Redding Sentinel

OCTOBER 15, 2026 | REDDING, CONNECTICUT | Volume 5 / Issue 19 | $4

District payroll issues addressed at packed meeting

By Anne Young Albanese

Correcting payroll problems within the school district is proving to be a process.

At the Redding Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, October 6, ER9 superintendent Dr. Jason McKinnon discussed payroll issues that have caused problems for teachers and non-certified staff. Parents and staff from the Redding school district packed the room. McKinnon started by assuring the audience that no health insurance plans had been canceled.

McKinnon shared his short-term and long-term plans to ensure that payroll is calculated correctly in the future. Short-term, the plan starts with the school and Central Office staff. Secretaries in the

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Photo by Sten Spinella

Sunlight shines on the top of a tree line in West Redding on a late afternoon, early fall day last month. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Daily Bread food pantry in Danbury serving 1,000 people

By Donna Christopher



Photo by Donna Christopher

Sam Hyman stocks produce at supermarket-style Daily Bread Food Pantry near the Danbury Fair mall.

A new location has brought about improvements to and the expansion of Daily Bread Food Pantry.

The Danbury Fair mall area site makes the pantry a more convenient option for working individuals and families eligible to shop from Danbury and neighboring towns.

When the *Sentinel* visited shortly after the pantry moved from downtown into its leased, 6,000-square-foot space at 125 Park Avenue in Danbury on Valentine's Day 2025, about 800 individuals and families were shopping there. Its roster has since grown by about 200, to roughly 1,000 shoppers who may make appointments twice a month. Eligible residents from anywhere in Connecticut may use the pantry.

President Peter Kent said this week that the move from a much smaller space at St. James Episcopal Church in downtown Danbury was about more than increasing capacity. It improved food deliveries and allowed the pantry to provide a more appealing experience. At the former location, families received prepacked bags; now they select their own groceries in a supermarket-style setting.

Shoppers receive points based on household size. The allowances include 60 points for one person, 75 for two, 90 for three and 120 for a household of five. Food values can change depending on availability and other factors. Meat is one item the pantry tries to keep consistent: unless it is a "super premium" cut, it costs 2 points per pound.

Kent said he once referred to pantry users as "guests," but now prefers "shoppers" because the pantry feels much like a regular store. He said the term helps normalize the experience of visiting the pantry. Some of the volunteers are also shoppers depending on their eligibility. About 750 volunteers

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Redding's Big Outdoors

Turkington Falls Natural Area

By Tony Gale



Photo by Tony Gale

Professional photographer Tony Gale turned his lens on the Turkington Falls Trail.

Redding has so many trails, and I hope to one day see them all. For this hike I chose the Turkington Falls Natural Area. I didn't have any specific reason, beyond not having hiked it before. After taking my daughter to preschool on a sunny, crisp fall morning, I headed over. Parking was alongside the road at the entrance on Old Stagecoach Road, with room for a few cars.

The trail was marked with a sign and was flanked with two tall trees, poison ivy creeping up the trunks, which made it all feel a bit mysterious. As I started along, I could hear a few birds calling over the crunch of leaves underfoot and some kind of heavy equipment in the distance. White markers were nailed to trees to guide the way, especially helpful with the trail somewhat obscured by fallen leaves. The sadly ubiquitous and invasive Japanese Barberry were covered in their red berries, adding a pop of color. Shortly after starting I passed a stone wall, one of several on the trail. The smell of fallen leaves added to the autumnal feeling. Mushrooms peeked up here and there as I walked. A few houses were distantly visible through the trees. The trail went down a short, gradual hill with oak and maple seedlings dotting the area.

I heard the train whistle in the distance as I approached a sign for the loop trail. I headed right. The trail was well-tended, with frequent fallen trees around, but not blocking the trail. The sound of rushing water slowly became louder, drowning out everything else. I walked through an opening in another stone wall and came to the source of the sounds, a lovely

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Bairaktaris named new Park and Recreation Director

By Rob Sample

A local son is now running Park and Recreation.

On Wednesday, September 30, the Board of Selectmen approved the hiring of James (Jaime) Bairaktaris as the new director of the Department. In his new role, Bairaktaris replaces longtime director Rob Blick, who retired in August, and will assume his post on November 3.

Bairaktaris brings extensive professional and volunteer experience to the job – not to mention Redding roots. He spent his early years in town and attended Redding Elementary School (RES). He also enjoyed a variety of Park and Recreation programs, experiences he remembers fondly.

