

Fire District 2 budget passes

By Jessie Wright

Voters in Fire District 2 passed a “flat budget” on Thursday, May 15, approving \$594,152 for the 2025-26 fiscal year. This is the same total that was approved for the current 2024-25 fiscal year. The 2025-26 mil rate of 1.015 mils was also voted on and approved.

Three volunteer fire departments serve Redding, and each has its own taxing district. Fire District 2 collects taxes for the West Redding Volunteer Fire Department which operates out of the West Redding Firehouse on Umpawaug Road. Fire taxes in Redding are voted upon and collected separately from the Town’s real estate taxes.

Voters also re-elected Scott Romano as Commissioner for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2025. Christine Quigley was elected as the District’s new Tax Collector. Her term will also begin July 1, 2025 and run for three years. ■



Photo by Ed Staunton

Spring greenery abounds along Sanfordtown Road. If you have a photo you’d like to see featured here, please e-mail it to editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Make your voice heard for the Georgetown revitalization plan

By Jessie Wright

Thousands of people will flock to Georgetown on Sunday, June 8 to enjoy Georgetown Day. Pirie Associates, the firm tasked with developing a revitalization plan for Georgetown, will take advantage of the gathering by providing several ways for the public to engage with the planning process during the festivities.

“Georgetown Day is the kick-off to public engagement in the planning process,” said First Select-woman Julia Pemberton.

The Town of Redding and Pirie Associates will be hosting a tent on Main Street during Georgetown Day, providing information on the planning process and hosting interactive ways for attendees to offer feedback and share their ideas on Georgetown revitalization.

Items from the Gilbert &

Bennett Wire Mill historical archive will be on view for visitors at the old Wire Mill office building at 1 North Main Street. Historian Julie Hughes established and oversees the collection.

Tours of the Wire Mill will also be offered throughout the day, with guests brought to the site by shuttle bus – registration for the tours will be required in advance, with details on time slots and how to sign up becoming available closer to the date at reddingct.gov.

The Georgetown Day activities will be just the first of the many ways Pirie Associates will engage with the public during their planning process. Focus group sessions have already begun, and the first public listening session is targeted for late June, with a date and location to be announced shortly.

Pirie Associates’s work is being funded by a \$200,000 Brownfield Area Revitalization Grant awarded to the Town of Redding by the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. The project will include community engagement, market and economic assessments, infrastructure, and holistic planning. The outcome will be an area-wide plan that reunites Georgetown and the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill site, with design guidance for the Georgetown business area and a phased implementation plan to revitalize the Wire Mill site. The planning project is expected to take about 15-18 months. ■

For more information on Georgetown Day, see pages 6 and 7

REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

Putnam Park’s School Days open to the public tomorrow

By Pamela Brown



Photo courtesy of FANS

On Friday, May 23, Putnam Memorial State Park is offering a special opportunity for the public to participate in its School Days program. A popular annual event, School Days – Living History at Putnam Park, serves approximately 1,200 elementary school students over the course of a week, drawing over 150 students per day.

“This is the biggest educational event we host at the park,” said Ellery Thomas Leary, Park Historian, of the longstanding event that is organized by the Friends and Neighbors of Putnam Park (FANS). “We were open to the public for

the first time last year, and it went well enough that we’re repeating the experience. One of our 2024 attendees has become a regular volunteer after having such a great time at School Days.” Members of the public can purchase tickets to attend the programming on Friday, May 23.

All ages are encouraged to attend, and attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch.

“Kids have a natural curiosity about the world around them, and the answers to many of their questions are rooted in history. They want to know what it was like

to live in the past, especially for people their own age,” said Leary. “The program is aimed at older elementary or middle school students, but adult chaperones have always enjoyed it so much that we thought the general public would like it, too – and they do. The information is presented in a unique and engaging way that is tailored to each audience, so there’s something for all ages to take away from this.”

The day offers a fun, interesting, and interactive educational experience focused on the late 18th century, with an emphasis on the American Revolution. The program starts at the Park’s iconic horse statue at 10:00 a.m. and ends with a cannon blast at 1:00 p.m. Groups rotate around eight different stations within the Park. “Each day is a whirlwind of activity where students descend on the Park to talk to skilled reenactors who demonstrate life during the American Revolution,” Leary said. “The

Continued on page 10

Zoning Commission tables decision on Nest project

By Rocco Valluzzo

Following the continuation of a public hearing on Wednesday, May 14, the Zoning Commission tabled the Region 9 Board of Education’s request for a site plan approval/amendment for renovation of an existing athletic team room building at the Joel Barlow High stadium complex at 70 Turney Road.

The Commission cited the need for additional approval from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) as well as from Redding’s Building and Health Departments before putting the request to a vote.

The proposal is part of Phase 2 of the Joel Barlow Nest Building and Fields Improvements project, financing for which was approved in May 2023. The plan includes the addition of accessible public restrooms near the football field and the conversion of a storage building to house concessions. It calls for installing a permanent subsurface sewage disposal system at the stadium that would connect the new bathrooms to an existing wastewater treatment facility at the school.

The Region 9 Board of Education has applied for a modification of an existing permit, though a letter of approval from CT DEEP has not yet been received. ER9 Director of Facilities and Operations Mike D’Agostino said he spoke to Underground Injection Control Program Supervisor Lauren Jones at CT DEEP on a number of occasions and was told the application is under review.

“Lauren said she is going to do her best to get me the approval in a few weeks so we have ample time to start the project and do it during the summer,” D’Agostino said. “The State does not move quickly. They move deliberately, and there are essentially 10 people doing the job of 100 people.”

D’Agostino noted that the project has a time window of approximately 10 weeks for completion. If all the necessary approvals are not granted until mid-June, it could delay the project a month, making it difficult to be completed in time for fall school activities.

The Joel Barlow wastewater treatment facility is monitored daily. D’Agostino said current school water usage is less than 30% of the total capacity. With the additional flow from the stadium at full capacity, it is still below 45%.

“Football games are on Friday nights when school is not in session,” he added. “We’re never going to have both draws at the same time. We’re never going to have a school full of students and a full stadium full of spectators at the same time.”

The Commission will continue discussion on the matter at its next meeting on Wednesday, May 28. ■

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EDITORIAL

Main Street energy

My son and I went for a “bop and shop” in Georgetown last Sunday morning (a term my sisters and I use for outings that involve walking and visiting multiple businesses, just seeing where your interests take you).

We started with a treat from Kermit’s Bake Shop, then strolled up Main Street, our hands getting sticky as we ate our selections. The doors of almost every business were propped open, inviting visitors. We admired the colorful installation on view at Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center from the sidewalk (we decided our hands were too sticky for a full-fledged visit). We browsed the offerings at The Shops at Auburn Landing for a gift for a friend’s upcoming graduation.

We picked up sushi to bring home for lunch from The Georgetown Owl Market. We ventured down the steps to Gilbert & Miller Park and listened to the water rushing behind the buildings. We said hello to a family stopping for a break during their morning bike ride in the parking lot of the soon-to-open Uncorked Georgetown (a restaurant in the former Redding Beer Company space). We saw a gentleman driving away from Uncle Leo’s in an incredible vintage racecar, donuts on the passenger seat.

As we strolled back to our car, folks across the street were beginning to set up for the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company’s Plant Sale at The Granite. It was a neighborly, lively morning.

We encourage all our readers to celebrate all that Georgetown has to offer on Georgetown Day on Sunday, June 8 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Special coverage of the event can be found in this issue on pages 6 and 7. For those who can’t attend – or those who are curious about what’s happening on Main Street – a Sunday “bop and shop” might be just the thing. ■

The HCCA (Horseless Carriage Club of America) and the Town of Easton present

SPORT HILL RACES - HILL CLIMB DEMONSTRATION & ANTIQUE CAR SHOW



Saturday, May 24th, 2025 (Fair weather permitting, no rain date.)
Easton Town Library Parking Lot
10:00 am - 2:30 pm. Open to the public
Free to the public and Free for all car owners (Cut off 1957)
Not a judged event.

This is an antique car show featuring early brass cars (1900-1915), pre-war cars and cars made in 1957 or earlier. There will be 3 hill climb demonstrations (11:00 am, 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm) for the public to enjoy the sights and sounds of the early brass cars that would have run the original hill climb races, with an audio narration by historians Bruce Nelson and Alex Dragone.

After the 2:30 pm demonstration, all antique car owners are invited to join a car tour procession of 30 miles from the Easton Library to Broken Symmetry Brewery in Bethel (5 Depot Pl, Bethel).

For information: <https://fairfieldcountregion.org/event-flyers>



LEGAL NOTICE

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Zoning Commission held on May 14, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in person the Commission reached the following decision:

1. **Application #25-03Z – 3 Dan Beard Lane (Accessor’s Map and Lot #29-10) Owner Adam and Shannon Fischer.** In accordance with Redding Zoning Regulations Section 5.1.2 request for a Special Use Permit for accessory residential apartment. **APPROVED** ■

*Matt Lecher, Chairman
Redding Zoning Commission*

Ilarina Pomazi recognized as EMT of the Year



Photo courtesy of Redding Fire & EMS Company #1

Redding Fire & EMS Company #1 joins emergency medical service (EMS) providers around the country in celebrating National

EMS Week May 18-25, 2025. In 1974, President Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate EMS professionals and the important work they do in our nation’s communities.

On Monday, May 19, Fire Department leadership recognized Ilarina Pomazi as the recipient of the 2025 Redding Fire & EMS Co. 1 - EMT of the Year award. Ilarina has been an Emergency Medical Technician with the Department for the past four years. Her positive attitude, dependability, and readiness to step up when needed make her a respected role model. The Department wishes all first responders and EMS providers a happy and safe EMS week! ■

Historic District Study Committee forms
Smith Street and Church Street considered for historic district

By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Jessie Wright

As the first step in the preservation of certain historic properties in town, Redding has formed a Historic District Study Committee.

The Committee is comprised of six members: Chair Holly Hill, Secretary Heidi Holzer, Laurie Heiss, Louise Wagner, Susan Robinson, and Janice Rotchstein. Since holding its first meeting in April, the group has studied homes and buildings on Smith Street and on Church Street, half of which is in Redding and half in Wilton. The Wilton portion has already been designated as an historic district by that Town.

Last year, homeowners on these streets petitioned the Board of Selectmen for the creation of an Historic District Commission, as they wished their neighborhood to be designated as an 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.

“It’s actually very beneficial to the owners,” said Hill. “They’re all very excited about it. It is also honoring the tradition and the heritage of the Gilbert and Bennett (Wire Mill) village. It’s part of the New England heritage of old mill towns.”

Although there are several National Historic Register sites already in town, including parts of Georgetown in and around the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill, Putnam Memorial State Park, the Umpawaug School House, and the Redding Center Historical District, Redding has no locally-designated properties.

According to Connecticut state

statute, a study committee must be formed before an historic district is established by a vote of property owners in the proposed district. If such a district is ultimately established, then an Historic District Commission is enabled by local legislation to oversee it.

Hill said the Committee’s study supports formal recognition at the state level, which not only affirms the area’s cultural and architectural value within Connecticut, but also opens the door to important preservation tools. These include access to state funding, technical assistance, and planning considerations that help ensure thoughtful development while protecting the area’s unique character.

The neighborhood was developed primarily between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries by workers and company managers at the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill. The physical structures proposed in the study range in

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Redding League of Women Voters to tackle the complexities of cryptocurrency
Banking expert to speak at Annual Meeting on June 2

By Jessie Wright

The Redding League of Women Voters will hold its open-to-all Annual Meeting on Monday, June 2, this year turning its attention to the growing, complex world of cryptocurrency.

The event is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. at Town Hall, located at 100 Hill Road. It will feature attorney Jeffrey Schuyler of the Connecticut Department of Banking discussing the topic “Cryptocurrency: What it is, and is it a threat to our democracy?”

Schuyler works within the Consumer Credit Division of

the Connecticut Department of Banking, where he is responsible for the protection of Connecticut consumers while also encouraging business development. His work over the past three years has increasingly focused on virtual currency due to its wider use and prevalence in fraud cases. Before this, Schuyler represented plaintiffs in collections, foreclosures, and debt negotiation in private practice.

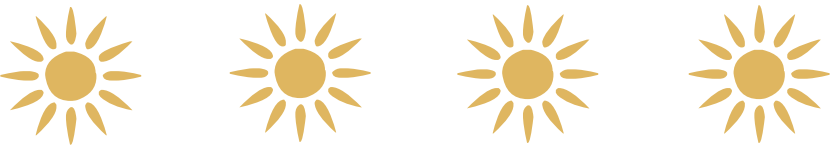
The discussion will be valuable for those already familiar with and those eager to understand terms like Blockchain, Crypto Exchange,

Digital Currency, Digital Wallet, Metaverse, NFTs, and Stablecoin. The Redding League of Women Voters hopes to help demystify the language of cryptocurrency and discuss the challenges it is creating for Connecticut residents.

Paired with this timely topic will be a luncheon prepared by The Sand Wedge. ■

To register and purchase tickets for the lunch and Annual Meeting, e-mail Jinny Cohen at vhcints@gmail.com

SENTINEL SUMMER PUBLISHING SCHEDULE



The *Sentinel* begins our summer publishing schedule this week, publishing every other week through Labor Day, after which we will resume our regular, weekly schedule.

Summer issues will still be delivered to subscribers both in hard copy through the mail and through an e-mailed digital link. All of us at the *Sentinel* wish all of you a happy and healthy summer!

Visit reddingsentinel.org/publishing-schedule for a complete list of Volume 4 issue dates.

Contact us at publisher@reddingsentinel.org with any questions.

- MAY
Off Week (May 29)
- JUNE
June 5
Off Week (June 12)
June 19
Off Week (June 26)
- JULY
July 3
Off Week (July 10)
July 17
Off Week (July 24)
July 31
- AUGUST
Off Week (August 7)
August 14
Off Week (August 21)
August 28

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Visit our website

All Redding residents invited to march in the annual Memorial Day Parade

By Anne Young Albanese



Photo by Jessie Wright

Memorial Day is an annual federal holiday to honor and remember the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Redding celebrates these heroes with an annual parade and ceremony.

According to Hank Sanford, who is responsible for the parade each year, community groups who have participated in the past include the Girl Scouts, Brownies, Daisies, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts. Some other groups have included all three fire departments, Town and State officials, and representatives from Meadow Ridge. All groups and individuals in Redding are invited to participate.

“Redding’s Memorial Day Parade is unique in scope and one of the most valued town traditions,” said Selectman Michael Thompson. “Citizens of all ages take part in the parade itself and the ceremony that follows to honor the legacy of the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country is something we can all be proud of. I encourage everyone in town to attend if they can.”

The parade will take place on Saturday, May 24. It begins at Redding Elementary School’s big gym at 33 Lonetown Road and

proceeds down Lonetown Road, ending at the Memorial Stone at 23 Cross Highway in front of the Old Town House. Anyone in the community who is interested in marching should meet the parade organizers at Redding Elementary School at 11:30 a.m. The parade planners will arrange participants. The parade will begin at 12:00 p.m.

Following the parade, there will be a ceremony at the Memorial Stone. After the ceremony, the Girl Scouts, Brownies, and Daisies will lay flowers at the site. A benediction will follow. The event is expected to end around 1:00 p.m.

While many community members participate in the parade, others choose to watch. It is recommended that viewers begin lining the parade route around 11:30 a.m., as it is a popular event, bringing out a large segment of Redding. Attendees are welcome to bring chairs, blankets, and food – whatever will make their viewing experience more comfortable without blocking the view of others.

The parade will occur rain or shine. Following the parade, a Memorial Day Picnic will be held at the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton, 170 Cross Highway, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. ■

Boys & Girls Club picnic promises small-town, big fun

By Pamela Brown



Photo courtesy of Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton

Memorial Day Weekend is traditionally marked by moments of somber reflection alongside community gatherings that celebrate the beginning of summer with outdoor barbecues, music, and lively socializing. In that spirit, the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton is offering its second annual Memorial Day Picnic on Saturday, May 24 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. directly following the Town’s Memorial Day Parade.

