

REDDING SENTINEL

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REDDING, CONNECTICUT

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Redding to receive 7.4% boost in State aid

By Stephen Busemeyer

The State budget for the next fiscal year includes nearly \$280 million in aid to towns, with about \$100 million in one-time aid for non-education programs and \$180 million for schools that communities could expect year after year.

Governor Ned Lamont, who negotiated the budget with legislative leaders and is expected to sign it, said it would stipulate that municipalities that already have set their local budgets can re-open those documents and use the extra State aid to lower taxes if they choose.

Redding received \$910,538 in State aid in the current fiscal year. It stands to receive \$67,618 in supplemental aid in fiscal year 2027 (an increase of 7.4%), including \$48,331 in supplemental municipal aid and \$19,287 in supplemental education aid. ■

This data was compiled by CT Mirror



Photo by Susan Clark

Viburnum begins to bloom on Sanfordtown Road as the gardening season gets underway. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Voters say "yes" to budgets

By Jessie Wright

With 7.7% of registered voters casting a ballot in the Tuesday, May 5 budget referendum, all five items under consideration were approved. These include the fiscal year 2026-27 operating budgets for the Town of Redding, Redding Board of Education, and Redding's share of Region 9 School District, as well as three other expenditures for capital projects.

Voters passed a combined 2026-27 annual budget of \$59,473,583 (including the Town Operating Budget at \$18,453,366; Redding Board of Education Budget at \$27,570,525; and Redding's share of the Region 9 School District Budget at \$13,449,692) by a 2:1 margin, with 331 votes for and 169 against. The combined budget represents a 4.83% increase over the current fiscal year.

The Region 9 School District budget, which totaled \$27,226,097, passed with 336 for and 166 against. Easton voters also approved the Region 9 School District Budget.

Redding voters also approved an expenditure not to exceed \$2,208,000 to include road improvements (\$1,400,000), Town facilities improvements (\$488,000), Public Works equipment (\$120,000), and a Public Safety CAD/RMS systems upgrade (\$200,000) by a margin of over 4:1.

They gave the green light to an expenditure of \$482,376 for Redding Board of Education school facilities improvements by a margin of just over 2:1.

Finally, an expenditure of \$220,000 was approved for Georgetown Sewer Plant facilities improvements by a 3:1 margin.

Of the 6,560 registered voters in Redding, only 502 cast a ballot, with 13 voting through absentee ballot. There was no early voting. The turnout rate of 7.7% was lower than last year's referendum, which was roughly 9.7%. Turnout in 2024 was 6.7%, and 2023 was 14.8%.

The Board of Finance met Tuesday evening and unanimously approved setting the 2026-27 mil rate at 30.47, a 3.15% increase. They also unanimously approved funding the expenditures on ballot items three, four, and five through the unassigned fund balance.

To determine your real estate taxes for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2026, multiply the mil rate by the assessed value of your property. ■

REDDING'S BIG OUTDOORS

The Outside Story

Wild oats: A bashful bellwort for spring

By Colby Galliher



Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol
Look for wild oats on your next springtime hike

On a recent walk through a woodland strewn with underfoot color, my rapt gaze floated, like a bumblebee queen on her first foray after winter, from trout lilies to trilliums to spring beauties, all blooming across the forest floor and exulting in the sun shining through the leafless canopy. Standing out is hard among such a flashy crowd, especially for one particularly understated spring ephemeral: sessile-leaved bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*), known more commonly as wild oats.

While the flowers of many of wild oats' transient companions angle upward or outward to soak in all the sunrays they can before the canopy closes with leaf-out, wild

oats hangs its head. Each plant, which grows up to about a foot tall in colonies in open woodlands with dry or moist soils, bears only one cream-colored flower. The delicate one-inch-long droop of six petals points toward the ground, like it might be ashamed of its beauty – or, as Henry David Thoreau more eloquently put it when describing wild oats in 1853, "as if unworthy to face the heavens." This single flower also sometimes hides within the whorl of the plant's leaves, adding to its bashful air.

"Bellwort" comes from the flower's bell shape, but another likeness inspired the name of wild oats' genus: *Uvularia* for the flower's resemblance to the human uvula, a similarity that also gave rise in times past to the belief that wild oats and other bellworts could help treat throat ailments. Another of wild oats' common names, straw lily, refers to the way the leaves alternate on the stalk, reminiscent of the lilies commonly grown in gardens (genus *Lilium*).

More hints for identifying wild oats can be found in its scientific name. Two other members of the species' genus, large-flowered bellwort (*U. grandiflora*) and perfoliate

bellwort (*U. perfoliata*), occur in the same habitat in northern New England, though wild oats is the most abundant. The size of large-flowered bellwort's eponymous blooms distinguishes it easily from wild oats, but telling wild oats and perfoliate bellwort apart is a bit trickier.

To differentiate the two, look to their greenery. Wild oats' species name, *sessilifolia*, refers to its stalkless leaves; they are sessile, meaning they attach directly to the plant's stem. The leaves of perfoliate bellwort, meanwhile, surround the stem, so that the stem appears to pierce right through the leaves. The tips of perfoliate bellwort's petals also flare out more than those of wild oats, offering another clue as to which bellwort is before you.

Wild oats, like its ephemeral counterparts, plays an important role in pollinator ecology. When bees emerge in early spring into a still-awakening landscape where nectar and pollen are scarce, wild oats provides an early source of sustenance. Generalist pollinators, such as bumblebees, visit wild oats, and at least one species of mining

Two bridges may not be rebuilt after financial review of project scope

By Rocco Valluzzo

Following site inspections of the four bridges destroyed by the August 2024 storm, the Board of Finance discussed balancing engineering costs, construction schedules, and resident feedback at its Monday, April 27 meeting.

The Board prioritized moving forward with the Sport Hill Road and Long Wall Road bridges to secure potential Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement and meet fall construction bid deadlines. It leaned toward demolition or scaling back plans for those on Greenbush Road and Brookside Road.

There had been initial strong opposition to the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) preference for widening and straightening the road at the Sport Hill Road bridge site, which residents argued would increase traffic speeds near a dangerous curve. Planning Commission members had also expressed concern that the size of the bridge and straightening of the road would run afoul of the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development.

Finance Director Jim Sanders reported that the State has agreed to reduce the proposed bridge width from 24 feet to 22 feet, though this is still wider than the current 18 to 19 foot-structure. He added that with plans at an advanced stage, the Town is unable to pursue further reductions in scope from the CTDOT, without risking the loss of funding. (The Planning Commission ultimately issued a positive referral for the design the following day, thanking State officials for their flexibility.)

As a result of the August 2024 storm, the corrugated pipe beneath the bridge on Long Wall Road will have to be replaced. Based on information from the Town's engineering firm of Tighe & Bond, the project will require replacing the pipe with a concrete structure.

Although the bridge will be wider than the road to accommodate construction staging and residents' access, the primary debate centered on aesthetics. The Board reached a consensus to lower the safety fence from six feet to 42 inches to satisfy community concerns and add Town-managed planting.

The Greenbush Road bridge is considered the most expensive to replace and offers the least economic value. The bridge offers vehicular access to only a handful of properties, and Board of Finance member Robert Dean also highlighted that the current intersection sightlines are hazardous and would require massive reconstruction of Newtown Turnpike to fix. The Board discussed replacing it with a pedestrian-only bridge or simply removing the debris and restoring the riverbed.

"Of the four, I think this is the most expensive bridge, and it makes, to my mind, no economic

Continued on page 10

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POLICE BLOTTER

Police activity from April 20 – May 3

By Donna Christopher

Senior Assassins game

The Police Department has issued a community notice regarding the “Senior Assassins” game reportedly involving members of Joel Barlow High School’s Class of 2026. While described as a long-standing tradition, officials said neither the Department nor the high school endorses participation, emphasizing that safety and preventing public alarm are top priorities.

Residents may see students carrying water guns in neighborhoods or public areas. Police advise anyone who observes unsafe behavior or what appears to be a real weapon not to approach and to call 911, noting that officers will respond and investigate.

Authorities cautioned that although intended as a game, situations can escalate quickly, particularly when realistic-looking toy guns are involved. Officials urged students and families to act responsibly, using brightly colored toy guns. School grounds, businesses, places of worship, and inside homes or garages are off-limits for the game.

Last year, a teenager dressed in dark clothing with a water gun outside Redding Elementary School was charged with second-degree breach of peace after police received a 911 call from “multiple concerned parents.” The youth apologized for the incident and was released with a court date.

Traffic

In 86 motor vehicle stops in the two-week period, there were four summonses, 27 infractions, eight written warnings, and 44 verbal warnings. Police took no action in three instances. Two involved an arrest. The infraction rate was 36%.

Rollover crash likely due to distraction

A juvenile driver was taken to Danbury Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries after being involved in a single-vehicle rollover crash on Newtown Turnpike on April 28. Police received the call at approximately 8:47 p.m., responding to the scene where the vehicle had been traveling northbound, struck several wooden posts, and rolled over into a 10-foot embankment near a riverbank. Preliminary investigation indicates the crash was the result of driver distraction. The vehicle sustained significant damage and was towed from the scene.

