

Memorial Day Parade set for May 24

By Jessie Wright

The annual Memorial Day Parade in Redding has been set for Saturday, May 24. Formation will begin at Redding Elementary School at 11:30 a.m., where the World War II memorial is located. Following a brief invocation ceremony at 12:00 p.m., the parade will step-off at 12:15 p.m.

Residents are encouraged to line the parade’s path, which includes the stretch of Lonetown Road from Redding Elementary School, past Town Hall, and ending at the green space in front of the Old Town House. A short ceremony at the World War I memorial stone will conclude the event.

For more information on the parade and other Memorial Day Weekend events, including the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton’s Memorial Day Picnic, be sure to read next week’s issue, or visit reddingct.gov/events ■

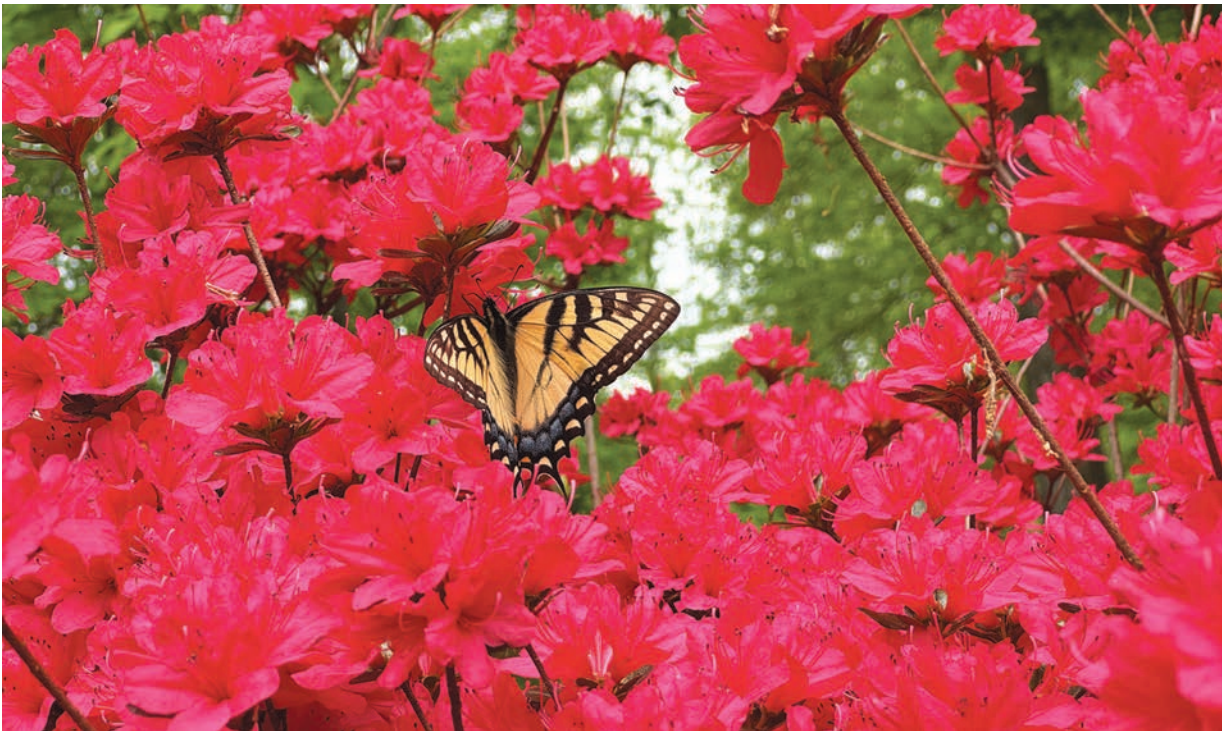


Photo by Susan Clark

An Eastern Tiger Swallowtail enjoys an azalea in bloom along Deacon Abbott Road. If you have a photo you’d like to see featured here, please e-mail it to editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Community invited to Barlow Palooza

Celebration of student creativity May 22

By Anne Young Albanese

On Thursday, May 22, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., community members are invited to Joel Barlow High School for a peek into many of the school’s activities as well as contributions from students at John Read Middle School, Helen Keller Middle School, Redding Elementary School, and Samuel Staples Elementary School.

“Barlow Palooza is an annual celebration hosted by Joel Barlow High School highlighting the many accomplishments of students in the ER9 community – from the elementary and middle schools and throughout the high school: from music to the arts, to personal interest projects, to challenging STEM pursuits. Palooza is our chance to recognize and laud all those involved,” explained Tim Huminski, Barlow English teacher, Director of the Writing Center, and Senior Passages Coordinator.

This is the 19th annual Barlow Palooza, and there will be even more to enjoy than in previous years. The Barlow a cappella group and jazz bands will perform. The Barlow and Future Falcon art shows will showcase work and arts projects from each of the Easton and Redding schools. High school students will provide guests with the opportunity to experience live

art demonstrations.

Barlow Palooza will also highlight STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) activities throughout the school districts. There will be a science symposium that will bring guest speakers and students presenting their science experiments. Middle schoolers will demonstrate their inventions from the Invention Convention and Personal Interest Projects. The Barlow Robotics team will demonstrate their award-winning robot.

Students with Capstone Senior Passages projects will also present their work. These projects allow students to direct their learning through direct or hands-on experiences. The finished projects will be displayed to demonstrate the different learning opportunities for Capstone students. A school counselor endorsed these students as being on track to graduate, which also requires the appropriate graduation credits, including the results of state tests and the Junior Writing Portfolio.

A Youth Mental Health First Aid Fair for students and parents will also be part of the event, with numerous clubs demonstrating the many resources available for high school students and eighth graders.

Barlow alumni now pursuing careers in various industries will return to share information about life after high school. Students can learn more about many careers that may meet their interests.

While Barlow Palooza is a must for students, it also allows community members to have a fun night out. The art exhibit features many museum-quality pieces. The robotics team may let guests try out its robot. The different science presentations are absorbing and educational for those interested in learning something new. The performances will provide a place to sit and listen to music, and a food truck will be on site along with snacks.

Last year, approximately 400 people attended the event. While the event ends at 8:00 p.m., the music performances are expected to run until about 8:30 p.m. Attendance is free. Barlow Palooza will take place at Joel Barlow High School at 100 Black Rock Turnpike. ■



Image created by Willow Bradford and Lauren Klein Wassink

REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

Road-walking in Redding

By Susan Clark



Photo by Susan Clark

The dappled sun of Mohawk Trail is welcoming to walkers.

Sometimes you just feel like taking a good walk – with a friend, or by yourself. For exercise, to walk your dog, to think something

through. Arms swinging, moving along, working up a light sweat depending on the weather and the route.

Some of our roads are ideally suited for road walking, with over-hanging tree canopies and little traffic. Some are most definitely not – Cross Highway comes to mind. The ideal walking road has a perspective, a bit of scenery, and not too much automotive danger.

Cars are a reality when walking on our roads, so take care and pay attention. Always walk facing traffic. If you’re walking your dog, keep them on your left, the inside, when on the road. Look for roads either with little traffic or a good shoulder. For example, while

Umpawaug Road is arguably prettier than Lonetown Road, and the traffic is fast on both, Lonetown has a wide shoulder. I see people walking on Lonetown all the time, but rarely on Umpawaug. Consider wearing a hi-viz vest.

Here are a few of our favorite loops.

Mohawk Trail to Deacon Abbott Road to Lonetown Road

Enter Mohawk Trail at the Redding Center Post Office, where you can park, and continue with left turns wherever there is a turn to be made. At a purposeful pace, the loop will take about 40 minutes.

Continued on page 8

Volunteer firefighter ranks across the state have shrunk by 62.7%

By Mark Pazniokas

The ranks of volunteer firefighters, who are the first line of fire protection in a majority of Connecticut communities, have shrunk by a stunning 62.7% since the completion of the last firefighter census in 2017.

A study by the office of Comptroller Sean Scanlon documents what Scanlon called “a recruitment and retention crisis in the fire service in this state and in this country.”

“What this report, I believe, is meant to do is serve as a wake-up call to people in every level of government, from state government to municipal government to federal government,” Scanlon said.

The report was formally released Tuesday, but some of the data had been published previously by The Hartford Courant.

The study is based on a survey conducted from August 2024 through February 2025, which eventually produced responses from 163 of Connecticut’s 169 cities and towns.

The data is being used by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), whose divisions include the state police, the state fire marshal and a state firefighters academy, in developing a strategic plan.

“Connecticut is facing an urgent moment in this state, and it has become clear to me ... that this just isn’t a firefighter crisis, this is a public safety crisis,” said Ronnell Higgins, the commissioner of DESPP.

The difficulty in attracting volunteers may now be a crisis, but it has unfolded slowly, reflecting a wide range of societal changes: two-career families, greater transience that undermines community ties, people working farther from home, and employers less willing to release volunteers for calls.

Firefighting also has become more complicated, requiring greater commitments to training, and the once-hidden dangers of exposure to carcinogens in fires, fire-suppressing materials and turnout gear also can be a deterrent.

Overall, the number of wildfires in Connecticut shrunk by 50%, with a 6.5% increase in paid positions partly offsetting the loss of volunteers.

Eighty-eight of the 169 communities are only served by fully volunteer departments. Only 15 communities, including Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury, and some large suburbs, exclusively rely on paid departments.

Sixty-six cities and towns have a mix of a paid department supported by one or more smaller volunteer departments that serve certain neighborhoods.

While the number of paid firefighters has increased, recruitment has grown more difficult, said Paul Januszewski, the fire chief in North Haven. The days of getting hundreds of applications for a handful of jobs are over.

Continued on page 10

Index

Big Outdoors	1
Editorial	2
Letters to the Editor	2
Legal Notice	2
Police Blotter	2
Sports	4
Music Note	7
Book Review	8
Library Corner	8
Business Spotlight	9
The Natural World	10
Calendar of Events	11



EDITORIAL

We’ve received feedback – some published in our letters to the editor section – that the *Sentinel* has lacked coverage of Redding residents’ activities in national politics in recent months.

