

REDDING SENTINEL

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REDDING, CONNECTICUT

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Sixth annual Speak UP! Town officials answer range of resident questions on road safety and other matters

By Susan Clark

On Wednesday night, April 3, a roster of seven town officials turned out to listen to, and answer questions from, Redding residents. The evening was sponsored by the Redding League of Women Voters, which has put on the event annually for the past six years.

The panel included Julia Pemberton, First Selectwoman; Ward Mazzucco, Chair, Board of Finance; Angelica Fontanez, Director of Human Services; Mark O'Donnell, Chief of Police; Dr. Stephanie Pierson Ugol, ER9 Assistant Superintendent; Laura Worosz, Chair, Redding Board of Education; and Angela Caes, Co-chair, Park & Recreation Commission.

Kim O'Rielly, President of the League, introduced the evening. Colleen Joyce, local attorney, moderated. The event was recorded for future access by Chris Helland. About a dozen townspeople turned out on the rainy, blustery evening to put questions to the town officials.

Several people raised issues related to safety on our roads for pedestrians and cyclists as well as other cars. Drivers need to slow down, and to be educated to share the road with runners and cyclists. Chief O'Donnell invited the questioner about runners and cyclists to meet with him to identify additional locations for "Share the Road" signs.

At last year's Speak Up, West Redding residents requested additional stop signs on Long Ridge and Station Roads. They were installed and were praised at this year's event. But there is still speeding along these high-traffic roads and additional mitigation was discussed. Residents of the area also requested greater Town attention to the West Redding community, in particular stating a need for sidewalks and beautification.

Georgetown came in for just one question, about whether some areas might be developed now without waiting for the larger plan. Julia Pemberton reminded the audience that, at this point, development can be only for municipal needs. Some short-term, temporary solutions are possible, such as a skate park, popups, or parking.

One questioner requested that the highway department be instructed not to cut roadside native plants except for visibility needs.

There was a question about the disposition of ARPA funds for the Joel Barlow High School NEST, followed by a discussion about the

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Photo by Helene Hawke

Watching the solar eclipse in Bud's daffodil field. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, with credit of course, please e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org

Redding voters to decide on town budgets Referendum tentatively set for May 7

By Jeanne Ammermuller

The Board of Selectman met on March 18 and set the date for the Annual Town Budget Meeting which will be held on April 24 at 3:00 pm. The purpose of the Annual Town Budget Meeting is to formally set the date and time for the Annual Town Budget Referendum which has been tentatively scheduled for May 7 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Redding Community Center, 37 Lonetown Road.

At the May 7 referendum, voters will have the opportunity to approve the Board of Selectmen budget, the Board of Education budget, and the Redding portion of the Region 9 budget. Region 9 includes Joel Barlow High School. The total proposed budget is \$54,401,794. Details of the budgets can be found on page two of this paper.

Registered Town of Redding voters and any U.S. citizen aged

18 or older who is liable to the Town, district, or subdivision for taxes on an assessment of not less than \$1,000 on the October 1, 2023 Grand List may vote.

Polls will be open at the Community Center from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you are not yet registered to vote, you may do so online at townofreddingct.org/register-to-vote or during the Registrar's office hours: Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and by appointment. There is no same-day registration to vote.

Absentee ballots for the referendum are available for those who cannot vote in person for one of the following reasons: active service in the armed forces, absence from town during all hours of the referendum, physical disability, illness, or religious tenets. Voters wishing to vote by absentee ballot must complete an application and deliver it to the

Town Clerk's office, located in Town Hall at 100 Hill Road, at which time the ballot will be given to the applicant. If the applicant is unable to come in person, he or she can designate a member of his or her family to pick up their ballot and return it to the Town Clerk.

Since this referendum is being held with less than 3 weeks' notice, absentee ballots cannot be mailed by the Town Clerk.

Completed absentee ballots may be hand-delivered, placed in the ballot drop box at Town Hall or mailed to the Town Clerk's Office, but they must be received no later than 5:30 p.m. on May 7. ■

For more information or to fill out an absentee ballot application, visit townofreddingct.org/government/town-administration/town-clerk

REDDING'S BIG OUTDOORS

Joan Plishner Preserve

By Cole Tucker-Walton



Photo by Cole Tucker-Walton

I might have learned what an American robin sounds like after thirty-two springs in the Northeast, but when that sweet whistle woke me at 6:00 a.m., I had to record it for Merlin to identify. I hear it again as I climb the entrance to Putnam Memorial State Park, the song bright and full in the chilly air, a little after 8:00 a.m.

Putnam Park is, above

all, familiar. It's been part of Redding's Big Outdoors for over a century but was preserved precisely because of prominent human activity. I passed two dog walkers in the parking lot -- dog walkers come here because of the flat, human-friendly paths. I pass manufactured signs that draw my attention to the scattered remnants of human business. I pass stone walls and gates, and that most human of objects, a sleepy cannon tucked away like any other piece of stone in this part of the country where stones don't move.

Sun breaks out behind the red oaks and black birches, a breeze ripples the blue and white patchwork reflection behind the catkin-draped candelabra of an alder shrub, and four ring-necked ducks, mute and black, beat themselves airborne.

About halfway around the main loop, I veer off path to the left at a white aluminum blaze, onto the Land Trust's Joan Plishner Preserve. I take this trail clockwise, climbing uphill under tall, multi-stemmed tulip trees, red oaks, beeches, red maples, black birches, and a thin yellow birch. As the sun continues to pulse up from the east, the scene is hard to photograph, all just the same brilliant tan as last week and the week before—but to be in it is radiant.

I pass the blue blazed Loop Cutoff, as Hiking Project calls it, and continue across a disheveled stonewall, past the square foundation of some old chimney or other. Now the walls are gone, and it's part of the woods again. Somebody else calls it home,

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Holocaust speaker, other measures seek to counter hate speech

By Rob Sample

When she was growing up in Brooklyn, Renee Bronner Pessin knew her parents and many of their friends were survivors of the Holocaust—but they tended not to talk much about it, instead focusing on the business of earning a living and raising a family. That changed when the movie "Schindler's List" came out in the early 1990s.

Pessin's mother, Helen Bronner, provided video testimony for director Stephen Spielberg's Shoah Foundation, which aims to keep people's memories of the Holocaust alive.

Pessin is now doing the same and on March 26 addressed an assembly of seventh and eighth graders at John Read Middle School. Her talk focused not just on remembering the Holocaust. She emphasized that it has important lessons to impart for present-day American life.

The middle-school visit by Pessin, a Redding resident since 2017, while scheduled early in the school year, followed several instances of hate speech and antisemitism at John Read and the Redding Elementary School. The response that followed her talk, Pessin noted, was quite heartwarming.

"In describing my parents' stories, I described how small, antisemitic measures soon escalated into mass murder," said Pessin. "Students asked very relevant questions, and several students and teachers came up afterward to thank me for coming."

A timely visit

Pessin's talk was especially well-timed in that the October 7 attacks on communities in Israel and the subsequent war in Gaza have brought a sharp uptick in hate speech and antisemitism in many communities. Several recent incidents in Redding schools led to strongly worded letters to students and parents from Redding Elementary School Principal Melissa Labroschiano and John Read Middle School Principal Jennifer Desmarais.

That was followed on Thursday, March 28, with a community-wide letter from Dr. Jason McKinnon, superintendent for the Easton-Redding Region 9 School District. In it, he emphasized that the school system unequivocally condemns the use of derogatory language or the expression of discriminatory attitudes based on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic.

"We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every

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EDITORIAL

Stand up. Be Counted. Be heard. We've all gotten that message around voting – some of us for decades. But it's easy to become complacent. "One vote isn't going to make a difference." "Lots of people will show up to the meeting." "The other party always wins."

But sometimes just showing up is enough. Last week, we held space on the front page expecting some news out of the Region 9 Budget meeting, which was the chance for the public to weigh in on the budget. The only people who showed up were the members of the board and a *Sentinel* reporter, on Zoom. A dozen people came to the League of Women Voters Speak Up event.

The beauty of a small town like Redding is that the numbers are on your side. When you show up, you will be heard. When you vote, you just might be the one to decide that election or referendum. Or you can let someone else decide.

But more than the decision today, it's what your attendance means to your community. It shows your elected officials that you are paying attention. That you support their work. And even if your side isn't victorious, the more people who show up, the more everyone needs to consider bipartisanship. It's a win for everyone. ■

It's a girl!



Sentinel Managing Editor Jessie Wright, her husband Andrew, and now big brother Arthur experienced their very own "birthquake" last week, welcoming a baby girl on Friday, April 5 at 7:15 a.m. Elise Renee weighed in just shy of 8 pounds and measured 20 inches long. Mom and baby are doing well and they are all enjoying their new life as a family of four. Jessie will return to the *Sentinel* in late June. ■

LEGAL NOTICES

The Redding Planning Commission will open a Public Hearing on 4/23/2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Hearing Room, 100 Hill Road, Redding, Connecticut at 7:30 p.m. regarding the following:

Subdivision Application #530, 614 Redding Road. Brett and Karen Stafford (owners), Michael Mazzucco, PC (agent). Proposed subdivision of 31.85 acres into 2 lots.

Request for Alteration of Designated Scenic Road at 175, 185, 187 Umpawaug Road. Blackbird Holdings LLC (owners), Oza Sabbath Architects (agents). To install fencing along town right-of-way.

Data on file and available for inspection at the Land Use Office in the Old Town House. ■

*Steven Gagnon, Chairman
Redding Planning Commission*

Certified lists of party-selected candidates for the Democratic and Republican Parties in the Town of Redding for participation as DELEGATES to the 2024 conventions of said parties

specified below are on file in the Town Clerk office at 100 Hill Road, Redding, Connecticut, and copies are available for public distribution:

CONVENTIONS

DEMOCRATS	REPUBLICANS
Congressional #4	Congressional #4
State Senate #26	Senate #26
State Assembly District #135	State Assembly District #135
State Party	State Party

*Michele R. Grande, MCTC-CMC
Town Clerk of Redding
April 3, 2024*

The Redding Zoning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing for April 24, 2024 at 7:30pm in person at the Town Hall Hearing Room 100 Hill Road Redding CT. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the following application.

Application #24-04Z- Jon & Jenn Culter: Request to Amend

Permitted Special Uses Zoning Regulation 4.2.3 for within R-2 Zone on a parcel eight acres or larger to allow Assistive Living Facility for the aged population 62+.

*Matt Lecher, Chairman,
Redding Zoning Commission*

CLASSIFIED

The *Sentinel* is looking for a bookkeeper. Virtual, part-time, hourly wage, no benefits. Must be experienced in QuickBooks Online. Please e-mail publisher@reddingsentinel.org ■

Parish Administrator & Bookkeeper

Provides administrative support to Priest in Charge and parish leaders, serves as church receptionist, handles day-to-day financial management of parish, coordinates church office operations. Christ Church Episcopal Parish is an open

and inclusive faith community in Redding. On-site, part-time, approx 16-20 hours per week during standard business hours M-F. 3-5 years of administrative and/or bookkeeping experience required. Send resume and cover letter to the Rev. Emilie Finn, Priest in Charge: clergy@christchurchredding.org ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome Letters to the Editor. Please be clear, civil, and concise. E-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org with submissions.

To the Editor,

To all those who use Umpawaug as a cut through, "SLOW DOWN!" Today, April 4 while driving North on Umpawaug Rd., I encountered some very fast southbound traffic, specifically a flatbed cresting the hill at around the 200s addresses that tripped the speed sign at 47 MPH!...for those of you who think Umpawaug is a convenient way to beat the traffic on Rt 107, GET OUT! Leave! Go back to where you came from! We don't like you!!!

So why is there little speed enforcement on Redding's favorite freeway? I had heard that the Town doesn't get the money from tickets, but the State does. Perhaps this is the reason. There is only one speed sign on Umpawaug...I. Why can't we have speed humps as on Portland Avenue in Georgetown?

While I really enjoy going 25-30 MPH and holding up traffic, it shouldn't be my job. I'd like to share it with other residents who feel the same way....maybe then the outlanders will choose another way to go to work. ■

Eric Gebhardt, Mallory Lane

To the Editor,

We, a group of retirees living in Fairfield County at Meadow Ridge, Redding, CT go on record in support of certain legislation pending in the CT Legislature. The session ends soon, on May 8, this year.

First, we are appalled at the idea of depriving all school age children of a free, nutritious breakfast for all and a free lunch for those whose family incomes are low. Educators point to studies showing children who are not hungry do far better academically, socially and from a mental health point of view. We urge you not to let the budget axe fall on their good nutrition. Education is an investment in our nation's future.

Second, we are saddened that both Hartford and Albany legislators are putting the brakes on fleets of electric school buses. Electric bus programs are one of the quickest ways to improve the air quality in our towns and cities, even the world. They save money, can be concentrated in specific areas, and set a good example for the kids they carry.

Readers, if you agree with us, don't wait —time is of the essence. Quickly write or call your CT State Senator and State Representative in Hartford and tell them you agree, school children need food support and clean running busses. The legislative session ends very soon. ■

*Susan M. Auslander, Chair
Residents Seniors Care Committee, Meadow Ridge*

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to Sec 7-344 of the State of Connecticut General Statutes, the Town of Redding provides below the FY2024-25 Budget Expenditures as approved on March 25, 2024 by the Board of Finance, to be voted on at a public referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Anticipated Revenues for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 as detailed below, will be reviewed and updated as necessary, when setting the Mill Rate.

