

Town meets ARPA deadline

By Rob Sample

The close of 2024 marked the end of Redding’s spending of Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

“Under the law, all ARPA funds had to be spent or obligated by December 31, 2024,” said Finance Director Jim Sanders. “The ARPA law also required all unspent funds to be returned to the Federal government. Here in Redding, we met the deadline, so that did not happen.”

ARPA was a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill designed to help the U.S. recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. Redding received a total of \$2,701,809, with the first funds arriving in 2021.

An eight-person ARPA Funds Working Group was set up to solicit, consider, and recommend proposals from local organizations. Municipal needs – including police, firefighting, highway, and facilities – were also in the final mix of ARPA grants.

See page 3 for a complete list of ARPA-funded projects. ■



Photo submitted by Bruce Ward, New Pond Farm Education Center

The Orion Nebula imaged with New Pond Farm Education Center’s new smart telescope during the public Astronomy Program on January 5. A Board member recently donated The 6-inch Celestron Origin Smart telescope. This image is a composite of 66 ten-second-exposure images. The Orion Nebula is in the sword of the Orion Constellation. Participants looked directly up into the sky to view the Orion Constellation unaided and viewed the Orion Nebula through a conventional optical telescope and with the new digital telescope via a monitor. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Regional substitute teacher shortage impacts ER9

By Anne Young Albanese

Many school districts in the state are facing a shortage of substitute teachers, and some schools in the Easton, Redding, and Region 9 (ER9) school districts are no different.

“John Read is not immune from the substitute teacher shortage impacting many area schools,” said Jennifer Desmarais, Principal of John Read Middle School. “The field of education has undergone dramatic shifts since I started teaching at John Read in 1989. At that time, we had many parents serving as substitutes. Now, it is rare to see parents filling this important role. The responsibilities have increased

substantially. That being said, John Read is a great place to work. Our students bring a bit of joy each day. They are kind, and they appreciate adults willing to help them navigate through each day.”

Dr. Mario Almeida, Head of School and Assistant Superintendent for Joel Barlow High School, reported that Barlow is also in need of a larger roster of substitutes, and pointed out there are many benefits to serving the school in this way.

“Being a high school substitute teacher can be a rewarding experience with many benefits. For one, you get firsthand experience in a school setting, which can be help-

ful for aspiring teachers or other education-related careers. Second, it provides opportunities to connect with students, teachers, and staff and become part of the school community,” Almeida said.

Substitute teaching can also be a flexible opportunity to work part-time while choosing the days and times to work.

According to Amy DeMunda, Human Resources Manager for ER9, substitute teachers in Connecticut who work daily do not require a teaching certificate. These substitutes can cover for teachers

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REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

Holiday snow day New Pond Farm

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

A flock of chickens pecking for feed greeted me as I parked my car at New Pond Farm on Monday, their beautiful reds and browns set against the painted white fields. The snow had fallen on a perfect (at least for me) schedule – Sunday evening, just in time for a national holiday on Monday with children already off school and many parents off work.

Powdery snow found its way over my boot tops as I walked

down the hill from the parking area, coating their warm cuffs and stinging my skin through my socks. The path was almost untouched, only crisp tracks from a cross-country skier cutting through the white drifts. I was making my way to the Farm’s namesake pond, which went through a wetland restoration last year. I wanted to see it frozen over, wondering what wildlife might be enjoying its winter habitats.

Finding a snow-covered bench

at the pond’s edge, I sat, massaging my chilly, snow-soaked ankles. Blue skies yawned above me, throwing sunlight down upon the fields. The last time I was here was for the restoration project’s ribbon-cutting ceremony in October – the fields were muddy and hoof-marked, the scent of cows and hay filling the air. On Monday, everything was whitewashed with cold, crystalline snowfall.

A few birds clung to the bare branches of the line of trees set back from the water. Mostly, though, the natural world was quiet. I thought of the salamander my husband and son had found under a damp log this fall and wondered how deep below the frost it had ventured, what cozy spot it now occupied in winter slumber.

Sounds of activity began to punctuate the quiet. Far-off shrieks of delight carried through the air as children sledged down the Farm’s Astronomy Hill. A soft “woosh woosh” beyond the frozen pond came from the cross-country skier who had made the tracks along the path – her silhouette danced against the evergreens like a ballerina marking new choreography.

Continued on page 3

Winter virus cases continue to rise

By Donna Christopher

Connecticut’s cases of Covid-19, influenza, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) have been rising every week since the holidays.

There have been 200 hospitalizations for RSV across the state since November, according to the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH). The number of local admissions to Nuvance Health hospitals is not available, because the company does not provide data for their hospital admissions, a Nuvance spokesperson told the *Sentinel*.

In the week ending January 13, 2025, there were reports in Connecticut of 25,204 cases of Covid-19, 7,945 cases of influenza, and 7,356 cases of RSV. Two percent of the week’s Covid-19 cases and one percent of flu cases were seen in Connecticut’s emergency departments. There were no reported emergency department cases for RSV in the week, according to the State.

Local case information for Redding is not available. “The reporting requirements have changed, and reporting is done to the Connecticut Department of Public Health,” Health Officer Christopher Wegrzyn said.

“Covid-19 has been removed from the List of Reportable Diseases, Emergency Illnesses and Health Conditions. Due to the availability of home testing, the focus is no longer on counting every case of Covid-19, but instead on understanding disease trends and monitoring disease severity. Covid-19 hospitalizations and deaths will continue to be reportable,” according to CT DPH. Influenza cases are reported to the State.

Covid-19 cases far surpass both influenza and RSV in Connecticut, where high levels of Covid-19 are detected in the wastewater, a measure of how much virus is present in sewage, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

People who are infected often shed the virus into wastewater, even if they don’t have symptoms. As a result, high wastewater levels may indicate an increased level of infections even when other measures remain low.

The most common Covid-19 symptoms are fever, runny nose, congestion, cough, and loss of smell and taste, similar to influenza and RSV.

“Winter months provide ideal conditions such as cold and dry air for viruses to spread. People are also more likely to gather indoors to avoid the cold weather, making it easier for viruses to spread in large numbers,” explained Dr. Abdul Choudhary, a Family Medicine Physician from Nuvance’s Norwalk primary care practice.

Choudhary noted that Norwalk and Danbury hospitals are seeing high cases of influenza viruses and patients developing community-acquired pneumonia. When

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EDITORIAL

How do we make volunteer-run towns sustainable?

In a small town, and at a small-town newspaper, it is sometimes easier than in larger communities to spot common threads emerging between news items and recurring issues of interest. Several stories over the past months have brought something to the forefront: Redding depends on volunteers.

That is a lovely sentiment (“*we appreciate all you do, we depend on you!*”) as well as a call to action for residents to get involved; but it is also a fact with sweeping implications for our town’s municipal policies, recreational offerings, and development. Town board and commission members are almost all unpaid. Many beloved annual events like the Mark Twain Library Book Fair and Frog Frolic are organized by volunteers. Volunteer fire departments answer our 911 calls. Open spaces are tended to by many generous trail tenders. If our town relies on volunteers for so much of what makes Redding functional, beautiful, safe, or enjoyable, what happens if volunteering declines?

There have been recent indications that this needs our focused attention. Redding’s last municipal election had no contested races, with 32 seats on the ballot. The Mark Twain Library is proposing the addition of a full-time Development Director in its 2025-26 budget to ensure there is staffing available to lead fundraising efforts. At least three of our recent former Selectmen – long-time, dedicated public servants – have moved out of town as they have aged. Former Selectwoman Peg O’Donnell moved out of town this month to Bethel, saying, “Redding doesn’t have the kind of housing that you need as you get older when you don’t need a big house. Downsizing is really hard to do in Redding.”

The risk management strategy of diversification comes to mind. Are we too dependent on one source of labor? One way to mitigate this risk would be to diversify the types of roles that fill these important functions, like the Library is doing with their fundraising team, and other towns like ours have done by adding paid positions like Town Managers to their governing structures. This option, of course, has very real budget implications.

There is also the other side: what can we, as a town, do to help diversify the pool of available and willing volunteers? Does our current housing stock allow for young adults, families with one working parent, empty nesters, and retirees to make (or keep) Redding home? Do we welcome people from all backgrounds, with varying experiences, areas of interest, and passions? Do we have a formal system of communications or recruitment where residents can learn about opportunities to serve?

These questions don’t have quick answers – but they are important ones if we want to build a strong future for our town. ■

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers in Redding Fire District No. 2 that a commissioners special meeting for a preliminary budget discussion will take place on Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 10:30 a.m., located at West Redding Firehouse on 306 Umpawaug Rd in West Redding, CT 06896. ■

Commissioners:
Scott Romano, Charles Wells,
Ryan Beaudry

Dated 1/15/25
District Secretary, Alisha Durgin

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS, GEORGETOWN AND REDDING THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF REAL ESTATE, PERSONAL PROPERTY AND SUPPLEMENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES, ON THE GRAND LIST OF OCTOBER 1, 2023, IS DUE AND PAYABLE JANUARY 1, 2025. PAYMENT MUST BE POST-MARKED, PAID IN PERSON OR PAID BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD ONLINE ONLY, NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 3, 2025. TAXES ARE DELINQUENT FEBRUARY 4, 2025.

FAILURE TO RECEIVE A TAX BILL DOES NOT EXEMPT YOU FROM PAYMENT OF TAX OR PENALTY. The October 1, 2023, Mill Rate for real estate, personal property and motor vehicle taxes is 28.72

Payments postmarked, Paid in Person or Online, on or after February 4, 2025, ARE DELINQUENT. Interest will be charged at the rate of eighteen (18%) percent annually or one and one-half percent per month, from the January 1, 2025, due date, as per State Statute.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle Taxes are due in full between January 1, 2025, and February 3, 2025. Failure to make payment in accordance with the above will result in suspension of registration privileges in addition to interest charges. Delinquent Motor Vehicle Taxes must be paid prior to current year taxes, in cash, certified check, money order or online by credit card, to obtain a registration clearance.