We discuss this topic often at staff meetings and have outlined our approach to covering national politics in earlier issues: we focus our editorial efforts on reporting on how changes at the federal level are impacting our town and its businesses, organizations, and residents. No other news outlet provides Redding-centric analysis – this is our niche.

However, the question of whether to cover individual residents’ efforts and activism has prompted reflection. In many ways, it does fall under our editorial goal to cover the wide spectrum of goings on in town; omitting coverage of events or human-interest stories of a political nature – and this includes those from both sides of the political aisle – does not necessarily accurately reflect the reality of life in Redding. We highlight residents’ activities and accomplishments in business, art, academics, and athletics – politics can be included as well.

We will continue to keep trustworthy, factual, locally relevant reporting as the foundation of all our coverage. If you have a story idea or event update to pitch us, our inbox is always open at editor@reddingsentinel.org. ■

HOMEFRONT FARMERS PLANT SALE

Nod Hill Brewery Biergarten, 137 Ethan Allen Hwy, Ridgefield, CT

MAY 18 2025
10 - 2 PM



We're so excited to announce the return of our Annual Plant Sale on Sunday, May 18th!

We have an unbelievable selection of **productive, heirloom, and artisan varieties**, many of which are mature seedlings ready for planting. All our seedlings are grown with love in our greenhouse in Redding.

CERTIFIED ORGANIC TRANSPLANTS:

- Multi-Color Bells, Sweet, & Hot Peppers
- Variety of Summer & Winter Squash
- Specialty Cut Flower Transplants
- Sungold Cherry, Brandywine, Cherokee Carbon, Green Zebra, San Marzano Tomatoes & So Much More!



POLICE BLOTTER

Police activity from April 28 – May 11 | *By Donna Christopher*

Officers assisted six individual citizens, five operators of disabled motor vehicles, and supported 14 medical service calls and four fire department emergencies. Three firearms permits were processed and the Department accepted one volunteer firearm surrender.

Animal Control officers conducted an investigation on Cross Highway and were called to Huckleberry Road, and Lonetown Road for sick, dead, or nuisance animals. Police issued parking tickets on Long Ridge Road (9) and Long Meadow Road (1). They investigated a noise complaint on Lonetown Road on May 10.

Fraud

Police are investigating an attempted identity fraud, reported on April 28 by someone on Beech Lane.

Misdemeanor summons

Police made a misdemeanor arrest on Simpaug Turnpike for disorderly conduct on May 2.

They followed up on a domestic disturbance on May 3 on Simpaug Turnpike which also resulted in an arrest/misdemeanor summons. The police report cited five more incidents of domestic dispute follow-ups on Simpaug Turnpike on May 5, 6 (two follow-ups), 7, and 8 with arrest/misdemeanor summons issued in each.

Traffic

Officers made 25 motor vehicle stops. Monday, April 28, Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 11 saw the most activity with six, five,

and four stops respectively. Police issued three tickets, seven written warnings, and 15 verbal warnings, for an infraction rate of 12%.

On April 29, there was an accident with minor injuries on Black Rock Turnpike (Route 58).

On May 9, a driver traveling westbound on Diamond Hill Road observed a vehicle traveling eastbound slightly over the yellow center line; to avoid it, the first driver moved over as far right as possible then struck a tree on the passenger side, causing damage to the exterior mirror. There were no injuries.

Also on May 9, a driver on Simpaug Turnpike was traveling southbound when an unknown driver traveling northbound sideswiped the first driver’s vehicle in the southbound lane then drove away. The driver described the fleeing vehicle as a small, yellow Toyota pickup truck. The investigation remains open. There was property damage but no injuries.

On May 10, a driver on Ethan Allen Highway (Route 7) was traveling southbound and crossed over the center line, striking a vehicle traveling northbound. Debris flew off both vehicles, which struck another northbound vehicle traveling behind the sideswiped vehicle, causing damage. There were no injuries. The driver of the first vehicle was issued a warning for failure to drive right of the centerline.

On May 10, officers investigated a report of a two-car accident on Newtown Turnpike. The location was checked, and nothing was found. Both vehicles were gone on arrival. ■

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,

For those of you who are not acquainted with Rosemary’s Pollinator Garden at Lonetown Farm, we invite you to come take a look. If you have a Community Garden plot, you see it on the right as you drive on your way along the field to the Community Garden.

Rosemary’s Pollinator Garden is a community effort inspired a few years ago by the interest in pollinator pathways and the effort to support pollinators with native plants.

Reddingites, if you would like to learn about, help with, maintain, and/or support Rosemary’s Pollinator Garden, contact our organizing group at ReddingGardenClubCT@gmail.com. We organize an hour from time to time to maintain the garden.

You do not need to join or be a member of the Redding Garden Club to help with Rosemary’s Pollinator Garden. Thank you to all who stopped by the Redding Garden Club Plant Sale last Saturday – it was good to see so many neighbors. ■

*Susan Green,
Umpawaug Road*

To the Editor,

The Redding Garden Club held its annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 10, amid threats of rain, delightful sunshine, and extraordinary winds. In spite of the challenging weather, our families, friends, and neighbors showed up to appreciate the remarkable plants and support our organization. The Garden Club was pleased to share this event with many local organizations in Redding: Backyard Beekeepers, Highstead, Norwalk River Valley Trail, Redding Grange, Redding Historical Society, Redding Land Trust, Redding Neighbors & Newcomers, and Trail Tenders.

We are so grateful to be able to share our love of gardening with Redding (and beyond). We thank all who participated in making this our most successful Plant Sale ever. ■

*Sarah Cummings,
Redding Garden Club Plant Sale Chair*

To the Editor,

Our thanks to the *Sentinel* for the recent article alerting readers to the dangers of neonicotinoid pesticides. Additional information provided by a neighbor – “Please Consider ‘No’ to Pesticide Spraying” – further convinced us to halt pesticide spraying on our church property.

We do this out of a sense of stewardship for God’s creation – the insects and the birds that feed on them as well as all that God grows on His green earth – and out of love for our own church children who play on our lawns.

Although we will continue fertilizing our lawns, trees, and shrubs, we have contacted our vendor and switched to a natural product that contains no pesticides. To protect our children from Lyme and other tick-borne diseases through the summer months, we also will continue using a local company to spray an organic, cedar oil-based tick repellent.

We wish we could make it clear to those driving by that we are no longer using pesticides, but current law seems to require treatments be marked with those little yellow signs familiar to all of us. Maybe the day will come when lawn-care companies will be able to use a different color for non-pesticide spraying. Green might be the obvious choice, although blue would do, too.

In any case, thank you again for the informative article. It made a difference. ■

*Ken Brooks, pastor,
Calvary Independent Baptist Church,
711 Redding Road*

LEGAL NOTICE

The Redding Zoning Board of Appeals has scheduled a public hearing via Zoom on Tuesday May 20, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. to review and possible vote on the following application.

Application #05-01-25 – 19 Great Oak Lane (Assessor’s Map and Lot #21 & #125): Owner: Tatiana Solimchuk & Nugzari Alavidze: Requesting a variance to reduce side yard setback from 40’ feet to 37’ feet for a Pizza Oven. Redding Zoning Regulations Section 4.6.5. **Variance requested is 3’ feet.** ■

*Elizabeth Williams, Chairman
Redding Zoning Board of Appeals*

Correction to the May 8, 2025 issue:

In the page 8 article "Thrills ahead at Ridgefield Independent Film Festival", it incorrectly stated that all films will feature accessibility features like closed captioning and audio description tracks. RIFF will provide these for audiences whenever possible. We regret this error. ■

Redding Sentinel Ltd
News and Views of Redding, Connecticut
Publisher, Susan Clark
Managing Editor, Jessie Wright
Creative Director, Debora DeCarlo Rosa
Assistant Graphic Designer, Connor Feeney
Marketing Operations Manager, Nicole DuBois
Reporters:
Anne Young Albanese
Pamela Brown
Donna Christopher
Justin Reynolds
Rob Sample
Rocco Valluzzo

Printed by The Republican, Springfield, MA
Telecommunications by CCi Voice
www.reddingsentinel.org
203.938.3800

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

Single copy price \$3.00 / Annual subscription \$85.00

Redding Sentinel Ltd believes in supporting the community it serves.
We pledge to donate all profits to local community organizations.



Visit our website

Town is one step closer to stabilizing Wire Mill buildings

By Rocco Valluzzo

The Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee unanimously selected a consultant for Redding’s \$20,000 State Historic Preservation Office grant at its Thursday, May 8 meeting.

Architectural Preservation Studio (APS) of New York will create a building stabilization plan for some of the buildings on the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill property in Georgetown. The Committee will send a formal recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for final approval.

Committee Chair Amy Atamian noted that APS previously did an evaluation of six of those buildings in 2015. Besides an update of that, the Committee is seeking prioritized planning and on-call services to help it with coordinating future schedules and specifications.

“They seem like they’ve got the right kind of viewpoint,” said Committee member Rob Dean. “They’ve got the history with the site. They have also an enthusiasm,

it seems to me, for the site and the village of Georgetown.”

Redding is also using a separate, \$200,000 Brownfield Area Revitalization grant awarded by the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for a Georgetown revitalization plan from Pirie Associates of New Haven. This plan will focus on community engagement, market and economic assessments, infrastructure, and holistic planning and is expected to take between 15 and 18 months to complete.

Atamian said representatives from Pirie Associates and BJH Advisors of New York City, its financial real estate analysis partner, visited Georgetown earlier that day, going through the site and touring the neighborhood up to the Branchville train station and back down Portland Avenue. Although they were not able to enter the Weaving Building, the group visited the Machine Shop and walked through the bottom floor and second floor

before visiting the big slab in the West Pond area.

