

Primaries on August 11

By Jessie Wright

Both the Democratic and Republican Parties are holding primaries on Tuesday, August 11 to determine candidates for races in November.

The Democrats are holding a primary for the office of Governor, with incumbent Ned Lamont (the party’s endorsed candidate) facing off against State Representative Josh Elliott. The winner of the primary will be on the ballot against Republican nominee Ryan Fazio in November.

The Republican Party is holding a primary for Representative in Congress for District 4 between Michael Ted Goldstein (an attorney and physician, and the party’s endorsed candidate) and Daniel Miressi, a youth hockey coach and former professional athlete.

Early voting is already underway and will run through Sunday, August 9. Election Day voting is on Tuesday, August 11 from 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Voters must be registered with each respective political party to participate. All in-person voting takes place at Redding Community Center, 37 Lonetown Road. ■



Photo by Susan Clark

Dahlia season has begun; pollinators enjoy the colorful buffet on Sanfordtown Road. If you have a photo you’d like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Final Revitalize Georgetown plan is delivered

By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo courtesy of Pirie Associates

A reference image of Winchester Lofts in New Haven in the Revitalize Georgetown plan for what multi-family housing with “factory character” could look like at the Gilbert & Bennett site.

After over a year of research, public feedback, and professional planning, Pirie Associates has delivered a final plan to the Board of Selectmen for the Revitalize Georgetown project.

The plan includes recommendations for how the Town should approach the redevelopment of the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill site and surrounding Georgetown area, with a vision to create “a welcoming and thriving regional arts and culture destination boasting a vibrant mixed-use village identity that exhibits its rich historical past, preserves its unique scale

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REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

If trees could talk: Beating the heat

By Janice Rotchstein



Photo courtesy of Kristen Anstett

Gone fishing: Max Anstett at Saugatuck Reservoir

Who wrote: “Dear weather. We know you’re hot! Stop showing off.” ?

Whoever did spoke on our behalf, especially this past July!

Fortunately, Redding’s abundance of trees work overtime to “A/C” us in two ways:

1. They absorb sunlight and release water vapors into the air, decreasing temperatures.

2. Their canopies block sunlight, cooling surfaces and lowering radiant heat, reducing the warmth we feel by as much as 10 degrees.

No wonder Reddingites opt for shady lanes, woodsy trails, and glistening ponds for their outdoor adventuring. For example:

A fish story: Max Anstett walks a serene path off Glen Road until reaching the quiet shore of Saugatuck Reservoir. There, he unpacks his gear to enjoy a tranquil early morning or late evening of angling.

The casting is bountiful. That’s because the deep, cold water is surrounded by tree cover and wooden debris that create calm water pockets, hiding spots for juvenile species to escape predators and resting areas for larger game fish. No wonder Anstett is able to lure walleye, bass, perch, crappie, trout, pickerel, and then some.

A Joel Barlow High School junior, Anstett has been fishing since

age six when his three-year-old sister, Grace, convinced their father to buy them rods and reels. Since then, he has developed different techniques to find what’s biting where and which bait to use when.

Anstett’s love of the sport and respect for nature runs true. “That’s why no matter how successful I am,” he explained, “I usually return my catch to the Reservoir, no matter the size.”

Dog days: Piper and Pell, springer spaniels – who happen to be cousins – rouse their mistress, Susan Clark, *Redding Sentinel* publisher, just as dawn breaks.

“The pups are ready to run after a good night’s sleep,” she said. “It’s best to get them out, then home before the day heats up.”

Although leashed, they are quickly through the door, down Sanfordtown Road, onto maple-lined Sherman Turnpike, and running strong until the asphalt becomes dirt.

Once the threesome heads back, their pace rarely falters. That’s because the dogs know water and treats have been left along the way by a kind woman.

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The highs and lows of town meeting governance

By Rob Sample

Some members of older generations might fondly remember the TV show *Newhart*, which aired during the 1980s and depicted the comedic travails of husband-and-wife innkeepers in rural Vermont. The show also acquainted viewers with town meetings – which provided plenty of comedic fodder for a form of local government not often found outside New England states.

At a town meeting, citizens attend and vote directly on important matters such as ordinances and budget adjustments. An upcoming meeting must be officially “noticed” in a newspaper and other means well beforehand to ensure people can attend. The town-meeting practice dates to pre-Revolutionary days.

“The town meeting is the oldest system of local government in the U.S.,” noted First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton. “For smaller towns such as Redding, I believe that it does put tremendous authority directly into the hands of townspeople. However, a lot of new people have moved into Redding and don’t have a good understanding of it. As a result, we need to do a better job of acquainting everyone with how town meeting government works.”

The town meeting predominates in Connecticut: of the 169 towns and cities in the Constitution State, more than half have either the traditional town-meeting style government akin to Redding’s or the representative town meeting (RTM) model usually found in larger towns. The rest operate under council/manager governments, much like cities and towns throughout the rest of the country.

In a traditional town-meeting setup, there are just three elected selectmen, including a First Selectman, for towns with populations under 10,000. People elected to this top post perform many if not most of the duties of running the day-to-day operations of the municipality. This three-person complement is mandated by the State; for towns with populations above 10,000 people, up to six selectmen in addition to a First Selectman may be elected.

Ideally, Pemberton said, the person who becomes the First Selectman should have broad experience with business operations, finance, and human resources. “The Town of Redding is a \$15 million dollar operation,” said Pemberton. “I look at it as much like running a small business.”

Some of the towns governed in this fashion have also adopted a town charter – as have neighboring Bethel and Ridgefield. Towns that adopt charters can specify additional selectmen.

“Because Redding has no town charter, we must follow the Connecticut General Statutes – which are very specific about the duties of the Board of Selectman as well as the First Selectman,” noted Pemberton. “What a charter will do is add nuances and details for what a town might do, and each town charter is different.”

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EDITORIAL

Joining in

I recently watched a fascinating documentary, produced in 2023, that seemed fit for the moment as we mark America’s 250th anniversary and reflect on our role in the future of the country.

Called *Join or Die*, it follows the work of social scientist Robert Putnam, whose groundbreaking research and 2000 book *Bowling Alone* tells the story of a sharp decrease in community connections leading to a decline in rates of civic engagement essential to democracy. Putnam used data on Americans’ declining membership in different groups and clubs – from Lions Clubs to Scouts to PTAs to Rotary – to show a possible link to levels of decreased civic engagement, including decreased voter turnout, attendance at public meetings, and work with political parties. The title *Bowling Alone* comes from Putnam’s example that, while the total number of people who went bowling increased over the previous two decades, the number of people who bowled in leagues had decreased.

Two decades after the book was published, the documentary looks at how these trends have continued or changed since the turn of the millennium – with, of course, the enormous disruptions that the Covid-19 pandemic wrought. Some of the statistics are alarming – 43% of Americans currently participate in zero clubs or organizations; between 1990 and 2021, the number of people reporting having no close friends quintupled – but the film doesn’t paint an all-bleak picture. Perhaps in some ways spurred by the pandemic, it shows how people across the nation are starting to reawaken to community organizations, in some cases starting their own or joining longstanding groups whose membership had dwindled.

Several months ago, I interviewed a handful of leaders in Redding, trying to understand some of the reasons behind our town’s recent track record of uncontested local elections and lower voter turnout rates. Though anecdotal, it didn’t seem that many of our local organizations have had trouble recruiting board members or members, but large numbers of volunteers to help run beloved events and initiatives have been harder to find. The main conclusion from those interviews, though, was that increased social pressure and online rhetoric around running for political office or a municipal role was enough to dissuade many civically-minded people from throwing their hats into the ring. The national political climate has filtered down into small-town local governance.

What’s the antidote? *Join or Die* makes the argument that it is social connections through membership in groups. We are more likely to be bound to our neighbors – regardless of background or political belief – when we engage with them in the context of fun, shared interests, or charitable efforts. I finished the film resolving to officially join one new group in town as a member this year. I hope our readers will consider the same. ■

Park and Rec discusses major updates | By Jessie Wright

Amidst a full schedule of summer programming, camps, and concerts, the Park and Recreation Commission is managing several significant developments to ongoing projects and staffing.

Director Rob Blick to retire this month

After over 29 years at the helm, Director of Park and Recreation Rob Blick will be retiring on Wednesday, August 19.

Park and Recreation Commission members have been asked to review the position’s job description and provide feedback to the Board of Selectmen, who will be interviewing candidates. The position will be posted internally first, as standard procedure, then posted for external candidates.