Expenditure detail may be found on the Town website www.townofreddingct.org or the Town Clerk's Office.

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$ Change
Board of Selectmen	\$15,261,300	\$16,316,554	\$16,961,130	\$644,576
Board of Education	23,761,158	24,569,528	25,453,622	884,094
Region 9	12,038,609	11,554,654	11,987,042	432,388
Total Expenditures	\$51,061,067	\$52,440,736	\$54,401,794	\$1,961,058
REVENUE SUMMARY				
Taxes to be collected	\$52,679,307	\$52,868,657	\$54,532,158	\$1,663,501
Town Charges for Services	1,201,493	1,233,973	1,316,765	82,792
Licenses and Permits	367,730	310,000	285,000	(25,000)
State Aid	609,551	433,294	423,588	(9,706)
Prior Years Taxes, Interest and Liens	793,294	645,000	695,000	50,000
Supplemental Vehicle Tax	534,572	420,000	438,000	18,000
Investment Income	923,559	410,000	600,000	190,000
Rental Income	56,056	57,734	58,928	1,194
Less: Tax Refunds	(1,088,956)	(1,085,000)	(740,000)	345,000
Less: Fire/EMT Tax Credit	(119,414)	(132,000)	(132,000)	0
Less: Elderly Benefit	(2,137,514)	(2,250,000)	(2,420,000)	(170,000)
Less: WPCC Advance	(532,564)	(470,922)	(405,645)	65,277
Less: Transfer to Capital Funds	0	0	(250,000)	(250,000)
Total Revenue	\$53,287,114	\$52,440,736	\$54,401,794	\$1,961,058

The Town of Redding also provides estimated Capital Spending for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 as approved by the Board of Finance on April 8, 2024, and to be voted on at a public referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024:

Umpawaug Road repaving (\$675,000); Redding Elementary School (RES) and John Read Middle School (JRMS) educational spaces modernization (\$375,000); Town Hall fire sprinkler system code compliance upgrade (\$350,000); JRMS secondary well (\$150,000); Community Center roof replacement (\$150,000); RES and JRMS internet improvement project (\$115,000); RES and JRMS roof repairs (\$50,000). These projects will be financed from various funds as determined by the Board of Finance. ■

Corrections to the April 4 issue:

The April 4 early voting article incorrectly identified the Town Registrar of Voters. Her name is Lisa Bartro.

The April 4 preview of the Joel Barlow High boys lacrosse team incorrectly identified Ian Lent and Frankie Branca playing on attack and Joey Bonanno on defense when all three are midfielders. Braylon Bennett is on attack.

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Grant awarded to Putnam Park to further its mission

By Pamela Brown



Photo courtesy of Friends and Neighbors of Putnam Park

A grant will help assess storage and care of artifacts at the Putnam Memorial State Park Museum.

Grants are oftentimes the lifeblood of a nonprofit to help them move forward with their organization. Putnam Park is recently received a Collections Assessment Grant in the amount of \$650.00. “The real value of the grant is that it’s extremely helpful in obtaining future grants from CT Humanities. It helps us articulate exactly what we need in terms of resources, so we can create more successful grant applications to get those funds,” said Ellery Leary, President of FANS (Friends & Neighbors of Putnam Memorial State Park), a non-profit group that helps maintain and promote the park’s historical, educational, and recreational values.

The Collections Assessment Grant is a program managed by Conservation Connection and is supported through a partnership grant of the Connecticut Heritage

Foundation at the Connecticut State Library and CT Humanities (CTH), with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development. The grant will be used to sponsor a professional assessor for an on-site visit to survey the park museum’s collection and help improve storage, conditions, and displays, and more.

The museum was built in 1921 to house the park’s growing collection of dioramas, exhibits, paintings, artifacts, and antiques donated by the local community. “I’ve been advancing our conservation efforts in my two years as president of FANS, including installing a dehumidifier and adding UV-filtering film to the windows, but we need the kind of help that only a concerted effort from a grant program can provide,” he said, adding, “The assessment

will help guide us in our mission of preserving the educational and historical value of the park. But it will also benefit everyone who visits, because it will lead to a better-preserved museum collection with improved signage,” he said.

“The museum has records dating back at least 50 years that underscore the need for serious conservation efforts.” Leary continued to explain that it’s imperative to take such action to preserve the park’s many archaeological treasures and antiques. “I’m glad the Collections Assessment Grant is allowing us to take real steps toward that goal.”

For Putnam Park, grants like these play a critical role in helping the park maintain operations. “The State of Connecticut keeps the lights on, literally. It maintains the grounds and facilities, employs maintainers and supervisors, and hires interpretive guides. Everything else at the park, such as conservation improvements, and all of our events and educational programs, are supported by volunteers, membership dues, donations, event proceeds, and store sales,” explained Leary who is grateful to have this additional grant resource. “I’m thrilled,” he said. “Though this is the first step on a longer journey of improvement that will probably take a few grant cycles, I am optimistic about what the Collections Assessment Grant can do for the Putnam collection.” ■

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Presidential primary voting delivers no surprises

Redding voting patterns explained

By Susan Clark

Democratic and Republican Presidential Primary elections were held in Connecticut on Tuesday, April 3. While the outcomes for both parties were predictable, the voting patterns in Redding may be of interest.

There are more registered active Democrats (2,562) than Republicans (1,513) in Redding. Overall, 11% of registered Democrats and Republicans voted in the primary. There was a slight difference in voting turnout by party, with 11% of Republicans and 12% of Democrats casting a ballot.

This election was our town’s – and state’s – first experience with early voting. Twenty-seven percent of those who voted in the primary took the opportunity to

vote early. There was a significant difference by party: While 16% of Republicans voted early, 33% of Democrats did.

Looking into party-level results, 88% of Democrats voted for President Joe Biden. Eight percent of Democrats voted “uncommitted.” Former President Donald Trump garnered 69% of the vote. Twenty-four percent voted for former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley.

Just 208 days until the November 5 Presidential election! Be sure you’ve registered to vote. ■

Holocaust speaker, other measures seek to counter hate speech / continued from page 1



Holocaust survivors Helen Kolin Bronner and husband Sam Bronner were married in 1946 at a displaced persons camp. A more recent photo shows the couple visiting their native Poland in 1987. Their stories were related by their daughter, Renee Bronner Pessin, in a recent presentation at John Read Middle School.



individual, and any form of bigotry undermines the very fabric of our community,” McKinnon said. “If these acts occur within our schools, students will be subject to disciplinary action immediately.”

McKinnon called on the community to work together to build a climate of respect, empathy, and inclusivity. He urged parents to have open and honest conversations with children about the importance of treating others in this manner.

“Our commitment to teach our children to treat each other with kindness and respect will always be the primary driver in our community,” added McKinnon.

Empathy is one of the key lessons Pessin hopes to impart by talking about the Holocaust and her family’s experience. This

was just the third time Pessin has spoken about the topic in a large group setting. Earlier presentations were at a local synagogue and at Weston Middle School and High School.

Pessin is also giving her presentation at Mark Twain Library on Thursday, May 2 at 7 p.m., in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day (May 5-6). She has also been invited to speak at Bethel High and Middle Schools.

Consequences of hatred

Renee’s parents, Helen Kolin Bronner and Sam Bronner grew up in prewar Poland, which in 1939 was invaded and occupied by the Nazis. Helen came from an upper middle class, somewhat secular family, while her husband’s background was more traditional.

They ultimately were the sole survivors (along with Sam’s brother) among their respective families.

In all, the Holocaust claimed the lives of at least six million Jewish people and five million from other European ethnicities.

Helen and Sam married in 1946 at a displaced-persons camp in Germany. An aunt of Sam’s lived in the United States and her family agreed to sponsor them for immigration. They set sail for New York where they would ultimately raise three children; from two survivors there is now an extended family of 31 people.

“In relating their experiences, I try to give students food for thought, to make them realize that this could happen to anybody,” Pessin said. “How would you

feel, I ask them, if your place of worship suddenly burned down? Or, what if suddenly, someone told you they were taking all your belongings except what could fit in one backpack, what would you take?”

One thing Pessin incorporated into her presentation is her mom’s wartime miracle: a small set of family photos taken before the Holocaust. “My mother had two dresses that she wore in the camp and she always kept those photographs with her,” Pessin said.

Ongoing efforts necessary

Sentinel contributor – and Redding mom – Amy Maloof said rough language is by no means a new thing to schools and schoolchildren. “We all went to middle school,” she quipped. “But it’s more extreme now.”

Maloof witnessed some of that firsthand several years ago while working as an instructional assistant at John Read Middle School. “This is not just a Redding problem; this is happening everywhere,” said Maloof. “But that doesn’t mean we just let it go or wave it off. Why not be the place that shows other towns how to turn things around?”

Maloof’s 14-year-old daughter, Tyler Cowan, viewed it as wrong-headed and difficult to focus on changing attitudes. “It’s parents’ job to address the attitudes,” said Cowan. “Schools need to keep the behavior from happening.”

Cowan said a new lunchtime-detention policy has had some impact. This method of punishment calls for the offending student to sit with a senior administrator during lunch period for 10 to 15 minutes, reducing his or her opportunities to socialize.

A recent gathering of concerned citizens might ultimately hold the key. On Feb. 4, 240 people from Redding and surrounding communities attended a forum on “Confronting Acts of Hate in Our Community” at the Riverbrook Regional YMCA in Wilton.

Georgetown’s Temple Bnai Chaim organized the event. Harriet Dunkerley, the temple’s cantor and spiritual leader noted that more than 90 of the attendees indicated a strong interest in being part of an ongoing community initiative. It will, in turn, be affiliated with an interfaith program run by the Anti-Defamation League called Kulanu – which means “our voices” in Hebrew.

“We aim to shine a light, educate people, and hopefully stop antisemitism and all forms of hate in its tracks,” said Dunkerley. “It’s a tall order... but as citizens we have a responsibility to come together and make our communities not just tolerant but kind, inclusive, loving places to live.”

Our commitment to teach our children to treat each other with kindness and respect will always be the primary driver in our community,” added McKinnon. ■

Redding’s Big Outdoors: Joan Plishner Preserve / continued from page 1

leaving a collection of emptied nuts at the base of a maturing red oak.

Away to the left, swampy land is indicated by the grey glow of shrubs and rosy glow of red maple buds in the sun. I wind through mountain laurels twice as tall as I am and yellow birches with rococo peels of bark. As I squish through sedges and moss, past a corps of pencil-thin summersweet, another movement in the morning’s song begins. Tufted titmice whistle over the percussion of a red-bellied woodpecker. They fall silent and a chickadee takes up the lead.

I keep having to stop to take pictures because the edge of the swamp is just so beautiful. I’m glad I have boots for a couple spots, enjoying my own bouye fantasy right here in Redding. I creep toward the edge of the water, attracted by bright red dots of fallen maple buds. I lean closer, drawn into nebulae of acid green algae swirling in the dark, shallow water.

I turn around to an equally picturesque sight, crags of grey rock, spotted with lichen and moss, turreted with black birches, beeches, mountain laurels, and rose-grey sassafras. I’m so pleased at having chosen this trail, a new corner of the landscape that transforms my unfinished assignment into a blessing, a morning without the walls of what to do next, and what to do twelve hours ago. What are those neon spears in the water? Irises? Yellow flag, or blue flag? I’ll have to come back and see.

At an intersecting loop, I realize I’ve taken longer than I meant to. I cross the stream on wide steppingstones and at last follow the trail up one of many rocky, mossy hills. Surrounded by mountain laurels, gently buffeted by the breeze, I reach out to touch the thick chunky bark of a tall sassafras. Chickadees trade their mallow, seesaw songs. The trail at my feet is fully blanketed in yellow-green moss; I look up

and notice houses all along the opposite ridge. Spicebushes are buzzing yellow there, Japanese barberry not quite advancing over the stream. As I loop toward the houses, I glance over my shoulder and admire a massive, forked red oak lording over the trail.

Blazes lead me onto the shrubby ridge: privet, barberry, wineberry, bittersweet—but also even more spicebush than I realized. A little patch of wild leeks, too: I break the tip of a leaf, smell garlic on my fingers. Across three—venerable—pallets (a project for anyone handy and so inclined), the trail rises to its highest point yet. I ignore the backyard to my left and look out over the swamp and the blinding, glossy canopy of mountain laurel to my right. A dark-eyed junco lights on a branch beside me, silent.

I go down and up again, surveying the breadth of the swamp below. I take a steep descent quickly, no problem, then slip on a flat stone while crossing the water.

I keep balanced but consider how nonchalantly Accident makes its entrance. Having reached the juncture with the first loop, I continue clockwise, uphill again, water trickling under the leaves in the trail.

Along the edge of a wide, black, unexpected pool, I circle close behind another house. My eyes are on the clock again. Here’s the other end of the Loop Cutoff; “Pond Trail,” says the carved sign fixed to a young black birch. I stick with the main loop, under a foreboding piñata of a wasps’ nest, past a monumental chunk of quartz and a weirdly widened pignut hickory. Looks like it’s been trying to swallow the boulder behind it for years.

Pretty, shallow-lobed leaves of chestnut oak litter the trail. An old and blackened sign with rusted staples warns that new trails and bikes are not permitted on the property. Shallow, watery depressions look like they might be drying up, but as soon as

I think it, I pass another even deeper. Mountain laurels return for one last show before releasing me to the young—what? Elms, oaks, hickories? Too young and slender, only a few fingers wide, for their cork to have cracked into characteristic patterns.