She added that Pirie Associates will hold several focus groups over the next several months to get oriented with specific issues related to Georgetown and to foster candid dialogue. The first will be May 16 and is limited to members of the firm and focus group participants.

The Committee will have a public listening session on June 26, at which Pirie Associates will review its planning process then place attendees into topic groups for the community to provide input. The second public meeting will be in early September to discuss alternate scenarios for the BAR planning area that address community input after an economic assessment.

The final public meeting will be in early December to present the final design. The master plan and zoning recommendations will be completed in January. ■

Fire District 2 proposes flat budget

Vote to take place May 15

By Jessie Wright

Voters in Fire District 2 will assemble on Thursday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. to consider and vote upon the 2025-26 budget. Some may have a sense of déjà vu – the proposed total for 2025-26 is the same as the current fiscal year, coming in at \$594,152.

“The current (2024-25) budget was well set up by the previous commissioners to take inflation into account, and we were able

to shift monies around from various line items to come up with the proposed budget,” explained Commissioner Scott Romano.

New equipment for a new rescue pumper and EMS equipment upgrades were purchased this year and will not be required in the 2025-26 fiscal year, freeing up money to cover other expenses.

Two capital funding line items remain in place and at the same

level as the current fiscal year, according to Romano – one to help fund the purchase of the new rescue pumper, anticipated to be delivered this fall, and one to help fund capital expenditures as they arise.

The budget vote will take place at the West Redding Firehouse, 306 Umpawaug Road. ■



FREE ESTIMATE
203-470-4240
www.marksvanda.com
mark@marksvanda.com

Exterior Special
Free Exterior window cleaning
with full Exterior paint jobs

Not to be combined with other offers,
new orders only

Licensed & Insured • CT HIC Lic #0627856
Proudly Serving Redding for 33 Years

Serving up scoops of fun



Photos by Carol Morgan

In a favorite spring tradition, Mark Twain Library hosted its 9th annual Ice Cream Social at Meadow Ridge on Saturday, May 10. The Blue Moon barbershop quartet of the Mad Hatter Chorus entertained the crowd while straw hat-festooned supporters of the Library helped to scoop the ice cream and serve toppings.

Subscription prices will increase June 1



**Renew early or start a new subscription
now to lock in the current rate of
\$85 for one year, or \$165 for two**
reddingsentinel.org/subscribe



Picture yourself at the pinnacle of senior living.

“I can focus on pursuing my passions and meeting wonderful new friends without the hassles of home maintenance.”

— Jane M., Resident



Resident David D. savoring a gourmet meal in our dining room.



Residents Jane M. and Joan K. socializing in the atrium.



Resident Joe H. teeing off at the brand-new indoor golf simulator.



Experience distinctive Independent Living at Meadow Ridge.

From teeing off at our state-of-the-art golf simulator to relaxing in the atrium or swimming laps in the indoor saltwater pool, there’s an abundance of ways to engage and connect with fellow neighbors. Meadow Ridge residents enjoy a refined, maintenance-free lifestyle enriched with impeccable service, locally sourced cuisine and a holistic approach to health.

To learn more or schedule a tour, call 203-587-8960 or visit LifeAtMeadowRidge.com



Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care | Sub-Acute Rehabilitation & Skilled Nursing
100 Redding Road | Redding, CT 06896 | Managed by Benchmark Senior Living

SPORTS

Falcons split with Red Devils, Cougars

Boys track and field | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Noah Beninati took first in the javelin at a boys track meet on Wednesday, May 7. Barlow dominated Kolbe Cathedral 123-18 but lost a close 70-80 decision to Stratford.

Despite dominating certain events, the Joel Barlow High boys track and field team faced stiff competition in others at its meet on Wednesday, May 7.

The host Falcons had plenty of depth in most of the throws and jumps. Stratford, however, had the advantage in the sprints and middle-distance events for an 80-70 win. Barlow remained far out of reach of Kolbe Cathedral, racking up the points for a 123-18 win.

With time to spare, the Red Devils took first in the 4x800 relay at the start of the meet by more than 50 seconds. Barlow’s Bauer Heres, Hunter Wildgoose, Didier Mejia-Morneau, and Ryan Wheatley were runners-up in 10:29.5 seconds.

Things were much closer in

the 4x100, as Barlow’s Kyle Rwabukhamba, Nathaniel Dyar, Lucas Jandura, and Ethan Peters combined for a first-place time of 44.8.

Rwabukhamba also had a big day in the hurdles, earning points in both. A time of 16.8 seconds and a personal record in the 110 high hurdles put him second only to Stratford’s Cameron Hall by 0.2 seconds. The finishes were reversed in the 300 intermediate hurdles, as the Barlow senior won in 46 seconds.

With plenty of depth in the 100 meters, Stratford claimed four of the top six places, including first. Peters was runner-up in 11.3, a tenth-of-a-second off the lead. He also scored in the 200 with a 23.7, a tenth-of-a-second behind Stratford’s Armani McCrae.

Barlow was also second in the

1,600 with Steve Czerkawski finishing in 4:40, 1.5 seconds after Stratford’s Dyllan Asuncion. The 400 meters proved to be the most one-sided event, with the Red Devils taking the first seven spots. They were also dominant in the 800 with first through third.

Asuncion also won the 3,200, but the Falcons captured the next two places, both with personal records. Wheatley ran a 12:71.1, and Mejia-Morneau followed in 13:11.5.

In the final track event, Jandura, Ile-Eso Ahiokhai, Sam Walker, and Czerkawski took second behind Kolbe Cathedral in 3:51.4.

The field events featured some dominating performance from Barlow and Stratford. The latter had the upper hand in the shot put with a sweep of the top three spots, but Barlow did likewise in the discus. Coleman Keenan won with a toss of 82 feet, two inches, and Charles Dunlop had 81 feet, 2 inches, a personal record. Walker was third with 79 feet, 8.5 inches.

Another Falcon sweep was in the javelin, which Noah Beninati won with 131 feet, 6 inches, also a personal record. Walker followed with 124 feet, and Czerkawski threw it 108 feet, 3 inches.

The Red Devils swept the high jump, and Barlow took first through third in the pole vault with Ben Azara leading the way, clearing 9 feet 6 inches. Beninati cleared the same height, taking second based on number of attempts. Third went to Alex Dyar with eight feet.

Runner-up in the long jump went to Nathaniel Dyar with 19 feet 2 inches. Pablo Morineau Nacif leaped 18 feet 8 inches, a personal record.

Leading a Barlow sweep in the triple jump, Peters had 38 feet, a personal record. Nathaniel Dyar followed with 33 feet, 5 inches, and Kyle Zhou claimed third with 28 feet, 7 inches.

Barlow, now 5-6, finishes the regular season this week before competing in the South-West Conference finals on Monday, May 19 at Weston at 3:00 p.m. ■

Barlow attack overwhelms Stratford/Bunnell

Girls lacrosse | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Barlow’s Gianna Onofrio, right, encounters a trio of Stratford defenders.

Windy weather conditions did not get in the way of the Joel Barlow High girls varsity lacrosse team when it faced Stratford/Bunnell last week.

The Falcons were not hampered by an occasional strong gust on Saturday, May 10. It turned out they had little to worry about as far as the competition was concerned as well, racking up goals in a lopsided 21-2 win at home.

“I think it’s confidence building for us,” said Barlow Head Coach Melissa Sportini, whose team will take part in the South-West Conference playoffs next week. “We are in the fourth quarter of our season at this point. I’m just proud of this group.”

Right from the opening whistle, the Falcons controlled the action. Dominating the draw controls played a big part, eventually resulting in numerous scoring opportunities.

In less than six minutes into the action, the Falcons were already up 4-0, featuring a pair of goals by Emma Ogden. Barlow’s attack kept the Red Devils guessing, as four other players found the net before the quarter was done.

Allie Ogden and Sawyer Cutler also scored in the time remaining, as did Teagan Candee, who circled around from the back of the net before firing a shot. Caroline Lippoth added the last tally of the frame for an 8-0 Barlow lead.

Things did not get any easier

for the Red Devils in the second quarter, as the Falcons won most of the draw controls and continued to march down field. The attack came from all directions, as Lippoth, Candee, Olivia Crawford, Cutler, and Lila Fellows all put the ball into the net for a 16-0 advantage by halftime.

With such a large lead, the Falcons eased up on the attack when the second half got underway, scoring only two goals, one each by Crawford and Grace Walsh. In between, the Red Devils ended the shut-out, netting their first goal.

Having secured the win for all intents and purposes, the Falcons made use of the remainder of the game by getting everyone time on the field. They still increased the lead, courtesy of another goal by Cutler (four total) and two from Gianna Onofrio before the Red Devils added their second and final tally with a minute-and-a-half left to play.

“Sawyer had a really nice game today, which is awesome for her,” said Sportini. “She needed that.”

Emma Ogden was next with three goals (one assist) for Barlow. Candee (two assists), Walsh, Onofrio, Crawford, Lippoth, Fellows, Allie Ogden (one assist), Ruby Ludwig, Sophia Sgritta and Helena Glatzel also scored.

Now 6-6 overall, the Falcons start the SWC playoffs on Tuesday against an opponent and at a time to be determined. ■

Thank you to our advertisers

August West Chimney

Bethel Power Equipment

Bill Whitehead and John Talley, Realtors

Coldwell Banker Realty

GRASP

Law Offices of Elizabeth Edwards

Homefront Farmers

Meadow Ridge

New Pond Farm Education Center

Redding Land Trust

Ridgefield Independent Film Festival

Svanda Painting

BHHS

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Country Homes, Equestrian Estates, Land

THINKING OF SELLING IN THE SPRING? NOW IS THE TIME TO START PLANNING. REACH OUT TO US FOR A COMPLIMENTARY VALUATION OF YOUR HOME

Bill Whitehead, REALTOR®

203.606.8536 | WilliamWhitehead@bhhsne.com

John Talley, REALTOR®

203.947.1057 | JohnTalley@bhhsne.com

Local Knowledge

Seamless Transactions

Personalized Service

Market Insights

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

New England Properties

New York Properties

Hudson Valley Properties

456 MAIN STREET, RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877

A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC.

