman.

Starting off 2026 on January 9 is singer-songwriter Chris Brown. “He played last year doing original music and he was so good I asked him to come back. He’s going to do a tribute to Tom Waits and mix in his own original music,” said Blick. “His other band, the Bookends, that he founded, is awesome.”

A new face at Lyrics will be Marc Berger, taking the stage on February 6. Berger was inspired by the American West, using his travels to inspire his songwriting. “He plays multiple instruments, and his band blew me away,” Blick said.

“I like to say Lyrics is first-class original music without traveling to the big cities,” said Blick. “I like singer-songwriters, and I like their lyrics when they bring me to a place – storytelling and connecting with deep emotional thoughts.”

For more information, call (203) 938-2551 or visit [reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation](http://reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation)

BERYL DIAMOND CHACON, VIOLIN  
ANDREW G. LEVINE, PIANO  
SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST  
AN-LIN BARDIN, CELLO

2x2x3

AMERICAN CHAMBER  
DUETS  
AND THE LEGACY OF  
AARON COPLAND

THEGRANITECHURCH.ORG  
THE GRANITE  
5 N MAIN, REDDING

NOV 9 | 3 PM | \$35



THE NATURAL WORLD

If trees could talk “Behind the lens” | By Janice Rotchstein



Photo courtesy of Estate of Paul Caponigro  
Little River Redding 1968



Photo courtesy of Estate of Paul Caponigro  
Redding Woods Little River 1968



Photo by Ginette Vach  
Paul Caponigro

I had no idea our Redding woods, which I take for granted, were famous.

Then, I discovered that their images have been exhibited worldwide. In fact, many are found in esteemed permanent collections, including The Met; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; MoMA (Museum of Modern Art), and Art Institute of Chicago.

As I researched more, I deciphered the artist’s penciled signature: Paul Caponigro. A catalogue credited him as being one of America’s foremost landscape photographers – known for capturing nature’s many moods from New England to the West, still lifes that redefine what the eye actually sees, and extraordinary images of megalithic monuments in Ireland, Great Britain, and France.

Then I read: He lived in our town!

In 1967, Caponigro became an adjunct professor in New York University’s Department of Photography. Within weeks, he knew he wanted to move to the country. A friend suggested a small cottage off Cross Highway in Redding. One look and Caponigro, his wife, and young son unpacked.

Of course, I wanted to know more and was fortunate to luck out. Within a few days, John Paul Caponigro – artist, writer, and lecturer – responded to my e-mail with fond memories of his father and those years on Little River: “... the red newt we found the day we moved in, catching frogs and crawdads, falling through the ice in the winter, climbing the trees along it, exploring the woods, the summer

of the caterpillar infestation, gardening (vegetable and sunflowers) at the top of the hill, the 20 cats we fed (half inside, half outside), the rabbits that the neighbors’ (Bob and Artie Jones) French poodle let loose into the forest...”

From 1967 to 1972, Paul Caponigro used a darkroom in Bethel to put finishing touches on what he photographed in his backyard. (We know it as the Samuel E. Hill Little River Preserve). There, he lugged his large format field camera – perfect for taking silver gelatin prints – through the fog and snow to trek along the streams, rocks, birches, oaks, hickories, hemlocks, and maples. Over time, Caponigro shot a 28-picture series: *Redding Woods*. The titles are evocative: *Dewdrops & Branches*; *Rivorous Pool*; *Woods in the Mist*; *Fog and*

*Trees*; *Reflections & River Foam*.

“He always listened with his eyes,” reflected David Heald, The Guggenheim’s Director of Photographic Services, noted architectural, landscape, and portrait photographer, and Caponigro’s close friend. “He waited for the right moment to capture nature’s deep silences.”

My exploration came full circle when I learned that Redding Land Trust presented *The Redding Woods Series: Photographs by Paul Caponigro* at Mark Twain Library in Spring 2004.

Memories of this photographer continue to thrive in our town. Lyman Whitehead, who owns the cottage where the Caponigros once lived, treasures the views from his windows: “Everyday, I see what inspired him,” he said.

