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Gas tax holiday considered to offset price jumps

By Keith M. Phaneuf

Governor Ned Lamont floated the prospect of a short-term gasoline tax holiday last week to mitigate recent price increases at the pumps triggered by the war between the United States and Iran.

Speaking during a mid-morning press conference about the war and Connecticut's economy, the Governor said he would talk with lawmakers about suspending the State's 25-cents-per-gallon retail levy on regular gasoline and its 48.9-cent diesel tax.

Since the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran broke out and interrupted oil supply lines from the Persian Gulf, fuel prices nationally have shot up. The AAA reported an average gasoline price Tuesday in Connecticut of nearly \$3.45 per gallon.

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Photo by Heidi Holzer

Sunset turned Church Street in Georgetown last week into a living watercolor. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Report details condition of Wire Mill buildings

By Rocco Valluzzo

A stabilization report by a New York City-based design and professional service corporation has shed more light on what is required to preserve several deteriorating buildings on the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill property in Georgetown.

At a meeting of the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee on Thursday, March 12, representatives from Architectural Preservation Studio (APS) presented findings from their recent structural analysis, which is supported by a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The report compared the current state of the site's buildings to a previous assessment conducted 10 years ago, which tracked the progression of deterioration. While the site encompasses approximately 13 to 16 buildings, the current focus is on stabilizing and restoring those with the highest historical and functional priority.

According to APS Principal Carl Rothbart, the Main Office building is in very good condition relative to the rest of the site. Restoration plans include masonry work, the restoration of original windows and doors, and the installation of new gutters. One specific task involves restoring the north façade where a previous addition was removed, causing damage to the exterior. Construction documents for this work, funded by an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant, are expected to be finalized and ready for bid by early April.

The Blue Building (Maintenance Shop) presents a more complex restoration challenge. The primary goal is to remove the blue exterior coating, which has trapped moisture and led to mold growth and stucco deterioration. The Committee discussed the unique historic cladding system that uses wire mesh on both the interior and exterior and debated how to integrate modern insulation and vapor barriers without compromising the building's historic character.

"The plan would be, once the coating is removed, the stucco is repaired, to put a breathable masonry coating on the outside, so we wouldn't have this problem moving forward," said Rothbart. "In terms of what use the building is going to have, I think, you know, that's going to be critical in determining what level of insulation and what needs to be done to make it more inhabitable."

A building not included in previous studies, the Substation, was found to be in "fairly decent condition" with minimal changes over the last decade. The Committee continues to evaluate the best path forward for the remaining structures on the site as funding becomes available.

The former Cafeteria building, a late 19th-century structure originally used as an office, has reached

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What is next for the Town's 2026-27 budget?

By Jessie Wright

With the public hearing on the Board of Selectmen and Redding Board of Education 2026-27 budgets completed on March 18, there are a few more steps before the entire combined 2026-27 budget is finalized and presented to voters at Referendum.

Redding's Board of Finance will now take into consideration any comments made at the March 18 public hearing and discuss if any changes to the proposed budgets should be made. The Board of Finance has meetings scheduled at 7:30 p.m. the next three Mondays: March 23 (on Zoom), March 30 (at

Town Hall and on Zoom), and April 6 (at Town Hall and on Zoom). Typically, the Board of Finance will finalize its numbers following the first or second meeting and release those numbers to the press the first week of April.

The Region 9 Board of Education (which oversees Joel Barlow High School, and whose budget is divided between Redding and Easton taxpayers each year) still needs to hold its public hearing and finalize its budget. Its public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m. at Joel Barlow High School, 100 Black Rock

Turnpike. Residents can review the proposed budget ahead of the hearing at sites.google.com/er9.org/region9budget/home.

There then will be a short meeting at Town Hall on April 21 to officially set the Referendum date. The Referendum is currently slated for Tuesday, May 5 from 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Redding Community Center, 37 Lonetown Road. If the budget passes, the Board of Finance will meet that evening to set the new mil rate. If it does not pass, the Board of Finance will meet again to make revisions. ■

REDDING'S BIG OUTDOORS

Submissions now open for Redding Land Trust's Photography Show

By Pamela Brown



Photo by Elizabeth Jensen

Last year's adult photographer second-place winner, an image from Mahony Preserve.

The splendor of Redding's open spaces will be showcased again this year, captured by photographers of all skills and ages. Redding Land Trust is holding its second Open Space Photography Show, to be displayed from June 2 to June 30 at Mark Twain Library, and the submissions portal opens today, Thursday, March 19.

"We're excited to see beautiful images of Redding to expand the awareness of Redding's some 8,000 acres of open space and the appreciation of nature," said Marjorie

Derven, a Redding Land Trust Trustee. "We had strong submissions for our first year with 40 finalist photos. The show is back by popular demand. The Land Trust looks forward to even more community involvement, showcasing the beauty of Redding across seasons and times of day."

Submissions will be accepted from March 19 to April 20. On June 3, a festive opening reception will be held at Mark Twain Library featuring light appetizers and wine. "The show is a wonderful collaboration with Mark Twain Library," said Derven, adding the Photo Show will be on display in the Library's rotunda for the full month of June.

To enter, photographs must highlight Redding's public open space, celebrating its beautiful meadows, woodlands, wetlands, scenic vistas, and beyond.

"People, building structures (such as barns), birds, and wildlife can be included, with the main focus being the landscape. Any type of camera may be used, including cell phone cameras. Color, black and white, and photo editing are permissible; use of AI is prohibited," noted Derven. While the Land Trust prefers recent photos, that is not a requirement.

For reference and inspiration,

photographers can visit reddinglandtrust.org/gallery to view a gallery of last year's finalists and winning shots. "The submitted photographs will once again be selected purely on artistic merit using a blind juror process to determine selections for the show," Derven said.

The Photo Show is open to both amateurs and professionals, and this year, the Land Trust is including a youth category for photographers 13 years of age and younger, in addition to the high schoolers and adults included last year. "Let's build love of nature at every age," said Derven.

The Photo Show is not a fundraiser; rather, it's a way for Redding Land Trust to place an artistic and eye-opening spotlight on Redding in all its glory.

"We want to inspire the community to explore our trails – for both photographers and visitors to the Show," said Derven. "Get out, explore, and have fun. Experiment with different lights, settings, angles, and compositions," she said. "Take many pictures to capture the best shot." ■

Entry requirements, prize levels, FAQs and the submission portal are located at reddinglandtrust.org/photoshow

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EDITORIAL

Spring awakening

Redding is by far the most rural place I have ever lived – capital cities in multiple states and countries all preceded my family’s settling here in the woods of Connecticut. While the seasons have played a part in shaping my life, urban infrastructure has kept me shielded for the most part from feeling deeply in tune with nature and her rhythms.

Not so in Redding. Watching my garden go from bursting to fallow, seeing my chickens stop their egg laying each winter, identifying species of shrubs that for years were simply anonymous green backdrops, accepting the fact that ice and snow will derail even the best laid plans... all these experiences have led me to surrender to the cycle of the seasons.

Living here has, for better or worse, sent me into a sort of hibernation this winter. It has been easier to default to stasis, to opt for rest, recovery, or even shutting down as the days grew shorter and the winds colder.

But four days ago, as I drove past the Community Center and heard the first chorus of peepers, I felt something in me awaken. I perked up and felt the potential of spring activity about to unfold.

The Town budget will be approved in the next few weeks. New poll workers will be trained and onboarded for upcoming elections and referendums. Before long, we’ll be greeting each other at the Frog Frolic and Memorial Day Parade or Picnic and considering our seasonal passes to Topstone. Graduations will be celebrated. I hope we all will emerge, eager to connect with one another, feeling a renewed sense of energy for the work to be done. ■

Gas tax holiday considered to offset price jumps / continued from page 1

“You know, we’ve been talking about affordability a lot, and you’re not serious about affordability unless you’re talking about energy prices,” said Lamont, who held a Tuesday morning at a Meriden home heating oil business.

A one-month suspension of the retail gasoline and diesel taxes would cost the State budget’s Special Transportation Fund (STF), which helps finance highway, bridge, and rail infrastructure repair, about \$40 million. But Lamont officials could shield the STF from that loss by scaling back the \$500 million sales-tax-rebate program he presented to lawmakers in February.

A second option the administration is considering to pay for any holiday would involve drawing about \$40 million from a \$500 million fund lawmakers established last fall to mitigate Federal cuts to human service programs. According to Lamont’s budget office, that response fund still holds more than \$300 million.

“Maybe there’s a way that we can peel off some of that [\$500 million for rebates] and take a pause in the gasoline tax,” said Lamont. “That would be very helpful in the near term. You don’t have to wait for that rebate check.”

The Governor, who is seeking re-election, proposed late October rebates for about 2.2 million residents, specifically \$200 for individuals who earn less than \$200,000 per year and \$400 for couples below \$400,000.

State Comptroller Sean Scanlon, who appeared with Lamont at the Meriden press conference, noted that regular gasoline prices in Connecticut are up more than 50 cents per gallon since March 1 and that diesel prices have grown even faster.

“It can be easy to look at the news and see something happening hundreds of thousands of miles away and think that it’s not going to impact us, but global issues impact Main Streets, and these things are having an impact on the people of Connecticut right now,” he said.

Lamont did not set a specific target date for any fuel tax holiday but added, “I’ll sit down with the legislature and see if that’s something they want to prioritize.”

Connecticut legislative leaders had mixed reactions to Lamont’s proposal, though all have ideas to expand relief options.

Lamont’s fellow Democrats in the legislature’s majority praised him for starting the conversation.