Falcons snap losing streak

Boys tennis | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Barlow’s Chris Gagliardi defeated Bethel’s Simon Pepitone 6-0, 6-0 at first singles on Wednesday, May 7.

A strong performance in its last two matches snapped a bit of a skid for the Joel Barlow High boys tennis team.

The Falcons, who had lost four straight matches, righted themselves when they hosted New Milford on Friday, May 2. After splitting the singles matches, they swept the doubles contests for a 5-2 win.

Chris Gagliardi got the win for the Falcons in the No. 1 singles spot, defeating Peter Wolfe 6-1, 6-4 in straight sets. Two of the remaining singles contests went to three

sets before a winner was decided.

At second singles, the Green Wave’s Miles Wolfe held on to win the opener after a tiebreaker against Charlie Cruz before dropping the second. He then took the third and the match with 7-6 (7-5), 1-6, 6-1.

Barlow’s Austin Cameron needed three sets to beat Matt Hayes. After dropping the first set, he dominated the next two for a 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 win.

The No. 4 spot went to the visitors, with Marco Spinetti defeating Tyler Marshall 6-3, 6-2.

The Falcons had an easier time at doubles, winning all three matches in straight sets. Rohan Venugopal and Lucas Perales-Hudson posted 6-1, 6-2 scores to defeat David Matos and Patrick Quinn in the top spot.

Teaming up at second doubles, Dan Marin and Luke Janny defeated Lucas Wong and Eli Wolfe 6-3, 6-3. Graham Ollendorf and Tony Cortina gave up only two games in a 6-2, 6-0 win over Sigge Dahl and Syed Shah at third doubles.

It was a more decisive victory for the Falcons when they hosted

Continued on page 5

Learn the rules of the road at Bicycle Safety Rodeo

By Pamela Brown



Photo courtesy of the Kiwanis Club of Danbury

May is National Bicycle Safety Month, and as the weather has started to warm up, more people are getting outside and riding their bikes. The U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration urges everyone to be alert to keep bicyclists safe, and to educate young bike riders before they hit the road.

To help children ride safely and understand the rules and regulations of the road, the Kiwanis Club of Danbury, in partnership with the Danbury Police Department, is hosting a fun and educational Bicycle Safety Rodeo. The event will take place at Rogers Park Middle School parking lot at 21 Memorial Drive on Saturday, May 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Rain date: May 31). The event is for children aged 15 years and younger.

“We have found that some kids know some of the rules, some none of them, and others may have some of the rules mixed up. We believe that it is very important to review all of these skills, and even provide

refreshers,” said Abigail Adams, Chairperson and Board Member of Kiwanis Club of Greater Danbury. “This is a family-friendly event that is free to all participants. It’s a great day of excitement for the kids and we offer a lot of learning. It’s an event designed to help kids ride safely while having a blast.” Attendees can bring any type of road bike that doesn’t require a motor.

The event will be full of activities that focus on helping kids practice their skills, including a bicycle obstacle course that will highlight essential safety rules, a repair area to check and fix bikes, and information stations.

“We provide several stations for each participant to move through. The first is the helmet-fitting station. We check to make sure all helmets fit appropriately, and if a child does not have one, a helmet will be provided free of charge,” explained Adams. “The next station is the bike check. Here, we check the bike for condition and basic fit. If necessary, we provide basic

maintenance such as tire inflation, chain reset, seat height, etc.” This year, the Bicycle Center, a family-friendly bike shop located in Brookfield, will have its professionally-trained technicians on-site. Once the bike has earned a safe-bike check, the participants move on to the obstacle course to learn valuable skills and rules. Riders can go through the course a few times to sharpen their skills. According to Adams, the first part is a verbal reminder of the rules and a refresher of all hand signals, and then the riders traverse the obstacle course that will be manned by Kiwanis volunteers and officers from the Danbury Bike Police. “The bike riders stop at stop signs, weave through cones, yield to other cyclists, and more. Last year several participants came with training wheels and left without!” she said.

The Kiwanis Family Safety and Bike Rodeo Day was first established in 1994 by the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute at Tufts Medical Center. The Kiwanis Club of Danbury has hosted the event several times in the past.

In addition, the event will feature a bouncy house for extra fun along with special appearances by the Danbury Fire Department and Danbury Emergency Medical Services. Kids will be able to touch, tour, and sit in the emergency vehicles and learn about general safety. Food trucks, including Grounds Donut House and the Danbury Police Ice Cream Truck, will be on site. LesserEvil will be offering free snacks.

“We want all of the kids to be safe riders and be comfortable with the rules of the road, and we want them to learn and practice these in a safe and super fun environment,” said Adams. “The event is always a day of excitement and learning.” ■

AugustWest Chimney, LLC

Making Redding's Chimneys Safer Since 1973

www.AugustWestChimney.com

203-226-0416

Students join world’s largest exercise class



Photo by Anne Young Albanese

Kate Merritt’s second-grade class participated in ACES (All Children Exercise Simultaneously) on May 7 in the hallway in front of Redding Elementary School’s office. This worldwide program was developed in 1989 to encourage children to exercise together and promote health and fitness. The annual event occurs on the first Wednesday of May, coinciding with National Physical Fitness and Sports Month and National Physical Education Week. Millions of children participate, making it known as “The world’s largest exercise class.”

“She gets her students to think like scientists” New teacher recognized by Connecticut Science Teachers Association

By Anne Young Albanese



Sydney Collentine

Sydney Collentine, a seventh-grade science teacher at John Read Middle School, has been awarded the 2025 Ralph and Ruth Yulo New Teacher Award from the Connecticut Science Teachers Association (CSTA). The award recognizes Collentine as a new teacher who has shown promise in education.

Educators considered for the honor must be in their first three years of the teaching profession and currently teaching science in a K-12 classroom. Collentine was recognized for “remarkable achievement, accomplishment, and promise as a science teacher.”

According to the CSTA, Collen-

tine inspires students to question and appreciate natural phenomena. She continuously seeks out ways to reflect on and improve instructional practices. She designs learning opportunities, showing interdisciplinary connections between science and other subjects. She also demonstrates an openness to learning from others, including students, parents, and colleagues. Finally, she implements lessons that encourage students to observe and question.

“This award is well deserved,” said John Read Middle School Principal Jennifer Desmarais.

“Sydney designs engaging lessons. She gets her students to think like scientists. Although new to the profession, Sydney has been asked to present at local professional learning events. Our students are lucky to have such a caring and dedicated teacher.”

Collentine has worked at John Read Middle School for nearly three years. She graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University. She also coaches the New Fairfield High School varsity field hockey team. She is the daughter of Judy Collentine, who has taught in Redding for more than 20 years. ■

Four students recognized with Western Connecticut Superintendents Award

By Anne Young Albanese

Every spring, the Western Connecticut Superintendents Association (WCSA) invites each member district to choose two middle school and two high school students from their area schools to receive the Western Connecticut Superintendents Award. Lianne Goldman and Scarlett Wood were selected from John Read Middle School and Owen Fellows and Marian (Grace) Blawie were selected from Joel Barlow High School.

The award extends beyond academics. While academic prowess is essential (related to ability), other factors recognize these students as well-rounded individuals. The award focuses on students’ service to the community and leadership activities.

Easton, Redding, and Region 9 Superintendent Dr. Jason McKinnon identified unique aspects for each student in his nominations. He has shared these with the *Sentinel*.

John Read Middle School Award Recipients

Lianne Goldman

“Lianne is new to JRMS this year and has easily transitioned to her new school. Her voracious reading, scholarly work, and collaborative spirit have earned her this honor. Not only does Lianne show academic strength and leadership skills with her peers, but she also works with a club dedicated to raising funds for education in Uganda and Ghana. In addition, she volunteers at animal shelters. She has a genuine curiosity about the world and her studies. JRMS is

a better place because of Lianne’s presence.”

Scarlett Wood

“Scarlett Wood is an energetic, friendly, conscientious learner whose singing and spunk light up the hallways and classrooms at JRMS. Learning is essential to Scarlett. She leads by example in the time and care she puts forth in our classrooms and the larger community. She is an all-around good human who balances out her academics by playing basketball, taking part in countless musicals, participating in community service, and singing in many concerts, choirs, and competitions. She is close with her family and works hard not to ‘sweat the small stuff’ as she prepares for high school.

Joel Barlow High School Award Recipients

Owen Fellows

Many JBHS parents may recognize Owen Fellows, since he has served as the Region 9 Board of Education Student Council representative for the last three years. McKinnon describes Fellows as “an academically gifted student with a 4.0 GPA in challenging courses. His GPA has steadily risen from 3.87 to 4.38 over his three years, reflecting his dedication to leading. A voracious reader, Owen’s intellectual curiosity extends beyond the classroom. He’s also a debate team captain and state champion, winning on the complex topic of a wealth tax, demonstrating his analytical skills and persuasive abilities. His kindness and

initiative make him a well-rounded and impressive individual. He’s a true leader, both in and out of the classroom.”

Marian (Grace) Blawie

Sentinel readers may recognize Grace Blawie, who was featured earlier this year as an indispensable force in resurrecting the Joel Barlow High School newspaper. According to McKinnon, “Grace is a conscientious and enthusiastic student leader with a bright future. She’s embraced high school, serving as junior class vice president and now senior class president, while also captaining the varsity swim team, demonstrating her commitment and leadership skills. Grace maintains a 3.7 GPA in a rigorous academic program, balancing her extracurriculars with academic excellence. She earned a Commendable score on her Junior Writing Portfolio, a key component of her Diploma with Distinction, which she will receive in June. She consistently demonstrates leadership, initiative, and a genuine desire to contribute.”

