

## Little food pantries go a long way in feeding the hungry

By Jessie Wright

Thanksgiving is inextricably linked with bounty – food is central to the holiday, as people celebrate with feasting and expressing gratitude. For many local families, however, the threat of food insecurity is growing.

In addition to the large regional food banks serving hundreds of families each week, small outdoor pantries and seasonal initiatives by community groups and dedicated citizens help to bridge the gap for local families. They also can provide a quick shopping experience with no appointments or registration needed.

In this issue, we outline a few of the outdoor pantries and grocery assistance initiatives in and around Redding, both for friends and neighbors to utilize or to consider supporting this holiday season.

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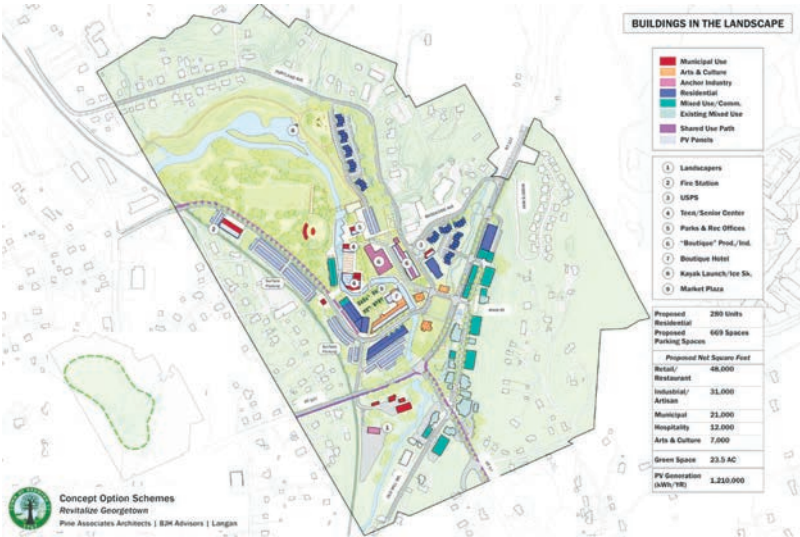


Photo by Andrew Elliott

The Metro-North train platform in West Redding on an autumn morning as the holiday travel season approaches. If you have a photo you’d like to see featured here, e-mail [editor@reddingsentinel.org](mailto:editor@reddingsentinel.org).

## Wire Mill Committee eyes Georgetown option with least development

By Rocco Valluzzo



Graphic by Pirie Associates

“Buildings in the Landscape” proposes the least amount of redevelopment of the three options.

After reviewing the three concept design options for the Georgetown Revitalization project, the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee is leaning toward one approach.

While the survey to receive public feedback on the three options remains open until December 1, members of the Committee discussed their own reactions at a meeting on Thursday, November

13, with a preference emerging for elements in option one, nicknamed “Buildings in the Landscape.”

All three options were drafted by New Haven-based architectural and landscape firm Pirie Associates and presented at a public workshop last month. The firm engaged multiple stakeholders and conducted research over the last several months to draft the options as part of the process to create a

plan for the redevelopment of the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill property and surrounding Georgetown area. While each option includes arts and culture uses, landscape, historic preservation of the Wire Mill buildings, residential development, complete streets (made for cars as well as pedestrians), and recreational trails, the size and scope of redevelopment vary.

The “Buildings in the Landscape” approach includes the least amount of development, proposing 280 residential units, 669 parking spaces, and a mix of retail, artisan, municipal, and arts and culture commercial spaces.

“I’m all for number one, because I can see how long this process takes,” said Committee member Jeff Andrews. “I’d like to see this happen. Number one is not invasive and it can happen.”

Rob Dean felt this option was a modest and achievable plan that the Town could undertake without “selling its soul to the developer.” He also noted the housing units were primarily small scale, rather than higher-density apartments or condos.

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## REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

### Cold weather camaraderie

By Jessie Wright

Heavy meals, time off from work, the onset of seasonal depression – the holidays present a compelling reason to get outdoors, stretch your legs, and breathe the fresh air in the company of your friends and neighbors. Three seasonal outings are taking place in the coming weeks that will set your winter off on the right foot.

**Redding Land Trust Turkey Waddle**  
**Friday, November 28 at 10:00 a.m.**  
*Dan Beard Trail and Turkington Falls Natural Area*  
[reddinglandtrust.org](http://reddinglandtrust.org)

Recover from a day of feasting with a brisk hike with lovely views. Hikers are encouraged to park at the John Read Middle School parking lot at 486 Redding Road to meet and walk the short distance

to the trailhead on Route 53. This year’s Turkey Waddle is part of the Redding Community Hiking Club outings and will be led by Gordon Loery, Co-President of Redding Land Trust. Register at [marktwainlibrary.org](http://marktwainlibrary.org).

**Winter Walk**  
**Saturday, December 6 at 11:00 a.m.**  
*Putnam Memorial State Park*  
[putnampark.org](http://putnampark.org)

Every year on the first Saturday of December, the Friends and Neighbors of Putnam Park host their Winter Walk. Visitors will be led on a walk by an interpretive guide, who will share historical and archaeological details about the park and the Revolutionary War encampment that took place there. Stories of the four people profiled

in the new exhibit at the Park’s Museum will be told this year. A historical reenactment skirmish will follow the walking tour. Parking is available at the main entrance at 499 Black Rock Turnpike.

**New Pond Farm Winter Walk with Snowshoes**  
**Sunday, January 11 at 1:00 p.m.**  
*New Pond Farm*  
[newpondfarm.org](http://newpondfarm.org)

As part of New Pond Farm Education Center’s free walking group, this outing will trade hiking shoes for snowshoes as the group ventures across the Farm’s stunning property. The outing will be led by New Pond Farm Board Member Tim Keyes and is dependent on weather and snow conditions. Parking is plentiful at the Farm at 101 Marchant Road. ■

## Housing bill gets final approval in special session

By Ginny Monk

Even as the Senate gave final passage to a new version of a wide-ranging housing bill Friday, November 14, political tensions simmered in Hartford over the two-day special session.

The Senate approved the measure early Friday morning on a 24-10 vote. All four Democrats who voted against a former version switched their votes, and no Republicans voted for the bill. The measure, which the House of Representatives approved on Wednesday, next heads to Governor Lamont’s desk. The Governor is expected to sign it.

Housing has long been a politically charged issue in Connecticut and one of the issues that most divides Republicans and Democrats.

Lamont’s veto of House Bill 5002, a sweeping housing bill passed by Democrats during the regular session, damaged his relationship with many lawmakers from his own party. The Governor said he wanted to get towns on board and called for a special session to pass a negotiated version of the bill. (*Editor’s Note: Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton urged Lamont to veto the former version of the bill.*)

While some said they’re glad to see the finished compromise bill and thankful that the Governor stuck with negotiations, for other senators, that relationship remains strained.

House Bill 8002 requires towns to create housing growth plans, changes minimum off-street parking requirements, expands fair rent commissions, and incentivizes towns to take steps to allow more housing, among other measures.

“We’re on the verge of passing a major housing bill that will impact the lives of the people of Connecticut in a very positive way,” said Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff, D-Norwalk, noting that other states have passed major housing reform legislation over the past few years. “Our goal is to join with them, understanding this crisis and the nature of this crisis and working to be more proactive and not just reactive.”

Lamont has touted the new housing bill as a compromise. His administration has also put millions in bonding money into building more housing. Lamont pointed to the mayors who ultimately endorsed the revised bill.

“I think we got a pretty good balance. Like I said, ‘Towns take the lead, give these mayors the incentives.’ They stood up, Republicans and Democrats said, ‘We have the incentives we need.’”

But Republicans in the House and Senate objected to both the content of the housing bill and the process – running it in special session, with less time for debate and outside of the normal political process. The bill produced moments of heated debate between the parties over the last two days.

In the House, one Republican was chastised over what Speaker of the House Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, said were personal attacks.

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EDITORIAL

Are politics poisoning our pipeline?

For two consecutive municipal election cycles, Redding’s races for key Town positions have gone uncontested. While this spares us the possible vitriol of a local campaign contest, it comes at a cost: Incumbents are not challenged in the same way to describe their vision for our town, civic engagement can decline, and voters are not presented with a choice at the ballot box.

This is not an issue specific to Redding. There were 39 uncontested races for Mayor or First Selectman in Connecticut this November (24 Republicans and 15 Democrats ran unopposed) and local party leaders across the state have reported a growing challenge in recruiting local candidates to run for office, according to *CT Mirror*. This widespread lack of competition raises a critical question: Why are fewer people running for local office in Redding, and what changes might we consider to combat this trend?

We spoke to several voters, Town and party officials, and leaders of other community groups to help formulate an answer.

What was clear is that the current disengagement is not rooted in apathy for Redding itself – people genuinely care about their community. Several non-profits and community groups reported little problem recruiting Board members in recent years to serve in leadership functions (though efforts to engage event volunteers and one-off help were consistently cited as challenging). Rather, the problem seems to be a convergence of deterrents specific to holding local office in this increasingly toxic political age. Addressing this may require changes to our governance structure, party culture, and election rules.

In a state of unaffiliated voters, political parties still dominate

Connecticut is one of a few states in which the number of unaffiliated voters is greater than those registered with either of the two major parties, according to Ballotpedia (42.12% of Connecticut voters are unaffiliated as of August 2025). In Redding, 36.74% of registered voters are unaffiliated. Democrats hold a slim plurality of 38.72%, and Republicans make up 22.71%.