“The Governor is on the right track,” said Senate President Pro Tem Martin M. Looney, D-New Haven, and added that officials should explore a holiday that affects three State fuel taxes, not two.

Besides the diesel and retail gasoline levies, Connecticut also

imposes a tax on wholesale fuel transactions that affects local stations.

It applies an effective rate of 0.881% to the wholesale price until that price hits \$3. Once the price exceeds that level, the tax still is calculated based on a \$3 price, setting its ceiling at 26.4 cents-per-gallon.

But gasoline stations routinely build that full wholesale tax burden into the retail price, transferring the cost to motorists.

Freezing retail taxes but not wholesale isn’t the best solution, Looney said.

“If we’re going to address the problem in that way with a short-term remedy, we should make sure it’s actually going to be a remedy,” he said.

House Speaker Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, said, “I look forward to having that conversation with the Governor” but said legislators also should consider additional aid to cities and towns that have been harmed by higher fuel prices, Federal tariffs, and inflation.

“I think it all goes back to affordability,” he added.

Republicans also were open to fuel tax relief but said Connecticut should be looking farther down the road.

“I think we should have a conversation about permanently capping” fuel tax rates, said House Minority Leader Vincent J. Candelora, R-North Branford, who said State government has a bad track record of ignoring inflation because it tends to drive up fuel and sales tax receipts.

“We’re not recognizing the pain that is compounding onto our taxpayers,” he said.

Senate GOP Leader Stephen Harding of Brookfield also said the focus should be on long-term tax breaks. Earlier this year, Harding’s caucus recommended a plan to deliver \$1.5 billion in annual relief, chiefly to middle-class households, by cutting income and payroll tax rates and expanding income tax credits.

“Connecticut is unaffordable under one-party Democrat rule,” Harding said. “We need all sorts of relief.”

But if the Governor and legislators agree on a fuel-tax-holiday, it would be the second temporary relief plan of this type in four years. The last one, though, was much longer in duration. With inflation heading toward a 40-year high, Lamont and the General Assembly waived the full 25-cents-per-gallon retail tax on regular gasoline from April through November 2022. They also waived portions of that levy for another five months through April 30, 2023. ■

This article originally appeared in CT Mirror

POLICE BLOTTER

Police activity March 9 – 15 | By Donna Christopher

Attempted burglary

An attempted burglary was reported at a property on Winding Brook Lane on March 11 after damage to the rear door was discovered. No entry was gained.

Disorderly conduct

Police issued a summons for disorderly conduct at a residence on Old Stagecoach Road following an on-scene investigation of a family violence matter in accordance with Connecticut law.

Suspicious incidents

A caller reported a suspicious incident seeing a purse thrown from a vehicle on Umpawaug Road on March 11. Patrol located the bag and determined it was a lunchbox with food inside.

A caller reported seeing a male walking in the woods next to her home on Beeholm Road on March 15. Police identified a marked public trail next to her house and checked the incident out as okay.

Traffic

Police stopped 30 motor vehicles in the one-week period, issuing 13 infractions, three written warnings, 13 verbal warnings, and took no action in one case. The infraction rate was 43%.

On March 12, police received an automated 911 alert from a vehicle on Old Redding Road indicating a crash with the operator trapped inside. Police and West Redding EMS and fire personnel responded and located the vehicle on the roadway. The driver was extricated from the

vehicle and taken to Danbury Hospital for evaluation. No serious injuries were reported. Preliminary investigation indicates the vehicle was traveling westbound when it left the roadway while negotiating a curve and struck a tree. Evidence at the scene indicates alcohol may have been a factor. The incident is still under investigation.

A three-car motor vehicle accident occurred on Stepney Road on March 13 resulting in property damage.

Six one-car motor vehicle accidents occurred, including a rollover on March 13 on Pinetree Road due to ice on the roadway.

In one incident on March 14, a caller reported a rock fell out of a tree and smashed his windshield on Redding Road. ■

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“Let’s Chat” fosters connections for elementary students | By Rob Sample

“While technology has made instant communication feasible, people of all ages report feelings of loneliness and a lack of connection with the larger community. Redding Elementary School has recently begun participating in a program to build ties and foster connectedness to combat this.

The program is called Let’s Chat, and it was launched by Redding-based nonprofit SOAR Together. SOAR is an acronym that stands for Social, Occupational, Artistic, and Recreational, four interrelated categories of needs that SOAR Together’s programs and initiatives aim to meet.

Let’s Chat has been used in neighboring school districts. Its launch at Redding Elementary School took place in January at a professional development day for staff members.

“Let’s Chat has been approved by our school district as a tool that

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We pledge to donate all profits to local community organizations.



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Special film screening planned as part of Redding's America 250 programs

Glory – The Massachusetts 54th Regiment | By Bruce Nelson



The 1989 film *Glory* will be screened on April 23 at Greenwood Features as part of Redding Celebrates America 250.

Massachusetts became the first state in the Union to begin the formation of Black regiments in February 1863. Massachusetts Governor John Albion Andrew called for men to lead an experimental unit who were, “young men of military experience, of firm anti-slavery principles, ambitious, superior to a vulgar contempt for color, and have faith in the capacity of colored men for military service.”

There were many in the Union Army who doubted the ability of a Black regiment to achieve the discipline needed to succeed in battle. Some had the perception that free African Americans should not serve in any combat situations but rather remain relegated to roles of support.

Colonel Robert Gould Shaw of the 2nd Massachusetts Regiment was chosen to lead the 54th. By the time the regiment reached its goal of training 1,000 men for duty, its ranks included men not only from Massachusetts, but from multiple other northern states and Canada. Among those enlistees were the two sons of Frederick Douglass

and a man by the name of William Carney – the first man of color who would be awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery in saving the regimental colors at the Battle of Fort Wagner in July of 1863.

While the Union Army ultimately failed to take Fort Wagner, the Massachusetts 54th was commended for its brave actions. The respect it earned paved the way for the army to recruit more soldiers of color.

The 1989 motion picture *Glory* tells the story of the creation of the 54th and the prejudices and injustices that the men under the command of Colonel Shaw had to endure. The film was nominated for five Academy Awards that year and took home three, including the one for the Best Actor in a Supporting Role for Denzel Washington.

The regiment is memorialized in Charles Ives's composition *Three Places in New England*. The first movement, “The Saint-Gaudens in Boston Common,” refers to the monument erected there in 1897 that honors Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and the brave men under



A monument to Robert Gould Shaw, whose leadership of the 54th regiment is featured in Charles Ives's *Three Places in New England*

his command at the Battle of Fort Wagner. Of the 600 men who stormed the fort that day, 272, including Shaw, were killed, captured, or wounded.

Ives's score describes the scene as “a ghostly procession of soldiers steadily passing over a hill, their pace changing as the pitch of the hill varies.” The mood is highlighted with snippets of Civil War tunes, which Ives would have likely learned from his father, who had served as an army bandleader during the war.

As Redding Celebrates America 250's programming leads up to the May 30 concert by the Greater Bridgeport Symphony at Joel Barlow High School of Ives's work and other patriotic music, we invite the public to join us for a cocktail and the screening of *Glory* at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at Greenwood Features, 269 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel. Tickets can be purchased and donations made at historical-society-of-easton.yapsody.com/event/index/867683/glory-movie-and-fundraiser

Georgetown event to highlight work of Palestine Children's Relief Fund

By Justin Reynolds

The Connecticut chapter of the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF) will introduce itself to the local community with an inaugural event in Georgetown on Thursday, March 26.

The event will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 2 Main St., Unit B, in the space shared by Wild Blueberry, Stems & Co., and Casa Rosetti, next to Milestone.

“We want to engage the community and bring attention to humanitarian crises happening right now,” said Ambar Zaatar, owner of Wild Blueberry and a Co-founder of the Connecticut chapter of PCRF. “The focus here is to talk about PCRF's work, which centers on children's health and humanitarian care. We offer medical aid, food assistance, and clean water. We facilitate surgery, cancer treatment, and rehabilitation. We support children and families in crisis.”

The PCRF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with no political or religious affiliation, Zaatar said. The organization, founded in 1991, has 20 chapters across the United States and 10 student-led clubs at colleges nationwide.

“It's a growing organization,” she said, adding that PCRF reached 1.6 million people in 2025 and has received Charity Navigator's highest rating for 13 consecutive years.

The free event will include speakers discussing PCRF's work. Food and drinks will be available, with food provided by Layla's Falafel in Westport.

“For me, our store was a perfect place to host something like this,” Zaatar said. “I am connected to this cause; it's really important. Ultimately, the event is about children and protecting life and dignity – values shared across all communities regardless of background, religion, or region.”

This isn't the first event hosted in Zaatar's space. She said the community has been receptive to other gatherings, and she and Lauryn Soden, owner of Stems & Co., plan to continue hosting additional events in the coming months.

“We've been so lucky to have so much support from the Georgetown community and surrounding towns,” she said. “Come hang out and learn. It's open to everyone and will be a great introduction to the organization.”

For more information, visit pcrf.net, follow @pcrf_connecticut on Instagram, or e-mail connecticut@pcrf.net





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SPORTS

Upset bid ends in overtime

Boys basketball | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Charlie Cruz scored eight points for the Joel Barlow High boys basketball team in the quarterfinals of the state Division IV tournament on Thursday, March 12. Barlow lost 59-64 to host Abbott Tech of Danbury in overtime to end the season.

A third upset in the state Division IV tournament remained just out of reach for the Joel Barlow High boys basketball team.

The 18th-seeded Falcons surprised both 15th-seeded Ledyard (54-41) and second-seeded Lyme-Old Lyme (51-46) with victories the first two rounds. They were on the verge of doing likewise to seventh-seeded Abbott Tech of Danbury in the quarterfinals last week.