The award was created to raise public awareness of local superintendents’ roles and create a meaningful link between them and their students. The winners will receive a Student Award Certificate and formal recognition at an awards ceremony.

The Western Connecticut Association of Superintendents is a subgroup of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), which is focused on improving education in Connecticut. ■

Falcons snap losing streak Boys tennis / continued from page 4

Bethel on Wednesday, May 7. Posting a shut-out in one and just missing one in two others, they cruised to a 6-1 win.

The shut-out came when Gagliardi did not allow a game in a 6-0, 6-0 win over Simon Pepitone. Cruz gave up just a game in each set before defeating Srirama Desiraju 6-1, 6-1.

Just missing a shutout, Cameron swept the first set and gave up a game in the second to beat Jack Woleck 6-0, 6-1. Bethel’s lone victory came at fourth singles with Jason Tegmier defeating Marshall

6-1, 6-0.

Barlow went on to win all the doubles matches in straight sets. Venugopal and Perales-Hudson took the top spot with 6-0, 6-3 scores over Aneesh Amaram and Akhil Sharma.

Barlow’s Marin and Janny came close to sweeping Peter Gardella and Sam Salvestrini with a 6-0, 6-1 win. Things were closer at third doubles with Ollendorf and Cortina holding off Aiden Callinan and Mohammed Arahati 7-5, 6-4.

Barlow, now 5-4, visits Bunnell on Thursday, May 15 at 4:15 p.m. ■

Notes from a neighbor

Ties that bind

By Carter Wiseman

Having served in the military in Germany during the Vietnam War, I still get the occasional, “Thank you for your service.”

It always makes me feel uncomfortable. Largely because of birth and background, I ended up in a job and place that exposed me to no more danger than the same bad driving I would have faced in Norwalk. But some time back I met a man of exactly my age who had been inducted into the Army – as I had – at Fort Dix, New Jersey in 1968. Unlike me, Chris had been sent to Vietnam in the infantry.

Most Americans today would agree that Vietnam was not a “Good War,” as World War II has come to be known. Indeed, it cost some 58,000 American lives, uncounted Vietnamese dead, and lingering trauma for many more; a vanishing few still defend the war as a failed response to the “Domino Theory” of predatory Communism.

Back to my fellow Fort Dix alumnus. I learned that Chris had become an arborist, but of the hard-core breed that spurned bucket trucks and did his work with ropes alone. We connected because many years ago, I had slung a rope over a branch of the oak in our front yard, where it had exposed a generation of our children and their friends to the laws of gravity, but was now in bad shape. With grandchildren arriving, I didn’t want any of them dropping from a rotted hawser.

So, I called Chris for advice. He came over, took one look, and said

that the old rope had to go; it was not safe for our kids or anybody else.

Tree work with ropes is dangerous, and I privately wondered why Chris, who had survived the worst of jungle combat physically unscathed, would choose such a risky line of work. Another vet once told me that survivors of combat sometimes do dangerous things later in life because danger in war is unpredictable, but in jobs like car racing and tree work, they can control the danger and maybe put the bad stuff behind them. That’s not for me to say.

In any case, Chris hauled himself up the oak, severed the moss-encrusted old line, and replaced it with some braided Austrian nylon that would keep a team of ice-climbers safe on Everest.

When our kids came by some days later, they resumed their swinging as usual, knowing nothing of what had passed about the rope. As I watched them, I knew that they could still fall, but not because some rotted hemp broke.

As Chris was gathering up his gear, I noticed that he was wearing a blue baseball cap with some familiar campaign ribbons stitched on the brim. I couldn’t help saying, “Thank you for your service.” He earned it, and I meant it, for both 1968 and 2025.

You may have missed the date, but March 29 was National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Even Chris missed it. ■

NEW POND FARM EDUCATION CENTER

Art Show

JUNE 7-15

11AM - 5PM Daily

Sponsored by:

Meadow Ridge

A Distinctive Lifecare Community

Art Inspired by Nature: New Pond Farm Art Show & Silent Auction

Celebrate the natural beauty of New Pond Farm and the surrounding countryside through stunning local artwork. Enjoy artist demonstrations and fun art activities for all ages.

Special Preview Evening

Friday, June 6 · 6-8 PM

Join us at sunset for a festive kickoff—mingle with artists and fellow art lovers while enjoying a signature cocktail, wine, local brews, and delicious bites. Tickets: \$50 Includes a \$25 credit toward any art purchase.

RSVP by June 3 at newpondfarm.org or call 203-938-2117.

50 years later Vietnam War memories

By Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt



Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt in Vietnam as a war correspondent and photographer.



Hmong Pa'ndau: Hmong stitched escape stories with their needles. This “story cloth” depicts crossing the Mekong River using bamboo - note the person in yellow is drowning.

Could it be 50 years ago that on April 30, 1975, Saigon, South Vietnam fell to the communist forces of North Vietnam, ending in defeat for the U.S. and changing the political dynamics of Southeast Asia and ethnic populations in the U.S.?

It seems like yesterday that Saigon fell; then, neighboring Cambodia fell to Pol Pot and his murderous Khmer Rouge, which in less than five years exterminated at least one – maybe three – million people, particularly anyone with an education, through starvation, hard labor, torture, and execution.

The last of the neighboring countries involved in this conflict to fall to communist rule was Laos: The Kingdom of a Million Elephants and a White Parasol. In this case, tanks didn’t roll in to seize control, but a well-planned take-over of Laos was initiated by disarming soldiers and tricking government officials into concentration camps, called “seminar camps.” On December 2, 1975, the Lao King was forced to abdicate his throne and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic was established. The Royal Family died in one of these “seminar camps.”

I went to the Vietnam War with my generation – not wielding a weapon, but with a typewriter (yes, an Olivetti portable typewriter) and a Nikon camera. I covered the troops and the fighting in South Vietnam, winning awards for my front-line combat coverage and photography. But my destiny would

lie with the fate and tragedy of a remote mountain minority in Laos – the Hmong.

While covering the fighting in South Vietnam, I discovered that Laos was a critical but “secret” theater of the Vietnam War. The communist North Vietnamese Army needed control of northern Laos, Hmong homelands, so it could move men and materiel through Laos to South Vietnam via the Ho Chi Minh Trail supply route to fight U.S. and South Vietnamese forces.

To me, reporting on the “secret war” in Laos was important – and a challenge. Covering northern Laos was forbidden (or “embargoed”) for journalists. I pieced together what was going on by learning to “read between the lines,” listening to Americans working in Laos, and even watching as American fighter jets returned to Thai airbases without attached ordinance much too quickly to have made it to North Vietnamese airspace. I did manage to publish some articles on the fighting in northern Laos and got in serious trouble with U.S. Defense authorities.

The Hmong alliance with the U.S. began in 1962 when President Kennedy reached a Geneva-negotiated “deal” to keep Laos “neutral” and out of the regional fight for control that was taking place between the Soviet Union and China and the U.S. and its allies. The Geneva Accord of July 23, 1962 declared the neutrality of Laos by stating that the 14 signatories, in-

cluding the Soviet Union, China, North Vietnam, and the U.S., would refrain from direct or indirect interference in internal affairs, and that no foreign troops could be housed or operate there. The U.S. made an attempt to keep its end of the neutrality deal while other countries continued operations there. When the Kennedy administration realized that its adversaries had not withdrawn their forces, Kennedy’s CIA covertly recruited, trained, and armed Hmong to be the American “boots on the ground” in Northern Laos.

The Hmong, under Hmong General Vang Pao, would become a guerrilla blocking force against the North Vietnamese Army invaders. And significantly, Hmong would serve as defenders of a hi-tech aviation guidance system atop a mountain called Phu Pha Thi – code-named LS 85 – that strategically and precisely directed U.S. bombers and fighter pilots to their North Vietnamese targets regardless of weather or time of day. Hmong also became spotter pilots for U.S. strike aircraft in Laos, Ho Chi Minh Trail watchers, pilots of T-28 bomber aircraft, and were tasked to rescue American pilots downed in Hmong territory.

All of this was done at great sacrifice by the Hmong. While Americans didn’t know about this U.S. “secret war” and its alliance with the Hmong, those whom the Hmong were fighting knew and vowed revenge.

After the Communist take-over in Laos, revenge came quickly and deadly to those allied with the U.S., supporters and officials of the Royal Lao Government, and the Lao Royal Family. The new Communist Lao government even announced on national radio that when they found any former U.S. or Royal Lao Government allies, they would “wipe them out.”

As word trickled out about the atrocities taking place in Cambodia and Laos, I decided to return to the area to investigate – focusing on the refugees from Laos, particularly the Hmong – who had sought sanctuary in northern Thailand refugee camps.

As fate would have it, the English language *Bangkok Post Newspaper* agreed to run my articles based on my interviews with Hmong survivors who had escaped. They described in great detail their treacherous and deadly treks to escape Laos.

Then this happened: I witnessed a massacre of Hmong refugees trapped on a sand bar in the middle of the Mekong River. Helpless to do anything except record the details of what I was witnessing, I made the commitment to record my interviews, to document everything with photos, and to preserve what I was witnessing and what I was learning from the survivors.

Thus was born my book *Tragic Mountains: The Hmong, The Americans and the Secret Wars for Laos 1942-1992* which includes interviews with over 1,000 people, including some 500 Hmong involved in this “secret war.” Hmong shared stories of their fighting days and their consequent fleeing and surviving at horrific costs to themselves, their comrades, and their families.

As the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War is remembered, I opened *Tragic Mountains* to re-read the heroic stories of children, women, and men who somehow managed to find a way to survive to tell their stories.

Now decades later, Hmong who resettled in the U.S. officially as political refugees have been hugely successful after some years of struggling to adjust to ways totally different from their remote mountain villages.