“We’re thrilled to bring back the Memorial Day Picnic again this year. This fantastic family event has been a favorite in Redding for years due to the hard work of many volunteers,” said Meredith Schuchard, the Club’s Executive Director. “The funds raised from this event help support our low-cost, high-quality programs for kids in Redding and Easton.”

While the picnic had been a tradition in town for many years, it had disappeared from the spring calendar for a long hiatus before the Boys & Girls Club revived it last year.

“Meredith and I wanted to bring back the history of this wonderful

event,” said Autumn Tooker, the Club’s Program Director. “Our planning committee, Colette Faulknor, owner of CF Events group in Redding, and Lauren Murphy, a Redding mom, had such an amazing time planning this for our community last year. We partnered with many neighboring businesses, and it was an all-hands-on deck event with about 200 attendees in total, many being new Redding residents.”

This year’s event is bigger and better than ever, with new features on offer like a Redding Wine and Spirits Biergarten and a free Kids Zone.

“As we got a hang of things this time around, our planning committee put their heads together to create an even more exciting afternoon – more room for entertainment – and we really bring together the whole fundraiser aspect of it all,” said Tooker. The Biergarten will allow adults to stay awhile, take some time to relax, and share time with family and friends while enjoying a variety of beers, ciders, and hard seltzers. The kid’s area will feature crafts, face painting, and a Time to

Party CT inflatable play area. “It’s great for a mix of all ages, as there will be sports, inflatable games, obstacle courses, and a bounce house all decorated in a patriotic red, white, and blue theme. A family-fun kickball tournament will be happening again this year,” Tooker continued.

DJ Ryan will be providing music all day long, including today’s hits, throwbacks, and kid-appropriate music. A variety of food will be provided and attendees are encouraged to bring picnic blankets and chairs and enjoy the day.

Little Birdie Cookies, Redding Neighbors & Newcomers, and other local organizations and businesses will have booths. There will be an auction with baskets and gift certificates from businesses around the area.

Members of the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton will be helping the event run smoothly, with many of the middle school Torch Club members volunteering, running the check-in booth, Kid’s Zone, and snack shack, which will be selling additional refreshments.

In the end, the picnic is a team-effort, bringing the community together and building support for other programming the Club offers during the rest of the year.

“If it weren’t for our community and sponsors, we wouldn’t be able to give back to our youth in the capacity that we do,” Schuchard and Tooker said. “Our main mission is to host a space that allows for community engagement, fun, and memorable experiences all while supporting the foundation of the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton. We want everyone to come to the picnic and have fun – it’s the most important part of all.” ■

The Memorial Day Picnic is on Saturday, May 24 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at 170 Cross Highway. Wristband tickets are available for purchase online and at the entrance to the event.

For more information, visit bgcre.net/md2025

Subscription prices will increase June 1



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Coldwell Banker Realty	Svanda Painting
Georgetown Village Restoration, Inc.	The Serenity Project

Annual Fundraising Dinner & Event for The Serenity Project

55 Chestnut Woods Road Redding, CT 06896





Saturday, June 14
5:00 - 6:00: VIP Hour
6:00 - 9:00 PM: Main Event

Catered Dinner • Open Bar • DJ • Silent Auction • Raffles

Tickets





Donate

“The mission of The Serenity Project is to provide a safe and compassionate healing space for individuals to heal through intimate and profound interactions with horses.”

SPORTS

Falcons gear up for league playoffs

Boys lacrosse | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Andrew Watson, left, and Kaden Holub pressure Bethel’s Drew Luchsinger during a boys varsity lacrosse game on Tuesday, May 13. Barlow won 10-4.

The South-West Conference (SWC) playoffs do not start until this week, but the Joel Barlow High boys varsity lacrosse team has already gotten a possible preview of the competition it could face.

The defending SWC champs, the Falcons encountered a possible playoff scenario last week when they visited Bethel, another team headed to the post-season. Although the Wildcats were off to a quick start on Tuesday, May 13, Barlow answered in strong fashion for a 10-4 win.

“They always play us tough,” said Barlow Head Coach Taylor Leahy, whose team is the top seed this year. “They have a lot of good athletes out there. Coach (Chris) Collison has always done a great job since he’s been there, always making sure they’re ready to play.”

The fifth-seeded Wildcats posed a threat early, taking shots that were saved by Falcon goalie Cole Bonanno. With 4:17 left in the first quarter, the hosts finally broke through on a shot by Luke Cassavchia for the lead.

Barlow came close to putting in the equalizer less than two minutes later, only to have Luke Bonanno’s shot bounce off the post. With just 58.3 seconds to go, Bethel struck again, this time on a shot by Matt Lombardi to make it 2-0.

There was still enough time for the Falcons to respond, and they did, when Chase Bonanno found the net with 21 seconds left, and the visitors started their comeback.

“It’s seemingly been our MO lately,” said Leahy. “We give up a couple of ones early, then we kind of just storm back. Hopefully, we

can get that out of our system.”

It marked the beginning of a six-goal scoring run by the Falcons. All the while, their defense of Andrew Watson, Tyler Young, and Ryan Snyder helped ward off threats by the Wildcats, coupled with a number of saves by Cole Bonanno.

Luke Bonanno tied it at 2-2 with 8:53 left in the first half. Just under six minutes later, he added the go-ahead goal, and with 14.7 seconds to go, Joey Bonanno gave Barlow some breathing room with a goal of his own and a 4-2 lead at halftime.

As the second half got underway, the Falcons continued to win face-offs. They also took advantage of a couple of Wildcat turnovers, both of which resulted in goals.

Keeler Pheeney netted one at 10:14 of the third quarter, and less than a minute later, Joey Bonanno tallied his second of the game. The latter added another with 4:43 left, coming on a pass from his brother Chase Bonanno for a 7-2 lead.

The Wildcats finally stopped the run with 2:38 left in the quarter when Tom Miller circled around from the back of the goal for a shot that made it in. He added another right before the quarter ended, but not until after Chase Bonanno struck again, making it an 8-4 game.

Barlow added two more goals in the final frame, one coming from Luke Bonanno near midfield when Bethel’s goalie was out of position. The final tally was at 5:36 when Frankie Branca scored off a pass from Pheeney.

The Bonanno brothers led the scoring with Luke and Joey netting three goals apiece and Chase adding two. Pheeney and Branca had one apiece.

Barlow is now 12-4 overall. Should it win its quarterfinal game against eighth-seeded Masuk, it will take on the winner of the Weston-Bethel game at a time and date to be determined. ■

Wildcats, Panthers quiet Falcon bats

Baseball | By Rocco Valluzzo



The normally hot bats of the Joel Barlow high varsity baseball team cooled a bit in their two most recent games.

The Falcons, who have averaged better than seven runs in each outing this season, ran into some tough pitching when they hosted Bethel on Wednesday, May 14. Bethel’s starter and relievers held the hosts to just six hits as Barlow lost a 2-4 decision.

Bethel scored its first run in the top of the first inning, courtesy of a single and a sacrifice fly that plated Jackson Wein. Wildcat starter Sam Ferrier then went to work on the mound, holding the Falcons scoreless, which would continue through the first six innings.

Barlow starter Will Gregor held off Bethel from scoring again until the top of the fourth, when four singles led to two more runs. The visitors’ fourth and final run came in the top of the fifth on a single, two hit batters, and a wild pitch to make it 4-0.

T.J. Baer singled and Connor Thomas walked with two outs in

the bottom of the fourth but were left stranded. Barlow also threatened in the sixth with singles by Billy Bardani and Logan Kady but to no avail.

Baer took over on the mound for the Falcons in the top of the seventh and retired the side. Down to their last turn, the Falcons ended the shutout. Ken Esposito and Baer walked. Dan Smith went in to run for Esposito and advanced on a passed ball and a wild pitch before scoring on a groundout by Thomas.

Walks by Gregor and Gavin Maryott helped keep Barlow’s chances alive, and Bardani singled to drive in a run. When Jim Kennedy was hit by a pitch it loaded the bases, but the Wildcats escaped without any additional damage.

Baer and Bardani led Barlow, each with three hits. The latter also drove in a run, as did Thomas.

Gregor went six innings on the mound, surrendering four runs (three earned) on six hits with four strikeouts and two walks.

The Falcons fared a bit better offensively on Saturday, May 17 when they visited Masuk. They had the lead until late when the hosts rallied for a 5-7 final score.

Kennedy took to the mound for the Falcons and kept the Panthers off the board in the first two innings. He had some offensive support in the top of the second thanks to an RBI double by Brennan Maryott that produced a run.

Two more runs came in the third for the Falcons. Baer led off with a single and after stealing second scored on an RBI single by Thomas, who later also scored on an error to make it 3-0.

Masuk got one back in its next turn on a walk, sacrifice, and RBI single and scored one more in the fourth. Without the benefit of a hit, Barlow scored two in the top of the fifth with two walks, a double steal, a dropped third strike, and a passed ball for a 5-2 lead.

Down by three runs, the Panthers rallied in their half of the sixth with four hits, an error, and a sacrifice fly, batting a round in the process to turn the tide and make it 5-7. Barlow could not respond in its last turn.

Baer had three hits for Barlow and scored a run. Thomas had one with an RBI and two runs scored. Bardani also had a hit and drove in a run.

Kennedy threw four innings for Barlow, giving up two runs on five hits with two walks and two strikeouts. Eli Kress went one-and-a-third innings for the loss with four runs (three earned) on five hits, with two walks and two strikeouts.

Barlow, now 14-4 overall, finishes the regular season this week before starting the South-West Conference playoffs. ■

Bunnell edges Barlow in regular-season finale

Girls track and field | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Cheyrl Southlea was third in the pole vault at a girls track meet on Tuesday, May 13. Barlow was edged 74-76 by host Bunnell but defeated Immaculate 109-17.

The final meet of the regular season also turned out to be the closest one for the Joel Barlow High girls track and field team when it visited Bunnell.

The Falcons dominated a number of events on the track, even sweeping several. But the Bulldogs were dominant in others, prevailing 76-74 in Stratford on Tuesday, May 13.

Barlow would, however, break even on the day with a convincing 109-17 win over Immaculate.

Bunnell had the speed in the opening event, the 4x800 relay, taking first in 12 minutes, 9 seconds. Barlow’s Mila Baker, Raveena Tala, Alessandra Costello, and Phoebe Swedrock followed in 12:42.8 in second place.

It was a different story for the 4x100, as Gia Foley, Sofia Benitez, Vika Abukhovich, and Jordan Carr ran a 52.9 for the win with a margin of 0.2 seconds. Barlow also won the 100 high hurdles with Phoebe Cora Smith taking the top spot in 15.1 seconds.

Although Bunnell took the top spot in the 100 meters, the Falcons went two-three with Olivia Taylor as runner-up in 12.9. Carr followed a tenth-of-a-second later.

Dominating the 1,600, the Falcons grabbed first through third, starting with Olivia Kotula’s time of 5:34.5, her best of the season. Clara Mehner followed with a personal-best 5:40.1, and Stephanie Bardani was next with a 5:53.2.

Abukhovich got the win for Barlow in the 400 in 1:00.5. Smith did likewise in the 300 intermediate hurdles in 47.1. Third went to Benitez in 51.7.

Running a 2:27.4 in the 800, Ally Bardani secured the win and a personal record. Getting her third win of the day, Smith finished the 200 in 26.4, a personal record, and led a Barlow sweep of the event. Taylor was next in 26.5, and Abukhovich followed in 26.9.

Barlow also swept the 3,200 with Kotula going the distance in 12:31.6 for the win. Mehner followed in 13:01.2 (personal record), and Stephanie Bardani was third in 13:37.6.

Taking two of the three relays, Barlow won the 4x400 with Ally Bardani, Viv D’Amico, Lucy Zima, and Smith combining for a 4:34.9.

In the field events, the Bulldogs dominated the throwing events, sweeping the javelin, discus, and shot put. It did likewise in the long jump and took two of the top three places in the high jump.

Barlow fared much better in the pole vault, winning it with D’Amico clearing seven feet, six inches. Third went to Cheyrl Southlea with five feet, six inches.

The Falcons’ other points came in the triple jump with Ruby Candee’s 32’ 1.5” jump, a personal record.

Barlow finishes with a regular-season record of 6-7. ■

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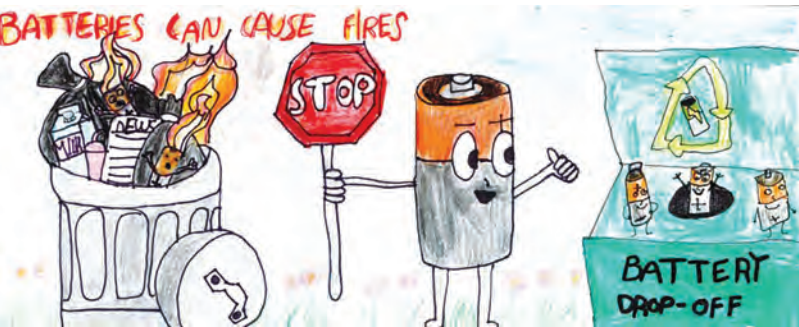


Photo by James Bairaktaris

Winners of the John Read Middle School PTA Color Run on Sunday, May 18. (From left to right): First Place Male (2nd overall) Theo Prusa and First Place Female (and first place overall for the second year in a row) Kate Duggan.

Redding students among HRRAs Billboards Contest winners

By Paige Silva



Design by Maia Simon, third-grader at Redding Elementary School

This year, Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority (HRRRA) has been focused on raising awareness about the potential hazards of batteries, particularly their ability to cause fires. The theme for the 18th Annual HRRRA Billboard Contest was “Batteries Can Cause Fires”.

In collaboration with HRRRA, the Town of Redding organized a contest open to students from kindergarten through 12th grade. This contest welcomed participation from public, private, and home-schooled students. Entry forms were distributed across schools and at Mark Twain Library to maximize participation.

We had so many great entries, and the Redding Highway Department employees were the judges. These kids did an amazing job! Among the Redding winners were also six regional winners recognized by HRRRA.

Redding Elementary School
Kindergarten
Redding Winner: Jane Kriesel (HRRRA Regional 1st place)
Teacher: Mrs. Samantha LoStocco

First Grade
Redding Winner: Otto Lindl

Teacher: Mrs. Ashley Capalbo

Second Grade
Redding Winner: Laney Randall (HRRRA Regional 3rd place)
Teacher: Ms. Kate Merritt

Third Grade
Redding Winner: Maia Simon (HRRRA Regional 1st place)
Teacher: Ms. Mimi Weiss

Fourth Grade
Redding Winner: Ella Ackerson (HRRRA Regional 3rd place)
Teacher: Mrs. Meghan Ranieri

John Read Middle School
Sixth grade
Redding Winner: Lucas Dragotta
Teacher: Mrs. Christina Pimentel

Seventh grade
Redding Winner: Malania Fabbi
Teacher: Ms. Judith Collentine

Eighth grade
Redding Winner: Maxwell Mehner
Teacher: Mr. Christopher Harrison

Joel Barlow High School
Ninth grade
Redding Winner: Gia Foley (HRRRA Regional 3rd place)
Teacher: Mr. Andrew Pohlen

Tenth grade
Redding Winner: Lyra Robinson (HRRRA Regional 2nd place)
Teacher: Mrs. Debra Taubner

Eleventh grade
Redding Winner: Vince Covinor
Teacher: Mr. Andrew Pohlen

Twelfth grade
Redding Winner: Milanans Celas
Teacher: Mr. Andrew Pohlen

Battery Disposal Options

To promote safe disposal practices, Redding offers several convenient options for residents:

- 1. Redding Transfer Station:** Residents can dispose of rechargeable and alkaline batteries, along with electronics, at the e-waste bin located here. This service is provided at no cost and does not require a permit.
- 2. Retail Stores:** Several big box stores such as Staples, Home Depot, and Lowe’s participate in battery recycling. Residents can also visit Call2Recycle to find a participating retailer near them. No cost.
- 3. Household Hazardous Waste Events:** The HRRRA organizes six events annually, in April, May, June, September, October, and November. These events provide another avenue for safe battery disposal. The schedule is available on the HRRRA website. No cost.