Yet in a state with this voter make-up, statutes – which were last updated in 1995 – require that candidates for municipal elections must be endorsed by a major political party to appear on the ballot or undertake a time-consuming petition process. An unaffiliated voter can get on a municipal ballot one of two ways. They can seek a major party’s endorsement (examples this year include W. Wesley Higgins for Town Treasurer, who ultimately was cross-endorsed, and Katie Risk for Redding Board of Education, who was endorsed by the Republican Town Committee). They can also undertake a petition process, where they must collect signatures equal to at least 1% of the total votes cast for the office in the last election. Critically, these completed petitions are due in August – the same day primary challenge petitions are due – weeks before major parties finalize their slates. This restrictive timing means a candidate must launch a difficult signature drive before the local political landscape is even finalized.

In our conversations with residents about party affiliation, some also noted that the polarization of national politics has “trickled down” to local elections. “I think it affects both parties,” one Redding official said. “There are a lot of Republicans who don’t want to be affiliated with Trump and his party, and there are Democrats who are probably worried about connections to their more progressive candidates, and so yes, there is probably some turn-off there.”

There is genuine fear and apprehension over harassment and political violence

When people are busy and have many demands on their time, facing the prospect of harassment or negativity when running for local office makes it even less likely they will choose to do so.

“Many municipal officials feel like they’re under attack in the community,” Elizabeth Gara, Executive Director of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, told *CT Mirror* recently. “And it’s not just an issue in local politics, it’s an issue across the nation.”

One Redding resident who is active in the schools and the PTA said she remains unaffiliated with a major party because she knows that information is publicly accessible. “People are afraid of their neighbors knowing which way they go – for fear again, that there’s going to be a judgement made against them, ultimately affecting their kids,” she said.

“It has become – and I wouldn’t discourage anybody – but it is really threatening to be an elected official,” said State Representative Anne Hughes, whose district includes Redding and who lives in Easton. “Even a school board official. You get a lot of really nasty, you know, threats and smears and trolling, and it’s just kind of exhausting, and I don’t blame people for not wanting to put up with that. Like, you’re a volunteer. And you’re doing this out of service to your community, and you don’t need to put up with the nonsense.”

Matching the right expertise to the job is key

On top of those hurdles, serving in local office does not require someone only to have the interest and time to do so – for all municipal boards and commissions, there is also a set of expertise and experience required to do the job well.

“There may be a recognition that it’s not like any Joe Blow off the street can walk into Town Hall and become a Selectman or First Selectman, there is actually stuff to know and to learn... that can be a deterrent (to running) too,” an official with the Republican Town Committee said.

One local leader affiliated with the Democratic Town Committee pointed out that the Committee fielded a lot of interest from newer residents wanting to run for office this year, but many lacked the experience in town governance or a familiarity with issues facing Redding to be endorsed for higher offices like the Board of Selectmen.

Public office also has gotten more time-consuming in recent years, with state statutes requiring a host of administrative duties that often have little to do with political vision or initiatives. Some Connecticut towns have begun opting for a Town Manager framework, in which those duties are assigned to a hired staff member, freeing the role of First Selectman from some of the more tedious tasks.

Is change possible?

Some changes, like lobbying the General Assembly to lower hurdles facing unaffiliated candidates, could take years. Others, like an explicit commitment by residents and local party committees to run municipal campaigns free from personal attacks or online harassment could be seriously pursued now.

“The one thing that I will say unequivocally is that in the Town of Redding, the people genuinely care about each other,” one resident said. “Our differences are not as far off as the national narrative wants us to believe. I just refuse to accept that.” ■

LEGAL NOTICES

Town of Redding Notice of Public Hearing for Proposed Historic District

The Historic District Study Committee of the Town of Redding will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, November 24, 2025, at Redding Town Hall Hearing Room, 100 Hill Road at 7:00 p.m. to consider the establishment of a proposed historic district in the Georgetown area in accordance with the provisions of CT General Statutes 7-147a—7-147y. A report containing details of the proposed historic district can be found on the Town’s website at [www.reddingct.gov](http://www.reddingct.gov) or obtained at the Town Clerk's office. All interested parties are invited to attend and be heard. ■

*The Redding Historic District Study Committee*

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Zoning Commission held on November 12 at 7:30 p.m. in person, the Commission reached the following decision:

**1. Application #25-08Z – 340 Newtown Turnpike (Assessor’s Map and Lot #31-65) Owner Michael Pellegrini:** In accordance with Redding Zoning Regulations Section 5.1.2 request for a Special Use Permit for accessory residential apartment. *Approved* ■

*Matt Lecher, Chairman  
Redding Zoning Commission*

Newly elected officials sworn in



Photos by Jessie Wright

Family and friends packed the Town Hall Hearing Room on Monday, November 17 to see the newly elected Town officials sworn into office. *(Left):* The group of sworn-in leaders includes mostly incumbents, with a few newcomers starting their first terms. *(Right):* Town Clerk Michele Grande swears in Pat Moio as Tax Collector for the 24th time, having first been elected to public office nearly five decades ago.

Selectmen approve appointments

By Jessie Wright

At its meeting on Monday, November 17, the Board of Selectmen voted to reappoint and appoint the following people to various Town boards, commissions, and committees. ■

Name	Board	Term
Charles Bachmann	Board of Assessment Appeals	11/18/2025 - 11/18/2029
Mercedes DeMasi	Board of Ethics	12/6/2025 - 12/6/2027
Kenneth Unfried	Board of Ethics	12/14/2025 - 12/14/2027
Raymond D'Angelo	Historic Review Committee	12/15/2025 - 12/15/2029
Matthew Lecher	Historic Review Committee	12/15/2025 - 12/15/2029
Regina O'Brien	Historic Review Committee	12/15/2025 - 12/15/2029
Sherry Karraker	Historic Review Committee	12/15/2025 - 12/15/2029
Chris Guarniere	Park and Recreation Commission	11/18/2025 - 6/20/2026

The *Sentinel* wishes you and your loved ones a very Happy Thanksgiving and festive start to the holiday season.

**SENTINEL HOLIDAY PUBLISHING SCHEDULE**

We will not be publishing next week on Thursday, November 27 due to Thanksgiving. Subscribers will receive the next issue of the *Sentinel* on Thursday, December 4.

**Contact us at [publisher@reddingsentinel.org](mailto:publisher@reddingsentinel.org) with any questions.**

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# Celebrate the Holidays

## at New Pond Farm



**Lino Carving**  
*for adults*

Sunday, November 23  
1:00pm

**Pysanky Eggs**  
*for adults & teens 15+*

Friday, December 5  
6:30pm

**Holiday Cookies**  
*for adults*

Sunday, December 7  
2:00pm



**Winter Stories  
by the Fire**  
*for preschoolers*

Saturday, December 13  
10:30pm

**Seasonal Crafts**  
*for grades 1 - 4*

Sunday, December 14  
1:00pm

For more information or to register, please call us  
at 203.938.2117 or visit us at [newpondfarm.org](http://newpondfarm.org)

# POLICE BLOTTER

***Police activity November 10 – 15*** | *By Donna Christopher*

Police assisted in six medical emergencies and one fire emergency. They responded to one well-being check, assisted six citizens, and helped the operator of one disabled motor vehicle.

### Suspicious incidents

Two separate suspicious incidents were reported on November 11. They both were checked out and determined to be okay. The first was a cleaning crew on Cross Highway,

and the second was a registered hunter in the woods off Ledgeway Road.

Police responded to Portland Avenue on November 15 to a complainant reporting she heard multiple explosions or possible fireworks in the area. Nothing was found.

## Traffic

Police stopped 79 motor vehicles during the period, issuing six

summonses, 34 tickets, 18 written warnings, and 21 verbal warnings. The infraction rate was 51%.

A motor vehicle struck a guard-rail on Redding Road on November 14. There was property damage and no injuries.

A motor vehicle accident in which a vehicle went off the road on Newtown Turnpike on November 16 resulted in property damage. There were no injuries. ■

## Lending a hand with fall clean-up



*Photos by James Fleming*

Christ Church Parish organized “Redding Rakes” again this year, an effort to rake and blow leaves from properties of Redding residents who need assistance with yard work. The Town’s Social Services Department helped to coordinate and several members of the Joel Barlow High School baseball team, led by Coach Matt Griffiths, joined Christ Church parishioners for a day of fall clean-up on Saturday, November 15.

# Revolutionary refresh ahead

## *Putnam Memorial State Park receives grant for Museum upgrades*

By Pamela Brown



*Photo courtesy of FANS*

Putnam Memorial State Park is a mainstay in Redding, preserving history to commemorate the Revolutionary War encampment of 1778-79 and to honor the men and women who struggled for independence. Recently, the Park announced it has been awarded a grant from America 250 | CT Museum Makeover, a grant program designed to help cultural organizations tell new and unique stories about the American Revolution and enhance the visitor experience to help them understand and appreciate themes of the country's founding.

This is the first time Putnam Memorial State Park has received the grant, and it is one of only five recipients in 2025. The application was led by the Friends & Neighbors of Putnam Memorial State Park (FANS). “I was honored and humbled that our project was chosen. Funding is getting increasingly scarce as the field prepares for America 250, so I’m aware of how precious these opportunities are,” said Ellery Thomas Leary, M.A., Park Historian. The Park received \$4,000 for the project with an additional \$1,600, if needed, for consulting services.