“Based on phone calls (we) have already received, I think this is going to be a position a lot of people will be interested in, so I’m hoping that we get a really, really great candidate pool,” noted Commission Chair Angela Caes. “We hope we find someone to fill some big shoes and keep going.”

Community Garden Working Group eyes the Onion Field for relocation

Following the discovery this spring of active septic leaching fields underneath portions of the Community Garden, a working group was formed to identify potential new locations for the garden or adjustments to make to the current location near Lonetown Farm that would meet health and safety standards.

Given the costs of converting the current location to a raised bed gardening system, a new location at the nearby Onion Field has been proposed. The Planning Commission will be conducting a site walk of the proposed site, which lies behind the Community Center tennis courts near 37 Lonetown Road, at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 10.

“The goal will be eventually to have 30 plots – 20 full plots and 10 smaller plots – to meet the needs of the gardeners now and potentially into the future,” noted Caes at a special meeting on July 30.

There are several factors to consider when establishing a new garden site, including soil testing results, sunlight measurements, the presence of invasive species, proximity to wetlands, drainage, and access to a well, in addition to the recommendations by the Town’s land use officials.

The Commission plans to further discuss the feasibility of the Onion Field location at a special meeting on Wednesday, August 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Walking path project stalled until at least spring

Construction and paving are not expected to resume on the new walking path around the Community Center fields any sooner than spring of 2027, after the Town terminated its contract with Westchester County-based construction firm Southern Industries and now is working with the insurance company of the bond to correct deficiencies in construction.

Continued on page 4

LEGAL NOTICE

At a meeting of the Redding Conservation Commission on July 21, 2026, the following action was voted:

App’l #26-07, Trisha Reger, 37 Chaburn Rd. LLC. Approved with conditions an application to install pool and building additions

S. Aimee Pardee, Chairman

POLICE BLOTTER

Police activity July 20 – 26 | By Donna Christopher

Traffic

Police conducted 32 motor vehicle stops, issuing 13 infractions, four written warnings, 14 verbal warnings, and took no action in one instance. The infraction rate was 40.6%.

Fraud

A complainant on Sport Hill Road reported sending a check in the mail from the Ridge Post Office which was duplicated and cashed. The case has been turned over to

the US Postal Inspectors Officer for follow-up.

A resident on Old Redding Road reported on July 21 that someone took out a student loan using his personal information.

Disorderly conduct

A Redding woman was arrested for disorderly conduct on July 24 after officers responded to a reported domestic disturbance involving two individuals on Howes Lane. The woman was charged and

released on a promise to appear with conditions prohibiting contact with the alleged victim and requiring her to stay away from their residence. She was scheduled to appear at Danbury Superior Court on July 27.

Vandalism

A vandalism complainant staying at the Days Inn on Ethan Allen Highway discovered a crack in her tractor trailer windshield and reported it on July 21. ■

Planners await consultant’s opinion on integrating Revitalize Georgetown plan into POCD | By Rocco Valluzzo

One of the current areas of focus for the Planning Commission is to prepare for the 2028 update to the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), a document that provides a 10-year blueprint for Redding’s physical growth, land use, and resource preservation. Discussions continued within the Commission last month on the exact timeline and ways to integrate the recently completed Georgetown Revitalization plan by Pirie Associates into that document.

Ultimately, members opted to request an opinion from the Town’s consultants BFJ Planning on the pros and cons of updating the 2018 plan before proceeding.

“The scope of the review could be to review the Pirie plan in the context of our Planning regulations and our Zoning regulations,” said Commission Chair Laurie Heiss. “I want the process to make sense, and I feel that we should have a review of this led by the planning team that can then look specifically at our regulations.”

Heiss proposed that the plan from Pirie Associates should be adopted as a “refresh” of Chapter 10 in the 2018 POCD immediately. The argument is that the 2018 version is no longer operative for Georgetown’s current needs, and waiting until 2028 leaves the Town without a governing document that reflects current thinking for development in that area. Member Elizabeth Jensen expressed caution, questioning if it is better to keep the 2018 plan as a “time capsule” and instead focus on the 2028 draft.

The Commission also discussed the necessity of having the POCD align with subdivision regulations. Without updating the POCD, the Town may lack the legal “legs” to enforce the specific “flavor” or vision for Georgetown parcels if a developer submits an application.

First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton clarified that updating the POCD requires a noticed public hearing but does not require a public vote. The Commission takes feedback and then decides whether to adopt the update.

Land Use Officer Mike Moran provided clarification on the Historic Mill Center (HMC) and Business Center (BC) zones, noting that while some maps remain unchanged, the consultants’ report suggests future recommended actions like establishing new districts. The Commission discussed the necessity of ensuring that Zoning regulations and POCD chapters are aligned to avoid legal or procedural conflicts.

“I think it’s great that you’re going to pass this along to the consultant,” said Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee Chair Amy Atamian. “My concern is in waiting for two years. There’s going to be some activity even on Main Street in the meantime, that would benefit from having this reviewed and adopted, in both Planning, the POCD, and in the Zoning regulations. So, I’m glad you’re taking this step.”

A final decision on whether to “refresh” the 2018 POCD is postponed until consultant feedback is received. ■



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Anne Young Albanese
Pamela Brown
Donna Christopher
Justin Reynolds
Rob Sample
Rocco Valluzzo

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Commercial district zoning to change after State mandates

By Rocco Valluzzo

To ensure Redding’s compliance with Special Session Public Act 25-1 (SSPA 25-1), the Zoning Commission discussed aligning local Zoning regulations with new State mandates regarding “middle housing” (two to nine units) and parking requirements at its Wednesday, July 29 meeting.

The primary objective is for the Town to implement Conservation and Traffic Mitigation Districts to maintain local control over parking for developments with fewer than 16 units. Consultant Frank Fish, a principal at BFJ Planning, recommended establishing these districts to prevent “over parking” while maintaining enough local oversight to prevent parking shortages in constrained areas like Georgetown.

“Your business districts, if you’ve got less than 16 units, you can’t require any parking – with a big exception,” said Fish. “The way out of this is to adopt what is called a Conservation and Traffic Mitigation District. If you do these districts, then they can’t consist of more than eight percent of your (town’s) land area.”

The State now requires towns to allow between two and nine units in specific zones by summary review, removing the process of applying for a special permit or holding discretionary hearings for these developments.

“Basically, we’ve got to allow what the State calls middle housing – two-, three-family homes, also multifamily housing, townhouses,” said Fish. “The State wants to see

that opportunity in any business, in any mixed-use zone.”

According to Fish, the law will not significantly affect most of Redding, as approximately 90% of the land is zoned for two-acre residential use. The changes will focus on the three business zones: West Redding, Georgetown, and the Route 7 corridor.

One significant change in the law, however, involves the use of the word “character” in land use decisions. Commissions can no longer deny site plans based on vague community character; they must now define specific physical characteristics of the site in their regulations to justify denials.

“You can’t just use, ‘this doesn’t fit into the character of our community’ to turn down a site plan,” said Fish. “You’ve got to define character as physical characteristics of that particular site.”

Fish will provide the Zoning Commission with the full text of SSPA 25-1, highlighting critical sections such as the new legal requirements for defining “character.” He will prepare and submit initial draft Zoning text for the Commission’s review at the August 12 meeting.

The Commission hopes to have the final draft of the updates ready by October. Key upcoming milestones include a text review on August 12, a public information session or hearing on September 23, and a formal public hearing in October. ■

New Redding Ridge firehouse wins approval from Zoning Board of Appeals

By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Jessie Wright

Fire District #1 continues to take steps to prepare for the replacement of the Redding Ridge firehouse on Black Rock Turnpike.

Expressing high satisfaction with reduced impact and improved aesthetics, the Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously approved an application for modifications to the plans for a new firehouse for Redding Fire District # 1 (Redding Ridge) at 186 Black Rock Turnpike on Tuesday, July 21.

The property is a non-conforming lot (1.25 acres in a 2-acre zone) with steep topography sloping toward rear wetlands. Key changes to the plans include reducing the building’s footprint, increasing the front setback from the roadway, and optimizing parking by relocating water tanks. While building coverage has decreased, a minor 0.3% increase in impervious coverage is requested to accommodate improved parking logistics.

The proposed structure will be shifted approximately 14 feet south and pushed back from Black Rock

Turnpike, increasing the front setback from 18 feet 4 inches to 25 feet 3 inches. The building footprint has been reduced from the 2020 approval of 11.86% coverage to 10.7%.

Fire District #1 was established in 1915, with the existing firehouse built in 1927 on just under three-quarters of an acre. An addition to the building was built in the 1970s and the property added half an acre from the neighboring property owner in the last five years.