Credit card payments cannot be made in person at the Town Hall. Taxes can be paid online and viewed at www.townofreddingct.org or paid by calling **866-923-8245**.

Do NOT include Fire District Taxes with your town payment.

MAIL PAYMENTS TO:
Tax Collector, P. O. Box 1061, Redding, CT 06896-1061.

The Town Hall is located at 100 Hill Rd, Redding, CT. Town Hall hours are M-W 8:30-5:30, Thursday 8:30-6:00 and closed on Fridays. ■

Patricia J. Moisio, C.C.M.C., C.C.M.O
Tax Collector, Town of Redding

Correction to the January 16 issue:

The page 4 article "Swing your partner 'round at a New England Contra Dance" listed the incorrect byline. The article was written by Pamela Brown. We regret this error. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome Letters to the Editor. Please be clear, civil, and concise. E-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org with submissions.

To the Editor,

We have all heard of the fires that rank among the most destructive in Los Angeles history. Many of us know people who have been directly affected.

Preliminary estimates of the damage caused by the Palisades and Eaton fires place each among the five most destructive ever in California.

The fires have damaged or destroyed about 13,000 structures, according to Cal Fire, including homes, garages, and businesses.

At least 37 people have lost their lives in the fires, making it one of the deadliest in California’s history. Officials have indicated that the death toll is likely to rise.

Our friends in California need our help. Please consider ways you can support those in need.

If you're looking for charities that are helping this region, here are three to consider:

American Red Cross
<https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html>

World Central Kitchen
<https://wck.org>

LA Food Bank
<https://www.lafoodbank.org> ■

Vin Rosa
Cross Highway

To the Editor,

For over 60 years, Ridgefield and Wilton have been vibrant communities for my mother, a former child psychologist with a remarkable life history, who is now a senior. I was eager to help her find new opportunities to connect in her later years.

As many have come to know, life changes rapidly – for those of all ages and stages. *It’s the nature of living.* With the relocation of friends, loss of a spouse, or as newcomers to town, developing and maintaining a sense of community becomes paramount. That’s where SOAR Together stepped in for me and my mom - a new organization that is so open, inviting, and encouraging.

At SOAR, they foster an inclusive environment where seniors and young people alike come together to share, create, inspire, and gift. My mother was rejuvenated and reinspired through SOAR's programming this past year, with the powerful mantra of service and social connection leading to elevated outcomes for both giver and receiver. SOAR’s sessions are more than just activities; they are opportunities to foster sociability, engage in lively talks about family, careers, travel, *and* build new friendships.

Community breakfasts called '*Social Seats*' exemplify the heart of SOAR – a place where lives are connected, stories are shared, and everyone matters. The energy and positivity generated through SOAR’s initiatives have been nothing short of inspiring. New in 2025 is ‘*Grateful Gatherings with Flower Power*’ at Ridgefield’s beloved Lounsbury House (Feb 5 and April 9, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.), a wonderful way for community members to connect over coffee in the beautiful ballroom while talking and, if desired, crafting flower arrangements. *All are welcome!*

SOAR brings people together through simple yet profound means: connections and positive energy, and has uniquely positioned itself as a beacon of hope and belonging in our community. I wish a new year full of connection for all! Learn more at www.soartogetherct.org ■

Mary Henwood
Ridgefield

Planners consider storage building on Hoyt Scout property

By Rocco Valluzzo

After receiving a positive referral from the Zoning Commission, the Planning Commission discussed a request for a site plan amendment in accordance with Section 5.5.2 of the Zoning Regulations for property at 3 Marchant Road.

The proposal calls for the construction of a 40-foot x 30-foot single floor building on the 170-acre property, which is owned by the Connecticut Yankee Council of Scouting America. It will be used for storage of camp maintenance vehicles, equipment, and machinery.

“We try to upkeep the camp and keep it a good camp so that it can serve for what is intended, for the Boy Scouts of America,” said Michael Carpenter, President of Northeast Design & Construction Inc. and a Boy Scout volunteer. “One of the things we do is we maintain everything on the property, every building, cut the grass. It’s become a bigger and bigger project.”

According to Carpenter, the Scouts have acquired several pieces of equipment over the years, including a brand new tractor and attachments to go with it. There is a need for a covered storage area for the protection of the equipment, which is currently kept outdoors under removable tarps.

“It’s unsightly, it’s dangerous,” he said. “We finally have the money to construct this maintenance building that we’re proposing.”

The prefabricated steel building will have 10-foot-high walls with a height of 16-feet in the middle, three garage doors, and one entrance door. Building size is determined based on current items plus a small area for future use. Although the building will have electricity, there will be no heat or plumbing.

It will be located near a general use, two-floor building built in 2017 to create a maintenance area, which will be enclosed by a security fence with signs asking people to keep out. Arborvitae could be used for screening.

Carpenter added the building would be roughly 400 to 450 yards in from Marchant Road and cannot be seen from that roadway or Simpaug Turnpike. It will be 142 feet from the property line of an abutting neighbor and hidden by tree cover most of the year.

“It’s level property where that building would go, with a slight, sloped downhill,” said Carpenter. “Displaced soil from building this will give us backfill to make it even flatter.”

The Commission will schedule a site walk before making its final decision. ■

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Redding Sentinel Ltd believes in supporting the community it serves.

We pledge to donate all profits to local community organizations.



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Heritage Center hopes to start operating second van for transport services

By Jessie Wright

At the Board of Selectmen Budget Workshop on Friday, January 10, Angelica Fontanez presented an increase of roughly six percent to the Heritage Center and Social Services Department budgets for fiscal year 2025-26. The largest share of that increase represents costs associated with the addition of a part-time on-call driver to operate a second van recently acquired by Heritage Center.

Heritage Center currently operates a single van, serving Redding seniors and young adults with disabilities and bringing them to medical appointments, personal errands, and recreational activities. The van averages 70-102 trips per month, according to Fontanez. However, staffing and vehicle availability have limited the geographic reach of this service to Ridgefield, Danbury, and Bethel and restricted the Center's ability to meet the growing demand for transportation services.

Heritage Center's recent acquis-

ition of a second van, thanks to a state grant secured by Fontanez, presents an opportunity to significantly expand transportation services. This new van, acquired after a three-year process, was fully funded by the grant, with the Town only covering \$400 due to pandemic-related price increases. Heritage Center's previous van, which was donated by Mary Travers, had meanwhile become unsafe to operate and was replaced with a rental for a year until Fontanez was able to identify and secure another grant to purchase the rental.

"When they offered to sell (the rental) to us, she found a grant through the state that was state money," noted First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton. "And so, we have two vans that essentially the Town has really not had to fund."

To operate the second van, Fontanez is requesting funding for a part-time, on-call driver, estimated to cost \$13,000. This position would alleviate current limitations

and allow Heritage Center to serve more residents, including young adults with disabilities seeking greater independence.

"There's no public transportation here in Redding. And some of the young adults who do call for services, the families are usually on some type of state program, so we can't say, 'Oh, just Uber it', so there are some financial limitations as well," said Fontanez.

Fontanez already manages three to four grants each year to cover costs associated with providing transport services. She is waiting to hear if the Town has again been approved for a Section 5310 federal grant, administered through the Western Council of Governments (WestCOG) which would help cover bus driver salary or taxi vouchers. Section 5310 is a federal grant program intended to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. ■

Fees increases ahead as Park and Rec looks to manage budget

By Jessie Wright

Park and Recreation is proposing another set of program fee increases for the 2025-26 fiscal year, as the Department looks to manage rising staffing costs and offset some of the expenses of providing more online services and free programming.

Proposed fees for Extended Day, Basketball Leagues, Day Camp, and Topstone Park passes represent increases between 5% and 18.5% over current rates. The daily rate for Extended Day would increase from \$27 to \$32. A family pass to Topstone would increase from \$160 to \$170.

Total proposed expenditures for the Department are up 8.4% over the current fiscal year, and proposed revenues are up 5.1%, primarily due to increased program fees. All in, the first draft proposal comes to \$1,283,080 in expenses, just over half-a-million dollars more than projected revenues of \$777,771.

The cost of supplies and services, such as tree work, septic pumping, hydro-raking, and electrical work has been increasing in recent years.

The Department is also responsible for a portion of the maintenance of school fields, which costs \$28,000 annually. This expense was added to the budget several years ago when the school district cut funding for field maintenance.

"When the 'Redding Soccer Club' or whomever uses these fields, do we charge them?" asked Board of Finance member Karen Gifford.

"No, and that's been an issue with the Commission too," replied First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton. "We don't charge user fees. We haven't."

"That might be something to think about," said Gifford.

Blick raised that the Department is also facing challenges related to space. The need for recreational space is putting a strain on existing facilities, with instances of community groups vying for space and new programs unable to be booked due to lack of appropriate venues.

"A needs assessment and feasibility study are needed in order to justify a significant investment in our community that will help all residents and community groups," the Department's budget presentation materials read. The assessment would provide data to support decisions about future facility upgrades and program expansions.

The Park and Recreation Commission has been discussing the need for such an assessment for the past two years. One quote that was given by civil engineering firm Weston & Sampson came to \$88,000. This cost would not be reflected in the 2025-26 operating budget, but rather as a capital expense.