In those early days of Hmong

resettlement in the U.S., I was keenly aware that for resettlement to be successful, Americans needed to know who the Hmong were and why they were suddenly living in their communities. In the early 1980s, I created a traveling exhibit featuring their intricate and exquisite textiles accompanied by my photos of traditional Hmong life, refugee camp life, and their alliance with the U.S. during the Vietnam War. It was a small gesture, but it was effective, and today there are museums devoted to featuring Hmong textile arts, particularly the story-cloths which depict scenes from Hmong life and history.

While researching *Tragic Mountains*, I was befriended by General Vang Pao, the Hmong leader in the Hmong diaspora communities. I often joined him in travels to various Hmong communities in the U.S. He was a charismatic speaker who always used tribal traditional homilies to make a point, much to the delight of his fellow Hmong. He had several themes he always talked about. Two I remember clearly: get off welfare and get a job; and, you must keep your children in school, because education is the future for the Hmong in America.

Much has happened in the American Hmong community since Hmong refugees first came here in the late 1970s. On May 15, 1997, a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery was dedicated to honor the Hmong soldiers of the “U.S. Secret War in the Kingdom of Laos.” May 15 has become a special Hmong day, as Hmong gather each year at Arlington to remember those fallen in defending freedom and to reflect on the fall of the Hmong base at Long Chieng and the horrors that followed. During this time, General Vang Pao, outfoxing enemy forces and capture, made it out of Laos. He was never able to return to his mountain homeland. He, too, became a refugee – and the leader of the Hmong in exile.

In addition, after years of lobbying by Hmong veterans and their friends, in 2018 Congress approved legislation that allows Hmong and Lao veterans who served in support

Continued on page 8

MUSIC NOTE

Six decades of Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra

By Pamela Brown

For 60 years, Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra (RSO) has brought a diversity of beautiful music to Fairfield County.

“Live professional symphonic music is powerful. It evokes emotion and memories, it’s thought-provoking and inspiring, and it creates individual and shared experiences for all audience members. Music can connect us across generations and unite diverse audiences in ways nothing else can,” said Laurie Kenagy, who is serving in her 10th year as Executive Director.

On May 17 at 7:30 p.m., RSO is celebrating its long history with The Eras Gala at the Ridgefield Playhouse, which will feature music the orchestra has performed over the last six decades. The pieces will include selections by Mozart, Ives, Glinka, Dvorak, Gershwin, and Copland, concluding with “Peter and the Wolf” by Sergei Prokofiev, which was performed at the RSO’s very first concert in 1965. “The Gala will be an exciting evening of historical reflection but also inspiration for the future,” said Kenagy. “It’s an acknowledgement of the value our community places on the arts and live musical performance being local and accessible.”

Every year, RSO presents four to five large orchestra concerts, six to eight smaller chamber performances, and outreach to students through public schools and to seniors in senior living, low-income housing residences, and through library programs. Proceeds from the Gala will support RSO’s performance and outreach programming.

RSO is comprised of about 50 “core” members who have tenure, along with substitute musicians who join for larger concerts. Occasionally, RSO rehearses at Meadow Ridge’s auditorium, which they are doing as the group prepares for The Eras Gala. “We have a wonderful relationship with Meadow Ridge,” said Kenagy. “It’s a wonderful large space, and we welcome their residents to join the rehearsals as our audience. The residents are music savvy and appreciate not only hearing the music, but also watching the rehearsal process.”

According to Kenagy, RSO’s high artistic quality is thanks to its outstanding musicians and a long list of music directors who have led them over the years, starting with local musicians Bill Rodier and Sal Princiotti during the group’s first five years.

“In 1970, the organization hired Music Director Beatrice Brown, a groundbreaking female conductor whose 25 years with the RSO left a legacy of a fully professional orchestra of high artistic quality,” said Kenagy. “The four music directors who have followed – Sydney Rothstein, Gerald Steichen, Yuga Cohler, and our current director Eric Mahl – have all put their stamp on the orchestra and continued to raise its artistic level.”

The organization has gone through administrative evolutions as well, being run by volunteer board members for the first four decades before a professional staff took over in the late 2000s.

“The longevity is also due to the support of our patrons in the regional

community that the RSO serves,” Kenagy noted. “It’s exciting thinking how much has changed in 60 years and yet how much support and enthusiasm has had to exist for a long time for a small town to support a fully professional symphony orchestra. It’s also wonderful to think that what the RSO was doing six decades ago, presenting performances of great classical music, is still valued by our community today.”

Looking ahead, RSO is focused on growth by doing what they do best.

“We want to continue to present great music – both staples of the classical genre and contemporary works – develop new audiences through creative orchestra programming and collaborations with other arts and cultural non-profits, and keep classical music relevant in current society and in our local community by emphasizing the importance of the arts and music in all our lives,” said Kenagy. “We encourage people to attend The Eras Gala to support a professional performing arts organization that has been a valuable part of our community for six decades and to share in celebrating the RSO’s future.” ■

For more information, visit ridgefieldsymphony.org/eras-gala



Law Offices of
ELIZABETH A. EDWARDS, LLC

Experienced, caring, effective representation

Real Estate Divorce/
Family Law

Probate/Estate
Corporate/Business

203-544-9945

P.O. Box 936, Georgetown, CT 06829 462 Danbury Road, Wilton, CT 06897

www.eedwardslaw.com

Scam aware
Understanding and avoiding the Medicare phone scam

By Anthony Freyberg

Medicare Open Enrollment is the time when seniors find security enrolling in the coverage that is right for them. It runs annually from October 15 – December 7. So, why are there currently so many Medicare phone scams happening? I actually received one as I was writing this column.

That’s the 11th one in the last two weeks.

Medicare phone scams are unfortunately common year-round for a few key reasons. Scammers have a constant and vulnerable target audience – seniors. They’re likely to be enrolled in Medicare, and scammers can exploit the inherent confusion about supplemental plans, such as Medicare Advantage or Part D plans. The main objective of this fraud is to trick seniors into revealing their Medicare ID numbers and other personal information. The scripts these unscrupulous scammers use vary slightly, but usually begin with a woman inquiring about your age and current Medicare status. She then confirms your eligibility for free benefits including dental and medical equipment and forwards the call to her “enrollment agent” (the closer) to complete the enrollment. What follows are the

usual demands for immediate action and other pressure tactics.

These fraudulent calls come from various domestic and international sources, making it difficult for authorities to shut them down. Some have been traced back to organized crime rings operating overseas. The most important thing to do to avoid these scams is always to refuse to give out personal information to anyone over the phone or online unless you’re sure you know who you’re talking to. Medicare will never call you to verify personal information. We’re all vulnerable to these frauds, regardless of age, income, education, or intelligence. It’s a good idea these days to practice radical skepticism whenever you’re asked for money or personal information.

An organization called Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) helps those on Medicare learn how to detect fraud and abuse. To report a possible instance of fraud or abuse, call the SMP nationwide toll-free number at (877) 808-2468. ■

If you any questions or wish to share your own experience with a scam to be covered in this column, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org



Mark Twain Library
June 5, 2025
5-7pm

Appetizers & good company
Prizewinners announced
Juried photographs showcasing
Redding’s Open Space across the seasons

Free registration required at
rltphotoshow.eventbrite.com

The Redding Land Trust Photography Show will
be on display throughout June 2025.

Special thanks to the Mark Twain Library for their support!
Redding Land Trust | PO Box 1076, Redding, CT 06875
www.reddinglandtrust.org | info@reddingctlandtrust.org

Please join us at an Opening Reception for the first ever
Redding Land Trust
Photography Show



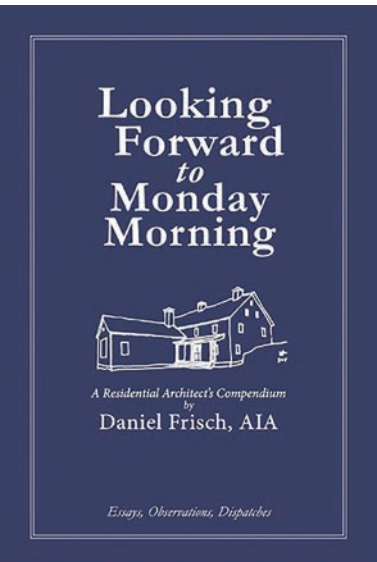
Photo by Long Ellis

BOOK REVIEW

Looking Forward to Monday Morning
A Residential Architect’s Compendium
Essays, Observations, Dispatches

By Daniel Frisch, AIA

280 pages / ORO Editions / \$30



Looking Forward to Monday Morning is architect Daniel Frisch’s collection of professional essays on a main theme: *design is emotional and practical but everybody has to live somewhere – therefore, keep the sometimes-complicated process legible, clear, and human.* Frisch found a suitable format for what he has written. These brief essays of exposition carry a thoughtful architect’s lessons of a professional lifetime. The essays are short enough for the reader to absorb his message but long enough to develop a theme. And his message is current. Frisch shows the reader how problems that architects confront are, by extension, problems that clients confront. He describes an architect’s hands-on experience in business, creative, and personal contexts. As a collection of essays, this book is well-conceived for the layman. It might easily find its way onto private shelves as a reminder of a renovation project or passed around among clients as warning against trying this or that. These essays are packed with information, whether for edification or as caution against a particularly toxic way of thinking. The author gives exposure to ridiculous and sublime aspects of architecture and design. Frisch’s book has potentially broad appeal, mixing popular with professional. We learn that we don’t know as much about the subjects in this book as we wish we did, or as we think we do.

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



Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing®

GRASP provides help, compassion, and most of all understanding for individuals who have had someone they love die as a result of substance use.