"I took part in the extended-day program after school, summer day camps, programs at Topstone Park, and baseball and soccer," Bairaktaris recalled. "On Sundays we attended music programs on the town green. These programs were where my brother, friends and I all learned about our community. There's a warmth to Redding that you don't find everywhere."

After his family moved to Westport, Bairaktaris graduated from Staples High School and attended Sacred Heart University. Bairaktaris most recently had been a technology assistant at John Read Middle School, running tech operations for more than 400 students and staff. He also served as advisor for the school's Track and Field and Science Olympiad clubs and was on the school's crisis/emergency preparedness team.

Bairaktaris was selected as an outstanding educator for 2026 by the Connecticut State PTA. Earlier, he was a paraeducator at Redding Elementary School during which he received the school district's Paraeducator of the Year Award in 2020.

Since 2022, Bairaktaris has held an additional professional role: travel camp director for the Redding Park and Recreation Department. This seasonal assignment encompassed operations, staffing, scheduling, and budgeting, among other responsibilities. He was the main point of contact with parents and sports commissioners, and regularly surveyed participants and families to refine the programs offered. Among his accomplishments was the addition of school year and winter sports programming in response to high demand from residents.

Bairaktaris has served as crew chief for the Westport Police Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division and, since 2024, as President of Westport's volunteer EMS organization. He first became an EMS volunteer as a high-school freshman. In addition, from 2021 to 2023 he served Westport's District 4 for its Representative Town Meeting (RTM).

At the September 30 Board of Selectmen meeting, Angela Caes,

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Editorial

Candidates would be wise not to skip debates

Recent debate cancellations raise questions as Election Day approaches

By Sten Spinella

This year's races to see who will represent Redding in the state legislature have been, mercifully, mostly tame. Just last week, we saw an exceedingly polite exchange of ideas between State Rep. Anne Hughes and challenger Darrell Harris in their race for the Connecticut State House. Their debate was encouraging for a number of reasons, not the least of which being the large crowd who descended upon the Mark Twain Library. Heading into the midterms, democracy seems to be alive and well around these parts.

That's why the *Sentinel* was disappointed when we heard a debate for State Senate, which was meant to take place on Tuesday, October 13, had been cancelled. The contest between Republican Alma Sarelli and Democrat Samantha Nestor had been all but devoid of controversy before the cancellation — Nestor touched on her experience bringing down state money for her local constituents, and Sarelli bemoaned one-party rule in Hartford. It was more or less typical, until Sarelli backed out of the debate.

We at the *Sentinel* find ourselves asking: Why? A scheduling conflict, which Sarelli blames, is understandable, but in this case, one would hope the politician would resolve the conflict in favor of attending the debate. In addition to this Westport League of Women Voters (LWV) debate, Sarelli's poor timing in getting back to the Redding/Weston LWV chapters caused a cancellation of a second debate.

Perhaps this thinking is too high-minded, but to our mind, a public debate is one of this country's highest testaments to free speech and liberal government. For a candidate, particularly someone who would be a newcomer to state politics, to skip out on it, is, at best, disrespectful to your opponent as well as event organizers. It's also disrespectful to your own constituents, who expect you to take every opportunity to buttress your brand and increase your name recognition.

This is not to say Sarelli should or will lose because of this misstep, but a misstep it is. Debates are another in a series of tests before an election, during which candidates must prove their mettle, knowhow, and conviction. Each and every election cycle, candidates are faced with the choice of going to campaign events, attending to other responsibilities, or attending their debates. Most years, they wisely choose to debate. We had been looking forward to a back-and-forth that freely showcased the area's options ahead of the November 3 election.

As Redding League of Women Voters President Kim O'Rielly said at the State House debate between Hughes and Harris, the LWV works with members of all political parties for the common purpose of improving "the quality of democracy and our country by increasing voters' knowledge of candidates and issues." One candidate's conspicuous absence causing the cancellation of not one, but two local debates, flies in the face of the LWV's commendable mission. ■

Scam aware: Chief Kalamaras sounds the alarm

An open conversation about an ongoing threat

By Anthony Freyberg

Scams have become an increasingly common threat to communities across the country, and Redding residents are not immune.