"It's not just Park and Rec. It's the entire town's community needs," said Blick. "We share a building with Heritage Center. We share it with the community more and more because we're programming the gym and the rooms to fill them up. It is more challenging for community members to use the building." ■

POLICE BLOTTER

Police activity from January 1 – 12 | By Donna Christopher

Officers assisted in 18 medical emergencies and two fire department calls. One firearms permit was processed.

Fraud

A resident on Redding Road reported an attempted fraudulent charge on his credit card on January 3, and a check fraud was reported on January 7 by a resident on Seventy Acre Road.

A resident on White Birch Road reported being a victim of cryptocurrency fraud on January 8.

A walk-in report at the police station came on January 9 from a citizen who claimed someone was attempting to extort money from him regarding nude photos he sent over the computer.

On January 12, a resident on Gallows Hill Road reported that while paying bills she noticed money was taken out of the account to pay someone else's credit card bills. The investigation remains open.

Traffic

Officers stopped 16 motor vehicles on State and Town roads.

There were no more details provided.

On January 3, on Umpawaug Road, there was a report of a two-vehicle accident at Route 53. No injuries were reported.

On January 4, on Simpaug Turnpike, two vehicles passing in opposite directions on a very narrow section of the road collided with exterior mirrors hitting, causing damage to both cars. There were no injuries.

On January 7, on Pocahontas Road, there was a report of an unoccupied van off the road at the intersection with Wood Road. It was later discovered the driver had driven through the intersection and into an embankment. There were no injuries.

On January 8, on Ethan Allen Highway, a vehicle was pulling out of the parking lot of the Days Inn, then struck a northbound vehicle as it passed by. There were no injuries. The first driver was issued a warning for Failure to Grant the Right of Way from a private driveway.

On January 9, on Black Rock Turnpike, a vehicle lost control

rounding a sharp curve on Route 58. The vehicle then struck and damaged 100 feet of metal guard rail. There were no injuries. The driver was issued a warning for an Improper Turning Maneuver.

On January 10, on Pine Tree Road, a vehicle stopped at a stop sign at the intersection with Route 58. While stopped, a second vehicle drove up from behind and rear-ended the first vehicle. There were no injuries. The driver of the second vehicle was issued a warning for Failure to Drive a Reasonable Distance Apart.

Schools

Police assisted with a lockdown drill at John Read Middle School on January 6.

A juvenile at Joel Barlow High School was referred to the police for marijuana vapes on January 7.

Vandalism

On January 2, a resident on Starrs Ridge Road reported that someone entered the garage of the residence and, once inside, trashed and damaged it. The investigation remains open. ■

Redding's Big Outdoors: Holiday snow day New Pond Farm / continued from page 1



Photo by Jessie Wright

Snippets of conversation floated by from another family towing sleds to join the revelers on the hill.

If my feet had been drier, I

would have embarked on a longer walk, perhaps over one of the Farm's bridges and up through a woodland trail. My holiday outing

complete, I trudged back up toward my car. Passing a small building on my right, situated on the bank of a still-bubbling stream, I dreamed of my next visit. The "sugar shack", where the Farm makes its maple syrup, will fill the air with heavenly aromas before too long this spring. The snow will melt, the mud will return, and so will I.

While New Pond Farm's property is typically open only to members, they will be hosting several Open Days in the coming months, where anyone can come and enjoy the fields, the trails, the woods, and the water. Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 16; Saturday, April 26; Sunday, May 18; and Saturday, June 7. ■

Town meets ARPA deadline / continued from page 1

Redding ARPA Funded Projects <i>As of December 31, 2024</i>		
Project	Town Meeting When Approved	Amount Spent / Obligated
Social Services Covid-19 Relief Fund	04/18/22	\$ 50,000
Senior Center: new program coordinator	04/18/22	\$ 45,000
Lonetown Marsh dry hydrant	04/18/22	\$ 99,500
Police body and dash cameras	05/03/22 & 05/16/22	\$ 35,014
Redding Elementary: paved recreation area	05/26/22	\$ 40,000
John Read Middle School: Project COOL pavilion	05/26/22	\$ 35,000
Georgetown Village signs	10/20/22	\$ 5,099
Boys & Girls Club improvements	10/20/22	\$ 100,000
Redding Grange improvements	10/20/22	\$ 44,113
Heritage Center moveable wall	10/20/22	\$ 60,000
Redding Elementary: "LOTS" program	10/20/22	\$ 83,000
Topstone Park improvements	10/20/22	\$ 150,000
New Pond Farm wetlands	10/20/22	\$ 200,000
Mark Twain Library outdoor space	10/20/22	\$ 200,000
Pickleball courts	10/20/22	\$ 113,000
Joel Barlow: fields improvement project	10/20/22	\$ 50,000
Town capital expenditures:		
Town Hall fire sprinkler design	05/23/23	\$ 7,097
Town Hall / RCC HVAC retrofit	05/23/23	\$ 440,374
Server room HVAC	05/23/23	\$ 4,120
Old Town House HVAC	05/23/23	\$ 29,981
Police HQ exterior painting	05/23/23	\$ 11,000
Town Hall / RCC AV project	05/23/23	\$ 71,640
Security cameras	05/23/23	\$ 48,713
Highway Dept vac truck	05/23/23	\$ 42,641
Road rating software	05/23/23	\$ 42,145
Highway Dept tool truck	05/23/23	\$ 94,858
Highway Dept brush tractor	05/23/23	\$ 171,855
Town AED's	05/23/23	\$ 16,110
Redding Historical Society Barn	05/23/23	\$ 40,000
John Read Middle School Library Commons	05/23/23	\$ 14,000
Town capital expenditures:		
Highway Dept six-wheel dump truck	11/18/24	\$ 289,907
Highway Dept pick-up truck	11/18/24	\$ 52,000
Administrative expenses		\$ 15,642
TOTAL Spent / Obligated		\$ 2,701,809

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Redding Prevention Council

Svanda Painting

SPORTS

Higher weights help propel Barlow

Wrestling | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Ryan Knob, top, defeated Pomperaug/Naugatuck/Watertown’s Peyton Seng-Dinh at 128 pounds at a varsity wrestling meet on Wednesday, January 15. Barlow won 45-36.

A couple of key victories in the higher weight divisions would tip the scales in favor of the Joel Barlow High wrestling team against Pomperaug/Naugatuck/Watertown (PNL) last week.

The host Falcons trailed by seven points with the two heaviest bouts to go on Wednesday, January 15. By taking both, they were back in control and finished things off with a strong performance in a few of the lighter weight classes for a 45-36 win.

Barlow began the night with a win in the 126-pound division

when Jacob Hamlin pinned Iorek Zickefoose in one minute and three seconds. The Panthers then countered with Ethan Bearz doing likewise to Ben Azzara in 4:29 at 132 pounds.

By taking the next three contests, the Falcons put themselves in seemingly good shape. Ryan Knob outlasted Peyton Seng-Dinh to get the win at 128 pounds, and Alex Krois pinned Xavier Cueves in 1:53 in the 144-pound class. With the Panthers not having an eligible wrestler at 150 pounds, Barlow’s Scott Romano was awarded the

win by forfeit.

However, the Falcons’ lead would disappear when the Panthers managed four straight victories, starting at 157 pounds. Dominic Archilla pinned Claudio Barbosa in 3:27.

Another Panther pin came at 165 pounds with Nolan Horn defeating Anthony Azzara in 1:03. The visitors got the win in the same fashion at 175 pounds with Ian Karlin pinning Robert Gaspar in 1:29.

After the Panthers took the 190-pound class by forfeit, the Falcons were looking at a 24-30 deficit. They had a much-needed win at 215 pounds with Pierce Counter pinning Gage Scherer in 1:23. With Connor Lee winning at 285 pounds by forfeit, the hosts were back in the lead.

The Panthers also did not have an eligible wrestler at 106 pounds, giving Barlow’s William Arkett the win by forfeit. Although Jai Bette pinned Grady Mumbach in 1:18 at 113 pounds to put the visitors within five points (41-36), Zach Jhilar outlasted Alex Krajewski for the win at 120 pounds to clinch the win for Barlow.

Now 2-2 in the South-West Conference, Barlow hosts a tournament on Saturday, January 25 at 9:30 a.m. and is at New Fairfield on Wednesday, January 29 at 6:00 p.m. ■

Wildcat three-pointers

sink Barlow

Boys basketball | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow's Jack Lippoth (right) is guarded by Bethel's Luca Baia during a boys varsity basketball game on Saturday, January 18. Bethel won 65-46.

The Joel Barlow High boys varsity basketball team was facing a double-edged sword when it visited Bethel last week.

The host Wildcats were tough to defend against on Saturday, January 18. With the Falcons going with a two-three zone defense, Bethel found ways to score not only from the perimeter but also underneath the basket, as the visitors fell 46-65.

“We have some other things we’re working on,” said first-year Barlow Head Coach Corey Stevens, referencing other defensive strategies. “We’re kind of limited in a little bit of the options that we have.”

Both sides tested their luck from behind the arc early in the contest, with Bethel’s Deon Dre Farmer and Barlow’s Jack Lippoth exchanging three pointers. The latter followed with a free throw to give the Falcons their only lead of the afternoon (4-3).

Unfortunately, the Falcons had not heard the last of Farmer, who added back-to-back treys as part of an 11-2 Wildcat run that was stopped by Barlow’s Sean Gabriel, who made two free throws to make it 16-6 with 2:16 left in the first period. Ryan Kelly tacked on five

straight points in the last minute to keep Barlow within striking distance at 18-11.

“They shot a lot of threes,” said Stevens. “It was kind of a pick-our-poison deal.”

