

# Election Day

## November 4

By Jessie Wright

Election Day polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4 at the Community Center (37 Lonetown Road) for the 2025 municipal election. Two weeks of early voting, from October 20 to November 2, are already underway. Early voting hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., except for October 28 and 30 when they are from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Office of the Registrar of Voters also issues absentee ballots for eligible voters; the last day to receive an absentee ballot is Monday, November 3.

Same-day registration is available on Election Day with a filled-out application, proof of identification, and approval by the Registrar of Voters. Voters must be in line by 8:00 p.m. to vote, and all absentee ballots must be submitted by 8:00 p.m.

There are 14 roles on Town boards, commissions, and offices on the Redding ballot this year, with no contested races. See the *Sentinel's* October editions for candidate profiles and visit [reddingct.gov/government/town-administration/registrar-voters](http://reddingct.gov/government/town-administration/registrar-voters) for complete voting information. ■



Photo by Jessica Whelpley

Spooky season illuminated at a barn on Limekiln Road. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, [e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org](mailto:e-mail_editor@reddingsentinel.org).

## Proposed Smith and Church Streets Historic District moves to next phase

By Rocco Valluzzo

With its study of homes and buildings on Smith Street and Church Street now complete, the Historic District Study Committee has submitted its findings to the Board of Selectmen for review.

Last year, property owners on Smith and Church Streets petitioned the Board of Selectmen for the creation of an Historic District Commission, as they wished their neighborhood to be designated as a State Historic District. Such a designation is intended to preserve and protect the distinct characteristics of buildings and places of architectural and historical significance in the community. Before a designation can take place, a Study Committee must be formed.

The completed study covers 20 structures. One of the buildings is the old local general store on North Main Street on the south side of the train tracks. Others include the small local library for the Georgetown village that remains

on one of the properties, and Sacred Heart Church, now home to Georgetown Oratory.

According to Connecticut statute, if an Historic District is established by a vote of property owners in the proposed district, an Historic District Commission is enabled by local legislation to oversee it.

“Where scenic roads go to Planning and some additions go to Zoning first, any changes in this local Historic District or a local historic place go to that Commission first for review of appropriateness,” said Study Committee member Heidi Holzer. “When you create your first Historic District, by law, you’re obliged to create a Historic District Commission to manage it.”

While Redding already has several sites on the National Register of Historic Places, including Redding Center and portions of Georgetown, the Smith and Church Street Historic District would be the first State-designated site in town.

Properties designated as historic are eligible for certain State grants, which can help pay for windows and roofs and help maintain the look and feel of the community.

First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton said she has reviewed the applicable statutes and has spoken with Town Attorney Steven Stafstrom on the matter. The Study Committee’s report will be sent to the Planning Commission and the Zoning Commission before a public hearing is called.

The report will then be presented to the Town Clerk’s office, which will mail ballots to every resident in the proposed district. A two-thirds majority vote is needed to establish the Historic District.

If the matter proceeds, the Board of Selectmen will then set a date for a Special Town Meeting for voters to consider adopting an ordinance to create the Historic District as well as an ordinance to create a Historic District Commission. ■

## Details on potential revised housing bill emerge

By Ginny Monk

Lawmakers and Governor Ned Lamont are aligned on most portions of a new housing bill, written to replace the vetoed House Bill 5002. But a handful of the most substantial pieces of the measure are still up for debate. State legislative leaders say they won’t bring a weak bill to the floor during a special session of the General Assembly planned for next month.

At the State Department of Housing’s annual conference at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket on Thursday, October 23, top state officials said negotiations are almost wrapped up.

“I think we’re still talking. I think we’re pretty close,” Lamont said.

The new bill seeks to replace H.B. 5002, the most significant piece of housing legislation to come across the Governor’s desk during his years in office, which tackled homelessness, zoning and parking, among other topics. Lawmakers narrowly passed the measure in the waning days of this year’s legislative session. The Governor then surprised many Democrats when he vetoed the measure in June.

The veto caused anger and disappointment among many Democrats who said Lamont’s staff had worked on the bill with them, and they’d been assured he would sign it. Lamont issued the veto under pressure from outside groups and town officials. Opponents feared the bill would dilute local control and put unrealistic expectations on towns for building more housing. (Editor’s Note: Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton wrote a letter urging Lamont to veto the bill.)

On Thursday, Lamont gave some of the clearest details released so far on the new version of the bill – including changes to a parking reform measure, more regional resources, and State aid to build sewer and water systems. Lamont said after Thursday’s event that he was still discussing some of the same measures he’d taken issue with when he vetoed the bill – parking reform and a requirement for towns to plan and zone for a set number of units known as fair share. Those were among the most controversial measures in the bill.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff, D-Norwalk, said he wants to find a solution – and he also wants to see housing built more quickly.

“I hope we can get there, but we will not bring a weak bill to the floor of the Senate,” Duff said.

House Majority Leader Jason Rojas, D-East Hartford, said he thinks lawmakers and the Governor agree on about 85% of the bill, but the 15% they don’t agree on is substantive.

“Knowing that we were talking about 15% of the bill ... maybe 13%? I’m not just saying that for the sake of saying that, I truly believe that,” Rojas said. “A bill ain’t

Continued on page 8

## REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

### Night falls, and the ghosts start to speak

#### 5th Connecticut Regiment to host Ghost Walk in Putnam Memorial State Park

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

The historic grave sites and streetlight-less roads of rural New England have inspired some of the best ghost stories of all

time. On Saturday, November 1, Revolutionary War re-enactors from the 5th Connecticut Regiment will bring some of those stories to life at Putnam Memorial State Park, leading a Ghost Walk and evening of spooky storytelling.

From 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., soldiers will guide a nighttime stroll through the park, from the Main Gates to the “cemetery” and back. The walk will stop at three storytelling stations along the way. Visitors can bring their own chairs or sit on the ground at the stations as the guides share haunting tales and ghoulish legends. Organizers say that while some of the experience may be frightening for young children, the event is intended for audiences of all ages.

Putnam Memorial State Park is the oldest public park in Connecticut and commemorates the Revolutionary War winter encampment that occurred there in 1778-79. Remnants of the encampment are still visible today and are marked along the park’s gravel walking path.

Parking for the event will be available by the Main Gate and below the Visitor Center at 499 Black Rock Turnpike. Refreshments can be enjoyed before and after the Ghost Walk in the Visitor Center, where handicapped-accessible rest-rooms are also available. The Ghost Walk is free and open to the public. ■

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EDITORIAL

Tech contributed to the decline of local papers – could it help rebuild them?

A compelling think piece by Steven Waldman, President of Rebuild Local News, was published last week in which he argues that it is in the financial interest of AI companies to seriously invest in resurrecting quality local news outlets. Given that 3,500 newspapers in the United States have closed since 2005 (almost 40% of the total, leading to a 75% drop in the number of journalists), AI models that rely on sucking up vast amounts of reliable data to work effectively are facing “rampant data poverty” when it comes to answering local questions.

“ChatGPT was totally right when it told me, ‘The decline of local news and local journalists makes it harder for AI to provide accurate, trustworthy search results about local matters’,” he writes.

As a hyper local newspaper, the *Sentinel* is often sent stories about the collapse of local news and the information crisis it has created for smaller communities. But more and more, what interests us are creative solutions to the issue – we read with interest a recent story of a longstanding local paper in Michigan being acquired by the local public library; we are following proposals in several states to create state tax incentives for businesses advertising with local news outlets; and we wrote last year of an initiative to provide funding and training for volunteer community message board and newsletter moderators, who often fill the void that a local newspaper’s departure has left.

Waldman’s point – and it is a powerful one – is that his solution harnesses the fact that the crisis of local news hits the bottom line of the fastest-growing industry. Tech firms in the past 20 years haven’t always aligned with strengthening community or democracy in pursuit of exponential growth. Perhaps in this way, it could be in their self-interest to do so. ■

Plaque ceremony recognizes Jo-an Brooks



Photo by Susan Clark

Jo-an Brooks furthered the cause of land conservation in Redding through her 30 years of service as the Town’s Land Use Coordinator. She retired in 2018, but Covid restrictions prevented a formal recognition ceremony in the years following. A gathering took place on October 23, 2025 by the redbud tree planted in her honor when she retired, showcasing the placement of a new plaque on the Old Town House. Present and past members of Land Use commissions and organizations as well as Town officials and local conservation enthusiasts turned out to express their gratitude to Jo-an in person.

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POLICE BLOTTER

Police activity October 13 – 26 | By Donna Christopher

Officers assisted in 12 medical emergencies and responded to three calls for a disabled motor vehicle.

**Missing person**  
Someone called to report a missing person on Newtown Turnpike on October 16. The missing person was located in Pennsylvania after taking a trip to her mother’s house.

**Suspicious incidents**  
Officers received 14 calls for suspicious incidents, ranging from a surveyor and utility workers on private property to a car parked at a trailhead after sunset. All calls were checked out okay or settled, except for an October 25 incident reported on Wagon Wheel Road

in which a caller stated two males attempted to steal his car, which is captured on video. The incident is under investigation.

**Theft**  
On October 25, a caller reportedly observed on her surveillance cameras on Sunset Hill Road someone going through her vehicles. Nothing was reported taken.

**Traffic**  
Officers stopped 173 motor vehicles, issuing six summonses (four of which were on Black Rock Turnpike), 63 tickets, 44 written warnings, 57 verbal warnings, and taking no action in three cases. The infraction rate was 40%.

There were five accidents involving two vehicles within the two-week period. None of the accidents resulted in injuries, but all resulted in property damage. These accidents occurred on October 13 on Redding Road; October 15 on Black Rock Turnpike; October 21 on Pinetree Road and Church Hill Road; and October 25 on Lonetown Road.

A one-vehicle accident was reported on October 13 around 7:30 a.m. on Redding Road, resulting in property damage but no injuries.

**Vandalism**  
On October 26, a mailbox was struck by a vehicle and reported on Umpawaug Road. ■

Walking path construction begins | By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

The Town has begun construction on the new paved walking path around the northern two athletic fields at the Community Center. Spearheaded by the Park & Recreation Commission, the half-mile

path will provide space for walking, running, and limited biking, and have benches and outdoor fitness stations placed along it.