“The existing 1927/1970s facility is inadequate for modern fire and EMS equipment, such as electric vehicle fire suppression tools and larger modern apparatus,” said Attorney Robert Jewell of Ridgefield, noting a 17-foot floor-to-ceiling height. “Even since the ‘70s there have been significant, significant changes in the types of equipment, the size of the vehicles. So, these

types of upgrades are very important for public safety.”

The fire district previously applied for and was granted variances for its proposed new headquarters in 2020. Key changes since then include a 3,000-square-foot reduction in total area and the relocation of an administrative wing to improve site efficiency, improved vehicle staging through increased setbacks, and a specialized storm water management system. The plan also now includes a 17,000-gallon water tank to compensate for local water pressure issues.

Engineer Rob Frangione detailed the storm water management strategy. Currently, the site has untreated runoff. The new design utilizes underground Cultec rechargers on the south side and a gravel-based storage system behind the northern retaining walls. This “level spreader” system allows water to percolate through stone for treatment before being released, mitigating intrusion into the nearby intermittent watercourse.

The approval will allow the project to move forward to the Inland Wetlands Board and the Zoning Commission for special permits. District commissioners first approved exploring the building or renovation of the new firehouse in 2015 and added a special capital line item to its annual budget in 2022 to begin raising the necessary funds to break ground on the project, which at the time was estimated near \$8 million. ■

Final Revitalize Georgetown plan is delivered / continued from page 1

and historic fabric, emphasizes multi-generational and accessible residential housing types, and connects people to natural and cultural resources.”

The final plan proposes the addition of 410 housing units, expansion of available parking from 177 to 938 spaces, 107,400 square feet of commercial space, and 25 acres of public amenity space. The plan, along with documentation from all the stages of the project, is available to view at reddingct.gov/revitalize-georgetown-project.

The Board of Selectmen now turns to ushering the plan through the adoption process, which will include a series of reviews and approvals by the Town’s Land Use commissions and possible public votes and additional studies. Concurrently, Redding is undergoing Zoning regulation updates to comply with new State housing laws and preparing the 2028 update to its Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

“If we want to take the steps to make this plan, adopt it into our regulatory structure through our Plan of Conservation and Development and our Zoning regulations, then we need to put it in the hands of both commissions, which would require us to refer it to them because it’s a plan that was essentially our plan, commissioned by us to do the work,” said First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton.

To ensure a thorough public review process and to avoid complicating ongoing procedural changes, the Board of Selectmen agreed on Monday, July 20 to handle the Georgetown Revitalization plan adoption separately from Special Session Public Act 25-1 (SSPA 25-1) compliance updates.

SSPA 25-1 is a major housing

law passed during the November 2025 special session. It establishes a state-wide housing growth planning process, sets regional housing targets, and modifies local planning duties.

Selectwoman Diana Carlino advised keeping the Georgetown Revitalization plan and SSPA 25-1 separate, noting that the housing bill updates are procedural and non-controversial, whereas adoption of the Georgetown Revitalization plan may require more extensive public hearings and traffic mitigation reviews. She also said that the Revitalization Plan must be formatted to fulfill Connecticut General Statute 8-23 POCD requirements.

Pemberton noted that the Town has \$55,000 budgeted for POCD work over the next two years, funded by a grant from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.

Selectman Michael Thompson suggested that Pemberton obtain the necessary clarity on project scope from BFJ Planning, the Town’s contracted consultants, before the Selectmen make a formal recommendation to the Town’s Land Use commissions this month.

Pemberton confirmed she will clarify the specific scope, task order, and cost structure of the BFJ proposal with Principal Frank Fish and will follow up with him regarding the current status of the SSPA 25-1 updates before bringing the proposal and task order back for formal review at the Selectmen’s August meeting. She will also consult with Zoning Commission Chairman Matt Lecher to determine if the Georgetown plan should be simultaneously referred to his group along with the Planning Commission. ■



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Redding Board of Education allocates unexpended funds

By Rocco Valluzzo

With about \$1.3 million unspent after the 2025-26 academic year, the Redding Board of Education (which oversees Redding Elementary School and John Read Middle School) presented its plan for the allocation of these funds at a Board of Finance meeting on Monday, July 27.

The primary focus was on replenishing the healthcare reserve to maintain a three-month safety net and directing remaining balances to the 2% non-lapsing account.

Board of Education Chair Laura Worosz outlined the specific costs required to close the year. She emphasized that these are not “extra” funds but rather unencumbered funds used to recoup the reserve levels to where they started the previous year.

Among the allocations were a State-mandated heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) inspection (\$19,000) and the furnishing

of the John Read Middle School Memorial Courtyard (\$7,900) to make the space functional for student lunches and outdoor classroom use.

The Board of Education also allocated \$50,000 for the Central Office healthcare pool. The largest allocation was up to \$900,000 for the health care reserve. Any funds remaining would be directed into a 2% non-lapsing account.

According to Worosz, this follows a year in which actual health care costs (\$4.7 million) significantly exceeded the funded amount (\$4.3 million), requiring a deep draw on reserves. Although the ideal reserve is three months of spending (approximately \$1.2 million), the district is targeting a \$900,000 replenishment for now.

“We like to look at the healthcare reserve in terms of what’s our average monthly healthcare spend,” said Worosz. “That number has

grown so substantially over the last few years. I don’t have the number in front of me... but this last month was \$450,000, for example. And so, we’ve had quite a few numbers in the \$300,000 and \$400,000 range. And so, we try to keep at least three months in the reserve.”

Final figures for special education expenditures remain pending. Worosz noted consultant billing often causes delays in these final tallies.

“I don’t have a total number right now because, again, we haven’t finalized everything,” she said. “We’re still waiting on some of our special education expenditures.”

The Board of Education will provide a refined list of final expenditures once the fiscal year is officially closed. It will present the formal end-of-year close report to the Board of Finance at its September meeting. ■



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OBITUARIES

Richard Alan Chudd *January 2, 1944 – July 26, 2026*



Richard Alan Chudd, 82, of Redding passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 26, 2026, surrounded by his family, following complications from an unfortunate fall.

Richard was born on January 2, 1944 in Detroit, Michigan to Walter and Ellen Chudd. The eldest of four children, he cherished growing up in the brick house his father built and took pride in helping to raise his younger siblings, Donald, Linda, and Cynthia. As a boy he discovered a lifelong love of craftsmanship, building and painting model ships and creating elaborate scenes for his model trains.

Richard went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Wayne State University, followed by a Master of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Michigan. During the Vietnam War, he served as an officer in the United States Navy Civil Engineer Corps. It was

through the Navy that he came to New York City, where he met Mary Louise Tallent on December 5, 1971. The two were married on December 9, 1972.

After leaving the Navy in August 1973, Richard built a distinguished career in civil engineering, working for several engineering consulting firms and for the City of New York. Over the course of his career, he left a lasting mark on the New York City metropolitan area, playing a significant role in the transportation planning of the Jacob Javits Convention Center, the Atlantic Terminal, the monorail at Newark International Airport, the redevelopment of both the Westside Highway and the Grand Central District, as well as the Second Avenue Subway Line.

Richard and Mary raised two children, Suzanne and William (Bill), in New Rochelle, New York. From teaching Suzanne and Bill how to ride a bike, cook weekend family breakfasts, and research school projects, summer jobs and universities, Richard showed his strong commitment to fatherhood. The family shared many happy vacations together, including trips to Michigan and the Adirondacks, as well as a memorable road trip to Florida.

Richard watched his family grow as his children married: Bill to Gretchen Hoffmann in 2003, and Suzanne to John Greco, Jr. in 2007. Their marriages brought four grandchildren into his life: Katherine Greco, Henry Chudd, Matthew Greco, and Colin Chudd. Richard

and Mary enjoyed celebrating the holidays together with their family in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

After retiring in 2012, Richard and Mary embarked on a new chapter of extensive world travel, ultimately enjoying 16 trips across six continents, with standout journeys to Hawaii, Russia, Italy, Egypt, and Southeast Asia. In 2023, Richard and Mary relocated to Meadow Ridge, a retirement community in Redding, where over the past two and a half years they enjoyed attending numerous events, joining committees, and making lovely, new friends.

Richard is survived by his beloved wife of more than 53 years, Mary; his children, Suzanne (John Greco, Jr.) and Bill (Gretchen Hoffmann); his four grandchildren, Katherine Greco, Henry Chudd, Matthew Greco, and Colin Chudd; his brother, Donald Chudd, and wife Vicki; his sister, Linda Vernon, and husband George; his sister, Cynthia Luck, and husband Randy; his sister-in-law, Barbara Zegarelli, and husband Philip; and numerous loving nieces and nephews.