Barlow clung to a one-point lead with less than five seconds to go in the fourth quarter when the host Wolverines sank a key free throw to tie things up and force overtime.

But with eight straight points in the last minute-and-a-half of overtime, the Wolverines pulled out of reach for a 64-59 victory to end the season for Barlow.

"I'm certainly not going to let the result of this one game impact how I feel about the journey that they went on," said Barlow Head Coach Corey Stevens. "They deserve to hold their heads up high."

The Connecticut Technical School Conference champs, the Wolverines made use of effective three-point shooting early, sinking three treys in the first quarter alone. Barlow used a balanced scoring

attack with Erik Kiernan, Sean Gabriel, Ryan Kelly, and Ben Noome all hitting shots as the visitors trailed by two points (15-13) after one quarter of play.

Although a three-pointer by Jaiden Mendes gave the Wolverines a 20-13 advantage early in the next frame, the Falcons battled back, helped in part by Ben Noome's five-point effort for a 20-22 advantage with 1:12 to go in the half. It remained a two-point contest with Barlow clinging to a 24-26 lead at the break.

Both sides matched each other point-for-point in the third frame, the Falcons making use of some effective shooting from the foul line, sinking seven of 10 attempts. The Wolverines relied on a balanced effort, with five players scoring to stay within reach at 35-37.

Early three-pointers by Kiernan and Mendes kept things close in the fourth quarter. Later, a Barlow turnover gave the Wolverines the ball with less than 30 seconds to go in regulation time. The hosts also drew a foul with 3.1 seconds to go, and Christian Morelli hit one of two free throws to force a 49-49 tie, sending things into overtime.

Five lead changes followed in the first six minutes of overtime. Barlow's Tyler Stark tied it at 56-56 with a free throw with 1:35 to go, but the Wolverines would go on an eight-point run in the time remaining. Charlie Cruz hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to give the Falcons the last word, but it was not enough.

Such marked the final high school game for four Barlow players. Noome led the team with 18 points while Kiernan scored 11. Gabriel scored two and Chase Bonanno sank one free throw.

"I can't ask for anything more than what I've got out of the four of them," said Stevens. "They've been good leaders. It's going to be tough to replace them."

Kelly also scored in double digits with 14. Cruz sank eight, and Stark finished with five.

Barlow finishes the season at 13-11 overall. ■

Barlow-Bethel is 13th in Class L

Boys swimming | By Rocco Valluzzo

A small representation would account for all the Joel Barlow-Bethel High boys swim team's points at the state Class L championships last week.

The Falcons had just four swimmers competing on Monday, March 9. Together, they would score 114 points, moving up a few places from last year to take 13th out of 17 teams at the Cornerstone Aquatics Center in Hartford.

Defending champ Fairfield Prep was the winner again, this time with 844.5. Ridgefield was a distant runner-up with 555, and Darien took third with 503.5.

Chace Hansen, Gavin Woering, Connor Zhu, and James Jandura would have a busy day, competing in multiple events. Their first points came in the 200-yard medley relay at the start of the meet, taking 11th in 1:47.59, beating their seed time by 0.65 seconds.

Taking 14th in the 200 free,

Zhu was just 0.24 seconds behind Naugatuck's Dylan Rubas, beating his seed time with a 1:51.28. The Falcons did not score again until the 100 butterfly, in which Hansen finished 24th in 59.52 to break the one-minute mark.

Barlow-Bethel's best finish in the meet was in the 100 free. With a 48.75, Zhu was fifth, just 0.07 seconds behind Nolan Francis of Staples. Woering posted a 53.21, good for 21st and 0.52 seconds behind Naugatuck's Adam Hayward. Woering also scored in the 500 free, finishing in 5:24.42 for 24th.

Jandura, Hansen, Woering, and Zhu also formed the 200 free relay team that took 13th in 1:36.40, less than a tenth of a second behind South Windsor. Hansen went on to represent his team in the following event, the 100 backstroke, posting a time of 1:00.28 to beat his seed time by 0.07 seconds to finish the meet for the Falcons. ■

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Coventry tops Barlow in state quarterfinals

Girls basketball | By Rocco Valluzzo

Attempting to stop one particular player on the opposite team worked only so much for the Joel Barlow High girls basketball team in the state Division III quarterfinals.

The seventh-seeded Falcons managed to hold Coventry top scorer Hailey Mayo, who averaged 16 points per game, to only nine on Thursday, March 12. Her teammates, however, stepped up to fill this offensive void as the host Patriots pulled away for a 53-34 win to end Barlow's season.

"Our strategy was to take her away and dare their kids to make shots from the outside," said Barlow Head Coach Joe Carollo. "And unfortunately, they did their job."

Coventry, the two-time North Central Connecticut Conference champion, accomplished this early. Although the Falcons held Mayo to just two points in the first quarter, her teammates responded. A six-point effort by Jianna Fora helped the Patriots take a 12-4 lead after one frame.

Despite Coventry holding Barlow's Mia Tartaglia scoreless in the second quarter, Gwen Miller helped fill the void with an eight-point effort. The Patriots, however, also turned their offense up a notch for a 27-13 advantage at halftime.

"It's hard to imagine them not winning the championship," said Carollo, noting Coventry won the Class S championship last season. "They really have all the pieces that they need. They had shooters, they had inside players, they had wing players who could do both."

When play resumed, the Falcons scored in double digits in each of the last two quarters, led in part by Sara Fenzel (eight) and Tartaglia (six), despite Coventry's press defense. The host's offense, however, kept things out of reach for the remainder of the night.

"We practiced all week against handling their full-court pressure, and I don't think we turned it over once, so I was really proud of the practice we put in," said Carollo. "And I was proud of the effort. It was multiple people breaking the press, but mainly Mia and Gwen handling the ball, and Ava Gillon getting inbound passes as well and distributing the ball against the pressure. She did a great job."

Miller led Barlow with 12 points, including one three-pointer. Fenzel (two three-pointers) and Tartaglia (one three-pointer) each had eight, the latter also getting seven rebounds and three assists. Paige Jarvis sank four points and Emma Ogden scored two.

The game marked the last at Barlow for senior captains Tartaglia and Gillon, as well as classmate Amelia Winter. Finishing at 18-7 overall, Barlow reached the South-West Conference semifinals for the first time in years and the state quarterfinals for the second straight year.

"We definitely feel like we are playing the type of basketball we want to play," said Carollo. "Throughout the season, our defense has been great. Our offense at times was inconsistent, but there were so many kids on this team that made really clutch shots. It's a season we can all look back on and be proud of." ■

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John Read Middle School students shine at the Western Region Music Festival

By Anne Young Albanese



Photo by Kevin Duffy

Ten John Read Middle School singers were selected to participate in the Western Region Music Festival choir this year. (Left to right): Grace Cole, Ashton King, Hadley Schuchard, Zane Gourad, Silas Leahy, Porter Lundstrom, Cole Bedoukian, Joaquin Porco, Blake Bedoukian, and Charlie Sarassin. Not shown, Alex Villani and Sarah Stolz were selected as instrumentalists to perform in the jazz band and orchestra.

Two instrumentalists and 10 singers from John Read Middle School (JRMS) qualified to participate in the Western Region Music Festival this year following a competitive audition process. The festival performance featured a jazz band, a concert band, an orchestra, a mixed choir, and a treble choir. The music that was performed was more rigorous than the standard middle school repertoire.

"The festival brings together top student musicians from across the western region and is recognized as one of the most prestigious opportunities for young performers," explained Kevin Duffy, music teacher at John Read Middle School for band and strings. "Acceptance is based on musical ability, technical skill, and overall performance, making selection a notable achievement. This year, we had 25 students auditioning across band, orchestra, choir, and jazz band."

Alex Villani, an eighth grader, performed with the jazz band. Sarah Stolz, a seventh grader, performed with the orchestra. Sixth

graders Grace Cole, Porter Lundstrom, Cole Bedoukian, and Charlie Sarassin; seventh graders Silas Leahy, Joaquin Porco, and Blake Bedoukian; and eighth graders Ashton King, Hadley Schuchard, and Zane Gourad all qualified for the choir.

"The festival provides an immersive musical experience, allowing students to collaborate with highly skilled peers while performing challenging and rewarding repertoire," said Duffy.

Rehearsal was held on Friday, March 5, and the performance was on Saturday, March 6, both at Sacred Heart University. The event is sponsored by the Western Region of the Connecticut Music Educators Association. The Western Region consists of the towns of Bethel, Bridgeport, Brookfield, Danbury, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan, New Fairfield, Newtown, Norwalk, Redding, Shelton, Sherman, Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport, and Wilton. ■

"Something in the water"

Joel Barlow High School students excel at Poetry Out Loud

By Anne Young Albanese

Joel Barlow High School sophomore Sophia Tian came in second at the Poetry Out Loud Connecticut state competition on Saturday, March 7 at TheaterWorks in Hartford. Poetry Out Loud is a nationwide poetry recitation competition in which competitors choose poems from a list provided by the National Endowment for the Arts to memorize and recite.

The poems each year center on a theme, with this year's focus on "the rich tapestry of American history and culture" in honor of America's 250th anniversary. Tian chose "America, a Prophecy, Plates 3 and 4" by William Blake, "Ball's Bluff" by Herman Melville, and "The American Soldier" by Philip Freneau.

"I selected them around the theme of Freedom 250 because I'm interested in American Revolution history," Tian explained.