The funds will be used to update the Museum's diorama room, adding aesthetic, functional, interpretive, and educational upgrades. Currently, the view-only room contains a partially assembled tent, a mixture of antique and reproduced gear of a Continental soldier, and a life-sized diorama of a soldier at camp. In addition, the room has a painted mural of a snowy landscape and huts in the process of being built.

“The mannequin has become steadily more distressed each year. Visitors are intrigued, but most people – especially children – are alarmed by its appearance. We’re overhauling the room and maintaining some of the best features – the life-sized elements, parts of the mural, the inclusion of historic reproduction items – and adding new interactive elements, such as a discovery cart of the items in the lost knapsack of Sgt. Major Hawkins who was at the Redding encampment in 1777. The current mannequin will be replaced by two professional, museum-quality

figures, one male and one female,” said Leary, noting women camp followers are an often-overlooked group who contributed to the Patriot cause. “We’re highlighting a population that has been previously underrepresented in Park signage. Typical Continental Army winter encampments had at least three women for every one hundred men. It’s likely the Park’s encampment had a higher ratio of women than most, as many of the Canadian soldiers brought their wives and families with them to camp. These women conducted vital work that kept the Army alive, including medical care, food preparation, and laundry services.”

New biographical panels of four integral people will be a central feature of the new room. This will include Doctor Cuff, a West African medical professional who, during the Redding Encampment, started working at the military hospital in Danbury; Sergeant Major John Hawkins; Theotist Cotard Paulint, one of the women encamped at Redding; and Abimelech Uncas, a Mohegan soldier. This is the result of archival research conducted by Leary of several individuals at the winter encampment. More information will be included about these individuals than was previously shared in public.

Upon completion, the room will be a space for people to walk around and explore. "Learners of all ages benefit from tactile experiences like these, but young visitors especially tend to find this type of educational experience more affecting and memorable," said Leary. "Visitors will be able to touch some of the items and engage with the past on a new sensory level."

Next year, the Museum building will turn 105-years-old. "It holds warm memories for Redding residents, past and present. It has maintained a distinct visual style and has become a repository for a lot of local finds and donations, so people feel a real connection to it. However, the building isn't static," said Leary. He noted the lasting marks that former Park Museum Curator Margaret Wixted and former Park Historian Dan Cruson had on the way the collection is interpreted.

"As more archaeological work is completed and more primary source documents are digitized, we're continually learning more about the encampment and the people who lived here," Leary continued. "I consider it our responsibility to continue updating the space to reflect our evolving understanding. In that way, I try to honor both the people encamped here during the Revolution and all the people who have contributed to building the Park over the last 140 years." ■

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SPORTS

Big plays propel Falcons over Wildcats

Football | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Luke Bishop is caught from behind by Bethel's Kaden Islami during a varsity football game on Friday, November 14.

When opportunity came knocking, the Joel Barlow High varsity football team was not about to waste it in their face-off with Bethel.

The Falcons took advantage of some big plays, on offense as well as defense. Many came in the second half as they left the competition behind for a 38-16 win at home under the lights last Friday, November 14.

While Barlow fumbled on its first possession, the Wildcats would return the favor on their opening series. Jack Hall recovered the ball on the Bethel 46 and later scored, going 39 yards up the middle on

third down. Joey Comis kicked the extra point, and Barlow led 7-0 with 3:17 left in the first quarter.

Bethel was quick to respond, with Kaden Islami returning the kickoff 59 yards before he was stopped by Alan Gurney's touch-down-saving tackle. Despite an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty called against them, the Wildcats later found the end zone on a two-yard run with 1:07 remaining in the quarter and tied it with an extra point at 7-7.

An onside kick by the Wildcats worked, giving them the ball on the Falcon 59. Making use of runs by Islami, the visitors drove

deeper into Falcon territory, eventually settling for a 32-yard field goal by Connor Clayton to go up 7-10 with 9:16 to go in the half.

Barlow did not wait long before responding. Luke Bishop's 52-yard run down the left side got them to the Wildcat 29 before he scored on the very next play, and with the extra point the Falcons were back in the lead at 14-10.

Following a Bethel punt, the Falcons started their next scoring drive on their own 38, managing a number of first downs on runs by Kaden Holub, Bishop, and Keeler Pheeny. A pass interference call against Bethel helped sustain the drive before Comis kicked a 16-yard field goal to give his team a 17-10 lead at halftime.

Bethel's opening drive of the second half stalled, and the Falcons took over on downs on their own 32. After advancing into Wildcat territory on the ground, they scored on Pheeny's 20-yard pass to Tyler Hall to make it a two-score (24-10) game.

The Wildcats fumbled on their next series, and Hall recovered to set up another Barlow touchdown. Another break went the Falcons' way when a facemask penalty against Bethel put the ball on the 13 before Pheeny came through with a nine-yard run for the score and a 31-10 lead with just under 10 minutes to go in the game.

That was enough time for yet another touchdown, this one on a nine-yard run by Frank Branca with a minute to go. Bethel did get the last word in with a two-yard touchdown pass with no time left to finalize the score at 38-16.

Bishop led Barlow in rushing with 115 yards, and Braylon Bennett totaled 55. Pheeny had 55 and completed three of four passes for 31 yards.

Barlow, now 5-4, finishes the regular season on Thanksgiving Day when it hosts Weston with kickoff set for 10:00 a.m. ■

RHAM dethrones Barlow in Class M

Girls volleyball | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Genevieve Currie, right, goes up for a kill during the state Class M girls volleyball championship on Saturday, November 15.

A familiar foe awaited the Joel Barlow High girls volleyball team in the state Class M championships.

For the fifth time in school history, the Falcons would face rival RHAM of Hebron, which had beaten them in all four previous encounters. While the latest meeting would be the closest yet, victory again escaped Barlow, as the defending champs lost a 2-3 (15-25, 25-18, 12-25, 25-21, 10-15) decision on Saturday, November 15 at East Haven High to end the season.

"I knew this was going to be tough," said Barlow Head Coach Carol Conti, whose team also lost to the Raptors in the 2023 title match. "I worried about our mental toughness, to be honest."

The second-seeded Falcons

suffered a setback early in the match. Val Alesi, a junior who missed last season due to a knee injury, was sidelined after injuring her knee once more, forcing Barlow to alter its strategy.

"She's been the best passer the last four matches," said Conti. "We weren't able to run our middles (hitters) as much because we couldn't pass."

First-seeded RHAM, which played in Class L last season before moving to M due to a drop in enrollment, pulled ahead in the first set with the help of a five-point service run by Rian Calhoun to go up 12-17. Using strong play at the net helped in a six-point run by Addison Garner.

A kill by Barlow's Claire Rodrigue temporarily stopped the run, but following one by Meredith Weir (match MVP) RHAM won back the serve and secured the last two points to take the set.

"We knew we had to put up a good block against her," said Conti. "We played with a lot of hesitation tonight. We were executing a little bit, and then we weren't executing."

Barlow bounced back in the second set with strong net play by Mia Roberts, Madi Furrer, and Rodrigue to build a 14-8 lead, forcing the Raptors to call timeout. By then, however, the Falcons had found their rhythm, going up 20-11 on Genevieve Currie's kill. A few hitting errors on RHAM's part later helped Barlow amass a 12-point advantage (24-12) before

taking the set.

The lead switched hands several times in the third set until Calhoun went on a four-point service run with the help of some errors on Barlow's part for a 5-9 lead. While the Falcons remained within four points or less of catching up, they were hurt by a few more errors and the Raptors pulled out of reach.

Needing a win in the fourth set to keep their chances alive, the Falcons won back the serve to lead 6-5, and the Raptors struggled with a few errors of their own, falling behind 14-10. Kills by Roberts and Rodrigue helped preserve Barlow's lead at 22-17.

Although RHAM closed things to 23-21, helped by a few Falcon hitting errors, Barlow eventually forced a side out and Robert's deep kill in the right corner evened the match at 2-2.

In the final set, the Falcons seemed nervous. Committing a few errors helped to put them in a 3-10 hole.

"We beat ourselves," said Conti. "We played scared at the end."

Several kills by Roberts and Sylvie Candee's ace cut RHAM's lead to two (10-12) but that was as close as the Falcons came. RHAM sealed the win on Brooke Arcari's kill.

"We weren't capitalizing," said Conti. "They were the better team tonight."

Barlow, which finished the season at 22-3 overall, graduates five seniors this year: Furrer, Rodrigue, Olivia Sickinger, Juliana Miranda, and Zoriana Olexy.

BBI finishes in Class M quarterfinals

Girls swimming | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow/Bethel/Immaculate's (BBI) Makayla Pederson took ninth in the 500 freestyle at the state Class LL championship on Wednesday, November 12. BBI took eighth out of 19 teams with 239.5 points.

Moving up a division also brought improved results for the Joel Barlow/Bethel/Immaculate (BBI) girls swim team at the state Class LL meet.

The Falcons, who had moved to Class L last season, went up another division due to their co-op arrangement when it came time for the state championships on Wednesday, November 12. Totaling 239.5 points, they took eighth, a half a point ahead of Southington, out of 19 teams at the Cornerstone Aquatics Center in West Hartford.

Defending champion Greenwich won its third straight title, this time with 1,038.5. Norwalk-Brien McMahon was a distant runner-up with 596. Conard of West Hartford was third with 439.