I see hemlocks off the trail in either direction; I angle between them and see the land drop off ahead. Wind blows high above me as I descend toward Route 58. I stop mid-slope to answer one email, and hear a human call—from this trail? I can’t be sure. An apron of mossy boulders spreads below me into another swamp as I cross east, toward the main path of Putnam Park. Only 23 minutes until I’m supposed to leave the house for my next engagement, and I’m not at the car yet. I cross property lines under the final, quiet movement of the trail symphony, an unfamiliar, up-and-down chirping—pensive—an eastern phoebe. Unseen, it sings before me—above me—behind me. ■

SPORTS

Pitching, hitting dominate for Barlow

Baseball | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Logan Kady gets the throw at second base during a varsity baseball game against Lewis Mills of Burlington on Saturday, April 6. Barlow won 9-1.

On the mound as well as in the batter's box, the Joel Barlow High varsity baseball team had plenty of support in its game against Lewis Mills of Burlington.

Starting pitcher Ian Nilsen allowed only one run. At the plate, the Falcons had a dozen hits to get the job done in a 9-1 win on Saturday, April 6.

Playing as the away team because Mill's field was not usable, the Falcons went to work in the top of the second inning with Will Gregor's double to

center field. Two batters later, Billy Bardani doubled as well, putting Barlow up 1-0.

The Falcons added to their lead in the next frame. Lucas Asonovic singled to drive in one run and Gregor hit his second double to bring in two more as the Falcons were up 4-0.

Two walks and a single in the top of the fourth created another scoring opportunity for Barlow, which added a run on a wild pitch but Lewis Mills escaped without any additional damage. Mills then

scored its lone run in the bottom of the inning with the help of a pair of Barlow errors.

After going quietly in the top of the fifth, the Falcons plated three more runs in their next turn. Singles by Lachlan Ellis and T.J. Baer put runners aboard. A double by Christian Nilsen drove in the former before the latter scored on an error. A bases-loaded walk then forced in another run for an 8-1 lead.

The Falcons tacked on their final run in the seventh. Andrew Gutkowski doubled and then advanced to third on a single by Baer. Christian Nilsen's sacrifice fly brought in the final run.

Baer led Barlow with three hits and scored a run. Gregor and Christian Nilsen each had two and each drove in a pair of runs as well. Gregor also scored two runs and Christian Nilsen one.

Bardani and Asonovic each had hits, driving in one and two runs respectively.

Starting pitcher Ian Nilsen went five innings, allowing one unearned run with one run while striking out eight and walking one for the win. Asonovic relieved him in the sixth, striking out four and walking one for the save.

Barlow, now 2-0 overall, hosts New Milford on Friday, is at Immaculate on Monday and is home to Brookfield on Wednesday. All games start at 4:15 p.m. ■

Falcons hold on in defensive battle

Boys lacrosse | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Joey Bonanno had a goal and an assist in the boys varsity lacrosse game against Daniel Hand of Madison on Saturday, April 6. Barlow won 5-3.

An early-season encounter gave the Joel Barlow High boys lacrosse team a glimpse of what it could later face in the state tournament.

The Falcons stepped up on defense when they hosted Daniel Hand of Madison. After shutting out their opponent in the first half, they allowed just three goals in the second for a 5-3 non-league win on a windy Saturday, April 6.

"Our defense played great," said Barlow head coach Tyler Leahy, citing the play of goalie Cole Bonanno, Andrew Watson, Jack Hall, and Tyler Young in particular. "Those guys really stepped up for us."

Hand, which was Class M runner-up last season, had no success in finding the net in the first half. Both sides struggled to score during that time but the Falcons took advantage of an opportunity relatively early when Spencer Skiddell scored unassisted to give his team a slim 1-0 lead with 9:44 remaining.

Scoring chances were equally as few in the next frame. Both sides came up empty but the

Falcons still had the lead going into halftime.

Barlow's attack picked up a bit when play resumed. Less than a minute and a half into the action, the Bonanno brothers came through with Joey scoring and Luke getting the assist.

The Tigers, however, would not go down without a fight. Just 28 seconds later, Andrew Benson netted the first of back-to-back goals, this one coming with 10:07 left in the third quarter. Two minutes later, he struck again to tie things at 2-2.

That was as close as it got as the Falcons also scored consecutive goals of their own. Skiddell netted his second with 7:17 left with Ian Lent assisting; and Luke Bonanno made it a 4-2 game at the 5:35 mark with his brother Joey assisting.

When Hand's Anthony Bowe scored with 9:14 left, it was a one-goal game again. Barlow did not surrender another, however, and got a little breathing room when Luke Bonanno scored his second goal with 8:08 to go as Frankie Branca got the assist.

Barlow had to make some adjustments when two starting defensemen were sidelined with penalties with 2:20 left. Freshman Sean Rinaldi and sophomore Ryan Snyder came in to help preserve the lead.

Skiddell scored two goals for Barlow, as did Luke Bonanno, who also had an assist. Joey Bonanno scored one goal with an assist while Lent and Branca each finished with assists.

Cole Bonanno made ten saves in goal for the Falcons, who are at Brookfield today and at Weston on Tuesday. Both games are at 6 p.m. ■

Falcon volleyball off to 4-0 start

By Rocco Valluzzo

With its serving on target, the Joel Barlow boys varsity volleyball team was a menace to Masuk last week.

The host Falcons racked up 11 aces alone on Friday, April 5. While they did fault a number of times, they remained on course in a 3-0 (25-12, 25-12, 25-22 win).

"Something we've really been working on is being aggressive servers," said Barlow head coach Kevin Marino. "With that will come some errors but we're willing to go with that."

Barlow put its serve to work early in the first set. After Alex Llach's kill tied things at 2-2, he stepped up to the line and went on a 13-point service run, helped out by the strong net play of Dan Murcia, Mark Meschi and James Pereira. Masuk stopped the streak with Luke Dolio's block but the Falcons led 15-3.

Several kills by Masuk's Tyler Barringer helped his team cut the lead a bit (21-9) but the Falcons

closed out the win in the set on the serve of Llach, Grayson Vanderburg, and Meschi.

The Panthers put up more of a fight in the next set, trailing by only two points (11-9). Another kill by Llach won back the serve, and Cameron Lynn reeled off eight straight service points for a comfortable lead.

Barlow benefitted by Masuk scratching on its next two serves. The hosts then secured the win on Meschi's ace deep in the left corner.

Down 2-0 in sets, Masuk's best effort came in the third, which featured ten ties and five lead changes. Barlow scratched on a number of serves but it remained a close match due in part to the net play of Erik Schmid, Meschi, Llach, Peirera and Dan Parkin.

"We're blessed with size," said Marino. "We're trying to take advantage of it and run a system that works."

The Falcons actually trailed 15-

12, calling a timeout. When play resumed they appeared to have settled down and regained their focus.

"I just told them to pay attention to the game and stay locked in," said Marino. "It's tough sometimes when you're rolling, to keep the focus."

After Masuk scratched on its serve, three straight service points by Meschi put the Falcons on top 16-15 but four more ties followed. Llach's kill regained the lead for good at 21-20 and Schmid's kill sealed the win.

Llach led Barlow at the net with 12 kills. Meschi had eight and Schmid had five. Peirera and Dan Parkin each had four.

Llach also served up 22 points with six aces. Lynn had 15 service points and Meschi finished with nine, as did Vanderburg.

Barlow visits Kolbe Cathedral of Bridgeport today at 6 p.m. and is at Amity of Woodbridge on Monday at 5:30. ■

Town financial audit is now complete

By Rocco Valluzzo

Citing no compliance issues on federal as well as state levels, Redding's accounting firm of CliftonLarsonAllen LLC (CLA) presented its annual audit report for fiscal year 2022-23 to the Board of Finance on Monday, April 1.

The audit included all governmental activities on a full accrual basis of accounting, all long-term assets, capital assets, and all long-term debt. As of June 30, 2023, the town's net position (assets minus liabilities) as of for governmental activities was \$67.6 million. Of that amount 10.7 million is unrestricted. It found one deficiency with respect to internal control.

"We express opinions on whether the basic financial statements are presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles," said Leslie Zoll, a principal with CLA. "We also express in relation to opinion the schedules of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance and that in relation to opinion is in relation to the financial statements as a whole."

Redding's general fund increased by \$2.6 million. The total

fund balance was \$19,932,840 with unassigned fund balance of \$14.6 million.

According to Zoll, property tax collections stayed consistent from year to year, which has been the case throughout Connecticut. The general fund's unassigned fund balance of \$14.6 million represented 28.7% of budget expenditures, which she felt was a healthy fund balance.

From a budgetary standpoint, revenues came in higher than expected by \$1.8 million and expenditures came in lower than expected by \$702,000. These two metrics affected the increase in the general fund balance by \$2 million for the year.

The audit found a deficiency with respect to financial reporting. The financial closure process of the town and the Redding Board of Education did not include the calculation of accrual type entries. This resulted in audit adjustments being processed for proper revenue recognition and increased the risk of material misstatement within the financial statements.

CLA recommended that the town strengthen its financial closure process to include

accrual entries within each fund in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. It also recommended the Board of Education have a clear cut-off date at the end of the year to avoid delays in audit issuance.

"We believe this particular finding is a significant deficiency because we want to bring to your attention improvements that should be made so it does not rise to the level of material weakness," said Zoll. "We did not find anything necessarily wrong with the financial statements, but it could happen if this is not corrected. There really should be a cut-off date on closing out the Board of Ed fiscal year so that you know exactly what's being left on the table and sent back to the town."

She added that this finding is a result of ensuring that the accrual entries are being done properly. The end of the year financial statement amounts need to be calculated, reviewed, and reported so the financial statements can be presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. ■

CME

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Attorney **Tiffany P. Robertson** joins Chipman Mazzucco Emerson LLC as part of the firm's trusts and estates team. She brings with her extensive experience working closely with clients, accountants, financial planners, and insurance specialists in connection with estate planning and probate matters. Her work includes advising clients on avenues for achieving their estate planning goals, as well as providing their loved ones with guidance through the trust and/or estate administration process after they pass away.

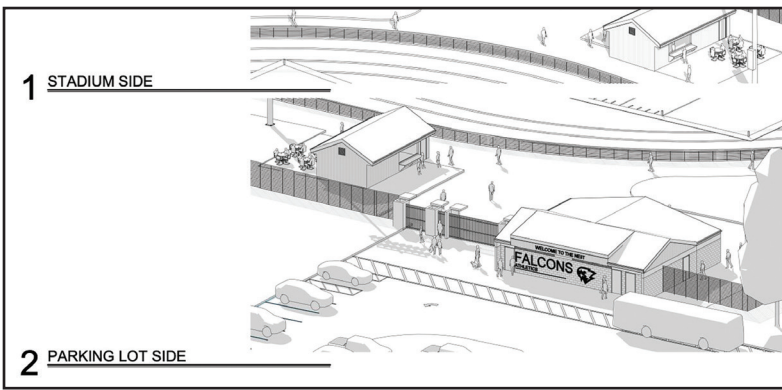
Tiffany is a 1994 graduate of Boston University and received her law degree from American University's Washington College of Law in 1998.

A native of Ridgefield, CT, Attorney Robertson now resides in Newtown, CT. She looks forward to meeting with clients in our Danbury, Westport, and Southbury offices.

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Region 9 hosts public meeting to update Redding and Easton on the next phase of Nest plans

By Anne Young Albanese



This is the conceptual design view from the parking lot. The new Nest building will offer separate doors for the teams to access the separate locker rooms.

On Friday, April 5, community members from Redding and Easton gathered in the windy cold near the Joel Barlow athletic fields to attend a public meeting hosted by the Region 9 Board of Education, the ER9 administration, and coaches and athletes from various JBHS sports teams. The event included an introduction to the conceptual drawings for the proposed new buildings along with a tour of the current facilities conducted by current JBHS athletes. After the tour, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and offer suggestions.

The community members who attended were primarily the parents of athletes. Their students are the ones who are benefitting the most from the new fields and buildings. The plans include the renovation of an existing building to provide locker rooms for the JBHS and visiting teams. This will increase the square footage by 473 feet. The building expansion is due to the need for American Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant bathrooms. These will replace the portable toilets that are currently the only options near the fields. Another building will be converted

to a larger and better-equipped snack shack, allowing team booster clubs to potentially raise even more funds to support their teams. All JBHS students will benefit when they attend games.

The attendees were enthusiastic about the renovations. Redding resident Alexis Bennett said, "I'm very excited for this project to finally take place. It's long overdue." Most parents of athletes who use the fields tended to agree.

Some members of the community want to make sure that the project is done right. According to Paul Winstanley, a Redding resident and the coach for the boys' soccer team, "I'm interested in making sure that we get the highest value for our dollars spent."

As reported previously in the Sentinel, the funds for the renovations are already assigned. A \$4.5 million bond was approved in the May 2023 referendum. About \$3 million of that was used for the new parking lot and field improvements. The Region 9 operating budget will not increase due to declining interest and principal payments on existing loans. Volunteers have raised about \$50,000, and the town of Redding will

match that using some American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

An important part of this meeting was to allow community members to provide feedback on the conceptual drawings. Positive feedback included the benefits of having bathrooms close to the fields, especially during the summer. There were several suggestions as well. Parents would like a window in the snack shack so they can watch the game while volunteering. Another attendee suggested that the roofline of the Nest building should be changed. Maybe to something flatter. In that same vein, it was felt that the Nest building and the snack shack should be finished similarly to present a complementary look.