Vehicle crosses into opposite traffic in Route 7 crash

A Route 7 crash on May 1 involving two vehicles left both drivers injured. The incident occurred on Ethan Allen Highway when a northbound vehicle crossed into the southbound lane and collided with an oncoming vehicle. Both drivers received medical attention at the scene, and one was taken to Danbury Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Both vehicles were significantly damaged and towed from the scene. Police are investigating.

Excessive speed contributes to rollover crash

Police said excessive speed and loss of control were contributing factors in a May 3 serious one-vehicle crash on Black Rock Turnpike around 11:00 p.m. The vehicle left the roadway, rolled multiple times, and came to rest on its side. The driver had to be extracted by emergency personnel and was taken to Danbury Hospital for evaluation. The driver was issued motor vehicle infractions in connection with the crash. ■

Planners give positive referral for Sport Hill Road bridge

By Rocco Valluzzo

With the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) addressing concerns about the design of the new Sport Hill Road bridge, the Planning Commission issued a positive referral to the Board of Selectmen at its Tuesday, April 28 meeting.

Consensus was based on revised designs that incorporate a reduction in road and bridge width as well as some other changes.

The original design from engineering firm Tighe & Bond called for a new, wider bridge featuring two 12-foot travel lanes (24-foot total width) to meet CTDOT minimum requirements and match the southern approach to the bridge. It also featured road straightening as well as leveling. The Commission felt such changes conflicted with the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development.

Project engineer Jonathan Ives of Tighe & Bond negotiated with CTDOT to reduce the road width to 22 feet. In addition, road straightening would be minimized and its original geometry would be maintained as much as possible.

To ensure the aesthetic quality of the bridge, the Commission formally requested the use of natural stone veneer for visible bridge facades and abutments instead of stamped concrete. First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton and Commission members expressed strong opposition to stamped concrete, describing it as “hideous” and “messy.” To manage costs, the Commission decided to request this as a “bid alternate” so the Board of Finance can evaluate the price difference.

The Commission emphasized the need to give credit to the State and engineers for their effort to reduce road straightening. They expressed their appreciation in added language to the referral letter for the willingness of the State to exercise flexibility within the regulations to accommodate local design concerns.

The Commission agreed to cite specific references and reasoning for their request for changes to ensure the rationale is documented for future reference. ■

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that The Georgetown Fire District is selling a 2016 Gray Nissan Pathfinder – VIN Number 5N1AR2MM5GC648750 – with approximately 92,500 miles.

Public inspection will take place on Tuesday May 19 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Sealed bids must be submitted in person at the Georgetown Fire District located at 61 Redding Rd, Redding CT 06896. Sealed bids will be accepted until May 26 at 9:00 a.m.

Bids will be opened on May 27 at 10:00 a.m.

The successful bidder will be required to submit payment and remove the vehicle by June 1 at 3:00 p.m. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the bid award, and the Georgetown Fire District reserves the right to award the sale to the next highest bidder.

The Georgetown Fire District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. ■

William Ely, Commissioner

At a meeting of the Redding Conservation Commission on April 21, 2026, the following action was voted: Modification to Permit #25-09, John & Sharon Ricketts (owners), LandTech Consultants, Inc (agents), 1 Indian Hill Rd. **Approved with conditions** an application for construction of a patio, fence, and crushed stone fire pit within the regulated area.

The above-referenced file is available for inspection at the Redding Land Use Office. ■

David R. Pattee, Chairman

Redding Fire District No. 2 / 306 Umpawaug Road, Redding, Connecticut / Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers in Redding Fire District No. 2 that the Annual Meeting will take place on May 21, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Redding Firehouse at 306 Umpawaug Road in West Redding, Connecticut. The following issues will be discussed and/or voted on:

1. To consider and take action upon the reports of the District Officers.
2. To consider and take action upon the recommendations of the Commissioners that the sum of \$684,192.00 be appropriated for the annual budget of Redding Fire District No. 2 for the fiscal year of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.
3. To establish a Mill Rate of 1.147 based on the Grand List of \$596,722,860.00.
4. To consider and take action upon the recommendation of the Commissioners that up to \$60,000.00 from the Capital/Apparatus Replacement line be used to purchase and install a new backup emergency generator and associated equipment.
5. To elect District Officers; Treasurer for a 3-year term and to elect one District Commissioner for a 3-year term. Positions commencing on July 1, 2026.
6. To do all legal and necessary matters to accomplish the above listed items and take action that may legally and properly come before the meeting.
7. Questions and comments from the public may be limited to a five-minute discussion. ■

West Redding, Connecticut / Scott Romano, Charles Wells, Ryan Beaudry / Commissioners

Dated May 4, 2026 / Alisha Durgin, Secretary

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Two bridges may not be rebuilt after financial review of project scope / continued from page 1

sense to replace this bridge,” said Finance Chairman Ward Mazzucco. “This might be suitable for a pedestrian bridge, which would be much lower in cost, and I suppose would have some aesthetic benefits.”

The Brookside Road Bridge is currently washed out. While some

neighbors oppose replacement to prevent speeding, the Fire Department and some planners see its value for emergency access to the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill area during floods. Dean suggested a modest, one-way bridge might be a suitable compromise, but the Board agreed to wait for more clarity

on Georgetown’s redevelopment before spending money.

“I wouldn’t personally see a lot of value in replacing this bridge,” said Mazzucco. “And if it is replaced, perhaps not in its current location because of the overall work that will be done in Georgetown.” ■

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Public presentation unveils Georgetown Revitalization plan

By Rocco Valluzzo

The final community presentation by Pirie Associates unveiled a vision plan for Georgetown Revitalization, including the redevelopment of the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill property.

The New Haven-based architectural and landscape firm synthesized feedback from the past year to present a place-based vision that balances historic preservation, environmental restoration of the Norwalk River, and economic vibrancy. The plan emphasizes incremental growth, Town-led development of the Wire Mill site, and significant infrastructure improvements to parking and pedestrian safety.

“A plan is a vision for what’s to come,” Principal Laura Pirie told a crowd of more than 50 at the Community Center on Sunday, May 3. “It’s important, because when you have such an asset as the Wire Mill factory that requires some work to get it ready to be re-envisioned, you need a plan to set a direction, and that’s really been our purpose and our work.”

According to Pirie, the plan will be incremental and strategic, taking anywhere from five to 15 years to complete, ensuring the Town maintains control over the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill property rather than a single developer-led overhaul. The Town can move forward at a rate and a pace with which it is comfortable.

As part of the presentation, Pirie reviewed the three revitalization strategies that she had presented to the public last fall, on which the team received feedback to inform the final selected approach. “Buildings in the Landscape” ended up being the preferred approach, emphasizing the integration of new development into green and open spaces. Key takeaways from a

community survey included strong support for river restoration and a need for better parking to make existing amenities viable.

There was confirmed support for dam modification or removal to restore the Norwalk River flow and create passive recreation meadows.

With respect to housing, a target of approximately 400 residential units was selected to provide the “feet on the street” necessary to support 24/7 local business activity. The plan also prioritizes increasing parking from the current 177 spaces to nearly 950 spaces to support the area’s growth.

While there is community interest in re-establishing the Georgetown Metro-North station, there is significant skepticism regarding infrastructure requirements and realistic implementation. Pirie also acknowledged concerns regarding the loss of “quaint” character and the impact of increased residential density.

“We took our cues in the planning strategies to very much reinforce the character of Georgetown Village and not overwhelm it or change it,” said Pirie. “The Town owns the Wire Mill parcel. So, you’re in control of how that develops and that property will be taken as part of this plan. Any change in parcel development will be done in collaboration with the parcel owners.”

Infrastructure changes include the realignment of the Portland Avenue intersection and the extension of North Main Street to facilitate future parcel development. In the plan, Route 107 will be modified with the addition of on-street parking and narrowed intersections to naturally slow traffic and improve pedestrian safety.

Steve Jacobs of BJH Advisors,

a New York-based real estate advisory firm, provided a fiscal analysis demonstrating that at full build-out (410 units), the project is expected to generate approximately \$4.9 million in annual revenue against \$910,000 in municipal and operating costs, resulting in a significant net positive for the Town. He outlined three primary sources of income for the Town: property taxes (calculated at a 29.54 mill rate), sewer usage fees (\$0.02 per gallon) and tenant rents from Town-owned buildings. To ensure fiscal reliability, a 10% vacancy factor for rentals and “maximalist” engineering metrics for sewer usage was applied.

Based on State data and local comparables, the project is estimated to add 82 students to the Redding school system. The Board of Education vetted a marginal cost of \$5,000 per student, or \$410,000 total. The fiscal impact model also accounts for three new full-time Town employees (Police, Highway and Facilities Departments) to support the increased population with an estimated cost of \$500,000, including salaries and benefits.

“The plan is really designed to strengthen Redding’s tax base with new residential development, new commercial development, in addition to revenue from property taxes and from sewer fees and also, in some cases, rent from Town-owned buildings on the Mill site,” Jacobs said. “We’ve approached this engagement in a fiscally-informed and a market-informed way in terms of careful phasing, so that improvements will be done, and the Town can pursue grants and find private partners.”