That was the message from Police Chief Robert Kalamaras at his second presentation to a group of concerned citizens on October 5. The Chief outlined the many ways scammers try to separate people from their money. His department has recently conducted fraud investigations finding:

- $41,000 lost to a fraudulent Microsoft computer warning that their bank account had been hacked
- An iPad fraud alert with a phone number connecting to a scammer impersonating the FBI who convinced the victim to obtain a $56,000 cashier's check and send it to a bank in Texas.
- A fake Apple support scam which succeeded in obtaining $500 and a picture of the victim's driver's license.
- An e-mail reporting an unauthorized Amazon purchase with a fake customer service phone number. That victim was persuaded to give their credit card, bank, and social security numbers to the scammer.
- A gift card extortion scam; that victim purchased $2,500 in gift cards and provided the card info to the scammer.
- A cryptocurrency scam that cost the victim more than $200,000.
- A fake crypto wallet security e-mail alert that cost another $200,000.

Stolen checks from the mail are also an ongoing problem.

The Chief reported that approximately 65 of these scams have been reported so far this year. Thanks to ongoing cooperation with the banks, the Chief reported successes in stopping some scams. He emphasized the importance of actively

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Legal Notices

The Redding Zoning Board of Appeals has scheduled a public hearing via Zoom on Tuesday October 20, 2026 at 7:00pm to review and possible vote on the following applications.

1) **Application #08-01-26 – 711 Redding Road (Assessor's Map and Lot #6 & #95): Owner: Ken Brooks CIBC Holding Calvary Independent Baptist Church:** Requesting a variance for a residential buffer of 80' in leu of 100' required by Redding Zoning Regulations 5.1.4a and 4.6 for adding 15 more parking spaces
2) **Application #10-01-26 – 6 Drummer Lane (Assessor's Map and Lot #14 & #34) Owner: John and Lisa Reilly** – Requesting a Reasonable Accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (FHA 42 USC SS3601-3631 and/or ADA 42 USC 12101-12213) to place a Wheel Chair Ramp in the side yard setback. ■

Elizabeth Williams – Chairman, Redding Zoning Board of Appeals

The Redding Zoning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing for October 28, 2026 at 7:00pm in person at the Town Hall Hearing Room 100 Hill Road Redding CT. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the following application.

1. ***Application #26-06Z – Zoning Regulation Amendments for compliance with Connecticut Public Act 25-1 (PA 25-1) by BFJ Planning.*** ■

Matt Lecher, Chairman, Redding Zoning Commission

2026 Connecticut State Ballot Sample

State of Connecticut Official Ballot | Redding, Connecticut | State Election | November 3, 2026 | Congressional District 4, Senatorial District 26, Assembly District 135

Office / Party	1 Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote for One	2 Representative in Congress Vote for One	3 State Senator Vote for One	4 State Representative Vote for One	5 Secretary of the State Vote for One	6 Treasurer Vote for One	7 Comptroller Vote for One	8 Attorney General Vote for One	9 Judge of Probate Vote for One	10 Registrar of Voters Vote for One
Democratic Party	○ 1A Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz	○ 2A Jim Himes	○ 3A Samantha Nestor	○ 4A Anne M. Hughes	○ 5A Stephanie Thomas	○ 6A Erick Russell	○ 7A Sean Scanlon	○ 8A William Tong	○ 9A Steven Boa DeMoura	○ 10A Andrea Theodore
Republican Party	○ 1B Ryan Fazio and Matt Corey	○ 2B Michael Ted Goldstein	○ 3B Alma Sarelli	○ 4B Darrell Harris	○ 5B Peter Lumaj	○ 6B Fred Wilms	○ 7B Jennifer S. Tooker	○ 8B John Bolton		○ 10B Michele Meschi
Working Families Party	○ 1C Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz			○ 4C Anne M. Hughes	○ 5C Stephanie Thomas	○ 6C Erick Russell	○ 7C Sean Scanlon	○ 8C William Tong		
Independent Party	○ 1D Ryan Fazio and Matt Corey	○ 2D Benjamin Wesley	○ 3D Alma Sarelli	○ 4D Darrell Harris	○ 5D Stephanie Thomas	○ 6D Fred Wilms	○ 7D Sean Scanlon			
Write-in Votes	○ 1E	○ 2E	○ 3E	○ 4E	○ 5E	○ 6E	○ 7E	○ 8E	○ 9E	○ 10E

SAMPLE

Be sure to read the instructions on the reverse side of this ballot.