This is the fourth time in four years that a Barlow student has made it to the state Poetry Out Loud finals. Last year, Emery Oppenheim placed fifth at the state finals. Her chosen poems were "Israfel" by Edgar Allan Poe, "Do not go gentle into that good night" by Dylan Thomas, and "The Tables Turned" by William Wordsworth. In both 2023 and 2024, Maansi Tibrewal made it to the state finals. In 2024, she placed third, and in 2023, she placed fourth. Her 2024 poems were "Mansplaining" by Jennifer Militello, "The Coming Woman" by Mary Weston Fordham, and "Aria" by David Barber. Her 2023 poems were "Gitanjali 35" by Rabindranath Tagore, "Songs for the People" by Francis Ellen Watkins Harper, and "'Hope' is the thing with feathers" by Emily

Dickinson.

Ralph Giordano, an English teacher at Joel Barlow High School, joked that there is "something in the water fountain" outside the English classes helping to create such talent and success amongst the students. Turning serious, he then said he thinks much of it is due to the English teaching at the high school. Another factor he credits for Barlow students' success in Poetry Out Loud is that the students already have the experience of reciting three different poems for the local school competition level. Two poems are required at the regional competitions, while a different one is required for states. Barlow students have an advantage because they already have their three poems prepared from their high school competition.

The competition requires numerous skills. Students are judged on their physical presence, voice and articulation, interpretation, evidence of understanding, and overall performance. According to the CT Center for the Book, one of the sponsors of the program, "Students who participate in Poetry Out Loud practice public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage."

At Barlow, the initial competition begins in the freshmen and sophomore classrooms in the fall. As freshmen, students participate in three to five lessons where the Poetry Out Loud concept is introduced. Sophomores have two lessons to hone their skills.

Either the students vote, or the teacher chooses the first and second place winners in each class. Those two students move ahead to the school semi-finals. This is when

juniors and seniors who are interested in participating will enter the competition.

Carolyn Huminski, instructional leader for the Humanities and an English teacher at Barlow, organizes the school semi-finals, in which 30 students typically participate. Each student is required to recite two poems. In the finals, each student must choose a third poem. The top two Barlow students are typically selected by a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics teacher, a Humanities teacher, and a staff member. The two winning students then advance to the regionals in their area of the state.

Typically, about thirty students participate in the state semi-finals, with six or seven students moving ahead to the state finals. From there, one student will advance from Connecticut to Nationals.

Prizes are awarded in the state competition. The state champion received \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip with a chaperone to the national finals in Washington, D.C. Their school received a \$500 stipend to purchase poetry books. Tian received \$100, while Joel Barlow High School received \$200 for the school Library Learning Commons.

"Our success in Poetry Out Loud is a credit to our teachers, especially those in the English Department, and our students who view it as another opportunity to take ownership of their learning," said Assistant Superintendent and Head of School at Barlow, Mario Almeida. "Many students share that they see Poetry Out Loud as more than a competition; it's a chance to express themselves and engage with material that interests them." ■



Celebrate America's 250th Birthday

Join us for cocktails and a screening of the Academy Award-winning film, *Glory* (1989), the heroic true story of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment, whose courage inspired the powerful first movement of Charles Ives's *Three Places in New England*.

WHEN:
April 23 at 7:00 PM

WHERE
Greenwood Features, 269 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT
7:00 PM – Cocktails & Conversation
8:00 PM – Film screening

TICKET PRICE: \$30
Includes cocktail hour & movie screening; drink and snack included!

All proceeds benefit the Redding Celebrates America 250 Concert on May 30, featuring Charles Ives's music performed by the Greater Bridgeport Symphony — joined by talented students from Joel Barlow High School — in a special educational and community celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary right here in Connecticut!

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HOUSES THAT MAKE REDDING SPECIAL

Surrounded by the “ghosts of impressive people”

By Donna Christopher



Elsie Hill (right) and Alice Paul at the stone house in Redding.

The lives of remarkable writers and suffragettes have intersected for over a century at a property nestled between West Redding and Georgetown, a notable highlight during Women’s History Month.

The Redding home of Amy Atamian and Janet August was built in 1917 by suffragist Elsie Hill, daughter of Connecticut congressman Ebenezer J. Hill, and was once home to writer Flannery O’Connor.

From 1949 to late 1950, O’Connor lived in a garage apartment on the property while working on her debut novel, *Wise Blood*. The property was owned at the time by scholars Robert Fitzgerald and Sally Fitzgerald. Robert Fitzgerald ended up writing one of the definitive translations of Homer’s *The Odyssey*.

O’Connor’s stint in Redding marked a productive and happy period for her, according to an article in the Library of America by Editorial Director John Kulka. The piece recounts his 2004 visit to the Redding house with the late scholar William A. Sessions, a friend of O’Connor’s who was working on a biography manuscript of the writer.

Atamian said her house has been a site for researchers developing pieces about O’Connor through the years. “Both Bill Sessions and Brad Gooch [who wrote *Flannery: A Life of Flannery O’Connor* which was published in 2009] visited our house as part of their research,” Atamian recalled.

In 1950, O’Connor was diagnosed with Lupus and returned the following year to her family’s home in Milledgeville, Georgia. Her 1955 collection *A Good Man Is Hard to Find, and Other Stories* is widely regarded one of her best-known works.



Amy Atamian at the house she and Janet August moved into in 2001.

The home’s origins lie with Elsie Hill, one of three sisters active in the campaign for women’s suffrage. Daughters of Norwalk-born Congressman Hill, Clara, Elsie, and Helena Hill attended Vassar College and devoted themselves to the fight for passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Elsie Hill continued after its ratification as Chairwoman of the National Woman’s Party. She was friends with Alice Paul, another notable suffragette, who lived in Ridgefield.

Elsie Hill died at age 86 in 1970. Much of the O’Connor connection to the house was related to Atamian and August by Elsie’s daughter, who lived in Redding. “She filled us in on a lot of those details,” Atamian said.

The house is made of stone, built in 1917 and added onto in 1924. Atamian noted it has rarely changed hands, with the Fitzgeralds, then the Millers, who lived there for 50 years, and now she and August its current owners since 2001.

The house itself was the draw for Atamian and August to come to Redding 25 years ago, relocating from nearby Ridgefield.

“We had a friend who was, in a way, a caretaker. She was an occupational therapist who was living here because the elderly woman who we bought the house from needed some assistance. She was here, and we visited a couple of times and really loved the house,” she explained. “We said, ‘If you ever think of selling, let us know.’ And they did.”

The house has proven to hold reminders of its rich history.

“When we first moved in, there was a kind of old material on the walls, not sheetrock, and you could

see lots of little pinholes in the wall. The story was that Flannery O’Connor used to stick pins in the wall to keep mice away when she stayed here,” Atamian said.

Atamian currently sits on the Town’s Zoning Commission and chairs both the Water Pollution Control Commission and the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee.

Retired in 2020, she worked as a GIS and data analyst at environmental engineering companies. She has BFA from Pratt Institute and M.S. in information systems engineering from NYU/Polytechnic.

“I studied art and then got into cartography at the engineering companies, which was all GIS. That’s what I did for many years. It was interesting, because we got involved in all kinds of different engineering and environmental projects: water, wastewater, site remediation planning, all those kinds of things; very diversified,” she said.

Atamian considers herself an environmentalist, particularly since going to Ecuador, where she worked on a litigation project involving Chevron, which had polluted the environment in the Amazon. “I got a chance to go to Ecuador for a good part of the summer to take samples: soil and water samples to test for petroleum compounds. It was a very poor area, and the oil companies had left a lot of pollution. It was sad to see,” she recounted.

Her interest in the Gilbert & Bennett site was sparked when her employer handled the initial environmental investigation of the site. “One day, someone called in sick, and I volunteered to be on-site. I love the old industrial feel, and it has that urban vibe in a rural area. I have followed along with the project since the early 2000s, even before being actively involved.”

Atamian has now been stewarding the Revitalize Georgetown project through its steps, alongside securing several remediation and preservation grants to bring the Wire Mill site back to life.

“Living in a house with the ghosts of such impressive people is part of my inspiration to accomplish something worthwhile, partly my purpose in the Georgetown project,” Atamian said. ■

Report details condition of Wire Mill buildings / continued from page 1

a state of total abandonment with a failing roof and interior debris. Despite its degradation, SHPO has expressed a strong desire to preserve its original stone foundation even if the superstructure is removed.

In the northern section of the site are several high-risk structures. The Blacksmith Shop and adjacent buildings have been deemed unsafe by structural engineers due to unstable walls and roof collapses, exacerbated by the theft of supporting beams by vandals. The Main Factory ruin is also increasingly unstable with the stone pilasters that held up the remaining walls for over a decade beginning to collapse.

APS found the Weaving Building the most significant and well-preserved asset on the site. Despite minor roof deterioration, its interior has remained remarkably consistent over the last decade due to its solid construction. Discussions are ongoing regarding the replacement of its roof – specifically whether to use historically accurate slate or more cost-effective asphalt. Additionally, the German Loom Building is in

decent condition and remains functional, currently serving as a rented workshop space.

The 1914 Building is showing signs of accelerated decay. Steel columns are rusting, causing the surrounding brick pilasters to peel away, and the roof is in poor condition. The Sawtooth Building faces a unique structural crisis: major beams between the first and second floors were cut out at some point in the past, leaving the structure compromised and in need of a comprehensive engineering re-evaluation.

The Sawtooth Building is currently envisioned as a “stabilized ruin,” where the exterior brickwork would be reinforced to house internal structures or solar panels, though this remains a significant design challenge. Observations over the last decade show that while some exterior views remain unchanged, internal failure – particularly in the brickwork and perimeter walls – has accelerated.