The back field, referred to as Field J is not being affected by the Nest buildings and participants had a few suggestions to improve the experience for athletes and spectators from that field. If grills were put on a trailer, they could be rolled to Field J to create an impromptu snack shack. More bleachers would be beneficial so audiences from the home team and the visiting team will be able to sit separately. In addition, it was suggested that portable toilets be available at that field so players and spectators will not have to trek back to the football field.

The field improvements will be valuable for both Redding and Easton. Community members will be able to use the fields post-season for things like youth sports. The administration and Region 9 Board of Education hope to have phase 2 of the project completed by the start of the 2024-2025 school year. ■

Matthew L. Berry scholarship available for college-bound seniors

Applications due by April 26

By Jeanne Ammermuller



rial Scholarship was established 5 years ago in memory of Matthew L. Berry, a 2009 graduate of Joel Barlow High School and 2013 graduate of Tulane University, who loved America, was intensely interested in the political process, and was committed to participating as an engaged, informed citizen.

Previous recipients include Jillian Robinson, a 2023 Joel Barlow graduate who is currently a freshman at Bucknell University; Carter Janki and Ian O'Reilly, 2022 Joel Barlow graduates who are currently sophomores at the University of Pennsylvania and Hamilton College, respectively; Kyle Murray, a 2021 Joel Barlow graduate who is currently a junior at Columbia University; Olivia Fassman, a 2020 Joel Barlow graduate who is currently a senior at Cornell University; and Annika Morgan, a 2019 Joel Barlow graduate and recent graduate of Dartmouth College. ■

High school seniors have until April 26th to apply for the Matthew L. Berry Memorial Scholarship, granted annually to a college-bound graduating senior.

The scholarship, sponsored by the Redding Republican Town Committee, awards \$1,000 to a qualifying applicant who is a legal resident of Redding. Funding for the scholarship is provided by the Berry Family. Applications are available at the Joel Barlow High School Counseling Office.

The Matthew L. Berry Memo-

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Redding Land Trust holds annual meeting

By Susan Clark

Col. Alfred McCormack Preserve

PUBLIC WELCOME

reddinglandtrust.org

On a sunny spring day when many attendees just might have preferred to be in their gardens or walking the many trails in Redding, Land Trust members turned out in force to hear how the past year went and what's in store for the next. More than 100 people gathered in the barn at Highstead for the Land Trust annual meeting on April 7.

Co-President Silvia Erskine offered a review of the past year, noting seasonal hikes and special events. Four Trustees who stepped down over the past year were recognized: Pam Elkow, Neil Grassie,

Kevin Roth, and Rich Wenning. New Trustee Marjorie Derven was introduced.

More open space was added to the Trust's holdings with the acquisition of thirty acres of land on Old Mail Coach Road contiguous to the Mary Anne Guitar Preserve. The acquisition of the land was funded by a 50:50 partnership with Aquarion Water Company.

Long-time friend of the Land Trust, Gene Connolly, who passed away in February, was remembered and it was announced that a loop trail at the Great Ledge will be named in his honor. Gene was

instrumental in saving the Great Ledge in 1988.

Co-President Gordon Loery spoke about future plans. The annual summer gathering of the Land Trust will be held on August 24 at McCormack Preserve – which, five years after its acquisition, is now totally under the Trust's control. An agreement has been reached with Norwalk River Valley Trail to permit access across McCormack for the continuation of NRVT to Danbury.

Thanks to a grant from the Bauer Foundation, new signage for Land Trust properties and trails

is being developed. Cole Tucker-Walton, head of the Communications Committee, showed the new designs (see sample left).

Bruce Given, Treasurer, reported that the Trust started the year in a solid financial position and finished even stronger. Positive results were helped by investment gains.

Donors who make a gift of \$25 or more become an annual member of Redding Land Trust. Visit reddinglandtrust.org/join to make a tax-deductible donation. ■

Sixth annual Speak UP! Town officials answer range of resident questions on road safety and other matters / continued from page 1

funding process for the project. A questioner asked about the lack of sports in John Read Middle School. Middle school students can participate in Easton sports, and at the Boys & Girls Club, but the history of no athletics at JRMS was unclear. Providing sports at the school will be looked into.

It was requested that Topstone gates be opened in the morning and closed at night for more than the two summer months, Angela Caes will take up this issue with Park & Recreation.

Panelists from the schools and from Human Services responded to a question about how students

are doing post-Covid, and how we as a town are doing. It has been a difficult road to recovery and special efforts are being made to involve students in their community after the years of isolation. Last year, no children were turned away from town-sponsored summer programs, with

needs being met by grants. Senior programs have grown as well.

Finally, the upcoming budget for the next fiscal year was discussed. Ward Mazzucco cited contract obligations and inflation as drivers of the increases.

While attendance at the event was small, the audience and

panelists had a good dialogue, and town officials were responsive to matters raised by residents. ■

For more information about the Redding chapter of the League of Women Voters: <https://my.lwv.org/connecticut/local-leagues/lwv-redding>

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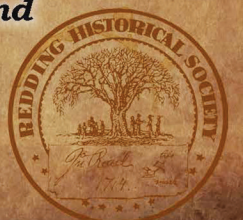
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Medically supervised, hospital-based cardiac rehab restores strength, confidence

By Donna Christopher



The Cardiac Rehab gym at Danbury Hospital, part of Nuvance Health, is located at 111 Osborne Street next to the hospital's Gold Garage.

You had a heart attack or emergency surgery and had your follow-up. Your doctor says it's time to start exercising again.

Do you go back to your old gym or start running again?

How much is too much or not enough?

What if you didn't exercise before?

To help answer these questions, cardiac patients receive bedside visits at Nuvance Health hospitals from staff who are exercise physiologists trained in advanced cardiac life support. One answer they provide is to explain how patients may participate, as part of their recovery and on a doctor's referral, in a tailored cardiac rehabilitation.

The Cardiac Rehab at all Nuvance Hospitals such as Danbury and Norwalk is supported by a supervised staff with EKG and blood pressure monitoring backed by cardiologists and registered nurses if needed.

The program helps the patient develop a healthy lifestyle of diet and exercise to gain strength but also meets the emotional needs of someone in cardiac recovery, a key draw for participants, they say.

"Cardiac rehabilitation is a vital part of a patient's healing process. A team of cardiac rehabilitation specialists works with each patient to develop an individualized program tailored to his or her needs, assisting them in medically supervised exercises safely and slowly to improve strength and energy," said Molly Leaden, a regional manager in charge of Nuvance Health Cardiac Rehab Programs at Norwalk, Danbury, New Milford, and Putnam in New York. All Nuvance hospitals have the program.

She explained how Cardiac Rehab at Nuvance works. The first part is Phase One when a patient is in the hospital. Then Phase Two is when patients are out of the hospital and follow up on a doctor's referral with Cardiac Rehab. The program is monitored with EKG, blood pressure, and weight by the staff and is usually covered by insurance. There are 36 sessions in this phase. Phase Three is for patients who want to continue to work at Cardiac Rehab and pay for their participation, which is not monitored. This part is called Risk Reduction and costs \$67 a month.

Referrals come routinely from a cardiac surgeon or electrophysiologist but can also come from the person's medical doctors.

Participants are grateful for the support. Terry Vontobel, 69, of Redding has always been an active person, someone who does his renovations at home, including recent roof work, is still the same weight he was in high school, and is on statin medications for cholesterol. So, he was shocked to find out two years ago he needed surgery to address blockages.

The engineer, married to

Redding artist Susan Durkee, has lived in Redding for 27 years. Vontobel recounted the experience and what it meant for him to participate in the cardiac rehab program starting in June of 2022, after he recovered from a quadruple bypass.

For one, he enjoyed the camaraderie and some "light competition" with other people who work out at the cardiac gym on Osborne Street after having "graduated" from the 36-session monitored first phase of the program.

The Cardiac Rehab gym opens at 6:30 daily. Vontobel goes three times a week utilizing several exercise machines, a treadmill, a stationary bike, and an elliptical machine. "It's not mandatory," he began, explaining that cardiac rehabilitation is complete, but he works out to maintain his health. "I'm an early riser and get up and go. It works for me," he explains.

He said about 15 or so arrive early like him as part of a fitness routine. "We come when Laura opens up." Laura Vaughn is an exercise physiologist and has been on staff for almost 30 years.

"I love that morning crew," she said.

"With this group, everybody has their routine. Everybody knows everybody. Mine is a treadmill for 20 to 25 minutes. I go to the bike for 25 minutes, elliptical, back and forth. That's the only thing that gets my heart rate up quickly and strongly. I'll go on for 15 minutes," said Vontobel.

"You've got people like Laura. If something goes south, right there you're in the hospital. You're not in a local gym. You're going to get immediate attention. If you feel as fragile as I was when you're tethered, they can tell you what is going on," he added.

Recollecting the surgery, he said, "I was recuperating and started in the tethered (monitored) program from open heart bypass. I had clogged arteries. I was never sick. I didn't have pains or anything else. My legs started bothering me, and I thought it was because I was taking down trees over a long weekend. But a doctor friend said if they're bothering you, come in. One test after the other and I went from the EKG no problem to a standard stress test, no problem. Then a nuclear stress test showed I had a part of my heart that wasn't getting blood."

He went for a catheterization at Danbury Hospital thinking he would get a coronary stent to keep arteries open where there were blockages but found out it "wouldn't work and they had to go further. I needed a bypass."

His bypass was done at Yale New Haven Hospital six weeks later. "I never expected it," he said of the diagnosis of Coronary Artery Disease or CAD.

His doctor referred him to Cardiac Rehab at Danbury so he could be monitored to get back into shape. "I had lost 20 pounds.

It (the procedure/recovery) takes a lot of you," said Vontobel.

"I was always a muscular type of person. I want to regain that. You lose it very quickly," he continued.

While the physical improvements are beneficial, Vontobel said, "My main reasons for suggesting somebody go would be for the mental aspect."

"When you're in there nobody judging you. When you see everybody get in the same boat. Nobody is in there just for exercise. Everyone in there has had valve replacement, pacemakers, bypass, a new heart, so when I went in, I had a lot of anxiety. I've never been an anxious person. I needed to get back to myself. When you go in, these people befriend you. They say, 'Don't worry about it.' 'When did you have it?' 'Just keep coming. Six months from now you'll be smiling again. You'll get out there again.' Just having people say that from a mental aspect is very important," Vontobel explained.

The program addresses both the physical and emotional part of heart incident recovery.

Leaden recalled a study done by cardiology fellows at the rehab at Danbury Hospital among 238 people. A questionnaire asked about their improvement.

"The biggest takeaway," according to Leaden, is that "many felt they had improved their emotional wellness. Everybody gets physically better. If you come you get better. A lot of people don't talk about it unless they're asked. The people in the study were also screened for depression. People that felt some sort of level of depression as a result of their cardiac surgery felt less depressed afterward," Leaden said.

Their perception of their illness improved over time as well. They perceived it as if they had emotional support. It has a lot to do with camaraderie — among other participants in cardiac rehab, their comfort level with their cardiac health...We try to make it so people feel safe," she continued.

The program is good for anyone recovering and especially helpful for someone who worries their heart is not ready for exercise. It includes EKG and blood pressure monitoring by a cardiac rehab specialist certified in advanced life support from the American Heart Association, based at the hospital, and emergency medical staff and equipment are located on-site.

The Nuvance Cardiac Rehab program has a high rate of participation among patients, Leaden said. According to her, the national average of people recommended for cardiac rehab is about 30 percent after a heart attack, heart surgery, or other cardiac event.

"Our average is 70 percent. I think it all has to do with the process, the support, the doctors' buy-in," said Leaden. ■

Danbury Animal Welfare Society \$2.6M renovation nearly complete

By Donna Christopher



Photo by Katie Mothersele

The Danbury Animal Welfare Society at 147 Grassy Plain Road in Bethel will reopen at the beginning of May.

The Danbury Animal Welfare Society (DAWS) in Bethel is nearing completion of a two-year renovation project and will reopen in early May.

The budget to gut and modernize the facility was \$2.6 million. It came from capital campaign contributions and a small loan.

Once it reopens, the rehabbed building at 147 Grassy Plain Road will be able to shelter 26 dogs and 22 cats.

Before the work began, DAWS successfully placed all sheltered animals in foster homes and rented a space at Pleasant Paws Pet Center in Newtown to run its clinic. The clinic provides care for fostered animals and a free spay/neuter program. The clinic will resume on site once DAWS reopens, but the fostered animals will remain in the foster homes. "The building was falling apart, especially the kennels. We had so many kennels that were out of order because they weren't safe for the animals," said Katie Mothersele, the director of operations at DAWS.

The organization operates with 14 staff and many volunteers.

"Everybody put their heads together, and we created a renovation team among volunteers that included Tary Tarlton, the builder, and Lynn Persan, the architect. We did a feasibility study to see if it will be possible and started to raise money with a capital campaign," Mothersele said.

Tary Tarlton of Kenosia Construction and Lynne Persan donated their time and equipment

to the project, Mothersele said.

"We completely gutted the facility and started from the ground up," she explained.

Among upgrades, the building has a new "efficient" HVAC system, a CleanWise system wet/dry cleaning system, new kennels from Midmark, and new cat condos.

The tree line has been cleared for better visibility, and the building has new light and dark blue siding.

Everything is new, which is just beautiful," said Mothersele.

DAWS has volunteer opportunities, and fundraising for the renovation is ongoing.