The project is being funded in part by a \$203,856 Connecticut Small Town Economic Assistance (STEAP) grant. In June, voters approved the reallocation of up to \$120,000 of unspent 2024-25 capital funds for the Town’s funding portion of the project.

Construction is being overseen by Stantec Engineering and is anticipated to take three to four weeks. Park and Recreation noted in an announcement that the fields will remain open for use during construction. Parents should closely supervise their children at the fields while construction is underway. ■

Redding Sentinel Ltd  
News and Views of Redding, Connecticut  
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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  
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Single copy price \$3.00 / Annual subscription \$95.00  
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# Capital projects and lightning strikes at Joel Barlow High School

By Anne Young Albanese



Photo by Jessie Wright

Construction continues on The Nest project at Barlow’s lower athletic fields.

At the October 21 Region 9 Board of Education meeting, Director of Facilities and Operations Mike D’Agostino discussed recent capital improvements, including the auditorium and Nest projects, and storm damage at Joel Barlow High School.

### The Auditorium

Region 9 is in the process of updating the school’s auditorium, including patching and refinishing the stage and upgrading the sound system. So far, a new sound board has been installed, and the sound engineer working on the project is loaning the school speakers; this will be the set-up for the school fall play, *Almost, Maine*, which will be performed November 6 to 8.

Once the play has finished, the sound engineer will be able to come in and finish upgrades to the sound system. The contractor for the project will be digging a trench and filling it with cement during Thanksgiving recess, and the final install will take place on December 10, in time for the school’s holiday concerts.

### The Nest

The Nest project, while includes adding team rooms, public bath-rooms, and an improved conces-

sions building at the lower athletic fields, is underway but not yet complete. D’Agostino said while the administration initially was hoping the project would be completed earlier this fall, there were delays in the permitting process, especially with the State reviewing and approving the septic system and plumbing plans.

Benches still need to be purchased for the team rooms with an estimated cost of \$19,000. This will leave about \$50,000 in funding, which will be used for The Nest or toward bond payments for the project. D’Agostino said the goal is to have the administration or Michael Santangeli, Administrator for Athletics, Health, and Physical Education, identify additional needed items and stretch the money most effectively.

“There will be likely other finishes that will want to be done to the building,” noted D’Agostino.

The water piping for the restrooms has been completed and inspected, with insulation and Sheetrock put in this past weekend. A new furnace has been installed to keep the building warm during the winter. The ceilings have been Sheetrocked, and the plumbing, electric, and HVAC systems are done.

In the concession stand, the closets are completed. Nine-foot ceilings will allow for a mini-split heat pump system to heat and cool the air. D’Agostino is looking to take advantage of the taller ceilings by adding a shelf around the whole room for year-round storage. Outside and next to the concessions stand, a paved area will have dining tables and places for students to work on their school assignments.

### Lightning takes out well pumps

Two of the school’s three well pumps were affected by lightning strikes this fall and needed to be replaced. Fortunately, the piping and wiring remained in good shape, so only the two pumps needed to be replaced. Officials discovered the school was running on the one remaining well pump by the meters that measure water flow. The school had a large storage tank for water, which worked for the brief time that the two pumps were out of commission. The pumps were replaced two weeks ago, and everything is running smoothly.

It was noted at the meeting that this is not the first time the school’s well pumps have been struck by lightning. Region 9 Board members discussed finding a way to stop or mitigate the risk of lightning strikes. The possibility of covering the well pump was discussed, though D’Agostino pointed out that if lightning strikes anywhere in the vicinity, it will run towards the well pump. A covering would only protect one spot. The administration is filing an insurance claim, so it does not yet have an estimate on how the repairs will affect the Region 9 budget. ■

# Barlow Debate opens season with strong showing

By Rob Sample



Photo by Randy Smith

Priti Kiefer and Dylan Winegar placed second among the teams competing in the first debate tournament of the season on October 18. Barlow Debate has now won more awards and honors than another other team in the Connecticut Debate Association.

After its opening tournament on Saturday, October 18, the Barlow Debate team is off to a great start for the 2025-26 school year.

The team ended its 2024-25 season by taking three of the five top spots in the Connecticut Debate Association finals. Will Barlow Debate reprise that excellent showing this year? Time will tell – as will recruitment and practice.

“I anticipate that this will be what I call a building season,” noted Randy Smith, a Social Studies teacher at Joel Barlow High School and the Debate team’s coach and mentor. “We graduated a stellar group of seniors who won nearly everything, so to remain competitive we will need to focus on building the abilities of our newest recruits and returning veterans.”

The October 18 event, which Barlow hosted, drew more than 160 competitors from 16 schools. A smaller event at Fitch High School in Groton ran concurrently and drew 115 participants from 13 schools. Among the Barlow Debaters, there were six varsity teams of two students each, four novice teams of two students each, and one novice solo debater.

“The question of the day was whether we would benefit from issuing fewer or more H1B visas,” noted Smith, “allowing businesses for a fee to hire foreign workers who then can reside in the US for three-year renewable terms on condition of constant employment.”

Four preliminary debates among varsity pairs take place at

Continued on page 6



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SPORTS

Falcons advance to league championship

Girls volleyball | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Olivia Sickinger goes up for a kill in a girls varsity volleyball match against Newtown. The top-seeded Falcons won 3-1 (14-25, 25-11, 25-12, 25-15) in the South-West Conference semifinals last Thursday, October 23, to reach the championship.

It has become almost routine for the Joel Barlow High girls varsity volleyball team in the South-West Conference playoffs.

For the fourth straight time (and at least seventh in the past 10 seasons) the Falcons have met Newtown in the playoffs, beating them in the championship the last three years. Due to the seeding of this year's tournament, they met again

in the semifinals on Thursday, October 23.

After a shaky start in the first set, top-seeded Barlow settled down, finding its rhythm in a 3-1 (14-25, 25-11, 25-12, 25-15) win at home.

Fourth-seeded Newtown, which Barlow swept 3-0 during the regular season, was out for revenge in the rematch. Behind some strong serving by Leah Botta, the Nighthawks were out to a 2-6 lead in the first set.

Top-seeded Barlow, which dispatched eighth-seeded Pomperaug 3-0 in the quarterfinals two days earlier, cut the lead to two (5-7) at one point, but Newtown continued its strong play at the net with kills by Allie Nowacki and Ava Lombardo to bring it to 7-16. Along the way, the Falcons hurt their cause by faulting on a couple of serves and the deficit only grew from there.

"We can't miss 16 serves in a match and expect to win," said Barlow Head Coach Carol Conti. "We just struggled at the service line."

By the time the second set got underway, the Falcons appeared to settle down. Several kills and blocks by Mia Roberts helped her team take command at 14-7.

The Falcons then followed with six straight service points from Zoriana Olexy and then added

back-to-back kills by Madi Furrer to help tie the match at 1-1.

Although the Falcons opened the third set with a 4-0 lead, the Nighthawks then answered, tying it at 5-5. Three straight service points by Sickinger put the hosts back on top. Propelled by kills from Furrer and Roberts, they later led 18-11.

Barlow did not stop there, getting to set point on a kill by Roberts before clinching the win on one by Rodrigue.

"Mia Roberts played out of her mind tonight," said Conti. "Madi Furrer played great too. Claire (Rodrigue) played great. Olivia (Sickinger) played great."

Jumping out to a 10-1 lead in the fourth and ultimately final set, the Falcons again used strong net play to their advantage. Errors on Newtown's part also helped to put it deeper in a hole, despite several kills by Nowacki and Cassie Pickering. The gap was still 10 (24-14) before the Falcons punched their ticket to the championship.

"All in all, we played great," said Conti. "It was just what happened at the service line. We can't have that happen."

The Falcons faced second-seeded Masuk for the championship this week. Results will follow in the next issue. ■

Barlow stops skid with Homecoming win

Football | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Keeler Pheeney (5) rushed for 99 yards and three touchdowns during the football team's Homecoming game against New Fairfield on Saturday, October 25.

A few adjustments worked out well for the Joel Barlow High varsity football team when it hosted New Fairfield for its Homecoming game last Saturday.

With Keeler Pheeney now at quarterback, Barlow's triple-option offense gained nearly 300 yards rushing on Saturday, October 25. While the Rebels did make some gains in the air, they struggled on the ground, held to net negative yardage in Barlow's 24-13 Homecoming victory.

"When things aren't going your way, sometimes you have to make a little bit of a change," said Barlow Head Coach T.J. Cavaliere, whose team stopped a four-game losing streak with Saturday's win. "It paid off for us."

New Fairfield did see some success in the air, including on its opening drive when it completed a key fourth-down pass to get to the Barlow 20. The Rebels also got a break when a facemask call against Barlow gave them first down at the one.

At that point, however, Barlow's defense stiffened, keeping the Rebels out of the end zone before they surrendered the ball on downs at the one-foot line. What followed was a 99-yard scoring drive, the Falcons' longest of the season.

Runs by Pheeney and Kaden Holub got things started before a pitch to Frank Branca gave the Falcons first down on their own 26. It was a big option play to Holub, however, that was good for 27 yards and got them a first down on the Rebel 31. Pheeney's screen pass to Luke Bishop helped them reach the nine, and on the next play Holub found the end zone as the first quarter expired with a 6-0 Falcon lead.

The Rebels, however, responded on their next series, which started on their own 35. Quarterback Mike Traynor connected with Tyler Mango for a 36-yard completion to get to the Falcons 23, and on fourth down Jack Perun caught one that was good for six yards and the touchdown, tying things at 6-6 with 6:19 left in the half.

Barlow seemed to be making

progress on its next series, crossing midfield before the drive stalled, forcing it to punt. On second down, Traynor connected with Jack Riccio for a 36-yard touchdown pass, and with a successful extra point the Rebels took a 6-13 lead into halftime.

Taking the second half kick-off on their own 35, the Falcons drove downfield, helped in part by a 28-yard gain by Jack Hall, who was stopped by Mango's touchdown-saving tackle on the 21. Barlow would not be denied, however, scoring on Pheeney's three-yard run to cut the lead 12-13.

Making some defensive adjustments, the Falcons forced Traynor to stay in the pocket a little longer, preventing him from completing long passes in the third quarter, which ended with the visitors still up by a point. In the meantime, the Falcons stuck to their ground game, mounting a 45-yard scoring drive to start the final frame by alternating runs by Pheeney and Holub until the former scored from a yard out to retake the lead at 18-13 with just under six minutes to go.