“I think it’s a great building,” said Rothbart. “And it has the potential of being restored.”

The Market Building presents

more severe concerns. The removal of original tie-beams has compromised its structural integrity, and a parapet above the river wall is preventing proper drainage, leading to significant wall deflection and failing masonry. Despite these issues, the building is considered a prime candidate for future residential or commercial re-use if the shell can be stabilized now.

Committee Chair Amy Atamian suggested the group’s next steps should involve coming up with a prioritized list of the stabilization scope costs to present to the Board of Selectmen on what should be done and how it should be phased. ■

For historical background and guides to the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill site, visit reddingct.gov/about-redding/boards-commissions/board-of-selectmen/gilbert-bennett-wire-mill

Barlow debaters ace Yale tournament

By Rob Sample



Photo courtesy of Randall Smith
Barlow seniors Maansi Tibrewal and Arianna Pereira were semifinalists in the varsity competition at the Osterweis Debate Tournament at Yale on March 1. Pereira is the Co-captain of the Barlow Debate team.

Barlow seniors Arianna Pereira and Maansi Tibrewal were varsity semifinalists at the Yale University’s Rollin G. Osterweis Parliamentary Debate Tournament earlier this month.

This was an especially noteworthy occasion for Pereira, who is co-captain of the Barlow Debate team and plans to attend Yale in the fall as part of the class of 2030.

In addition, four Barlow students were co-champions in the novice competition, going undefeated across

four rounds: Charles Rabinowitz, Annabel Lau, Aniket Gupta, and Emery Oppenheim.

More than 120 students from approximately 20 public, private, and parochial schools took part in the tournament, in which members of the Yale Debate Association judged all the rounds. “Topics varied from round to round and encompassed economics, religion, magic, and ethics within relationships,” said Barlow Debate Coach Randall Smith. “Students had only 10 minutes to prepare cases for each round – and without using any resources.”

To name just two of the resolutions that were on the table at the tournament, students wrestled with the merits of nationalizing the pharmaceutical industry, as well as the use of parental vouchers versus public subsidies to provide public childcare services.

This was Yale’s 44th Osterweis Tournament, which aims to introduce students to the collegiate style of parliamentary debate. It is named for Rollin G. Osterweis, who was the first coach of the Yale Debate Association and is considered a legendary figure in the debate community. ■

Outsmarting the 2026 Spring Break surge

A foundation of flexibility and security is the new travel luxury

By Angela Caes

Travel in March and April is shaping up to be another year of crowds, fully-occupied hotels, and infrastructure strain. With 1 in 5 Americans heading out on the road or to the skies, we encourage you to consider small changes that will make a big impact on your travel.

Preparation

Success starts with a head start: check in for your flight 24 hours out and arrive at the terminal well ahead of the crowds. Engage services such as CLEAR, TSA Pre-check or Global Entry to swiftly work through security lines and triple check before you leave that your air records reflect your TSA Pre-check / Global Entry numbers.

Reduce your own stress by adopting the less-is-more approach; one carry-on and one personal item for adults and one small carry-on for kids. Lean into technology and time-saving apps, from Apple air tags for your favorite travel items, including Mr. Snuggles the Teddy Bear, to pre-ordering meals, signing up for TSA wait-time notifications, and reserved passes to airport lounges. For special needs while traveling, seek allergy awareness cards, developmental disability cards, and digital medical prescription documentation. Check your timing, plan your approach, and jump into the steady stream of travelers.

Safety and flexibility

If time is your greatest commodity, then flexibility and safety are your greatest investments. Gift yourself the luxury of flexibility while planning and designing your trip. Refundable accommodations, flexible experiences, and local contacts allow you to be nimble and react to energy levels, weather, or the opportunity to simply follow a whim.

From transportation strikes to flooding, unforeseen medical needs to political instability, we know that not all plans materialize. Ensure your safety with on-the-ground support in foreign destinations to react in real-time and provide guidance. Online wholesale platforms and computer-generated recommendations are not structured to offer the guidance, support, and advocacy you receive when working with a real person – whether that be

a Travel Advisor or direct associate at a hotel, operator, or airline.

Safety also extends to your digital footprint. Before you connect to any public Wi-Fi, ensure your identity is shielded by a virtual private network (VPN) and adequate password protection. Opt-in for alternative methods of information gathering beyond scanning QR codes and always review your bill and charges when checking out of your hotel. Sneaky involuntary gratuity charges, over-tourism taxes and environmental taxes are new trends in hotel fees. In some cases, you can opt out.

As you cross borders, remember that “life still happens” on holiday. Create a trip Crisis Management Plan and register with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). This allows the U.S. Government to provide real-time updates and reach you in case of emergency.

In 2026, travel protection isn’t an “extra” – it’s your primary defense against the unexpected. It’s imperative you have factual information to make informed decisions when traveling. Knowing a destination is safe and feeling comfortable traveling to a destination are distinctly different.

The human element

Amidst the checklists and technology, remember the human soul of the journey. Be kind. Be curious. While trekking through the airport, remember that many Department of Homeland Security personnel are currently working without pay due to the budget standoff; to date, more than 300 TSA agents have resigned and there are multiple unscheduled absences. These agents are the ones standing between you and your destination; a little patience and a sincere “thank you” go a long way when the infrastructure is strained.

While we believe in Anthony Bourdain’s famous words, “Travel is about the gorgeous feeling of teetering in the unknown,” we recommend you teeter into the unknown with a solid foundation focusing on safety, flexibility, and the luxury of a well-planned Spring Break. ■

Angela Caes is a Redding resident and owner of Fernleaf Travel

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BOOK REVIEW

Viewpoint Diversity

Edited by John Tomasi & Bernard Schweizer

Heresy Press / 224 Pages / \$18.00

Viewpoint Diversity, edited by John Tomasi and Bernard Schweizer, is a thematic essay collection of contemporary writers of all political and cultural stripes. These essays seek to bring thoughtful minds to social criticism. In his preface, Jonathan Haidt puts forward the editors' intention, writing, "I came to grasp [John Stuart] Mill's famous line that 'he who knows only his side of the case knows little of that.'" With this premise, essays by conservative *New York Times* editor Bret Stephens and Professor of Black Studies at Harvard Henry Louis Gates, Jr. share a congenial home.

No matter outlook, the reader will find occasions to question personal assumptions. These are essays of good faith. Opinions are honest and well-presented. Justifications differ, but all perspectives are offered in a spirit of clarification. And the main connective idea is: There are seeds of truth in every notion offered. Learn what your opponent feels when he offers an outlook that differs from yours. And opinions are nuanced.

Bret Stephens writes, "... the ultimate purpose of intellectual inquiry isn't diversity, it's truth. Declaring an interest in 'viewpoint diversity'...risks mistaking a means for an end...Like a tumor, a bad idea will metastasize if allowed to grow unchallenged and uncontradicted...at the same time, an insistence on viewpoint diversity can give good ideas a chance to win wider acceptance..."

On the other hand, explaining his take on viewpoint diversity, Professor Gates writes, "And what of the

freedom to learn? Who has the right to study, the right to teach..." And Gates argues against censorship of any kind, "Any teacher, and student, any reader, any writer, sufficiently attentive and motivated, must be able to engage freely with subjects of their choice. That is not only the essence of learning; it's the essence of being human...we could all [do] with more humility, and more humanity."

Mark Baurlein, professor emeritus at Emory University, writes, "Higher education cannot proceed unless supporters of pluralism restrain the voices of political dogma and insist in every moment in the life of a department 'e pluribus unum.'"

The theme running through most of these essays is that, politically, religiously, and academically, we are conditioned to bad-faith argument. Often, we accept crass response and weak intellectual rigor in the name of inclusion. In the inevitable discussions about orthodoxy and artificial intelligence, it is well to follow the suggestions presented here, overt or implicit, that argue for common decency and social etiquette reconstituted as behavioral requirements during discourse. Whatever interferes with the quest for truth should be identified and eliminated. These essays underscore a high place of humility, evenness, evidence, respect, and, ultimately, humanity itself, in all discourse, cultural or otherwise. ■

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

LIBRARY CORNER

Practice, practice, practice

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Last fall, my husband and I attended our first grader's parent-teacher conference, assuming we would hear the usual things about her social emotional development, check out some of her class projects, ask a few questions, and be on our way. What I did not expect to hear was that our child was struggling with reading.

Even though I am a librarian and books are my business, I am not trained in how to teach a child to read. I thought by reading regularly with her each night, bringing new books home from the library, and making her a healthy breakfast, the reading would come naturally. So,

imagine how I felt hearing that my child – the daughter of a *librarian* – was behind in reading! My husband and I went home and came up with a plan. She would read twice per day in the mornings and after school, no matter how much she protested. And protest she did! She once tried to turn in an assignment where she had written, simply, "Reading is my nightmare."

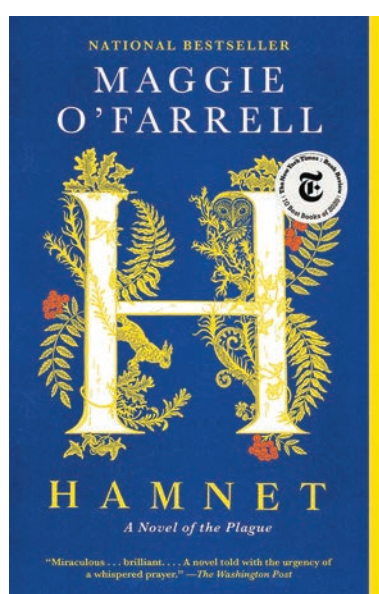
But what ended up happening is that reading became a daily practice. This should have been a simple realization for me: improvement requires practice. People practice yoga, practice piano, and practice juggling, so why shouldn't

someone practice reading? I didn't need to be an expert in Fountas and Pinnell or whatever phonics program they were using at her school. I just had to make sure my kid practiced. So that is what we have been doing every night and every morning for months, and I am pleased to say she is reading at grade level. I can even hear her reading aloud to herself after we have put her to bed. Last night she read a book to her younger sister! All it took was practice. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

Good books for good readers

By Margi Esten



Maggie O'Farrell is an Irish-British novelist born in 1972 in Northern Ireland who began winning literary awards with her first novel, *After You'd Gone*,

published in 2000. She went on to write and publish several more novels including *Hamnet*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award. Her newest novel, *Land*, will be published this summer.