BBI had swimmers score in most of the events. Its first points came in the opening event, the 200-yard medley relay, in which Makayla Pederson, Abby Kazmierczak, Danika Roche, and Annabella Tam took sixth in 1:56.66.

Tori Swearingen was BBI's entry in the 200 IM, taking 22nd. Tam earned 13th in the 50 free in 26.01.

Three would score for the team in the 100-yard butterfly to earn

a total of 22 points. Roche had BBI's best finish here with 10th in 1:04.09, while Abby Bonoff was 21st in 1:08.36. Mackenzie Messinger also scored, taking 24th in 1:10.93.

Scoring in three separate events, Tam also earned points in the 100 free by beating the one-minute mark with a 58.12, good for 15th. Going the distance in the 500 free, Pederson finished in 5:22.26, beating her seed time by more than eight seconds and taking ninth overall.

Forming the 200 free relay team, Lilly Friedman, Messinger, Jae Godfrey, and Baylee Coyle combined for a 1:54.77, taking 14th in a fast field.

BBI's best finish of the day came in the 100 backstroke, in which Pederson finished in less than a minute in 59.07 to take fourth. Roche also scored in the event, taking 11th in 1:03.25 to beat her seed time by more than a second. Swearingen was 16th in 1:06.93.

Completing the 100 breaststroke in 1:18.11, Kazmierczak was 23rd. The final event, the 400 free relay, featured Tam, Friedman, Roche, and Pederson finishing in 3:55.68 to place seventh as BBI finished the season. ■

Middle schools to face off in friendly soccer game

By Anne Young Albanese

John Read Middle School and Helen Keller Middle School in Easton will meet next week for the first Easton-Redding-Region 9 (ER9) middle school soccer match. The battle will take place on Tuesday, November 25, at 6:00 p.m. at the Joel Barlow High School fields.

According to Superintendent Dr. Jason McKinnon, the event will combine "school spirit, friendly competition, and community giving." The event also will include fun half-time activities for students.

Attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for donation. There will also be Thanksgiving pies for sale, with proceeds benefitting a local food pantry.

McKinnon is currently seeking volunteers to contribute to the success of the event. Volunteer opportunities include ticket sales, half-time activities, pie sales, and concession stands. School families will receive a link to sign up to volunteer. Community members can contact Central Office at (203) 261-2513 to sign up. ■

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# Many paths, one table

*Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service set for November 23*

*By Pamela Brown*

Thanksgiving inspires a time to come together and to acknowledge the blessings in our lives. As the holiday approaches each year, several of Redding's faith communities collaborate on a special service for all people to unite in prayer and worship.

"It's important, especially now when there is so much intolerance in our political landscape and on social media, that we take the time to really come together and talk with each other, pray together, and reconnect to our shared humanity," said Cantor Harriet Dunkerley of Temple B'nai Chaim, who is hosting this year's annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

The service will take place on Sunday, November 23 at 4:00 p.m. at 82 Portland Avenue in Georgetown. Community members of any faith are welcome and encouraged to attend. Pastor Suzanne Wagner of First Church of Christ, Congregational and Jill Gallagher, Warden of Christ Church Parish will also participate. Other participants still may be confirmed.

“An interfaith service brings together clergy and communities of differing faith traditions to worship as one community, emphasizing the many things that we share instead of our differences,” said Dunkerley. “The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service is an opportunity for all of us

to come together to offer prayers and expressions of gratitude around themes of giving, generosity, hope, humanity, and togetherness.”

As the Spiritual Leader of Temple B’nai Chaim and this year’s host congregation, Dunkerley will serve as lead clergy of the service and has assigned various readings. There also will be music and live singing.

The theme this year is *Gathering in Gratitude: Many Paths, One Table*. “This is a time of Thanksgiving – of gathering with family and friends to offer gratitude for all the many blessings we have. A service like this is a wonderful way to remind ourselves that even though

we may pray in different ways and have different views about religion or politics or whatever, we all still share so much in common. Even our various faith traditions share so much," said Dunkerley. "We are ALL created in the image of God. These days that can be easy to forget. This time of year, especially, is the perfect opportunity to reset, reflect and come together to banish that darkness and do what we can as one community to share our light."

Jill Gallagher of Christ Church Parish is looking forward to sharing worship with those of other faiths. "We believe lifting our voices together in prayer will strengthen our connections. We will use this

opportunity of an interfaith service to meet parishioners and celebrants of different faiths, and we hope to build on a future of more collaboration between all of us,” she said. “Part of our mission at Christ Church is to reach out and assist our community in different ways. Collaborating with other faiths in this mission will expand our understanding of better ways to serve others.”

The service will last about one hour, followed by a potluck refreshment reception in the social hall. Attendees are encouraged to bring a sweet or savory treat to share and non-perishable food item(s) to be donated to a local food pantry. ■





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## Housing bill gets final approval in special session / continued from page 1

While the rest of the bill saw little or no changes, many of the most substantive pieces around zoning were changed in the compromised version, particularly the portions that drew objections from local leaders. Members of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Council of Small Towns spoke at a press conference last week in support of the new bill.

The bill requires that towns, either by themselves or with their regional councils of government, create housing growth plans that include a number of units set as a goal to plan and zone for.

By complying with this section of the law, towns have access to new state money and get increased reimbursement rates for school construction projects. They can also access those benefits by following certain parameters to increase housing density near public transit or by joining the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority to allow more housing in downtowns and near transit.

It also includes parameters to allow conversion of commercial properties to residential without special hearings before planning and zoning commissions, although towns can require that the first floor stay commercial.

It eliminates minimum off-street parking requirements for new apartments of up to 16 units, although towns can require parking assessments and additional parking in two zones of the town not amounting to more than 8% of the land.

And it establishes the Department of Housing as a housing authority that can develop affordable housing on state land and work with towns to build.

Debate in the Senate began Thursday evening and ended early Friday morning.

"The bottom line is we have a moral obligation to create more housing," said Planning and Development Committee Co-Chair Senator MD Rahman, D-Manchester. "We have a moral obligation to bring people inside from cold weather."

Republicans criticized the use of a special session as well as the contents of the bill, saying it dilutes local control.

"I truly believe that this is going to be a bill that we look back upon as a monumental step in the implementation of statewide zoning efforts," said Senate Minority Leader Stephen Harding, R-Brookfield.

Senate President Pro Tem Martin M. Looney, D-New Haven, said housing is such an important issue as a matter of statewide policy "that it has to be regarded as something that, in many cases, would vault above and supersede local authority."

Housing Committee ranking member Rob Sampson, R-Wolcott, questioned whether the State actually has a lack of affordable housing. Numerous studies have shown the State has an acute shortage of housing units.

"Is there something you can show me that says that we actually have a substantial shortage of housing?" Sampson asked Duff during debate. Sampson said he had found over 2,000 rental units available online.

"We're just going to disagree, and that's okay. You can keep asking me the same question and I'll give you the same answer," Duff replied, and pointed to a study released by an outside consultant earlier this year that showed that Connecticut had the most constrained housing market in the nation.

Duff said he thinks the bill will

help get more housing built in the state.

Housing Committee Co-Chair Senator Martha Marx, D-New London, said in an interview that she worries that the new bill doesn't have the "urgency" that the old bill did. She liked that it gave towns numbers, a goal to work for, and fears that delays before housing growth plans are due will leave Connecticut residents suffering.

"The fact that we're waiting years now to get these housing growth plans, that worries me," Marx said. "I just want affordable housing to be built. I want people to have roofs over their heads."

She added that she doesn't think the bill has repaired her relationship with Lamont.

"I still haven't quite gotten over the fact that the Governor vetoed it," she said.

Senator Saud Anwar, D-South Windsor, said after the housing veto and discussions over spending in the wake of Federal cuts, he wonders whether Lamont "is even in touch with the reality of what the people in the state of Connecticut are experiencing."

"I think the number of people who are experiencing unhoused status and homelessness is increasing in our state. For a state which is one of the richest per capita in the United States and also of the richest country in the world, to allow that to happen and not have an intervention, and despite multiple advocates, community members, reaching out to the Governor, and his unwillingness to address this in a meaningful manner is painful to me," Anwar said Thursday, of the veto.

The Governor did not directly answer when asked if the passage of the housing bill would ease tensions with the lawmakers who were furious at his unexpected veto.

"I think we have a pretty good working relationship, I really do," he said. "[Chief of Staff Matthew] Brokman helps by the way. Everybody knows him, trusts him."

Rob Blanchard, a spokesman for the Governor, said in a statement that "the status quo is unsustainable, and no solution is possible without local leaders stepping up." Lamont has met over the past several months with municipal leaders, bipartisan lawmakers and non-profits to "craft a plan that gives communities the tools to build housing on their own terms," Blanchard added.

"While some lawmakers would rather legislate in the press or put more energy into floor theatrics than actual solutions, the Governor is grateful to those who showed up ready to work," Blanchard said. "By strengthening this bill, he's listening to residents who want lower rents, families who need a home they can afford, and businesses need to house their employees."

Senator Gary Winfield, D-New Haven, said while there may be frustrations with the Governor about the veto, that tension is healthy. He pointed to the Federal government, where legislative Republicans are broadly in lock-step with the president.

"The legislature is trying to express the will of the people as they see it, and the Governor is doing what he sees as the right thing," Winfield said. "And that tension brings us to a place where, if we get it right, and I'm not always saying we do, but if we get it right, we got it right because of the tension."

Duff said he was focused on the end result.