With Ben Zirulnik recovering a fumble on the New Fairfield 32, Barlow began its final scoring drive. On third down, Pheeney went in from the seven and although the two-point conversion failed, the Falcons were ahead to stay at 24-13.

Pheeney led Barlow with 99 yards rushing, including three touchdowns. He also completed five of 12 passes for 28 yards, with Tyler Young catching two for 18 yards.

"Keeler played an excellent game," said Cavaliere. There are really bright things coming from this. He gets more and more and more comfortable with the offense."

Holub had 90 yards and one touchdown. Hall finished with 52.

Ben Noome had a big defensive game with seven total tackles and three sacks. Holub had five tackles and one interception.

Now 2-4, Barlow hosts New Milford on Friday, October 31 with kickoff set for 5:00 p.m. ■

Falcons are fifth in Division II

Boys golf | By Rocco Valluzzo

The season would end on a high note for the Joel Barlow High boys golf team at the state Division II tournament last week.

The Falcons surprised a few teams at Keney Park Golf Course in Hartford on Wednesday, October 22. Ranked ninth, they moved up a few spaces, taking fifth out of 18 teams with a round of 314 for 18 holes.

It was Barlow's best score in the tournament since 2016.

"Any time you improve from your starting seed is positive," said Barlow Head Coach Steve Antal. "They played well on the course and had a solid score."

Barlow was one of 10 South-West Conference teams in the field.

Immaculate was the winner with 303, a stroke ahead of runner-up Weston.

The field of more than 90 golfers had some tight finishes. The Falcons had three golfers break 80 on the par-70 course. Their best finish came from Mason Perry. Shooting a five-over-par 75, he was tied with Berlin's Jack Guilmartin for 11th overall.

It was a crowded finish for 21st. Barlow's Milo Lee was tied with seven other players, including three from Pomperaug and two from New Fairfield, each with a round of 78.

Just one stroke later was the Falcons' Ryan Klem. With a 79, he was tied for 29th with Jack

Eriquez and Shane O'Connor, both of Brookfield.

It was a seven-way tie for 46. Among the finishers was Barrett Commiso with an 82, completing the scoring for the Falcons. Also playing in the tournament, Austin Cameron took 81st, shooting an 87.

"The team worked hard all year, and it was nice to see it come together at the state tournament," said Antal. "We lose two very important seniors in Milo Lee and Mason Perry but have a good group of juniors, sophomores, and freshmen to build upon this year's benchmark." ■

Three cheers for Barlow Homecoming



(From top left, clockwise:) Photo courtesy of Joel Barlow High School / Molly Lapatine, Genevieve Currie, Sylvia Calemme, Rachel Avidon, Sofiia Boiko, and Mariia Tokaeva dress their best for the Joel Barlow High School Homecoming Dance on Saturday, October 25; Photo by Rocco Valluzzo / The Joel Barlow High cheerleaders perform their routine for the crowd during halftime at the football team's Homecoming game; Photo courtesy of Joel Barlow High School / Tyler Pheeney, David Tsyurulnik, Nathaniel Chapi, Jake Russo, Anton Franti-Blondel, and Garrett Bishop are ready to enter the Homecoming Dance on Saturday, October 25.

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# ELECTION 2025

## Steve Gagnon – Planning Commission

Endorsed by Republican Town Committee | By Rob Sample



Steve Gagnon is the current Chair of the Planning Commission, running for his third term.

**How long have you lived in Redding?**  
I have lived in Redding for 10 years now.

**What are some of the things you enjoy about living here?**  
I was drawn by its abundant open space, its quiet vibe despite being surrounded by more developed areas, and the sense of community embodied by the people who live here. I want to preserve all that.

**Why would you be a good fit for this role in public office? What experiences or expertise will you draw from?**  
I have been involved with the Town of Redding’s Planning Commission for more than six years. I want to continue my role on the Commission and the good work that it does for the Redding community.

**What got you interested in the Planning Commission? Why are you hoping to serve another term?**  
I first ran for election for a post on the Planning Commission

because I wanted to protect the natural beauty and character of Redding. I also wanted to maintain and protect Redding’s abundant natural resources. I would like to return to the Commission to continue the job that so many great people from before me have done to maintain the semi-rural feel and historic nature of Redding.

**What do you see as the top priorities facing the Planning Commission in the next three years?**  
One key priority: I expect that there will be challenges from outside developers. I also expect

outside regulators to attempt control over our zoning laws, and in the process, destroy those qualities for which Redding is known. We must stand firm to these challenges.

**What do you hope to accomplish in the upcoming term, and why?**  
I hope to accomplish the completion of the Town of Redding’s Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). This is the guidebook to how we want our Town to maintain its character as well as to grow and adapt to future changes and requirements. ■

## Jess Gaspar – Planning Commission

Endorsed by Republican Town Committee | By Rob Sample



**How long have you lived in Redding?**  
Since 2004.

**What are some of the things you enjoy about living here?**  
We moved to Redding for its small-town character, natural beauty, and high-quality educational system that allows kids to be kids. Over the decades, this town has

become a part of our family story. Through countless shared meals, volunteer projects, and watching our children grow up together, we’ve developed a deep connection not just to the place, but to its people.

**Why would you be a good fit for this role in public office? What experiences or expertise will you draw from?**  
First, I have meaningful experience with the nuances of Redding Town government through 12 years on the Redding Board of Education, including five years as chairman. In addition, I am reasonably well informed about current Town affairs, having attended a wide range of Town commission and board meetings for the past year. Second, I have more than 25 years of experience in high-level roles spanning investment management,

management consulting, research, and teaching in the private sector and academia – with the last few years focused on the environment and sustainability. My education includes a PhD in economics from Stanford University and a BS in environmental engineering from MIT. Third, I have a longstanding commitment to be of service to the residents of Redding. There is more good work to be done on the Planning Commission. This work will require dedication, curiosity, open-mindedness, collaboration, leadership and followership, communication with a wide range of individuals, inspiration, and the ability to motivate. That’s a tall order, but a challenge I welcome!

**What got you interested in the Planning Commission?**  
The Planning Commission seeks to promote responsible growth

while preserving Redding’s distinctive character by resisting pressure from urban sprawl and external demand for access to the community’s natural resources. The Commission has a remarkable history of achieving this mandate by employing land use policy to ensure smart development, preserve open space, protect public water supply watersheds, protect historic buildings and sites, plan for needed public facilities, and avoid undue encroachment on individual property rights. This is especially important today as we advance the Revitalize Georgetown project and Aquarion undergoes a change in ownership.

**What do you see as the top priorities facing the Planning Commission in the next three years?**  
This Planning Commission will have responsibility for preparing

the next town Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The top new priority will be providing land use policy and principles for the Revitalize Georgetown project. This includes planning for the Georgetown village area and reuse of the historic buildings at the Wire Mill, a huge opportunity for Redding. This brownfield redevelopment is one of the most important projects in Fairfield County, possibly even the state!

**What do you hope to accomplish in the upcoming term, and why?**  
Successfully completing the POCD, getting Revitalize Georgetown off to a good start, and continuing our efforts to preserve Redding’s character, protect open space and historic sites, shepherd responsible development, and protect the watershed. ■

## Laurie Heiss – Planning Commission

Endorsed by Democratic Town Committee | By Rob Sample



**How long have you lived in Redding?**  
I’ve been in Redding since 1995.

**What are some of the things you enjoy about living here?**  
Like many Reddingites, I love

the open space properties and greenways. I also appreciate the diverse, talented, and interesting individuals I meet here in town.

**Why would you be a good fit for this role in public office? What experiences or expertise will you draw from?**  
I am running for the position that I was appointed to earlier this year. I’ve been attending key Planning Commission meetings for more than 25 years, starting as a founder of the Redding Preservation Society (in which I carried scenic road petitions to neighbors). I’ve spoken at Planning Commission meetings led by most of the chairmen and have learned from each of them. I also served on the Town’s Ad Hoc Open Space Committee and have

frequently worked with the Land Use office. I was the Chair of Redding’s Board of Ethics, so I have some familiarity with Town Meeting processes. Before the election, I will complete Land Use basic training for new commissioners. I have been on about 20 different boards and know how to be constructive and action-oriented.

**What got you interested in the Planning Commission? Why are you hoping to serve another term?**  
As a Redding Land Trust Board member (2003-2018), I read and appreciated each revision of the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development – written by the Planning Commission. I look forward to working on the next revision and

to integrating the Georgetown/Gilbert & Bennett planning with it. I feel connected to Georgetown, the important historic Wire Mill site, and this 25-year-long project. I’ve only been a commissioner for eight months but feel initiated, and I’m excited to continue this work.

**What do you see as the top priorities facing the commission in the next three years?**  
• The Revitalize Georgetown and Gilbert & Bennet Wire Mill project. I was involved in the original brainstorming/problem-solving process in 2001-2002 and have been involved with subsequent efforts as well.  
• Revisit the 2011 Incentive Housing Zone plan and affordable housing moves.

• The required Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) update.  
• Listening to residents seeking approvals for their property plans.

**What do you hope to accomplish in the upcoming term, and why?**  
Lots! The future of Redding depends on us getting the Georgetown redevelopment right and getting it off the ground. The POCD update is required by the State. The Planning Commission must be responsive to residents’ plans. What’s more, we must address affordable housing. I’m willing to dedicate many hours to these projects, because I care about the unique fabric, sense of community, and livability of Redding. ■

## Gregory Stackpole – Board of Assessment Appeals

Endorsed by Republican Town Committee | By Rob Sample



**How long have you lived in Redding?**  
I have enjoyed living in our Town of Redding for nearly 23 years.

**What are some of the things you enjoy about living here?**  
Just one thing of many I enjoy about our town: the many parks there are to visit, hike, or kayak.

**Why would you be a good fit for this role in public office? What experiences or expertise will you draw from?**  
My entire career has been dedicated to public service, which began 32 years ago in the City of Stamford Assessor’s office as a residential appraiser. I eventually accepted the lead role as the City Assessor 10 years ago. My years of experience and knowledge in

the profession and in implementing citywide property revaluations make me a perfect fit in assuming the role as a member of the Board of Assessment Appeals.