According to her interviews with *The Guardian*, Maggie suffered a severe illness as a child that required a long recovery in bed which inspired her writing as she spent much time reading and observing. Themes of health, vulnerability, and mortality frequently appear in her novels.

Hamnet was published in 2020 and is an historical fiction account of William Shakespeare, his wife Anne Hathaway (she is called Agnes in the book, as Agnes and Anne were often interchangeable names – as were Hamlet and Hamnet) and their son Hamnet who died unexpectedly from the plague at age 11,

leaving behind his twin sister Judith who barely escaped the same fate.

The novel focuses on the profound and devastating impact of a child's death on the family. But there are layers and layers of themes in this magnificent piece of writing, most notably focusing on the fierce protective love of a mother for her children and suggesting it is a force that can transcend death, the often overlooked domestic life of women connected to men in public life and the arts, and the identity of Hamnet and Judith who are seen as one soul split in two.

I strongly urge all of you not only to read *Hamnet* but also to see the beautiful and remarkable film with Jessie Buckley as Agnes (Buckley won the Academy Award for her performance earlier this week). Maggie O'Farrell contributed to the screenplay. Unforgettable. ■

Historical literature in bloom

Mark Twain Library and Redding Garden Club collaborate to bring books to life

By Lisa Goldstein

For one week in March, Mark Twain Library will showcase a literary and nature inspired display as the annual "Blooming Books" exhibit fills the Library.

Now in its fourth year, this exhibit is a collaboration between Mark Twain Library and Redding Garden Club in which community members are invited to make floral arrangements inspired by their favorite books.

In past displays, members have channeled their creativity with wild spring florals to depict *A Walk in the Woods*, pink tulips for *Cinderella*, a water-filled terrarium to capture Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, and an elaborate rock and moss display for *The Hardy Boys': The Mystery of Cabin Island* – just to name a few.

This year, in celebration of America's 250th anniversary, the theme focuses on a journey through our nation's history. Participants are tasked with designing a floral arrangement inspired by a favorite book that is focused on our nation's history, whether non-fiction, a classic novel, historical fiction, or book of poetry.

"This is a very special anniversary year, so including historical and patriotic elements would be a great way to get into the spirit of the event," said Peggy Jorgensen, Co-president of the Garden Club.

"Blooming Books" began as a way to welcome spring and showcase not just the talents of the Garden Club, but also to highlight the longstanding partnership between the Library and the Garden

Club, which often collaborate on programming. Both groups agree there's no better way to celebrate that than by combining books and flowers.

In addition to inviting the public to submit their own creations (the deadline for which was March 18), the community is also invited to an Open House on Wednesday, March 25 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., where visitors can browse the display, enjoy homemade goodies, sip some refreshments, and meet the talented floral arrangers behind the designs. The creations will be on display during business hours at Mark Twain Library the week following the Open House, from March 26 through April 1, 2026. ■

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Notes from a neighbor *The blessings of the bus*

By Carter Wiseman

My barber, a mother of a first-year high-schooler, happened to mention to me during my last trim that her daughter never takes the bus to school. Her mom explained that the teenager claimed it was not cool, so she insisted on being driven every morning in the family SUV.

I was taken aback by the story. When our kids were approaching kindergarten age, a major rite of passage was the first day putting them on the 7:40 a.m. bus. We have a photo of the whole family sitting on a bench by the mailbox as we sent them off. There were tears all around, some shed in pride, some in anxiety.

We discovered from our children that they learned a great deal on the bus. There was the occasional fisticuff, the trading of gossip, and sharing of answers on late assignments. In one case, there was a kerfuffle over boys displaying more than their biceps. In any case, they learned a lot on the bus that they didn't get in the classroom. Indeed, when one of our daughter's classmates made a racist remark about another student, I'm proud to say that our girl threatened to thrash the offender with her backpack.

But there were more mundane advantages to this regular ritual. Not the least was learning to be on time. And manners: We insisted that our

kids greet their driver, Chris, with a "Good morning" at pick-up, and a "Thank you" at drop-off. Chris, who had to deal with the kerfuffles, was clearly pleased, but, sadly, surprised. For good reason. Being a school bus driver has to be a tough job. Policing the passengers' behavior is difficult enough, but then there are the grownups desperate to get to the train station who pile up behind the flashing lights. I think one of the worst sins is to pass a stopped school bus, even if the driver doesn't hit a fifth-grader or a parent.

To protect children from another level of danger, bus companies recently began blackening their

windows, apparently for fear that evil-doers might target the kids inside. I suppose this also shields the townsfolk from the occasional "mooning" by victorious high-school sports teams, but it also means we can't see the fresh faces of young people passing by at the beginning and the end of a day.

At least no one has decided to change the color of school buses. I don't know when yellow was picked as a standard, but I consider it non-negotiable. Some years back, scientific studies showed that white was more visible than red for fire engines, so many communities (not including ours) switched. I don't know if that reduced accidents, but

I think that a fire engine should be red. I have not heard that anybody has proposed changing the color of school buses, but if they do, my view is that the buses should stand firm for yellow. It's an issue right up there with the red, white, and blue.

I have an appointment with my barber next week for my spring trim. I have a message for her daughter: that a ride in an SUV may not do as much for her education as a spat with a classmate on a bus over what is really cool. ■

OBITUARY

Philip Collins

November 23, 1942 – March 8, 2026



With heavy hearts, we share the passing of Philip Joseph Collins, age 83, of Redding on March 8, 2026. Phil passed peacefully at home surrounded by his loved ones. Born on November 23, 1942, in Boston, MA to Charles and Anna Kalinauskas, Phil was a loving husband and devoted father. His quick wit and sense of humor often appeared in small moments that brought smiles to those who knew him best.

At the center of his life was his deep love for his wife, Nancy Elizabeth Collins. Married on June 4, 1966, and together for over 63 years, they met on a blind date and knew immediately that they were meant to be together. Their relationship was built on loyalty, laughter, and unwavering support for one another. Together they shared a love of travel, seeing the world side by side and creating a lifetime of memories. Some of their happiest moments were spent closer to home at their house on Cape

Cod, where they cherished quiet evenings watching the sunsets and time together with family.

Phil was also a devoted father whose greatest joy was caring for his family. He showed his love through everyday actions and shared his passions for model trains, sailing, hunting, fishing, marksmanship, and fixing just about everything. His steady presence and quiet encouragement shaped the lives of those he loved most.

Phil earned a BS from Boston College and an MBA from Suffolk University. His career began at Dupont in Seaford, Delaware and progressed to leadership positions in manufacturing and healthcare in New York.

He will be missed more than words can express, but his devotion, humor, and love will remain in the hearts of all who knew him.

Phil is survived by his beloved wife Nancy, and his children, Jennifer Ann Woodhour of Wayne, NJ and Philip Joseph Collins, Jr (Dawn) of Fort Montgomery, NY; his grandchildren, Morgan Elizabeth Collins, Ella Cassandra Collins, and Jack Thomas Woodhour; and his sister Elizabeth Geller of Braintree, MA.

A funeral mass will be held on Monday March 23, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Ridgefield, CT.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the American Cancer Society. ■

"Let's Chat" fosters connections for elementary students / continued from page 2

can complement our ongoing work with restorative practices," said RES Principal Melissa Lambroschiano. "During the January session, we explored how we might potentially incorporate Let's Chat into our day-to-day work with students."

Restorative practices are relationship-focused techniques that aim to improve environments within school communities. In the process, they foster empathy, accountability, and social-emotional skills. Ginger Smith, Founder of SOAR Together, facilitated the session at Redding Elementary and outlined how Let's Chat can accomplish those goals.

Jennifer D'Addario, a fourth-grade teacher said she wasn't sure what to expect when she first saw SOAR Together on the agenda for the January professional development day. "However, I was pleasantly surprised by how meaningful the session ended up being," D'Addario said. "Ginger Smith spoke about SOAR's message of sparking conversations and creating connections so that people feel a stronger sense of belonging. It was inspiring to think about simple, creative ways we can help others feel seen and included."

One phase of the session that stood out for D'Addario and her colleagues was when participants decorated flowerpots with the message "You are loved."

"This was such a positive way to start the New Year and focus on self-love and kindness," she said. "I also appreciated the opportunity to give back to the community by creating a cup of flowers, which Ginger later delivered to a local nursing home."

After that initial meeting, the school's staff discussed SOAR Together during their own Professional Learning Community, or PLC, meetings. In them, they looked at ways to incorporate Let's Chat into classroom routines and activities such as lunch and recess.

A key element of Let's Chat is a set of cards, each bearing a question. These questions aim to

spark conversation, through which students share ideas, experiences, and perspectives. The goal is to build connections among students, particularly among those who might otherwise avoid it. Teachers and other staff can use these cards at points throughout the school day in ways that support interaction and relationships.