By participating in these initiatives, residents can contribute to a safer, more environmentally conscious community. ■

View all the winning entries at hrrra.org/billboard-contest-2025

Notes from a neighbor Switching to sandals

By Carter Wiseman

Beyond the city limits, the coming of warm weather launches a flurry of time- honored rituals.

There is the spring clean-up, gathering the branches snapped by winter storms, sharpening the garden shears, and, depending on the acreage, tuning up the mowers and the blowers.

The downside of the last exercise is the noise and the exhaust that result. Happily, a growing number of towns in our area seem to be changing over to electric equipment, so the roars may eventually be replaced by mere hums.

In any case, one of my most satisfying seasonal rituals takes place entirely indoors – and is totally silent. It is the swapping of winter clothes for those of summer.

First are the turtle-necks, heavy sweaters, and woolly scarves, which move from the front bedroom bureau to the back. From the back bedroom bureau come the T-shirts, polos, and shorts – which have been waiting patiently since November – to replace them.

Each bureau has a distinctive smell, which lingers on the clothes at least until the first washing. One bureau, a vintage highboy passed down through my family, still gives off a faint whiff of the cedar it was made from. The other smells slightly of pine from a little sachet I brought home from an Adirondack vacation. The odors instantly flash images of the past on my mental screen. And although I’ve seen these imaginary movies twice a year, they still surprise me with the message that a new season is about to begin, especially in the spring.

Welcoming as the switch from

heavy clothes to light ones is at this time of year, the item that marks the end of winter with the greatest power isn’t in either bureau. Tucked into the back of our main coat closet, where they’ve been waiting out the cold behind some Kamik boots – bought after a monster snow storm some years back – are my Teva sandals.

As a boy, I was never much for sandals. The leather ones were ruined if they got wet, and the plastic flip-flops always came off at the wrong time. And, to be candid, sandals didn’t seem very manly. Enter Velcro! The hook-and-eye gripping straps made the footwear of ancient origin easy to put on and take off and let me stride into rivers and lakes without fear of losing my footing. It didn’t hurt that the catalogs of outfitters like REI and EMS featured grizzled hikers wearing some variation of the original while portaging canoes in the wilderness.

While still in college, I scaled some small mountains and climbed some risky rock faces. Not being much of an outdoorsman anymore, I am content to take pleasure in the triumph of the humble sandal over its image as the footwear of the poor or the ascetic. But most of all, I am happy for my summertime feet: No more Topsiders, no more sweat socks, no more replacing broken laces for my New Balance 990s.

By November, I know I will be happy to welcome those Kamiks again – especially if we get some snow this winter. At the moment, though, my toes are savoring the coming of the sand. ■



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Wilton Auto Park • Wild Blueberry & Stems + Co • Wire Mill BBQ • Yoga Station



GEORGETOWN DAY

Georgetown Day is on Sunday, June 8

By Justine Tassitano



Photo by Jessie Wright

The 22nd annual Georgetown Day is on Sunday, June 8, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Join friends and neighbors for this exciting, free, family-friendly community event on Main Street, with an extension across the street in front of The Granite Church. Get a head start on summer and enjoy over 90 vendors and many activities for all ages, organized and hosted by an all-volunteer committee with members from Georgetown Village Restoration, Inc. (GVR), Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company (GVFC), Georgetown Community Association (GCA), and the Georgetown Lions Club.

The Chili Cook-Off, sponsored again by Nazzaro Inc., is returning

this year, where local restaurants will share their chili masterpieces to compete for a popular vote from eventgoers. Tickets are \$10 each, which include multiple tastings and a bottle of water. All proceeds from the cook-off will go to supporting GCA’s efforts to preserve the historic Gilbert & Bennett School.

The Chili Cook-Off is run in part by volunteer Doreen McManus, who manages the Georgetown branch of Fairfield County Bank, the event’s longest sponsor and its biggest this year, as in many years past.

“Fairfield County Bank has been a supporter of Georgetown Day since its inception, and it’s an important part of our engagement

with the community,” said McManus of the 20-plus-year partnership between Georgetown Day and Fairfield County Bank. “As one of the organizers of the Chili Cook-Off, I’m able to see firsthand how the event brings out so many people to gather and have fun together.”

Redding Country Club is sponsoring the Georgetown Day Food Tent for a third year in a row. Other generous sponsors include Fairfield County Bank, Nazzaro Inc., Servco Oil & Propane, Ridgefield Thrift Shop, Home Media Designs, and Keeler BMW and Genesis of Ridgefield. The Georgetown Day ad on page 5 of this issue lists the event’s sponsors in full.

Artisan vendors, food booths, and community organizations will be on both Main Street and in front of The Granite Church. The Georgetown Day committee has prioritized artisans who hand-make their goods and local food vendors for the event’s booths. In addition, non-profits and other organizations will have spaces to share information on their offerings. A booth featuring the Town’s Wire Mill Advisory Committee and the Town’s new planner working on the property will share information on the current work and plans for the future.

There will be multiple local food

vendors, including Georgetown establishments like Kermit’s Bakeshop, Milestone, Lombardi’s, Uncle Leo’s & Rosny Gourmet, Uncorked Georgetown, and Rancho Alegre. The Lions Club will host their famous beer tent with beers provided by Nod Hill Brewery.

Make sure to visit the Welcome Booth in front of Lombardi’s, where you can find a Georgetown Day event map and schedule, limited edition Georgetown Day T-shirts, and other Georgetown-branded merchandise such as mugs, clothing, keychains, hats, and more. Profits collected from these items sold by GVR are solely put toward community projects in Georgetown, including beautification and safety initiatives.

The event also hosts two live music stages featuring local bands. The main stage is generously sponsored by Fairfield County Bank and will be located next to the Georgetown Package Store. Third Sister kicks things off at noon, followed by Gravity Feed (starting at 1:20 p.m.), 2BDetermined (2:40 p.m.), and Faster Things (4:00 p.m.).

The second stage is sponsored by Ancona’s Wines & Liquors and Nod Hill Brewery, and will be in the parking lot of the new Uncorked Georgetown, next to the Georgetown Owl. Old Bob starts at noon, followed by The Bottoms Up

Dixieland Band at 2:45 p.m.

Georgetown Day also features a variety of kids’ activities, including face painting, an adventurous scavenger hunt, and Spray-a-Hose with GVFC, where kids can experience the thrill of fire-fighting. Additionally, there will be creative craft-making sessions led by the GVFC Community Engagement Committee. And of course, don’t miss the famous Playway area, sponsored by Servco Oil & Propane, featuring interactive activities like Build A Boat & Waterway, a sand table, bubbles, several touch-a-trucks thanks to Palazzo Landscaping, and more.

Attendee parking will be located at Sacred Heart Church (30 Church Street), Branchville Train Station (787 Branchville Road, Ridgefield) and Temple B’Nai Chaim (82 Portland Avenue, Wilton). Shuttles will be provided from these lots and will be running all day. Attendees will load and unload from the parking lot shuttles in front of The Granite, at the corner of Portland Avenue and North Main Street. Handicapped parking is available onsite on North Main Street and at Georgetown Veterinary Hospital. ■

For more information, follow @georgetownday on Instagram and Facebook, or visit georgetownct.org

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Historic District Study Committee forms / continued from page 2

style from Italianate Victorian to Carpenter Gothic Revival and reflect a socio-economic blend, with modest worker housing and more substantial residences situated side-by-side. It is also one of the few remaining examples of a New England mill village that has retained much of its original character.

The study covers 20 structures, including the old local general store on North Main Street on the south side of the railroad tracks, a small local library that remains on one of the properties, and Sacred Heart Church.

The study also involves cataloging all of buildings including references to architectural style, any historical facts, and photos. The Committee has done a survey of the area, acreage, and plots of the site per building that it hopes to submit to the State

for review and to get on the State’s registry.

Upon the conclusion of the Committee’s report, the intent is that the group will disband and make way for the creation of an official Historic District Commission, if an historic district is established, that will continue the work and help unlock more opportunities to preserve the neighborhood for future generations.

“State acknowledgment strengthens our ability to pursue adaptive reuse of historic structures, apply for rehabilitation tax credits, and promote community pride in Georgetown’s legacy,” said Hill. “This study gives us the framework to work collaboratively with residents and Town leadership to preserve what makes Georgetown special while shaping a vibrant future.” ■

MUSIC NOTE

Main Street to keep on humming

Make Music Georgetown | By Pamela Brown

A few weeks after Georgetown Day, Main Street will again be alive with activity as The Granite participates in Make Music Day, an annual international event that celebrates music all day long with free live musical performances in communities across the globe.

“At The Granite, we prioritize places for us all to gather, connect, and create. When we learned about Make Music Day, we thought it would be a wonderful way to showcase our creative community and fabulous Main Street and keep the energy of Georgetown Day going into the summer solstice,” said Richard Wenning, The Granite’s Executive Director.

Make Music Georgetown will take place all day on Saturday, June 21 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. It’s free and open to the public.

“We think Make Music Day is a perfect way to highlight and celebrate our incredible local musical community as well as encourage the artist in everyone,” said Caroline Curatolo, a member of The Granite’s Board and its Treasurer. Performances will be held both indoors and outdoors at various venues all over Georgetown, including The Granite, local businesses and restaurants, porches, parks, sidewalks, and more. “This is a collective action and celebration of music-making of all sorts on our Main Street

and beyond in Georgetown,” she continued. “It weaves music through our community, positive energy in our village, and foot traffic to our businesses.”

Make Music Day, one of the largest celebrations of its kind, was launched in 1982 in France as the Fête de la Musique (festival of music). Today, it’s celebrated on the same day in more than 1,000 cities in dozens of countries around the world.

Currently, the organizers of Make Music Georgetown are encouraging registrations from artists of all abilities and genres who would like to be part of the event, whether performing or leading music activities. “We encourage musicians of all kinds to sign up to perform or lead participatory music activities for kids or adults. Make Music Day features music of all styles and is open to anyone who wishes to participate. There will be solo musicians, bands, and participatory musical activities for all ages. Everyone is invited to join the fun,” said Curatolo, adding the event is open to anyone from Redding and surrounding towns.

The exact schedule for the day and venues will be announced closer to the event, along with information on rain locations. So far, participating businesses include Georgetown Owl, Yoga Station, The Shops at Auburn Landing, Wire

Mill Saloon & Barbeque, and Love + Light Salon. A concert at The Granite will cap off the evening.

According to Wenning, Make Music Day aligns with the mission of The Granite as a non-profit community space that connects generations through learning and creativity. “We are restoring this cherished space as a cornerstone for cultural life in the greater Georgetown area, nurturing our music makers and engaging our community through dynamic events and performances,” he said.

Both Wenning and Curatolo are looking forward to a vibrant, celebratory, social event. “We want to empower community members to express themselves through music, be inspired, and to make connections with their neighbors. Music strengthens social connectivity, reduces stress, lowers blood pressure, stimulates memory, and is integral to a well-rounded, enjoyable life,” said Curatolo. “The entire day will be a celebration of music – we’re looking forward to seeing what our local musicians and businesses plan.” ■

For more information and to register as a participating musician, visit thegranitechurch.org/event/make-music-georgetown

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Visit the Redding Sentinel table
at the Georgetown Day celebration and learn more
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Summer Dreams to open at Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center

By Donna Christopher

A cadre of locally and internationally known artists will be showcased in *Summer Dreams*, an exhibition running May 31 to July 26 at Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center, also called GTown Arts, at 5 Main Street.

A colorful array – from florals to neons, from tropical prints to pottery – will evoke the dreamy spirit of summer. The gallery will host an opening reception on Saturday, May 31 as well as a special showing during Georgetown Day on Sunday, June 8. Artists will attend both events to meet and speak with visitors.

Julie Durkin Marty, who owns Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center with her husband Bob, said the gallery will be transformed with color and light by *Summer Dreams*.

“We curated the show with this group of artists in mind,” said Julie. “Picking out work, some of it is floral, some of it is very colorful prints. There’s some very strong, abstract, kind of neon abstraction in the show as well. *Summer Dreams* can relate to so many different things and artists’ work. So, it’s bringing this all together in this kind of almost tropical, sci-fi show.”

The featured artists come from various places including Redding, Bethel, Ridgefield, Brooklyn, and other parts of New York. They include Mary Bailey, Nicole Bricker, Jennie Carr, Kathy Coe, David Cramer, Julie Durkin Marty, Joseph Fucigna, Dave Daignault, Daizy Gesualdi, Dave Gesualdi, Diana Gubbay, Frank Kara, Anthony Kirk, Jim Krupa, Katerina Lanfranco, Robert Lee Morris, Dan Makara, Bob Marty, Robert Mars, Janice Mauro, Cecilia Moy Fradet, Margaret Roleke, Mark Savoia, Catherine Vanaria, Paula Waters Parker, and Julia Whitney Barns.

Frank Kara gave a preview of the pieces he is bringing to Georgetown for the showcase.

“The public can anticipate encountering ceramic work that ventures beyond conventional functionality, inviting viewers to engage their imagination and discover the unexpected. My Raku and wood-fired pieces are created with the intention of conveying a sense of soul, a quality that I strive to imbue in each creation. Experiencing these pieces, I hope, will offer a unique and perhaps even profound connection,” he said.

Diana Gubbay will show “Siesta Light”, a large triptych that combines photographs of flowers with enhanced digital painting, printed on aluminum, for the show.

“The piece aims to capture the half-waking, half-dream state of a summer afternoon nap, with

Continued on page 9

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

A nurse practitioner delves into wellness
Golden Hour Aesthetics & Wellness | By Justin Reynolds



Amanda Guarniere founded Golden Hour Aesthetics & Wellness in 2023.

After graduating from Yale School of Nursing and spending years caring for patients with chronic disease and related complications as a nurse practitioner, Amanda Guarniere decided to change her focus and start helping people optimize their wellness and work toward longevity.

As a nurse practitioner, Guarniere wore many hats, working in emergency medicine, hospital medicine, and primary care. She then had the opportunity to learn aesthetics skills and decided to marry all her experiences in a new venture.

In 2023, she started her own boutique medical practice – Golden Hour Aesthetics & Wellness – which specializes in wellness and elective medicine. Guarniere originally opened an office in West Redding while also seeing patients virtually and in their homes. In November 2024, she had the opportunity to set up shop at Yoga Station at 9 Brookside Road in Georgetown, along with several other wellness practitioners.

People come to her for a variety of services, including wrinkle relaxers (Botox), microneedling, chemical peels, medical weight

loss with GLP-1s, and hormone replacement therapy for men and women.

“My aesthetic services are meant to help people age gracefully and have well-cared-for skin while doing so,” Guarniere explained. “Microneedling is a minimally invasive treatment that uses tiny, controlled punctures in the skin to stimulate your body’s natural healing process. This encourages collagen and elastin production, which helps improve skin texture, reduce fine lines, fade acne scars, and give your skin a smoother, more radiant appearance.”

According to Guarniere, a chemical peel “is a skin-refreshing treatment that gently exfoliates the top layers of the skin using a safe, medical-grade solution.”

“This process helps improve skin tone and texture, and reduce the appearance of fine lines, sun damage, acne, and discoloration,” she said. “Depending on the peel, there might be a week of ‘downtime’ [with] visible peeling of the skin.”

Guarniere also offers GLP-1 medications, like semaglutide and tirzepatide, which have been “total game-changers, not just for weight loss but for overall health.”

“They help regulate appetite, improve blood sugar, and support sustainable changes, which makes a big difference for people who’ve struggled with weight, even when ‘doing everything right,’” she continued. “What’s really exciting is that these meds don’t just help with weight, they’ve also been shown to reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes. So, we’re not just talking about looking better. We’re talking about

feeling better, aging better, and potentially living longer, too.”

All this said, Guarniere cautions that there are some side effects.