EARLY VOTING
Monday October 19 - Sunday November 1

MIDTERM 2026 VOTE ELECTIONS

ELECTION DAY
Tuesday November 3
6:00am - 8:00pm

October						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	19 Early Voting & Same Day Registration 10am - 6pm	20 Early Voting & Same Day Registration 10am - 6pm	21 Early Voting & Same Day Registration 10am - 6pm	22 Early Voting & Same Day Registration 10am - 6pm	23 Early Voting & Same Day Registration 10am - 6pm	24 Early Voting & Same Day Registration 10am - 6pm
25 Early Voting & Same Day Registration 10am - 6pm	26 Early Voting & Same Day Registration 10am - 6pm	27 Early Voting & Same Day Registration 8am - 8pm	28 Early Voting & Same Day Registration 10am - 6pm	29 Early Voting & Same Day Registration 8am - 8pm	30 Early Voting & Same Day Registration 10am - 6pm	31 Early Voting & Same Day Registration 10am - 6pm
November						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Early Voting & Same Day Registration 10am - 6pm	2 No Voting Today	3 Election Day and Same Day registration 6am - 8pm				

visit: www.reddingct.gov/registrar-voters For more information, scan the QR Code

Birth Announcement



Former *Sentinel* Managing Editor Jessie Wright and husband Andrew welcomed little Oliver to the world on Sunday, October 11.

He joins big brother Arthur and big sister Elise, who are very excited to have him home!

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Election 2026

Hughes, Harris stress priorities in debate for State House post

By Rob Sample



Photo by Rob Sample

State Rep. Anne Hughes and challenger Darrell Harris participated in a largely cordial debate last week.

On Tuesday night, October 6, residents of Redding, Easton, and Weston packed the second-floor meeting room at the Mark Twain Library. The big draw: a debate between Democrat Anne Hughes and Republican Darrell Harris, who are vying to represent Connecticut's 135th district in the State House of Representatives.

Hughes, the Democratic incumbent, and Harris, her Republican challenger, engaged in polite conversation in the minutes before the debate began, setting a tone that pervaded the event. Held in cooperation with the Redding chapter of the League of Women Voters (LWV), the debate was about 75 minutes in duration.

Chapter President Kim O'Rielly noted that the League provides both men and women of differing political philosophies a forum for working across party lines for a common purpose. "We seek to improve the quality of democracy and our country by increasing voters' knowledge of candidates and issues," said O'Rielly.

The first question concerned whether each candidate holds a particular political philosophy that would inform their vote as a representative.

"I don't know if you would call it a 'political philosophy,' but people and planet first over profit... who does this impact, who does this harm, and how does it help?" Hughes said. "How does it help create good government for the people, of the people and by the people? I've been working in the trenches for my whole professional life in human services, so I have [had] a first-hand window to the people that are the most vulnerable. I want to protect them first."

Harris described his political philosophy as the "power of the individual."

"Local control is the animating concept by which I would measure everything," Harris said. "I find that when we have the opportunity as individuals and neighbors to get together and make decisions regarding how we run things, we do things very, very well. Any decision that I would make as State Rep would be one that gets a consensus from constituents and communicates straight up to the State government and forcefully advocates for the individual."

The next question concerned their views on raising taxes. Harris noted that in communities that don't have many businesses – as is the case for the three towns in the 135th district – taxes can be relatively high. The key is to keep both costs and taxes reasonable while meeting local needs.

"In California, state, federal, and local taxes...[create] a huge disincentive to staying there," Harris said. "So, we've seen out-migration from California. I don't want to see that in Connecticut. Before we raise taxes, I want tax money in Hartford spent efficiently. I want taxation to be fair, but I don't want taxation to be confiscatory."

"I love talking about fair taxation," Hughes said. "Right now, the HR1 federal bill has taken a trillion dollars away from paychecks like yours and mine and given it to the wealthiest and the biggest corporations, that are paying effectively zero. We want that giveaway to be invested back in Connecticut roads and bridges, clean water, Connecticut schools, and Connecticut services and hospitals."

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State Senate debate cancelled due to one candidate's schedule

By Donna Christopher

Republican Alma Sarelli backed out of the October 13 debate for State Senate, effectively canceling it.

The debate was canceled by organizers the League of Women's Voters (LWV) of Westport, Sustainable Westport, and Earthplace after Sarelli withdrew, according to a release.

"After careful consideration of the campaign of the Republican candidate, we will not participate, creating an 'empty chair' situation," Sustainable Westport said in an announcement. "The League had received confirmation that the Democratic candidate had agreed to participate."