"For example, teachers can incorporate the cards into morning meetings or classroom restorative circles," said Lambroschiano. "Students practice listening, sharing, and reflecting together. In addition, recess and lunch monitors have used the cards informally during lunch or recess to help spark conversation or encourage students to engage with peers."

The timing of their use is flexible, but Let's Chat and the conversation cards are designed to be ongoing. "Participation is not limited to a specific group of students," said Lambroschiano. "Teachers may choose to incorporate them when they feel they would be helpful for discussion, community-building, or student engagement."

The teachers all had an opportunity at the workshop session to try the cards out, which proved both fun and useful, according to D'Addario. "I could immediately see how they could be used in my classroom and around the school community," D'Addario said. "A simple question such as 'what's your favorite food?' can turn into a much grander conversation," she said. "Sometimes, students just need a small prompt or activity to start conversations they might not normally have. Tools like the Let's Chat cards are a simple way to help build a stronger sense of community."

"Because this work is ongoing, we plan to revisit the topic during a future PLC meeting," said Lambroschiano. "Teams can reflect on their experiences, share observations, and discuss how the materials may continue to support positive student interactions and school climate." ■

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Palazzo Landscaping: Rooted in the community

By Justin Reynolds



Photo courtesy of Nic Palazzo

The team at Palazzo Landscaping

Growing up in Ridgefield, Nic Palazzo spent his days playing in excavators and dump trucks. He quickly developed a knack for working outdoors while shadowing his father, who founded Performance Landex, an excavation business, in 1978.

In 2012, Palazzo needed to raise some funds to pay for a school trip, so he grabbed a lawnmower and put it to use. The rest is history.

"It was addicting," said Palazzo, who now lives in Redding. "My dad has always been a great mentor, giving me so many opportunities growing up. Instead of just handing me money, I would be splitting wood, stacking wood, shoveling driveways and walkways after school. It was an unconventional way to grow up, but I'm very glad I did it. You don't see it much anymore."

While attending college at Western Connecticut State University, Palazzo decided to officially follow in his family's footsteps — his grandfather was also an entrepreneur — launching a business of his own, Palazzo Landscaping, in 2018.

"We're a full-service landscape maintenance and excavation contractor," he said. "We do your general full seasonal property maintenance from spring clean-ups and mulching through ongoing bed service and your fall clean-up and leaf

removal. We also offer commercial and residential snow and ice management."

Though the business's name makes most people think of Palazzo Landscaping as a "mow and blow kind of company," Palazzo said it has evolved beyond basic landscaping in recent years.

"Landscaping is how we started — that's our roots," Palazzo explained. "Over the last five years, we've expanded into planting, privacy trees, excavation, land clearing, drainage solutions, and gravel driveways. Our excavator and skid steer work has allowed this business to flourish." They also have a full team dedicated to flower bed maintenance.

Palazzo Landscaping has 15 full-time employees — 12 field staff, two office staff, and the owner — and a fleet of 10 trucks and enough excavation equipment to run multiple sites simultaneously.

While problem-solving is central to the company's philosophy, Palazzo said that humility guides their decisions. If a client's request falls outside of their expertise, they bring in a trusted specialist.

"I don't do everything, but I know someone who does everything," he noted.

Palazzo learned early on that many landscaping companies struggle with persistent staffing issues because they lay off workers

in the winter. He makes it a point to employ his team year-round.

"We do indoor work — painting, basic carpentry, handyman stuff," he said, adding that he views his team as a family, despite the cliché. "I retain my staff in the winter so they're ready to go in the spring. It's a promise I make to my team. You're never going to go hungry. I'll keep you busy."

Beyond running a successful business, Palazzo also invests in the communities where he grew up and now works. He is currently the president of Georgetown Village Restoration, Inc.

"My dad has been involved in the Georgetown Day celebration since the beginning," he said. "I grew up there. I'd go to the meetings with him before I could drive. It's great."

In addition to volunteering around Georgetown, Palazzo also participates in Ridgefield's Memorial Day parade. This year, he decorated machines for the Redding Neighbors & Newcomers Trunk or Treat event and has sponsored teams through the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton, along with the organization's annual gala.

"I love giving back to the community that I live in. It just feels good. Honestly, it's amazing to me that more people don't get involved," Palazzo said. "Some of the best friends in the world I met through volunteering."

On top of that, Palazzo Landscaping sponsors the Mark Twain Library's Art Show every year, and he will be working at the Frog Frolic in May.

"I love Redding, I love Georgetown, I'm thrilled to be in business and grateful for the community support," he said. "I wouldn't trade this job for the world. Every day I wake up, I'm so grateful. I love what I do." ■

For more information, visit palazzolandscapinginc.com





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www.thegolfperformancecenter.com/open-house

THE NATURAL WORLD

The Outside Story: Wild turkey mating season

By Emily Haynes



Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol



Photo by Jessie Wright

A winter group of wild turkeys, gathered in a field on Cross Highway.

At this time of year, wild eastern turkeys are still congregated in the flocks of 20 or so birds with which they spend the winter. Groups of hens, mature female turkeys, will generally winter with the broods they raised the previous summer. Toms, mature male turkeys, spend the colder months apart from hens and immature birds, in what biologists call “bachelor groups,” though males and females are sometimes seen congregating around food resources in winter. But as the days get longer and warmer, wild turkeys start feeling the urge to begin the spring shuffle, wandering in search of breeding opportunities and nesting sites.

The spring shuffle kicks off turkey mating season and generally begins in mid- to late March. The timing is affected by temperature, with heavy snows delaying its start and early spring thaws speeding it up.

Turkeys move seasonally because the resources they need from the landscape change as their focus shifts from surviving winter to raising the next generation. When selecting wintering grounds, male and female turkeys look for shelter from the elements and access to food resources, such as bird feeders, silage, or waste corn, to supplement their foraged diet. But by early spring, food is less scarce, and hens begin assessing the landscape for sunken places where they can build their nests, ideally hidden from predators by fallen logs or dense vegetation. Toms, meanwhile, roam the landscape in small groups, searching for hens to mate with.

A key strategy to locate females is gobbling, a male turkey’s trademark loud and squabbling call.

“There are vocalizations that occur that bring males and females together: males broadcasting where they are, females responding when they’re preparing to breed,” said Dan Ellingwood, turkey project leader at the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game. “That allows the two to make connections.”

During mating season, which generally occurs throughout April and May in New England, toms often begin gobbling from their roosts at dawn, listening for yelping responses from nearby hens. Once toms and hens find each other, male turkeys flaunt their showy sprays of tail feathers, puff up their plumage, and sashay for female turkeys in a mating display called “strutting.”

“Gobbling’s kind of a long-range advertising of their presence and then strutting’s kind of the short-range signaling of soliciting a breeding opportunity,” Ellingwood said.

While jakes, immature male turkeys, may gobble and strut for hens, breeding typically occurs only between toms and hens that are at least two years old. Hens may mate with multiple toms during breeding season, but they tend to only raise one brood per year.

At nesting sites, hens select depressions in the landscape or scratch out shallow basins, which they line with leaf litter. Turkey nests measure about a foot in width and length and typically hold 10 to 12 eggs, though sometimes a hen will lay as few as four eggs. Turkey eggs are beige with brown speckles and slightly bigger than a chicken egg.

While hens start laying a couple days after breeding, they only lay one egg each day on average. The

laying process can stretch on for two weeks. “They’ll start incubating after their entire clutch has been laid so that the embryos develop all at the same time – so that they all hatch at the same time,” Ellingwood said.

Raising a turkey brood is no easy task, as their in-ground nests are susceptible to predation by raccoons, opossums, foxes, and other predators. Cold snaps and very wet weather can also threaten young turkeys’ survival.

“In cases where there is a nest failure, a nest loss, hens will re-nest, but they won’t nest multiple times in a year. They might attempt to re-nest once or twice through that breeding period, through the month of May,” Ellingwood said. “If things fail, they end up linking up with other adult hens – some with and some without poults.”

Wild turkeys were extirpated from both New Hampshire and Vermont for more than a century. They were successfully reintroduced to Vermont in 1969 and to New Hampshire in 1975, and both states now have healthy populations. So, when you see toms strutting their stuff this spring, give thanks for all the biologists who helped bring these most magnificent of birds back to New England. ■

Emily Haynes is a writer currently living in Washington, D.C. An avid birder and hiker, she loves exploring the forests of the Northeast. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org

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A hippity hoppin’ good time Egg hunts around town

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

From wooden to plastic to candy-filled, the colorful treasures found during the many egg hunts held in the area each March and April bring delight to children and herald the coming of spring. Local families have a host of events to choose from, some offering a twist on a classic hunt, and others promising memorable photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny, spring crafts, and more.

the Ridgefield Park and Recreation Center outdoor fields, children will search for hundreds of hidden eggs in the dark. Hunters should dress for the weather and bring their own flashlights. Egg hunting begins at 8:00 p.m. sharp!

Registration is required at ridgefieldparksandrec.org/programs/events/29186

Boys & Girls Club – Torch Club Egg Hunt
Friday, April 3 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
170 Cross Highway

Children ages eight and under should grab a bag or basket, dress for the weather, and head over to the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton for a community event bursting with fun and raising money for a good cause. Led by the middle schoolers in Redding and Easton’s Torch Clubs, the event this year will have close to 600 hidden eggs (double the number from last year), a snack shack, photos with the Easter Bunny, facepainting, and more. The event helps raise funds for the Torch Clubs’ community service, apparel, and other needs throughout the year. Rain date: April 4.