**What got you interested in the Board of Assessment Appeals? Why are you hoping to serve another term?**  
My call to volunteer and offer my service for public office in Redding started back in 2006 after becoming elected to the Board and offered the post of Chairman. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of assisting taxpayers of our town by weighing in on thousands of

appeals – which I wish to continue to do in the years to come.

**What do you see as the top priorities facing the Board of Assessment Appeals in the next three years?**  
Every municipality in Connecticut is required to perform a property re-valuation every five years. The last one implemented in Redding was effective for the October 1, 2022 Grand List year. So, the upcoming re-valuation will reset market values for all parcels within our community. The members of the Board will be ready to respond to our call that will include

listening to taxpayers disputes and deliberating over appeals – which is likely to increase once the revaluation values are set and notices are mailed to property owners.

**What do you hope to accomplish in the upcoming term, and why?**  
My effort will be to increase awareness so taxpayers will be able to navigate through the appeal process with more understanding and ease. In this way, before they arrive to their appeal meeting, they will know precisely what information and facts the Board typically would like presented to ensure our deliberations go smoothly. ■



ELECTION 2025

John Belfatto – Redding Board of Education  
Endorsed by Republican Town Committee | By Anne Young Albanese



John Belfatto is running as an incumbent for the Redding Board of Education, having been elected to his first term in 2021. He and his family have lived in Redding for

close to two decades. His wife MaryBeth works with autistic children locally, and their son Chris attends Joel Barlow High School.

**How long have you lived in Redding?**  
My wife MaryBeth and I moved to Redding 19 years ago.

**What are some of the things you enjoy about living here?**  
I picked up playing basketball a few years ago and enjoy doing that three to four times a week as well as working out at the gym, hiking, and playing baseball. I also like to travel whenever I can.

**Why would you be a good fit for this role in public office? What experiences or expertise will you draw from?**  
I had a custom integration business for 21 years and sold it to a company that is trying to create a national brand back in April 2024. That company kept me on, but I left that company in August 2025. I am currently exploring my options going forward.

**What got you interested in this role? Why are you hoping to serve another term?**  
I never had any intention of running for any public service

office, but in May of 2021, the whole “woke” agenda seemed to come barreling into our wonderful community. After having sat in on a couple of Zoom Board of Education meetings, I decided that I must try and get involved, so I ran and won the seat. I wasn’t happy with the direction the previous Board of Education and Superintendent were taking our schools in.

**What do you see as the top priorities facing the Redding Board of Education in the next three years?**  
The current Board and Dr. McKinnon are a breath of fresh air

and have my utmost confidence and support in their latest endeavors.

**What do you hope to accomplish in the upcoming term, and why?**  
One thing I would like to see return to our schools are the shop classes. I think we’ve done a great disservice by removing them. Of course, the economics of making that happen would have to be taken into consideration. ■

Katie Risk – Redding Board of Education  
Endorsed by Republican Town Committee | By Anne Young Albanese



Katie Risk joined the Redding Board of Education mid-term in September 2024 to fill the seat left open after Celeste Fine’s resignation. She lives in Redding with her husband and daughter. She also has a Golden Retriever, Ralph, who often roams around town with the family. She is an Elementary Assistant Principal in Darien.

Risk enjoys needlepointing, playing Mah Jong, cooking, and

eating. She also regularly swims at the YMCA and enjoys exploring the beautiful nature around town with her family.

**How long have you lived in Redding?**  
My husband and I met in New York City in 2012 and moved to Redding in July 2023 after several years in the Harbor Point area of Stamford.

**What are some of the things you enjoy about living here?**  
We sought high-quality schools balanced with the small-town feel we both experienced growing up, as well as plentiful green space Ralph could enjoy. Redding is fairly equidistant to our families, and accessible to both of our jobs. We love supporting businesses in Georgetown, and enjoying local treasures like fall at Warrup’s Farm, Friday evenings at Nod Hill Brewery, weekend grocery shopping at

Caraluzzi’s, and all of the exciting things popping up at The Granite.

**Why would you be a good fit for this role in public office? What experiences or expertise will you draw from?**  
I dreamed of becoming a teacher ever since I began teaching swimming lessons at age 15 and have dedicated my life to bettering the world of education. I have a Bachelor’s Degree in Human Development and Family Studies focused in Early Childhood Development and Education, Master’s in Teaching Students with Disabilities, have post-graduate certifications in Reading and Teaching English to Students of Other Languages, a Sixth Year Degree in Intermediate Administration, and am currently enrolled in UConn’s Executive Leadership Program for my Superintendent Certification.

Prior to my current role, I began my career as a Special Education

Teacher in the South Bronx and Park Slope, and worked as a Reading Specialist, ESL Teacher, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator, and Assistant Principal for Special Education in Darien. I have a strong network of trusted colleagues and mentors, am part of many professional learning groups, and am able to draw from my own leading and learning experiences. I continue to balance these lenses with that of a community member and parent.

**What got you interested in the Redding Board of Education? Why are you hoping to serve another term?**  
I hope to return to this role to continue to bring experience, context, understanding, and care to our wonderful school district and Board. We are extremely fortunate to have a highly-regarded school system and group of educators and leaders, and I hope to advocate for enhanced outcomes for every

Redding student.

**What do you see as the top priorities facing the Redding Board of Education in the next three years?**  
Ensuring the safety of our schools, a fiscally responsible budget in collaboration with the Board of Finance, supporting the mental health of students, and maintaining the academic excellence of our schools.

**What do you hope to accomplish in the upcoming term, and why?**  
I hope to uphold the excellent caliber of our schools through our policies, procedures, and budget; support our administration in their implementation of our Strategic Plan; connect with more families; and advocate for the safety and wellness of Redding students given the rapidly evolving, and complicated, world we live in. ■

Chirag Sadana – Redding Board of Education  
Endorsed by Democratic Town Committee | By Anne Young Albanese



Chirag Sadana lives in Redding with his wife and three children (ages five, eight and 11), who attend Redding schools. He is running as an incumbent for the Redding Board of Education, on which he has served since 2021. He and his wife spend a lot of time at the town soccer fields – when he is not watching his children play soccer, he spends time at the local playgrounds. In his free time, Sadana enjoys woodworking and doing projects around the house, and he is also teaching himself to fix cars.

**How long have you lived in Redding?**  
My family and I moved to Redding in 2017. My wife and I met in college in New York City and lived there for about 15 years as we worked and attended graduate school.

**What are some of the things you enjoy about living here?**  
I grew up in Stamford and wanted to come back to Connecticut, but I knew I wanted a more rural setting to raise a family. We looked at Redding specifically because of the quality of the school system, and we both fell in love with the town when we started touring houses. Beyond the schools and nature, we were incredibly grateful to find the strong sense of community in Redding.

**Why would you be a good fit for this role in public office? What experiences or expertise will you draw from?**  
I have an undergraduate degree in Computer Science from New York University and an MBA at the Stern School of Business. I started

my career building out technology infrastructure and developing software at the NYU Dental School, seamlessly bringing technology into the classroom. I spent a few years leading a team at Bridgewater Associates, where I learned a great deal about working under pressure, determining root causes, and problem solving. From there, several co-workers and I left to launch our own consulting firm where we helped other companies utilize technology to improve their business.

My passion has always been problem solving. The goal of all public servants should be to solve problems, improve the lives of those you serve, and do so efficiently to ensure that each dollar is spent in the most effective way possible. I have a vested interest in the Redding schools, as I have three sons who are students here.

**What got you interested in the Redding Board of Education? Why are you hoping to serve another term?**  
I joined the Board of Education in 2021 because, at the time,

education was the area that I felt was deeply impacted by Covid. We had to assess the needs of the local community while also dealing with constantly changing information and requirements from State and Federal agencies. While difficult, it was incredibly rewarding. My goal was to ensure that those students who lost classroom time during this period had all the resources they needed to catch up. This was very personal for me, as my oldest son was in kindergarten when the schools first shut down, and he spent his first-grade year on Zoom. This cohort of students faced some of the most difficult challenges recovering from Covid, as those early years are crucial for children to learn organizational, academic, and social skills.

**What do you see as the top priorities facing the Redding Board of Education in the next three years?**  
As the costs of education have gone up every year, the struggle for the Board has always been how to prioritize resources effectively. Balancing between capital projects,

programs at schools, and budget constraints of the Town force us to make difficult decisions. I look at the schools as one of the most important assets that the Town of Redding has. As such, we need to ensure that the schools are setting our students up for success and providing a return on investment for the community. We do this by developing clear plans that can be executed and then assessed against key metrics while also providing granular transparency to the community.

**What do you hope to accomplish in the upcoming term, and why?**  
I would like to see test scores improve and recover from the Covid drops. We’ve made great progress, but I want to see us exceed where the scores were even prior to Covid. I’d like to see us continue to invest in capital projects to improve infrastructure. I look forward to working with Dr McKinnon and the rest of the Board to achieve each and every one of the lofty goals set in the Strategic Plan. For those not familiar, it is available to read through at [er9strategicplan.org](http://er9strategicplan.org) ■

Barlow Debate opens season with strong showing / continued from page 3

Connecticut Debate Association tournaments. The top two pairs then break into the exhibition final. Barlow seniors Priti Kiefer and Dylan Winegar broke from preliminaries to the varsity final, being the top seed and one of just two teams in the tournament to go 4-0 in preliminaries.

“Congratulations to Priti and

Dylan, who finished as second varsity team at the tournament,” said Smith. “Though they lost the final in a 2-1 decision, in my view it was a clear Barlow victory. Priti deftly handled the details, cutting through refutations posted by a team from the King School. Dylan’s rebuttal was an exceedingly clear framing of what was on offer in the round.”

Other Barlow students on the roster who had at least one win, were seniors Yu-Min Cho, Brady Decker, Kosta Nani, and Brian Weiss, along with sophomore novices Charles Rabinowitz and Aniket Gupta, going 3-1.

Smith noted the event was supported by several Barlow families, with more than a dozen donating

items for a breakfast hosted by Barlow Debate. The servers were student leaders from the Barlow class of 2028.