“Some people get nausea, bloating, or constipation when they start,” she said. “But that’s why I offer both traditional and micro-dosing options, so we can ease into the right dose and minimize side effects while still seeing results. If someone has been feeling stuck or like their body’s working against them, this might be a tool worth exploring. With the right support and a thoughtful plan, it can be a really effective and empowering option.”

While Golden Hour isn’t a traditional medical office – it doesn’t take insurance – patients enjoy the benefits of Guarniere’s highly personalized approach.

“The majority of my patients have my personal cell phone number, and when you reach out by phone or the patient portal, you get a speedy response from me. My patients appreciate the care and attention I’m able to provide them, and most describe it as a breath of fresh air compared to what they’re used to experiencing in more traditional healthcare settings,” Guarniere said.

She is glad to be able to run her business in the town that she and her family call home. Guarniere and her husband and children moved to Redding in 2021.

“We actually got engaged in Redding at the Boy Scout Camp, so it’s always been a special place to us,” she said. ■

For more information or to book a service or consultation, visit [goldenhourct.com](https://www.goldenhourct.com)

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Happy Spring

“Summer Dreams” to open at Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center / continued from page 7



Artwork by Diana Gubbay
“Siesta Light VI”

eyelids half closed and sunlight filtering through surrounding foliage. In these quiet moments, we can directly experience the subtle, vibrating energy of the natural world,” she said.

Julie and Bob Marty, being artists themselves, are immersed in the artist community and have gotten to know many of the featured artists and have watched their work evolve. They have created the gallery as a community spot for anyone interested in art.

“You don’t have to have any knowledge of the arts to come into the gallery,” Julie said. “We can explain how different the pieces are. It’s about having some curiosity. It’s a really fun experience going and looking and seeing art.”

She noted that it is a very different experience looking at or shopping for art online versus going into a gallery, an experience she describes as “something special.”

“A brick-and-mortar gallery is having that experience of seeing how the work relates to one another,” she said. “The work definitely has a dialogue. It talks to each other – getting in that space and experiencing it makes all the difference.”

Kara said being part of a diverse group of artists offers an opportunity for the public to witness a broad spectrum of artistic styles and genres all in one location.

“Group exhibitions with various styles and mediums in one place help spark new ideas and create conversations that offer fresh perspectives on both our own work and that of others,” he said. “This provides a rich and varied experience for visitors, offering a glimpse into the multifaceted world of contemporary art and the unique perspectives of each artist involved.”

“Our community is fortunate to have the GTown Arts Center, and the dedication of Bob and Julie Marty, who continue to bring together artists, art lovers, and collectors. I’m excited to see the diverse range of art in the show,” Gubbay added. ■

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 31 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Georgetown Day: Sunday, June 8 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Learn more at gtownarts.com

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The Natural World

Frogs in life and death | By Katherine Simmons

I have always loved frogs. It started the day my father, he too a frog lover, brought my three sisters and me to the downstairs pet department of Woolworth’s Five and Dime. Standing before a random aquarium, I spotted a brilliant flash of jade green, legs splayed, darting around the tank. And then, as if sensing my fascination, the teeny frog swam directly up to the glass and pressed his face against it, to get a closer look at the little girl standing mesmerized before him. The affection was clearly mutual. Yes, I believe in that formative moment, I was sold, as was that amiable African frog and his two tank mates. My father had the attendant scoop up four, that wonderful and memorable day, one for each of his daughters. And we jumped up and down with a jubilation that only a new pet could bring.

The African frogs were a fragile lot and sadly, not with us for the long haul. A few years later, they were replaced by hundreds of tadpoles that materialized every spring in our backyard pond. As they grew into froghood, we would fish them out of the pond with abandon, eagerly but delicately, with big, green nets purchased at the local sporting goods store and which still hang in

our garage, a little worse for the wear – a testament to frogging days of lore.

On a trip to Puerto Rico in my early twenties, I returned home with a pocketful of souvenirs for friends and family, all the same in theme: a key chain with a tiny frog attached. Known locally as the “Coqui,” it was a tree frog that only comes out at night and whose chirp-like chant mimics the word “Co-kee Co-kee” as if the frog is singing. Legend has it that if you spot one of these elusive frogs during daylight hours, good luck is yours for the remainder of time.

While recently organizing my closet, I found the Coqui keychain from so many years ago, its paint faded and chipping, tucked away in a shoebox. I contentedly held it in my palm and vowed to start using it again.

As I grew older, it was not necessary to see the physical frogs themselves, the simple sound of them was all I needed. Walking our dog through the dark woods behind our home, the distant sound of a high-pitched peep would fill the air. The peepers serenade, and a sign of springtime and frogs, reborn.

So, when we recently moved

into a rental home that just happened to have a saltwater swimming pool, I was not prepared for the traumatizing daily event awaiting me, involving the creatures I held so dear.

Each morning, generally after a heavy rain, I would discover several small frogs, who had perished overnight, floating on the top of the water, their tiny legs splayed outward, as if in silent defeat. More painful for me were the ones that had sunk to the bottom, a clear symbol of all hope, gone. Devastated, I do the only thing I can think of – scoop them out and place them behind a large, shaded rock I discovered adjacent to the pool, upon which sits a small statue of a praying figure. Next to the rock, is a small strand of wind chimes – its rhythmic music masking prior tragedy? I take comfort in this peaceful resting place for the little frogs, who, in life, brought me so much joy.

But on some mornings, I approach the pool to spot one or two little outliers. Tiny sole survivors, treading water, floating hope. Scooping each up, I gingerly place them down on the concrete and pour a bit of plain water, ever so gently over them, in the hopes of ridding the salt from their bodies.

And as I watch them slowly leap away, we are both, for the moment, saved. ■



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If trees could talk | By Raymond D’Angelo



Photo by Raymond D’Angelo
A few of Mary Travers’s trees at her former property in Redding.

Trees have inspired people in many ways. They have stood as powerful symbols in culture representing life, growth, shelter, and the deep roots of memory. In music, songs about trees often reflect these themes, combining natural imagery with emotional and social commentary. Whether conveying environmental concerns, personal nostalgia, or spiritual connection, songs that center on trees remind us of nature’s central role in our inner and outer lives.

One of the most iconic rock songs about trees is “The Trees” by Rush (1978), which uses oaks and maples, trees plentiful in Redding, to critique political and social inequality. The song’s metaphor pits the taller oaks against the shorter maples in a struggle for sunlight, highlighting tensions between individual freedom and collective fairness. While not a literal environmental anthem, its forest setting reminds listeners of the parallels between our ecosystems and human societies.

In “Lemon Tree,” written by Will Holt in the 1950s and sung by the legendary Peter, Paul and Mary, is a story of growth and disappointment. One can imagine the late Mary Travers, who lived in Redding, singing this melancholic song where the lemon tree becomes a metaphor for love and disillusionment.

Another standout is “Tree” by Seven Lions & Nevve, a more recent electronic song that evokes imagery of a solitary tree as a

symbol of inner strength and resilience. The lyrics speak to standing tall and rooted despite storms, using the tree as a metaphor for emotional endurance and hope.

In this time of climate change and environmental awareness, songs about trees can remind us of what stands to be lost and what must be preserved. They breathe life into the stillness of forests and the silence of endangered landscapes.

On the environmental front, “Big Yellow Taxi” (2002) by Joni Mitchell laments the paving of “paradise” and the loss of green space. She sings, “They paved paradise and put up a parking lot... they took all the trees and put ‘em in a tree museum.” Though not exclusively about trees, its imagery of a paved parking lot reflects concern over the loss of greenery. Fortunately, Redding is a community committed to preserving land and trees.

Songs about trees highlight the deep emotional and symbolic connection humans have with nature. Through music, trees become living symbols of our relationship with the natural world. Both are essential to human well-being: trees, through their ecological benefits; and music, through emotional expression. Together, they remind us of the beauty and interconnectedness of nature and art. ■

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

NEW POND FARM EDUCATION CENTER
Art Show



JUNE 7-15
11AM - 5PM Daily

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

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

Special Preview Evening
Friday, June 6 · 6-8 PM
Join us at sunset for a festive kickoff—mingle with artists and fellow art lovers while enjoying a signature cocktail, wine, local brews, and delicious bites. Tickets: \$50 Includes a \$25 credit toward any art purchase.

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

Redding’s Big Outdoors: Putnam Park’s School Days open to the public tomorrow / continued from page 1

historically-garbed reenactors each host a different activity: they might sing shanties, throw pottery, spin yarn, make candles, and more, all against the backdrop of a real Revolutionary War historic site. Students also receive a tour of the Museum and have a chance to browse our gift shop of books and souvenirs.”

A fundraising event for FANS, School Days helps the non-profit group offer future educational events, contribute to Park improvements, and continually maintain and promote the historical, educational, and recreational values of the park. “We were founded to ensure that Putnam Park is preserved for future generations and to offer

programs that promote a greater understanding of Connecticut’s role in the Revolutionary War,” said Leary, who noted recent upgrades made possible by School Days include the installation of UV-blocking film at the Visitors Center and Museum and the purchase of a dehumidifier to preserve the Museum environment. “We hope to spark a lifelong interest in history by providing an unforgettable field trip. We want people to walk away with good memories and a new curiosity about local history.”

After the program, Leary invites attendees to continue exploring all that Putnam Park has to offer, including its walking trails that are

open to pedestrians, leashed dogs, and cyclists; experience the beautiful views; and embark on the historic one-mile loop. “The Park setting allows us to create educational experiences that aren’t practical or cost-effective to do in a classroom. In addition to showing them the remnants of the Redding Encampment, we introduce students to some of the sights, sounds, and smells they might have encountered if they lived here 250 years ago,” said Leary, adding, “Engaging those senses appeals to many different types of learners, and helps make memories that last.” ■

To register, visit putnampark.eventbrite.com

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

Open Farmhouse Plant Sale & Café Saturday, May 24 – Monday, May 26 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Heirloom and organic plants and seedlings and a pop-up café Open Farmhouse 11 John Read Road openfarmhouse.com	Memorial Day Parade Saturday, May 24 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Annual tradition where all are invited to march or watch From Redding Elementary School to Old Town House reddingct.gov/events	Easton Lions Club Charity Golf Tournament Monday, June 9 7:30 a.m. Blackhawk Golf Course 385 Oronoque Lane Stratford E-mail topdown999@gmail.com \$, R	Gallop for Good: A Night at the Farm Saturday, June 14 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit The Serenity Project Marchant Farm 55 Chestnut Woods Road theserenityprojectct.org \$, R
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ARTS

Saturday, May 24 Artist-in-Residence Open Studio Program 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Learn about the Park’s Artist-in-Residence program and enjoy refreshments and kids art activities Weir Farm National Historic Park 735 Nod Hill Road Wilton nps.gov/wefa	Friday, May 30 Cocktails and Creativity 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Evening where art, music, and imagination intertwine The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org/event \$, R	Thursday, June 5 Redding Land Trust 60th Anniversary Photography Show Opening Reception 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Opening reception with catered refreshments Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road rltphotoshow.eventbrite.com R	Saturday, June 7 Danbury Concert Association presents the Essex Septet 3:00 p.m. Back by popular demand, seven virtuosos close out DCA’s 2024-2025 season WCSU Visual and Performing Arts Center 43 Lake Avenue Extension Danbury wcsuvpac.eventbrite.com \$
Children Teens Thursday, May 29 College Prep: Rising Seniors – College Application Timeline 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R			

FUNDRAISERS

Friday, June 6 New Pond Farm’s Art Show Preview Party 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R	Monday, June 9 Easton Lions Club Charity Golf Tournament 7:30 a.m. Blackhawk Golf Course 385 Oronoque Lane Stratford E-mail topdown999@gmail.com \$, R	Monday, June 9 Putt Fore Paws – The Joyce Allen Memorial Golf Tournament 11:00 a.m. Proceeds support Danbury Animal Welfare Society (DAWS) The Redding Country Club 109 Lonetown Road dawsgolf2025.givesmart.com \$, R	Saturday, June 14 Gallop for Good: A Night at the Farm 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit The Serenity Project Marchant Farm 55 Chestnut Woods Road theserenityprojectct.org \$, R
			Health Wellness Tuesday, May 27 Golden Hour Yoga Series 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. First in a six-part series of evening yoga New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R
		Thursday, May 29 Cultivate Calm: Spring Meditation & Wellness 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R	

NATURE

Saturday, May 24 – Monday, May 26 Open Farmhouse Plant Sale & Café 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Heirloom and organic plants and seedlings and a pop-up café Open Farmhouse 11 John Read Road openfarmhouse.com	Saturday, May 31 Highstead Open House 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Open to the public for self-guided tours 10:00 a.m. Old Growth Forest Presentation 1:00 p.m. Moss Walk 127 Lonetown Road	Thursday, May 22 Barlow Palooza 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Celebration of ER9 student accomplishments Joel Barlow High School 100 Black Rock Turnpike er9.org	Saturday, May 24 Memorial Day Parade 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. From Redding Elementary School to Old Town House reddingct.gov/events
			Saturday, May 24 Memorial Day Picnic 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Biergarten, food trucks, games, music Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton 170 Cross Highway \$, R
		Wednesday, May 28 The Jack Benny Radio Program: A 23-Year Success Story Presented by Joseph Gianquinto 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R	

Saturday, May 31

Bethel CT Pride Parade and Celebration 2025
12:30 p.m. Parade begins
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Celebration activities
All are welcome to march and celebrate. Family-friendly, rain or shine event.
Bethel Municipal Center
1 School Street
Bethel
bethelctpride.com

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Sundays at 10:00 a.m. 44 Portland Avenue bethlehemlutheranct.org	Calvary Independent Baptist Church Adult and Child Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. / Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m. Nursery provided for all services. 711 Redding Road cibcredning.org	Christ Church, Episcopal Sundays at 9:00 a.m. 184 Cross Highway christchurchredding.org	First Church of Christ, Congregational Sundays at 10:00 a.m. 25 Cross Highway firstchurchredding.org
Long Ridge United Methodist Sundays at 11:30 a.m. 201 Long Ridge Road Danbury longridgeumc.com	Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish Sacred Heart Church: Saturday Confessions: 10:00 a.m. at Pryor Hubbard Hall Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. Saturday Eucharistic Adoration: 6:00 p.m. Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. 12:00 noon LATIN Weekday Mass: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday 6:00 p.m. LATIN 30 Church Street	St. Patrick Church: Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m. Saturday Confessions: 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m. Weekday Mass: Monday – Friday at 8:30 a.m. Weekday Confessions: Mondays and Thursdays: 7:30 p.m., before or after mass, or by appointment Eucharistic Adoration: Mondays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. 169 Black Rock Turnpike sacredheart-stpat.org	Temple B’nai Chaim Friday, May 23 DIY Shabbat 7:00 p.m. 82 Portland Avenue templebnaichaim.org

MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 27 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	Tuesday, May 27 ER9 Joint Boards of Education 7:00 p.m. Joel Barlow High School / Library Learning Commons 100 Black Rock Turnpike	Tuesday, May 27 Board of Finance 7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room or Hybrid 100 Hill Road	Wednesday, May 28 Zoning Commission 7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road
		Monday, June 2 Park and Recreation Commission 7:00 p.m. Community Center 37 Lonetown Road	Monday, June 2 Republican Town Committee 7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road
	Tuesday, June 3 Conservation Commission 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road		
	Tuesday, June 3 Redding Board of Education 7:00 p.m. John Read Middle School / Community Room 486 Redding Road		
		Wednesday, June 4 Region 9 Curriculum Committee 8:30 a.m. Joel Barlow High School Room A108	
	Thursday, June 5 Redding Safety Committee 4:00 p.m. Virtual		
		Tuesday, June 10 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m. Virtual	
	Tuesday, June 10 Redding Fire District #1 7:00 p.m. 186 Black Rock Turnpike		
		Wednesday, June 11 Commission on Aging 9:00 a.m. Heritage Center 37 Lonetown Road	
		Wednesday, June 11 Zoning Commission 7:30 p.m. Virtual	
	Thursday, June 12 Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee 6:00 p.m. Virtual		
			**Town Offices will be closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day.