Barlow suffered a setback in the second quarter when Chase Bonanno went down with an ankle injury and left the game with Barlow down 20-13. Free throws by Joey Bonanno and Lippoth got the Falcons to within seven (22-15) but the Wildcats continued to hit threes, adding two more before halftime to stretch their lead to 36-22 before the break.

Although the Wildcats continued to hit threes after play resumed, the Falcons had a slight advantage in scoring for the third quarter. Lippoth and Ben Noome both hit shots from beyond the arc as the deficit was kept in check with Barlow trailing 49-36 after three frames.

As it had for most of the afternoon, the three-point shot worked for the Wildcats in the final frame, with one each by Farmer and Elliot Hellman. While the Falcons took their fair share of shots, most missed the mark as their opponent remained out of reach.

“We seemed to execute well enough to get some decent looks at the basket,” said Stevens. “Some go in and some don’t some nights. It’s something that we’re working hard on.”

Lippoth led Barlow in scoring with 15 points, including three three-pointers. Noome (one three-pointer) and Kelly each had seven points.

Joey Bonanno sank five and Erik Kiernan and Charlie Cruz each added four. Chase Bonanno and Gabriel scored two apiece.

Barlow, now 2-8 overall, hosts Kolbe Cathedral on Thursday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m., is at Brookfield on Saturday, January 25 at 1:00 p.m., and visits Immaculate on Tuesday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. ■

OPINION

Go Bills? | By Carter Wiseman

I can’t remember the last time I saw a baseball cap without a logo. They have become an especially American form of promotion, letting everybody know what team we are on, athletic, political, or otherwise. Who among us would not recognize the ornate interlocking letters used by the New York Yankees? Or the golden arches on the hats of the folks serving up burgers and fries at MacDonald’s? Or the red ones reading MAGA?

But those are marks for the masses. I am more interested in the smaller-issue imprints that carry intense personal meaning.

I was alerted to this by a native of a small town in upstate New York. I have never followed professional football. In any case, a team from Buffalo would probably not be a natural fit with my Fairfield County residence. But Josh has been devoted to the Buffalo Bills from birth, and I soon realized that his was a zealotry of a sort I had never witnessed. This became clear last Christmas after he gave me a cap with the Bills’ trademark red bison on it. As an outsider to Josh’s passion, I hesitated to wear the hat in public, but then I thought I would risk it on a trip to Manhattan.

More than once, someone passing me on the street leaned my way and whispered conspiratorially, “Go Bills!” The attendant in the coat room of a restaurant gave me a sympathetic look and said, “That was a tough season.” Someone I thought might be about to hit me up for spare change instead smiled and said, “It’ll be better next year!” On the train home, a passenger getting off in Norwalk shot me a grin and a thumbs-up from the far end of the car. It was like being a member of a secret society.

Part of the Bills’ appeal seems to have to do with being an underdog. I have learned from Josh that the Bills have been coming up short for a long time. He has filled me in on the heartbreaks of big games lost by inches, and the state of mourning that consumed his family, his friends, his entire hometown. The

Bills remind me of the stories I used to hear about the Dodgers when they were still “Dem Bums” in Brooklyn, or the long-suffering Boston Red Sox of old, and the Cubs before they started winning. There is a reverse nobility to being in a constant state of defiance followed by disappointment. I once asked a Chicago native how the city might handle a Cubbies’ victory in the World Series. He said it would overwhelm therapists’ offices because fans were so accustomed to losing that they would need psychiatric treatment to reboot. They seem to have survived their 2016 win, but are they really as happy now that they are fans of just another winning big-league baseball team?

Lose or win, flying the flag of an underdog conveys a sense of common effort, of belonging. It’s different from the solo-swagger attached to the social status and financial power broadcast by the logos for Ralph Lauren and Louis Vuitton. I think of it more as a signal of shared struggle and mutual support, like a wink among seasoned veterans at a newcomers’ party. The logo question has taken on a new dimension in recent years as people have become more sensitive to the use of Native American imagery for sports teams and other organizations. The Washington Redskins football team abandoned their name in favor of the Commanders. The Cleveland Indians became the Guardians, but the Kansas City Chiefs are still defending their moniker against charges that it is demeaning to indigenous people. (The team says the name honors a former mayor, not tribal leaders, although their logo is still an arrow head.) Closer to home, a Connecticut public library for nearly a century proudly displayed a logo designed by a celebrated local artist showing a Native American greeting the rising sun. Last year, a local parent found the logo offensive, citing psychological studies showing negative impacts of such imagery

on children. The logo was quietly moved to the basement and replaced on new library cards.

The increased sensitivity to past oppression is long overdue. Distortion of any people as “savages” or “heathens,” let alone “vermin,” is not acceptable. But as far as I know, the United States Army is still comfortable about naming an attack helicopter the “Apache,” as is the Navy for christening an especially lethal cruise missile the “Tomahawk.” This is a worthy debate, but one wonders how far it should go, and who might be hurt. The 1665 seal of the City of New York – then New Amsterdam – still shows a Dutch settler and a Native American flanking a windmill. The message could be read in retrospect as one of oppressor and victim. However clueless the designers of that logo may seem to some modern eyes, the seal could also be interpreted as an image of multi-ethnic cooperation. Should it be “cancelled” along with the image of a Native American at dawn?

I don’t know if the devotion of Buffalo Bills fans is greater than the fervor shared by fans of the Minnesota Vikings – or fans of Redding’s Joel Barlow Falcons. In any case, when the final whistle blows, how much should we worry about whether Americans of Nordic descent or – to take it to an extreme – a breed of raptors threatened by chemical pollution, have been exploited for their aggressive character? In these cases, at least, no one has yet filed suit. When the Institute for American Indian Studies in Washington, Connecticut, was consulted about whether the library’s rising-sun logo was offensive to Native Americans, the answer was that there is “a vast variety of opinions.” It seems the image might be considered as a tribute to the relationship between the area’s original residents – abused as they may have been – and the natural world. ■

Sports stats and schedules



Boys basketball

Results:
January 13:
Weston 50 / Joel Barlow 30
January 16:
Joel Barlow 59 / Pomperaug 57
January 18:
Bethel 65 / Joel Barlow 46

Record:
Joel Barlow 2-8

Next games:
January 23:
home versus Kolbe Cathedral at 7:00 p.m.
January 25:
away versus Brookfield at 1:00 p.m.
January 28:
away versus Immaculate at 7:00 p.m.

Girls basketball

Results:
January 13:
Joel Barlow 49 / Weston 40
January 16:
Pomperaug 50 / Joel Barlow 47

Record:
Joel Barlow 8-4

Next games:
January 23:
away at Kolbe Cathedral at 7:00 p.m.
January 28:

Girls basketball (continued)

home versus Immaculate at 6:00 p.m.

Hockey

Results:
January 15:
Cheshire 7 / JBWA 4

Record:
JBWA 5-2-1

Next games:
January 25:
home versus Guilford at 12:30 p.m.
January 27:
home versus Housatonic/Northwestern/Torrington/Wolcott Tech at 8:15 p.m.
January 29:
away versus Masuk at 8:00 p.m.

Wrestling

Results:
January 15:
Joel Barlow 45 / Pomperaug/Naugatuck/Watertown 36

Record:
Joel Barlow 2-2 (SWC)

Next matches:
January 25:
home tournament at 9:30 a.m.
January 29:
away versus New Fairfield at 6:00 p.m.

Barlow Debate racks up more wins at January tournament

By Rob Sample



Photo courtesy of Randall Smith

Barlow debaters (left to right) Austin Bradford, Cade Fravel, Griffin Speck, Zac Colangelo, and Owen Fellows were all smiles after the team's winning showing at Fairfield Ward High School on January 11.

Should the United States continue to defend Taiwan militarily? On Saturday, January 11, debate teams from across the state convened at Fairfield Ward High School to thrash out this topic – and Barlow’s varsity speakers placed first for the third consecutive regional state tourney this season.

Owen Fellows, Cade Fravel, and Griffin Speck, who are seniors at Joel Barlow High School, swept the top three speaker medals in the varsity competition.

Barlow Debate also took the top two team awards. Fravel and Speck took first place as they faced Fellows and Zac Colangelo in exhibition debate. Fellows and Colangelo took the second-place spot, with it being Colangelo’s first occasion on the big stage. Fravel and Speck have now won 25 consecutive rounds of debate in varsity.

This was also the ninth time Barlow teams have competed against each other in a final debate round

since 2013. Barlow Debate’s finish builds on first-place varsity wins in two debate tourneys – the first at Robert E. Fitch Senior High School in Groton in November, and the second at Farmington High School in December.

Novices had their day, too. In the novice competition, sophomore and first-year debater Austin Bradford earned his first debate honor, the number-one speaker medal.

As with the fall 2024 tournaments, this competition took place under the umbrella of the Connecticut Debate Association – of which Barlow Debate is a member. Thirty-one schools took part in the event.

What’s more, the event was divided into two host schools because of the sheer number of participants: New Canaan High School was the other host. In total, 251 debaters and 83 judges braved the snowy weather to compete in the January tournament. ■

Eagle Scout project gives basketball players new ‘bounce’

By Rob Sample



William Morris (right) led a team that built benches and refurbished the basketball hoops at John Read Middle School this fall. Working with him were fellow Scouts (L-R) Alex Eriksen, Henry Morris, and Eddie Chiaramonte.

When William Morris was a student at John Read Middle School, he spent a lot of time on the school’s basketball courts. There, he noticed several ways the courts and the equipment could be improved – and young basketball players could be made very happy.

Morris, now a sophomore at Joel Barlow High School, recently replaced and refurbished the courts’ basketball hoops. He and a team of volunteers also built two eight-foot benches for use next to the courts, so players and spectators wouldn’t have to sit on the ground.