Pirie Associates will finalize the master plan for delivery to the

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Region 9 discusses upcoming capital improvements

By Anne Young Albanese

As summer break approaches, the Region 9 Board of Education has determined what capital improvements will take place while the students are out of school. They will be updating some of the bathrooms and classrooms, as well as exploring the addition of collaborative spaces where students can work.

The first bathrooms that will be updated are those in the Library Learning Commons hallway. The cost for these updates will be \$167,215. The second group of bathrooms will be those in the Lower Gym balcony area, for a cost of \$75,985. The third set of bathrooms will be in the E hallway at a cost of \$99,483. The total for bathroom renovations will be \$342,683.

The Board also explored the addition of collaborative spaces and enhancements to classrooms. Collaborative spaces have been used in colleges for decades, but high schools have discovered that they are effective for their students, too. The Board has asked district administrators to do additional

research with teachers and students to determine what each classroom could benefit from within a budget of roughly \$434,000. The research will be conducted before the June 19 Region 9 Board of Education meeting. Orders would need to be completed by June 30 to be included in the current fiscal year spending.

The Board also voted to issue a request for proposal (RFP) for a consultant to make recommendations for future capital improvements. If the Board ultimately decides to contract someone to do so, the consultant would visit Barlow to determine what projects are recommended to be done next year, for the next two years, and up to the next 10 years. This would provide guidance for the Finance and Operations Committee as they make their decisions and their recommendations to the full Board. At this point, there is no cost to the district; the RFP responses will help the Board determine if this is something they would like to move forward. ■

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SPORTS

Falcons dominate Green Wave for sweep

Girls tennis | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Abby Dedaj was a 6-3, 6-1 winner at first singles in a girls tennis match against New Milford on Monday, April 27. Barlow swept the competition 7-0 and then defeated Brookfield 5-2 two days later.

Domination went all through the lineup for the Joel Barlow High girls tennis team when it hosted New Milford on Monday, April 27.

The Falcons did not give up a set at singles or doubles. In two matches, they only surrendered one game en route to a 7-0 sweep.

Capturing the win in the number-one spot, Abby Dedaj bested Genesis Edwards-Gillard 6-3, 6-1. Sylvia Calemmo followed suit at second singles, posting a 6-1, 6-2 win over Liv Fedak. At third singles, Molly Lapatine was a 6-2, 6-2 winner over Mariana Mendoza.

Closing out the singles, sweep, Saira Menon defeated Sally Keuper 6-0, 6-0.

Just missing a sweep at first doubles, Jolene Paczek and Chloe Gustavson gave up just one game before beating Melody Hope and Ashley Salvador 6-1, 6-0. Similar scores went to Lidia Santangeli and Sarina Sulzberg, who were 6-0, 6-1 winners over Ngoc Nguyen and Peyton Jaddu. Completing the shutout, Genevieve Currie and Scarlett Wood topped Elizabeth Kern and Sydney Ward 6-0, 6-3 at third doubles.

It was a somewhat closer contest when the Falcons hosted Brookfield two days later. Switching up their lineup a bit, they won 5-2.

Dedaj easily took the first set from Sydney Zaletsky before holding off her opponent in a close second for a 6-1, 7-5 win. The Bobcats, however, won second singles with Sarah Sadler defeating Calemmo 6-4, 6-0.

Lapatine had two close sets in her match with Amalie Bonnefour, sweeping the first 6-0 and then getting a narrow 7-5 win in the second. Barlow would split the singles matches as Brookfield's Olivia Zezza defeated Currie 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles were a different matter, as the Falcons won all three contests. Paczek and Gustavson gave up just one game in each set to beat Chaitra Kosaraju and Jackie Mahan 6-1, 6-1. Santangeli and Sulzberg prevailed at second doubles 6-3, 6-1 over Makaela Borges and Avery Kelly. Wood teamed up with Mia Perlick and they went on to defeated Kate Rosa and Sasha Conterez 6-4, 6-3 at third doubles.

Barlow, now 6-2, hosts Stratford on Friday, May 8, is at Notre Dame Prep on Monday, May 11, and is home to New Fairfield on Wednesday, May 13. All matches are at 3:45 p.m. ■

Strength in singles leads Barlow to victories

Boys tennis | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Austin Cameron returns a shot at fourth singles during a boys varsity tennis match last week. Barlow defeated New Milford 5-2 on Monday, April 27 and held off Brookfield 4-3 two days later.

Strength in the singles matches played a big part in the Joel Barlow High boys varsity tennis team's win at New Milford last week.

The Falcons not only won all four contests, but they also did not give up a game in any of them. Such would decide the outcome of the match as they eventually went on to win 5-2 on Monday, April 27.

Each singles match resulted in a 6-0, 6-0 shutout, including the number-one spot in which Chris Gagliardi swept Syed Shah. Charlie Cruz did likewise at second singles against Ethan Figueroa.

The remaining matches also followed suit. Rohan Venugopal defeated Ali Awrang at third singles, and Austin Cameron completed the sweep at fourth singles by defeating Nicholas Remond.

New Milford, however, had the upper hand in the doubles contests, winning two of three. At first doubles, Patrick Quirk and A.J. White were 6-3, 6-4 winners over Barlow's Luke Janny and Ethan Hart.

Second doubles featured two close sets. Both went to tiebreakers before the Green Wave's Sigge Dahl and Wesley Clark held off Chase Hansen and Quin Jaramillo 7-6, 7-6. Barlow's lone doubles victory came in the number-three spot, when Andreas Pavel and James Wood played two close sets for a 7-5, 7-6 win.

Things were a bit closer when the Falcons visited Brookfield two days later. Every win would count as they held off the Bobcats in a tight 4-3 decision.

Once again, Barlow was dominant at singles, winning three of four matches, two of which were in straight sets. One went to Gagliardi as he defeated Luka Dallaku 6-1, 6-2. Cruz defeated Greg Albin 6-4, 6-3. Third singles featured two close sets when Brookfield's Troy Matheny defeated Venugopal 7-6, 7-6. After posting a shutout in the first set, Cameron defeated Darsh Dave 6-0, 6-4 for the win at fourth singles.

For the second straight match, the Falcons took only one of the doubles contests. This time it was the top spot, in which Janny and Hart defeated Matt Klavans and Dave DeSousa 6-4, 6-3. Hansen teamed up with Wood at second doubles but lost 3-6, 4-6 to Brookfield's Nate Bogues and Micha Haxhinasto. The Bobcats also got the win at third doubles with Aidan Mattozo and Robbie Stauble beating Jaramillo and Jack Fanzo 6-3, 7-5.

Barlow, now 5-3, visits Stratford on Friday, May 8 and is at New Fairfield on Wednesday, May 13. Both matches are at 3:45 p.m. ■

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Joel Barlow sports results and schedules

Baseball

Results:
April 27: Joel Barlow 2 / New Milford 1
April 29: Stratford 2 / Joel Barlow 1
May 1: Bethel 5 / Joel Barlow 3
Record:
Joel Barlow: 5-6
Next games:
May 7: away at Bunnell at 4:15 p.m.
May 9: away at Immaculate at 10:00 a.m.
May 11: home versus Brookfield at 4:15 p.m.
May 13: away at New Fairfield at 4:15 p.m.

Softball

Results:
April 27: New Milford 18 / Joel Barlow 0
April 29: Stratford-Notre Dame Prep 13 / Joel Barlow 11
May 1: Bethel 28 / Joel Barlow 6
Record:
Joel Barlow 3-9
Next games:
May 8: away at Bunnell at 4:15 p.m.
May 11: home versus Brookfield at 4:15 p.m.
May 13: away at New Fairfield at 4:15 p.m.

Boys lacrosse

Results:
April 28: New Fairfield 12 / Joel Barlow 5
April 30: Joel Barlow 11 / Newtown 10
Record:
Joel Barlow: 4-6
Next games:
May 9: home versus Daniel Hand at 12:00 p.m.
May 12: away at New Milford at 6:00 p.m.

Girls lacrosse

Results:
April 28: New Fairfield 11 / Joel Barlow 7
April 30: Newtown 10 / Joel Barlow 9
Record:
Joel Barlow 7-5
Next matches:
May 8: away at Guilford at 6:00 p.m.
May 12: home versus New Milford at 7:00 p.m.

Boys track and field

Results:
April 28: Joel Barlow 93 / Notre Dame Prep 54, Newtown 89 / Joel Barlow 61,

Stratford 98 / Joel Barlow 48
Record:
Joel Barlow 3-6
Next meet:
May 11: home versus Harding, Masuk, and Weston at 4:00 p.m.

Girls track and field

Results:
April 27: Joel Barlow 82 / Notre Dame Prep 51, Newtown 87 / Joel Barlow 62, Joel Barlow 95 / Stratford 40
Record:
Joel Barlow 3-6
Next meet:
May 11: home versus Harding, Masuk and Weston at 4:00 p.m.

Boys volleyball

Results:
April 27: Joel Barlow 3 / Pomperaug 0
May 1: Shelton 3 / Joel Barlow 0
Record:
Joel Barlow: 9-3
Next games:
May 7: away at Newtown at 5:30 p.m.
May 11: home versus Conard at 6:00 p.m.
May 12: home versus New Milford at 6:00 p.m.
May 13: away at Masuk at 6:00 p.m.