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MEMORIAL DAY

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Picnic

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SATURDAY, MAY 24 FROM 1-5PM

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EDITORIAL

Main Street energy

My son and I went for a “bop and shop” in Georgetown last Sunday morning (a term my sisters and I use for outings that involve walking and visiting multiple businesses, just seeing where your interests take you).

We started with a treat from Kermit’s Bake Shop, then strolled up Main Street, our hands getting sticky as we ate our selections. The doors of almost every business were propped open, inviting visitors. We admired the colorful installation on view at Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center from the sidewalk (we decided our hands were too sticky for a full-fledged visit). We browsed the offerings at The Shops at Auburn Landing for a gift for a friend’s upcoming graduation.

We picked up sushi to bring home for lunch from The Georgetown Owl Market. We ventured down the steps to Gilbert & Miller Park and listened to the water rushing behind the buildings. We said hello to a family stopping for a break during their morning bike ride in the parking lot of the soon-to-open Uncorked Georgetown (a restaurant in the former Redding Beer Company space). We saw a gentleman driving away from Uncle Leo’s in an incredible vintage racecar, donuts on the passenger seat.

As we strolled back to our car, folks across the street were beginning to set up for the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company’s Plant Sale at The Granite. It was a neighborly, lively morning.

We encourage all our readers to celebrate all that Georgetown has to offer on Georgetown Day on Sunday, June 8 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Special coverage of the event can be found in this issue on pages 6 and 7. For those who can’t attend – or those who are curious about what’s happening on Main Street – a Sunday “bop and shop” might be just the thing. ■

The HCCA (Horseless Carriage Club of America) and the Town of Easton present

SPORT HILL RACES - HILL CLIMB DEMONSTRATION & ANTIQUE CAR SHOW



Saturday, May 24th, 2025 (Fair weather permitting, no rain date.)
Easton Town Library Parking Lot
10:00 am - 2:30 pm. Open to the public
Free to the public and Free for all car owners (Cut off 1957)
Not a judged event.

This is an antique car show featuring early brass cars (1900-1915), pre-war cars and cars made in 1957 or earlier. There will be 3 hill climb demonstrations (11:00 am, 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm) for the public to enjoy the sights and sounds of the early brass cars that would have run the original hill climb races, with an audio narration by historians Bruce Nelson and Alex Dragone.

After the 2:30 pm demonstration, all antique car owners are invited to join a car tour procession of 30 miles from the Easton Library to Broken Symmetry Brewery in Bethel (5 Depot Pl, Bethel).

For information: <https://fairfieldcountyregion.org/event-flyers>



LEGAL NOTICE

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Zoning Commission held on May 14, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in person the Commission reached the following decision:

1. **Application #25-03Z – 3 Dan Beard Lane (Accessor’s Map and Lot #29-10) Owner Adam and Shannon Fischer.** In accordance with Redding Zoning Regulations Section 5.1.2 request for a Special Use Permit for accessory residential apartment. **APPROVED** ■

*Matt Lecher, Chairman
Redding Zoning Commission*

Ilarina Pomazi recognized as EMT of the Year



Photo courtesy of Redding Fire & EMS Company #1

Redding Fire & EMS Company #1 joins emergency medical service (EMS) providers around the country in celebrating National

EMS Week May 18-25, 2025. In 1974, President Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate EMS professionals and the important work they do in our nation’s communities.

On Monday, May 19, Fire Department leadership recognized Ilarina Pomazi as the recipient of the 2025 Redding Fire & EMS Co. 1 - EMT of the Year award. Ilarina has been an Emergency Medical Technician with the Department for the past four years. Her positive attitude, dependability, and readiness to step up when needed make her a respected role model. The Department wishes all first responders and EMS providers a happy and safe EMS week! ■

Historic District Study Committee forms
Smith Street and Church Street considered for historic district

By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Jessie Wright

As the first step in the preservation of certain historic properties in town, Redding has formed a Historic District Study Committee.

The Committee is comprised of six members: Chair Holly Hill, Secretary Heidi Holzer, Laurie Heiss, Louise Wagner, Susan Robinson, and Janice Rotchstein. Since holding its first meeting in April, the group has studied homes and buildings on Smith Street and on Church Street, half of which is in Redding and half in Wilton. The Wilton portion has already been designated as an historic district by that Town.

Last year, homeowners on these streets petitioned the Board of Selectmen for the creation of an Historic District Commission, as they wished their neighborhood to be designated as an 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.

“It’s actually very beneficial to the owners,” said Hill. “They’re all very excited about it. It is also honoring the tradition and the heritage of the Gilbert and Bennett (Wire Mill) village. It’s part of the New England heritage of old mill towns.”

Although there are several National Historic Register sites already in town, including parts of Georgetown in and around the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill, Putnam Memorial State Park, the Umpawaug School House, and the Redding Center Historical District, Redding has no locally-designated properties.

According to Connecticut state

statute, a study committee must be formed before an historic district is established by a vote of property owners in the proposed district. If such a district is ultimately established, then an Historic District Commission is enabled by local legislation to oversee it.

Hill said the Committee’s study supports formal recognition at the state level, which not only affirms the area’s cultural and architectural value within Connecticut, but also opens the door to important preservation tools. These include access to state funding, technical assistance, and planning considerations that help ensure thoughtful development while protecting the area’s unique character.

The neighborhood was developed primarily between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries by workers and company managers at the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill. The physical structures proposed in the study range in

Continued on page 6

Redding League of Women Voters to tackle the complexities of cryptocurrency
Banking expert to speak at Annual Meeting on June 2

By Jessie Wright

The Redding League of Women Voters will hold its open-to-all Annual Meeting on Monday, June 2, this year turning its attention to the growing, complex world of cryptocurrency.

The event is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. at Town Hall, located at 100 Hill Road. It will feature attorney Jeffrey Schuyler of the Connecticut Department of Banking discussing the topic “Cryptocurrency: What it is, and is it a threat to our democracy?”

Schuyler works within the Consumer Credit Division of

the Connecticut Department of Banking, where he is responsible for the protection of Connecticut consumers while also encouraging business development. His work over the past three years has increasingly focused on virtual currency due to its wider use and prevalence in fraud cases. Before this, Schuyler represented plaintiffs in collections, foreclosures, and debt negotiation in private practice.

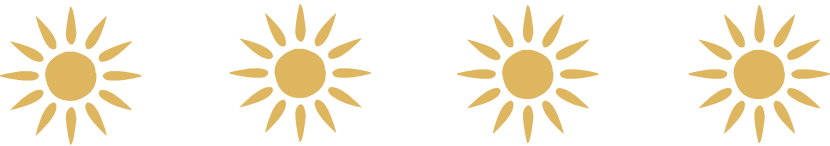
The discussion will be valuable for those already familiar with and those eager to understand terms like Blockchain, Crypto Exchange,

Digital Currency, Digital Wallet, Metaverse, NFTs, and Stablecoin. The Redding League of Women Voters hopes to help demystify the language of cryptocurrency and discuss the challenges it is creating for Connecticut residents.

Paired with this timely topic will be a luncheon prepared by The Sand Wedge. ■

To register and purchase tickets for the lunch and Annual Meeting, e-mail Jinny Cohen at vhcints@gmail.com

SENTINEL SUMMER PUBLISHING SCHEDULE



The *Sentinel* begins our summer publishing schedule this week, publishing every other week through Labor Day, after which we will resume our regular, weekly schedule.

Summer issues will still be delivered to subscribers both in hard copy through the mail and through an e-mailed digital link. All of us at the *Sentinel* wish all of you a happy and healthy summer!

Visit reddingsentinel.org/publishing-schedule for a complete list of Volume 4 issue dates.

Contact us at publisher@reddingsentinel.org with any questions.

- MAY
Off Week (May 29)
- JUNE
June 5
Off Week (June 12)
June 19
Off Week (June 26)
- JULY
July 3
Off Week (July 10)
July 17
Off Week (July 24)
July 31
- AUGUST
Off Week (August 7)
August 14
Off Week (August 21)
August 28

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All Redding residents invited to march in the annual Memorial Day Parade

By Anne Young Albanese



Photo by Jessie Wright

Memorial Day is an annual federal holiday to honor and remember the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Redding celebrates these heroes with an annual parade and ceremony.

According to Hank Sanford, who is responsible for the parade each year, community groups who have participated in the past include the Girl Scouts, Brownies, Daisies, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts. Some other groups have included all three fire departments, Town and State officials, and representatives from Meadow Ridge. All groups and individuals in Redding are invited to participate.

“Redding’s Memorial Day Parade is unique in scope and one of the most valued town traditions,” said Selectman Michael Thompson. “Citizens of all ages take part in the parade itself and the ceremony that follows to honor the legacy of the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country is something we can all be proud of. I encourage everyone in town to attend if they can.”

The parade will take place on Saturday, May 24. It begins at Redding Elementary School’s big gym at 33 Lonetown Road and

proceeds down Lonetown Road, ending at the Memorial Stone at 23 Cross Highway in front of the Old Town House. Anyone in the community who is interested in marching should meet the parade organizers at Redding Elementary School at 11:30 a.m. The parade planners will arrange participants. The parade will begin at 12:00 p.m.

Following the parade, there will be a ceremony at the Memorial Stone. After the ceremony, the Girl Scouts, Brownies, and Daisies will lay flowers at the site. A benediction will follow. The event is expected to end around 1:00 p.m.

While many community members participate in the parade, others choose to watch. It is recommended that viewers begin lining the parade route around 11:30 a.m., as it is a popular event, bringing out a large segment of Redding. Attendees are welcome to bring chairs, blankets, and food – whatever will make their viewing experience more comfortable without blocking the view of others.

The parade will occur rain or shine. Following the parade, a Memorial Day Picnic will be held at the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton, 170 Cross Highway, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. ■

Boys & Girls Club picnic promises small-town, big fun

By Pamela Brown



Photo courtesy of Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton

Memorial Day Weekend is traditionally marked by moments of somber reflection alongside community gatherings that celebrate the beginning of summer with outdoor barbecues, music, and lively socializing. In that spirit, the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton is offering its second annual Memorial Day Picnic on Saturday, May 24 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. directly following the Town’s Memorial Day Parade.

“We’re thrilled to bring back the Memorial Day Picnic again this year. This fantastic family event has been a favorite in Redding for years due to the hard work of many volunteers,” said Meredith Schuchard, the Club’s Executive Director. “The funds raised from this event help support our low-cost, high-quality programs for kids in Redding and Easton.”

While the picnic had been a tradition in town for many years, it had disappeared from the spring calendar for a long hiatus before the Boys & Girls Club revived it last year.

“Meredith and I wanted to bring back the history of this wonderful

event,” said Autumn Tooker, the Club’s Program Director. “Our planning committee, Colette Faulknor, owner of CF Events group in Redding, and Lauren Murphy, a Redding mom, had such an amazing time planning this for our community last year. We partnered with many neighboring businesses, and it was an all-hands-on deck event with about 200 attendees in total, many being new Redding residents.”

This year’s event is bigger and better than ever, with new features on offer like a Redding Wine and Spirits Biergarten and a free Kids Zone.

“As we got a hang of things this time around, our planning committee put their heads together to create an even more exciting afternoon – more room for entertainment – and we really bring together the whole fundraiser aspect of it all,” said Tooker. The Biergarten will allow adults to stay awhile, take some time to relax, and share time with family and friends while enjoying a variety of beers, ciders, and hard seltzers. The kid’s area will feature crafts, face painting, and a Time to

Party CT inflatable play area.

“It’s great for a mix of all ages, as there will be sports, inflatable games, obstacle courses, and a bounce house all decorated in a patriotic red, white, and blue theme. A family-fun kickball tournament will be happening again this year,” Tooker continued.

DJ Ryan will be providing music all day long, including today’s hits, throwbacks, and kid-appropriate music. A variety of food will be provided and attendees are encouraged to bring picnic blankets and chairs and enjoy the day.

Little Birdie Cookies, Redding Neighbors & Newcomers, and other local organizations and businesses will have booths. There will be an auction with baskets and gift certificates from businesses around the area.

Members of the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton will be helping the event run smoothly, with many of the middle school Torch Club members volunteering, running the check-in booth, Kid’s Zone, and snack shack, which will be selling additional refreshments.

In the end, the picnic is a team-effort, bringing the community together and building support for other programming the Club offers during the rest of the year.

“If it weren’t for our community and sponsors, we wouldn’t be able to give back to our youth in the capacity that we do,” Schuchard and Tooker said. “Our main mission is to host a space that allows for community engagement, fun, and memorable experiences all while supporting the foundation of the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton. We want everyone to come to the picnic and have fun – it’s the most important part of all.” ■

The Memorial Day Picnic is on Saturday, May 24 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at 170 Cross Highway. Wristband tickets are available for purchase online and at the entrance to the event.

For more information, visit bgcre.net/md2025

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SPORTS

Falcons gear up for league playoffs

Boys lacrosse | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Andrew Watson, left, and Kaden Holub pressure Bethel’s Drew Luchsinger during a boys varsity lacrosse game on Tuesday, May 13. Barlow won 10-4.

The South-West Conference (SWC) playoffs do not start until this week, but the Joel Barlow High boys varsity lacrosse team has already gotten a possible preview of the competition it could face.

The defending SWC champs, the Falcons encountered a possible playoff scenario last week when they visited Bethel, another team headed to the post-season. Although the Wildcats were off to a quick start on Tuesday, May 13, Barlow answered in strong fashion for a 10-4 win.

“They always play us tough,” said Barlow Head Coach Taylor Leahy, whose team is the top seed this year. “They have a lot of good athletes out there. Coach (Chris) Collison has always done a great job since he’s been there, always making sure they’re ready to play.”

The fifth-seeded Wildcats posed a threat early, taking shots that were saved by Falcon goalie Cole Bonanno. With 4:17 left in the first quarter, the hosts finally broke through on a shot by Luke Cassavchia for the lead.

Barlow came close to putting in the equalizer less than two minutes later, only to have Luke Bonanno’s shot bounce off the post. With just 58.3 seconds to go, Bethel struck again, this time on a shot by Matt Lombardi to make it 2-0.

There was still enough time for the Falcons to respond, and they did, when Chase Bonanno found the net with 21 seconds left, and the visitors started their comeback.

“It’s seemingly been our MO lately,” said Leahy. “We give up a couple of ones early, then we kind of just storm back. Hopefully, we

can get that out of our system.”

It marked the beginning of a six-goal scoring run by the Falcons. All the while, their defense of Andrew Watson, Tyler Young, and Ryan Snyder helped ward off threats by the Wildcats, coupled with a number of saves by Cole Bonanno.

Luke Bonanno tied it at 2-2 with 8:53 left in the first half. Just under six minutes later, he added the go-ahead goal, and with 14.7 seconds to go, Joey Bonanno gave Barlow some breathing room with a goal of his own and a 4-2 lead at halftime.

As the second half got underway, the Falcons continued to win face-offs. They also took advantage of a couple of Wildcat turnovers, both of which resulted in goals.

Keeler Pheeney netted one at 10:14 of the third quarter, and less than a minute later, Joey Bonanno tallied his second of the game. The latter added another with 4:43 left, coming on a pass from his brother Chase Bonanno for a 7-2 lead.

The Wildcats finally stopped the run with 2:38 left in the quarter when Tom Miller circled around from the back of the goal for a shot that made it in. He added another right before the quarter ended, but not until after Chase Bonanno struck again, making it an 8-4 game.

Barlow added two more goals in the final frame, one coming from Luke Bonanno near midfield when Bethel’s goalie was out of position. The final tally was at 5:36 when Frankie Branca scored off a pass from Pheeney.

The Bonanno brothers led the scoring with Luke and Joey netting three goals apiece and Chase adding two. Pheeney and Branca had one apiece.

Barlow is now 12-4 overall. Should it win its quarterfinal game against eighth-seeded Masuk, it will take on the winner of the Weston-Bethel game at a time and date to be determined. ■

Wildcats, Panthers quiet Falcon bats

Baseball | By Rocco Valluzzo



The normally hot bats of the Joel Barlow high varsity baseball team cooled a bit in their two most recent games.