This initiative was Morris’s community-support project, an important component of becoming an Eagle Scout – the highest rank in Scouting. Morris, who turns 16 next month, has been a Scout since joining the Cub Scouts at age six.

As Morris explained, at the John Read courts one’s ball used to hit the hoop and backboard imperfectly, creating the wrong type of arc. “That made it harder for players to sink their shots,” he said. “It was annoying, and kids constantly complained about it.”

To accomplish the project, Morris recruited his twin brother, Henry, and fellow Scouts Eddie Chiaramonte and Alex Eriksen for

assistance. He purchased two new hoops and nets and set about installing them properly.

Morris encountered his first obstacle when he learned that Scouting rules prohibit Scouts from climbing ladders. No problem: Troop 15 Scoutmaster Scott Morris and Assistant Scoutmaster Joe Downey took apart the rusty assemblies. (The elder Morris has since relinquished the Scoutmaster role after six years, with Downey stepping into his shoes.)

Then, the holes for the new rims did not match the placement of the holes on the old poles’ mounting plates. As a workaround, Morris fashioned metal plates to act as adapters, using metal his dad had in his workshop.

“We made the new plates using the old plates as a template, and attached the rims to them,” said Morris. “We then welded them to the old mounting plates and mounted everything to the poles.”

The two new benches were an especially welcome addition, because they provide spectators with a place to sit and watch the action. They also give players a spot to relax during or after a game. In coming up with the project, Morris consulted Mike D’Agostino, the Director of Facilities and Opera-

tions for Easton-Redding-Region 9. This included sharing the benches’ design and specifications. “The benches have no back, so people can sit facing in either direction,” said Morris. “Mr. D’Agostino was concerned about tipping, so we originally designed them to be cemented into the ground.”

The concrete mix – as well as lumber and hardware such as nuts, bolts, and screws – was provided free of charge by Interstate Lumber of Newtown. Interstate Lumber did the same for Morris’s twin brother, Henry, when he worked on his Eagle Scout project.

“They even delivered it to our house,” he said. Morris’s sole cost was approximately \$130 for the two basketball rims and netting.

When Morris and his fellow Scouts went to install the benches, they ran into another obstacle. The custodians didn’t want the benches to be fixed to the ground, because they wanted to be able to move them when operating snow blowers.

That sent Morris back to the drawing board, because the straight legs would tip over if not cemented in place. “I came up with an arch-shaped leg design that keeps the benches from tipping,” Morris said. “The project took two days to complete and was finished in November.”

Scott Morris noted that besides the actual work, project management is a key part of any Eagle Scout project. “(There was) back and forth with Mr. D’Agostino on the details, and it all had to be coordinated with Jennifer Desmarais, the school’s principal, as well,” he said.

Students – and middle-school staff – have praised the results. “I got a note from Ms. Desmarais thanking me for it, and saying the students are very happy with everything,” said Morris, who intends to assist younger Scouts for his remaining two years of high school. He hopes to attend University of Connecticut after graduation. ■

Night of Hope brings conversation on mental illness to The Granite

By Anne Young Albanese

On Wednesday, January 15, The Granite, a Georgetown-based community arts space, hosted Night of Hope, a program aimed at helping people cope with mental illness.

The evening was organized by Here For You, a Fairfield-based clothing company. In 2021, best friends Elizabeth Haney and Emma Kilbride (founder and managing partner, respectively) launched Here For You to help themselves and others cope with mental health issues. They chose the name because it was a phrase they used with each other often.

Haney and Kilbride led the event Wednesday evening. Both shared their stories with an audience of approximately 30 people. Two other panelists, Amelia and Nicky, also participated (only their first names are being used to protect their privacy).

The speakers discussed their mental health issues and what they have done and still do to manage their challenges. Audience members were then invited to ask questions and share their experiences.

Haney discussed the mental health challenges she has faced, including anxiety, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and substance abuse. Her challenges made college difficult and working after graduation even harder. She and her family agreed that she should quit her corporate job, and she found release in creating clothing.

“Hope is always there for you. It can just be hard to see,” she shared with the audience.

Kilbride shared a similar story. While in college, she developed very serious depression. She recognized, “If I don’t do something, I might take my life.” At that point, she decided to focus on her mental health. She found Here For You to be life-changing.

“When you share your truth, you allow someone else to share theirs,” added Nicky, who learned to ask for help and to help others while suffering from substance abuse issues.

While the speakers noted they still sometimes have bad days, their mental health has improved.

Haney and Kilbride have recently closed the Here For You storefront to allow them to concentrate on website sales and take the Night of Hope program nationwide.

Along with The Granite, the event was sponsored by Redding Neighbors & Newcomers, a local social club (reddingneighborsandnewcomers.org), and the Redding Prevention Council, an organization dedicated to promoting the behavioral health continuum of care and enhancing the quality of life at every stage (reddingpreventioncouncil.org). ■

More information on Here for You and future events can be found at hereforyouclothing.com



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Regional substitute teacher shortage impacts ER9 / continued from page 1

who cannot make it to work for a day or a few days. These positions typically require college degrees, but DeMunda may submit applications for waivers to the state. A waiver is valid until June 30 of each year, and the applications must be submitted yearly.

Schools also sometimes need long-term substitutes. These professionals will cover for teachers who need to take an extended leave of absence. Classes will be covered for more than 60 days in a single school year. Long-term substitutes must have a bachelor’s degree and at least 12 credits in the

content/subject area they are teaching. When a long-term substitute is required, DeMunda must submit an application to the state. Like waivers for daily substitutes without college degrees, these applications are valid until June 30 and must be renewed each year.

Substitute teachers do not need to be parents of school-aged children. ER9 accepts applications for teacher substitutes throughout the year.

The application for substitute teachers and other substitute openings can be found online at <https://www.applitrack.com/er9/online->

[app/default.aspx?Category=Substitute](#). After completing the online application, applicants should contact DeMunda at ER9’s Central Office at (203) 261-2513. A school administrator must interview all applicants. Once approval for hire is received, applicants must schedule an appointment to complete additional paperwork. Fingerprinting and background checks are required for all employees. ■

Learn more by contacting ER9 Human Resources at (203) 261-2513

BOOK REVIEW

Antarctica

By Claire Keegan
224 pages / Grove Press / \$16.94

Antarctica is a book of short stories by Claire Keegan. Keegan is an artist who might be the best author of traditional fiction writing today. By that is meant that artful understanding is central to each of her stories, and her stories are central to her experience. An established author, she has published three volumes of her work. This volume of stories, first published in 1999, is now republished. Each story redefines her as an artist using fiction as her canvas. Her characters are human, and their frailties cause them anguish or worse (on the other hand, Keegan shows what is normal but odd or unanticipated in human experience). They are led into their fate from challenges confronted and choices made from often inadequate information or from a power imbalance. And yet her women are strong, and they prevail when they are right with life and simple goodness.

Life in Ireland has changed dramatically away from 19th-century conventions, religious and secular. There are 16 stories in this collection. Each story has the emotional impact of a novel. This is Keegan’s gift as a writer of literature. She is able to focus on universal topics of love and family, and create situations that, for a variety of reasons, imperil the integrity of this crucial social element. By finding resolutions that precisely articulate the importance of what has been threatened or lost, Keegan defines human communication and the intimacies of family for what they mean to life and happiness.

The clash between family members and sexes run in Keegan’s stories, and examples of alcohol abuse, conflicting gender roles,

and the place of religion is front and center in her work. Claire Keegan gives her female characters a sharp eye and practical sense. She gives her male characters kindness and best intentions, or gross character flaws that must be examined, acknowledged, taken up emotionally, and addressed in one way or another. Nature and natural catastrophe also play a large part in the fate of any individual. Keegan’s stories edify by creating a voice for chance, luck, and timing in human relations, and by extension, a template for comprehensive community. These insights seem to replace God and prayer in the tool kit of existential survival in late 20th and 21st-century Ireland.

The human experience is various and conflicted. Writers of modern realism bring stories that attempt to locate chronic problems and give examples of change that might or might not work to ameliorate a situation. A simple example would be stories of homes lost to storms in a flood zone, with a clear message: don’t build more houses here expecting a different outcome. A less clear example would be stories of thousand-year weather events now happening each decade, then suggesting that ensuing losses result from climate change. Keegan is a literary writer on a literary writer’s pursuit of truth. Toxic and deleterious effects of ignorance on spirit, and vices on family, and a close examination of religion, community, and the efficacy of prayer, become rich fair game for artful examination. ■

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

Winter
WARMTH

FEBRUARY 2ND

at the Mark Twain Library
2pm - 4pm

Join the Redding Prevention Council for an afternoon dedicated to mental health, connection, and warmth. Soothing refreshments, music, and practical coping strategies will be included. This event is free and open to all!

Learn more and register at:
www.reddingpreventioncouncil.org

Winter virus cases continue to rise / continued from page 1

necessary, viruses are treated with antiviral medication, which are most effective in lowering the burden of viral symptoms when received within 48 hours of symptom onset.

Many of the practices for avoiding illness during the Covid-19 pandemic still apply in times of high winter virus transmission.

“Viruses spread through respiratory droplets and improper hand-washing hygiene. When in close contact with someone who has viral like symptoms one should socially distance themselves, wear a mask if unable to socially distance, and do proper hand washing,” said Choudhary. “To reduce the risk of contracting viruses

and complications related to the viruses, we should get the annual influenza and Covid-19 vaccines. An RSV vaccine is also available to certain age groups and high-risk populations.”