A year ago, on November 10, Caponigro died at age 91. Last week, I took a stroll along Little River and began to understand the meaning behind his words: “I knew that the forces of nature were a language. Nature was truly my teacher.” ■

If you have a favorite tree story for this column, contact [reddingtreeconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:reddingtreeconservancy@gmail.com)



# Cooking & Baking at New Pond Farm

Friday, November 7  
6:30pm - 8:30pm

**Cookies & Crafting**  
grades 2 - 4

Thursday, November 13  
6:30pm - 8:30pm

**Pie Crusts**  
adults & teens

Friday, November 14  
4:30pm - 6:30pm

**Soup & Crackers**  
grades k - 4

ENJOY A NEW CULINARY EXPERIENCE!

More culinary classes to come in December, including Festive Finger Foods and Holiday Cookie Boxes!

For more information or to register, please call us at 203.938.2117 or visit us at [newpondfarm.org](http://newpondfarm.org)

**Boards of Education convene before new terms begin / continued from page 1**

remain at its current Morehouse Road location in Easton or move elsewhere? The committee determined that it makes sense to remain in the same location. The administration met with Easton officials and discussed a five-year extension of the lease of its current space with a five-year renewal option. The contract states that the rent will begin at its current base rent with annual increases based on the consumer price index, not to exceed 3%.

Another important topic was a discussion of SNAP benefits. There are currently 43 families with K-12 students at Easton, Redding, and Region 9 schools who receive SNAP benefits. With the Federal government shutdown as of press time, new SNAP benefits will be unavailable as of Novem-

ber 1. Governor Ned Lamont’s office released a press statement last week saying that Connecticut plans to release \$3 million in emergency funding to help cover the lack of benefits. Once a final decision has been made at the State level, and if the Federal shutdown continues, the school districts will explore other ways to help these families. There are discussions on collecting food or other ways to provide support to families, and the school districts plan to work with the Towns of Redding and Easton to set up a program as quickly as possible. It will probably involve working with parents to collect food, gift cards, or donations to the Connecticut Food Bank or the Connecticut Food Share. Since most of the high school students are looking for service hours, they may also be able to set up certain

Help keep pets in their homes | By Pamela Brown

Pet owners know the importance of providing their furry companions with a loving home and daily care. But when the economy is challenging, it’s not easy to fund the sometimes-costly care of an animal while maintaining a household. Especially now, amidst the Federal government shutdown and reduction in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, some people are wrestling with the costs of keeping their pets.

That’s where the Connecticut Humane Society (CHS) can step in. The animal welfare organization serves thousands of pets yearly and supports families facing financial difficulties. “Programs like the Pet Food Pantry, Community Wellness Clinics, and the Safe & Sheltered Pets Program are designed to see families through hard times, so they don’t have to rehome their pets,” explained Kathryn Schubert, CHS Marketing & Communications Manager.

CHS, which opened a 15,000-square-foot animal resource center in Georgetown this fall, works with companion animals, including cats, dogs, rabbits, chinchillas, guinea pigs, ferrets, rats, mice, hamsters, gerbils, and birds.

In response to the Federal government shutdown, CHS has launched a new initiative. “In an effort to support furloughed Federal employees based in Connecticut, we’re currently offering a Federal Pet Food Pantry for folks who might be feeling the impact of the government shutdown,” Schubert said. Affected employees can sign up for the pantry and find information at [cthumane.org/fedPFP](http://cthumane.org/fedPFP).

CHS offers other programs designed to keep people and their pets together, including its new Veterinary Clinic in Georgetown at 863 Danbury Road and the Fox

Memorial Clinic in Newington. “They are low-fee public access veterinary clinics designed to make veterinary care more affordable. CHS also offers veterinary assistance and networking that enables families in financial need throughout the state to access wellness exams, vaccinations, and lifesaving treatment for their pets. Plus, there’s a Special Assistance Fund that grants pet owners in special circumstances aid in their emergency veterinary bills,” Schubert said. CHS also offers free education and outreach programs, and The Safe and Sheltered Pets Program grants temporary housing to pets while their families work through a crisis such as a house fire. Pet owners can call (800) 452-0114 for more information on these services.

According to Schubert, “The goal is to enable pets and their people to coexist with the resources they need and without the financial (or other type of) constraints that might otherwise cause pets who already have loving homes to end up in shelters.” Schubert added that donations make the organization’s lifesaving work possible. “Gifts of every size make an impact on the lives of local pets in need, and go a long way toward daily care, medical treatment, and new beginnings.” ■

Donations can be made at [cthumane.org/giveback](http://cthumane.org/giveback) or by check to 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111. There also is a Pet Wish List for food and supplies posted online.