The Falcons, who have averaged better than seven runs in each outing this season, ran into some tough pitching when they hosted Bethel on Wednesday, May 14. Bethel’s starter and relievers held the hosts to just six hits as Barlow lost a 2-4 decision.

Bethel scored its first run in the top of the first inning, courtesy of a single and a sacrifice fly that plated Jackson Wein. Wildcat starter Sam Ferrier then went to work on the mound, holding the Falcons scoreless, which would continue through the first six innings.

Barlow starter Will Gregor held off Bethel from scoring again until the top of the fourth, when four singles led to two more runs. The visitors’ fourth and final run came in the top of the fifth on a single, two hit batters, and a wild pitch to make it 4-0.

T.J. Baer singled and Connor Thomas walked with two outs in

the bottom of the fourth but were left stranded. Barlow also threatened in the sixth with singles by Billy Bardani and Logan Kady but to no avail.

Baer took over on the mound for the Falcons in the top of the seventh and retired the side. Down to their last turn, the Falcons ended the shutout. Ken Esposito and Baer walked. Dan Smith went in to run for Esposito and advanced on a passed ball and a wild pitch before scoring on a groundout by Thomas.

Walks by Gregor and Gavin Maryott helped keep Barlow’s chances alive, and Bardani singled to drive in a run. When Jim Kennedy was hit by a pitch it loaded the bases, but the Wildcats escaped without any additional damage.

Baer and Bardani led Barlow, each with three hits. The latter also drove in a run, as did Thomas.

Gregor went six innings on the mound, surrendering four runs (three earned) on six hits with four strikeouts and two walks.

The Falcons fared a bit better offensively on Saturday, May 17 when they visited Masuk. They had the lead until late when the hosts rallied for a 5-7 final score.

Kennedy took to the mound for the Falcons and kept the Panthers off the board in the first two innings. He had some offensive support in the top of the second thanks to an RBI double by Brennan Maryott that produced a run.

Two more runs came in the third for the Falcons. Baer led off with a single and after stealing second scored on an RBI single by Thomas, who later also scored on an error to make it 3-0.

Masuk got one back in its next turn on a walk, sacrifice, and RBI single and scored one more in the fourth. Without the benefit of a hit, Barlow scored two in the top of the fifth with two walks, a double steal, a dropped third strike, and a passed ball for a 5-2 lead.

Down by three runs, the Panthers rallied in their half of the sixth with four hits, an error, and a sacrifice fly, batting a round in the process to turn the tide and make it 5-7. Barlow could not respond in its last turn.

Baer had three hits for Barlow and scored a run. Thomas had one with an RBI and two runs scored. Bardani also had a hit and drove in a run.

Kennedy threw four innings for Barlow, giving up two runs on five hits with two walks and two strikeouts. Eli Kress went one-and-a-third innings for the loss with four runs (three earned) on five hits, with two walks and two strikeouts.

Barlow, now 14-4 overall, finishes the regular season this week before starting the South-West Conference playoffs. ■

Bunnell edges Barlow in regular-season finale

Girls track and field | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Cheyrl Southlea was third in the pole vault at a girls track meet on Tuesday, May 13. Barlow was edged 74-76 by host Bunnell but defeated Immaculate 109-17.

The final meet of the regular season also turned out to be the closest one for the Joel Barlow High girls track and field team when it visited Bunnell.

The Falcons dominated a number of events on the track, even sweeping several. But the Bulldogs were dominant in others, prevailing 76-74 in Stratford on Tuesday, May 13.

Barlow would, however, break even on the day with a convincing 109-17 win over Immaculate.

Bunnell had the speed in the opening event, the 4x800 relay, taking first in 12 minutes, 9 seconds. Barlow’s Mila Baker, Raveena Tala, Alessandra Costello, and Phoebe Swedrock followed in 12:42.8 in second place.

It was a different story for the 4x100, as Gia Foley, Sofia Benitez, Vika Abukhovich, and Jordan Carr ran a 52.9 for the win with a margin of 0.2 seconds. Barlow also won the 100 high hurdles with Phoebe Cora Smith taking the top spot in 15.1 seconds.

Although Bunnell took the top spot in the 100 meters, the Falcons went two-three with Olivia Taylor as runner-up in 12.9. Carr followed a tenth-of-a-second later.

Dominating the 1,600, the Falcons grabbed first through third, starting with Olivia Kotula’s time of 5:34.5, her best of the season. Clara Mehner followed with a personal-best 5:40.1, and Stephanie Bardani was next with a 5:53.2.

Abukhovich got the win for Barlow in the 400 in 1:00.5. Smith did likewise in the 300 intermediate hurdles in 47.1. Third went to Benitez in 51.7.

Running a 2:27.4 in the 800, Ally Bardani secured the win and a personal record. Getting her third win of the day, Smith finished the 200 in 26.4, a personal record, and led a Barlow sweep of the event. Taylor was next in 26.5, and Abukhovich followed in 26.9.

Barlow also swept the 3,200 with Kotula going the distance in 12:31.6 for the win. Mehner followed in 13:01.2 (personal record), and Stephanie Bardani was third in 13:37.6.

Taking two of the three relays, Barlow won the 4x400 with Ally Bardani, Viv D’Amico, Lucy Zima, and Smith combining for a 4:34.9.

In the field events, the Bulldogs dominated the throwing events, sweeping the javelin, discus, and shot put. It did likewise in the long jump and took two of the top three places in the high jump.

Barlow fared much better in the pole vault, winning it with D’Amico clearing seven feet, six inches. Third went to Cheyrl Southlea with five feet, six inches.

The Falcons’ other points came in the triple jump with Ruby Candee’s 32’ 1.5” jump, a personal record.

Barlow finishes with a regular-season record of 6-7. ■

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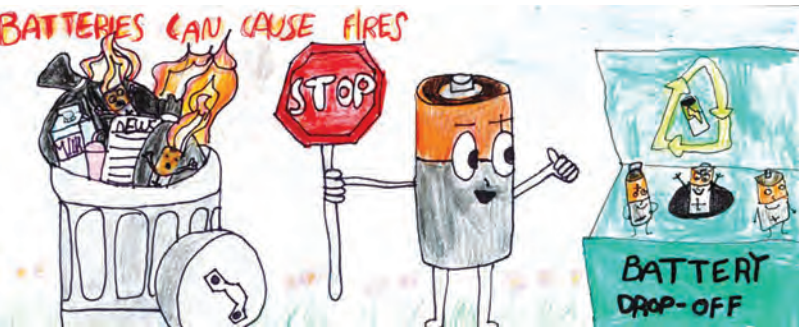


Photo by James Bairaktaris

Winners of the John Read Middle School PTA Color Run on Sunday, May 18. (From left to right): First Place Male (2nd overall) Theo Prusa and First Place Female (and first place overall for the second year in a row) Kate Duggan.

Redding students among HRRRA’s Billboard Contest winners

By Paige Silva



Design by Maia Simon, third-grader at Redding Elementary School

This year, Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority (HRRRA) has been focused on raising awareness about the potential hazards of batteries, particularly their ability to cause fires. The theme for the 18th Annual HRRRA Billboard Contest was “Batteries Can Cause Fires”.

In collaboration with HRRRA, the Town of Redding organized a contest open to students from kindergarten through 12th grade. This contest welcomed participation from public, private, and home-schooled students. Entry forms were distributed across schools and at Mark Twain Library to maximize participation.

We had so many great entries, and the Redding Highway Department employees were the judges. These kids did an amazing job! Among the Redding winners were also six regional winners recognized by HRRRA.

Redding Elementary School
Kindergarten
Redding Winner: Jane Kriesel (HRRRA Regional 1st place)
Teacher: Mrs. Samantha LoStocco

First Grade
Redding Winner: Otto Lindl

Teacher: Mrs. Ashley Capalbo
Second Grade
Redding Winner: Laney Randall (HRRRA Regional 3rd place)
Teacher: Ms. Kate Merritt

Third Grade
Redding Winner: Maia Simon (HRRRA Regional 1st place)
Teacher: Ms. Mimi Weiss

Fourth Grade
Redding Winner: Ella Ackerson (HRRRA Regional 3rd place)
Teacher: Mrs. Meghan Ranieri

John Read Middle School
Sixth grade
Redding Winner: Lucas Dragotta
Teacher: Mrs. Christina Pimentel

Seventh grade
Redding Winner: Malania Fabbi
Teacher: Ms. Judith Collentine

Eighth grade
Redding Winner: Maxwell Mehner
Teacher: Mr. Christopher Harrison

Joel Barlow High School
Ninth grade
Redding Winner: Gia Foley (HRRRA Regional 3rd place)
Teacher: Mr. Andrew Pohlen

Tenth grade
Redding Winner: Lyra Robinson (HRRRA Regional 2nd place)
Teacher: Mrs. Debra Taubner

Eleventh grade
Redding Winner: Vince Covinor
Teacher: Mr. Andrew Pohlen

Twelfth grade
Redding Winner: Milanans Celas
Teacher: Mr. Andrew Pohlen

Battery Disposal Options
To promote safe disposal practices, Redding offers several convenient options for residents:

- 1. Redding Transfer Station:** Residents can dispose of rechargeable and alkaline batteries, along with electronics, at the e-waste bin located here. This service is provided at no cost and does not require a permit.
- 2. Retail Stores:** Several big box stores such as Staples, Home Depot, and Lowe’s participate in battery recycling. Residents can also visit Call2Recycle to find a participating retailer near them. No cost.
- 3. Household Hazardous Waste Events:** The HRRRA organizes six events annually, in April, May, June, September, October, and November. These events provide another avenue for safe battery disposal. The schedule is available on the HRRRA website. No cost.
By participating in these initiatives, residents can contribute to a safer, more environmentally conscious community. ■

View all the winning entries at hrrra.org/billboard-contest-2025

Notes from a neighbor

Switching to sandals

By Carter Wiseman

Beyond the city limits, the coming of warm weather launches a flurry of time- honored rituals.

There is the spring clean-up, gathering the branches snapped by winter storms, sharpening the garden shears, and, depending on the acreage, tuning up the mowers and the blowers.

The downside of the last exercise is the noise and the exhaust that result. Happily, a growing number of towns in our area seem to be changing over to electric equipment, so the roars may eventually be replaced by mere hums.

In any case, one of my most satisfying seasonal rituals takes place entirely indoors – and is totally silent. It is the swapping of winter clothes for those of summer.

First are the turtle-necks, heavy sweaters, and wooly scarves, which move from the front bedroom bureau to the back. From the back bedroom bureau come the T-shirts, polos, and shorts – which have been waiting patiently since November – to replace them.

Each bureau has a distinctive smell, which lingers on the clothes at least until the first washing. One bureau, a vintage highboy passed down through my family, still gives off a faint whiff of the cedar it was made from. The other smells slightly of pine from a little sachet I brought home from an Adirondack vacation. The odors instantly flash images of the past on my mental screen. And although I’ve seen these imaginary movies twice a year, they still surprise me with the message that a new season is about to begin, especially in the spring.

Welcoming as the switch from

heavy clothes to light ones is at this time of year, the item that marks the end of winter with the greatest power isn’t in either bureau. Tucked into the back of our main coat closet, where they’ve been waiting out the cold behind some Kamik boots – bought after a monster snow storm some years back – are my Teva sandals.

As a boy, I was never much for sandals. The leather ones were ruined if they got wet, and the plastic flip-flops always came off at the wrong time. And, to be candid, sandals didn’t seem very manly. Enter Velcro! The hook-and-eye gripping straps made the footwear of ancient origin easy to put on and take off and let me stride into rivers and lakes without fear of losing my footing. It didn’t hurt that the catalogs of outfitters like REI and EMS featured grizzled hikers wearing some variation of the original while portaging canoes in the wilderness.

While still in college, I scaled some small mountains and climbed some risky rock faces. Not being much of an outdoorsman anymore, I am content to take pleasure in the triumph of the humble sandal over its image as the footwear of the poor or the ascetic. But most of all, I am happy for my summertime feet: No more Topsiders, no more sweat socks, no more replacing broken laces for my New Balance 990s.

By November, I know I will be happy to welcome those Kamiks again – especially if we get some snow this winter. At the moment, though, my toes are savoring the coming of the sand. ■



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Wilton Auto Park • Wild Blueberry & Stems + Co • Wire Mill BBQ • Yoga Station



GEORGETOWN DAY

Georgetown Day is on Sunday, June 8 | *By Justine Tassitano*



Photo by Jessie Wright

The 22nd annual Georgetown Day is on Sunday, June 8, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Join friends and neighbors for this exciting, free, family-friendly community event on Main Street, with an extension across the street in front of The Granite Church. Get a head start on summer and enjoy over 90 vendors and many activities for all ages, organized and hosted by an all-volunteer committee with members from Georgetown Village Restoration, Inc. (GVR), Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company (GVFC), Georgetown Community Association (GCA), and the Georgetown Lions Club. The Chili Cook-Off, sponsored again by Nazzaro Inc., is returning

this year, where local restaurants will share their chili masterpieces to compete for a popular vote from eventgoers. Tickets are \$10 each, which include multiple tastings and a bottle of water. All proceeds from the cook-off will go to supporting GCA’s efforts to preserve the historic Gilbert & Bennett School. The Chili Cook-Off is run in part by volunteer Doreen McManus, who manages the Georgetown branch of Fairfield County Bank, the event’s longest sponsor and its biggest this year, as in many years past. “Fairfield County Bank has been a supporter of Georgetown Day since its inception, and it’s an important part of our engagement

with the community,” said McManus of the 20-plus-year partnership between Georgetown Day and Fairfield County Bank. “As one of the organizers of the Chili Cook-Off, I’m able to see firsthand how the event brings out so many people to gather and have fun together.” Redding Country Club is sponsoring the Georgetown Day Food Tent for a third year in a row. Other generous sponsors include Fairfield County Bank, Nazzaro Inc., Servco Oil & Propane, Ridgefield Thrift Shop, Home Media Designs, and Keeler BMW and Genesis of Ridgefield. The Georgetown Day ad on page 5 of this issue lists the event’s sponsors in full. Artisan vendors, food booths, and community organizations will be on both Main Street and in front of The Granite Church. The Georgetown Day committee has prioritized artisans who hand-make their goods and local food vendors for the event’s booths. In addition, non-profits and other organizations will have spaces to share information on their offerings. A booth featuring the Town’s Wire Mill Advisory Committee and the Town’s new planner working on the property will share information on the current work and plans for the future. There will be multiple local food

vendors, including Georgetown establishments like Kermit’s Bakeshop, Milestone, Lombardi’s, Uncle Leo’s & Rosny Gourmet, Uncorked Georgetown, and Rancho Alegre. The Lions Club will host their famous beer tent with beers provided by Nod Hill Brewery. Make sure to visit the Welcome Booth in front of Lombardi’s, where you can find a Georgetown Day event map and schedule, limited edition Georgetown Day T-shirts, and other Georgetown-branded merchandise such as mugs, clothing, keychains, hats, and more. Profits collected from these items sold by GVR are solely put toward community projects in Georgetown, including beautification and safety initiatives. The event also hosts two live music stages featuring local bands. The main stage is generously sponsored by Fairfield County Bank and will be located next to the Georgetown Package Store. Third Sister kicks things off at noon, followed by Gravity Feed (starting at 1:20 p.m.), 2BDetermined (2:40 p.m.), and Faster Things (4:00 p.m.). The second stage is sponsored by Ancona’s Wines & Liquors and Nod Hill Brewery, and will be in the parking lot of the new Uncorked Georgetown, next to the Georgetown Owl. Old Bob starts at noon, followed by The Bottoms Up