Late lead does not hold up for Falcons Baseball

By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Ryan Kelly fields a ground ball at first base during a varsity baseball game against Bethel on Friday, May 1. Barlow lost 3-5.

Some late defensive troubles proved to be the downfall of the Joel Barlow High varsity baseball team when it hosted Bethel last week.

While the host Falcons held a slim one-run lead going into the last inning, they committed three errors in the top of the seventh, allowing the visitors to rally in time for a 3-5 win on Friday, May 1, in a rematch of last season's South-West Conference finalists.

Barlow committed eight errors in the game, including one in the top of the first to help the defending champ Wildcats score their first run. Matt Idelfonso reached first on an error and advanced to third on Logan Fesh's single before stealing home to put his team up 0-1.

Answering in their first turn at the plate, the Falcons went to work when Gavin Maryott led off with a triple to right field. Jimmy Kennedy drove him in on a fielder's choice to tie the game.

Bethel's Brody Kasack led off the top of the second with a single and advanced on a ground out and an error before scoring on a passed

ball. The Wildcats later loaded the bases with two outs before the Falcons got out of the jam, trailing 1-2.

Pitcher Jimmy Kennedy retired the Wildcats in order in the next two innings to set up a Falcon rally in the bottom of the fourth. He helped his cause offensively with a single and later advanced to third, eventually scoring on a passed ball. Ethan Goldstein's RBI single was enough to put his team up 3-2.

Unfortunately, Barlow would not score again for the remainder of the game, even going down in order in the fifth and sixth frames. A single and an error allowed Bethel to tie it in the top of the seventh, and they later loaded the bases before scoring two more runs with the help of two additional errors for a 3-5 lead. A double play from left fielder Goldstein to catcher Drew Gutowski ended the inning.

Although Desmond Kady reached base on an error in the bottom of the seventh, Barlow failed to score.

Barlow managed only four hits against Bethel's pitching. Maryott and Kennedy each had one with the former scoring a run and the latter driving in a run. Goldstein (one hit, one RBI) and Kady also had hits.

Kennedy started on the mound for Falcons, going six innings and giving up two runs (one earned) on six hits, striking out one and walking one in a no-decision. Reliever Kress threw one inning, surrendering three runs (0 earned) on two hits, one strikeout and two walks.

Barlow, now 5-6, is at Bunnell on Thursday, May 7 at 4:15 p.m., visits Immaculate on Saturday, May 9 at 10:00 a.m., hosts Brookfield on Monday, May 11 at 4:15 p.m. and goes to New Fairfield on Wednesday, May 13 at 4:15 p.m. ■

Barlow's Nest project approaches the finish line

By Anne Young Albanese



Photos by Anne Young Albanese

(From top left, clockwise): Joel Barlow Athletic Director Mike Santangeli with three women who helped gather community support for the Nest project, Emily Eubanks, Seana Bedard, and Alexis Bennett; The home locker room includes photos of former Barlow athletes; When the Snack Shack fully opens, this area will be filled with snacks, beverages, and parents selling items to the spectators; Spectators will be able to choose from a variety of food and drinks and enjoy them at outdoor tables once the project is fully complete.

A project that has been years in the making, the Nest building at Joel Barlow High School's athletic fields is nearing completion. The facility is ready enough, however, for home and visiting teams to use the new locker rooms this spring sports season. Spectators now have access to bathrooms, rather than portable toilets, and they can purchase a small selection of snacks from the new Snack Shack.

The project started with a desire for bathrooms at the lower athletic fields that complied with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Barlow Community Booster Club raised funds to contribute to the

development of those bathrooms. The Region 9 Board of Education recognized numerous other issues with the structures that were at the field, and decided that since construction would take place there, it would update the other areas that required renovation as well.

"We are grateful to the Region 9 Board of Education, Redding officials, and residents for following through with this project as well as all of the support throughout," said Alexis Bennett, one of the community drivers of the project.

There are still a few items that are scheduled to fully complete the project. These include approval from

the Redding Department of Health for potable water, a Joel Barlow floor emblem for the team room, another stainless-steel table, twelve shelving units, exterior dining tables, and a donor plaque for a total of \$27,505.98. This will leave a reserve balance of \$23,139 for any additional needs. The Board is hoping to close out the project by the end of this fiscal year and plans to approach the coaches and other community members who use the field for feedback on any updates or changes. If any funds remain once these are put in place, they will be used to pay down the debt for the project. ■

Eagle Scout candidate launches 3D printing workshops

By Rob Sample

Three-dimensional printing is a way to go quickly from a design on a computer to an actual, 3D object. Mateo Jara, a senior at Joel Barlow High School and a member of Redding's Scout Troop 15, launched a series of workshops to introduce the process of 3D printing to children.

The workshops began as a community service project to earn his Eagle Scout designation, but Jara has since continued his offerings and even expanded them to nearby towns. "My project focused on the basics of 3D design and printing," said Jara. "This is a very important thing for kids to know in their development of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) skills."

As a concept, 3D printing has been around for about 45 years. It takes a three-dimensional design and gives it shape by depositing many layers of plastic or metal onto a mold and shaping them into a final object. As with so many other forms of technology, the cost of 3D printing hardware has come down significantly in the past decade – which has made the technology more accessible.

Young people working on STEM projects for school and other projects now use the method in their work. With the idea for workshops in mind, Jara enlisted the support of Johnny Lo, the youth leader at his parish church, St. Patrick. In addition to conducting two workshops, Jara authored a guide for kids on three-dimensional design and printing and a second guide for youth leaders – who could be a teacher or any other adult providing guidance to young people.

The course was divided into two segments: three-dimensional design and three-dimensional printing. "In my opinion, the only way young people can benefit from learning 3D printing is to learn 3D design and modeling first," said Jara.

Jara donated a 3D printer – a Bambu A1 Mini – to the church for the workshops and any future ones he might conduct. He credits the support he got from friends and fellow Scouts in making the program successful. He also credited Lo for assisting attendees and helping facilitate the question-and-answer periods at each workshop.

After the successful launch of the program at St. Patrick Church, Jara began a similar program at Danbury Public Library, entitled "Design to Print."

"The Danbury Library already owned several 3D printers," explained Jara. "However, the programs they had begun in the past had fallen away because of lack of attendance."

The programs Jara conducts there are 90-minute monthly workshops. After he began offering, them, they took off in popularity to the point where each session now attracts sellout-level crowds. Youth



Photo by Johnny Lo

Mateo Jara (standing, in dark blue shirt) assists participants at a 3D design and printing workshop at St. Patrick Church.

who attend are encouraged to work on any design project that interests them. The ultimate result is a 3D product made from hard plastic that can be used by the students or others.

"All of the attendees tell me that they have gained a lot by attending my workshops," said Jara.

Jara himself was part of a Barlow team that participated in a recent Sikorsky STEM Challenge, an annual competition that encourages Connecticut students statewide to help solve design and engineering challenges. The Barlow team, which placed third, developed a softer-landing system for helicopters, which Jara likened to a large sponge. The students were able to land the craft without breaking the payload that was on board: a cabin full of tiny plastic pellets.

Jara was already a 3D-printing aficionado and user before launching his workshops. He is now working on a passion project of his own: A full-size "Captain America" shield. One of his past projects is a device he uses all the time: a cell-phone stand. "I talk a lot on the phone on video, so having the stand provides a place to steady it," said Jara, who intends to study mechanical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute next fall.

Jara was first acquainted with Scouting when he lived in Boston as a small child. His brother, Martin, became a Cub Scout at the time and the younger Jara accompanied him on neighborhood jaunts selling popcorn. He moved to Redding when he was six and signed up for Cub Scouts himself. He's been enthusiastic about Scouting ever since.

"Scouting teaches you some amazing values and life lessons," Jara said. "A lot of the things you learn in Scouting – such as exercise, maintaining your health, and cooking – provide you with skills that will help you out later in life." It's no doubt that the leadership skills he learned in Scouting also gave him the confidence to launch and teach 3D design and printing workshops throughout the community. ■

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Barlow students win awards across range of disciplines

By Anne Young Albanese



National Merit Scholarship Finalists

Yu-Min Cho and Kosta Nani were recognized as National Merit Finalists, two of only 15,000 in the nation. This national program recognizes academic excellence, primarily high scores on the PSAT/NMSQT exams.

Out of 1,300,000 students who take the PSAT/NMSQT, the top 50,000 scorers qualify for program recognition. Out of the 50,000 top scorers, 34,000 students are recognized as Commended Students. These students receive recognition with a Letter of Commendation but are not eligible to continue in the competition for National Merit

Scholarships. The top 16,000 students qualify as National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. These are the highest-scoring entrants from each state. These students are required to complete scholarship application materials.

The top 15,000 semifinalists move ahead as finalists. The top finalists in each state and selection unit will be awarded a National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship. Finalists are also eligible for corporate-sponsored scholarships and college-sponsored scholarships.