"There's always going to be tensions between legislative and executive to get something done, but we're getting it done today, and

I think that's the most important thing, the end product," Duff said.

The 2026 gubernatorial election has also cast a shadow over the housing bill debate. While Lamont said he vetoed the original bill because he wanted to get towns and cities on board, his e-mails and text messages show the two-term Governor got advice about the political implications of signing a bill that many opposed.

Senator Ryan Fazio, R-Greenwich, who has already announced his campaign for Governor, said the new housing bill doesn't address problems with 8-30g, a decades-old state housing law that offers developers court remedies when their affordable housing proposals are denied. He also criticized the process of passing the bill and said there might have been portions he could support if there had been more time for debate.

"Regardless of the merits, this is no way to lead a state government. There is no justification for it," said Fazio.

Housing, and particularly 8-30g, was a major issue during the last gubernatorial campaign, and has been ranked by Connecticut residents in a recent poll as one of the most important issues facing the state. ■

*This article originally appeared in CT Mirror.  
Mark Pazniokas contributed to this story.*





# 53rd annual Art Show is dedicated to celebrated artist Jimmy Grashow

By Lisa Goldstein



Photo by Lisa Goldstein

Works by over 175 artists will be on display at Mark Twain Library from December 6 – 14.

Artwork from local and world-renowned artists will be on display and for sale at the 53rd annual Mark Twain Library Art Show from December 6-14, 2025. Over the years, this juried art show has served as a joyful holiday season kick-off that honors and embraces the talent within and around the Redding community. This year, the show is dedicated to celebrated artist Jimmy Grashow, whose support of the event and of Mark Twain Library was – for over 50 years – as enthusiastically unwavering as the Library’s founder himself.

“For over six decades, James Grashow’s wildly inventive, provocative works have graced dozens of distinguished museums and galleries, iconic album covers, and preeminent publications,” said Art Show Chair Meghan Huszagh. “It is with both pride and gratitude that we honor his legacy and dedicate this year’s event to him and his breathtaking ability to manifest pure wonder through art.”

An award-winning editorial



Photo by Jen Wastrom

Jimmy Grashow, renowned artist and longtime champion of Mark Twain Library.

illustrator known for his cardboard sculptures and wood engravings as well as for creating art for album covers such as Jethro Tull’s *Stand Up*. Grashow, who died in September, moved to Redding with his devoted wife Guzzy in the mid-1970s. He was a dedicated supporter of Mark Twain Library and contributed artwork to the Art Show every year. His signature “mon-keys” provide the thematic backdrop for the entire exhibit this year.

The Mark Twain Library Art Show raises much-needed funds for Redding’s beloved community hub. The professional quality of the work as well as the venue’s charming aesthetic attracts artists and art enthusiasts from near and far.

“As always, the show will feature a wide range of media and subject matter,” said Exhibition Co-Chair Katherine Baumgartner, who boasted that the art gets better every year. “We’re confident that visitors will be impressed by the exceptional quality and diversity of the art on display.”

This year, Stamford-based art advisor and dealer Lily de Jongh Downing served as Juror of Selection, identifying which pieces made it into the exhibit. “Lily brings both a discerning eye and a professional, thoughtful approach to the jurying process, and we’re thrilled to have her serve as this year’s juror,” explained Baumgartner.

The art on display and for sale includes original paintings, drawings, sculptures, and mixed media works by more than 175 artists and provides a unique experience of a top-notch art gallery that is close to home and appeals to both accomplished art enthusiasts and those looking to enhance an empty space on their wall.

“We’re lucky to live in an area with such a rich community of creative talent, it’s truly an honor that so many artists choose to be part of our show,” added Co-Chair Melinda Shea.

As Juror of Awards, artist Tricia Wright will decide which pieces stand out. “She really sees the meaning and heart in art, as well as the skill, and brings both insight and care to the judging process,” said Shea. Wright will award prizes once the art is hung in the days before the show opens to the public.

The Library retains a 35% commission on the sales of each work sold. In addition to the art that is displayed on the Library walls and panels, many artists also present portfolio works that make great gifts for the holiday season. The Art Show also can be viewed and works purchased online from December 6-14 at [mtlartshow.org](http://mtlartshow.org). Additionally, the Library is offering a number of art-related programs during the week of the exhibit. ■

Little food pantries go a long way in feeding the hungry  
*continued from page 1*



### Georgetown Little Food Pantry

Outside of 7 Main Street

An Eagle Scout project completed this summer by Quintin Haines of Easton Troop 66, this little food pantry is available for residents to drop off canned and non-perishable items at any time. There also are collection boxes at Uncle Leo’s & Rosny Gourmet at 19 Main Street, the porch of 1 North Main Street, the Georgetown Oratory at 30 Church Street, and Fairfield County Bank at 941 Danbury Road.

### Ruby’s Pantries:

#### Wooster Hollow Café

Parking lot of 659 Danbury Road, Ridgefield

Five little pantries were created in 2021 by then-sixth grader Ruby Weiner from Ridgefield to combat hunger in the community – particularly amongst children. This pantry at Wooster Hollow Café is located in the parking lot and is designed with children in mind – the shelves can accommodate baby food jars, and it is encouraged to consider donating sealed wipes, diapers, and baby toiletries in addition to non-perishable foods.

### Ruby’s Pantries: Branchville CVS

Parking lot at 720 Branchville Road, Ridgefield

Another one of Ruby’s Pantries was recently relocated to the back of the parking lot of Branchville CVS near Clark Construction. Clark Construction helped Ruby build the pantries and has been a partner in this project from the start. Children’s items and non-perishable foods are accepted.

### Redding Food Pantry

Donate online or drop off gift cards at 37 Lonetown Road

While Redding Social Services no longer collects canned and non-perishable food items, it frequently provides grocery store gift cards and financial assistance to Redding residents in need. Donors can support these efforts by giving online at [reddingct.gov/government/services/social-services](http://reddingct.gov/government/services/social-services) or drop off gift cards to the Redding Community Center at 37 Lonetown Road during business hours, Monday – Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.; Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Note: The Redding Elementary School PTA is currently hosting its annual Turkey Drive to collect grocery store gift cards for the Redding Food Pantry. Donations can be sent to school or made online at [linktr.ee/rescptpa](http://linktr.ee/rescptpa). Caraluzzi’s will match 10% of Turkey Drive donations. ■

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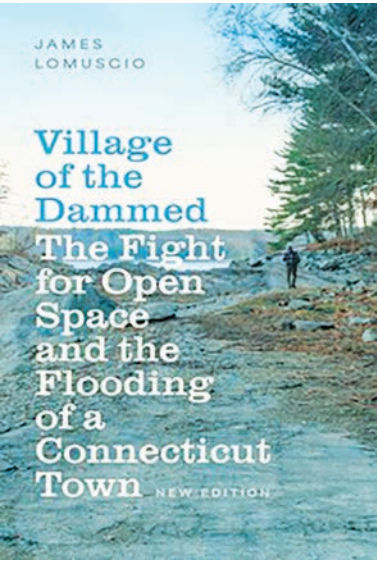


BOOK REVIEW

Village of the Dammed  
The Fight for Open Space and the  
Flooding of a Connecticut Town

By James Lomuscio

150 pages / Brandeis University Press / \$29.95



*Village of the Dammed* by James Lomuscio is about our part of Connecticut, a history of how a loss can eventually be a win through awakening, persistence, and persuasion. Lomuscio records a significant civic odyssey: The loss of community lands to early legitimate uses – the damming of a river to create reservoirs – which in time devolved into corporate scavenging with an attempt to sell at profit lands acquired for a pittance under earlier law.

Lomuscio’s message is clear: Preservation of beauty is a necessary conservation, often underappreciated in the moment against a fallback tendency toward under-scrutinized change. But this can be overcome by timely communication to energize enlightened advocacy. This requires accurate information and a passionate message. Lomuscio shows how a first citizen effort failed, but a second succeeded. The message was “Forever Yours. Or Forever Gone.”

The Saugatuck Valley Association (SVA) failed to stop the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company (BHC), founded 1857, from damming the Saugatuck River. This allowed creation of the Saugatuck Reservoir system we see today. But they exploited an old charter to exercise eminent domain, which many thought unfair – and making comparisons of the day, it was. SVA’s initiative failed, and maybe it should have. But the community, then in need of certain exigencies (pure drinking water and fire prevention), did not, at a later time, see need for a private golf course with a gated development in Trout Valley. The SVA failure offered instructive lessons. Civic awareness was crucial. And so was money.

The proposition from BHC was dubious at best. The water company wanted to sell properties seized under the previous dictates of eminent domain. In the ensuing Trout Valley debate, Westport resident Paul Newman’s celebrity helped raise awareness. “I just don’t think a golf course is the proper use of land that was bought for the single use of a reservoir for a growing Fairfield County,” he said. And then he pledged \$500,000 from his charity for the effort. After a full court press, with help from the State of Connecticut, the golf course idea was defeated.

James Lomuscio has been in journalism throughout a career that has taken him from national news (*The New York Times*) to local press (Editor, *Westport News*), from general features of national interest to particular features of local concerns. Lomuscio himself is a citizen of Fairfield County. *Village of the Dammed* is his gift to the community where he has long lived for work and play. Most significantly, *Village of the Dammed* is history at a granular level, with its own dedicated providence, which has captured for posterity an important account that otherwise would be forgotten.