Richard will be remembered for his devotion to his family, his quiet pride in his engineering achievements, and his enduring curiosity about the world. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Friends may greet the family on Saturday, August 8, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. with a Funeral Service at 11:00 a.m. at Bouton Funeral Home, 31 West Church Street, Georgetown, CT 06829. ■

Peter Mossa *Passed away July 25, 2026*



Peter John Mossa, 58, passed away on July 25, 2026.

Peter was the kind of person who could brighten any room simply by walking into it. He had a true sparkle, infectious enthusiasm, and a gift for making everyone feel like a friend. He never cared much for formalities – you were far more likely to find him in shorts, a T-shirt, and barefoot than dressed up. That relaxed, easygoing spirit was simply who he was.

Above all else, Peter was a devoted husband to Arlene, and a loving father to his twins Max and Haley. His family was the center of his world. He adored spending time with friends, sharing stories (and he had some good ones), making people laugh, and creating memories that will be cherished forever. His kindness, generosity, and larger-than-life personality left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Peter was also a gifted craftsman whose exceptional skill and attention to detail left a lasting mark on countless homes and the lives of those who live in them. He took immense pride in his work, believing that anything worth doing was worth doing well. His strong work ethic, integrity, and dedication earned the respect of everyone who had the privilege of working alongside him. His craftsmanship stands as a lasting testament to his talent and the pride he poured into every project.

During winter months, Peter found great joy in spending time with family and friends snowboarding, snowmobiling, and celebrating the holidays while at his parents’ home in Vermont. Summers were typically spent on his boat either with a fishing rod in hand or tying up with friends to barbecue and enjoy the warm weather. We are forever grateful for those moments and will forever cherish the memories made.

For many years, Peter courageously battled clinical depression. He sought treatment, held onto hope, and never stopped trying to find healing. Though his illness ultimately claimed his life, it never defined the man he was. Peter is deeply loved, and his loss leaves an immeasurable void in the hearts of those who knew him.

Peter is survived by his beloved wife Arlene Mossa, and children Haley and Max Mossa. He is also survived by his loving family,

including his parents, Joseph and Deanna Mossa, his siblings Susan Young (Larry), Joe Mossa Jr. (Luisa), and Katie Carmody (Josh) as well as in-laws, Wendy Jacobsen (Stephen), and several nieces, nephews, extended family, and countless friends whose lives were made brighter because Peter was part of them.

For those who knew Peter, please remember his laughter and sense of humor, his compassion, his strong loyalty, and his unending love for family and friends. While our hearts are shattered, we find comfort in knowing he is now at peace. We’re forever grateful for the joy he brought into our world and the love he shared so freely. He will be deeply missed, forever loved, and never forgotten.

The family encourages anyone struggling with depression or mental illness to reach out for help, everwellct.org, to keep talking, and to hold onto hope. Peter’s story is a reminder that mental illness can affect anyone – and is an illness – not a weakness—and that every life is precious.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Pete’s name to your local Humane Society, animal shelter, or your favorite charity organization.

Peter’s Memorial Service will be held at Norfield Congregational Church, in Weston on August 6, at 11:00 a.m. Per the family’s request, casual Florida attire is encouraged. ■

Park and Rec discusses major updates / continued from page 2

The project – which aims to build a half-mile, accessible paved loop around the Community Center fields with benches and outdoor equipment stations – was originally due to be completed in the fall of 2025.

Representatives of the insurance company walked the site with Town officials earlier in the summer, during which areas that exceeded the contractually agreed

upon “no more than 5%” gradient were identified.

“I’m sure there will be some sparring back and forth between our attorney and the insurance company,” said First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton. “We’re just starting to see what that will look like. But I feel we have got an excellent case.”

Money that the Town has already spent on the project – approximately \$200,000 – has already been

reimbursed by the State of Connecticut through the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant that is providing partial funding for the project. The Town has received an extension until 2028 on the grant, though Pemberton noted she hoped the legal negotiations would be resolved in time to restart construction next spring. ■

MUSIC NOTE

The Lonetown Boys give legendary country music its due | *By Terry Karpen*



Photo courtesy of The Lonetown Boys

The Lonetown Boys will take the Concerts on the Green stage on Sunday, August 16 at 6:00 p.m.

“Three chords and the truth.” That’s how songwriter Harlan Howard famously described country music. The simplicity of three chords is the foundation of many country, folk, blues, and rock songs. Storytelling is the heart of country songs, and the truth in a country song is what gives it its timeless quality. This is the essence of Hank Williams. He was a songwriter who could take a small idea and expand it into a story. Filmmaker Ken Burns called him the “Hillbilly Shakespeare.” The magic of Hank Williams’s music is the lyrics and his voice that completely draws you in. His heartfelt songs are tragic, humorous, and playful at the same time.

On Sunday, August 16, Redding’s Concert on the Green will feature The Lonetown Boys, who are known for their tribute concerts dedicated to the golden era of early country music including the legendary Hank Williams. The band’s musicians, including JD Seem on acoustic guitar and vocals, Christopher Teal Davis on C6 steel guitar and Dobro, Dan Tressler on fiddle and vocals, Pat Lavery on upright bass and vocals, and Dan Bonis on mandolin and percussion, have decades of experience collaborating in diverse configurations, performing in Connecticut, New York, and venues further afield, playing Americana, bluegrass, blues, and honky-tonk country music. The Lonetown Boys originally came together in 2023 to perform at Redding’s Rock ‘N Roots Music Festival, held annually at Lonetown Farm, and now return to town for another beloved summer tradition.

Hiram “Hank” Williams was born in the dirt-poor town of Mount

Olive, Alabama, in 1923. He started playing the guitar when he was eight years old and made his first radio debut at age 13. By the time he was 24 years old, in 1947, he travelled to Nashville, Tennessee and was successful in signing a recording contract. He created a distinctive style of singing and songwriting that combined elements of gospel, blues, honky-tonk, and western swing. From 1947 to 1952, Hank Williams became a musical supernova star. During his rise to stardom, he was one of the most successful touring acts in country music.

Then on New Year’s Day 1953, at the age of 29, Williams died in the back seat of his Cadillac during an overnight journey, while being driven to his next scheduled concert in Charleston, West Virginia. He died from heart failure after a lifetime of suffering from various health problems using alcohol and drugs to cope with his pain and depression. His passing did not bring about the end to his stardom, however. Following his death, sales of Williams’s records skyrocketed, and he has remained a music legend. The legacy of his work can still be heard today, not only in country music, but also in folk, rockabilly, pop, and rock.

The Lonetown Boys revive the spirit of Hank Williams and classic country music from the 1940s through the 1970s, celebrating its roots and timeless songs. ■

The Lonetown Boys will perform at Concerts on the Green on Sunday, August 16 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at 100 Hill Road

Good eats in the heat



Photos by Regan Purcell

West Redding Volunteer Fire Department held its annual community Clambake and Pig Roast on Saturday, August 1. Crowds enjoyed feasting and live music for the better part of the afternoon and evening, helping to raise money for the Department and connecting with neighbors and friends.

Barlow’s Future Business Leaders attend national competition

By Melanie Schrade



Photo by visitor at the Historic Market Square

During their free time, the Barlow FBLA members Ty Palladino, Sylvia Calemno, Molly Lapatine, Melanie Schrade, Kimaya Sajit, Lilia Vero, and Ryan McTague had the opportunity to explore San Antonio.