Outstanding Arts Awards

The Connecticut Association of Schools recognizes two seniors

from each of its member schools in its High School Arts Awards. This year's Barlow recipients are Kenji Peretz and Chris Gagliardi.

Students are recognized for excelling in visual or performing arts. Along with artistic talent, a student's academic achievements and leadership also are considered. Peretz and Gagliardi will be honored at a banquet with the winners from the other schools.

Howard Swaffield Sportsmanship Award

The Barlow girls basketball team was presented with the Harold Swaffield Sportsmanship Award this season. The award was presented

by Board 9 of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, which represents Fairfield County. The award recognizes basketball teams who demonstrate the best and most consistent level of sportsmanship throughout the season. While the team is the recipient, the honor extends to the Barlow community, as it takes into consideration the behavior of players, coaches, and fans. According to Alexandra Humphry, student representative to the Region 9 Board of Education, "It's an honor to be chosen out of the dozens of schools in the South-West Conference and FCIAC that IAABO9 serves." ■

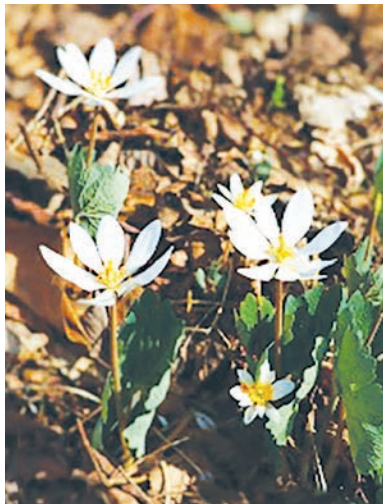
Several Barlow students have been recognized with County, State, and National-level awards as the school year approaches its end. These students have excelled in diverse areas, from academic to arts to athletics.

The Gardening



Springtime plea for native pollinators

Balancing beauty and purpose | By Ilona Struzik



Bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*



Photos by Ilona Struzik
Spicebush blooms, *Lindera benzoin*

Looking around Redding this spring, it saddens me to see so many bright ornamentals. From yellow forsythia to pinkish andromedas, these plants are exactly that: ornamental. They provide little to no nectar, deceive important native visitors, and starve the caterpillars (larvae) of butterflies like our beloved migrating monarchs.

Early spring is a crucial time for insect pollinators waking from their winter slumber. Starving and weak, they need to conserve their energy, yet colorful ornamentals confuse them. They waste precious energy visiting forsythia and daffodils only to find nothing to eat! Many nectar and pollen-poor ornamental plants are useless to our native pollinators like the Common Eastern bumblebee or the critically endangered Rusty-patched bumblebee, considered locally extinct in nearby Maryland. The few non-natives that do provide nectar mostly attract European honeybees, which bully and outcompete our native pollinator species.

Just because a plant has nectar, doesn't mean it supports pollinators. The confusingly named

non-native butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*), feeds adult butterflies, which then lay eggs on its leaves. However, butterfly larvae — including monarchs — cannot eat the plant and will starve. The ideal native alternative that feeds monarch larvae is milkweed. Three varieties are native here in Connecticut: swamp milkweed (*A. incarnata*), common milkweed (*A. syriaca*), and butterfly milkweed (*A. tuberosa*). Another wonderful native is bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*). Its whimsical blooms attract pollinators, including hummingbirds, all summer long and spread beautifully each year.

Driving around Redding, I also see hope! I spot bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), an early blooming native groundcover, and trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*). I also see the shrub spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), a fantastic native alternative to forsythia. It has lovely yellow flowers and thrives in our shady forest understory, growing denser in more sunlight. Spicebush is incredibly resilient, tolerating poor soils, drought, and flooding. This season, I am excited to continue planting more natives

on my property, including early spring-blooming plants. They are vital to Connecticut's hundreds of species of native pollinators and the broader food web. My go-to plant nursery is Earth Tones Native Nursery which is recommended by CT DEEP and the Connecticut Botanical Society. They sell plugs, wild-type plants, shrubs, and trees native to Connecticut and New England.

When it comes to gardening, it is all about balance. It is possible to garden for both beauty and for ecosystem benefit! My focus is removing invasives and maintaining 75-90% native plants in my gardens. I've replaced leaf miner infested boxwood with native inkberry holly and swapped Japanese beetle attracting blue hydrangea for whimsical oakleaf hydrangea. My growingly invasive Japanese maple was swapped for the vibrantly magenta native eastern redbud. I keep some non-natives like daffodils and peonies and make them into fresh bouquets. No pollinator misses them! Just be careful if you do the same, as many ornamentals like daffodils and peonies are poisonous to dogs and cats in your home. ■

Ask The Redding Gardener

By Sean McNamara

Dear Sean,
A gardener friend suggested that I have my sad-looking boxwoods sprayed or injected. Should I?
-Sarah from Newtown

Well, Sarah, your gardener friend means well, but this is one of those times when it pays to slow down and figure out what's really going on first.

Boxwoods are the sturdy, green workhorses of many New England gardens — great for hedges, formal plantings, and they stand up to deer better than most. But they're also a bit like that one relative who attracts every possible ailment. There are several different things that can make them look unhappy, and each one needs a different approach.

It could be **boxwood leafminer** (those tiny orange worms munching inside the leaves, making them look blistered and yellow). Or **psyllids** causing the new growth to cup and distort. **Spider mites** can give them a bleached, dusty look in hot weather. Then there's winter burn from our tough Connecticut winters (the leaves turn brown and crispy on the exposed sides because the plant dries out while the ground is frozen). And worst of all, **boxwood blight** — that nasty fungal disease that's been spreading in recent years, causing black spots, defoliation, and sometimes requiring complete removal.

The important thing is to correctly diagnose the problem before any treatment. Spraying or injecting the wrong thing wastes money and doesn't help the plants. So, here's what I recommend: Take a close look at the leaves and stems. Are there little blisters inside the leaves? Cupped new growth? Webbing? Black streaks on the stems? Snap a few clear photos (or better yet, bring in a small branch sample) and drop them by the nursery. Once we know exactly what we're dealing with, we can decide if treatment is even needed. A lot of the time, good basic care does more than chemicals ever could — proper spacing for airflow, not over-watering, cleaning up fallen leaves, and mixing in some other plants instead of planting solid boxwood monocultures. We want to avoid creating a giant buffet for whatever pest or disease likes boxwoods best.

Bottom line, Sarah: Don't rush into spraying or injecting just yet. If you bring in those photos or a sample, I'll be glad to take a look with you. We'll get your boxwoods sorted out. ■

Happy gardening,
Sean, The Redding Gardener

P.S. Got more tree questions, spring surprises, or any other gardening puzzles? Feel free to drop me an e-mail anytime or stop by Redding Nursery at 73 Hill Road

Plant sales to fill your May

By Jessie Wright

Redding Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 9
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Lonetown Farm,
43 Lonetown Road

Browse plants grown by Redding Garden Club members, get advice from master gardeners, and meet representatives from several local community groups and non-profits.

Ridgefield Garden Club Plant Sale

Friday, May 8 – Saturday, May 9
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Ballard Park Greenhouse,
21 Gilbert Street, Ridgefield

Put on by Ridgefield and Caudatowa Garden Clubs, the event has been selling vegetable seedlings, herbs, flowers, gift baskets, perennials, and annuals for over 70 years.

Wilton Garden Club's Plant Sale

Friday, May 8 – Saturday, May 9
Friday, 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Wilton Town Center Gazebo,
Old Ridgefield Road,
Wilton

Perennials, annuals, shrubs, pollinator-friendly natives, hanging baskets, and bouquets will be on offer. Boy scouts will be available to help load purchases in guests' cars.

Garden Mart Plant Sale – Easton Garden Club

Saturday, May 9
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Easton Firehouse Lawn,
1 Center Road, Easton

Purchase member-grown perennials, annuals, and organic herbs and get advice from experts and master gardeners. This event is cash and carry.

Homefront Farmers Plant Sale

Saturday, May 16
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Nod Hill Brewery,
137 Ethan Allen Highway,
Ridgefield

Seedlings, herbs, and flowers — all certified organic — will be on offer, with experts from Homefront Farmers offering advice and beverages and food available for purchase in the Biergarten.

Georgetown Volunteer Fair and Plant Sale

Sunday, May 17
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Georgetown Firehouse,
6 Portland Avenue

Hosted by Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company, come to learn about community volunteer opportunities and shop for plants from Long Ridge Greenhouse. Plant pre-orders are due by May 11 and can be made at tinyurl.com/gtownplant. ■

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Season Begins



Homefront Farmers to showcase the fruits of new organic greenhouse

Plant sale on May 16 at Nod Hill Brewery | By Justin Reynolds

In 2024, construction wrapped up on Homefront Farmers' 4,400-square-foot hoop house greenhouse at its new location on Redding Road, after the business relocated from Picketts Ridge Road earlier that year. The team then got to work securing certified organic status for the greenhouse through Baystate Organic Certifiers, a USDA-accredited agency.

Now, Homefront Farmers – which offers a variety of home gardening services, including maintenance, construction, planting, and consulting, to customers across Fairfield and Westchester counties – submits detailed paperwork on its seeds and growing processes to maintain that certification.