“I’m especially grateful to the Barlow parents who spent the whole day judging,” Smith said. “These folks included Clay Cowan, Dave Cohen, and Julia Pang along with our stalwart veteran

adjudicators, Michael Rabinowitz and Pamela Gupta.”

Co-captain Arianna Periera became ill during the event and had to leave early. Her team partner, Maansi Tibrewal, remained at the tournament to mentor novices throughout the day. ■



# ELECTION 2025

## Meghan Bendish – Region 9 Board of Education

Endorsed by Democratic Town Committee | By Anne Young Albanese



Meghan Bendish is running to represent Redding on the Region 9 Board of Education. She served two years on the Redding Board of Education and believes her experience will provide the expertise that will benefit Region 9. Bendish’s background as a chef prepared her for her current role as Director of Dining Services for Darien Public

Schools, where she is focused on improving the quality of its school lunch programs. Bendish lives in Redding with her husband and son. Her older daughter is a sophomore at a small university in England. She loves cooking and entertaining friends.

**How long have you lived in Redding?**  
I moved to Redding with my family in the summer of 2016.

**What are some of the things you enjoy about living here?**  
We came from a larger town in Fairfield County, and I love the size of Redding. It’s perfect for creating a sense of community. Going to town and school events and knowing many people at them

is so awesome compared to living in a larger town or city.

**Why would you be a good fit for this role in public office? What experiences or expertise will you draw from?**  
I plan to draw from my experience on the Redding Board of Education and look forward to doing much of the same that I’ve done while as a member of that Board, which is to volunteer for as many committees and roles that I can to help me learn and really get involved in the process. On the Redding Board of Education, I volunteered to be a member of both Assistant Superintendent Search Committees, and I’m proud of the work we did and who ultimately we chose to hire for the districts.

**What got you interested in the Region 9 Board of Education?**  
While I really enjoy being part of the Redding Board, and involved with Redding Elementary and John Read Middle School, I have a son attending Joel Barlow High School, and I think a role on the Region 9 Board of Education aligns well with my community within Redding.

**What do you see as the top priorities facing the Region 9 Board of Education in the next three years?**  
There has already been a great amount of work by the Boards into our District Improvement Plan and individual School Improvement Plans. I hope to keep those plans a top priority and continue seeing results. Another top priority for me

is the inclusivity of our schools and community; creating a welcoming environment for all our learners is so important, as I believe it will improve learning for everyone.

**What do you hope to accomplish in the upcoming term, and why?**  
I’d like to be involved in the ever-evolving discourse surrounding technology – specifically technology within the classroom using tools like AI as well as individual student use and how personal devices are addressed. I think technology is already crucial to student learning, and it’s important that we are keeping up with advancements as it’s a field that is growing and changing so fast. I’m also looking forward to being a part of the progress the district is making with The Nest! ■

## Kristina Scaviola – Region 9 Board of Education

Endorsed by Democratic Town Committee | By Anne Young Albanese



Kristina Scaviola, President of the Redding Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (RES PTA), is running for the Region 9 Board of Education. She previously served as the Secretary and Vice President-elect of the RES PTA. This is her first run for publicly elected office. As RES PTA President, Scaviola is dedicated to reducing barriers to access programming and providing enrichment opportunities for all students. She enjoys playing pickleball and running through town and on Redding’s trails in her free time. She also enjoys gardening and planning activities with her friends. Scaviola also teaches at New Pond

Farm Education Center, which allows her to combine her love of science and education through field trips and the SunSational Summer Program.

**How long have you lived in Redding?**  
Our family moved to Redding in fall of 2022, however I grew up in Redding and attended RES, JRMS, and graduated from Joel Barlow High School in 2002.

**What are some of the things you enjoy about living here?**  
We love the rural character of the town, and are regulars on the Saugatuck and Aspetuck trails, as well as Devil’s Den. We also enjoy the Concerts on the Green, and many summer days can be found enjoying Topstone.

**Why would you be a good fit for this role in public office? What experiences or expertise will you draw from?**  
As a Redding parent (I have a third grader at RES and a fifth

grader at JRMS), I have a vested interest in not only the quality of the education our students receive, but also in providing thoughtful attention to our facilities and properties. My goal in serving on the Region 9 Board of Education would be to provide a voice from Redding with younger students, capitalizing on my lived experiences to identify areas of need. My career experience includes working as a chemist, teaching at the Boston Museum of Science, environmental consulting, founding a small women-owned consulting business and laboratory, and now serving as program staff at Redding’s own New Pond Farm Education Center. The collective experience of both leading and teaching has led me to take an analytical approach with identifying areas of need or improvement, which would be the methodology I use for Region 9.

**What got you interested in the Region 9 Board of Education?**  
I am passionate about education and reducing barriers to access for

all students. Joel Barlow/ Region 9 is not only a high school, but it is an institution preparing our students to become adults. As a parent of young students, helping to provide continual improvement in our course offerings, programs, support systems, and facilities is directly beneficial to the community that I am a part of.

**What do you see as the top priorities facing the Region 9 Board of Education in the next three years?**  
Use of artificial intelligence and new technologies will be a top priority for Region 9 over the next few years. The Board and District will need to identify and create appropriate policies for the use or misuse of AI and potentially bring on an AI specialist to assist with policy as other neighboring districts have. AI isn’t going away, so creating education around best practices for a learning environment will be critical to our students’ ongoing development and success.

**What do you hope to accomplish in the upcoming term, and why?**  
The measure of success for a term on the Region 9 Board of Education would be continuing to graduate students who are prepared to meet the demands of a quickly changing environment. Regardless of path – whether it be college, trade school, or directly to a career – having effective communication, critical thinking and analytical skills, as well as a sense for the broader world around them will give students tools to be successful in their next steps. Continually looking to where the Board of Education can identify improvements to curriculum, facilities, services, etc will further the goal of graduating fully prepared students. The why comes down to a fundamental purpose: It’s for the kids. While strong schools are directly tied to strong property values, my motivations for success in this role are the students themselves. ■

## Laura Worosz – Redding Board of Education

Endorsed by Democratic Town Committee | By Anne Young Albanese



Laura Worosz is running for her second term on the Redding Board of Education, on which she currently serves as Chair. She has an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a BA in Statistics from UC Berkeley. With a professional background in research, strategy, and operations at large companies and several volunteer community involvements, she is committed to impactful, strategic work. She has lived in Redding for five years with her family and has two young children.

**How long have you lived in Redding?**  
I moved to Redding in 2020 with my husband and son.

**What are some of the things you enjoy about living here?**  
We now have two boys, two dogs, and approximately 50,000 honeybees. I work part-time as a residential interior designer and serve as a Board Director for Ridgebury Farm, a hippotherapy center in Ridgefield.

**Why would you be a good fit for this role in public office? What experiences or expertise will you draw from?**  
This will be my second term on the Redding Board of Education. I’ve served the last two years as Chairman.

**What got you interested in the Redding Board of Education? Why are you hoping to serve another term?**  
I believe strongly that public education is one of the most (if not the most) critical government services we have. And similarly, I understand and appreciate the importance of fiscal responsibility when serving on a municipal board. I take my role very seriously and feel honored to serve both students and taxpayers in Redding.

**What do you see as the top priorities facing the Redding**


**Board of Education in the next three years?**  
A few priorities for me include continuing to improve academic outcomes for our students and

expanding cultural and experiential programming. I would also like to explore new organizational options for our special education programs. More substantial in-district or

regional programming helps both students and taxpayers by lowering costs and keeping students closer to home. ■

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

EARLY VOTING  
Monday October 20-  
Sunday November 2




ELECTION DAY  
Tuesday November 4  
6:00am - 8:00pm

Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road

October 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20 Early Voting 10:00 am - 6:00 pm	21 Early Voting 10:00 am - 6:00 pm	22 Early Voting 10:00 am - 6:00 pm	23 Early Voting 10:00 am - 6:00 pm	24 Early Voting 10:00 am - 6:00 pm	25 Early Voting 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
26 Early Voting 10:00 am - 6:00 pm	27 Early Voting 10:00 am - 6:00 pm	28 Early Voting 8:00 am - 8:00 pm	29 Early Voting 10:00 am - 6:00 pm	30 Early Voting 8:00 am - 8:00 pm	1 Early Voting 10:00 am - 6:00 pm	
November 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Early Voting 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
2 Early Voting 10:00 am - 6:00 pm	- NO VOTING - 3	4 ELECTION DAY 6:00 am - 8:00 pm	5	6	7	8

For more information, scan the QR Code  
or visit: [www.reddingct.gov/registrar-voters](http://www.reddingct.gov/registrar-voters)





# Book Review

## The Dinner | By Herman Koch

320 pages / Hogarth Press / \$10.08

*The Dinner*, published in 2009 by Herman Koch, is a scary book. It is not cartoon scary the way Halloween has plastic skeletons in the yard or ghosts in trees. Rather, *The Dinner* is existentially scary, which means it is an adult story about terrifying evil that exists in the world. The evil described might or might not happen in a way Herman Koch suggests is possible. But it has. And it could. And we live in that world. And that is the scary part.

Koch has probably written a classic. How is this known? It is known by the author’s adroit use of a device called the “unreliable narrator.” One recalls Albert Camus’s *The Fall*, and how the first-person narration of the judge-penitent drew the reader into a conspiracy of understanding that the reader slowly begins to reject. The unreliable narrator creates closeness between reader and narrator through a voice which presumes a certain intimacy that the reader may later keenly regret, but fruitlessly. Reading itself is an intimate act that implies an empathic connection. A relationship with the narrator carries confirmation bias in a trust which, once betrayed, becomes something like complicity, and leaves the reader feeling unclean. Something or someone has been violated, though it might be difficult to see through self-interest and rationalization to know what or who to blame.

Koch achieves what seems impossible to do. Fair enough. But an author can upset a reader’s expectations by telling an intriguing story exceptionally well, and Koch has achieved this. By excellent conception and execution, this novelist has, without tricks or fabricated stunts, literally seduced the reader into continuing to read something so appalling in concept, that the story, blandly related, likely would be put aside as too revolting and

go unread. Koch’s brilliance as a writer is that he artfully nails your tie to the desk and commands you to READ! And you continue. And you think.