According to CT DPH, 467,224 people in Connecticut have received the updated Covid-19 vaccine since it became available on August 3, 2024. The RSV vaccine has been given to 198,439 people in the state since it became available in May 2023. This year’s seasonal flu vaccine, which was made available on August 3, 2024, has been given to 1,171,928 people in Connecticut. ■

LIBRARY CORNER

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Librarians love the thrill of the hunt when we are asked an interesting reference question. I thought it would be fun to share some of the best ones we have received over the past year.

1. A film crew came in looking for a *Redding Pilot* article from 2015 about the Saugatuck UFO sightings. We were able to locate the original article with photos for them.
2. Someone called to ask if we have information about Victor Hugo and Mark Twain’s personal interactions, since Twain wrote a parody of one of Hugo’s books. We found no indication that they had met.
3. An out-of-state caller asked for local newspaper articles about the Cara Quinn murder in 1980. We found the articles related to her disappearance in February, her body being found in March, and then the arrest of a suspect in August of that year.
4. A patron was looking for a copy of *My Ántonia* that was published in the 1940s and illustrated by her grandfather. Turns out we have the 1946 edition with those illustrations!
5. What was the name of Hal Foster’s wife’s bowling team? (Answer: The Prince Valiants)

6. When the Leonard Bernstein *Maestro* movie came out, a patron asked where he had lived in Redding. The people who lived at the house before Bernstein were the couple whose car was swept away during the 1955 floods.

We are always grateful to receive interesting reference questions like this, as they often spark a fun conversation with the patron and sometimes even get the staff together working as a team to find the answers. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is
Director, Mark Twain Library

Nod to the pod
“Wiser Than Me with Julia Louis-Dreyfus”:
“Julia Gets Wise with Ina Garten”

By Amy Maloof

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

On “Wiser Than Me”, Julia Louis-Dreyfus (*Seinfeld*, *Veep*) interviews older – iconic, fascinating, famous – women, engaging them in tender, unexpected conversations and mining their life experiences for shareable wisdoms. The dialogue is casual (Louis-Dreyfus swears like a sailor) and off-the-cuff, my requirement for sitting through any one-on-one podcast format. She is just the right amount of nervous and bumbling.

Her chat with Ina Garten – cookbook writer, Food Network star, quintessential Hamptons resident – is no exception. Their conversation, covering risk-taking, marriage, career, and more, is laid-back, warm, and irreverent. I even

liked the awkward moments when Louis-Dreyfus asks questions that don’t entirely land, or when the laughter is slightly forced and goes on too long. It’s real and unedited, which we need more of right now. As per usual, the episode ends with a phone call between Louis-Dreyfus and her mom, where they debrief on the interview. It’s delightfully wholesome.

After listening to these interviews, I somehow always feel better about getting older. I’m sure guests are picked carefully – not every famous older woman is wise, nor will they all feel positive about aging – and I appreciate that curation. I think we’re all too familiar with the downsides of old age, and really crave a chance to hear the good stuff. (May I also recommend

her interview with Jane Fonda? So great.)

I started watching Ina Garten cook when my oldest was a baby. During a stressful year of adjustment – to parenthood and also to life in a new city – she was a grounding, comforting presence when I needed it most. My daughter quickly learned our post-dinner routine of switching on *Barefoot Contessa* and would start to dance a little when the theme began to play. When I started listening, last week, to the audiobook of Garten’s new memoir (*Be Ready When the Luck Happens* – I recommend it, too!) read by the author, I knew I had to find a podcast interview that showcased her unique voice. And this is it. ■

Mark Twain Library Director elected to head Connecticut Library Association

By Pamela Brown



Erin Shea Dummeyer

As the Director of the Mark Twain Library, Erin Shea Dummeyer has been a friendly, familiar face in town for over three years, continuing to make Mark Twain Library a center for intellectual, educational, social, and cultural enrichment for all ages. “Public libraries strive to be welcoming to all and are the ultimate equalizer and protector of the public good. This mission has always resonated deeply with me,” said Dummeyer.

That commitment was recently recognized at a state level, as Dummeyer was named the incoming President of the Connecticut Library Association (CLA). She currently holds the title of Vice President/President-Elect, and her term as President will begin in July. Dummeyer emphasized she is not leaving the Mark Twain Library. “It’s a volunteer role that I will be doing in addition to my role as Library Director here – I’m not going anywhere. I’d like to do as much as I can for as long as I can,” she said.

Established in 1891, the CLA is the state’s professional organization of librarians, library staff, friends, and trustees working to-

gether to improve library service to Connecticut; to advance the interests of librarians, library staff, and librarianship; and to increase public awareness of libraries and library services. “I am honored to volunteer for an organization that I feel has supported me in my own career path and works hard to unite members of the Connecticut library community,” said Dummeyer, who earned a Master of Library Science from the Pratt Institute in 2011. She will serve as President for one year, after a year as President-Elect and followed by a year as Past President. “My main role will be supporting the dedicated and talented CLA Executive Board in their advocacy efforts and advancing the interests of Connecticut library workers. I’m a team player, a cheerleader, and I truly love libraries – especially the ones in Connecticut.”

In her new role, Dummeyer has some specific goals in sight. “I would like to advance some of our legislative priorities, such as fighting unfair eBook licensing terms and restoring state funding to libraries,” she said, adding, “I’d certainly love to see an end to book bans! People think we are safe from them in this part of the country, but we have had plenty of challenges in Connecticut over the past few years. We’re currently working with the Connecticut Association of School Librarians and our local legislators to introduce a bill that would prohibit public and school libraries from censoring books and providing librarians and other library staff members with legal protections, including immunity

from criminal and civil liability, for carrying out work-related duties in accordance with state law. The bill has been met with bi-partisan support so far.”

Dummeyer has been closely involved with the CLA over the years, serving on the Board for almost a decade. “I started as the Connecticut Library Association’s representative to the American Library Association (ALA), which means I basically served as Connecticut’s representative in the ALA’s governing body. After that, I decided to bring it a bit closer to home and serve as our Region 4 representative, representing libraries in Fairfield County.”

Dummeyer said she is looking forward to taking on this new role. “I like to think I bring back some of the knowledge from board service to Redding and am constantly thinking about how Mark Twain would have reacted to book challenges in Connecticut,” she said. She also appreciates the opportunity to work with and learn from wonderful and knowledgeable colleagues on the Executive Board. “Connecticut deserves excellent libraries and excellent library service. I am happy to be a small part in making that happen.” ■

Learn more about the
Connecticut Library
Association’s work at
ctlibraryassociation.org



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Homemaking in more ways than one
Little Emporium | By Justin Reynolds



Photos courtesy of Little Emporium

A stay-at-home mom for many years, Sarah Bordash started thinking about re-entering the workforce as her kids became teenagers. But she wasn’t exactly sure what she wanted to do.

Before starting a family, Bordash had worked in publishing and media.

“I don’t think I was ever very good at it,” she said, adding that what ended up being a several-year job search was ultimately fruitless. “It turned out I did not really fit anywhere in the job market, so I had to create a place where I could do something dynamic — in my wheelhouse.”

Instead of working for someone else, Bordash decided to take business matters into her own hands. In June 2024, she opened her own business, Little Emporium, located at 33 Main Street in Newtown.

“Little Emporium is a vintage home shop where you can find an eclectic collection of housewares, gifts, and art,” Bordash said. “We sell the kinds of things that make a house feel like a home — prints, frames, planters, textiles, art, lamps, rugs, pottery and dishes, books — all of the things that we use to feather our nests.”

When Bordash uses the word *eclectic*, she’s not exaggerating.

“Our vintage and antique items span the decades from the Victorian era to mid-century modern,” she

explained. “The new merchandise is handmade by artisans or independent makers. This is a slow-living shopping experience with a lot of emphasis on natural materials, useful items, and charming details.”

Though her professional background is in media and publishing, Bordash honed her homemaking skills while raising her kids, developing the chops needed to run a business like Little Emporium.

“I definitely discovered my strengths while raising a family and learning how to create a comfortable home,” she reflected.

Bordash sources her vintage items from auctions, markets, estate sales, and antique dealers and prioritizes local finds. She also works closely with two local businesses — Art & Frame of Newtown and The Magnolia Tree — for custom framing and lamp restoration.

The way Bordash sees it, Little Emporium bridges a gap between the “granny’s attic shops” and the “serious antiquing establishments.” While she loves the former, sorting through all the clutter and collectibles can be a nuisance. As for the latter, Bordash finds such shops “intimidating and not within reach for most of us.”

“Little Emporium is a hand-picked variety of useful, beautiful housewares that have been found, gathered, and cleaned up for you, but there is nothing fancy or fussy

here,” she said. “We choose pieces for everyday living.”

Six-plus months since opening, Bordash says the community has welcomed her business with “open arms and very enthusiastic appreciation.” Even so, Little Emporium is still in its nascent stages.

“Most customers tell us we’re a hidden gem,” she said. “I’ve also been told things like, ‘I feel so at peace in here, I don’t want to leave’, ‘It’s like a charming little shop you’d find in London,’ and ‘I love that this is so cozy and hidden, but I need to tell everyone to come here.’ There’s joy in knowing that shoppers come through this door and experience such memorable associations. I also love that people understand word-of-mouth is everything in order for a little shop like this to keep its doors open.”

Bordash has bounced around her whole life, often finding herself living in cities.

“My husband, who grew up in Redding, told me I would love this area, and he was right,” she said. “I’m as overwhelmed by the natural beauty around us today as I was when we moved to Newtown over 15 years ago. This is the longest I’ve ever lived in one place, and I’m so grateful to call this my home.”

Since launching her store, Bordash feels much more connected to the local community.

“I adore that about a shop — it’s social in an old-fashioned way,” she continued. “Sometimes where there are a few customers in here at one time and we all get caught up chatting, as faces become more familiar, it feels like we’re hanging out on Sesame Street.” ■

Note: Though located on Main Street, the store’s entrance is on West Street, the side of the building, with parking available in the back.