This summer, students participating in the Joel Barlow chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) attended the National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas. FBLA is a club that focuses on developing business-related skills, especially for students interested in studying business. For the past two years, students from the club have attended a State Leadership Conference where they have competed against other FBLA chapters from around Connecticut in events that showcase their knowledge of business. This year, 11 students placed highly enough in their respective events to qualify

for Nationals and, after approval from the Region 9 Board of Education, seven students were able to make the trip to San Antonio. Trip attendees included: Ryan McTague and Ty Palladino, who placed first for their presentation on Data Analysis; Kimaya Sajit and Melanie Schrade, who placed second for their presentation on Financial Statement Analysis; and Sylvia Calemno, Molly Lapatine, and Lilia Vero, who placed fourth for their presentation on Broadcast Journalism. During the months leading up to the national competition, students refined their presentations. Barlow students were

competing against qualifiers from around the country, and each of the groups gave a seven-minute presentation on their topic with a period of questions from judges. Teams’ final results and scores will be released by FBLA this month. Outside of the competition, there were plenty of exciting events for the students, including a block party and rodeo hosted specifically by National FBLA as well as educational workshops for students to attend. FBLA students were also able to explore San Antonio on their trip. From the Alamo to the Riverwalk, the city was full of fascinating history and immense beauty. All the students were incredibly grateful for the opportunity they had been given, and the experience they had earned. The trip was certainly a memorable adventure that the students will never forget, and they are deeply thankful for all of those who made it not only possible, but extremely fun – from their Advisor and Joel Barlow Business Teacher, Mr. Gutierrez, to their two chaperones, Principal Dr. Almeida and STEM Department Chair, Mrs. McTague. They hope that in coming years future Barlow FBLA students will continue to attend and enjoy nationals! ■

Melanie Schrade is a rising senior at Joel Barlow High School

Teachers of the Year named for 2026-27

By Anne Young Albanese



Emily Kaufman



Sara Pasacreta

Two local educators were recently recognized by their peers as “Teacher of the Year” for the upcoming 2026-27 school year. Joel Barlow High School French teacher Emily Kaufman was named as this year’s selection for Region 9 school district, and John Read Middle School math teacher Sara Pasacreta is being honored in the Redding school district. Kaufman was recognized for her ability to connect with students and foster positive relationships, not only during class but beyond. In addition to her class work, she serves as the adviser to the French Honor Society, which collaborates with the Spanish Honor Society to plan the Café Internacional events to raise money for the Sandi Van Ausdal Travel Scholarship, which supports a student who participates in the Barlow school trip to France or Spain. She also organizes and chaperones biennial language immersion trips to various areas of France, exposing students to experiences typically not open to tourists. She also focuses on issues

important to her fellow teachers. She is a member of the Executive Board of the Joel Barlow Education Association and serves on its negotiation team. Kaufman also is Co-Chair of the Staff, Teacher, Advisory Committee which addresses staff concerns. She also developed bi-weekly meetings to improve school climate and collegial meetings and has developed a staff book list of fiction and non-fiction reading. Pasacreta approaches her work with a recognition that all students can see themselves as mathematicians. She encourages her students to keep an interactive notebook that many students take with them when they move up to high school to use as a quick resource. She can frequently be found sitting with students to do math collaboratively. “These little moves are not content-specific, can be modified for every classroom, and foster a community in which students belong, allowing more students to see themselves as capable mathematicians,” Pasacreta noted.

Continued on page 6

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BOOK REVIEW

To Anyone Who Ever Asks

By Howard Fishman / 576 pages / Dutton

In Howard Fishman’s biography, *To Anyone Whoever Asks: The Life, Music, and Mystery of Connie Converse*, the photo on the book cover is analyzed in a way interesting to her story: “The photo is hypnotizing, a microcosm of her life...her attention is intense and focused. She seems to inhabit a private impenetrable place. We can see her, but we can’t reach her. She’s untouchable and unknowable. She’s not there.” And, in fact, several days after her 50th birthday, she drove off in her VW Bug, and disappeared from her known life, never to be seen or heard from again. That fact resonates. And then you hear her tape-recorded music, never heard beyond a few living room performances in the 1950s, a music which escaped notice during her life. Her music is spare, strange, artful, tragic, complex in its simplicity, and original; unheard and, until recently, forgotten.

Fishman, himself a musician, feels that Connie Converse wrote original music ahead of its time. Her music, a creative response to her living moment, was underappreciated when she wrote it. Converse wrote songs about existential loneliness and depression that America was not yet ready to hear. In the 1950s lyrical world of “pretty doggies in the window” her work was rare and excellent. Now re-emerging, Converse is appreciated today as having made an exceptionally astute and large historical contribution to America’s musical heritage. Her story reads like a tragedy and an absurdity, as if Vincent van Gogh had blossomed in an age of cartoons.

What, then, is her music like – how does it sound, why is it different, and why was it undiscovered? In America, before 1950, music was classical or popular. Afterward, as records and radio expanded, Rock ‘n Roll and the Country idiom

emerged from Gospel and Blues, which was Black in origin. The Folk idiom in the 1960s emerged in Greenwich Village from Beat poetry and literature, and got sudden, wide exposure. Trying to explain Connie Converse’s absence, Howard Fishman writes: “In any era, at any given time, it is impossible to distinguish between the passing trend and the epochal...History decides those things, not us.” Connie Converse vanished in August 1974. Bob Dylan is still touring at the age of 85.

Robert Forster, acclaimed Australian singer/songwriter said of Connie Converse, “How did it happen that at the great cultural crossroads of postwar New York, there was a lone woman writing songs on guitar with a sophistication of lyric and melody unmatched by any other folk songwriter of the time?... The question is whether to see her as a wild precursor to the singer-songwriter movement that began in the early ‘60s, or as a singular artist, an Emily Dickinson figure, caught out of time, working enclosed and unknown.” It doesn’t seem possible to ignore her emergence now, over 50 years since her disappearance. Howard Fishman guides us into her world.

Fishman, who heard her songs first at a private party nearly 20 years ago, thought Connie Converse was made up. A musician and music producer, who writes professionally for *The New Yorker*, Fishman thought no one with that kind of original talent could go unrecognized for so long. He was wrong. Intrigued, Fishman wrote her story, such as it is. It is worth reading and so is listening to her music online (“One by One” is a good first selection), to hear what was missed and wonder what it might mean. ■

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

LIBRARY CORNER

The cherry on top of a great summer vacation

By Erin Shea Dummeyer



Now that we are deep in the swing of summer, I love reminding people how Mark Twain Library can help them with their summer vacation!

I don’t personally subscribe to magazines anymore, but I used to love buying a trashy magazine in an airport bookstore before boarding a flight. But with your library card and an internet connection, you can now borrow a digital magazine using our Libby app. I just checked, and it’s easy to download the latest issue of *Good Housekeeping* or *Vanity Fair* right on your

device – for free. The magazine format probably lends itself better to reading on a color tablet than a phone, but both will work.

Once you’re on the flight, I recommend checking out Hoopla’s BingePASS section, especially if you have little kids. A BingePASS is a collection of episodes of a series that will only count for one of your Hoopla borrows that month. Hoopla has *Blippi* and *Cocomelon* available in “bingepass” format. (My family does not limit screen time on the airplane, because it’s all about survival!)

Adults can access Kanopy for free with an internet connection and a library card. In addition to movies and television series, they

offer more documentaries and foreign films than services like Netflix. Most of our Kanopy users watch programming through their television, so you can hook it up to a SmartTV on a rainy beach day.

Speaking of rainy beach days, my family is obsessed with puzzles. When it rains at the beach, we gather around the puzzle table and all develop back pain from our “puzzle hunch.” Mark Twain Library offers a variety of jigsaw puzzles available to borrow, even some for kids. It’s a great way to take a little of the library with you on vacation. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

Notes from a neighbor What’s in a name?

By Carter Wiseman

As a regular customer at a local shop, I was happy to meet a new employee recently. He introduced himself as Owen. I am terrible at remembering names, but his was easy, since I have a son named Owen, which I told him when I introduced myself.

The next time I came by, Owen greeted me warmly, not as Carter, but as Walter. The names are close enough that I put the confusion down to simple mis-hearing rather than to my mumbling or Owen’s press of business. I gently corrected him, and he graciously apologized, but as I was leaving, I wondered what my life would have been like as a Walter instead of a Carter.

It would have started at birth. Most parents remember focusing (or agonizing) over what to name the baby. The decision is often driven by good and bad associations: war heroes, fairy queens, former romantic partners, playground bullies, civil rights pioneers.

Much of naming can reflect ethnic pride: My wife’s Irish-born parents named their daughters Eileen, Sheila, and Maura; a classmate from college was named Bruce to honor his Scottish heritage; another friend with German-Dutch ancestry spells his name Philipp, in the Old-World manner. Then there is Kali, whose family immigrated from Greece and associates her name with the Athens of Pericles.

Family tradition also plays a big role. My middle name was my great-grandfather’s last name. But there is only one of me, so I don’t get to use Roman numerals after my name like John D. Rockefeller III.

At some point, most of us acquire nicknames. A college buddy went by Tug, another by Buck; the star on the hockey team was known to all as Boom-Boom. But one tends to grow out of such monikers, especially if they might prove professionally awkward. Accordingly, a

friend from my twenties who went to business school moved on from Tony, as he was known in his fraternity days, to Thurston, the fancy name he had been born with – and mocked for as a kid – but had a more resonant ring in board rooms.