Redding GRASP Chapter

Meets 7:00PM on the third Wednesday of each month

At The Granite Church

There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is required. For more information or to pre-register, please contact

Greg Kimmet (973) 768-3497 or ReddingGrasp@gmail.com

Visit the GRASP website www.grasphelp.org

LIBRARY CORNER

A hopping good time | By Erin Shea Dummeyer

On Saturday, May 3, under a sunny sky with a lovely breeze, we celebrated the 28th annual Frog Frolic Family Festival! This event has a little bit of everything: food trucks, live music, carnival games, cotton candy, bounce houses, and for the first time this year: a classic car show! But what is most astounding about this event is that it is planned, produced, and executed entirely by a team of volunteers. This true Herculean effort assembles one of Mark Twain Library’s largest fundraisers and the unofficial “Welcome to Spring!” for many people in town. I feel greatly indebted to the volunteers who have worked on this project since the first snowfall. I know my own kids started asking, “When do we leave for the Frolic?” as soon as they woke up in the morning. And I had to smile last Saturday when I overheard a young attendee say to his friend, “This is the best day of my life!” Thank you so much to the volunteers and enthusiastic attendees who joined us last Saturday to support the Library. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is
Director, Mark Twain Library

Good books for good readers | By Margi Esten

If you are just looking for a good book to read, here are a few random favorites to consider: *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. Old family friends of the “perfect” Richardson family attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby and a custody battle ensues. The novel deals with secrets, art and identity, the pull of motherhood, and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster. *The Paper Palace: A Novel* by Miranda Cowley Heller. This very emotional love story follows one day in the life of Elle Bishop, who must make a life-changing decision that has been brewing for decades. The reader, along with Elle, navigates the unraveling of secrets, lies, and a complex love triangle. *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett. An illicit kiss leads to an affair that destroys two marriages and creates a very bitter and reluctantly blended family. It is the story of the six children whose lives were upended and intertwined. *The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin. In 1969 in New York City’s Lower East Side, the four adolescent Gold children visit a mystical woman who is a traveling psychic and claims to be able to tell anyone the day they will die. It really is a family love story exploring past and present generations. *The River* by Peter Heller. Two close college friends embark on a canoe trip in the wilderness and find their friendship being tested by fire (literally), white water, and violence. Beautifully written and terrifying. ■

Nod to the pod
Alternate Realities: A Strange Bet | By Amy Maloof

A one-episode recommendation from a podcast you might love. Host, reporter Zach Mack, feels like his family is falling apart, and his father’s unwavering belief in conspiracy theories is the reason. Always a contrarian who never really fit in with the rest of the family, his dad’s penchant for fringe views has grown exponentially since the pandemic began in 2020, fueled in large part by the radical YouTube communities he’s joined. What is most difficult for his wife and children to understand is his absolute, unshakeable certainty in these ideas. Nothing they say or show him can shift his views even slightly. The family is at a crossroads, completely at a loss for how to move forward. So, father and son make a compelling bet: At the beginning of 2024, Zach’s father makes a list of 10 things he is absolutely certain will happen before January 1, 2025. Both father and son will keep a close watch on the list as the year unfolds, checking in frequently to see where things stand. When the year is complete, there will be a reckoning: For every one prediction that does not come true before the end of 2024, Zach will earn \$1,000 off his dad. If nothing on the list happens, he’ll be \$10,000 richer. Oh! And whoever loses has to say to the other: “I was wrong.” The first episode in a short mini-series of three, I found myself charmed by both father and son. Their love and affection for each other is clear, as is their mutual interest in salvaging a relationship. I also found it helpful to understand what path Zach’s dad took to reach his conclusions. What specific channels and content creators was he watching? What was so compelling about their message? Because I’ve seen people in my own life fall prey to radical messaging, I was hooked from the beginning, so curious to see what would happen to the father’s ideology when his predictions don’t happen. (Because of course they don’t.) You’ll have to hear it to believe it. ■

Redding’s Big Outdoors: Road-walking in Redding / continued from page 1

The route is peaceful and cool on a sunny summer day because of the tree canopy. The walk can be lengthened by crossing Lonetown and walking past Lonetown Farm and the Community Garden then by the Community Center. This add-on allows you to check out progress in the Garden and almost guarantees some pickleball-watching. On the way back to the Post Office, detour onto the Lonetown Marsh Boardwalk for a rest and a bit of bird-watching.

Sanfordtown Road to Route 53 to Sherman Turnpike
Fondly known by neighbors as “Heartbreak Hill,” Sanfordtown Road is better walked down than up. Park at the Old Town House at 23 Cross Highway and head south to reach the start of Sanfordtown. Bear left at the first intersection, where Sanfordtown meets Sherman Turnpike, and continue on Sanfordtown. At the end of the road, turn right onto Route 53 and walk until you reach Sherman Turnpike. Turn right and start the long climb up this unpaved, scenic road. Depending on your lung strength, this loop of almost four miles can take an hour.

Newtown Turnpike to High Ridge Road to Newtown Turnpike
Since the outlet from Newtown Turnpike onto Route 58 was closed, there is less traffic – and that makes this little loop ideal for a brisk walk. Park wherever suits you on Newtown Turnpike between Cross Highway and Route 58; the closer to either end, the longer the walk to High Ridge. Turn onto High Ridge, a cul-de-sac. There’s a bit of a hill, nothing strenuous. Walk the loop and return to Newtown Turnpike to your car.

Seventy Acre Road to Windy Hill Road to Old Redding Road to Mountain Road to Seventy Acre
This four-mile circuit takes you through new and old Redding. It somehow manages to be mostly uphill and, from Mountain Road strenuously so. You can make it longer by taking Umpawaug Road instead of Windy Hill.

Seventy Acre Road to cross Umpawaug Road to Fox Run Road to Diamond Hill Road to Umpawaug Road to Old Redding Road to Windy Hill Road to Seventy Acre
Although this route has you walking on half a dozen roads, it’s only about three miles. To make it longer, add on Archers Lane and Granite Ridge Road and then Quarry Rock Road to make it around three-and-a-half.

Any of these routes should get you into road-walking. Enjoy! Think of the DEET you don’t have to spray all over yourself, and the hiking boots you won’t need to dig out of the closet. ■

50 years later Vietnam war memories / continued from page 6

of the U.S. during the Vietnam War Era to be buried in U.S. national cemeteries. This was considered by Hmong veterans as, at last, recognition of their years of service as the American “boots on the ground” in the “secret war” in Laos. Hmong General Vang Pao is no longer with us, but his vision for Hmong success in America is recognized by the descendants of those who managed to escape attempts to “wipe them out.” Hmong are now lawyers, judges, school superintendents, educators, military officers, farmers, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, historians, poets, mayors, members of Congress, an Olympic gymnast, and a winning female golfer. During 2025, Hmong American communities will host commemorative events to recognize Hmong unique history, resilience to tragedy, and their eventual blooming in American society. ■

Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt is a Redding resident and journalist, photographer, war-correspondent, historian, human rights advocate, and expert on Southeast Asia. She was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 1998 and again in 2000 for her work on behalf of the Hmong people of Laos

Redding Garden Club brightens a blustery day



Photos by Debora DeCarlo Rosa

High winds on Saturday, May 10 didn’t keep gardening enthusiasts away, as the Redding Garden Club hosted its annual Plant Sale for experts and novices alike.

Volunteer firefighter ranks across the state have shrunk by 62.7% / continued from page 1

“We now see a fraction of that. The presence of cancer in the fire service, due to the constant exposure to PFAS [and the presence of] smoking chemicals ... has soured the interest of new applicants,” he said.

Higgins said the strategic plan will look for remedies, though some are obvious.

“We need more to improve training for our firefighters,” he said. “We also need to provide our firefighters with the health benefits and the equipment they deserve. Above all, we must reach this together,

and we have done so. That’s what makes this moment in time so exciting.”

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz said one solution is to do a better job of recruiting women. She noted the state fire marshal and fire chiefs of Hamden and Meriden are women.

“Our Council on Women and Girls here in Connecticut has been holding forums to introduce our fabulous female leaders in the fire service across the state,” she said. ■

This article originally appeared in CT Mirror

THE NATURAL WORLD

The Outside Story: Fantastic fractals

By Michael J. Caduto



Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol

Fractals are sometimes referred to as a “visual representation of math.” They can be observed in the spatial arrangements found in many familiar forms, patterns, and shapes in nature: from the branching of trees, ferns, river systems, and lightning, to the patterns found in leaves, seed-heads, crystals, seashells, snowflakes, clouds, hurricanes, and geologic terrain. The intricate branching patterns of blood vessels and respiratory structures are some intimate expressions of fractals in animals.

As a fractal grows, the pattern replicates itself on a larger scale. The mathematical foundation for our understanding of fractal geometry was laid by the German mathematician, Felix Hausdorff, during his groundbreaking work modeling the mathematics behind geometrical shapes and patterns.

The word “fractal” was first used in 1975 by Benoît Mandelbrot, a French-American mathematician, who described intricate shapes and patterns that repeat even when an object is viewed at different levels of scale. Mandelbrot defined a fractal as, “a rough or fragmented geometric shape that can be subdivided in parts, each of which is (at least approximately) a reduced-size copy of the whole.”

Ferns are among the best and most accessible examples of fractals. The leaves (or fronds) of each fern form the self-same pattern when viewed at any distance or scale. In fact, one of the most well-known formulas in fractal geometry is the Barnsley fern. In his 1988 book, *Fractals Everywhere*, British mathematician Michael Barnsley describes how he created this fractal to simulate the frond of black spleenwort, a common European fern.

The fiddlehead pattern of a sprouting fern is a perfect example of a fractal. The familiar fiddlehead is a classic shape which – along with the similarly spiral-shaped nautilus – has inspired countless works of art and sculpture, from the carved spirals at the tops of violins, to the ingenious spiral staircases in the designs of Spanish architect Antonio Gaudi, and even to the start of the yellow brick road in *The Wizard of Oz*.

The spiral-shaped fiddlehead of a sprouting fern is formed by the petiole, or leaf stalk, as it unfurls into a frond. As the leaf stalk grows, each pinna, or leaflet, at first appears as its own minute fiddlehead. The next time you look at a lacy fern frond, try focusing in gradually closer and you will see how the overall pattern created by the entire frond is repeated in each of the gradually smaller elements that branch off it.