"The health of our clients is a

top priority for us," said Miranda Gould, who runs client operations at Homefront. "A lot of our clients have kids, and nobody wants their kids to be snacking on something that's coated in synthetic pesticides that are linked to cancer and hormone disruption."

That focus on organic growing extends beyond the greenhouse into the community.

Homefront Farmers will be on site and offering its vegetables, herbs, and flowers at a plant sale at Nod Hill Brewery at 137 Ethan Allen Highway in Ridgefield on Saturday, May 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

"We're going to be selling a lot of stuff that is hard to find from a certified organic greenhouse,"

Gould said. "The focus will be on vegetable seedlings – heirloom tomatoes, sweet peppers, hot peppers, eggplants, lettuces, cucumbers, squash, kale, broccoli, celery, fennel. We also have a lot of unique and hard-to-find cut flower seedlings."

Gould said there's a very good reason this plant sale occurs later than some in the area.

"Mother's Day is too early to be planting warm-weather crops," Gould explained. "There's often a frost in mid-May that can kill seedlings. We schedule our sale so that people who buy plants from us are going to be successful and plant at the right time."

The entire Homefront staff will be on hand at Nod Hill, offering

advice and enjoying the ambiance of the Biergarten.

"We will have fun things going on – live music, a food truck, and Nod Hill beer," she said. "Our team of 15 is there to give personal gardening advice. If people do need help with a design or anything like that, we encourage them to come say hello. We're there to help people any way we can."

Can't make the plant sale? This year, Homefront Farmers also is delivering to homes in Redding and neighboring towns; just place an order at homefrontfarmers.com/product-category/plants/.

As you prepare your garden for warmer days, Gould cautions against spraying with pesticides.

"If you grow flowers or grow

vegetables that flower and produce fruit, the bees are going to come," she said. "Bees are so important to our environment."

If you do choose to spray, Gould suggests using an organic product, not doing it on a day that's windy, and protecting yourself with gloves and any other gear listed on the product label.

With the spring planting season underway, events like the plant sale give gardeners a great opportunity to get started on the right foot.

For Gould, the appeal of home gardening ultimately comes down to control and transparency.

"The only way you can really know for sure what's on your food is having a home garden," she said.

Pardon our mess: A "tidy" garden isn't always a healthy one

A horticulturist's guide to nature-friendly spring clean-up

By Teresa Weimer



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Once the weather warms, consider moving leaves to a leaf pile rather than removing them from your garden altogether.

After a long winter, there is an awakening: the air softens, temperatures slowly rise, and you begin to hear the distant roar of leaf blowers. An excitement grows in the heart of every gardener at the prospect of once again working in our gardens. In our enthusiasm to welcome spring, we may want to begin our spring garden clean-up... but wait! This could be "fool's spring," a brief warm spell before colder weather returns.

In our eagerness to tidy things up, we may overlook the wildlife that depend on our garden as habitat. This is especially true of the insects that are the hidden workforce of our garden, powering pollination, recycling essential nutrients, and maintaining the delicate balance of the ecosystem. During this transitional time, local wildlife is still vulnerable. A gentler approach to spring clean-up can make all the difference.

Navigating fool's spring

Avoid foot traffic in damp areas

Redding's wetlands and vernal pools provide critical habitat for amphibians like wood frogs and spring peepers, which are becoming active. Wet leaves in these areas act as thermal blankets on cold nights. Avoid walking through and trampling these fragile habitats.

Don't disturb or remove leaf piles

Queen bees hibernate beneath the leaves and soil surface. The loss of one queen means the loss of an entire colony. Leaf litter serves as a nursery for caterpillars, which birds depend on to feed their young. According to renowned entomologist Doug Tallamy, it takes 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to raise a single clutch of chickadees. If we remove the leaves, we remove this valuable food source for our backyard birds. Fireflies, lady beetles, luna moths, and even the Eastern red bat rely on the protection of leaf litter to survive the winter.

What you can do now

Hardscape maintenance

Tidy up patios, walkways, and non-habitat areas.

Tool prep

Use this time to clean, sharpen, and oil your gardening tools to prepare for the season ahead.

Pull invasive plants

They tend to be the first to green up. This is an excellent time to start pulling and trying to get ahead of them.

The 50-degree rule

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation recommends

waiting until daytime temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees Fahrenheit and the freeze danger has passed before doing major spring cleanup. In Redding, that typically means waiting until late April.

Once it warms up:

A gentler approach

Leave some leaves

Keep some leaf litter in garden beds as free, nutrient-rich mulch or habitat. If necessary, move excess leaves as opposed to removing everything.

Create insect habitat

Cut stems leaving 12-18 inches, especially hollow or pithy stems. About 30% of our native bees are cavity nesters and depend on these spaces. Leave cut stems in a pile to allow the insects to emerge naturally.

Build a brush pile

Gather fallen branches and twigs into a quiet corner. These provide essential shelter for pollinators, beneficial insects, and birds.

Final thoughts

By slowing down and making more intentional choices, we can strike a balance between human expectations of garden tidiness and one that supports life. It may help to shift how we see our gardens, not as decorations for our own pleasure but as essential habitat.

As garden designer Benjamin Vogt puts it: "A garden is not a place where we exert our dominance over nature, but a place where we negotiate a peace treaty with it."

And spring is where that negotiation begins! ■

Teresa Weimer is a member of Redding Garden Club, horticulturist, and Founder and Owner of Tulip & Apple Horticultural Services

Growing where possible at the Community Garden

By Jessie Wright

The Community Garden behind Lonetown Farm, which had been scheduled for a fence replacement project this spring, was temporarily shut down April 3 after active leaching fields from the Redding Elementary School septic system were discovered beneath the site. While Town officials have been working to map the septic system, community gardeners have been anxiously awaiting news of what the growing season might look like this year.

Results from scoping the system on April 20 and continued discussions with local and State health officials have resulted in emerging clarity about what activities can be conducted at the current location. An active leaching field lies underneath only a portion of the garden's 27 plots. State officials advised First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton that for those plots over the leaching field, raised beds with a cloth barrier beneath the soil can be used, provided they are not located directly on top of the septic system's pipes.

This option, however, presents several practical challenges for gardeners. One of the restrictions on the septic area is no vehicular traffic; transporting large amounts of lumber and soil to the site to construct raised beds without driving them in is a significant barrier. Costs of construction as well as the process to determine fairness in plot allocation are also open questions, though Pemberton has indicated the Town is willing to help offset some

of the construction expense.

For those gardeners with plots outside the leaching field area, Pemberton said they can garden this season, though should consider converting to raised beds "as soon as practical." Discussions at the Park and Recreation Commission's May 4 meeting made clear that this language deliberately leaves room for interpretation, likely allowing gardeners to use those plots through the season. Community gardeners have indicated they wish to work together to either share plot space and/or assign raised bed locations in coordination with Park and Recreation to salvage some part of the season.

In the meantime, the Park and Recreation Commission has established a working group to consider alternative locations for a Community Garden. Their charge is to come back with clear recommendations by July, with the intent to construct a fence and put in plot infrastructure in time for autumn garden preparations.

"I appreciate that many of these strategies are going to help ease some of the short-term pain that is being felt among the gardeners," Park and Recreation Commissioner Peter Graziano said on Monday. "But at the end of the day, we still have a Community Garden on top of an active leaching field. Let's use our resources to find and create a Community Garden that's worthy of the type of gardeners this town clearly has. ■

↑

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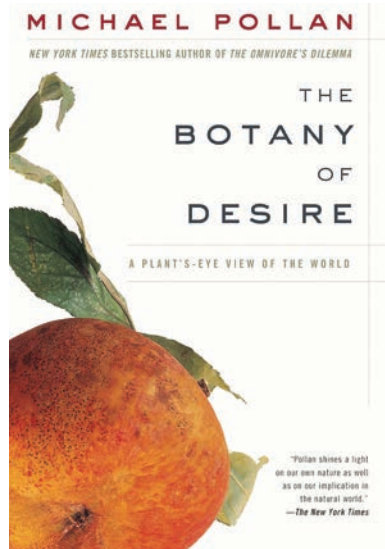


BOOK REVIEW

The Botany of Desire

A Plants-Eye View of the World

By Michael Pollan / 271 pages / Random House / \$28



Michael Pollan has written a number of books about human-kind's relationships with the natural world, including *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, *This is Your Mind on Plants* and *A World Appears*. *The Botany of Desire*, published 25 years ago, presages the author's fascination with the mind, from neuroscience to psychedelics.

The term "co-evolution" was coined in 1965 by botanist Peter Raven of the Missouri Botanical Garden, along with Paul Ehrlich, to explain how butterflies and plants reciprocally influence each other's evolution. More recently, investor George Soros has used the term "reflexivity" to describe how reality both reflects and is shaped by our biases.

This idea – that evolution and influence are not one-way streets – is what *The Botany of Desire* is about.

Pollan chooses four attributes of life and selects a plant family for each to illustrate how humans have

interacted with the plant over time – how we have co-evolved. The attributes and plants he writes about are: the apple for sweetness; the tulip for beauty; marijuana for intoxication, and the potato for control. In each case, he turns conventional thinking around to show how, perhaps, the plants are in control rather than the actors. Subject becomes Object.