For more information on services, visit [cthumane.org](http://cthumane.org)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies  
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

<b>Lyrics Coffeehouse: Brooks Williams</b> <b>Friday, November 7</b> 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Live acoustic music in a relaxed setting Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road reddingct.gov/ parks-and-recreation \$	<b>Book Signing and Open House</b> <b>Sunday, November 9</b> 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Redding Historical Society hosts bestselling author Kevin R.C. Gutzman Lonetown Farm 43 Lonetown Road reddinghistory.org	<b>Redding Garden Club Holiday Boutique</b> <b>Saturday, November 15</b> 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Browse jewelry, ornaments, quilted table runners, apparel, holiday décor and more! Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road reddinggardenclub.org	<b>Want to feature an upcoming event?</b>  <b>E-mail us at advertise@reddingsentinel.org for more information.</b>
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ARTS

**Thursday, November 6 –  
Saturday, November 8**

**Joel Barlow High School  
presents *Almost, Maine***  
7:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
2:00 p.m. on Saturday  
Joel Barlow High School  
100 Black Rock Turnpike  
jbhs.booktix.com  
\$

**Thursday, November 6**

**Opening Reception:  
Remnants and Relics**  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Group art exhibition running  
through November 28  
Anonymous Society  
268 Simpaug Turnpike  
anonymoussocietygallery.com

**Thursday, November 6**

**Pour and Sip with  
Christy Bonaiuto**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Learn pour painting with vibrant  
colors while enjoying refreshments  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
newpondfarm.org  
\$, R

**Friday, November 7**

**Creative Cocktail Hour**  
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Enjoy Set in Stone by Dave  
Gesualdi & Re-Figured  
Georgetown Arts &  
Cultural Center  
5 Main Street  
gtownarts.com

**Friday, November 7**

**Max Wareham & the  
National Bluegrass Team**  
7:00 p.m.  
Soulful, high-energy sound  
The Granite  
5 North Main Street  
thegranitechurch.org/events  
\$

**Friday, November 7**

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

**Sunday, November 9**

**Two by Two  
by Three: American  
Chamber Duets and  
the Legacy of Aaron Copland**  
3:00 p.m.  
Program of chamber duets  
The Granite  
5 North Main Street  
thegranitechurch.org/events  
\$

**Saturday, November 15**

**Community Day in  
the Sculpture Garden**  
10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Free, family-friendly activities  
all day to celebrate one year  
anniversary of Sculpture Garden  
and museum renovations  
The Aldrich Contemporary Art  
Museum  
258 Main Street  
Ridgefield  
thealdrich.org

**Saturday, November 22**

**Bus Trip: Radio City  
Christmas Spectacular**  
11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Depart from Redding Community  
Center, enjoy time in New York City  
and a live show  
37 Lonetown Road  
reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation  
\$, R

**Redding Land Trust 2026  
Photography Show**  
Capture fall’s beauty and submit  
photos to a juried show.  
reddingctlandtrust.org/photoshow  
\$, R

**Friday, November 7**

**Kids Paint and Sip**  
5:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
Grades 3-8; Canvas painting,  
hot cocoa, themed movie,  
games, and more  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation  
\$, R

**Saturday, November 8**

**Preschool Open House**  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Riverbrook Regional YMCA  
404 Danbury Road  
Wilton  
wiltonymca.org  
R

**Tuesday, November 11**

**Whittled Keychains**  
1:00 p.m.  
For grades 9-12, learn the  
fundamentals of whittling  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
newpondfarm.org  
\$, R

**Saturday, November 15**

**Holiday Photo Fundraiser  
with Santa**  
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Book a 15-minute session with  
horses and Santa with professional  
photographer, proceeds to  
support Georgetown Community  
Foundation  
Rising Starr Horse Rescue  
93 Silver Spring Road  
Wilton  
bit.ly/GCAphotos2025  
\$, R

**Thursday, November 27**

**The Joyce Allen  
Great Turkey Escape**  
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Virtual 5K  
8:00 a.m. 1K Kids Fun Run  
8:30 a.m. 5K Run or Walk  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
runsignup.com/Race/CT/Redding/  
TheGreatTurkeyEscape  
\$, R