Registration is required at bgcre.net/2026-egg-hunt

Rising Starr Horse Rescue’s Bunny Hop
Sunday, March 29
from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

93 Silver Spring Road, Wilton
Is a meeting with the Easter Bunny as memorable as an encounter with an adorable mini horse or majestic rescue horses? Families are invited to bring their baskets for egg hunting and an afternoon of spring arts and crafts, games with prizes, face painting, and treats at Rising Starr Horse Rescue’s annual event. The festivities are held indoors in the barn, so the unpredictable spring weather can’t dampen any of the fun. Registration is encouraged, though tickets may be available at the door, while supplies last.

Registration at bunnyhop2026.givesmart.com

Castle Hill Farm Egg Hunt
Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
1 Sugar Lane, Newtown

Not eager for the stress of a race to find eggs? Castle Hill Farm hosts a station egg hunt, where each child visits set stations with farm animals, farm machinery, and farming themes to collect their 12 toy-filled treasures. No mad rush, no racing around. Real chicks, bunnies, and goats may make an appearance, along with special guest and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. All are welcome, though the hunt is typically suitable for children two years old and up. Rain boots or farm shoes are recommended for the hunt through the Farm’s hay fields.

Registration for a time slot is required at castlehillfarm.ticketspice.com/2026-egg-hunt ■

YMCA Site-Wide Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 21
from 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
404 Danbury Road, Wilton

Few hunts this spring will take place across 22 acres like the Riverbrook Regional YMCA’s site-wide hunt will. Egg hunters can explore the indoor and outdoor facilities of the entire Y – including the pool – while looking for colorful eggs. Two, 90-minute slots are available (2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.) to choose from to give you plenty of time and space to find as many prize-filled eggs as you wish.

Registration required at wiltonymca.org/easter-egg-hunt

Ridgefield Park and Rec’s Flashlight Egg Hunt
Friday, March 27
from 8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

195 Danbury Road, Ridgefield
While many local egg hunts are geared toward the youngest children, this fun evening event gives students in third through fifth grades a challenge. Held on

Editor’s Note: The egg hunts highlighted here are open to the public – some free, some paid. Many other local organizations hold egg hunts each year that are open to their members only.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week's Featured Events

CS Lewis Live on Stage - *The Great Divorce*

Friday, March 20 – Saturday, March 21
7:00 p.m.
Anthony Lawton brings to life Lewis's vision of the struggle within the human soul.
First Congregational Church
Ridgefield
103 Main Street
Ridgefield
firstcongregational.com

Golf Performance Center Open House

Saturday, March 21
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Tours of facility, learn about youth programs and adult memberships, try out simulation bay, and more
Golf Performance Center
824 Ethan Allen Highway
Ridgefield
thegolfperformancecenter.com/open-house

Redding Grange 5th Annual Seed Exchange

Sunday, March 22
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Start off your growing season with seeds from your neighbors
Redding Grange #15
399 Newtown Turnpike
reddinggrange.org

Want to feature an upcoming event?

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

ARTS

Friday, March 20

Dance the Line
7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Enjoy an evening of line dancing with neighbors and friends
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org/events
\$

Friday, March 20 – Saturday, March 21

CS Lewis Live on Stage - *The Great Divorce*
7:00 p.m.
Anthony Lawton brings to life Lewis's vision of the struggle within the human soul.
First Congregational Church
Ridgefield
103 Main Street
Ridgefield
firstcongregational.com

Saturday, March 21

Play Reading: *Neil Simon's Rumors*
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Fundraiser to support New Pond Farm
Pryor Hubbard Hall
30 Church Street
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

Saturday, March 28

Artists Talk and Closing Reception for Between the Lines
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
GTown Arts
5 Main Street
gtownarts.com

Saturday, March 28

Swing Dance with Too Blue and Friends
7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Introductory lesson then dancing with a live band
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org/events
\$, R

Sunday, March 29

Orion Piano Quartet: Resonance
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Music of Mozart, Dvořák, and Joe Gianono
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org/events
\$

CHILDREN | TEENS

Through Friday, March 20

Energize Connecticut's eesarts Student Contest
Registration ongoing
Students in grades K-12 can submit artistic creations on energy-saving or sustainability topics for a chance to win a prize and be recognized
Deadline to register: March 20
Deadline to submit: March 27
energizeCT.com/student-contest

Monday, March 23

Pirate Party for Grades K-4
3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Bus service from RES provided
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

FOOD | WINE

Sunday, March 22

5th Annual Afternoon of Casks Festival
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Pints, oysters, music, and food
Nod Hill Brewery
137 Ethan Allen Highway
nodhillbrewery.com
\$, R

HOLIDAY | SEASONAL

Saturday, March 21

Hoppy Days Egg Hunt
10:00 a.m.
For children 3 to 10
Lounsbury House
316 Main Street
Ridgefield
inridgefield.com/events/hoppy-days-egg-hunt
R

Saturday, March 21

YMCA Site-Wide Easter Egg Hunt
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Riverbrook Regional YMCA
404 Danbury Road
Wilton
wiltonymca.org/easter-egg-hunt
\$, R

Friday, March 27

Flashlight Egg Hunt (Grades 3-5)
8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Dress for the weather and bring your own flashlight
Ridgefield Parks & Recreation Center Fields
195 Danbury Road
Ridgefield
ridgefieldparksandrec.org/programs/events/21721
R

Saturday, March 28

5K Bunny Hop
9:15 a.m. Check-in begins
10:00 a.m. Race start
Sponsored by Joel Barlow 2027 Class Council
Joel Barlow High School / Main Entrance
100 Black Rock Turnpike
runsignup.com/race/ct/redding/5kbunnyhoprace
\$, R

Friday, April 3

2026 Torch Club Egg Hunt
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Egg hunt begins around 12:00 p.m. for kids 8 and younger, meet the Easter Bunny
Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton
170 Cross Highway
bgcre.net/2026-egg-hunt
\$, R

NATURE

Sunday, March 22

Redding Grange 5th Annual Seed Exchange
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Start off your growing season with seeds from your neighbors
Redding Grange #15
399 Newtown Turnpike
reddinggrange.org

Sunday, March 22

NPF Walking Group: Celebrate the Spring Equinox
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
R

Tuesday, March 24

Planning Your Vegetable and Cutting Flower Garden
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Learn from the experts at Homefront Farmers
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Sunday, March 29

Redding Land Trust Annual Meeting and Spring Gathering
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Hear updates, meet new trustees, and enjoy refreshments
Highstead
127 Lonetown Road
zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-meeting-draft
R

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Wednesdays

Progress Not Perfection
6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.
Weekly Al-Anon meeting for family and friends of alcoholics
St. Patrick's Church / Conlisk Hall
169 Black Rock Turnpike

Thursday, March 19

Conversations: How Germany Lost its Democracy – Lessons for the 21st Century
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Hybrid discussion with historian Benjamin Carter Hett
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road and on Zoom
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Saturday, March 21

Golf Performance Center Open House
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Tours of facility, learn about youth programs and adult memberships, try out simulation bay, and more
Golf Performance Center
824 Ethan Allen Highway
Ridgefield
thegolfperformancecenter.com/open-house

Sunday, March 22

The Origins of Today's Judaism
11:30 a.m.
Presentation by Professor Carol Bakhos
First Congregational Church
103 Main Street
Ridgefield

Sunday, March 22

Ethereal Healing Studio Opening Event
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Discover new wellness destination and its services
3 Side Cut Road #3
etherealhealingstudio.com

Wednesday, March 25

Redding Garden Club Open House and Blooming Books Floral Display
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Literary-inspired floral arrangements, refreshments, and socializing.
Deadline to sign up to create a Blooming Books floral display is Wednesday, March 18.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

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
cibcredning.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, March 20
5:00 p.m. Interfaith Shabbat
82 Portland Avenue
templebnaichaim.org

MEETINGS

Thursday, March 19

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

Monday, March 23

Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room and Virtual
100 Hill Road and Zoom

Monday, March 23

Board of Finance
7:30 p.m.
Virtual

Tuesday, March 24

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

Wednesday, March 25

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

Thursday, March 26

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

Friday, March 27

Region 9 BoE Select Committee on Academic Rigor, Standards, and Grading
8:30 a.m.
Joel Barlow High School / Room A108
100 Black Rock Turnpike

Monday, March 30

Board of Finance
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Conference Room and Virtual
100 Hill Road and Zoom

Tuesday, March 31

Poll Worker Information Sessions
12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
100 Hill Road
reddingct.gov/government/town-administration/registrar-voters

Wednesday, April 1

Ives Trail Meeting
9:30 a.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Wednesday, April 1

Brown Bag Lunch with First Selectwoman
12:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Wednesday, April 1

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

Monday, April 6

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

Monday, April 6

Board of Finance
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Conference Room and Zoom
100 Hill Road

*See meeting agendas and minutes at reddingct.gov/agendas-minutes



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TimDentTeam.com



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Listed By Jefferson Guthrie | 203.788.9400
Jefferson.Guthrie@cbmoves.com



11 Boulevard Drive, Danbury | \$525,000
Listed By Carol Hanlon | 203.240.1233
CarolHanlonHomes.com



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203.313.3110



Marilyn Caravetta
203.512.1822



Kim Cuniberti
203.733.6976



Mary Dent
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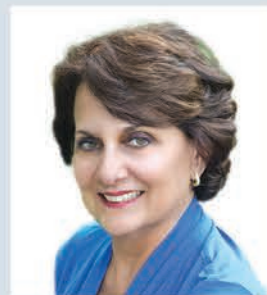
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Based on total number of units from SmartMLS for the state of Connecticut in all price ranges for the period 2/1/2025-1/31/2026. Sales volume is calculated by multiplying the number of buyer and/or seller sides by the sales price. One unit equals one 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.