Many of the shelter animals come from the southern United States from overcrowded shelters.

"We're very excited about our generator; it can power our entire facility. Our kennels have a heated floor system. We'll be able to help more animals in the surrounding communities, in addition to the overpopulation throughout the nation," said Mothersele.

Among its services DAWS tries to help pet owners keep their animals and, in some cases, provides financial support for vet care and food when there is a financial need.

Fundraising is ongoing for DAWS and volunteers are needed.

DAWS will be holding the 3rd annual Putt Fore Paws Golf Tournament on June 10 at the Redding Country Club. This year's fundraiser is in honor of animal lover and DAWS supporter, Joyce Allen. For information, email development@daws.org ■

Earthquake in CT? It's not the first time

By Stephen Busemeyer

The earthquake felt across Connecticut last Friday morning wasn't technically a Connecticut earthquake — its epicenter was in New Jersey.

But Connecticut is no stranger to minor rumblings of its own.

The village of Moodus in East Haddam has been known for its temblors. It's been said that Native Americans referred to the area as "Morehemoodus" or "Machemoodus," "place of noises."

Since the mid 1970s, dozens of earthquakes of magnitude 1.5 or greater have been located in or adjacent to Connecticut.

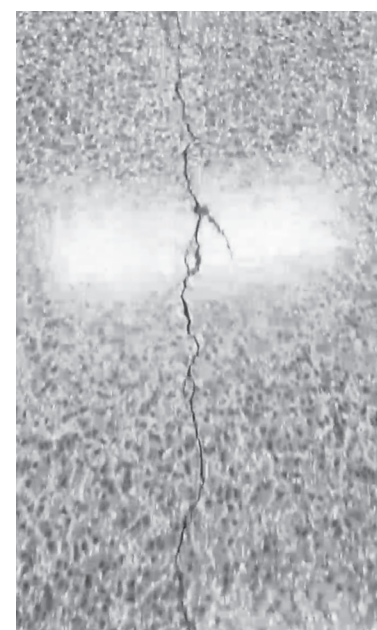
More recently, in early 2015, a swarm of about a dozen earthquakes was recorded in the Plainfield area.

But since then, only a handful have been registered each year. ■

This article originally appeared in CT Mirror

Earthquake rattles Redding

By Jeanne Ammermuller



While the epicenter of Friday's earthquake was about 100 miles away in New Jersey, its impact was felt throughout Redding. Little damage was reported, but both people and animals were startled and confused by the rare occurrence.

Over the weekend, however, a crack was discovered in the middle of a hallway at Joel Barlow High School. According to First Selectman Julia Pemberton, building inspector Sean Donnelly is aware of the issue and there is no cause for concern. ■

WHY DO YOU LOVE REDDING?

In celebration of the *Sentinel's* second anniversary, we are asking readers to respond to the prompt:

"I love Redding because..."

Submissions can be written (under 300 words), photographs, or original artwork.

A selection will be published in our April 18 anniversary issue.

Please send to editor@reddingsentinel.org by Friday, April 12.

THE NATURAL WORLD

Scouts Unveil Redding's First Turtle-Crossing Sign | *By Rob Sample*



Unveiling Redding's first turtle-crossing sign on April 5 were: (back row) Troop co-leaders Jennine Avino-Rivera and Kimberly Khanna, Julia Kant, Chloe Alvarez, Mackenzie Rivera, Sklyer Britton, Stephanie Edwards, Iliana Eriksen, co-leaders Stephanie Edwards and Lauren Minor, Violet Fuller, (front row) Ellie Edwards, Sarah Slater, Ruby Rothberg, Adrianna Ragbir, Maya Khanna, and Meredith Lyons.

Redding's natural, rural vibe just got a big boost from Redding Girl Scout Troop 31492, who unveiled the first of eight "turtle crossing" signs in town.

The first sign went up on Friday, April 5, on Lonetown Road, adjacent to Redding Town Hall – and the 12 scouts, their leaders, parents, and several town officials

were on hand for the unveiling. This was the troop's community service project for the Girl Scouts' Bronze Award.

After the scouts researched a host of initiatives that would provide a positive environmental impact in Redding, it proposed installing signs throughout town to alert people to turtles crossing roads, and the project earned an enthusiastic thumbs-up from Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton, Land-Use Director Aimee Pardee, the Redding Police Department, and other town officials.

"When we started our Bronze Award project several months ago, none of us knew that we would be standing here today – literally, on the side of the road," said scout Chloe Alvarez. "This day is a celebration of many hours of time and effort, but it has all been worth it because helping animals is something we all wanted to do."

"We selected these locations based on our own research and talking with people in town that live on streets where turtles cross the road," added Julia Kant. Each

scout then read a fact about turtles and held up an explanatory poster, with Kant pointing out that Redding chiefly has eastern box, eastern painted, and snapping turtles. Alvarez then noted that there are 343 species of land, aquatic, and sea turtles.

"There are about 12 species of turtles found in Connecticut, including four sea turtles," said Violet Fuller.

"Turtles make their homes in a variety of habitats," noted Sklyer Britton, "including woodlands, field edges, thickets, marshes, bogs, and stream banks."

Adrianna Ragbir said motorists need to watch for turtles crossing street in early spring through early fall. "May through July is the nesting season for most turtles with most eggs hatching in September."

"Turtles often cross the street to find the perfect location to dig a nest to lay eggs," said Mackenzie Rivera.

"If you help a turtle cross the road," said Iliana Eriksen, "move it in the same direction it was crawling – unless the location was

unsafe."

Ellie Edwards pointed out that turtles can view humans as predators along with birds, sharks, snakes, dogs, raccoons, crabs, lizards, coyotes, and some types of fish. "So, if you approach them, go slowly and from behind," she said.

"Turtles are dark on one side, and light on the other side – which helps them hide from and sneak up on their prey," said Sarah Slater.

Meredith Lyons noted: "Turtles like to eat tadpoles, frogs, earthworms, snails, slugs, beetles, grasshoppers, moths, and crickets." To that Ruby Rothberg added that turtles' bones are in their shell – "and they have a spine."

After noting that turtles can lay up to 150 eggs at a time, Maya Khanna said the troop is planning an educational booth at a concert on the Redding Green on June 16. "We plan to spread the word about the road signs, educate people about turtles, and share ways we can help keep them safe in our community. It really takes all of us to help protect the turtles that call Redding home." ■

OBITUARIES

Chris Carlson 1973 – 2024



Chris Carlson, everyone's friend, died on March 27, while surrounded by music, love, and family. The sun took over the gray sky and a double rainbow appeared just after his passing. He was 51.

In the town of Redding, where

Chris grew up, he could often be found out on the baseball field. From Little League at the Redding Boys and Girls Club to the varsity team at Joel Barlow High School, Chris's love of the game was profound. And that meant every game: baseball, basketball, football, lacrosse...you name it, and Chris was on the field, coaching on the sidelines, or in the stands cheering. In fact, even if you weren't an athlete, Chris was likely cheering you on -- his support and encouragement for everyone in his life ran deep.

Sports have the unique ability to bring people together, and so did Chris. Throughout his life he was a great unifier -- planning gatherings, holiday dinners, group trips to Phish shows, and RV adventures to

see games at his alma mater, West Virginia University. Even Sunday mornings became a beloved tradition with the Sunday Morning Breakfast Club he formed with his kids (guests always welcome).

Chris was also an active community member and opened Personal Training Professionals (PTP) in his home of Ridgefield, CT, in 2009. His welcoming smile and open arms greeted everyone who stepped through the doors or crossed paths with him in town. Community, friendships, and family meant everything to Chris, and his knack for nurturing it all is just one of his legacies.

When diagnosed with cancer in 2018, Chris tapped into his own upbeat resilience and faced the disease with fierce optimism,

inspiring everyone around him, and never letting the cancer dictate how he lived. A wonderful writer, he documented his journey online for nearly six years.

It is impossible to capture all of Chris in one piece of writing and he had so much more life left to live. But what a remarkable impact he had while here -- a huge heart, an incredible sense of humor, intelligence, creativity and passion, and an endless well of love, optimism, and strength.

Chris was the greatest father, husband, son, brother, and friend anyone could hope for, and he brought immeasurable positivity to the world around him.

A lover of music, he would always conclude the updates he wrote with song lyrics. In that

tradition, and to quote one of Chris's favorite musicians, Trey Anastasio, here are lyrics from a song we listened to a lot in his final days here: We move through stormy weather, we know that our days are few, and we dream, and we struggle together, and love will carry us through.

He is survived by his wife, Nicole Santos Carlson, daughter, Olivia, and sons, Xavier and Sebastian; his father, Dan Carlson; and sister, Jen Carlson; loving sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and many friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Brigitte Dreier Carlson.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Carlson Children's Educational Fund - PO Box 459, Ridgefield, CT 06877. ■

Richard Slade Paul 1926 – 2024

Richard Slade Paul, husband of Iris Paul of Redding, CT, passed away peacefully at home on March 21st, 2024, at the age of 97.

He was born in Boston in 1926 to Edwin Ware Drew and Ethel Slade. (Ethel later married Roland Paul who adopted Richard and his siblings.) Richard grew up in Holbrook, MA, where he shared many experiences with childhood friends. He especially enjoyed competitive sports, where he excelled in baseball as a pitcher and earned his nickname, "Stitch".

Upon graduation from high school, Richard went directly into the Army Air Corps as an Aerial Engineer for the 303rd Troop Carrier Squadron. He served from February 1944 to December 1946. His service included a year with the occupation force in Italy and

Germany. He performed required maintenance and repair work on troop transport aircraft. The job also entailed flying on the aircraft after making said repairs and making needed repairs while in flight.

Upon Honorable Discharge from the Army, Richard met Iris Philippe in Wolfeboro, NH. They were married on September 10, 1950.

Richard went on to college on the G.I. Bill, culminating with a Master's degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Chemical Engineering. He was elected a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

After college, Richard worked in the Linde Division of Union Carbide in Tonawanda, NY. He was directly involved in the design

and start-up of the first commercial liquid hydrogen plant for the NASA space program. He was a co-inventor of a number of US Patents.

Next, the family moved to Chappaqua, NY, where Richard transitioned to more business-related activities at Union Carbide. He commuted each morning by train to his office in NYC. It was during this time that Richard became interested in jumping into the stock market and learning on-the-job how to invest, which was also successful.

After 35 years, Richard retired from Union Carbide and started consulting with UOP and Watson Foods. He partnered with a neighbor who invented a new process for making a unique cellulose fiber. The two worked together to

develop the product and were co-inventors of the key US Patent for manufacture of a proprietary fiber product that Watson foods subsequently produced.

Throughout his lifetime, including retirement, Richard always kept busy. He especially enjoyed running, biking, walking, tennis, nature and working in the yard. He traveled extensively during his career and his favorite place to live was Redding, CT. He gave back to the community and was available to give helpful advice. As a member of the Ridgefield Men's Club (RMC), he shared his investment knowledge in the Financial Planning Group hosted at the Mark Twain Library, and published a monthly newsletter, The Bulls and Bears.

Richard was preceded in death by his siblings: Edwin Paul and Beverly Paul Rymer. He is survived by his wife, Iris; four sons: Stephen, Matthew, David, and Andrew; grand-children: Sean, Dylan and Saskia; and great-grandchild: Drew; and many nephews and nieces.

The March visit of Joanne, Kellie, Janet and Bobby to see Richard was especially poignant and appreciated.

The family will be celebrating Richard's life privately, as was his wish. If you wish, please donate to your favorite charity in his honor. Two possible suggestions are the Ridgefield Men's Club or the Mark Twain Library in Redding, CT.

Richard was a member of The Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco. ■

Michael Stephen Cardillo Sr. December 26, 1940 to April 6, 2024



Michael Stephen Cardillo Sr. of Redding passed away peacefully at home, on April 6, 2024. Born on December 26, 1940 in East Norwalk, CT, son of the

late Mariano Cardillo and Mary (Caruso) Cardillo, and loving husband of Mary-Ann (DiPietro) Cardillo for 58 years.

Throughout his life, Mike left a lasting impact on everyone he came in contact with. He was a loyal husband, father, grandfather, and businessman. He was a proud graduate of Bullard-Havens Technical High School in Bridgeport and "The College of Hard Knocks."

As a young man Mike worked alongside his father at Mariano Cardillo and Sons, Inc. He then devoted over 40 years to running the largest and most successful lath, plaster, and stucco business in Connecticut. His business was

run with strong ethical values, developed through hard work and honesty. He was well-known for being a man of his word.

He relocated to Redding in 1971, where he assumed many volunteer community-based positions: member and one time president of the Georgetown Lions Club, Chairman of the School Building Committee, Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Republican Town Committee. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and parishioner of Saint Patrick's Church.

Mike was known as a man of integrity and honor and for always giving everyone the benefit of the doubt. If you knew Mike then

you knew he helped those in need because he believed life was good to him and he had something to give back.

Mike will be profoundly missed by his three children: Michael Cardillo Jr.; Mark Cardillo and his wife Vicky; Marlene Cardillo; and his five grandchildren: Courtney, Sarah, Alison, Andrew, and William. He is also survived by his siblings: Nancy Van Scoy, Carmella Milici, Pasquale Cardillo, Anthony Cardillo, Dolores Snyder and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brothers Mario Cardillo, Joseph Cardillo, and Thomas Cardillo.