**Friday, November 7**

**Bright Futures  
Boys & Girls Club Bash**  
Light bites, open bar, live music,  
and silent auction to support Boys  
& Girls Club of Redding-Easton  
Redding Country Club  
109 Lonetown Road  
bgcre.net  
\$, R

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runsignup.com/Race/CT/Redding/  
TheGreatTurkeyEscape  
\$, R

HEALTH | WELLNESS

**Thursday, November 13**

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

**Tuesday, November 18**

**Diabetes and Wellness Seminar**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Virtual program  
Riverbrook Region YMCA  
wiltonymca.org  
R

**Monday, November 10**

**“Flower Power” – Creating  
Change Through Social  
Connection**  
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Redding Garden Club monthly  
meeting with presentation  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
reddinggardenclub.org

**Friday, November 14**

**Stargazing**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Bring lawn chairs and blankets  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
newpondfarm.org  
\$, R

**Saturday, November 15**

**NPF Walking Group:  
Fall Foliage**  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
New Pond Farm Education Center  
101 Marchant Road  
newpondfarm.org  
R

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101 Marchant Road  
newpondfarm.org  
R

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**Thursday, November 6**

**Prohibition in CT:  
Rumrunners, Bootleggers  
and a Rebellious Coastline**  
7:00 p.m.  
Program with historian and  
podcaster Mike Allen  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwainlibrary.org  
R

**Sunday, November 9**

**Book Signing and Open House**  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Redding Historical Society  
hosts bestselling author  
Kevin R.C. Gutzman  
Lonetown Farm  
43 Lonetown Road  
reddinghistory.org

**Wednesday, November 12**

**Unveiling the Enchantment of  
Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker***  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
In-person and virtual presentation  
by musicologist Gil Harel  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwainlibrary.org  
R

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439 Redding Road  
marktwainlibrary.org  
R

**Saturday, November 15**

**Redding Garden Club  
Holiday Boutique**  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Browse jewelry, ornaments, quilted  
table runners, apparel, holiday  
décor and more!  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
reddinggardenclub.org

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

**Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish  
St. Patrick Church:**  
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.  
and 10:30 a.m.  
Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.  
Confessions:  
Saturdays 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.  
and Mondays and Thursdays 7:30  
p.m. – 8:00 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, November 7  
Family Shabbat  
7:00 p.m.  
Grades 1-3 service and  
consecration  
82 Portland Avenue  
templebnaichaim.org

**Please check church and  
temple websites for holiday  
and special services**

MEETINGS

**Monday, November 10**

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

**Tuesday, November 11**

**Redding Board of Education  
Curriculum Committee (Joint  
with Easton) Special Meeting**  
6:00 p.m.  
Helen Keller Middle School  
360 Sport Hill Road  
Easton

**Tuesday, November 11**

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

**Wednesday, November 12**

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

**Wednesday, November 12**

**Zoning Commission**  
7:30 p.m.  
Town Hall / Hearing Room  
100 Hill Road

**Thursday, November 13**

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

**Thursday, November 13**

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

**Monday, November 17**

**Swearing-in of Elected Officials**  
6:00 p.m.  
Town Hall / Hearing Room  
100 Hill Road

**Monday, November 17**

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

**Tuesday, November 18**

**Region 9 Board of Education  
Finance & Operations Committee**  
5:30 p.m.  
Joel Barlow High School /  
Library Learning Commons  
100 Black Rock Turnpike

**Tuesday, November 18**

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

**Tuesday, November 18**

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

**Wednesday, November 19**

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

**Thursday, November 20**

**Historic Review Committee**  
6:00 p.m.  
Virtual

**\*Sign-up to receive meeting  
agendas and notifications at  
reddingct.gov/subscribe**

**\*\*Town Offices will be closed  
on Tuesday, November 11 for  
Veterans Day**



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Marilyn Caravetta  
203.512.1822



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203.733.6976



Mary Dent  
203.715.8584



Tim Dent  
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Margi Esten  
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John Frey  
203.240.0624



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Debbie Gore  
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Joanne Grasso  
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Sharon Hoverman  
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203.733.8804



Heather Lindgren  
646.932.4075



Heather Payne  
203.470.7069



Anne Schmiedel  
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203.770.6240

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