Names have had a life-and-death importance in the spy world. To conceal his identity during World War II as a member of the OSS – the precursor of the CIA – the future film star of *Dr. Strangelove* Sterling Hayden was known as John Hamilton, no doubt shortened to JOHN, as agents were identified by all-caps in clandestine communications.

In my Walter Mitty-fantasy moments, I like to think about being recruited by the CIA. Should this happen, I hope the Agency would give me a similarly anodyne cover name, perhaps WALTER. ■

Answers to America250 Quiz Part II: 1.A / 2.C / 3.A,B,C / 4.B / 5.A / 6.A / 7.A / 8.C / 9. “In God we trust” 10.B / 11.C / 12.C / 13.B / 14. Rose / 15.Oak / 16. Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, Oliver Wolcott, William Williams, Lyman Hall / 17.A / 18.B / 19. Nutmeggers / 20. Yankee Doodle / 21.B / 22.B / 23.B / 24.A / 25.A / 26.A / 27. A,C / 28.A / 29.C / 30.B / 31.A / 32.A / 33.A / 34.B / 35.B / 36.B / 37.B / 38.A / 39.A / 40.B

Teachers of the Year named for 2026-27 / continued from page 5

In addition to standing out in the classroom, she is also the eighth-grade Team Lead. In this role, she serves as the primary coordinator and point person for the eighth-grade team, responsible for fostering strong communication between the school, families, and staff and sending weekly updates to families.

She coordinates grade-level events and activities and ensures that important information is shared quickly. She works collaboratively with administrators and teachers to support student success, organizes celebrations and milestone events, facilitates team meetings, and helps to maintain a positive, organized,

and -student-centered grade-level experience.

Each year, faculty members nominate fellow teachers for the “Teacher of the Year” honor. The nominees then put together a brief philosophy of teaching. Assistant principals and former Teachers of the Year narrow down the nomina-

tions, which are then shared with district teachers and staff for a vote.

The award is part of a competition held by the State Department of Education and the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council. Every year, most of the 169 school districts in Connecticut recognize a Teacher of the Year, and a

state-wide Teacher of the Year and three finalists are selected. These teachers represent Connecticut as teacher-ambassadors and work on state-wide education advisory committees and may work with the Commissioner of Education. ■

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July 2026 real estate report

A look at trends in the local housing market

By Bill Whitehead and John Talley

July was another active month in the Redding real estate market, with 17 properties changing hands – three fewer than in July 2025. This slight decline in sales is more likely attributable to the limited supply of available homes rather than a decrease in buyer demand. There are currently 26 homes for sale in Redding, compared to 36 at the same time last year.

The market remains highly competitive. In July, homes sold for an average of 5% above their asking prices, while year-to-date, the average sale price is 1% above list price. The average price-per-square-foot has increased 8% this year to \$380. Buyer activity also remains strong, with 15 properties currently under contract. ■

Bill Whitehead and John Talley are realtors with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

July 2026													
Town	Current Inventory	Homes Sold		Average Days on Market		Average List Price		Average Sale Price		Percent Sale Price >=< List Price		Average Price/SqFt *	
	As of August 3	July	2026	July	2026	July	2026	July	2026	July	2026	July	2026
Redding	26	17	49	78	124	\$1,071,412	\$1,024,051	\$1,129,491	\$1,039,234	5%	1%	\$385	\$380
Ridgefield	49	33	141	66	85	\$1,496,609	\$1,444,979	\$1,535,613	\$1,476,102	3%	2%	\$463	\$463
Weston	33	12	63	65	78	\$1,702,167	\$1,453,111	\$1,823,333	\$1,540,676	7%	6%	\$478	\$446
Wilton	30	39	131	73	81	\$1,604,892	\$1,464,638	\$1,749,109	\$1,591,062	9%	9%	\$484	\$480
Easton	23	11	43	81	78	\$1,087,726	\$1,063,504	\$1,093,000	\$1,077,472	0%	1%	\$360	\$364
Bethel	14	17	85	73	79	\$639,912	\$622,860	\$648,524	\$634,189	1%	2%	\$329	\$310
Newtown	60	35	174	109	95	\$718,423	\$708,712	\$720,418	\$717,337	0%	1%	\$336	\$310
Average	34	23	98	78	89	\$1,188,734	\$1,111,694	\$1,242,784	\$1,153,725	4%	3%	\$405	\$393

REDDING SOLD - July	Sale Price	List Price	% List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market
9 Apple Ln	\$579,350	\$550,000	5%	\$557	66
159 Cross Hwy	\$730,000	\$629,000	16%	\$437	54
35 Deer Spring Rd	\$810,000	\$799,000	1%	\$303	54
37 Lamppost Dr	\$840,000	\$799,000	5%	\$323	57
33 Topledge Rd	\$900,000	\$929,000	-3%	\$323	84
81 Pinetree Rd	\$905,000	\$825,000	10%	\$372	64
6 Winding Brook Ct	\$1,050,000	\$925,000	14%	\$338	50
44 High Ridge Rd	\$1,127,000	\$1,039,000	8%	\$320	76
5 Musket Ln	\$1,200,000	\$1,180,000	2%	\$410	79
40 Deer Hill Rd	\$1,225,000	\$1,125,000	9%	\$332	100
7 Jeremiah Sanford Rd	\$1,250,000	\$1,200,000	4%	\$410	69
98 Hopewell Woods Rd	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	0%	\$337	114
10 Chapman Pl	\$1,310,000	\$1,325,000	-1%	\$297	74
8 Windy Hill Rd	\$1,400,000	\$1,195,000	17%	\$466	71
313 Umpawaug Rd	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000	0%	\$493	87
15 Dayton Rd	\$1,475,000	\$1,399,000	5%	\$393	109
42 Topstone Rd	\$1,700,000	\$1,595,000	7%	\$441	123
Average	\$1,129,491	\$1,071,412	5%	\$385	78

REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market	REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market
70 Dayton Rd	\$624,000	\$650	46	11 Long Meadow Ln	\$1,245,000	\$301	59
78 Black Rock Tpke	\$625,000	\$485	34	18 Church St	\$1,275,000	\$434	65
29 Lonetown Rd	\$699,000	\$331	5	281 Newtown Tpke	\$1,295,000	\$255	109
268 Umpawaug Rd	\$749,000	\$293	124	28 Goodridge Rd	\$1,325,000	\$280	81
11 Fire Hill Ln	\$850,000	\$345	21	286 Black Rock Tpke	\$1,329,000	\$351	20
123A Peaceable St	\$899,000	\$250	26	74 Black Rock Tpke	\$1,395,000	\$296	133
299 Redding Rd	\$899,000	\$344	56	7 Long Meadow Ln	\$1,599,000	\$297	179
28 Winding Brook Ln	\$910,000	\$294	27	2 Longwood Dr	\$1,745,000	\$279	74
5 Side Cut Rd	\$995,000	\$353	94	24 Mark Twain Ln	\$1,800,000	\$295	13
380 Black Rock Tpke	\$999,500	\$271	19	63 Turney Rd	\$7,400,000	\$786	232
149 Old Redding Rd	\$1,075,000	\$390	48	229 Umpawaug Rd	\$7,495,000	\$1,116	448
16 Shady Ln	\$1,099,000	\$255	72	206 Umpawaug Rd	\$7,725,000	\$751	77
33 Old Stagecoach Rd	\$1,150,000	\$427	39				
207 Redding Rd	\$1,200,000	\$384	56	Average	\$1,861,596	\$404	83

Listings continue on right side of table

* Calculated using livable square footage

Join the *Sentinel* team as Managing Editor

The *Sentinel* is looking for its next Managing Editor, as our first Managing Editor Jessie Wright will be leaving us in the autumn as her family welcomes their third child.

Candidates should have relevant editorial experience, be organized, collaborative, and write well. You should know – or be willing to learn – Redding.

We are flexible in organizational structure for the right candidate for this part-time role. The complete position description can be found at reddingsentinel.org/joinus.

Please write to publisher@reddingsentinel.org if you are interested and would like more information.

Mark Twain Library launches business networking group

By Anne Young Albanese

Mark Twain Library has long been utilized as a place to work and gather information for many of the 1,000 self-employed or registered business entities in town. To serve this population, the community hub has developed a new business networking group called Redding B2B: Networking.

On Thursday, July 30, around 10 small business owners gathered for the group’s inaugural meeting. Though the attendees were not sure what to expect, everyone arrived wanting to connect with other small-business owners. This first meeting focused on planning for the future of the group.