This is a book that cannot sell itself by revealing story. Therefore, as a former *New York Times* bestseller, it is a suggested book for a general read. And that is a true statement. But that distinction should be underscored as indicating a worthy novel with particular virtues. “Chilling, nasty, smart, shocking, and unputdownable,” is a quotation from a blurb on the cover. All of that is true.

Critics will discuss endlessly where, when, and how cracks begin to appear in the soundness of emotions excited by the narrator (one of two brothers). *The Dinner* takes place between the two brothers and their wives, a mitigating context to discuss a parenting issue between cousins, their friendly, 15-year-old boys. A pedestrian context to discuss a pedestrian matter. Well, not so fast.

Halloween exploits a projection of human fear in old scary forms that have lost their scary reality. But what is the nature of evil? What continues to scare adults for real? What other scary forms are ready to assert their bad faith? These are questions with many answers and implications. Koch gives the reader new reasons to fear a very real and present evil, which, chillingly, can be found in a novel like, *The Dinner*. But one question is never asked: Why did that behavior happen? Is it an individual anomaly? The answer is probably complicated. It could be cultural. But the author still might be asking, on behalf of the reader, “Is a mirror handy?” ■

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

## Talented kids showcase art and new interests



### Making Redding glow

Henry Tatro, age 7, captured Redding’s autumn hues beautifully by coloring the image of the Town Green Jack-O-Lantern display in the *Sentinel*’s September “Redding Kids” section. Residents are encouraged to drop off carved pumpkins to the Town Green from October 29-31 this year, and the Redding Garden Club will light them up for Halloween. Congratulations, Henry!



### Bird Bingo bonanza

Eleni Rountos showed off her \$50 prize-winning entry in the family backyard that made it all possible. Inspired by the Redding Tree Conservancy’s fall contest, the 11-year-old spotted every species on the bingo card. Eleni has become so excited about birding that she is now writing a short story about Aloe, a Bee Hummingbird who travels the sky looking for adventure.

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DANBURY

102 Mill Plain Rd

203-743-8003



# LIBRARY CORNER

## What place does AI have in libraries?

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Recently I was filling out a tax form to convert the CT Library Association from a 501(c)4 to a 501(c)3 organization. I stumbled on this question on Tax Form 1023, “Describe completely and in detail your past, present, and planned activities.” I was in over my head, having never completed a tax form like this in my entire life. But then I remembered ChatGPT! Into the generative AI universe I went, and after a short prompt, I had a nearly perfect narrative for our tax form, all in “IRS lingo.” This was generative AI at its best: it probably saved me an hour’s worth of work that I really had no interest in doing. Since then, I have used it for several library-related projects that needed something beyond a quick

Google. My ChatGPT history lists “generate Tom Sawyer image,” “tiered giving examples,” and “architect request-for-proposal samples” as my latest prompts.

But all of this begs the question: How can libraries use generative AI in an ethical way? As information professionals, we are trusted to provide facts from peer-reviewed, reliable sources. Sharing information generated through ChatGPT feels like a slippery slope when we can’t determine where the information originated from. And what responsibility does a library have to disclose the use of AI, especially in promotional copy? These concerns are being raised across the profession as artificial intelligence becomes a larger chunk of how we

do business. While consulting AI policies from various libraries, they are full of sensible advice like: never provide any patron-identifiable data to an AI, always review and validate AI-generated results, and when asking an AI to analyze any datasets, ensure the data has been anonymized. Whether we like it or not, artificial intelligence is here to stay, and libraries will have to find a way to harness its power in a way that remains true to our professional ethics. (And just in case you were wondering, not a single word in this column was written using generative AI tools.) ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is  
Director, Mark Twain Library

## Good books for good readers | By Margi Esten

Here is a glimpse of some of the books waiting their turn to be read sitting on my night table:

*What We Can Know* by Ian McEwan is the 18th novel by this prolific, Booker Prize-winning British author. As one of the most acclaimed novelists working today, he is also considered to be adventurous, known for his unsettling insights into the human condition. This new novel is full of secrets and surprises and an exploration of what can ever be truly known. I have read many but not all his books and he never disappoints. A few of my past favorites of his are *Atonement*, *Saturday*, *On Chesil Beach*, and *Amsterdam*.

*Venetian Vespers* by John Banville, another Booker Prize-winning novelist and another of my go-to writers. “Everything was a puzzle, everything a trap set to mystify and hinder me...” It is 1899, and a struggling English writer marries the daughter of an American tycoon. He expects to inherit a substantial fortune, but his hopes are dashed when a rift develops between his new wife and her father. Banville’s prose is eloquent and meticulous, poetic and lyrical. He is, in my eyes, one of the most vivid and beautiful writers today. His first novel, *Nightspawn*, was published in 1971 and, 25 books later, he is still writing. Other

favorites include *The Sea*, *Ancient Light*, *Snow*, and his pen name Benjamin Black series beginning with *Christine Falls* and featuring the pathologist/detective Quirke.

*Slow Horses* by Mick Herron is a 2010 espionage novel and the first in Herron’s “Slough House” series. If you love the Apple TV series starring Gary Oldman as much as I do, consider beginning the series. There are nine novels and five novellas in this series so far and no evidence of them stopping – all reviewers I read strongly suggest to read them in order. ■

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Details on potential revised housing bill emerge / continued from page 1

dead until it’s dead, and it ain’t dead yet.”

Rojas said he’s optimistic that officials will have a housing bill ready for the November 12 and 13 special session. Lawmakers also plan to debate a financial plan to respond to Federal human services cuts at the session.

Lamont said he agreed there was little of the bill left to negotiate but “the final two yards is always the toughest.”

“I want to do everything I can to make it easier and faster for developers to build. I want towns to take the lead,” he said.

He said the new bill aims to have towns select areas to “pre-zone” for more housing, such as locations close to public transit – a description similar to elements of the portion of the old bill known as Work, Live Ride.

He said the State will provide regional councils of government with planners who have “the skills they need to work with the towns” and to work “as a region.” He said towns will be able to work collectively on housing, sewer, and water resources under the approach. The State will help with the projects, and for towns that build more housing and need to expand their schools, Lamont said the State will be ready to help.

According to Lamont, town officials have said they’re okay with allowing the conversion of

commercial properties to residential without a special hearing in certain districts and – as long as the first floor can remain commercial so residents can access restaurants and shops. The previous proposal had allowed those conversions as of right without the qualification regarding the first floor.

H.B. 5002 had also removed mandates for developers to build off-street parking for residential buildings with up to 24 units. Lamont said under the new bill, that number will likely be lowered to 16 units.

“The parking requirements are overdone, and that’s one of the things we’re looking at with this bill,” Lamont said. “Maybe 16 units, you don’t have to have additional parking, but we’ll give the towns a little bit of flexibility if there’s a particular need.”

Rojas and Duff weren’t as specific. “I think the big picture of the bill is: How do we get more bang for our buck? How do we reduce regulations and all the other obstacles and needle points that exist in our housing development process?” Rojas said. He said the legislature had done its job during the session and passed a good bill.

“This is an issue that literally impacts everybody across the State of Connecticut,” Duff said. “And while you have people in communities who don’t want growth and don’t want housing, it’s really important for us to

say, ‘But there are actually more people who want growth and who want housing, who can’t afford a place to live.’”

Rojas has often characterized other housing bills as painfully incremental. Both lawmakers said they want to see bigger moves.

“Incremental legislation is not putting shovels in the ground, and that’s why we have to go forward faster,” Duff said.

Lamont and Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz praised a few towns such as West Hartford that have taken steps to build more affordable housing.

They also pushed back against ideas that have spread widely among some who opposed H.B. 5002 – that more affordable housing in towns is a problem for current residents.

“I love Mayor Shari Cantor, and people come up to her a little grumpy sometimes, and go, ‘I like West Hartford just the way it is.’ She goes, ‘I know. You’re going to love it the way it will be,’” Lamont said. “That’s what we’re trying to think about in this state.”

“I think there’s a myth out there that if your town has affordable housing in it, that somehow that affordable housing makes that town or city undesirable, and the exact opposite is true,” Bysiewicz said. ■

This article originally  
appeared in CT Mirror



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

A generations-old Mediterranean tradition comes stateside  
True Olive founded by family with Redding and Turkish roots

By Justin Reynolds



Nicole and Can Babaoglu with their sons Ada and River at the family's olive grove.

Whenever Nicole Babaoglu and husband Can (pronounced “John”) had people over for dinner, guests would always ask why what seemed to be the simplest dishes were so delicious.

According to Nicole, the magic ingredient was olive oil harvested from a 400-acre farm in the Dardanelles countryside of Turkey owned by Can’s parents.

“The grove was a gift from my father-in-law to my mother-in-law, although his family has been producing olive oil for generations,” Nicole said.

Seeking to re-create the taste for themselves, friends started asking the Babaoglus whether they could bring some of that magic home.

“Sharing bottles turned into a waiting list,” she continued.

Sensing they were on to something, the Babaoglus enlisted the help of a business partner and a consultant to streamline their operations. After entering international competitions – and earning gold at the New York International Olive Oil Competition – they decided to turn their family-produced olive oil into a stateside business, founding True Olive.

“We harvest from our own single-estate grove and cold press within hours,” explained Nicole. “We realized we could honor our family’s traditions and work together to bring that flavor to more people, enhancing everyday food and, for many, supporting their health.”

Nicole grew up in Redding; her grandparents and parents did, too.

“My grandmother, Susan Morehouse [née] Guild, was valedictorian of Joel Barlow High School’s first graduating class and helped choose the school colors,” she said. “In her last year, she told me the ‘Barlow gold’ was never quite the shade she imagined. So True Olive’s black, white, and gold palette reflects the gold she envisioned. It’s a small way of weaving my hometown into our brand, alongside my husband’s Mediterranean upbringing, where olive oil was always on the table.”

True Olive chooses to focus on quality over quantity, hand picking early-harvest olives from the family grove and pressing them within hours.

“Think of olives like peaches – you wouldn’t choose a bruised one; neither do we. The result is a brighter flavor, naturally higher polyphenols, and a clean, pungent finish. We bottle in small batches, print harvest dates on every bottle, and never blend with outside oils. We only bottle oil we’d serve at our own table. Most store-bought olive oil will be produced from late-harvest olives, picked by machines, and shipped to commercial presses, sitting in the back of trucks for days.”