Services will be held Friday,

April 12th at 10:00 a.m. at Umpawaug Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Bouton Funeral, Inc., 31 West Church Street, Georgetown, CT.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in his memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital online at stjude.org/donate. ■

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Green Woodworks: Handcrafted wood furniture made locally in Redding

By Justin Reynolds



Photos by Jennifer Barrett from NewLight Creative Services

Jeremiah and Alison Green and their children Cyrus, 12, Penelope, 9, and Althea, 8

Jeremiah Green has been passionate about woodworking for more than 20 years. But he put his interests on the backburner for a long time while working as a certified arborist and, alongside his wife Alison, raising their three kids.

“Through the years, Jeremiah saw so much beautiful wood go to waste and decided to start utilizing urban wood to create furniture, both as an outlet and to teach our son the craft,” Alison said.

After many requests from friends and neighbors for commissioned pieces, the Greens started a business, J Green Woodworks, in 2021.

“J Green Woodworks is a local, family-owned woodworking business specializing in custom handcrafted furniture and built-ins,” Alison explained. “The business took off quickly. After only a few months, we decided to move from South Salem to Redding to have more space for our workshop, which is a two-car garage at our home.”

Products are made using a combination of hand tools and modern machinery.

“And we use a lot of clamps,” Alison said with a laugh. “You can never have enough clamps.”

In November 2023, Jeremiah left his 18-year career as an

arborist to focus on woodworking full-time.

“He has an incredible ability to visualize creations in space and to engineer solutions,” Alison said. “His knowledge of trees and wood along with his ability to fuse both function and artistry into his creations is what really sets him apart.”

A husband-and-wife business team, Alison — who has 15 years of corporate finance experience — handles the business side of operations.

“I do the bookkeeping, office work, and make appointments,” she said. “But I am also very fortunate to be learning from Jeremiah while helping in the workshop.”

The Green family’s children — Cyrus, 12, Penelope, 9, and Althea, 8 — lend their energies to the business, too.

“Cyrus is our virtual designer and shop apprentice,” Alison said. “He has been learning from Jeremiah for almost four years and is developing a passion and appreciation for woodworking while spending quality time with his dad. He also turns our ideas into 3D visuals for clients using a CAD program he taught himself how to use.”

The daughters help with epoxy color mixing and pouring, as well

as clean-up activities.

“We make a lot of sawdust,” Alison said.

Most commonly, clients ask for mudroom cubbies and custom dining room tables.

“A dining room table is one of the most important pieces of furniture in the home,” she continued. “It can serve as a centerpiece for the house and also a home base for the family. There are so many events, conversations, meals, and memories that happen at the table, so you want something that is not only going to last but also reflects your style and fits your family well.”

J Green Woodworks is laser-focused on quality; Alison says the custom furniture is “heirloom quality” and can be passed down through generations.

The business primarily sources wood from local sawmills.

“We love sourcing lumber from Board Silly Sawmill because we know that this is all local urban wood, and Rob Dermer, the owner, is such a great guy,” Alison said. “We also source from Ring’s End, and other local sawmills, knowing that all of these suppliers are giving us high-quality, dried lumber.”

The company also gets reclaimed wood from Redding residents from time to time.

“Just this past weekend, a

Redding resident saw one of our Facebook posts and reached out to us to offer slabs of ash they had milled from their farm years ago and was leftover from their home project,” Alison said. “It’s been so wonderful for us to connect with neighbors over salvaging lumber and giving it new life.”

Since every piece the company makes is unique, pricing varies from one project to the next.

“There are many variables that go into pricing, including wood species, thickness, size, hardware, and other materials, as well as complexity of the build which affects labor hours,” she said.

Each project kicks off with a design consultation where the company learns what’s most important to clients — like sticking to a budget, finding a truly unique slab, or meeting a specific timeline.

“There isn’t really anything we have come across that we won’t build, besides chairs, as long as it’s made of wood,” Alison said. “Jeremiah truly enjoys the challenge of crafting new and different pieces.”

To ensure high-quality finished products, Jeremiah controls the entire process from choosing the

wood, consulting with clients, designing and building the furniture, and installation.

“There’s something therapeutic about building, working with our hands and with natural materials,” she explained. “It’s grounding, and the bonds and strength we build into the furniture flows through us and really strengthens our family bond.”

J Green Woodworks is always looking for ways to give back to the community — a trait Alison hopes to instill in her children.

“Redding is such a wonderful town,” Alison said. “We are so grateful we are putting our roots down here.” ■

For more information or to request a quote, visit jgreenwoodworks.com

Déjà Vu All Over Again?

By Randy Beeman

Yogi Berra, who passed at the age of 90 in 2015, was admired for his baseball talent, but he was also well known for his unique quips that made people smile.

“It’s like Déjà vu all over again” was a Yogi-ism that not only inspired a song by John Fogerty but is also a comment to which many can relate.

For anyone who watches the investment markets closely, the similarities to many factors in the current environment and the 2000 dotcom bubble are starting to seem like we’ve seen this movie before.

For example, if you look at the concentration of the broad stock indexes, like the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq, you do see a very similar pattern playing out.

Most analysts that examine the reasons for the dotcom bubble collapse cite the extreme concentration in a handful of stocks as one of the major reasons leading to the decline.

At the peak of the market in 2000, a bit over 27% of the S&P 500 market cap was concentrated in the top 10 companies. Fast forward to today and the concentration in the top 10 stocks of the S&P index is even more extreme at almost 33%.

But extreme concentration alone didn’t precipitate the collapse of the equity markets in 2000. Excessive valuation also played an important part in the decline.

At its highest point in 2000, the top 10 stocks of the S&P 500 traded at a price to earnings (P/E) multiple of 43 times forward earnings estimates. Contrast that to today when the top 10 stocks trade at a more reasonable looking 25 times their forward earnings estimates.

This indicates that if those

forward earnings estimates are accurate — which might take a bit of faith to accept as gospel — then the valuation level of the broad market today hasn’t reached the extremes seen during the height of the dotcom era.

Another indication of the veracity of this premise is the examination of the valuation level of perhaps the one stock most symbolizing the potential for a bubble condition.

At its peak during the dotcom phase, Cisco (CSCO) had a valuation of 196 times its forward earnings estimates. The stock most would cite today as emblematic of the potential for a bubble is Nvidia (NVDA), an artificial intelligence software company. At the current price (\$903.56 as of March 29th), the stock trades at a P/E of 75 times its current earnings estimate and 37 times its forward earnings guess.

We will only know in hindsight if the current P/E for Nvidia has reached its peak. However, another stat that proponents of the thinking that “it’s different this time” cite is that Nvidia is significantly more profitable than Cisco was at its peak valuation.

Cisco booked an average net margin of 17% between 1996 and 2000, while Nvidia has achieved a five-year historical average net margin of 28% through January 2023, the latest year for which data is available.

In summary, it doesn’t appear, based upon these two comparisons, that the current valuation level of either the broad index or the marquee stock in this equity market advance has reached the extremes seen during the dotcom bubble. And if that’s the case, perhaps the current investors in

Nvidia stock will fare better than the hapless buyers of Cisco at its previous valuation highs.

At its peak in 2000, Cisco was the most valuable stock in the S&P 500 with a market cap of nearly \$560 billion and its stock traded at \$80 per share. Though it survived the collapse of the tech-driven market and remains profitable today, its current market cap is just a shade over \$202 billion and, on a split adjusted basis, the stock trades at \$50 (as of March 29th) and has never reached its previous high.

As we have seen, there are some similarities between the 2000 bubble and today when looking at concentration of the broad S&P 500 index but important

differences when examining the underlying valuation levels of the index as well as the headline stock.

But there are some other interesting comparisons to the late 1990’s and today. In January 1995, the Federal Reserve had just finished a cycle of rate hikes that took the Fed funds rate to 6% (it stands today at a range of 5.25% to 5.5%). They then began an easing cycle that inspired a bull run in the equity market that delivered over 27% in annualized returns over the following five years.

The 1990’s bull market saw two distinct phases. A broad-based and steady climb from early 1995 to mid-1998, and then a much more narrowly focused (primarily tech-driven) explosive phase from late

1998 to its peak in early 2000.

If we are potentially seeing a repeating pattern of the stock market performance from the 1990s to the early 2000s period, the tough part as investors is trying to figure out exactly where we might currently be in the timeline. Determining the answer to that question is beyond the scope of this article, and indeed beyond the ability of this writer.

Relying on another popular Yogi-ism, the only thing I know for sure is this:

“It ain’t over, till it’s over” ■

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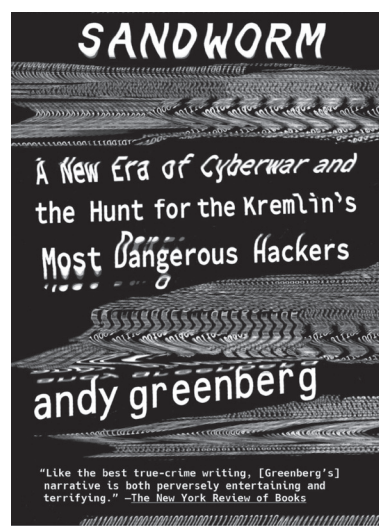
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BOOK REVIEW

Sandworm | By Andy Greenberg

348 Pages, Doubleday, \$28.95



Sandworm is the title of this non-fiction history of cyberwar by Andy Greenberg. It is also the name of a group “working in Russia’s military intelligence agency, [and] they represent a persistent, highly skilled force, one whose talents are matched by their willingness to launch broad, unrestrained attacks on the most critical infrastructure of their adversaries.”

As it exists, the internet web is described as a fragile array of patches and fixes that have evolved over decades of imperfect code. Imperfections are exploited by malware until a countervailing entity identifies an intruder and attacks with some other code or procedure designed to defeat it. Significantly, in 2008, as a kind of test, Estonia was attacked. ATM machines, the power grid, cell phone services were disrupted. Then cyber observers detected a strategic pivot. “The attackers’ goal shifted, evolving from mere denial-of-service attacks to defacements, replacing the contents of websites with swastikas...in a coordinated effort to paint Estonians as anti-Russian fascists. The target list, too, was growing to absurd proportions. Hitting everything from banks to arbitrary e-commerce sites. ‘By Sunday we realized the normal response wasn’t going to work.’”

Attacks and new strategies advanced somewhat below the radar. Cyber engineers eventually realized that isolating the system entirely from the internet did not solve the problem. Toxic, sophisticated malware was imbedded in USB sticks and transported to the isolated systems by human hands. Brilliant for its efficacy and terrifying for its simplicity.

The malware was coming from Russia. Several crucial insights were gained by the multi-layered attack on Estonia, a NATO member.

The attack did no permanent damage, but it demonstrated to Putin that NATO members were unwilling to trigger an Article 5 response, leaving a new field of battle open to escalation. All of it was a threat to the cyber future of Ukraine. And the United States. Tampering with elections was a logical next step, and it came.

Russian attacks on Ukraine escalated, and Fancy Bear hackers, under the auspices of Russian Intelligence (GRU), were revealed as meddling in the 2014 Ukrainian and 2016 American elections. In addition, *Sandworm* was identified as a consolidated entity focused on sophisticated infrastructure disruption, while Fancy Bear (implicated in political disruption) remained concentrated on political leaks and smear campaigns. By 2018, Russian watchers at the Institute of International relations found evidence that the GRU “had masterminded the first ever hacker-induced blackouts, the plot to interfere in a U.S. presidential election, and the most destructive cyberweapon ever released.”

Defectors have been useful assets in understanding the scope of cyberattacks and evolving strategic capabilities. One such asset was an alumnus of a branch of Russian intelligence called *spetznatz*, “devoted to sabotage, assassination, and terrorism.” The branch numbers 115 saboteurs and cutthroats capable of penetrating into the enemy’s territory to kidnap and murder people, blow up bridges and electric power stations, dams, oil pipelines, and so on, the asset revealed.

What Andy Greenberg, a senior writer for *Wired* magazine, has shown in *Sandworm*, his eminently readable history, is that hackers no longer work alone, they have industrialized into combined operations and divided into specialized branches of ever darker initiatives. Add Artificial Intelligence to this equation and we see that there now exists an ongoing warring faction against countries and culture, superimposed on war threats that armies traditionally posed to infrastructure. And it is ceaseless and growing exponentially, until, as we have seen, intelligence agents posing as “whistleblowers” feed lies to an American congress hungry to hear them and advance them as valid to a credulous population that does not comprehend risks. ■

Review by Tom Casey

Tom is the author of *Human Error and Strangers’ Gate*

Ruling in goats case will give victims opportunity to be heard

By Susan Clark

On Monday, April 8, the Connecticut Attorney General issued a strong statement reflecting decisions made in court that day that effectively add time to the clock for Nancy Burton’s Accelerated Rehabilitation in the criminal case against her for hoarding goats.

“I am pleased and encouraged that the State’s Attorney advocated for, and Judge Medina granted, the State the opportunity to make a statement on this matter in court on May 14. As a State, we must continue to take egregious animal abuse cases like this one seriously and impose meaningful sentences that will deter animal abusers from ever owning animals again. The Office of the Attorney Gen-

eral looks forward to commenting further next month. I want to thank Judge Medina again for giving the State and other victims and interested parties the opportunity to be heard on this very important case,” said Attorney General Tong.