Dixieland Band at 2:45 p.m. Georgetown Day also features a variety of kids’ activities, including face painting, an adventurous scavenger hunt, and Spray-a-Hose with GVFC, where kids can experience the thrill of fire-fighting. Additionally, there will be creative craft-making sessions led by the GVFC Community Engagement Committee. And of course, don’t miss the famous Playway area, sponsored by Servco Oil & Propane, featuring interactive activities like Build A Boat & Waterway, a sand table, bubbles, several touch-a-trucks thanks to Palazzo Landscaping, and more. Attendee parking will be located at Sacred Heart Church (30 Church Street), Branchville Train Station (787 Branchville Road, Ridgefield) and Temple B’Nai Chaim (82 Portland Avenue, Wilton). Shuttles will be provided from these lots and will be running all day. Attendees will load and unload from the parking lot shuttles in front of The Granite, at the corner of Portland Avenue and North Main Street. Handicapped parking is available onsite on North Main Street and at Georgetown Veterinary Hospital. ■

For more information, follow @georgetownday on Instagram and Facebook, or visit georgetownct.org

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Historic District Study Committee forms / continued from page 2

style from Italianate Victorian to Carpenter Gothic Revival and reflect a socio-economic blend, with modest worker housing and more substantial residences situated side-by-side. It is also one of the few remaining examples of a New England mill village that has retained much of its original character. The study covers 20 structures, including the old local general store on North Main Street on the south side of the railroad tracks, a small local library that remains on one of the properties, and Sacred Heart Church. The study also involves cataloging all of buildings including references to architectural style, any historical facts, and photos. The Committee has done a survey of the area, acreage, and plots of the site per building that it hopes to submit to the State

for review and to get on the State’s registry. Upon the conclusion of the Committee’s report, the intent is that the group will disband and make way for the creation of an official Historic District Commission, if an historic district is established, that will continue the work and help unlock more opportunities to preserve the neighborhood for future generations. “State acknowledgment strengthens our ability to pursue adaptive reuse of historic structures, apply for rehabilitation tax credits, and promote community pride in Georgetown’s legacy,” said Hill. “This study gives us the framework to work collaboratively with residents and Town leadership to preserve what makes Georgetown special while shaping a vibrant future.” ■

MUSIC NOTE

Main Street to keep on humming Make Music Georgetown | *By Pamela Brown*

A few weeks after Georgetown Day, Main Street will again be alive with activity as The Granite participates in Make Music Day, an annual international event that celebrates music all day long with free live musical performances in communities across the globe. “At The Granite, we prioritize places for us all to gather, connect, and create. When we learned about Make Music Day, we thought it would be a wonderful way to showcase our creative community and fabulous Main Street and keep the energy of Georgetown Day going into the summer solstice,” said Richard Wenning, The Granite’s Executive Director. Make Music Georgetown will take place all day on Saturday, June 21 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. It’s free and open to the public. “We think Make Music Day is a perfect way to highlight and celebrate our incredible local musical community as well as encourage the artist in everyone,” said Caroline Curatolo, a member of The Granite’s Board and its Treasurer. Performances will be held both indoors and outdoors at various venues all over Georgetown, including The Granite, local businesses and restaurants, porches, parks, sidewalks, and more. “This is a collective action and celebration of music-making of all sorts on our Main Street

and beyond in Georgetown,” she continued. “It weaves music through our community, positive energy in our village, and foot traffic to our businesses.” Make Music Day, one of the largest celebrations of its kind, was launched in 1982 in France as the Fête de la Musique (festival of music). Today, it’s celebrated on the same day in more than 1,000 cities in dozens of countries around the world. Currently, the organizers of Make Music Georgetown are encouraging registrations from artists of all abilities and genres who would like to be part of the event, whether performing or leading music activities. “We encourage musicians of all kinds to sign up to perform or lead participatory music activities for kids or adults. Make Music Day features music of all styles and is open to anyone who wishes to participate. There will be solo musicians, bands, and participatory musical activities for all ages. Everyone is invited to join the fun,” said Curatolo, adding the event is open to anyone from Redding and surrounding towns. The exact schedule for the day and venues will be announced closer to the event, along with information on rain locations. So far, participating businesses include Georgetown Owl, Yoga Station, The Shops at Auburn Landing, Wire

Mill Saloon & Barbeque, and Love + Light Salon. A concert at The Granite will cap off the evening. According to Wenning, Make Music Day aligns with the mission of The Granite as a non-profit community space that connects generations through learning and creativity. “We are restoring this cherished space as a cornerstone for cultural life in the greater Georgetown area, nurturing our music makers and engaging our community through dynamic events and performances,” he said. Both Wenning and Curatolo are looking forward to a vibrant, celebratory, social event. “We want to empower community members to express themselves through music, be inspired, and to make connections with their neighbors. Music strengthens social connectivity, reduces stress, lowers blood pressure, stimulates memory, and is integral to a well-rounded, enjoyable life,” said Curatolo. “The entire day will be a celebration of music – we’re looking forward to seeing what our local musicians and businesses plan.” ■

For more information and to register as a participating musician, visit thegranitechurch.org/event/make-music-georgetown

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Summer Dreams to open at Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center

By Donna Christopher

A cadre of locally and internationally known artists will be showcased in *Summer Dreams*, an exhibition running May 31 to July 26 at Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center, also called GTown Arts, at 5 Main Street.

A colorful array – from florals to neons, from tropical prints to pottery – will evoke the dreamy spirit of summer. The gallery will host an opening reception on Saturday, May 31 as well as a special showing during Georgetown Day on Sunday, June 8. Artists will attend both events to meet and speak with visitors.

Julie Durkin Marty, who owns Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center with her husband Bob, said the gallery will be transformed with color and light by *Summer Dreams*.

“We curated the show with this group of artists in mind,” said Julie. “Picking out work, some of it is floral, some of it is very colorful prints. There’s some very strong, abstract, kind of neon abstraction in the show as well. *Summer Dreams* can relate to so many different things and artists’ work. So, it’s bringing this all together in this kind of almost tropical, sci-fi show.”

The featured artists come from various places including Redding, Bethel, Ridgefield, Brooklyn, and other parts of New York. They include Mary Bailey, Nicole Bricker, Jennie Carr, Kathy Coe, David Cramer, Julie Durkin Marty, Joseph Fucigna, Dave Daignault, Daizy Gesualdi, Dave Gesualdi, Diana Gubbay, Frank Kara, Anthony Kirk, Jim Krupa, Katerina Lanfranco, Robert Lee Morris, Dan Makara, Bob Marty, Robert Mars, Janice Mauro, Cecilia Moy Fradet, Margaret Roleke, Mark Savoia, Catherine Vanaria, Paula Waters Parker, and Julia Whitney Barns.

Frank Kara gave a preview of the pieces he is bringing to Georgetown for the showcase.

“The public can anticipate encountering ceramic work that ventures beyond conventional functionality, inviting viewers to engage their imagination and discover the unexpected. My Raku and wood-fired pieces are created with the intention of conveying a sense of soul, a quality that I strive to imbue in each creation. Experiencing these pieces, I hope, will offer a unique and perhaps even profound connection,” he said.

Diana Gubbay will show “Siesta Light”, a large triptych that combines photographs of flowers with enhanced digital painting, printed on aluminum, for the show.

“The piece aims to capture the half-waking, half-dream state of a summer afternoon nap, with

Continued on page 9

BOOK REVIEW

Women of Courage
From Revolutionary Times to the Present

By Margaret Truman

254 pages / William Morrow / Variable prices

Women of Courage, (1976) is the title and subject of a book by Margaret Truman about precisely that. Reading today what was written about women and America then (approximately 50 years ago) is a sobering experience. In America, women won the right to have an abortion in 1973. Women, specifically wives, in 1979, were, at long last, legally able to obtain a credit card without their husband’s written permission. Today, abortion rights have been withdrawn from women. Outside of labor unions, equal pay for equal work is uneven. The glass ceiling remains. And there has never been a female president of the United States. “She didn’t really have much choice,” is the repeated mantra describing women before “liberation.” Say it with a whisper. For modern women, America looks exceptionally retrograde through this lens.

Here are summaries of some profiles given:

Mary Harris “Mother” Jones (died 1930). In 1867, her husband died from “the scourge of the 19th century, Yellow Fever.” The 37-year-old Mary Jones moved to Chicago and opened a dressmaking shop, destroyed in the 1871 fire. She emerged from personal tragedy to help miners in Pennsylvania and West Virginia to found, to organize, and to expand the United Mine Workers Union. She once put her hand over the muzzle of a machine gun to stop a company thug from shooting at miners going to work. Her motto was “Pray for the dead. Fight like hell for the living.” And, among other wonderful quotations, “I prefer sewing to bossing little children.” A formidable magazine named for her exists today.

Susan Livingston (died 1840). Susan Livingston was the daughter of the governor of New Jersey at the time of the Revolutionary War, when Elizabeth, New Jersey, was the port of Elizabethtown. The family lived in the house, Liberty Hall, while the father was away in Trenton. Susan Livingston, with her sisters, saved Liberty Hall from destruction from British soldiers in an invasion during the Revolutionary War. She grabbed an invading soldier by the collar and threw him to the floor, surprising him so much that he thought she was a ghost and ran away. She had also given to a British colonel worthless papers of her father’s to preserve other damning evidence in the next desk he meant to search. Through Susan

Livingston’s calm subterfuge, the women and the house were saved and survived the war.

Margaret Truman did her homework and had opinions. She felt that Susan B. Anthony was “stern eyed and grim-lipped she seemed utterly devoid of warmth and humor and much too quick to dominate the women she worked with.”

Extremes beset many of these intelligent, thoughtful women. Women of earlier times suffered physical loneliness of homesteading and farming, and spiritual loneliness of isolation. Attempting to address severe problems of child labor, homelessness and poverty, Kate Barnard became a fearless politician in Oklahoma when it first became a state in 1907. And in another essay by the author: “This picture of Ida Well-Barnett was taken not long after she wrote her exposé of lynching. For me, it is the face of a woman who has seen how ugly life can be, but is determined to fight back.” Readers will agree.

“Beginning in the first Monday of April,” announced a newspaper notice by a school owned by Miss Prudence Crandall of Cranbury, Connecticut, “[her private school] would be open for the reception of young ladies and littles misses of color.” To those who rose up in aggressive resistance, “she quoted the Bible and the Declaration of Independence and reminded her visitors that Moses had had a black wife.” But this was pre-Civil War. Her school was forced to close, and she moved in the 1830s. Margaret Truman tells her story this way: “Prudence Crandall lost her fight? Or did she? ... Connecticut became one of the first states to grant Negroes the rights and privileges of free men.”

Yes, this book is nearly half-a-century old, written by the daughter of a United States President. It is offered for review as an artifact to be reconsidered in its theme and evaluated for what it presumes. The question for a modern reader is this: has the American woman of the 21st century, white or not, made sufficient progress beyond the issues that concerned her rights’ advocates in the 19th and 20th centuries? ■

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

LIBRARY CORNER

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

The Mark Twain Library is lucky to exist in a town like Redding, where there is widespread support for our institution and, more generally, books and reading. The library profession more broadly has been in turmoil since 2021 when books started to be challenged or banned across the country, threatening the freedom to read. In some rare, more sinister cases, there have been attempts to pass legislation that would make librarians subject to criminal prosecution for making books available that could be “deemed harmful to minors.” The decision of which books, what kind of content, and who made these decisions remained vague.

I have written about the importance of writing to our state legislators in support of IMLS funding.

Last week, the grants to Connecticut libraries were reinstated, which is a huge relief. We were never told why they were canceled in the first place, nor were we told why they were reinstated. But hot off the heels of this heartening news, it was announced that Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress since 2016, had been abruptly terminated via an evening e-mail. Hayden was the first woman and first African American to hold this prestigious post. She was tasked with bringing the Library of Congress into the 21st century, replacing someone who had held the position for three decades and communicated with his staff via fax machine.

Under Hayden’s leadership, millions of records have been digitized, making the collection more

accessible to the American people. The Library of Congress oversees the Congressional Research Office, which provides research and analysis to Congress so they can draft legislation. There is something concerning about the leadership of an institution like the Library of Congress becoming politicized. And we know it’s not about giving books to minors that are “deemed harmful” because readers have to be at least 16 to access books there.

We will see what happens with this position in the next few weeks or months. I am concerned about how Hayden’s abrupt termination will affect this institution, and I will be paying attention. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is
Director, Mark Twain Library

Good books for good readers | By Margi Esten

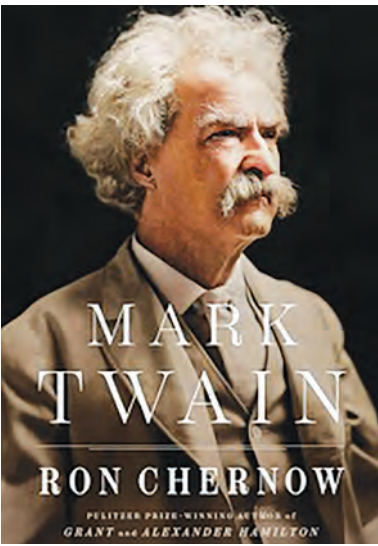
Robert Galbraith is the pen name that J.K. Rowling of *Harry Potter* fame uses for her Cormoran Strike series. When questioned as to why she uses a different name for this series, she answered: “I think I write differently, because it’s a very different genre...I chose Robert because it’s one of my favorite men’s names, because Robert F. Kennedy is my hero,

and because, mercifully, I hadn’t used it for any of the characters in the *Potter* series...” The Cormoran Strike series hits most of the notes for detective fiction fans: a struggling private investigator with a flawed character (and a prosthetic leg), an interesting partnership that has romantic tension, and a focus on their personal lives as well as the

twists and turns of mystery solving. The first book *The Cuckoo’s Calling* introduces us to most of the main characters who reappear in each new book: *The Silkworm*, *Career of Evil*, *Lethal White*, *Troubled Blood*, *The Ink Black Heart*, *The Running Grave*, and *The Hallmarked Man*, which is scheduled for a September 2025 publication. ■

Pulitzer Prize-winning author
Ron Chernow to present Mark Twain
biography *June 12 event moved to expand capacity*

By Jessie Wright



Not long after Mark Twain Library put tickets on sale for Ron Chernow’s upcoming talk on his newest biography, the event was sold out. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author is currently on a 17-

stop book tour for *Mark Twain*, where he will hit some major cities as well as locations that Twain called home, from Hannibal, Missouri and Elmira, New York, to Hartford and Redding. Following the overwhelming response to ticket sales, the Library has since moved the June 12 event to the Ridgefield Playhouse, opening up capacity for more people to attend and hear from one of the most acclaimed biographers of the last century. Chernow, who has written seven books and is celebrated for his bestsellers *Alexander Hamilton* and *Washington: A Life*, recently turned his masterful storytelling to Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain. Chernow’s much-anticipated new biography provides a deep and vivid portrait of America’s greatest humorist and was researched

in part at Mark Twain Library. “We were extremely honored when Ron Chernow visited us to do research for this book and equally honored to be included among the exclusive venues where he shares insights into his latest bound-to-be-bestseller,” said Mark Twain Library Director Erin Dummeyer. The talk will take place on Thursday, June 12 at the Ridgefield Playhouse at 80 East Ridge Road, Ridgefield. Tickets are required and can be purchased at marktwainlibrary.org. Single tickets and couple tickets are available and include one signed copy of the biography. Doors will open for general admission beginning at 6:30 p.m., with the talk beginning at 7:00 p.m. ■

To purchase tickets,
visit marktwainlibrary.org

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

A nurse practitioner delves into wellness

Golden Hour Aesthetics & Wellness | By Justin Reynolds

By Justin Reynolds



Amanda Guarniere founded Golden Hour Aesthetics & Wellness in 2023.

After graduating from Yale School of Nursing and spending years caring for patients with chronic disease and related complications as a nurse practitioner, Amanda Guarniere decided to change her focus and start helping people optimize their wellness and work toward longevity.

As a nurse practitioner, Guarniere wore many hats, working in emergency medicine, hospital medicine, and primary care. She then had the opportunity to learn aesthetics skills and decided to marry all her experiences in a new venture.

In 2023, she started her own boutique medical practice – Golden Hour Aesthetics & Wellness – which specializes in wellness and elective medicine. Guarniere originally opened an office in West Redding while also seeing patients virtually and in their homes. In November 2024, she had the opportunity to set up shop at Yoga Station at 9 Brookside Road in Georgetown, along with several other wellness practitioners.