Thanks to the company’s “obsession” with quality, True Olive has boasts more health benefits than most store-bought, mass-produced olive oils due to a higher volume of polyphenols and

antioxidants, Nicole said.

“We have members who receive bottles every month – including people managing Crohn’s, colitis, and heart-health goals. They often tell us True Olive has changed their lives,” she explained. “We are not doctors, but you can read the studies on all the health benefits of olive oil.”

Babaoglu admits that educating customers on the benefits of her products is tough because many Americans haven’t tasted premium olive oil before. But once they do, they “usually convert immediately.”

“The best examples of converts are my parents, Richard and Melanie Jarvis, who are longtime generic buyers,” she said. “Now, they are religious users of True Olive. My dad eats more salads, and they both take shots of olive oil every day. The best part is seeing him healthier and happier than I ever remember him being. He lost so much weight since starting to use True Olive that he weighs less than he did when I was a little kid. Even his hair and skin look better.”

Another challenge of running True Olive? Being in business with family, something her husband often jokes about.

“We love cooking together, but dinner gets interesting when we’re mid-debate over something as small as a font,” she said. “The trick is remembering: Be mad at the business partner, dance in the kitchen with my husband.”

Looking ahead, True Olive is exploring “thoughtful retail expansion and deeper community roots.” You can find the company’s products at The Georgetown Owl Market and the Village Market in Wilton. ■

For more information, visit [trueolive.co](http://trueolive.co)

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Notes from a neighbor  
Here comes the bus

By Carter Wisemann



Photo by Jessie Wright

The current housing squeeze came home in a literal way last summer when our son, his wife, and three children lost their apartment lease. Happily, my wife and I have just enough room to accommodate them, at least temporarily. The expanded clan has created some chaos in the kitchen, but it has also brought back a happy reminder of our children’s past: the school-bus bench.

Two of our rental refugees are in elementary school, so meeting the big yellow bus twice a day meant reviving a long-forgotten ritual. The wooden picnic bench we had used years ago had rotted away, so we salvaged a metal one from our kids’ abandoned apartment and set it out by the mailbox. I had heard depressing tales of benches being pinched – either out of mischief or because some passerby thought they were “free stuff” – so I secured the bench to the mailbox post with a bike lock. I no longer had the combination, but I figured that some duct tape would make it look immovable.

Not to worry. Not only has the bench remained unmolested, it also has become a refuge for at least two mothers whom I see resting regularly with their infants in strollers, and a couple of marathoners taking a breather from their training. Even though our neighborhood is now populated mostly by older residents, the school-bus bench is not the only one on the street. Another survives from an earlier era, perhaps because it is made of concrete and was too heavy to move when the kids went off to college. But it is also serving a new purpose. The owners last year installed a Little Free Library next to the bench, so I like to think that the street is now encouraging education in another way, even though there is not yet a computer port attached.

I was thinking about putting a plaque on our bench, like the ones we see in public parks or at the beach honoring departed citizens of distinction and local donors. A scholarly neighbor once gave us one for the bench on our patio that read, “I loafe and invite my soul.” I had to look the text up to discover that it was a quote from Walt Whitman. That seemed like a reach for a school-bus picking up third-graders, so I have another idea.

Some years ago, my children gave me an Adirondack chair for Father’s Day with a little plaque that read, “Sit here, Dad.” If we do a plaque for our school-bus bench, I’d be happy with, “Sit here, whoever you may be.”

And next spring, we might want to add a lemonade stand. ■

No shortage of treats at the trunks during annual Halloween tradition



Photos by Jessie Wright & Debora DeCarlo Rosa

Over 500 children came for Halloween fun on Saturday, October 25 at the annual Trunk or Treat hosted by Redding Neighbors & Newcomers and Redding Park & Recreation. Trunks hosted by local organizations, businesses, and families — including a police squad car, fire truck, and Scouts station — offered colorful, creative displays and plenty of sweet treats.



THE NATURAL WORLD

The Outside Story: The mud beneath us reveals the past

By Steven Arcone



Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol

Most people know that the bottom of a northern lake or large pond is a mucky, muddy mess of weeds, decayed leaves, some rocks, and a few crayfish to avoid stepping on while wading. This area is known as the lake shelf. Just beyond the shelf is often a steep drop-off – usually 20 feet deep or more – known as the slope, followed by a longer and much less steep rise leading to the deepest part, known as the basin. With every storm and footstep, most of the muck is re-suspended, moving and settling again on the rise and basin. Most northern lakes have at least 10 feet of mud beneath the basins. The technical term for this lake bottom mud made of mineral silt and decaying organic matter is “gyttja,” a Swedish word pronounced “yitcha.”

Gyttja’s silt-sized particles range between 0.002 and 0.05 millimeters in diameter. Finer sizes are referred to as clay. These sediments were left by ice sheets grinding down the rock beneath them over tens of thousands of years. These clays and silts were then eroded from nearby hillsides and washed down into lake bottoms over the years. Basins can accumulate up to one millimeter of sediment per year. Beneath gyttja, most New England and New York lakes have sand, gravel, cobbles, and boulders that were also left or washed out of the ice sheet as it receded from these areas 14,000 to 15,000 years ago.

Gyttja density varies from about 1.8 grams per cubic centimeter at its nearly inorganic bottom to 1.0 – the density of water – at the sediment-water interface where suspended particles form a murky layer. By weight, gyttja’s mineral content tends to be 60 percent or more quartz and about 20 percent feldspars and micas. Organic matter, from a few percent at the bottom of the gyttja to nearly 40 percent at the top, includes rotting and totally decomposed vegetation, fish waste, and algae.

Gyttja’s organics, exotic chemical content, and layer structure can reveal ecological and climate history. By extracting cores – usually three inches in diameter – scientists can date and study pollen, toxic metals, pesticides, and other inorganics. Pollen research done at Harvard University in the 1970s determined that, after glaciers receded, herbaceous plants were the first to return to New England about 13,000 years ago, followed by spruce trees, then pines and oaks. In New Hampshire and Maine, Plymouth State University geologists have documented the recent history of DDT, evidence of shoreline erosion from motorboat activity, and ancient occurrences of cyanobacteria.

Also in the 1970s, Cornell University researchers discovered hundreds of nearly pure mineral layers embedded within gyttja cores – up to 10 in one centimeter.

Layering style and sand content identified them as turbidites, or layers created by turbidity currents. These currents are denser than lake water because of their silt and clay content, so they travel along lake bottoms, much like an underwater sandstorm. They are generated from slumps or slides on slopes, where sediment deposits are most unstable, and are typically caused by large-scale disturbances, such as floods. These layers provide information on climate history by indicating when intense storms occurred. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, researchers at the University of Vermont found that over the past 13,000 years, storm-driven turbidites frequently occurred in intervals lasting from about a few hundred to over 1,000 years, with evidence that we may be in the midst of a 1,500-year period of intense storms.

Most New England lake water and gyttja have low electrical conductivity, which allows special, low-frequency radar signals to penetrate gyttja and reflect from the denser turbidite layers, revealing more about how turbidites form. Since the early 1990s, my own radar profiles of 25 New England lakes have shown that entire lake sub-bottoms are often stratified with continuous, datable, turbidite horizons. Most importantly, I found that turbidites protect underlying gyttja from storm erosion, thus preserving valuable core data, which can be used to uncover the Northeast’s ecological past. Next time your toes are squishing into the mud of a lake bottom, think about how valuable the layers of turbidite and gyttja are! This fascinating muck holds some of the answers to the past. ■

Steven Arcone is a semi-retired research geophysicist whose professional career included 43 years at the U. S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, New Hampshire. 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.

OBITUARY

Jean Fallon Taylor  
October 6, 1937 – October 11, 2025



Jean Fallon Taylor (née Fallon) of Mystic, CT, born October 6, 1937, passed quietly on October 11, 2025, after a brief illness with her family by her side.

Jean was born in Boston, MA, at Mass General Hospital to Dr. John J. and Regina Fallon of Concord, MA. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Frank Taylor, of Mystic; daughter Julie Taylor Veto, son-in-law, Reid Veto and their children Adrian and Cecily of Brooklyn, NY; daughter Amy Taylor of Rio Rico, AZ, and her daughters Elisa of Worcester, MA, Ekaterina of Somerville, MA, and Anya of Beverly, MA.

Jean grew up in Concord, MA, where she lived with her parents and brother, John, in a historic home that formerly belonged to Dr. Samuel Prescott. Dr. Prescott was a physician and a patriot during the Revolutionary War best known for his role in Paul Revere’s “midnight ride” as the only participant to reach Concord.

Jean attended Concord-Carlisle High School, graduated from Radcliffe College with a BA in economics in 1959, and went to work for IBM. She worked in Boston, Hartford, San Francisco, and Menlo Park. Jean and Frank met in 1969 at an IBM event in New York City, introduced by a

mutual friend. After cross-country dating, they got engaged and were married in Concord, MA, on October 10, 1970. She retired from IBM in 1972 to raise her family.

In 1983, Jean and one of her closest friends started an application consulting business, FASTAR. Their key accounts included Emery Worldwide, then one of the oldest and largest air freight forwarding companies, Readers Digest, and New England Security Services. The two also ran education classes teaching children and adults how to effectively use the “new” personal computers.

In 2002, Jean received a master’s degree in library science from Southern Connecticut University, then joined Mark Twain Library in Redding as Reference Librarian until her retirement in 2016. She was active with her girls at school; in the League of Women Voters; at St. Patrick’s Church in Redding; and as an avid golfer at the Redding Country Club where she won many tournaments. For more than 15 years, every morning you could see Jean walking along Lonetown Road with her dear friend on their daily three-mile walk.

Jean was known for her kindness, thoughtfulness, and deep commitment to her family, always there to help and provide love and guidance.

Frank and Jean moved to StoneRidge Continuing Care Retirement Community in Mystic in 2022. A funeral mass will be held in Redding, at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church on November 14 at 11:00 a.m. Burial will be a private ceremony at St. Bernard Cemetery, Concord, MA.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in memory of Jean Fallon Taylor to The Parkinson’s Foundation at parkinson.org or The Harvard Brain Tissue Resource Center at giving.mclean.org/mclean-brain-bank ■

From roosters to ribbons  
Grange Agricultural Fair draws biggest crowd yet

By Jessie Wright



Photos by Lesley Barewin, Elizabeth Jensen, and Jessie Wright

A picture-perfect autumn day provided a fitting backdrop for the fourth annual Redding Grange Agricultural Fair on Sunday, October 26. Local gardeners, farmers, bakers, cooks, and artists attended and competed to win ribbons in 13 categories. Games, animal encounters, vendors, and the musical stylings of the String-Busters provided a lively afternoon for all, as people dropped by to browse the offerings, get their knives sharpened by Redding Knives, and catch up with friends.