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Six things you should know about voting in the upcoming election

By Rob Sample



Election Day this year takes place on Tuesday, November 3. Both election law and the ways Connecticut residents can vote have changed considerably over the last few years, so Redding's Registrars of Voters want people to know that they have three ways to vote this year: **by absentee ballot, early voting in person,** or **voting in person on Election Day**. Here are some important facts about the process and Registrar of Voters office. The latter is the dedicated team that works to ensure an accurate, fair election process townwide, whichever voting method people choose.

1. There are important dates and places you should know

In advance of Election Day, the Town Clerk's office (not the Registrar of Voters office) began issuing absentee ballots on October 2. The online absentee application request portal opened September 19; the deadline to request an absentee ballot is **November 2**. However, don't wait until the deadline to receive and return your ballot through the mail. Absentee ballots must be received by the Town Clerk by the close of polls on Election Day, November 3 to be counted.

You can also vote in person from October 19-November 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Extended early-voting hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27 and on Thursday, October 29. On Election Day, November 3, the polls are open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Anyone in line by 8:00 p.m. is entitled to vote. The Town expects, and is prepared for, strong turnout across all three methods of voting.

2. The Town registrars are strictly nonpartisan

A Redding resident recently said the following to a seasoned poll worker: "I don't know who among you is a Democrat and who is a Republican!" That comment was a point of pride for the Registrar of Voters Office, which is headed by Democrat Jessica Cishek and Republican Michelle Meschi. By law, every town in Connecticut must have two registrars, one a registered Democrat and one a registered Republican. What's more, Redding's Registrars of Voters Office maintains a strict policy of "no politics."

Cishek and Meschi are assisted by two deputy registrars and two assistant registrars, one from each party for each post.

"People with different perspectives can work together in harmony to uphold an institution that is bigger than ourselves," the registrars said in a recent statement to the *Sentinel*. "Further, our team has proved that we can become friends while we do it."

3. Preparing for Election Day and beyond involves a lot of work

The law now provides 14 days of early voting, for two full weeks before Election Day. This means elections are a much bigger undertaking than they were in the past. "We are in the thick of election preparation now," the registrars told the paper. "Poll workers are a big part of that. We have been working on staffing for both early voting and Election Day. We have our Election Day team largely in place and are finalizing assignments. Once staffing is set, we move into training, so that everyone understands not only their job, but also the procedures we follow if an unusual situation arises."

Besides staffing, the Office of the Registrars continuously updates and maintains the town's voter registry. This includes processing new registrations and address changes, preparing and testing equipment, reviewing ballots, preparing supplies for our polling location, coordinating early voting, training moderators and other election officials, and working through contingency plans. The team also devotes considerable time to answering voter questions and making sure people understand their options.

4. Recent Federal proposals have no impact on how Connecticut people will vote this year

The Registrars of Voters Office administers all elections under current Connecticut law, which, to repeat, provides for early voting, absentee voting, and in-person voting on Election Day. The office team aims to ensure all three methods work smoothly. While there have been several proposals and court cases involving elections and voting by mail, efforts to impose new restrictions on the handling of mail ballots do not change how Connecticut voters will vote in the November election.

Early voting allows voters to cast a ballot in person before Election Day. Connecticut voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2024 allowing the legislature to expand absentee voting. The General Assembly subsequently passed legislation implementing that amendment and, beginning this year, any eligible Connecticut voter may request an absentee ballot without needing to provide any of the specific excuses required in the past.

5. What you should know about voter ID

A Connecticut driver's license is one of the easiest and most common forms of identification to present, but Connecticut generally does not require a photo ID or driver's license to vote. Most voters can instead present a Social Security card or another pre-printed form of identification showing their name and either their address, signature, or photograph. And in most cases, a voter who doesn't have one of those forms of identification can sign a statement affirming that they are the person listed on the official voter registry.

Additional identification requirements apply for some first-time voters who register by mail, but, for most, eligibility is established through the voter registration process. The ID check at the polls helps elections staff confirm that the person standing in front of a poll worker is the registered voter on the rolls. And if you've moved, changed your name, or aren't sure whether your registration is current, checking ahead of time will make the process easier for everyone. You can visit the State of Connecticut's website: https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx.