Lomuscio has made a philosophical argument on behalf of preservation efforts. It was communicating appreciation of local beauty that motivated residents to protect the lands from being monetized by non-local interests willing to profit from selling it. And it was a strong position. Part of that strength comes from the premise itself. It was hard to argue that a golf course with a \$100,000 initial membership fee surrounded by expensive homes in a gated community was the best use of land.

In his then day-job as Editor of *Westport News*, Lomuscio wrote an editorial published on February 4, 1998: “Trout Brook, It Seems Has Been a Wake-Up Call.” He cited Paul Newman, Robert Redford (who owned a home in Weston), and then-Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal as in support of the “open spaces” initiative and against the golf course/gated community idea.

“What followed was the creation of the Coalition to Preserve Trout Brook [in an earlier iteration, Save Trout Brook] a coalition reminiscent of the Saugatuck Valley Association to those who remembered it. Much of the fight to save Trout Brook, in fact, resembled the Valley Forge saga...” Indeed, residents, once burned, were twice shy. Carpetbagging, money, and big promises were now under proper scrutiny and local debate. It won’t always be so, but this time preservation won. There should always be voices and open debate.

Finally, as historian, James Lomuscio has a positive message: Citizens can find redemption in history’s lessons and change course. It is true that in a nation where every voice can be counted, herding of those voices to purpose in times of tension becomes essential. “There was that...determination to save a valley,” Lomuscio writes. For posterity, in writing this history, he has created for us a very important permanent record of our time and place. ■

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

LIBRARY CORNER

Shopping around | By Erin Shea Dummeyer



Mark Twain Library is a member of the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC), a 1,000+ member non-profit organization that facilitates cost saving through group purchasing. Because CLC negotiates collective purchasing contracts for us, we receive substantial discounts on things like furniture, security systems, databases, and yes: books! Last week, I attended CLC’s Vendor Expo at Southern CT State University for the first time.

The driving force behind me finding the time to attend this expo

was my interest in learning about other book vendors. I recently wrote about the closing of Baker & Taylor, public libraries’ main book wholesaler. The demise of Baker & Taylor has inspired their former competitors to woo B&T’s customers which makes it a bit of a buyers’ market right now for libraries. Vendors are offering various benefits like personalized customer service, streamlined workflows for discovery, pre-processed and cataloged books, speedy delivery, and competitive pricing. It will be

interesting to see which vendors rise to the top. Mark Twain Library, as readers know, serves a small town so it gives us the opportunity to really shop around since we are not dealing with high volume purchasing needs like, for example, the New York Public Library.

All in all, the vendor expo was a great time. It’s basically a beauty contest with opportunities for the vendors to “pitch” themselves to Connecticut librarians. Then the librarians choose which 20-minute vendor presentations to attend. It’s a nice way to quickly compare vendors and speak with their representatives in person, as well as be reminded of what CLC offers. I’m glad that I went. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is  
Director, Mark Twain Library



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Nod to the pod  
Intrigue: Word of God, Episode 1 | By Amy Maloof

*A one-episode recommendation from a podcast you might love.*

Whenever we pass a Hobby Lobby store, my oldest will shout, “Smuggling scandal! They smuggled ancient tablets!” before going about her otherwise unfolding business. I still don’t know how that particular piece of popular culture reached her 15-year-old world, but she loves to share it with anyone she can. And it’s true: In 2017, Hobby Lobby, the arts-and-crafts store famous for its Christian vibes (like closing on Sundays à la Chick-fil-A) were busted for smuggling over 3,500 ancient Iraqi artifacts into the United States. Pretty wild stuff for a store that sells cinnamon brooms to Midwestern moms.

I’d read a few headlines and knew the very basics of what shook out, but I always wanted to understand why the heck Hobby Lobby (and, more specifically, the Green family who owns it) got into the business of importing cuneiform tablets. Enter the BBC’s investigative journalist team to help a girl out.

*Word of God* takes listeners through the whole sordid tale, beginning with the reasons behind the Green family’s forays and ending with the civil suit against them. Along the way, we hear from the many different people who came together to uncover the truth, return the artifacts to Iraq, and make the Greens pay. Biblical scholars and archeologists and FBI

agents all lend their sides of the story, and it’s fascinating stuff. I also appreciated that many of the investigation’s main characters are women, not always a given in this world of Indiana Jones wannabes.

The storytelling is thorough and well-paced and taught me quite a bit of history along the way. I listened to the whole series in one day – from my car to the gym and back home to catch up on laundry – and felt wholly satisfied. Watching (or listening) as the scrappy good guys take down the rich, not-so-good guys is a favorite trope for a reason. Enjoy the ride. ■



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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

New chapter, same friendly face at Redding Wine & Spirits

By Justin Reynolds



Photo by Justin Reynolds

Frank Avallone took over Redding Wine & Spirits this spring.

Redding Wine & Spirits has a new owner. In April, Frank Avallone bought the longtime Redding Ridge business, which last changed hands in 2022, bringing more than 20 years of experience in the wine and spirits industry along with him. “We pride ourselves on our customer service,” Avallone said. “If I don’t have something here, I’ll order it for you. If it’s available in Connecticut, I can get it within a day or two. If customers want something, we’ll carry it.” Since taking the reins of the business, Avallone’s made a few changes. He tripled inventory, lowered prices, and installed a couple of new coolers that have allowed him to expand the store’s beer selection, which is eclectic. But the wine game is on a different level. “We have 400, 500 different wines,” he said. “Currently, we’ve got bottles of Caymus Chardonnay

on sale for 10% lower than the state minimum.” When longtime customers learned that Avallone had purchased the business, they all asked the same question: “Is Chris staying?” “Of course he’s staying,” Avallone said with a grin. “Together, we have more than 40 years of experience in the industry.” When I swung by on Friday afternoon, the space felt familiar. Right away, I was struck by both men’s incredibly friendly demeanors and the store’s warm, welcoming aesthetics – a nod to the owner’s roots. Avallone grew up in the restaurant business. His family owned Old Sorrento in Danbury for 36 years, and the environment introduced him to the world of beverages. In 2004, he put on his entrepreneurial cap and opened a liquor store, Avallone Discount Wine and

Spirits, located on Newtown Road in Danbury. When an eager buyer approached him in 2014, Avallone reluctantly sold the business, which still bears his name today. He then went on to become General Manager and Wine Director for a local liquor store chain before deciding to become his own boss again when the opportunity arose to purchase Redding Wine & Spirits. He hasn’t wasted any time putting some of his ideas for the place into action. Redding Wine & Spirits is launching a Wine of the Month Club, where members receive three bottles that Avallone personally selects on the first Friday of each month. The shop, which is open Monday – Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., now also offers free local delivery. Avallone, who lives in Bethel right near the Redding town line, feels right at home at his new store at 119 Black Rock Turnpike. “To me, the location is perfect,” he said. “I absolutely love this community. The customers are great and have been very supportive of us.” In addition to selling beverages, Redding Wine & Spirits is also planning to throw some events. On December 10 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., the store is joining forces with Clover & Clay, profiled in the *Sentinel* last week, for an evening of gifts, drinks, and festive surprises. ■

For more information and to sign up for the store’s monthly newsletter, visit [reddingwineandspirits.com](http://reddingwineandspirits.com)

Swelling State revenues could intensify response to Federal cuts

By Keith M. Phaneuf

Already anticipating huge surpluses this budget cycle and next, Connecticut’s coffers will swell even more, state analysts projected last week, thanks to surging income and business tax receipts tied to a robust stock market in 2025. The projections – about \$1.1 billion in extra revenue this fiscal year and an average of \$500 million more in each of the next two – likely will expand calls for further State tax cuts and greater investments in human service programs to assist Connecticut households strained by tightening Federal budget policies. “Today’s consensus revenue forecast shows continued economic growth in Connecticut for families and businesses alike,” Governor Ned Lamont said last Monday after his budget staff and the legislature’s non-partisan Office of Fiscal Analysis released their first joint revenue forecast for the fiscal year. The two agencies will revise those projections twice more before the budget year ends June 30, on January 15 and on April 30. The new report does show that Federal cuts to the corporate tax rate effectively will cost Connecticut hundreds of millions in State receipts from major companies over the coming years. But that will be more than offset by Wall Street, and by steadier and less flashy growth in sales tax receipts and income tax payments from wages and general earnings. “While our state’s economy will always be influenced by external factors,” Lamont added, “we in Connecticut are staying on the right track where we can control our future.” At first glance, Connecticut’s budget is taking a hit this fiscal year. The General Fund, which represents about 90% of the \$27.2 billion overall State budget and covers most operating expenses, will collect \$135 million less than analysts had projected. The Fund, previously projected to finish \$322 million in the black, now should have about \$190 million left over. President Donald Trump and Congress adopted a broad series of household and corporate income tax reductions in July, paying for a portion of them with deep cuts to Medicaid and other human service programs. And because Connecticut links its corporate tax system to the Federal code – as do several other states – analysts say those changes will cost Connecticut more than \$100 million, on average, across this fiscal year and the next two. But just outside the formal budget, there is good news that overwhelms the bad. Since 2017, Connecticut has used a special savings program that captures much of its income and business tax receipts linked to investment earnings before they even arrive in the formal budget, so legislators cannot spend them. And the forecast released Monday says this category will generate almost \$1.1 billion more than expected this year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed last Monday up almost 7% for 2025. The Standard and Poor’s 500, another key market index, closed up almost 14% for the year. Given that projected savings and the General Fund’s estimated operating balance, Connecticut now expects to close its books June 30 with about \$2 billion unspent, one of the largest surpluses in State history and greater than the \$1.8 billion cushion the State has averaged since 2017, when aggressive new budget caps were established. Analysts also boosted their expectations for total State revenues