Redding B2B: Networking was created in conjunction with Charles Bachman from American Financial Network, Inc. and mimics a variety of national and state networking groups, choosing the best features of each one. At every meeting – which are free to attend – attendees will introduce themselves and their businesses, followed by a 10-minute presentation on a selected member’s enterprise. The goals are to

increase business for all members, facilitate the sharing of ideas and challenges among local entrepreneurs, and develop relationships that prepare them to recommend each other to those who may need their products or services.

Like many networking groups, the MTL B2B group is category exclusive, meaning only one member may offer each type of service. In an effort to prevent competition within the group, each member must choose one type of business to represent, even if they offer multiple services. That member will be able to discuss only their chosen category.

The group meets every other Monday, with meetings alternating between the Library and other nearby locations. The next meeting will be held on August 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Library. Registration is encouraged for planning purposes, but drop-ins are welcome. Future meeting details will be listed at marktwainlibrary.org under “Adult Programs.” ■

Redding’s Big Outdoors: If trees could talk: Beating the heat / continued from page 1



Photo by Susan Clark
Doggie delights: close to home



Photo by Cole Tucker-Walton
Family trekking: Bogus Brook Preserve



Photo by Kate Perry
Scottie’s Choice: Stormfield

“A walk with the dogs that begins and ends at my driveway is the easiest and best sort of outing,” Clark added. “Which means we do it more.”

Family affair: Paige Silva likes an afternoon wander in Bogus Brook Preserve. She begins near Chuck Wagon Lane where Danbury borders Redding. First, there is a soothing saunter under oaks, hickories, maples, and tulip trees. Then she heads toward a swamp filled with sedge and cattails, past a shimmering pond, and finally onto a path that follows railroad tracks to complete the loop.

“It’s an easy, one-and-a-half-hour, relaxing walk,” volunteered Silva, who serves as Administrative

Assistant for the Highway Department and Coordinator of the Transfer & Recycling Station. She is usually joined by her husband, Jon, daughter Jordan, sister-in-law Shannon, and nieces Braelyn and Bradley. “We use the time to catch up and take photos,” Silva explained. “What began as an ‘exercise excursion’ during Covid, now is a family tradition.”

Two for the road: Kate Perry saddles up her horse, Scottie, after early morning farm chores, and slips into Stormfield, Mark Twain’s legendary property, by way of Halo Trail.

As light streams through the woods, they walk pass old stone walls and listen to the birds.

“We find the ride immersive and meditative,” Perry said. “During the summer, the forest is a refreshing respite from the heat and sun.”

Once back at her barn, she untacks Scottie, returns him to his herd in the pasture, and moves on to the rest of her day. As owner of The Georgetown Owl Market & Saloon, there are meetings ahead, menus to plan. But, she’s grateful for the peaceful morning well-spent on horseback.

Summer can be beastly, but these neighbors’ ideas are bound to leave you mellow while making memories! ■

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

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The Natural World

Redding Land Trust to mark the waning days of summer

Gather at Do Ngak Kunphen Ling on August 22 | By Susan Clark



Photo by Susan Clark

DNKL will again play host to the Redding Land Trust Summer Celebration this year, welcoming guests on August 22.

Redding Land Trust and the Tibetan Buddhist Center for Universal Peace, DNKL, are two of the organizations that contribute to Redding’s extraordinary natural environment through preservation of open space. On August 22, they will come together when the Land

Trust’s annual Summer Celebration is held at DNKL’s approximately 95-acre property on Putnam Park Road. The Land Trust’s easement over the DNKL property, which preserves the land in perpetuity, is one of the largest in its portfolio. Along with Mark Twain Library’s

Book Fair, held over Labor Day weekend, and New Pond Farm’s Harvest Dinner, planned for August 29 this year, the Land Trust’s Summer Celebration signals the end of the summer season in Redding. These three events mark the turning of the seasonal page, from long warm nights at Concerts on the Green to shorter, chillier days. All three bring the community back together after summer vacations have scattered friends and families. The Land Trust celebration, this year to be held in the Big Field at DNKL as it was in 2022, will offer snacks, dinner, and drinks, including barbecue and vegetarian food options and a special cocktail from The Georgetown Owl. The Trunk Band will return to provide lively bluegrass music. Wildlife in Crisis, the Weston-based wildlife rehabilitation center, will be on hand to release a rehabilitated bird back into the wild. And Land Trust members and friends will be out in force to reconnect after the long summer. ■

For tickets to this annual celebration, visit reddinglandtrust.org

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Ask The Redding Gardener

Privet problems | By Sean McNamara



Sean,
My privet hedge is rapidly dropping leaves in places. What is causing this?
Frank, Redding

Well Frank, thanks for writing in. You’re not the only one — privet problems have been pretty common this summer. I’ve seen a few different issues popping up on privet hedges around here, so let’s sort out what’s likely going on with yours. Based on the symptoms you described (rapid leaf drop), it sounds like Alternaria leaf spot, a fungal disease that has been active on privet lately. This fungus causes dark spots or blotches on the leaves, often followed by yellowing and premature drop. It can act as an opportunistic pathogen, hitting plants that are already a bit stressed or wounded. It overwinters in old leaves and debris, then spreads with splashing water, wind, or even on tools and hands. If you have irrigation that is hitting the foliage in the areas where the drop is worst, or if parts of the hedge are stressed by reflected heat from a driveway or road, that can make infection more likely. The good news is there is not a whole lot we need to do with chemicals right now in the middle of summer — the fungus is already active, and the plants should push out new growth as the season goes on.

On other privets I’ve seen recently, the main culprit has been spider mites, which cause that stippled, bronzed look to the leaves (sometimes with a little webbing). There also has been some thrips activity mixed in on a few, which can add to the distortion and discoloration. Those are different problems from the fungal leaf spot, so treatment would be different (usually insecticidal soap or horticultural oil for mites, timed right). For your situation, the best steps right now are good cultural care: make sure the plants aren’t staying overly wet, improve air flow if the hedge is very dense, and clean up fallen leaves to reduce overwintering spores. Next year we can monitor early and consider a preventive fungicide spray at the right timing if needed. Bottom line, Frank: Your privet should recover with some new growth, even if it looks a little sad right now. These things happen in cycles, and a little patience plus the right timing next spring usually gets them back on track. ■

Happy gardening,
Sean, The Redding Gardener

Got more questions about privet, boxwoods, or anything else looking a little off in the yard? Feel free to drop me an e-mail anytime at sean@reddingnursery.com or stop by Redding Nursery at 73 Hill Road.

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The highs and lows of town meeting governance / continued from page 1

To name just one of these differences, in neighboring Weston, the Board of Education’s budget is subject to the approval of all the selectmen, who can make changes. In Redding, that budget goes straight to the Board of Finance and voters for approval. In smaller municipalities that have adopted a charter, this document will often specify in dollar amounts the size of expenditures requiring a town-wide vote. In other instances, even when a budgetary proposal goes to a vote, unless it achieves a certain percentage of voters’ approval, it will not pass. Wilton’s town government functions in this manner. In larger towns such as Darien and Fairfield, the RTM form of government can allow for several dozen or more selectmen. They run and are elected from districts in much the same manner as legislators. In some cases, towns or cities also might hire a salaried town administrator to augment their operations. Pemberton noted that towns with both RTMs and council/manager governments aim to better deal with the complexities that come

with larger populations and more intricate town organizational structures. “I understand that it would be unrealistic to expect very large towns to function with a traditional town-meeting government,” said Pemberton. This points up one of the stumbling blocks of the town-meeting model, said Matt Knickerbocker, currently Bethel’s Treasurer and a former Chair of the Western Council of Governments (WestCOG), First Selectman, and Town Administrator. “In municipalities that have the town-meeting structure, the roles of the selectmen and first selectman are very limited,” Knickerbocker said. “Theoretically, a town might have to call a town meeting to vote to approve spending money for something such as a fire truck if one breaks down.” Knickerbocker’s work with WestCOG pointed to another type of frustration being felt by some towns: the need to perform functions that often require the resources and scale that large county governments in other places achieve with ease. “One of the problems that happened when Connecticut

eliminated county governments in the 1960s was that functions such as highways, health, and sanitation were transferred to the town level,” Knickerbocker said. “Former Governor Malloy tried to address this when he formed nine regional councils of governments. They have no taxing authority, but they do provide incentives for local governments to share services.” Redding resident Chris Guarniere said the choice of a municipal governance model is less of an issue than local participation — or lack of it. “An open town meeting means the legislature is whoever can be in the room that night,” said Guarniere, who serves on the Town’s Park and Recreation Commission but spoke with the *Sentinel* only as a private Redding citizen. “Between two-job households, long commutes to the city, kids’ evening schedules, and seniors who would rather not drive at night, that room keeps getting smaller — whatever anyone thinks of a particular vote.” Guarniere said Redding’s all-day system of ballot voting on town-wide budgets and major capital