For more information, visit littleemporiumnewtown.com or search Little Emporium Newtown on Instagram and Facebook.

OBITUARY

Harvey Harris Kagan
January 3, 1943 – January 11, 2025



Harvey Harris Kagan, 82, of Redding died peacefully at home on Saturday, January 11, 2025. He was the loving husband of Judith (Morris) Kagan.

Harvey was born in Brooklyn, NY, on January 3, 1943. His grandparents were Jewish immigrants who left the shtetls of Eastern Europe and came to New York City to make a better life for their families. His father, Elias Kagan, was a psychologist, and his mother Sadye (Fisher) Kagan, was a kindergarten teacher.

Harvey grew up in Elmont, Long Island, and attended Union College in Schenectady, NY, where he played lacrosse, sang in the glee club, and joined the Delta Chi fraternity. In 1963, he and his roommate joined the famous March on Washington, D.C., where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. Harvey graduated in 1964 with a major in

chemistry and a minor in philosophy.

Harvey worked in sales in the chemical industry for many years, including more than 20 years at Witco Chemical Corporation. In 1967 he married Judith, whom he called his “wood nymph and love of my life.” He and Judy enjoyed going to the opera; traveling to their favorite places, especially Scotland and Martha’s Vineyard; and gardening on their two beautiful acres in Redding. Upon retirement, Harvey devoted himself to his many interests, including raising tropical fish, researching family genealogy, building rock gardens, and supporting Union College hockey.

Harvey was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Leonard Kagan. He is survived by Judy, his wife of 57 years, and their beloved children, Sarah Kagan and her husband, Jason Brenner, and Jacob Kagan; and grandchildren, Leo and Scrap Kagan and Emma and Eli Brenner. In Harvey’s own words: “My greatest accomplishment is being a good Papa to my children and grandchildren — that’s my legacy.”

Contributions in Harvey’s memory may be made to the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Ave., 16th Fl., New York, NY 10001 or <https://alzfdn.org/donate/> ■

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Spring is coming, and so is a host of live plays and musicals | By Pamela Brown

Entertaining theater. Fantastic music. Those two come together for the upcoming spring and summer season across Fairfield County. There's nothing like being up-close-and-personal to a live show, and this year patrons of the arts can be front and center to enjoy Broadway-quality shows.

“We hope attendees feel the passion, creativity, and dedication that go into every production,” said Daniel C. Levine, Artistic Director at A.C.T. - A Contemporary Theater of Connecticut in Ridgefield. “Our casts and musicians include artists with extensive Broadway credits, and our audiences have come to expect a level of excellence that truly rivals Broadway.”

Many local venues also offer beautiful historic architecture and a rich history in the area.

“When our audiences come to the historic Westport Country Playhouse, we hope they experience the magic of live theater in ways that feel personal and transformative. Whether it’s a thought-provoking drama, a joyous comedy, or an evening of incredible music featuring the extraordinary artists who grace our stage, we want our patrons to feel deeply connected to the stories we tell and leave with a renewed sense of community, inspiration, and discovery,” said Mark Shanahan, Artistic Director of Westport Country Playhouse.

“Our shows provide fun for the whole family. Our beautiful, historic theater is filled with enthusiastic

performances by some of the area's most talented young performers,” said Erin Loucks, Co-Founder of Newtown Stage Co. which will be mounting two shows with student actors at Edmond Town Hall.

If taking advantage of the warm summer weather is a priority, outdoor theater seasons offer local audiences plenty to applaud for.

“By weaving together the magic of outdoor theater, the excitement of our ongoing improvements, and the charm of a thoughtfully curated season, we hope to create an experience that lingers long after the final bow,” said Robert Bria, Executive Director of Musicals at Richter, which recently unveiled new indoor restrooms, improved technical enhancements, accessibility features, and a concession area.

Ridgefield Theater Barn
37 Halpin Lane, Ridgefield
ridgefieldtheaterbarn.org

What the Constitution Means to Me
January 31 – February 15

Playwright Heidi Schreck’s boundary-breaking play breathes new life into the Constitution and imagines how it will affect the next generation of Americans. Hilarious, hopeful, and human, this play traces the relationship between four generations of women.

An Evening of One Acts
February 28 – March 22

This is an annual production at the Barn of original, unpublished

works selected by the One Acts Committee from over 250 submitted plays. This year will feature nine one-act plays presented without intermission.

A.C.T. - A Contemporary Theater of Connecticut
36 Old Quarry Road, Ridgefield
actofct.org

Fiddler on the Roof
February 6 – March 9

A timeless musical masterpiece, this show takes place in the small Jewish village of Anatevka in Imperial Russia at the turn of the 20th century. The story follows Tevye, a humble milkman, and his family, as they grapple with faith and changing societal norms.

Few Words: A Dance Cycle
March 26 – 30

A world premiere piece is told entirely through dance and delves into the profound themes of the human spirit overcoming obstacles and challenges. It features original choreography by four of New York City’s most in-demand choreographers and is a collaboration with the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra.

Waitress
May 29 – June 22

The Broadway hit musical with a soulful score by Sara Bareilles tells the heartfelt story of Jenna, a talented pie maker stuck in a small-town diner and an unhappy marriage, who dreams of a better life.

Westport Country Playhouse
25 Powers Court, Westport
westportplayhouse.org/whats-on

Theatre People
March 25 – April 12

A throwback to the classic screwball comedies of yesteryear by Connecticut-born playwright Paul Slade Smith, adapted from Ferenc Molnár’s *Play at the Castle*, and directed by Mark Shanahan, Westport Country Playhouse Artistic Director.

Script in Hand Playreadings
April 14, May 5, June 9, and September 8 – Titles TBD

Intimate storytelling as professional actors use their skills to catapult the audience’s imagination without benefit of scenery or costumes.

Musicals at Richter
100 Aunt Hack Road, Danbury
musicalsatrichter.org

Evita
July 4 – 19

A captivating story of Eva Perón, Argentina’s First Lady, as she rises from humble beginnings to political power and fame, with a sweeping score by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The Little Mermaid
July 25 – August 9

Disney’s beloved underwater adventure tells the heartwarming story of Ariel, a curious young mermaid who dreams of life on land.

Beetlejuice Fairy Tale Theater, Jr. – Youth Musical Theater workshop
August 14 – 16

A hilarious and spooky adventure of the mischievous ghost Beetlejuice as he teams up with an unusual teenager, Lydia, to haunt her new house.

Richter’s Fairy Tale Theater
Saturdays in July

Family-friendly theater by young people, for young people, features a different interactive show filled with song and movement with crafts and activities beforehand.

Newtown Stage Co.
Edmond Town Hall,
45 Main Street, Newtown
newtownstageco.com

Seussical Jr
July 18 – 20

A fantastical musical extravaganza from Tony Award-winners Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty. Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, and other favorite Dr. Seuss characters come to life.

Mean Girls: High School Version
August 1 – 3

Cady Heron crosses paths with "The Plastics", a group of high school frenemies led by the charming but ruthless Regina George. When Cady and her friends devise a "Revenge Party", she learns you can't cross a Queen Bee without getting stung. ■

The Natural World

The Outside Story: Frost quakes | By Colby Galliher

As the winter sun set on February 3, 2023, the Caribou, Maine branch of the National Weather Service (NWS) was flooded with reports of seismic activity. James Sinko, the office’s hydrology program manager, recounted Mainers calling in from across the state’s Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Washington counties to describe homes and buildings trembling and deep rumbles emanating from beneath their feet. The previous two months had been warm and rainy, and a fast-moving cold front that day led to temperatures “15-30 degrees below zero, falling at rates of 2-3 degrees every 30 minutes in some locations,” Sinko recalled.

These conditions set the stage for a series of frost quakes, a rare phenomenon some meteorologists and hydrologists also refer to as “cryoseisms.” Unlike earthquakes, which are caused by shifting tectonic plates, frost quakes arise when specific meteorological and hydrological factors coincide.

These unusual seismic events occur when a rapid drop in air temperatures dramatically decreases the temperature of waterlogged soil, typically after rain or a thaw. “Water in the soil freezes and expands more rapidly than the soil particles can adjust. This causes a sudden rupture of the ice in the soil, generally in the coldest part of the night,” said Henry Berry, senior geologist at the Maine Geological Society. “The release of pressure can cause effects similar to those of true earthquakes, especially explosive noises and high-frequency shaking.”

Frost quakes tend to affect small

areas and are more common in certain landscapes than others. They are “generally very localized events,” explained Berry. “In one study where [detection] instruments were set up near each other, cryoseisms were felt and heard in several houses, but not in nearby houses only a few hundred feet away.” Frost quakes are more likely in open areas, rather than wooded ones, as nighttime temperatures in fields and meadows, which lack the vegetative cover that can trap heat, tend to dip lower than in forests.

While powerful earthquakes can generate catastrophe, frost quakes generally leave behind little evidence of their occurrence. Louise Fode, warning coordination meteorologist at NWS Caribou, said that although her office receives reports of frost quakes once or twice a winter, the reports have never included accounts of frost quake-related damage. Berry noted that most frost quakes are so subtle that they fail to register on conventional detection instruments. However, he said that when frost quakes are more powerful, “long cracks in the ground or in pavement have been found, where the frozen ground snapped.” Sinko added that frost quakes “can sometimes alter underground drainage passages.”

Still, even when conditions seem ripe for frost quakes, they remain rare. “Cryoseisms require a particular set of conditions, which don’t happen every year,” Berry said. But, he added, “when the conditions are right, they can come in a bunch” – as Sinko witnessed in northern Maine in February 2023.