According to First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton, victims will be able to participate in the May 14 hearing. The Town of Redding’s attorney and Pemberton were in court on Monday to advocate for the State’s motion to vacate. Pemberton thanked the Court, and the Judge, for hearing the State’s motion and for setting a date for victims to be heard. ■

LIBRARY CORNER

By Erin Shea Dummeyer



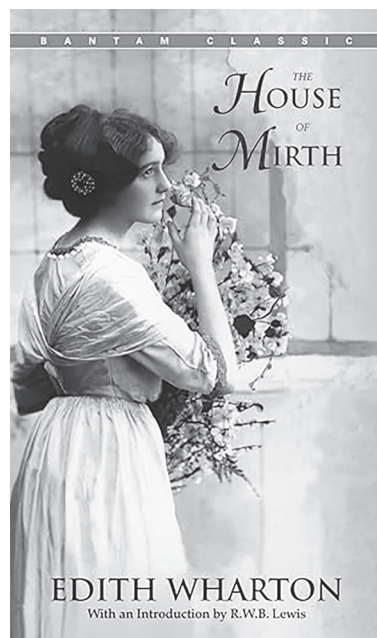
It’s National Library Week! Each year, the American Library Association sponsors NLW as a way to promote literacy, intellectual freedom, and increase funding for libraries across the nation.

A Gallup poll conducted in 1955 found that almost two-thirds of adults had not read any book apart from the Bible in the previous year. Disposable incomes went to television sets and radios, and spending on books drastically declined. In response to this, the American Library Association proposed a “National Library Week,” which has now been celebrated annually since 1958.

So what is the best way to celebrate National Library Week? Use your local library! There are plenty of ways to support the Mark Twain Library that don’t cost any money. Visit us in person, sign up for a library card, or attend a program. Sign up to volunteer for the Frog Frolic Family Festival on May 4th. Or my favorite suggestion: curl up with a good book. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

Good books for good readers | By Margi Esten



Edith Wharton. Born in 1862, she was an American writer who drew upon her insider’s knowledge of the upper-class New York aristocracy to realistically

portray the lives and morals of the Gilded Age. In 1921 she became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her novel, *The Age of Innocence*. She was also the first woman to receive an honorary doctorate from Yale University.

If you are looking for a novelist with multiple books on her roster to explore, you’ll find a virtual treasure trove with regard to Edith Wharton. Interestingly, the novel she is best known for is *Ethan Frome*, which has nothing to do with New York society but gives the reader a glimpse of the grimmer aspects of New England farm life, observed from her home in Lenox, Massachusetts. As with her other two famous novels, *The House of Mirth* and *The Age of Innocence*, a major theme of *Ethan Frome* is of individuals living according to the rules of society and often becoming enslaved by those rules. Ethan, for instance,

made particularly bad choices that inevitably ended in tragedy all due to him falling in love with his wife’s cousin.

The House of Mirth, written in 1905, follows young Lily Bart’s social descent from privilege to a very lonely existence after trying to gain her independence. She ends up falling from grace. This novel of “manners” deals with themes of gender, class and materialism. The book had a wide audience and won Edith Wharton critical acclaim. *The Age of Innocence*, written in 1920 and her eighth novel, was initially serialized in four parts. Truly a representation of the Gilded Age of New York examining the customs and ways of the upper class and introducing us to Newland Archer and his struggle between his “obligation” to marry May Welland and his overwhelming love for her cousin, the Countess Olenska. ■

Redding driver accused of impaired driving with juvenile in car

By Donna Christopher

A Redding man was charged with driving under the influence, operating a motor vehicle with a juvenile while under the influence, and speeding after police pulled him over on Danbury Road in Wilton on March 29.

Wilton police said they conducted a traffic stop on a gray 2022 Volvo XC90 which was traveling

northbound at around 1:40 a.m.

The driver, Eduard Abukhovich, 45, appeared to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, according to the Wilton Police Department. Police said Abukhovich admitted to consuming alcohol prior to driving and failed to perform the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests to standard.

Abukhovich had his juvenile daughter in the front passenger seat of the vehicle during the time of the stop, according to the police report. Abukhovich was placed under arrest for DUI and refused to submit to chemical testing, they said.

He was due in Stamford Court on April 10 to face charges. ■

Too old to drive? | By Jim Cameron

How old is “too old to drive?” None of us are getting any younger, but when is it time to hang up our keys for our sake and that of others?

“Age is a number, not your capabilities,” says Nora Duncan of the AARP. There are lots of young people out there who are worse drivers than their elders, she says, so age alone isn’t an indication of how well you can drive.

“It’s the wild west out there right now, but I doubt those driving 100+ mph on our interstates are our older drivers,” she added.

Still, some states are adding new safety checks to make sure older drivers still have the mental acuity and physical ability required for driving. Take California for example.

In that state, where driving is a necessity and heavily policed, once you hit age 70 your license is only renewed in person every five years. You have to take an online course, a vision exam and maybe even a road test.

If a cop, doctor or even a loved one reports that you might have dementia, their DMV will also test you for that.

There’s nothing that stringent here in Connecticut, but the folks at the DMV can quiz you to see if you’re in mental and physical shape to be trusted behind the wheel, especially if someone has filed a (non-confidential) report. Over age 65 your Connecticut license is only renewed for two years and vision, written and road tests are also at the DMV’s discretion.

Fail any of those and you might get a restricted license limiting your driving.

“Senior drivers self-regulate,” says Tracy Noble of AAA. “They know to avoid rush hours, high-speed highways and nighttime driving.”

Some of them also know when it’s time to stop driving. A friend tells this story:

“My son-in-law’s grandmother decided to stop driving at 99! And

it was a personal incident that made her realize it. She was in the Stop n Shop parking lot after shopping, and she couldn’t get her left leg back into the car. She had to wait until someone parked next to her and that driver helped put her leg back in the car. When she arrived home she told everyone her driving days were over!”

But what happens if your parents don’t know it’s time to stop driving? What can you do to persuade them?

AARP offers a great online seminar, “We Need To Talk” that may help you in that difficult conversation.

AAA’s Noble says “Take a drive with them and see how they do. Look for dents and dings in their car and ask them what happened. Everyone plans for retirement, but they should also plan for driving retirement.” ■

This article originally appeared in *CT Mirror*.



This issue marks the end of Volume 2 of the *Redding Sentinel*
 Look for our second anniversary issue next week, the kick-off to our third year serving the Redding community.
 An over-size issue chock-full of news, features, and ads from local businesses.
 Thank you all for helping us get this far!

Spring Break 2024 – What’s there to do?

Redding/Easton schools closed from April 15-19 | By Pamela Brown



The restored 1953 Budd Rail Diesel Car (RDC).



The restored 1910 Railway Post Office car.



Kids having fun at the interactive exhibits at the Stepping Stones Museum for Children.



Kids having fun at Stepping Stones Museum for Children.



Make a “Be Kind” ornament at Ben’s Bells in Bethel

It's spring break for our Redding students and that means time to play and have fun! If you're looking for something to occupy and entertain your children there's no need to travel far afield. The local area offers some really cool indoor extreme play spaces, interesting museums, bowling, and even a story time to keep kids amused all week long and beyond. Check out these places that are family-friendly and allow kids to be kids.

Danbury Railway Museum

120 White Street, Danbury
(203) 778-8337
Open Saturday & Sunday,
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Museum admission fee: \$7.00
(under 3 free); Train ride fee:
\$3.00 Funds support and preserve
the museum; danburyrail.org

Kick-off spring break on the weekend, and step back in time at the old Danbury train station and rail yard to learn about the importance of trains in New England. Inside the restored 1903 Danbury Union Station building, now a museum, kids can take part in a hands-on operating layout as they watch miniature train sets circle around decorated scenery and browse a collection of railroad exhibits and artifacts. Kids can also go on a Rail Yard Local train ride, a short ride through a historic New Haven Railroad railyard in a restored 1953 Budd Rail Diesel Car. A self-powered passenger car takes visitors to the east end of the yard where they can then go for a ride on a recently restored operating turntable that's on the National Register of Historic Places. There, they can join a tour of an old steam-era water tank pump house. Visitors can also explore a number of open freight cars in the railyard, including a restored 1910 Railway Post Office car.

EverWonder Children’s Museum

11 Mile Hill Road, Newtown
(203) 364-4009;
Open Tuesday / Thursday / Friday:
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.,
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.,
Saturday/Sunday:
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Adults and children: \$10.00;
Reservation recommended.
everwondermuseum.org

Kids through age ten will appreciate hands-on exhibits and programming that expand their knowledge in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM). They can build forts and creations with huge foam blocks at Imagination Playground, explore animal exhibits; be amazed at the Technology Corner, learn about Wacky Weather Wonders, take part in the art lab, and watch science demonstrations. Also, there's an area for young explores, ages 5 and under.

Note: The Mark Twain Library has a membership to EverWonder that gives a 50% discount for 2 adults and up to 4 children. It can be checked out by library card holders. Make sure to bring the EverWonder Membership card to Museum check-in; if making reservations in advance scroll down to select Library Pass- Adult or Library Pass-Child.

Stepping Stones Museum for Children

Mathews Park
303 West Avenue, Norwalk
(203) 899-0606;
Open Monday – Sunday,
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Prices vary; all daily programs and activities FREE with admission.
steppingstonesmuseum.org

The award-winning children's museum offers six hands-on exhibits, five gallery spaces, an edible garden, and an outdoor courtyard that promote play-based learning. Children can dive deeper into the themes and topics presented in the exhibits through

STEAM-infused daily programs for an intimate and focused learning experience. Stepping Stones also offers monthly events that celebrate cultures, seasons, holidays, and more through unique performances, captivating puppet shows, and special hands-on experiences. The on-site Healthyville Café offers flavorful meals, treats and beverages from 10:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. featuring fresh, farm-to-market ingredients. Stop back on April 20 and 21 for an Earth Day celebration to explore the natural world through engaging activities, nature sensory stations, animal visits, and more.

The Maritime Aquarium

10 North Water Street, Norwalk
(203) 852-0700
Open Monday – Sunday:
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Prices vary.
maritimeaquarium.org

The aquarium is home to over 7,500 hundreds of species including seals, sharks, rays, jellies, turtles, and meerkats. A special exhibit is a 22-foot-deep seal habitat, Pinniped Cove, the largest in the Aquarium's history. Visitors can follow seals from three sides and two levels: underwater at floor-to-ceiling windows on the first floor and above the surface on the second floor. Also, the aquarium offers sensory-enhanced 4D movies and educational programs for schools and families. An accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, the Aquarium works to ignite a connection to Long Island Sound and the ocean to enrich the lives of all people and inspire action to protect our blue planet.

Ben’s Bells

32 Stony Hill Road, Bethel;
(203) 501-9999;
Open Tuesday – Thursday,
12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Suggested donation. For more
information, email ct@bensbells.org

You might have seen Ben's Bells hanging around communities in our area. They are colorful ceramic ornaments that serve as symbols of kindness for people to find and take home. Originating in Tucson, Ben's Bells has a studio in Bethel. The ornaments are made by the community art studio whose mission is to teach individuals and communities about the positive impacts of intentional kindness and inspires people to practice kindness as a way of life. Drop-in at the studio to be part of a clay or painting project that will be used for tools of kindness in the community. bensbells.org

Two parks under one roof: Jumpz Danbury Trampoline Park

21 Prindle Lane, Danbury
(203) 942-2449;
Wednesday – Thursday:
3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.;
Friday: 3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.;
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.;
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Check website for special spring
break hours
Prices vary. thrillzparks.com

Thrillz High Flying Adventure Park

5 Prindle Lane, Danbury
(203) 942-2585;
Open Wednesday - Thursday
3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.,
Friday 3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.,
Saturday 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.,
Sunday 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
“Two Park Pass” is available.

Trampoline Park: The 45,000 square-foot park features adrenaline airbag obstacles, wall-to-wall trampolines, open jump courts, slackline, plank plunge, basketball court, and dodgeball court. Also, there's a plank plunge, swings, a super slide, a junior jump zone, next-generation laser tag, and an arcade with prizes. It also has a special toddler play area. The park has cubbies and lockers to store valuables plus a snack bar with food and beverages.

Thrillz Park: Must be 48 inches tall to participate. The 30,000-square-foot adventure park features all kinds of thrill-seeking, harness-free obstacles, including 70-foot zip lines, free jump, log rolling, rock climbing, sky jousting, balancing on flying saucers, super slides, and more. Also, you'll find next-generation laser tag, virtual reality roller coaster ride, gyro tumbler ride, and an arcade with prizes. Food and beverages are available. Prices vary. thrillzparks.com

The PlayPlace Wilton

644 Danbury Road, Wilton,
(203) 210-751;
Open 7 days, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Walk-ins welcome Monday –
Friday. Saturday & Sunday –
reserve only. Cost: \$15.00 per
child for 2-hour play period.
Reservations suggested for
Monday-Friday. theplayplace.net.

This venue says, “shoes off and socks on for everyone!” Kids ages 10 and under can play on the 600-square-foot adventure playground for climbing, crawling, and balancing. Also, there's an indoor sports field for soccer, football, volleyball, tag, and running. All are self-led activities. For added fun, there's an OBIE interactive video game wall and floor, mini basketball hoops, and a two-and-under area. No food served; visitors can bring a nut-free snack.

Xtreme Play Adventure Park

38 Mill Plain Road, Danbury
(203) 456-6242;
Friday 4:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.,
Saturday 12:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.,
Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Prices vary. xtremeplayct.com.

Looking for extreme fun and adventure? Tweens and teens can take part in laser tag, a multi-level ropes course, rock climbing, Omni Arena virtual reality gaming system, Spin Zone bumper cars, state-of-the-art theater attraction, a warrior course, indoor arcade, and more. Young kids will enjoy Ballocity, an indoor play area with climbing tubes, slides, and foam ball launchers, in addition to mini bowling. Food and beverages are available.