The blue-ribbon winners this year were: Avery Johnson, Homemade on the Grange Baked Goods (Apple pie); Lesley Barewin, Special Sauce (Lacto-fermented

jalapeño hot sauce); Karen Staff, The Greatest Thing: Sliced Bread (Garlic cheese rosemary loaf); Peter Napolitano, Jam On (Hot pepper jelly); Mainor Gomez, Come out of the Woodworking (Egg holder); Tegan Conlon, In a Pickle (Dill pickles); Jeffrey Rawson, Locally Produced Maple Syrup (Maple syrup from Redding); Katie Horan, Most Impressive Produce (Polar bear pumpkin); Alli Basta, Seasonal flower arrangement (Late autumn blooms); Lesley Barewin, Pretty Pumpkins, Gorgeous Gourds, Sexy Squash (Volunteer pumpkin); Rachel Staffier, Photography (Spring morning at New Pond Farm); Kate Perry, Finest Feathered Friend (Peachie Keen the Rooster). ■



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies  
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

<b>Make Redding Glow on Halloween</b> <b>October 29 – 31</b> Bring your Jack-O-Lantern to the Town Green display on Wednesday October 29th Redding Garden Club will keep your Jack-O-Lantern lit and manage the display Questions: ruthmoran@gmail.com	<b>Umpawaug School – Public Openhouse</b> <b>Sunday, November 2</b> 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Join the Redding Historical Society to learn more about this one-room brick schoolhouse, built circa 1790 Near junction of Umpawaug Road and Marchant Road E-mail info@reddinghistory.org	<b>Municipal Election Day</b> <b>Tuesday, November 4</b> 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Voters must be in line and all absentee ballots submitted by 8:00 p.m. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road reddingct.gov	<b>Lyrics Coffeehouse: Brooks Williams</b> <b>Friday, November 7</b> 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Live, acoustic music in a relaxed setting Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road reddingct.gov/ parks-and-recreation \$
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ARTS

<b>Thursday, November 6 – Saturday, November 8</b> <b>Joel Barlow High School presents <i>Almost, Maine</i></b> 7:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday 2:00 p.m. on Saturday Joel Barlow High School 100 Black Rock Turnpike jbhs.booktix.com \$	<b>Thursday, November 6</b> <b>Bluegrass Nights</b> 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. House band at 8:00 p.m., open jamming throughout the night The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org/events	<b>Thursday, November 6</b> <b>Pour and Sip with Christy Bonaiuto</b> 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Learn pour painting with vibrant colors while enjoying refreshments New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R	<b>Friday, November 7</b> <b>Creative Cocktail Hour</b> 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Enjoy Set in Stone by Dave Gesualdi & Re-Figured Georgetown Arts & Cultural Society 5 Main Street gtownarts.com	<b>Friday, November 7</b> <b>Max Wareham &amp; the National Bluegrass Team</b> 7:00 p.m. Soulful, high-energy sound The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org/events \$	<b>Friday, November 7</b> <b>Lyrics Coffeehouse: Brooks Williams</b> 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Live, acoustic music in a relaxed setting Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation \$	<b>Sunday, November 9</b> <b>Two by Two by Three American Chamber Duets and the Legacy of Aaron Copland</b> 7:00 p.m. Soulful, high-energy sound The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org/events \$	<b>Saturday, November 22</b> <b>Bus Trip: Radio City Christmas Spectacular</b> 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Depart from Redding Community Center, enjoy time in New York City and a live show 37 Lonetown Road reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation \$, R	<b>Redding Land Trust 2026 Photography Show</b> Capture fall’s beauty and submit photos to a juried show. reddingctlandtrust.org/photoshow \$, R
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CHILDREN | TEENS

<b>Tuesday, November 4</b> <b>Topstone Family Story Time with Donuts</b> 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Co-sponsored with Park & Recreation, birth to 5, weather permitting Topstone Park 72 Topstone Road marktwinlibrary.org R	<b>Thursday, November 6</b> <b>Train Story Time</b> 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Birth to 5 with caregiver 1:30 p.m. – 2:10 p.m. Drop-off for ages 3 and 4 Train stories, flannel boards, and extended play time with toys Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwinlibrary.org R	<b>Friday, November 7</b> <b>Bright Futures Boys &amp; Girls Club Bash</b> Light bites, open bar, live music, and silent auction to support Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton Redding Country Club 109 Lonetown Road bgcre.net \$, R	<b>Saturday, November 15</b> <b>Holiday Photo Fundraiser with Santa</b> 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Book a 15-minute session with horses and Santa with professional photographer, proceeds to support Georgetown Community Foundation Rising Starr Horse Rescue 93 Silver Spring Road Wilton bit.ly/GCAphotos2025 \$, R	<b>Tuesday, November 4</b> <b>Vote and Vax: Flu Vaccine Clinic</b> 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Bring signed consent form, driver’s license, and insurance card for flu vaccine provided by Griffin Health Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road reddingct.gov	<b>Thursday, November 6</b> <b>Autumn Flow: Restorative Yoga with Viki</b> 12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Virtual Mark Twain Library marktwinlibrary.org R	<b>Thursday, October 30</b> <b>Drive-In Movie: <i>Hocus Pocus</i></b> 6:30 p.m. Flat fee per vehicle The Redding Roadhouse 406 Redding Road thereddingroadhouse.com \$, R
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Friday, October 31

<b>Easton Trunk or Treat and Bonfire</b> 5:30 p.m. Samuel Staples Elementary School and Morehouse Fields 515 Morehouse Road Easton eastonct.myrec.com	<b>Saturday, November 1</b> <b>Ghost Walk</b> 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Spooky stories outdoors by re-enactors of 5th Connecticut Regiment Putnam Memorial State Park 499 Black Rock Turnpike putnampark.org	<b>Sunday, November 2</b> <b>New Pond Farm Open Day</b> 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Visit the farm and learn about programs New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org
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NATURE

<b>Sunday, November 2</b> <b>Winter Buzz: Secrets to Pollinator Survival</b> 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Gentle walk with apiary manager New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org R	<b>Sunday, November 2</b> <b>“Flower Power” – Creating Change Through Social Connection</b> 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Redding Garden Club monthly meeting with presentation Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road reddinggardenclub.org
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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<b>Saturday, November 1</b> <b>A Celebration of Connecticut Woodland Indians</b> 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Hands-on, family program New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R	<b>Sunday, November 2</b> <b>Umpawaug School – Public Openhouse</b> 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Join the Redding Historical Society to learn more about this one-room brick schoolhouse, built circa 1790 Near junction of Umpawaug Road and Marchant Road E-mail info@reddinghistory.org with questions	<b>Wednesday, November 5</b> <b>Community, Power, and the Search for Indigenous Identity with Award-Winning Journalist Joseph Lee</b> 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Virtual Mark Twain Library marktwinlibrary.org R
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Thursday, November 6

<b>Prohibition in CT: Rumrunners, Bootleggers and a Rebellious Coastline</b> 7:00 p.m. Program with historian and podcaster Mike Allen Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwinlibrary.org R	<b>Bethlehem Lutheran Church</b> Sundays at 10:00 a.m. 44 Portland Avenue bethlehemlutheranct.org	<b>Calvary Independent Baptist Church</b> Adult and Child Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. / Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m. Nursery provided for all services. 711 Redding Road cibcredding.org	<b>Christ Church, Episcopal</b> Sundays at 9:00 a.m. 184 Cross Highway christchurchredding.org	<b>First Church of Christ, Congregational</b> Sundays at 10:00 a.m. 25 Cross Highway firstchurchredding.org
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<b>Long Ridge United Methodist</b> Sundays at 11:30 a.m. 201 Long Ridge Road Danbury longridgeumc.com	<b>Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish <i>St. Patrick Church:</i></b> 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
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<b>Georgetown Oratory of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</b> 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
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<b>Temple B’nai Chaim</b> Friday, October 31 Shabbat at Home 7:00 p.m. templebnaichaim.org	<b>Please check church and temple websites for holiday and special services</b>
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MEETINGS

<b>Thursday, October 30</b> <b>Early Voting and Same-Day Registration</b> 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road	<b>Thursday, October 30</b> <b>Region 9 Finance and Operations Pension Committee</b> 5:30 p.m. Central Office / Conference Room 654 Morehouse Road Easton	<b>Friday, October 31</b> <b>Early Voting and Same-Day Registration</b> 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road	<b>Saturday, November 1</b> <b>Early Voting and Same-Day Registration</b> 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road	<b>Sunday, November 2</b> <b>Early Voting and Same-Day Registration</b> 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road	<b>Monday, November 3</b> <b>Park and Recreation Commission</b> 7:00 p.m. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road	<b>Monday November 3</b> <b>Republican Town Committee</b> 7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	<b>Tuesday, November 4</b> <b>Municipal Election Day</b> 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road	<b>Tuesday, November 4</b> <b>Georgetown Fire District</b> 5:00 p.m. Georgetown Fire Department 61 Redding Road	<b>Tuesday, November 4</b> <b>Redding BOE Curriculum Committee (Joint with Easton) Special Meeting</b> 6:00 p.m. John Read Middle School 486 Redding Road	<b>Tuesday, November 4</b> <b>Redding Board of Education</b> 7:00 p.m. John Read Middle School / Community Room 486 Redding Road	<b>Wednesday, November 5</b> <b>Ives Trail Committee</b> 9:30 a.m. Town Hall / Conference Room 100 Hill Road	<b>Wednesday, November 5</b> <b>Brown Bag Lunch with First Selectwoman</b> 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Town Hall 100 Hill Road	<b>Monday, November 10</b> <b>League of Women Voters</b> 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Town Hall / Conference Room 100 Hill Road	<b>*Sign-up to receive meeting agendas and notifications at reddingct.gov/subscribe</b>
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