by more than \$650 million next fiscal year and by another \$350 million in 2027-28. Majority Democrats in the General Assembly have become increasingly critical of these surpluses, which have been used chiefly to build reserves and reduce Connecticut’s hefty pension debt. Many Democratic lawmakers and progressive organizations argue the savings program is excessive and should be scaled back some to restore more funds for education, health care, municipal aid, and other core services. “These [revenue] numbers show what our coalition has been saying for years: Our problem in Connecticut is the lack of political will to spend the money we already have. It’s time for our governor and his budget team to put families first and reconsider the fiscal roadblocks so we can stop hoarding money and start responding to the needs in our communities, which get worse every year,” said Norma Martinez HoSang, director of CT For All, a progressive coalition of more than 60 faith, labor, and other civic organizations. Lamont, a fiscally moderate Democrat, has been one of the budget cap’s chief defenders, often teaming with minority Republicans to argue they should be changed little or not at all. Many of Lamont’s fellow Democrats in the legislature’s majority argue it’s excessive, pulling too much revenue from education, health care, and other core services. But while the GOP has been wary to ease budget caps to increase spending, more Republicans are talking about saving less – if it means Connecticut can finance more State tax cuts. House Republicans last month proposed what would amount to one of the largest State income tax cuts in Connecticut history. The GOP wants to boost an income tax credit that offsets a portion of middle-class households’ municipal property tax bill from a maximum of \$300 to as much as \$1,000. The initiative would cost the State, Republicans estimate, about \$500 million per year. “We need property tax relief, and our caucus stands by that,” House Minority Leader Vincent J. Candelora, R-North Branford, said last week, adding that Republicans will push hard for this when the regular 2026 legislative session opens February 4. “Our property taxes have been squeezed to the bone, and people cannot pay the levels they’ve been required to pay to maintain public services.” Representative Maria Horn, D-Salisbury, Co-chairwoman of the tax-writing Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, said Monday she expects lawmakers from both parties will seek State tax relief to help Connecticut households hurt by Federal cuts to human service programs. “I’m sure there will be” bipartisan interest, she said, “particularly given the volatility at the Federal level and what we anticipate to be pretty massive costs inflicted on us by Federal policies. Our [budget caps] will be under pressure.” Many legislators also are expected to call for greater State spending as well, though, in the coming years, with a particular focus on Medicaid, a massive health care program that faces deep Federal cuts in 2027 and 2028. ■

This article originally appeared in CT Mirror

Redding serves up first-ever “Major League Pickleball” tournament

By Robin Lamont



Photo by Robin Lamont

Tournament organizer HK Rook with the winning team of the MLP Tournament. This fall saw the successful launch of the inaugural Major League Pickleball (MLP) Tournament, a lighthearted but competitive event dreamed up and organized

by Redding’s own resident pickleball pro, HK Rook. What began as an idea inspired by watching the play of professional pickleball players at the MLP Finals in New York City’s Central Park grew into a special event at the Community Center gymnasium. HK’s enthusiasm managed to rally players from Redding and neighboring communities. Wednesday mornings in the gym were buzzing with seasoned players and even some fans trying to figure out how to stay out of the “kitchen.” “We wanted to create something fun that brought more people into the game,” said HK. “I just didn’t expect this many people to show up... they even took the warm-ups seriously.” The stakes were unexpectedly high as well: a cash prize for the

winning team. But true to Redding’s spirit, the team who took home the top spot on Wednesday, November 12 chose to donate their winnings to Adopt a Golden Knoxville, which supports lost or mistreated Golden Retrievers, providing them medical care and finding them loving homes. “We had a great time,” said winning Team Captain Ken Swensen. “And maybe we can help a couple of good dogs.” The tournament will be ongoing. Interested players are invited to attend open-play in the gymnasium or an upcoming MLP Pickleball event. ■

For more information about upcoming events and clinics, visit [reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation](http://reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation)

Wire Mill Committee eyes Georgetown option with least development / continued from page 1

While Committee member and former Land Use Director Aimee Pardee liked aspects of all three options, she noted the second and third depended upon taking private property for some projects. She noted the vast majority of the elements in option one could be completed without doing so. Regina O’Brien agreed. She also felt that whatever approach is decided upon should create opportunities in the center of the Wire Mill site for interaction with the Norwalk River and the adjacent greenway. Chair Amy Atamian was also in favor of option one. However, she noted her preference for keeping the large slab in the West Pond area, which can be used for court sports, a skate park, or other activities and

would be expensive to remove. As Pirie noted in the public session on October 4, the three concept design options are not necessarily exclusive to one another. Elements from each can be mixed and matched to develop a final plan. For example, Dean noted that while he was in favor of option one, he would like to explore the improvements and changes to Route 57 proposed as part of option two. After all the public feedback has been gathered and analyzed, the final plan will be presented at another public session sometime in January. Pirie Associates will also deliver a financial analysis of the plan and draft land use amendments.

“Once we have a design option that presents a vision for a master plan, there will be development of planning language that describes what different areas of the site should look like and get down to details,” Atamian said. “The first step would be to go to the Planning Commission and have the master plan adopted by the Planning Commission with a map with overlay districts, most likely with the Mill site divided up into a couple of different parcels and probably keeping the same overall zoning as we currently have.” ■

Community members can fill out the survey on the three options until December 1 at [reddingct.gov/revitalize-georgetown-project](http://reddingct.gov/revitalize-georgetown-project)



THE NATURAL WORLD

The Outside Story: Creating caches

By Loren Merrill



Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol

On a recent walk in the woods, I heard a red-breasted nuthatch calling softly. It was six feet above me in a large white pine, climbing down the tree headfirst. Looking through my binoculars, I saw that the nuthatch was carrying a red spruce seed, which it slotted under a piece of knobby bark before flying off into a tangle of branches on a nearby spruce. The bird soon re-appeared on the pine, 15 feet higher this time, and stashed another seed under the bark. It was still late summer then, but the bird was already planning for winter.

Winter presents several food-related challenges for vertebrate animals in cold climates: There is little in the way of fresh vegetation or nectar to eat; most invertebrates migrate, hibernate, or die; and any fruits, berries, and nuts produced in the fall gradually vanish into the stomachs of hungry competitors. Some animals migrate to avoid winter conditions, while others stay in the Northeast, either entering some form of hibernation or suspended animation, or remaining active. For those that stay active, finding enough food to meet their elevated energetic requirements becomes a daily challenge.

Red-breasted nuthatches typically stay in cold climates. They employ a clever trick to ensure they have enough food to last the winter: They create secret food caches across the landscape for later consumption. A number of species engage in this strategy to survive the winter, including American red and eastern gray squirrels, deer and white-footed mice, meadow and southern red-backed voles, red-breasted and white-breasted nuthatches, tufted titmice, black-capped and boreal chickadees, northern shrikes, and all our corvids (jays, crows, and ravens) to varying degrees.

Gray and red squirrels exemplify the two primary caching types: gray squirrels are scatter hoarders, caching seeds and nuts individually or in small groups, and red squirrels are larder hoarders, creating large caches of seeds, nuts, or cones in one or a few places.

Animals that store food throughout their territory or home range typically have a highly developed hippocampus, the region of the brain responsible for spatial memory. The hippocampus can undergo seasonal changes, increasing in size during periods when the animal relies heavily on recalling where it has placed its snacks, and decreasing for the months when it feeds on fresh food. This plasticity is handy, because the brain consumes a lot of calories, and downsizing a portion of the brain when it isn't needed can save a lot of energy. The memories of squirrels and birds are not infallible, however, and many seeds are forgotten. These seeds may then germinate and become part of the next generation of trees. Cachers are thought to play important roles in natural forest regeneration, act-

ing as seed dispersers, and even giving the seeds an early boost by burying them.

In addition to spatial memory, squirrels rely heavily on smell to help relocate their food caches, or to find (and raid) the caches of others. In fact, one of the major problems cachers face is contending with thieves. Some individuals make a living as thieves and invest a good portion of their time spying on others. What's an honest, hard-working squirrel supposed to do? Researchers have discovered that caching squirrels engage in some deception of their own: If they think they are being watched, they will pretend to bury something in the ground. The would-be thief then wastes time searching, while the honest cacher can go hide its food somewhere else.