When a gardener plants seeds, he wonders, is he showing agency and providing food for his family? Or is he doing the bidding of the plant by expanding the plant's territory and productivity? Was Johnny Appleseed helping settlers along the frontier? Or helping non-native apples expand their territory and become an American landrace plant?

What is the reason for high THC levels in marijuana? Pollan quotes marijuana biologist Robert Connell Clarke: "The most obvious evolutionary advantage THC conferred on Cannabis was the psychoactive properties, which attracted human attention and caused the plant to be spread around the world."

In the 25 years since this book was written, and thanks to books like this, in a co-evolutionary way, we have learned much more about the interacting influences of species of all sorts upon one another. Pollan repeatedly compares what he deems Apollonian (formal, structural, monocultural) approaches to gardening and agriculture with Dionysian (wild, fecund, biodiverse) and ends with a strong unspoken vote for Dionysus. ■

Review by Susan Clark

LIBRARY CORNER

Meeting a library superfan

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Throughout the month of April, Mark Twain Library has been participating in the "Passport to CT Libraries" program. Visitors can pick up a "Passport to Connecticut Libraries" booklet, visit participating locations, and then receive a stamp on their passport booklet and a small gift at each new library. Anyone who visits at least five libraries is entered into a drawing to win a \$200 gift card.

It has been a joy to welcome new people to Mark Twain Library who are participating in the program. As you can probably

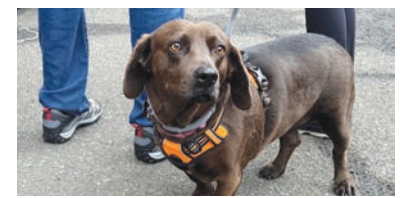
guess, many of them are recently retired and are using the program as a reason to see new parts of our state. We have had a few visitors who are collecting inactive library cards from libraries that they visit as well. Some of the "library tourists" participate whenever the program is offered (it takes place every other year). Recently, someone who participated in 2024 stopped in to show me that in one month she was able to visit all 153 of the participating libraries! She brought in a scrapbook of her travels and tried to check out a book at each

of the libraries that she visited. I am pleased to share a link to a digital copy of her scrapbook where she chronicled visiting all 153 libraries: bit.ly/LibPassport.

Earlier this week, I was at the CT Library Association conference where her scrapbook was on display for hundreds of Connecticut librarians to take a look at. If you've ever wondered what a Connecticut Library Superfan looks like, wonder no more! ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

A hoppin' good time at the Frolic



Photos by Susan Clark and Jessie Wright

The 29th annual Frog Frolic Family Festival brought droves to the Community Center on Saturday, May 2 to enjoy food, games, crafts, bounce houses, live music, and friendly competition. The fun was strong enough to dispel the rainclouds that threatened on and off throughout the afternoon, with the beloved event raising money for Mark Twain Library's programming and operations.



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Klezmer band brings the spirit

By Rob Sample

The Heritage Center recently was the scene of a lively afternoon performance by members of Nu Haven Kapelye, one of New England's biggest klezmer bands.

Based in the New Haven area, Nu Haven Kapelye consists of nearly three dozen musicians who are keeping alive a tradition that dates back hundreds of years to Jewish communities in Eastern Europe. The music is entirely instrumental but usually inspires enthusiastic circle dancing. Perhaps the most widely known example in the U.S. is the hora, a song widely played at wedding receptions. (The "hava nagila" song lyrics were added by a composer in the early 20th century.)

"The concert brought in about 36 attendees, which is our capacity," said Heritage Center Program Director Margherita Pilato. "We left plenty of space for both the band members to play and for dancing. We also served pastrami sandwiches from Gold's Deli in Westport, which were delicious."

"One of our attendees was especially touched by the concert," she continued. "Her dad was a Holocaust survivor who worked long, hard hours supporting his family after he came to the United States. But he would spend many Sundays listening and dancing to klezmer

music with his daughter. The concert brought this all back for her."

Nu Haven Kapelye was founded in 1998 under the leadership of Director David Chevan. Since then, it has performed a concert every December 25 at Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden. While the ensemble now has more than 30 instrumentalists, seven were present at the Redding concert.

"There's a lot of flexibility built into how we operate," said Chevan. "We can make music with whom-ever shows up!"

Chevan said the Heritage Center concert drew a cohort of klezmer devotees, plus others who were new to the music style. Once the band got going, things got lively. Later in the concert a father with several children arrived and they all began dancing to the music.

Chevan grew up in Western Massachusetts and said he has been around klezmer music "since before I could read." He played in his high school's jazz ensemble and concert band, later studied at a conservatory and earned a PhD in jazz history. An accomplished jazz musician, Chevan retired recently as a music professor at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven.

"I turned 65 and I wanted to devote the rest of my days to musical endeavors that I enjoy," he said. ■



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MAY 30

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by Aaron Copland, featuring Redding actress Diana Canova

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On the Mother's Day menu with...

Natasha Smith of The Given Inn | By Pamela Brown



Photo by Natasha Smith

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate mothers and to honor them for the love, sacrifices, and care they selflessly offer. For Natasha Smith, owner of the Given Inn Café located in Georgetown, Mother's Day this year is extra special – it's also her birthday. "Other than that, Mother's Day is pretty special to me as I always take the time to love on my momma a little extra on that day," said Smith. "Being a mother of three boys and a friend of moms, I love making the day one where we can stop and just feel special and appreciated. Mother's

Day gives us busy moms a reason to stop and celebrate each other and ourselves."

Smith has always found joy in the kitchen. "I grew up cooking with my mom, as 'sous chef' cleaning and cutting up vegetables," she said. "I really enjoyed going to Sarabeth's in New York City for my birthday/Mother's Day, because pastries and lite bites are my thing and when topped off with a good cappuccino, it's delightful." Sarabeth's is an iconic bakery-restaurant known for its fresh baked goods served in a welcoming atmosphere. That easily describes what Smith has created at her own café – a thoughtfully curated environment, featuring warm décor and special details such as a book corner, a flower bar, relaxing music, and local artisan gifts, along with a menu that reflects Smith's personality and her commitment to making others feel at home while dining out.

One way to celebrate mom is by cooking her a delicious meal. To honor her own mother and to pay homage to her background, Smith shared a recipe for a light and flavorful seafood main dish – Mom's Puerto Rican Sofrito Shrimp.

"This recipe comes straight from the heart of a Puerto Rican kitchen where the secret ingredient is always sofrito. Our family recipe for shrimp, affectionately known as Camarones con Sofrito, is quick, deeply flavorful, and relies on the aromatic magic of fresh sofrito – the foundation of so much incredible Caribbean cooking," said Smith.

"Growing up in a mixed culture was a privilege, as I got to experience and taste all the wonderful flavors of both the South and the Caribbean. Sofrito has been a key for me as it creates ease in getting the Puerto Rican flavor and my mother makes it from scratch, so it's a seasoning staple I will forever cherish," she said. "I tried making it once with her recipe and while it came out great, I don't have the same patience."

A bonus is that this dish is perfect for spring. "It's a pretty quick and easy dish to make, full of fresh and light flavor, doesn't weigh you down, and is extremely satisfying. Enjoy the process; it goes by fast. The flavors and scents will ignite your senses." To complement the dish, Smith suggests serving it with your favorite lemonade. ■

Mom's Puerto Rican Sofrito Shrimp

Ingredients

1 pound medium to large shrimp (peeled and deveined)
4 tablespoons of fresh sofrito (can be picked up at the Given Inn Café)
1 teaspoon of sazón (with annatto) for color and savory depth
1 teaspoon adobo seasoning
1/2 teaspoon salt, adjust to taste
1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 bay leaf
1 tomato, chopped into cubes

Instructions

Thoroughly clean and devein the shrimp if necessary. Rinse the cleaned shrimp in a bowl with a splash of lemon juice. This helps to neutralize any fishiness. Pat them dry with a paper towel.

In a bowl, toss the shrimp with

the sazón, adobo, salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Ensure the shrimp are evenly coated with the seasonings.

In a large skillet, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the 4 tablespoons of fresh sofrito. Sauté for about 2 minutes until fragrant and the color has deepened slightly.

Add the seasoned shrimp, the chopped tomato, and the bay leaf to the skillet with the sofrito. Stir everything together, ensuring the sofrito mixture coats the shrimp.

Cook for 3–5 minutes, stirring occasionally. The shrimp cooks quickly; they are done when they curl into a "C" shape and turn pink and opaque. Do not overcook – they will become tough.

Remove the bay leaf before serving. Serve the shrimp immediately over a bed of warm white rice. Garnish with a sprinkle of fresh cilantro, if desired. Pair with a side of crispy fried plantains and a cooling avocado salad (recipe follows):

Refreshing Avocado Salad

Ingredients

2 large, ripe avocados
1/4 cup red onion, thinly sliced
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
1 tablespoon olive oil
Salt and pepper, to taste
1 tablespoon chopped cilantro or parsley (optional)

Instructions

Dice the avocados into bite-sized cubes and place them in a medium bowl. Add the thinly sliced red onion.