Danbury Duckpin Lanes

7 East Hayestown Road, Danbury
(203) 744-4504
Friday: 3:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.;
Saturday: 12:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.;
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
danburyduckpin.com

For over 40 years, the family-owned and operated 16-lane bowling center has offered fun for the entire family. Perfect for younger kids, the pins and balls are smaller than regular-sized bowling equipment. Space features vintage charm with 1960s benches and other nostalgic memorabilia adorning the walls. Also, they have a snack bar and video games.

Mothership Storytime at Mothership on Main

331 Main Street, Danbury
Tuesday - Sunday:
7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
mothershipbakeryandcafe.com

Every Tuesday and Saturday, get the kids up bright and early at 8:00 a.m. to start the day with a favorite children's book. First 20 kids get a warm buttered roll. ■

Approximately 80 audience members enjoy the “bumpy ride” from the All About Eve New Pond Farm fundraiser

By Anne Young Albanese



Photo by Frank Albanese

Performers from All About Eve entertain New Pond Farm supporters. From left, Don Striano, Molly Garbe Brown, Nancy Ponturo, Bob Ponturo, Kate Katcher, and Katie Kozlowski. Seated behind is Fred Newman.

On Saturday, April 6, performers from Redding and Newtown gathered with a crowd of about 80 to raise funds for New Pond Farm with a play reading of *All About Eve*. The event was held at Sacred Heart Church. This was the 10th year of this annual show.

The play reading started at 7:00 pm and concluded at approximately 8:15 pm. The performance was followed by a reception offering wine, baked goods from New Pond Farm volunteers, and coffee donated by Quartertone Coffee Roasters in Ridgefield.

For readers unfamiliar with *All About Eve*, it features a young actress, Eve Harrington, who moves into the home and life of a famous actress, Margo Channing. First,

Margo's friends are charmed by Eve but then she begins to show her true colors. Eve ends up starring in a play that was written for Margo and then moves out of New York and on to Hollywood.

The cast was composed of seven actors. Nancy Ponturo played Karen Richards, Bob Ponturo played Lloyd Richards, Kate Katcher played Margo Channing, Don Striano played Bill Samson, Fred Newman played Addison DeWitt, Molly Garbe Brown played Eve Harrington and Katie Kozlowski played Birdie Coonan and Miss Casswell. Music was provided by David Morgan, a professional musician and owner of the Music Shed in Redding. Lights and sound were handled by Thatcher Taylor.

Now that this performance is completed, Nancy Ponturo has already started searching for next year's script. "I spend a year preparing, reading countless scripts and choosing one that I think will be an audience favorite," she said. ■



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week's Featured Events

Blooming Books: Redding Garden Club Open House

Thursday, April 11
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Drop into the Garden Club's reception at the Mark Twain Library and be the first to view stunning arrangements transforming books into memorable centerpieces
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road

Founding Fathers Lecture Series: Thomas Jefferson

Saturday, April 13
2:00 p.m.
Author Kevin R.C. Gutzman discusses Jefferson's complex philosophy and radical ideas.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road

Clan Mother Shoron Waupakaay-Piper

Monday, April 15
6:00 p.m.
Gain the view of an indigenous person's view of Nature and its importance to the real and spiritual world.
Sponsored by Redding Garden Club
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road

Marching Through Redding

Saturday, April 27
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Join a living history reenactment commemorating the 1777 burning of Danbury.
The Onion Field
37 Lonetown Road
wiltondar.org

ARTS

Thursday, April 11

Traditional Irish Music Session
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Open session hosted by Damien Connelly & David Sasso.
Traditional musicians welcome to bring their instruments.
Nod Hill Brewery
137 Ethan Allen Hwy (Route 7)
Ridgefield

Friday, April 12 & Saturday, April 13

Spring Shower of Quilts XIX
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Quilt exhibit, marketplace, raffle
St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
480 Racebrook Rd.
Orange, CT
ctpiecemakers.org
\$

Saturday, April 13

Big Band Concert & Dance
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Live big band music; dancing optional.
Benefits Network for Good.
Danbury Music Centre
256 Main Street
Danbury
danburymusiccentre.org
\$

Wednesday, April 24

Great Composers Part II: Mozart
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Professor Gill Harel discusses the original wunderkind.
Mark Twain Library (hybrid)
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Tuesday, May 22

Joel Barlow Spring Concert
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School
100 Black Rock Turnpike
er9.org

CHILDREN | TEENS

Thursday, April 11

Reading to Rover (Grades K-4)
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Practice reading out loud to Gromit, a trained therapy dog.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Sunday, April 14

STEM at New Pond Farm (Grades K-4)
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Sky science
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

Sunday, April 14

Topstone Family Story Time
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Co-sponsored by the Redding Park and Recreation Department
Topstone Park Beach
72 Topstone Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Sunday, April 14 and Monday, April 15

FLIP Fabrique in Blizzard
7:00 p.m.
Circus performance from Québec
Quick Center for the Arts
Fairfield University
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield
quickcenter.fairfield.edu
\$

Monday, April 15 – Friday, April 19

April Vacation Camp
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
A fun, safe place for K-6 kids to play during school vacation. Before/after care available.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
townofreddingct.org/parks-and-recreation/
\$, R

Friday, April 22

Parents Night Out
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Kids celebrate Earth Day, parents get a night off. Dinner provided.
Ages 4-12.
Easton Community Center
364 Sport Hill Road
Easton
eastoncc.com
\$, R

Tuesday, May 22

Frog Frolic
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School
100 Black Rock Turnpike
er9.org

FOOD | WINE

Thursday, April 25

Cooking with The Thirsty Radish
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
A virtual cooking class with Vanessa Young featuring spring treats.
virtual
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Saturday, May 4

Honey Tasting
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Enjoy a tasty exploration of one of the most popular products of the beehive – honey.
New Pond Farm
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

Saturday, May 4

Redding Scout Troop 15 – Spaghetti Dinner
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Dine-in is back. Tickets available weekends at Ridge Market and Uncle Leo's
West Redding Firehouse
306 Umpawaug Road
\$

HEALTH | WELLNESS

Sunday, April 14

Archery Open House
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
No experience necessary, equipment provided.
Riverbrook Regional YMCA
404 Danbury Road
Wilton
wiltonymca.org
R

MUSIC

Saturday, April 13

Old Bob
5:30-8:00 p.m.
Rock, blues & swing from Bob Dylan's recent albums
Nod Hill Brewery
137 Ethan Allen Highway
Ridgefield
nodhillbrewery.com

NATURE

Thursday, April 11

Blooming Books: Redding Garden Club Open House
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Drop in for a reception and to view eco-friendly floral arrangements with older books.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road

Saturday, April 13

Astronomy: Viewing the Night Sky
8:30 p.m.
Outdoor program – dress accordingly.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

Saturday, April 20

Trekking Together: Peepers and Cheepers
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
A spring ephemeral guided hike with Wilton Land Trust and Woodcock Nature Center.
Meet at trailhead at the end of Abbot Lane
Wilton
woodcocknaturecenter.org
R

Tuesday, April 23 and Wednesday, May 15

Spring Migration: Birding with Joe Bear
7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Leisurely early morning birding walk through diverse habitats.
New Pond Farm
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
R

Wednesday, April 24

Wildflower Ramble & Brown Bag Lunch
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Bring a lunch and share a streamside stroll in search of spring wildflowers.
New Pond Farm
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
R

Saturday, April 27

Frothy Forage
12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Bring the whole family for a one-of-a-kind hiking and tasting experience!
Woodcock Nature Center
56 Deer Run Road
Wilton
https://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/frothyforage
\$, R

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (in person) or 10:15 a.m. (Zoom)
44 Portland Avenue
bethlehemplutheranct.org

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

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

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

Long Ridge United Methodist
Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
201 Long Ridge Road
Danbury
longridgeumc.com

Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish
Sacred Heart Church:
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: 5:30 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.
Mondays and Thursdays
Eucharistic Adoration 7:00 p.m.
169 Black Rock Turnpike
sacredheart-stpat.org

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Saturday, April 13

Founding Fathers Lecture Series: Thomas Jefferson
2:00 p.m.
Author Kevin R.C. Gutzman discusses Jefferson's complex philosophy and radical ideals.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road

Saturday, April 27

Marching Through Redding
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Join a living history reenactment commemorating the 1777 burning of Danbury
The Onion Field
37 Lonetown Road
wiltondar.org

Saturday, April 27

Battle of Ridgefield Walking Tour
10:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
Living history walking tour of Revolutionary War sites.
Meet at Casagmo Condominium Complex
Ridgefield
ridgefieldhistoricalsociety.org
\$, R

Saturday, May 5

Artists, Authors, and Actors in Redding: Historic House Tour
Join Histoury's bus tour of the former Redding homes of renowned artists, authors, and actors
1:00 p.m.
Tour starts at Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
histoury.org/historical-tour-calendar-and-tickets/
\$, R

Friday, May 17

Annual Community Tag Sale
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Declutter your space or find a new treasure. Table fee \$10.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
email: mpilato@townofreddingct.org to reserve a table

MEETINGS

Thursday, April 11

Redding Historic Cemetery Committee
2:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road
townofreddingct.org

Thursday, April 11

Gilbert and Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee
6:00 p.m.
Virtual
us06web.zoom.us/j/8480388388

Tuesday, April 16

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

Tuesday, April 16

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

Wednesday, April 17

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

Thursday, April 18

Historic Review Committee
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road
Subject to change to virtual or hybrid as necessary

Monday, April 22

Board of Finance
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
Subject to change to virtual or hybrid.
100 Hill Road
townofreddingct.org

Tuesday, April 23

Region 9 Board of Education
7:00 p.m.
JBHS Learning Commons
100 Black Rock Turnpike
er9.org

Tuesday, April 23

Planning Commission
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
Subject to change to virtual or hybrid.
100 Hill Road
townofreddingct.org

Wednesday, April 24

Annual Town Budget Meeting
3:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road
townofreddingct.org

Wednesday, April 24

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

Monday, May 6

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

Monday, May 6

Region 9 Annual District Meeting
7:00 p.m.
JBHS Library Learning Center
100 Black Rock Turnpike
er9.org

Tuesday, May 7

Budget Referendum
6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road

Tuesday, May 7

Redding Board of Education
7:00 p.m.
JRMS Community Room
486 Redding Road



COLDWELL BANKER | REALTY



Mike Anderson
203.770.3349



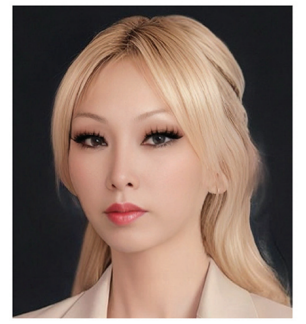
Peri Bartro
203.240.5919



Alexis Bennett
203.313.3110



Kim Cuniberti
203.733.6976



Lemon DeLucia
203.241.1614



Tim Dent
203.470.5605



Donna DiBartolo
203.858.0597



Margi Esten
203.241.8453



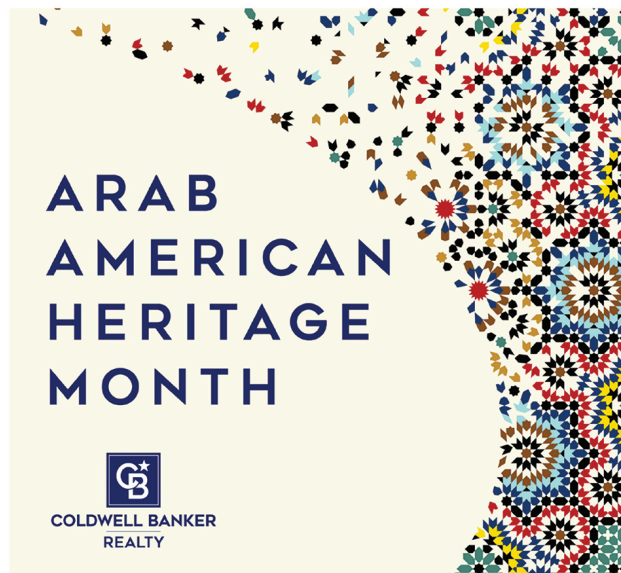
John Frey
203.240.0624



Liz Furrer
203.733.0678



Debbie Gore
203.417.5692



Joanne Grasso
203.733.9344



Jefferson Guthrie
203.788.9400



Carol Hanlon
203.240.1233



Sharon Hoverman
203.733.5073

Coldwell Banker Realty Redding and Ridgefield offices are honored to acknowledge the range of National Awareness and other celebrations during the Month of April 2024!



Charlie Knoche
203.731.7770



Jodi Langford
203.733.8804



Marge Lanzara
203.994.5301



Heather Lindgren
646.932.4075



Peter Lunde
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Rita Craig Rush
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Marilyn Sloper
203.770.6240



Ira Stone
203.240.5754



Nicole Van Alstyne
203.648.8172



Adrian Voss
203.241.7957



Call Tim to discuss your mortgage options.



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SVP of Mortgage Lending

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grarate.com/timmartin

O: (203) 974-5253

tim.martin@grarate.com

230 Greenwood Ave, #1A, Bethel, CT 06801

Applicant subject to credit and underwriting approval (20221021-1745808)

Equal Housing Lender Tim Martin NMLS ID: 16273; CT - 1801 - ML-1598647 | GRA NMLS ID #1598647 (Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org) • CT - Lic # MCL-1598647



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