Of course, not all ferns are intricate laceworks. Walking fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*), which is rare in most of the Northeast, has undivided fronds. Other fern fronds, including those of sensitive fern (*Onoclea*

sensibilis), are simple divisions off of the main stem. Fronds of the ethereal maidenhair spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*) have individual pinnae branching off of each striking black stem. The fronds on some ferns, such as long beech fern (*Phegopteris connectilis*) are divided two times, while the most delicate ferns, including evergreen wood fern (*Dryopteris intermedia*), are divided three times.

Two of my favorite examples of how nature weaves the threads of geometry into beautiful green tapestries are the lacy arching fronds of northern maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), which grows in moist, shady woodlands, and the tall, lush bushy masses of royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*) that commonly grows in and along wetlands. Both are found throughout New England.

The variety of shapes among ferns reveals that there are many examples of fractals found in the natural world. These are visually striking expressions of the hidden geometry that lends order to the fascinating forms that we see. As the ferns begin unfurling this season, take a moment to contemplate their patterns and reflect on fractals.

Michael J. Caduto is a writer, ecologist, and storyteller who lives in Reading, Vermont. He is author of *Through a Naturalist’s Eyes: Exploring the Nature of New England*

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

BETHEL
POWER EQUIPMENT

SPRING IS HERE!

Get geared up with the best outdoor equipment to keep your yard in tip-top shape.

bethelpower.com

6 Francis J Clarke Circle | Bethel, CT | (203) 790-5889

Authorized Dealers | Factory-Trained Technicians



& Other Leading Brands



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

Annual Community Tag Sale Friday, May 16 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road Contact mpilato@reddingct.gov or (203) 938-9725	Redding Park and Recreation Pickleball Social Saturday, May 17 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Beginners receive instruction, lunch provided Redding Community Center courts Pre-registration and same-day available 37 Lonetown Road (203) 938-2551 \$	Redding Neighbors & Newcomers Volunteer Meet and Greet Wednesday, May 21 5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. Learn about community volunteering opportunities and build connections Georgetown (Location sent to attendees) reddingneighborsandnewcomers.org R	Want to feature an upcoming event? E-mail us at advertise@reddingsentinel.org for more information.
---	--	---	---

ARTS

Thursday, May 15 – Sunday, May 18 RIFF 2025 – Ridgefield Independent Film Festival Showtimes vary Accessible film festival The Prospector Theater 25 Prospect Street Ridgefield riffct.org \$	Friday, May 16 – Saturday, May 17 Joanna Serenko & Tyler Dale 7:00 p.m. Doors open 8:00 p.m. Show Soulful vocals and masterful guitar work The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org/events \$, R	Tuesday, May 20 Dave Brubeck’s Time Out: A Jazz Landmark – An Evening with Gil Harel 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. An evening of music history Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R	Thursday, June 5 Redding Land Trust 60th Anniversary Photography Show Opening Reception 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Opening reception with catered refreshments Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road rltphotoshow.eventbrite.com R
---	--	--	--

CHILDREN | TEENS

Monday, May 19 Build-It with Bus from RES to MTL 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Build and free play with a variety of materials Grades K-4 Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R	Monday, May 19 DIY Friendship Bracelets 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Grades 5 and 6 Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R	Tuesday, May 20 Topstone Family Story Time 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Weather permitting, hosted by Mark Twain Library and Park & Recreation Department Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R
--	--	--

FUNDRAISERS

Saturday, May 18 JRMS PTA Color Run 8:30 a.m. 1-mile fun run 9:00 a.m. 5k Joel Barlow High School 100 Black Rock Turnpike jrmspta.org/colorrn \$, R	Friday, June 6 New Pond Farm’s Art Show Preview Party 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Preview this year’s art while enjoying cocktails, bites, a silent auction, and live art demonstrations New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R	Monday, June 9 Easton Lions Club Charity Golf Tournament 7:30 a.m. Blackhawk Golf Course 385 Oronoque Lane Stratford E-mail topdown999@gmail.com \$, R	Monday, June 9 Putt Fore Paws – The Joyce Allen Memorial Golf Tournament 11:00 a.m. Proceeds support Danbury Animal Welfare Society (DAWS) The Redding Country Club 109 Lonetown Road dawsgolf2025.givesmart.com \$, R	Saturday, June 14 Gallop for Good: A Night at the Farm 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit The Serenity Project Marchant Farm 55 Chestnut Woods Road theserenityprojectct.org \$, R
--	--	---	---	---

NATURE

Sunday, May 18 Homefront Farmers Plant Sale 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Certified organic seedlings Nod Hill Brewery Biergarten 137 Ethan Allen Highway Ridgefield homefrontfarmers.com/plant-sale	Sunday, May 18 New Pond Farm Open Day 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Visit and learn about the Farm’s programming New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org	Sunday, May 18 Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company Plant Sale and Swap 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org/events
--	--	---

Tuesday, May 20

Floral Workshop: Fairy Garden Arrangements
12:00 p.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. Workshop
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road
RSVP by May 13 to mstillman@reddingct.gov or (203) 938-9725
\$, R

Saturday, May 24 – Monday, May 26

Open Farmhouse Plant Sale & Cafe
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Heirloom and organic plants and seedlings and a pop-up café
Open Farmhouse
11 John Read Road
openfarmhouse.com

Saturday, May 31

Highstead Open House
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Open to the public for self-guided tours
10:00 a.m. Old Growth Forest Presentation
1:00 p.m. Moss Walk
127 Lonetown Road

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Friday, May 16

Annual Community Tag Sale
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
Contact mpilato@reddingct.gov or (203) 938-9725

Saturday, May 17

Redding Park and Recreation Pickleball Social
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Beginners receive instruction, lunch provided
Redding Community Center courts
Pre-registration and same-day
37 Lonetown Road
(203) 938-2551
\$

Wednesday, May 21

Redding Neighbors & Newcomers Volunteer Meet and Greet
5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
Learn about community volunteering opportunities and build connections
Georgetown
(Location sent to attendees)
reddingneighborsandnewcomers.org
R

Thursday, May 22

Barlow Palooza
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Celebration of ER9 student accomplishments
Joel Barlow High School
100 Black Rock Turnpike
er9.org

Saturday, May 24

Memorial Day Parade
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
From Redding Elementary School to Old Town House
reddingct.gov/events

Saturday, May 24

Memorial Day Picnic
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Biergarten, food trucks, games, music
Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton
170 Cross Highway
\$, R

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish 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, May 16
Campfire Shabbat
6:30 p.m.
82 Portland Avenue
templebnaichaim.org

MEETINGS

Thursday, May 15

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

Thursday, May 15

Redding Fire District #2 Annual District Meeting
7:00 p.m.
306 Umpawaug Road

Monday, May 19

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

Tuesday, May 20

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

Tuesday, May 20

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

Tuesday, May 20

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

Tuesday, May 20

Zoning Board of Appeals
7:00 p.m.
Viirtual

Wednesday, May 21

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

Tuesday, May 27

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

Tuesday, May 27

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

Tuesday, May 27

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

Wednesday, May 28

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

Monday, June 2

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

Monday, June 2

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

Tuesday, June 3

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

****Town Offices will be closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day.**

Prestige. Pedigree. Power.
THE GLOBAL LUXURY DIFFERENCE



COLDWELL BANKER
REALTY



Alexis Bennett
203.313.3110



Marilyn Caravetta
203.512.1822



Kim Cuniberti
203.733.6976



Mary Dent
203.715.8584



Tim Dent
203.470.5605



Donna DiBartolo
203.858.0597



Susan Dolan
203.733.7303



Margi Esten
203.241.8453



John Frey
203.240.0624



Liz Furrer
203.733.0678



Debbie Gore
203.417.5692



SOLD | 9 DAYS ON MARKET
3 QUARRY ROAD | \$1,600,000
LISTED BY: TIM DENT



SOLD | 64 DAYS ON MARKET
47 CHESTNUT WOODS ROAD | \$1,295,000
LISTED BY: MARGI ESTEN



Joanne Grasso
203.733.9344



Jefferson Guthrie
203.788.9400



SOLD | 52 DAYS ON MARKET
18 GOODSSELL HILL ROAD | \$1,094,000
LISTED BY: MARILYN SLOPER



SOLD | 197 DAYS ON MARKET
59 SIDECUT ROAD | \$900,000
LISTED BY: ALEXIS BENNETT



Carol Hanlon
203.240.1233



Sharon Hoverman
203.733.5073

FULFILLING THE DREAM OF HOME SINCE 1906

From classic colonials to modern estates, these recent Redding, CT sales successfully brokered by our Coldwell Banker Redding REALTORS® capture the essence of the town's diverse housing market.

Our luxury sales now total over \$220 million a day, featuring properties that blend high-end design with everyday comfort. From elegant penthouses to sprawling estates and equestrian properties, each home offers a unique take on upscale living.



Jodi Langford
203.733.8804



Charlie Knoche
203.731.7770



Heather Lindgren
646.932.4075



Peter Lunde
203.829.0230



Heather Payne
203.470.7069



Anne Schmiedel
203.470.9159



Marilyn Sloper
203.770.6240



Adrian Voss
203.241.7957



Tim Martin
SVP of Mortgage Lending
NMLS 16273
GRARate.com/TimMartin
✉ tim.martin@grarate.com 📞 (203) 917-2800

THE
TIM MARTIN
team



Equal Housing Lender Tim Martin NMLS #16273. Guaranteed Rate Affinity, LLC is a subsidiary of Guaranteed Rate, Inc. NMLS #1330642. For licensing information visit nmlsconsumeraccess.org. Equal Housing Lender. Conditions may apply.



Joseph Porricelli Branch Vice President
203.515.6310
joe.porricelli@cbrealty.com
Ridgefield Office 398 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877 | 203.438.9000
Redding Office 16 Old Mill Road, Redding, CT 06896 | 203.544.9591



COLDWELLBANKERHOMES.COM