In a small cup, whisk together the lime juice, olive oil, salt, and pepper.

Pour the dressing over the avocado and onion. Gently toss to coat. Stir in the chopped cilantro or parsley, if using.

Serve immediately while the avocado is fresh and bright. ■

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"We the People" brings outdoor sculptures to downtown Bethel

By Pamela Brown



Photo courtesy of Bethel Arts
David Skora with "3 Spheres"

The Town of Bethel and Bethel Arts is gearing up for its celebration of the 250th anniversary of America's founding with "We the People," an outdoor sculpture exhibition for the public to enjoy and engage with. This is the fifth year that the organizations have coordinated a public art exhibition throughout downtown Bethel.

"The intention is to offer art in public for the public to enjoy and appreciate the value art has brought to the American experience," said Patricia Voorhees, Event Chair and Vice Chair of Bethel Arts. "I love to see people enjoying the sculptures as they take a walk or visit the library, municipal center, or Bethel businesses. The first line of the Declaration of Independence says, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.' The goal of the exhibit is to celebrate independence, identity, and community, which are important aspects of life and happiness."

This year's exhibition will be comprised of seven large scale, six to 12-foot high sculptures atop platforms. Three sculptures will be installed on the side lawn of the Bethel Public Library facing Durant Avenue, and four sculptures will be installed on the lawn in front of the Bethel Municipal Center. The exhibit officially opens on May 9 with a free, open-to-the-public celebration from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center vestibule and on the lawn (weather permitting) featuring refreshments and music. The exhibit runs through April 2027.

"We the People" will feature three-dimensional reflections on

independence, identity, and community. "We invited personal and creative reflections on these three ideas," explained Voorhees. "Participants were encouraged to focus on individual, cultural, or creative interpretations rather than political or partisan commentary. Our goal is to foster a space for dialogue and artistic expression that welcomes everyone." The mission of Bethel Arts is to build, promote, and support Bethel's arts and creative community with the vision for Bethel to be a vibrant, artistic, and economically robust community. "The exhibit provides public access to art created by regional artists to enjoy, free of charge. It is our belief that the sculpture exhibits add to the vibrancy of Bethel and the enjoyment of all who visit downtown," added Voorhees.

The artists selected for this exhibition include David Boyajian of New Fairfield (Fiddle Head); Justin Perlman of Bethlehem (Spring); David Skora of New Hartford (3 Spheres and Twizzle); Marianna Lavin of Bethel (Inheritance Reimagined); and John Bonsignore of Redding (Toe Dancer – Moment of Movement and Happi).

The artwork was selected by a committee of three accomplished local artists and business professionals, including Diana Gubbay, Director of Bethel Arts' Arts in View program who holds a master's degree in sculpture from Hunter College and maintains an active studio practice in Bethel; Robert Lee Morris, of Redding, a jewelry designer and active sculptor who has collaborated with well-known fashion designers and has received four major fashion awards; and Jim Felice, artist, and art restorer of Ridgefield who owns Jim Felice studio in Bethel and hosts exhibits including sculpture and painting at his studio under the name Trailer Box Projects. Felice's sculpture, The Circus, is part of Bethel's permanent sculpture collection located on the Bethel Public Library grounds.

Voorhees sees the exhibit as a way to bring people together to celebrate the 250th. "I hope it's an enriching experience for all and serves to be an element of community that's accessible and inclusive," she said. There will be events planned along with the exhibit including yoga among the sculptures, tours, artist talks, and a scavenger hunt. ■

For more information, visit bethelartsct.org

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Redding's Big Outdoors: The Outside Story / continued from page 1

bee, *Andrena uvulariae*, specializes on this species and other bellworts.

Wild oats does not die back in the heat of summer, unlike early-blooming ephemerals. The plant persists through fall, accumulating signs of wear as the season progresses. During this time, each individual produces a small, one-inch-long fruit containing minute seeds. While wild oats primarily spreads by stolons (or runners) that

fan out from each plant just beneath the leaf litter, its seeds also can be dispersed by ants, a mutualistic process called myrmecochory.

Enterprising gardeners can cultivate wild oats at home. This forest-specialist does best in partial shade to mimic the conditions in which it occurs naturally. Local conservation districts or nurseries specializing in native plants sometimes sell these demure beauties. If

you succeed in establishing a garden colony, you might also discover wild oats' culinary value: The early shoots and young leaves are edible when cooked, apparently imparting an asparagus-like flavor.

After a long, snowy winter, the most colorful spring ephemerals may monopolize your attention on these restorative spring days. But do not let their flair eclipse the understated elegance of wild oats, a

humble mainstay of the forest floor that is sure to win you over, should you look closely.

Editor's Note: Our friends at Redding Land Trust tell us that a few places to spot wild oats in town include the Little River North Trail just south of Putnam Hill Drive, the Quercus Trail at Samuel Hill Little River Preserve, and on the Red Trail in Collis P. Huntington State Park. If readers have a shady

woodland edge on their property that hasn't been mowed or weeded to stubble, they could find it in their yards, too! ■

Colby Galliher writes about conservation, ecology, and environmental policy. 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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week's Featured Events

"Mom, I Have Something to Tell You" Screening and Discussion

Thursday, May 7
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
In Partnership with Mental Health Connecticut & Triangle Community Center, discussion on supporting loved ones coming out about sexual orientation
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Friday Cocktail Hour and Curator Walkthrough

Friday, May 8
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Kick off your weekend with group exhibition "Charged Field"
GTown Arts
5 Main Street
gtownarts.com

Redding Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, May 9
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Community event with plants, advice, activities, and non-profit groups
Lonetown Farm
43 Lonetown Road
reddinggardenclub.org/upcoming-events

Want to feature an upcoming event?

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

MEETINGS

Monday, May 11

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

Tuesday, May 12

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

Tuesday, May 12

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

Wednesday, May 13

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

Wednesday, May 13

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

Thursday, May 14

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

Thursday, May 14

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

Monday, May 18

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

Tuesday, May 19

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

Wednesday, May 20

CT State District #135 Democratic Convention
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Wednesday, May 20

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

Thursday, May 21

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

Tuesday, May 26

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

Tuesday, May 26

Board of Finance
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room (subject to change to virtual or hybrid as necessary)
100 Hill Road

Monday, June 1

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

**Town offices will be closed on Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day

AMERICA 250

Saturday, May 30

Redding 250 Concert
7:00 p.m.
Performance by Greater Bridgeport Symphony Orchestra and Joel Barlow High School musicians of patriotic music, including *Three Places in New England* by Charles Ives
Joel Barlow High School
100 Black Rock Turnpike
redding250.com
\$

ARTS

Friday, May 8

Friday Cocktail Hour and Curator Walkthrough
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Kick off your weekend with group exhibition "Charged Field"
GTown Arts
5 Main Street
gtownarts.com

Friday, May 8

Rock Hearts
7:00 p.m.
Five-piece bluegrass band
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org
\$

CHILDREN | TEENS

Thursday, May 7 – Saturday, May 9

JRMS Players present Annie Jr.
7:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday
2:00 p.m. Saturday
Run time 1 hour and 15 minutes
Joel Barlow High School
100 Black Rock Turnpike
jrms.booktix.com/dept/CS/e/2026
\$

HOLIDAYS | SEASONAL

Friday, May 9

Redding Flower Farm's Pre-Mother's Day Party: Build Your Own Bouquet
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Limited capacity event, tickets required
Redding Flower Farm
130 Picketts Ridge Road
reddingflowerfarm.com/products/pre-mothers-day-bloom-bar
\$, R

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day at The Roadhouse
11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Four seatings available
The Redding Roadhouse
406 Redding Road
thereddingroadhouse.com
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NATURE

Saturday, May 9

Redding Garden Club Plant Sale
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Community event with plants, advice, activities, and non-profit groups
Lonetown Farm
43 Lonetown Road
reddinggardenclub.org/upcoming-events

Saturday, May 9

Community Hiking Club: The Great Ledge with Peter Lunde
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Register for The Great Ledge and Bedford Trail Loop
marktwinlibrary.org
R

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Thursday, May 7

"Mom, I Have Something to Tell You" Screening and Discussion
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
In Partnership with Mental Health Connecticut & Triangle Community Center, discussion on supporting loved ones coming out about sexual orientation
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Friday, May 15

Annual Community Tag Sale
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
E-mail mpilato@reddingct.gov or (203) 938-9725 to sign up as vendor

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

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Christ Church, Episcopal

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

First Church of Christ, Congregational

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

Long Ridge United Methodist

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

Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish St. Patrick Church:

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

Georgetown Oratory of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

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

Temple B'nai Chaim

Friday, May 8
7:00 p.m.
Welcome Shabbat Together
82 Portland Avenue
templebnaichaim.org



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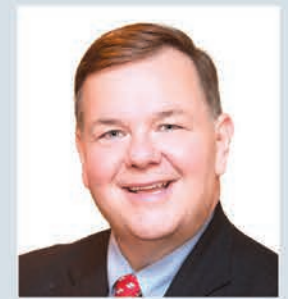
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