Climate change is making New England winters milder, but rising temperatures may not mean fewer frost quakes. Snowpack insulates soil, keeping it warmer than the air. With “little to no snow on the ground,” as happens more often in a warmer world, soil temperatures crash, said Sinko. Without a snow barrier, water in the soil is more likely to freeze quickly when air temperatures drop. Inconsistent snowpack over the winter months could thus lead to more frost quakes. And even amid a pattern of higher temperatures, winter in the Northeast will still feature spells of frigid weather. “Frost quakes occur during sudden cold events, which can still happen in a warming climate,” Sinko said. Fode concurred: “Even with warming winters, it will be quite a while before we have winters with no rapid freezing events, so I would anticipate we’ll continue to get reports of frost quakes.”

If a spate of warm and wet days gives way to a harsh cold spell this season, pay close attention to the ground beneath your feet – you may bear witness to a rare seismic phenomenon. ■

Colby Galliher is a writer who calls the woods, meadows, and rivers of New England home. To learn more about his work, visit colbygalliher.com

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

If trees could talk | Send in the birds | By Raymond D’Angelo



Photo credit: Adobe Stock

Trees share a deep, interdependent relationship with birds that is essential to both the natural world and ecosystems. Moreover, they add to our quality of life. In Redding’s mix of woodlands, wetlands and open spaces, a diverse range of bird species and trees co-exist. Trees improve air quality, reduce erosion, and provide climate regulation, while birds play vital roles in pest control, pollination, and seed dispersal. Beyond the ecological aspects, both trees and birds hold symbolic meanings in many cultures. Trees often represent life, growth, and connection to nature, while birds symbolize freedom, hope, and renewal.

So, how can people in Redding encourage certain birds to their yard? By planting specific trees. In essence you don’t need a bird feeder to attract birds – you need trees. “Birds flock to feeders and fly away but choose a tree and stay.” Different species of birds rely on various types of trees for nesting. Cardinals and bluebirds, for example, will not nest above 15 feet while others, like orioles, demand high, exposed branches. Tree structure also determines the type of bird that chooses to nest in your yard. Owls, for example, often nest in hollow trunks, while songbirds might build their nests in the branches.

Birds search for acorns, fruits, seeds, or nuts produced by trees. For example, finches, which are plentiful in Redding, may eat seeds from conifers or other trees. Hummingbirds are particularly attracted to tree flowers for nectar, while species like sapsuckers are known for feeding on tree sap. Additionally, trees often harbor a variety of insects, which serve as food for birds like warblers and chickadees.

Trees serve migratory routes and host bird stopover points for traveling long distances. These "rest areas" offer food, water, and protection. For instance, forests and woodlands are critical for migratory birds like warblers and thrushes. According to Redding Land Trust, Lonetown Marsh attracts several water birds. American egrets and the great blue heron have been seen there, as well as Canada geese, and mallards.

Birds rely on trees for food, shelter, and nesting sites, while trees benefit from birds' roles in pollination, seed dispersal, and pest control. All this can be witnessed in most backyards in Redding. ■

If you have a favorite tree you’d like featured in this column, contact reddingtreeservancy@gmail.com



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

Yoga Station & Wellness
Open House

Saturday, January 25
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Complimentary classes; meet the teachers and check out the studio; connect with others in the local community; tea service hosted by Grace Farms.
Yoga Station / 9 Brookside Road
E-mail info@yogastationct.com
R

Winter Warmth

Sunday, February 2
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Join Redding Prevention Council for an afternoon dedicated to mental health, connection, and warmth.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
reddingpreventioncouncil.org

Redding Express –
Bus Trip to *Hadestown*
on Broadway

Wednesday, February 19
9:00 a.m. Bus leaves
2:00 p.m. Show
Orchestra and 1st Mezzanine Seats
Meet at Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
townofreddingct.org/
parks-and-recreation
\$, R

Want to feature an
upcoming event?

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

ARTS

Sunday, January 26

**Orchestra Lumos -
Around the World in 80 Minutes**
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Musical grand tour with the Orchestra Lumos string quartet.
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org/events
\$, R

Sunday, January 26

The Music Shed’s Shedfest
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Big end of semester show; six middle and high school bands, one adult band.
Molly Darcy’s
39 A Mill Plain Road
Danbury
musicshedct.com

Wednesday, February 19

**Redding Express – Bus Trip to
Hadestown on Broadway**
9:00 a.m. Bus leaves
2:00 p.m. Show
Orchestra and 1st Mezzanine Seats
Meet at Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
townofreddingct.org/
parks-and-recreation
\$, R

Sunday, March 2

**Mardi Gras at Milestone with
Austin Bradford on Piano**
12:00 p.m.
Jazz Brunch featuring Redding student pianist.
Milestone
2 Main Street
milestonect.com
\$

CHILDREN | TEENS

Sunday, January 26

Leatherworking
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Create a leather pouch with hand tools.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

Monday, January 27

**All About Mark Twain – With
RES 4th Grader Michael Patrick**
3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Grades K-4. Bus service from RES available.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Wednesday, January 29

**The Wizards School of Magic
Workshop – Alakazaam Magic**
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Grades 1-4, learn four magic tricks from a professional magician.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
townofreddingct.org/
parks-and-recreation
\$, R

Wednesday, January 29

Family Bingo Bonanza
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Grades K-4 and parents/caregivers.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
townofreddingct.org/
parks-and-recreation
\$, R

Sunday, February 2

Jr Staff: Animal Caretakers
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Learn the ins and outs of animal care.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

FOOD | WINE

Friday, January 24

Coffee and Cake
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Freshly brewed coffee, homemade cake, and good company.
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road

Saturday, February 8

**BSA Troop 306
Valentine’s Pancake Breakfast**
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
West Redding Fire House
306 Umpawaug Road
facebook.com/groups/
bsa306redding
\$, R

HEALTH | WELLNESS

Saturday, January 25

**Yoga Station & Wellness
Open House**
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Complimentary classes; meet the teachers and check out the studio; connect with others in the local community; tea service hosted by Grace Farms.
Yoga Station
9 Brookside Road
yogastationct.com/book-class
R

Tuesday, January 28

Fireside Yoga
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Age 16+, no experience required
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

Wednesday, January 29

**Step Up Your Pickleball Game:
Injury Prevention
and Performance Tips**
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Co-sponsored with Heritage Center, featuring Sports Podiatrist Dr. Allan Rosenthal
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

NATURE

Thursday, January 23

**Wildlife Awareness 101: With
Woodcock Nature Center**
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org

Monday, January 27

Fireside Tales & Trails
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Winter nature walk followed by a fireside storytime with your little one.
Woodcock Nature Center
56 Deer Run Road
Wilton
woodcocknaturecenter.org/
upcomingevents
R

Thursday, January 30

***The Voice of the Hudson* Movie
and Discussion**
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Co-sponsored with New Pond Farm, learn about microplastics sampling in ecosystems around the country, including sites in and near Redding.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Thursday, January 23

**Notes on Modern Irrationality
with Bestselling Author Amanda
Montell**
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Virtual
Mark Twain Library
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Saturday, January 25

**Obituary Writing Workshop
with Jack Sanders**
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Hosted by Ridgefield Historical Society
Snow date: Saturday, February 1.
4 Sunset Lane
Ridgefield
ridgefieldhistoricalsociety.org
\$, R

Saturday, January 25

**2025 Book Buzz!
Meet Local Authors**
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Drop in, refreshments served
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org

Tuesday, January 28

**Technology Lessons
and Assistance**
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Available every other Tuesday through March 11
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road
E-mail mpilato@townofreddingct.org or (203) 938-9725
R

Wednesday, January 29

**A Discussed History of
Georgetown – Part Three**
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Led by Redding Co-Historian Brent Colley
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org/events
\$, R

Wednesday, February 5

**National Charity League
Prospective Member Social Event**
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
For mothers of daughters in grade 6-8.
The Redding Roadhouse
406 Redding Road
nationalcharityleague.org/chapter/
ReddingArea

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (in person) or 10:15 a.m. (Zoom)
44 Portland Avenue
bethlehemlutheranct.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

Temple B’nai Chaim
Friday, January 17
Civil Rights Shabbat
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
82 Portland Avenue
templebnaichaim.org

**Please check church
and synagogue websites for
religious holidays and seasonal
worship opportunites**

MEETINGS

Monday, January 27

**Region 9 Finance and
Operations Committee**
5:30 p.m.
ER9 Central Office
654 Morehouse Road
Easton

Monday, January 27

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

Tuesday, January 28

ER9 Joint Boards Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School / Library
Learning Commons
100 Black Rock Turnpike

Tuesday, January 28

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

Sunday, February 2

**Fire District #2 Commissioners’
Special Meeting**
10:30 a.m.
306 Umpawaug Road

Monday, February 3

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

Monday, February 3

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

Tuesday, February 4

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

Tuesday, February 4

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

Wednesday, February 5

**Brown Bag Lunch with
First Selectwoman**
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Monday, February 10

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

Tuesday, February 11

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

Tuesday, February 11

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

Wednesday, February 12

Region 9 Curriculum Committee
8:30 a.m.
Joel Barlow High School / A108
100 Black Rock Turnpike

Wednesday, February 12

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

**For meeting details
and agendas, visit
townofreddingct.org/events**



COLDWELL BANKER | REALTY



Mike Anderson
203.770.3349



Alexis Bennett
203.313.3110



Kim Cuniberti
203.733.6976



Tim Dent
203.470.5605



Donna DiBartolo
203.858.0597



Margi Esten
203.241.8453



John Frey
203.240.0624



Liz Furrer
203.733.0678



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in the beauty of their dreams."*
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