expenditures offers a great way to preserve local governance while ensuring robust voting tallies. He sees it as a better way of passing changes like townwide ordinances. “A law that can create enforcement powers and fines is still decided on the floor of a weeknight meeting,” he said, commending both municipal staff and board volunteers for doing what he described as demanding work with care. “The tools to change that already exist: 200 voters can petition an item onto that same all-day ballot, and the selectmen can send one there on their own. But it should not take a scramble for signatures to give a law the same vote we give a budget.” Pemberton said showing up to vote isn’t just a challenge of town-meeting governance but one faced by all types of municipalities. “In an RTM or town-council style government, you’ve delegated your authority to your local representative who must show up to vote,” she said. “It’s always a matter of who shows up.” The same criticisms have often been leveled at State and Federal governments, with elected

representatives missing votes on important matters. Pemberton noted that in recent years, Redding has adopted a variety of new ways to keep residents informed of matters. Per state statute, all upcoming town meeting votes must be noticed in a newspaper with local circulation. During Tropical Storm Irene and the pre-Halloween snowstorm in late 2011 and Superstorm Sandy the following year, Redding pioneered the use of Facebook and other social media platforms to share information with residents. “Here in Redding, we also have an open-door policy — anybody who lives in Redding can come to Town Hall and speak to me directly or to any other town official,” Pemberton said. “We can — and we have — acted on people’s input even on that very same day. How many other places have that?” The Town now sends out a weekly newsletter through the Town Clerk’s office, and many departments send e-mail blasts to inform interested parties. “We can always do better, and in Redding we’re always working to do that,” Pemberton said. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

The Allen and Helen Hermes Arts Series: A Summer Cabaret Theater Sunday, August 9 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Summer musical cabaret featuring the Naugatuck Valley Cabaret Singers Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org/events R	Primary Elections Tuesday, August 11 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road Visit reddingct.gov/ early-voting for Early Voting hours and details	Redding Land Trust Summer Celebration Saturday, August 22 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Celebrate open space conservation with food, music, and good company The Big Field at Do Ngak Kunphen Ling 30 Putnam Park Road \$, R	Want to feature an upcoming event? E-mail us at advertise@reddingsentinel.org for more information.
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ARTS

Sunday, August 9

The Allen and Helen Hermes Arts Series: A Summer Cabaret Theater
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Summer musical cabaret featuring the Naugatuck Valley Cabaret Singers with a special show to honor the nation’s 250th anniversary
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org/events
R

Sundays, August 9 and August 16

Concerts on the Green
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Sweet Megg (August 9)
The Lonetown Boys (August 16)
Redding Town Green
100 Hill Road
reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation

Friday, August 7

ROAR Benefit with Faster Things
6:00 p.m.
Annual benefit for ROAR, with a special performance by Faster Things, Allman Brothers tribute band Nod Hill Brewery
137 Ethan Allen Highway
Ridgefield
nod-hill-brewery.turntabletickets.com
\$, R

Monday, August 10

Acoustic Series at Topstone – “Timeless Songwriters”
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Adult concert featuring the music of Joni Mitchell, Paul Simon, Carly Simon, and more
Topstone Park
72 Topstone Road
reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation

Tuesday, August 25

Ways of Listening: Frederic Chopin, the Poet of the Piano
11:00 a.m.
A multimedia, musically enriching program about one of the greatest composers, with David Stein
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road
E-mail mpilato@reddingct.gov
R

Friday, August 28

Jean-Baptiste Cardineau and the Local Heroes
8:00 p.m.
Mining the fertile grounds of traditional bluegrass, early country, and old-time mountain music
The Granite Church
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org
\$

CHILDREN | TEENS

Friday, August 7

Teen Night at the BGCRE
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Glow party, basketball, kickball, and ice cream
Boys and Girls Club
170 Cross Highway
bgcre.net/summer-hangouts
\$

Thursday, August 13

Kitty Kraze
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Come meet, cuddle and play with some furry feline friends from Rock N’ Rescue; grades 5+
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org/events
R

Saturday, August 15

First Church Bethel’s Children’s Festival
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fun for the whole family with crafts, food, balloon artist, games, face painting, and more
First Church Bethel
46 Main Street
Bethel
firstchurchbethel.org

CRAFTS

Sunday, August 9

Spinning with Fiber Friends of Weston CT
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Join a welcoming community of spinners of all skill levels to share, learn, and grow together
New Pond Farm
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org

FOOD | WINE

Tuesday, August 11

Sunny Season Eats Part II: Savory & Sweet Summer Fruit Recipes (Virtual)
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Learn to incorporate seasonal fruit into an abundant salad with marinated chicken — we’ll also learn to make sweets that celebrate the season
Mark Twain Library
Zoom
marktwainlibrary.org/events
R

Wednesday, August 12

Oyster Shucking Class
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Hands-on culinary experience
Nod Hill Brewery
137 Ethan Allen Highway
Ridgefield
nod-hill-brewery.-turntabletickets.com
\$, R

Tuesday, August 18

Happiness and BBQ: Annual BBQ
12:30 p.m.
Come to our annual cookout for burgers, hotdogs, and good company
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road
E-mail mpilato@reddingsentinel.org
R

Saturday, August 29

A Taste of the Harvest
4:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
Farm-to-table experience and fundraiser
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
event.auctria.com
\$, R

NATURE

Wednesdays

Redding Grange Annual Garden Produce Drive
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Drop off surplus garden produce and nourish our community
Redding Grange, The Granite Church, Mark Twain Library
399 Newtown Turnpike, 5 North Main Street, 439 Redding Road
reddinggrange.org

Saturday, August 8

Redding Community Hiking Club
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Join local lepidopterist Victor DeMasi on this walk to observe butterflies and learn about their ecology and conservation; register by August 6
Norwalk River Valley Trail
marktwainlibrary.org/events
R

Saturday, August 22

InSitu Garden Conservancy Open Day
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Visit InSitu, featured in the national Garden Conservancy’s book *Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration: 25 Years of the Garden Conservancy (2015)*
73 Diamond Hill Road
gardenconservancy.org
\$, R

Saturday, August 22

Redding Land Trust Summer Celebration
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Celebrate open space conservation with food, music, and good company
The Big Field at Do Ngak
Kunphen Ling
30 Putnam Park Road
\$, R

Saturday, August 29

Night Flight: Exploring Bats and Tequila
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
The evening will include educational programming, light bites and tequila tasting in our picturesque pavilion
Woodcock Nature Center
Wilton
woodcocknaturecenter.org
\$, R

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Sunday, August 9

International Affairs Discussion
9:00 a.m.
Discuss Samuel Huntington’s The Clash of Civilizations: Christian Civilization and Islam
First Congregational Church
103 Main Street
Ridgefield
firstcongregational.com

Tuesday, August 11

Elder Law: What Seniors Should Know
3:00 p.m.
Alyson Marcucio will provide helpful information when facing sensitive areas of concern connected to healthcare, financial planning, and more
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road
E-mail mpilato@reddingct.gov
R

Thursday, August 20

Working for the Revolution: Patriot Women’s Lives During the War
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
A presentation on how women contributed to the American Revolution effort politically, economically, intellectually, and militarily
Wilton Historical Society
224 Danbury Road
Wilton
wiltonhistorical.org
R

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Temple B’nai Chaim
No services scheduled
82 Portland Avenue
templebnaichaim.org

MEETINGS

Monday, August 10

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

Tuesday, August 11

Primary Elections
6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road

Tuesday, August 11

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

Tuesday, August 11

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

Wednesday, August 12

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

Wednesday, August 12

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

Thursday, August 13

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

Thursday, August 13

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

Monday, August 17

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

Tuesday, August 18

Region 9 Finance and Operations
5:30 p.m.
JBHS Library Learning Commons
100 Black Rock Turnpike

Tuesday, August 18

Region 9 Board of Education
7:00 p.m.
JBHS Library Learning Commons
100 Black Rock Turnpike

Tuesday, August 18

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

Wednesday, August 19

Region 9 Board of Education Curriculum Committee
8:30 a.m.
Joel Barlow High School
100 Black Rock Turnpike

Wednesday, August 19

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

Thursday, August 20

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

Monday, August 24

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

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Jennifer Margnelli
Assistant Brokerage Manager
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