People come to her for a variety of services, including wrinkle relaxers (Botox), microneedling, chemical peels, medical weight

loss with GLP-1s, and hormone replacement therapy for men and women.

“My aesthetic services are meant to help people age gracefully and have well-cared-for skin while doing so,” Guarniere explained. “Microneedling is a minimally invasive treatment that uses tiny, controlled punctures in the skin to stimulate your body’s natural healing process. This encourages collagen and elastin production, which helps improve skin texture, reduce fine lines, fade acne scars, and give your skin a smoother, more radiant appearance.”

According to Guarniere, a chemical peel “is a skin-refreshing treatment that gently exfoliates the top layers of the skin using a safe, medical-grade solution.”

"This process helps improve skin tone and texture, and reduce the appearance of fine lines, sun damage, acne, and discoloration," she said. "Depending on the peel, there might be a week of 'downtime' [with] visible peeling of the skin."

Guarniere also offers GLP-1 medications, like semaglutide and tirzepatide, which have been “total game-changers, not just for weight loss but for overall health.”

"They help regulate appetite, improve blood sugar, and support sustainable changes, which makes a big difference for people who've struggled with weight, even when 'doing everything right,'" she continued. "What's really exciting is that these meds don't just help with weight, they've also been shown to reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes. So, we're not just talking about looking better. We're talking about

feeling better, aging better, and potentially living longer, too.”

All this said, Guarniere cautions that there are some side effects.

“Some people get nausea, bloating, or constipation when they start,” she said. “But that’s why I offer both traditional and micro-dosing options, so we can ease into the right dose and minimize side effects while still seeing results. If someone has been feeling stuck or like their body’s working against them, this might be a tool worth exploring. With the right support and a thoughtful plan, it can be a really effective and empowering option.”

While Golden Hour isn't a traditional medical office – it doesn't take insurance – patients enjoy the benefits of Guarniere's highly personalized approach.

"The majority of my patients have my personal cell phone number, and when you reach out by phone or the patient portal, you get a speedy response from me. My patients appreciate the care and attention I'm able to provide them, and most describe it as a breath of fresh air compared to what they're used to experiencing in more traditional healthcare settings," Guariniere said.

She is glad to be able to run her business in the town that she and her family call home. Guarniere and her husband and children moved to Redding in 2021.

"We actually got engaged in Redding at the Boy Scout Camp, so it's always been a special place to us," she said. ■

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The Natural World

Frogs in life and death | By Katherine Simmons

I have always loved frogs. It started the day my father, he too a frog lover, brought my three sisters and me to the downstairs pet department of Woolworth’s Five and Dime. Standing before a random aquarium, I spotted a brilliant flash of jade green, legs splayed, darting around the tank. And then, as if sensing my fascination, the teeny frog swam directly up to the glass and pressed his face against it, to get a closer look at the little girl standing mesmerized before him. The affection was clearly mutual. Yes, I believe in that formative moment, I was sold, as was that amiable African frog and his two tank mates. My father had the attendant scoop up four, that wonderful and memorable day, one for each of his daughters. And we jumped up and down with a jubilation that only a new pet could bring.

The African frogs were a fragile lot and sadly, not with us for the long haul. A few years later, they were replaced by hundreds of tadpoles that materialized every spring in our backyard pond. As they grew into froghood, we would fish them out of the pond with abandon, eagerly but delicately, with big, green nets purchased at the local sporting goods store and which still hang in

our garage, a little worse for the wear – a testament to frogging days of lore.

On a trip to Puerto Rico in my early twenties, I returned home with a pocketful of souvenirs for friends and family, all the same in theme: a key chain with a tiny frog attached. Known locally as the “Coqui,” it was a tree frog that only comes out at night and whose chirp-like chant mimics the word “Co-kee Co-kee” as if the frog is singing. Legend has it that if you spot one of these elusive frogs during daylight hours, good luck is yours for the remainder of time.

While recently organizing my closet, I found the Coqui keychain from so many years ago, its paint faded and chipping, tucked away in a shoebox. I contentedly held it in my palm and vowed to start using it again.

As I grew older, it was not necessary to see the physical frogs themselves, the simple sound of them was all I needed. Walking our dog through the dark woods behind our home, the distant sound of a high-pitched peep would fill the air. The peepers serenade, and a sign of springtime and frogs, reborn.

So, when we recently moved

into a rental home that just happened to have a saltwater swimming pool, I was not prepared for the traumatizing daily event awaiting me, involving the creatures I held so dear.

Each morning, generally after a heavy rain, I would discover several small frogs, who had perished overnight, floating on the top of the water, their tiny legs splayed outward, as if in silent defeat. More painful for me were the ones that had sunk to the bottom, a clear symbol of all hope, gone. Devastated, I do the only thing I can think of – scoop them out and place them behind a large, shaded rock I discovered adjacent to the pool, upon which sits a small statue of a praying figure. Next to the rock, is a small strand of wind chimes – its rhythmic music masking prior tragedy? I take comfort in this peaceful resting place for the little frogs, who, in life, brought me so much joy.

But on some mornings, I approach the pool to spot one or two little outliers. Tiny sole survivors, treading water, floating hope. Scooping each up, I gingerly place them down on the concrete and pour a bit of plain water, ever so gently over them, in the hopes of ridding the salt from their bodies.

And as I watch them slowly leap away, we are both, for the moment, saved. ■



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If trees could talk | By Raymond D’Angelo



Photo by Raymond D’Angelo
A few of Mary Travers’s trees at her former property in Redding.

Trees have inspired people in many ways. They have stood as powerful symbols in culture representing life, growth, shelter, and the deep roots of memory. In music, songs about trees often reflect these themes, combining natural imagery with emotional and social commentary. Whether conveying environmental concerns, personal nostalgia, or spiritual connection, songs that center on trees remind us of nature’s central role in our inner and outer lives.

One of the most iconic rock songs about trees is “The Trees” by Rush (1978), which uses oaks and maples, trees plentiful in Redding, to critique political and social inequality. The song’s metaphor pits the taller oaks against the shorter maples in a struggle for sunlight, highlighting tensions between individual freedom and collective fairness. While not a literal environmental anthem, its forest setting reminds listeners of the parallels between our ecosystems and human societies.

In “Lemon Tree,” written by Will Holt in the 1950s and sung by the legendary Peter, Paul and Mary, is a story of growth and disappointment. One can imagine the late Mary Travers, who lived in Redding, singing this melancholic song where the lemon tree becomes a metaphor for love and disillusionment.

Another standout is “Tree” by Seven Lions & Nevve, a more recent electronic song that evokes imagery of a solitary tree as a

symbol of inner strength and resilience. The lyrics speak to standing tall and rooted despite storms, using the tree as a metaphor for emotional endurance and hope.

In this time of climate change and environmental awareness, songs about trees can remind us of what stands to be lost and what must be preserved. They breathe life into the stillness of forests and the silence of endangered landscapes.

On the environmental front, “Big Yellow Taxi” (2002) by Joni Mitchell laments the paving of “paradise” and the loss of green space. She sings, “They paved paradise and put up a parking lot... they took all the trees and put ‘em in a tree museum.” Though not exclusively about trees, its imagery of a paved parking lot reflects concern over the loss of greenery. Fortunately, Redding is a community committed to preserving land and trees.

Songs about trees highlight the deep emotional and symbolic connection humans have with nature. Through music, trees become living symbols of our relationship with the natural world. Both are essential to human well-being: trees, through their ecological benefits; and music, through emotional expression. Together, they remind us of the beauty and interconnectedness of nature and art. ■

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

NEW POND FARM EDUCATION CENTER

Art Show



JUNE 7-15
11AM - 5PM Daily

Sponsored by:



A Distinctive Lifecare Community

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

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

Special Preview Evening
Friday, June 6 · 6-8 PM
Join us at sunset for a festive kickoff—mingle with artists and fellow art lovers while enjoying a signature cocktail, wine, local brews, and delicious bites. Tickets: \$50 Includes a \$25 credit toward any art purchase.

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

Redding’s Big Outdoors: Putnam Park’s School Days open to the public tomorrow / continued from page 1

historically-garbed reenactors each host a different activity: they might sing shanties, throw pottery, spin yarn, make candles, and more, all against the backdrop of a real Revolutionary War historic site. Students also receive a tour of the Museum and have a chance to browse our gift shop of books and souvenirs.”

A fundraising event for FANS, School Days helps the non-profit group offer future educational events, contribute to Park improvements, and continually maintain and promote the historical, educational, and recreational values of the park. “We were founded to ensure that Putnam Park is preserved for future generations and to offer

programs that promote a greater understanding of Connecticut’s role in the Revolutionary War,” said Leary, who noted recent upgrades made possible by School Days include the installation of UV-blocking film at the Visitors Center and Museum and the purchase of a dehumidifier to preserve the Museum environment. “We hope to spark a lifelong interest in history by providing an unforgettable field trip. We want people to walk away with good memories and a new curiosity about local history.”

After the program, Leary invites attendees to continue exploring all that Putnam Park has to offer, including its walking trails that are

open to pedestrians, leashed dogs, and cyclists; experience the beautiful views; and embark on the historic one-mile loop. “The Park setting allows us to create educational experiences that aren’t practical or cost-effective to do in a classroom. In addition to showing them the remnants of the Redding Encampment, we introduce students to some of the sights, sounds, and smells they might have encountered if they lived here 250 years ago,” said Leary, adding, “Engaging those senses appeals to many different types of learners, and helps make memories that last.” ■

To register, visit putnampark.eventbrite.com

Intern at the Redding Sentinel this summer



Be part of your local newspaper’s editorial team!

We are looking for help with:
Covering local events / Proofreading
Writing articles / Taking photographs

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Contact us at editor@reddingsentinel.org to learn more.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

Open Farmhouse Plant Sale & Café Saturday, May 24 – Monday, May 26 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Heirloom and organic plants and seedlings and a pop-up café Open Farmhouse 11 John Read Road openfarmhouse.com	Memorial Day Parade Saturday, May 24 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Annual tradition where all are invited to march or watch From Redding Elementary School to Old Town House reddingct.gov/events	Easton Lions Club Charity Golf Tournament Monday, June 9 7:30 a.m. Blackhawk Golf Course 385 Oronoque Lane Stratford E-mail topdown999@gmail.com \$, R	Gallop for Good: A Night at the Farm Saturday, June 14 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit The Serenity Project Marchant Farm 55 Chestnut Woods Road theserenityprojectct.org \$, R
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ARTS

Saturday, May 24 Artist-in-Residence Open Studio Program 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Learn about the Park’s Artist-in-Residence program and enjoy refreshments and kids art activities Weir Farm National Historic Park 735 Nod Hill Road Wilton nps.gov/wefa	Friday, May 30 Cocktails and Creativity 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Evening where art, music, and imagination intertwine The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org/event \$, R	Thursday, June 5 Redding Land Trust 60th Anniversary Photography Show Opening Reception 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Opening reception with catered refreshments Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road rltphotoshow.eventbrite.com R	Saturday, June 7 Danbury Concert Association presents the Essex Septet 3:00 p.m. Back by popular demand, seven virtuosos close out DCA’s 2024-2025 season WCSU Visual and Performing Arts Center 43 Lake Avenue Extension Danbury wcsuypac.eventbrite.com \$
CHILDREN TEENS			
Thursday, May 29 College Prep: Rising Seniors – College Application Timeline 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R			

FUNDRAISERS

Friday, June 6 New Pond Farm’s Art Show Preview Party 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R	Monday, June 9 Easton Lions Club Charity Golf Tournament 7:30 a.m. Blackhawk Golf Course 385 Oronoque Lane Stratford E-mail topdown999@gmail.com \$, R	Monday, June 9 Putt Fore Paws – The Joyce Allen Memorial Golf Tournament 11:00 a.m. Proceeds support Danbury Animal Welfare Society (DAWS) The Redding Country Club 109 Lonetown Road dawsgolf2025.givesmart.com \$, R	Saturday, June 14 Gallop for Good: A Night at the Farm 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit The Serenity Project Marchant Farm 55 Chestnut Woods Road theserenityprojectct.org \$, R
HEALTH WELLNESS			
Tuesday, May 27 Golden Hour Yoga Series 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. First in a six-part series of evening yoga New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R	Thursday, May 29 Cultivate Calm: Spring Meditation & Wellness 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R		

NATURE

Saturday, May 24 – Monday, May 26 Open Farmhouse Plant Sale & Café 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Heirloom and organic plants and seedlings and a pop-up café Open Farmhouse 11 John Read Road openfarmhouse.com	Saturday, May 31 Highstead Open House 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Open to the public for self-guided tours 10:00 a.m. Old Growth Forest Presentation 1:00 p.m. Moss Walk 127 Lonetown Road	Thursday, May 22 Barlow Palooza 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Celebration of ER9 student accomplishments Joel Barlow High School 100 Black Rock Turnpike er9.org	Saturday, May 24 Memorial Day Parade 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. From Redding Elementary School to Old Town House reddingct.gov/events
Wednesday, May 28 The Jack Benny Radio Program: A 23-Year Success Story Presented by Joseph Gianquinto 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R			

Saturday, May 31

Bethel CT Pride Parade and Celebration 2025
12:30 p.m. Parade begins
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Celebration activities
All are welcome to march and celebrate. Family-friendly, rain or shine event.
Bethel Municipal Center
1 School Street
Bethel
bethelctpride.com

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Sundays at 10:00 a.m. 44 Portland Avenue bethlehemlutheranct.org	Calvary Independent Baptist Church Adult and Child Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. / Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m. Nursery provided for all services. 711 Redding Road cibcredning.org	Christ Church, Episcopal Sundays at 9:00 a.m. 184 Cross Highway christchurchredding.org	First Church of Christ, Congregational Sundays at 10:00 a.m. 25 Cross Highway firstchurchredding.org
Long Ridge United Methodist Sundays at 11:30 a.m. 201 Long Ridge Road Danbury longridgeumc.com	Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish Sacred Heart Church: Saturday Confessions: 10:00 a.m. at Pryor Hubbard Hall Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. Saturday Eucharistic Adoration: 6:00 p.m. Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. 12:00 noon LATIN Weekday Mass: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday 6:00 p.m. LATIN 30 Church Street	St. Patrick Church: Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m. Saturday Confessions: 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m. Weekday Mass: Monday – Friday at 8:30 a.m. Weekday Confessions: Mondays and Thursdays: 7:30 p.m., before or after mass, or by appointment Eucharistic Adoration: Mondays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. 169 Black Rock Turnpike sacredheart-stpat.org	Temple B’nai Chaim Friday, May 23 DIY Shabbat 7:00 p.m. 82 Portland Avenue templebnaichaim.org

MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 27 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	Tuesday, May 27 ER9 Joint Boards of Education 7:00 p.m. Joel Barlow High School / Library Learning Commons 100 Black Rock Turnpike	Tuesday, May 27 Board of Finance 7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room or Hybrid 100 Hill Road	Wednesday, May 28 Zoning Commission 7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road
Monday, June 2 Park and Recreation Commission 7:00 p.m. Community Center 37 Lonetown Road	Monday, June 2 Republican Town Committee 7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	Tuesday, June 3 Conservation Commission 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	Tuesday, June 3 Redding Board of Education 7:00 p.m. John Read Middle School / Community Room 486 Redding Road
Wednesday, June 4 Region 9 Curriculum Committee 8:30 a.m. Joel Barlow High School Room A108	Thursday, June 5 Redding Safety Committee 4:00 p.m. Virtual	Tuesday, June 10 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m. Virtual	Tuesday, June 10 Redding Fire District #1 7:00 p.m. 186 Black Rock Turnpike
Wednesday, June 11 Commission on Aging 9:00 a.m. Heritage Center 37 Lonetown Road	Wednesday, June 11 Zoning Commission 7:30 p.m. Virtual	Thursday, June 12 Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee 6:00 p.m. Virtual	**Town Offices will be closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day.

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MEMORIAL DAY

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Picnic

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SATURDAY, MAY 24 FROM 1-5PM

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF REDDING-EASTON

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