An important aspect of caching is that the food being stored needs to have a good shelf life. Nuts and seeds, well-suited for long-term storage, make up the bulk of cached food. Birds visiting backyard feeders often split their time between eating the sunflower seeds and hiding them around the yard. The next time you see a black-capped chickadee at your feeder, watch it closely to see whether the bird cracks open the seed and eats it, or tucks it away under some bark for safekeeping. If it's the latter, that's caching in action. ■

Loren Merrill is a writer and photographer with a PhD in ecology. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org

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Tree planted, honoring Mary Anne Guitar



Photo by Anne Nemetz

As happens, the tree in the traffic island at the intersection of Meeker Hill and Black Rock Turnpike grew old and diseased and had to be taken down. As happens less often, a spontaneous group got together to replace the old tree with a new one. A healthy sugar maple has been planted in honor of the late Mary Anne Guitar, who died in 2017. Guitar served as First Selectwoman of Redding from 1977 to 1989 and was a founder and long-time President of Redding Land Trust. She would no doubt have been delighted with her new tree.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies  
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This Week’s Featured Events

<b>The Joyce Allen Great Turkey Escape</b> <b>Thursday, November 27</b> 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Virtual 5K 8:00 a.m. 1K Kids Fun Run 8:30 a.m. 5K Run or Walk Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road runsignup.com/ Race/CT/Redding/ TheGreatTurkeyEscape \$, R	<b>Bethel Winterfest</b> <b>Friday, November 28</b> 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Shopping, caroling, wagon rides, and tree lighting Downtown Bethel bethelchamberofcommerce.com/ winterfest	<b>Turkey Waddle with Redding Land Trust</b> <b>Friday, November 28</b> 10:00 a.m. Dan Beard Trail and Turkington Fall Natural Area Register at marktwainlibrary.org 486 Redding Road reddinglandtrust.org R	<b>Want to feature an upcoming event?</b>  <b>E-mail us at advertise@reddingsentinel.org for more information.</b>
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ARTS

<b>Friday, November 21</b> <b>Swing Dance with Austin Scelzo and Friends</b> 7:00 p.m. Dance lesson 8:00 p.m. Dance The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org \$	<b>Saturday, November 22</b> <b>Bus Trip: Radio City Christmas Spectacular</b> 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Depart from Redding Community Center, enjoy time in New York City and a live show 37 Lonetown Road reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation \$, R	<b>Saturday, November 22</b> <b>Easton Arts Council Photography Exhibition Art Reception</b> 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Easton Public Library 691 Morehouse Road Easton eastonartscouncil.org
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<b>Sunday, November 23</b> <b>Lino Carving</b> 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Linoleum block hand printing New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R	<b>Saturday, December 6</b> <b>High Horse with Kat Wallace (Bluegrass Series)</b> 7:00 p.m. Doors open 8:00 p.m. Show The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org \$	<b>Saturday, December 6</b> <b>Lyrics Coffeehouse – David Morgan</b> 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation \$
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CHILDREN | TEENS

<b>Friday, December 5</b> <b>Design Your Own Winter Village</b> 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. For age 4-13 Giggling Pig Art Studio 272 Greenwood Avenue Bethel thegigglingpig.com/ kids-events-bethel \$, R	<b>Monday, November 24</b> <b>Powderpuff Football Game: Seniors vs. Juniors</b> 6:30 p.m. Raffles, concessions, and friendly competition Joel Barlow High School 100 Black Rock Turnpike gofan.co/event/5309908 \$
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<b>Thursday, November 27</b> <b>The Joyce Allen Great Turkey Escape</b> 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Virtual 5K 8:00 a.m. 1K Kids Fun Run 8:30 a.m. 5K Run or Walk Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road runsignup.com/Race/CT/Redding/ TheGreatTurkeyEscape \$, R	<b>Friday, December 5</b> <b>Mark Twain Library Art Show Preview Reception</b> 7:00 p.m. Annual art show runs December 6 – 14 Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org \$, R	<b>Saturday, December 6</b> <b>Reindeer Run</b> 10:00 a.m. Check in 11:00 a.m. 5K Race Festive attire encouraged, run around the cross country course Joel Barlow High School 100 Black Rock Turnpike runsignup.com/Race/Donate/ CT/Redding/JoelBarlow-HighSchoolReindeerRun \$, R
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HEALTH | WELLNESS

<b>Wednesday, December 3</b> <b>Moving Meditation with Live Music</b> 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Mindfulness practice with live violin The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org/events \$, R	<b>Monday, December 8</b> <b>JBHS Red Cross Club Blood Drive</b> 7:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Joel Barlow High School 100 Black Rock Turnpike redcrossblood.org/give.html/ find-drive R
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HOLIDAY | SEASONAL

<b>Thursday, November 20</b> <b>Festive Holiday Gatherings with The Thirsty Radish</b> 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Virtual cooking program Mark Twain Library marktwainlibrary.org R	<b>Friday, November 21</b> <b>Refreshments with Friends – Friendsgiving</b> 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Drop in for seasonal snacks Heritage Center 37 Lonetown Road	<b>Friday, November 28</b> <b>Bethel Winterfest</b> 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Shopping, caroling, wagon rides, and tree lighting Downtown Bethel bethelchamberofcommerce.com/ winterfest
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<b>Tuesday, December 2</b> <b>Holiday Make-Up for Mature Women</b> 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Hands-on make-up demonstration Heritage Center 37 Lonetown Road RSVP to mstillman@reddingct.gov or 938-9725 R	<b>Wednesday, December 3 and Sunday, December 7</b> <b>Wreath Making for Adults</b> 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Wednesday 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Sunday New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R	<b>Wednesday, December 3</b> <b>A Clemens Family Christmas at Home</b> 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Virtual program with curator from The Mark Twain House & Museum Mark Twain Library marktwainlibrary.org R
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<b>Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7</b> <b>Caroling in the Barn with Animals</b> 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R	<b>Sunday, December 7</b> <b>Baking on the Farm: Holiday Cookie Boxes</b> 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R	<b>Tuesday, December 9</b> <b>Holiday Music Luncheon</b> 12:15 p.m. Live music by students at John Read Middle School with lunch Heritage Center 37 Lonetown Road RSVP to mstillman@reddingct.gov or 938-9725 R
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<b>Saturday, December 13</b> <b>Breakfast with Santa and Buddy the Elf</b> 9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Register for a 45-minute timeslot Riverbrook Regional YMCA 404 Danbury Road Wilton wiltonymca.org \$, R
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NATURE

<b>Friday, November 28</b> <b>Turkey Waddle with Redding Land Trust</b> 10:00 a.m. Dan Beard Trail and Turkington Fall Natural Area Register at marktwainlibrary.org 486 Redding Road reddinglandtrust.org R
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<b>Tuesday, December 2</b> <b>Women’s Circle</b> 6:00 p.m. Share ideas and make connections Georgetown Collective 28 Main Street A georgetowncollective.org/events R
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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

<b>Bethlehem Lutheran Church</b> Sundays at 10:00 a.m. 44 Portland Avenue bethlehemlutheranct.org	<b>Calvary Independent Baptist Church</b> Adult and Child Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. / Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m. Nursery provided for all services. 711 Redding Road cibcredning.org	<b>Christ Church, Episcopal</b> Sundays at 9:00 a.m. 184 Cross Highway christchurchredding.org
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<b>First Church of Christ, Congregational</b> Sundays at 10:00 a.m. 25 Cross Highway firstchurchredding.org	<b>Long Ridge United Methodist</b> Sundays at 11:30 a.m. 201 Long Ridge Road Danbury longridgeumc.com	<b>Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish St. Patrick Church:</b> Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. Confessions: Saturdays 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. and Mondays and Thursdays 7:30 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. and before/after Weekday Mass Eucharistic Adoration: Mondays and Thursdays 7:00 p.m. 169 Black Rock Turnpike sacredheart-stpat.org
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<b>Georgetown Oratory of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</b> Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 12:00 p.m. (Latin) Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30 a.m. Wednesday: 6:00 pm. (Latin) Holy Days: 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. First Fridays and Saturdays: 8:30 a.m. Confessions: Saturdays 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. and Wednesdays 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration: Saturdays 5:00 p.m. following Vigil Mass 30 Church Street
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<b>Temple B’nai Chaim</b> Friday, November 21 Shabbat at Meadow Ridge 5:00 p.m. 100 Redding Road templebnaichaim.org
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MEETINGS

<b>Thursday, November 20</b> <b>Long Range Financial Planning Committee</b> 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Virtual	<b>Thursday, November 20</b> <b>Democratic Town Committee</b> 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	<b>Monday, November 24</b> <b>Historic District Study Committee</b> 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	<b>Monday, November 24</b> <b>OPEB Trust Board Special Meeting</b> 6:00 p.m. Virtual	<b>Monday, November 24</b> <b>Public Hearing for Proposed Historic District</b> 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	<b>Monday, November 24</b> <b>Board of Finance Commission</b> 7:30 p.m. Virtual	<b>Tuesday, November 25</b> <b>Planning Commission</b> 7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	<b>Monday, December 1</b> <b>Park and Recreation Commission</b> 7:00 p.m. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road	<b>Monday, December 1</b> <b>Republican Town Committee</b> 7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	<b>Tuesday, December 2</b> <b>Georgetown Fire District</b> 5:00 p.m. Georgetown Fire Department 61 Redding Road	<b>Tuesday, December 2</b> <b>Redding Board of Education</b> 7:00 p.m. John Read Middle School / Community Room 486 Redding Road	<b>Tuesday, December 2</b> <b>Conservation Commission</b> 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	<b>Thursday, December 4</b> <b>Redding Safety Committee</b> 4:00 p.m. Virtual	<b>Monday, December 8</b> <b>League of Women Voters</b> 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Town Hall / Conference Room 100 Hill Road	<b>Monday, December 8</b> <b>Board of Ethics</b> 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Conference Room and Virtual 100 Hill Road and Zoom	<b>*Town offices close at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26 and are closed Thursday, November 27 for Thanksgiving</b>  <b>*Sign-up to receive meeting agendas and notifications at reddingct.gov/subscribe</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Based on closed sales volume information from SmartMLS for all locations and prices ranges as reported on 11/19/2025 for period of 01/01/2025 - 09/30/2025. <sup>2</sup> Data based on closed and recorded buyer and/or seller transaction sides of homes \$1M and over in the 2024 calendar year. The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2025 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logo are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices, which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC, and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.