6. If you forget to register to vote, you can utilize same-day registration

If you miss the registration deadline, same-day registration is available during early voting (the two-week period mentioned earlier) and on Election Day. Visit this website for more information on documentation a voter needs to provide. https://reddingct.gov/government/town-administration/registrar-voters/forgot-to-register/. If you are unsure or have a question about your registration, reach out to the registrars instead of assuming you cannot vote this year. ■



Sports

Falcons nearly topple top-ranked Wildcats

Boys soccer | ***By Rocco Valluzzo***



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Alex Solis takes control of the ball during a boys varsity soccer game against Bethel on Tuesday, October 6. Barlow lost a 1-0 decision.

Having knocked off one top-ranked team in the state already, the Joel Barlow High boys varsity soccer team nearly took down another last week.

The Falcons, who defeated Class S leader Cromwell 1-0 on October 3, hoped for a repeat performance when they hosted South-West Conference rival and Class L top seed Bethel three days later. A defensive battle was ultimately decided on a penalty kick, as the unbeaten Wildcats won 1-0.

It was the Falcons' ninth game that has been decided by just one goal. They are now 3-5-2 overall.

"It was a good, solid game, but you know again we're finding ways to not get the result versus getting the result," Barlow Head Coach Paul Winstanley said. "Hopefully we can get that changed."

Each side threatened in the first half only to come up short. A leaping save by Falcon keeper Tom Swabsin foiled a shot by Bethel's Khoa Ly at 24:40, and the hosts also came close on shots by Alex Solis and Waldy Vasquez. The latter was also fouled twice in the Bethel box in the first half, but no call was given.

"The controversy was they absolutely kicked the crap out of Waldy," said Winstanley. "If this game's going to be decided on a penalty, and it was, it should have been going both ways."

The stalemate continued well into the second half, until the Falcons were called for a foul inside their box with 23:30 left. Ly took the shot, and it flew out of Swabsin's reach, and the Wildcats were ahead to stay.

"We're not really a big goal scoring team," Winstanley said. "We can't afford the mistakes. We have to play very, very clean all over the field."

Down but not out, the Falcons mounted several threats in the time remaining, including one in the final minute, but came up short.

Having passed the midway point of the season, Barlow has six games remaining, including four in eight days. It hopes to secure four or five wins to qualify for the South-West Conference and state Class M tournaments.

"If we can find four or five wins in those games, we'll get into both tournaments," Winstanley said. "And we'll be the scariest team, the team you don't ever want to play."

Barlow visits New Fairfield today at 6:00 p.m., is at Immaculate on Saturday at 3:30 p.m., and hosts Newtown on Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. ■

Joel Barlow sports results and schedules

Boys cross country
Results:
October 6: Joel Barlow 19 / Notre Dame Prep 41, Pomperaug 20 / Joel Barlow 42, Newtown 24 / Joel Barlow 37
Record: Joel Barlow 6-7
Next meets:
October 21: SWC championship away at Bethel at 4:00 p.m.

Girls cross country
Results:
October 6: Joel Barlow 15 / Notre Dame Prep 50, Newtown 25 / Joel Barlow 32, Pomperaug 22 / Joel Barlow 39
Record: Joel Barlow 9-3
Next meets:
October 21: SWC championship away at Bethel at 3:30 p.m.

Field hockey
Results:
October 5: Joel Barlow 5 / Brookfield 0
October 7: Milford 1 / Joel Barlow 0
October 9: Lauralton Hall 1 / Joel Barlow 0
Record: Joel Barlow 9-3
Next games:
October 17: home versus Watertown at 9:30 a.m.
October 19: away at Masuk at 4:30 p.m.

Football
Results:
October 2: Branford 35 / Joel Barlow 0
Record: Joel Barlow 0-4
Next games:
October 17: home versus Bassick at 7:00 p.m.

Boys soccer
Results:
October 6: Bethel 1 / Joel Barlow 0
October 8: Joel Barlow 8 / Stratford 0
Record: Joel Barlow 3-5-2
Next games:
October 15: away at New Fairfield at 6:00 p.m.
October 17: away at Immaculate at 3:30 p.m.
October 10: home versus Newtown at 5:00 p.m.

Girls soccer
Results:
October 6: Joel Barlow 3 / Bethel 1
October 8: Joel Barlow 3 / Stratford 0
Record: Joel Barlow 7-2-1
Next games:
October 15: home versus New Fairfield at 7:00 p.m.
October 20: away at Newtown at 6:00 p.m.

Girls swimming
Results:
October 6: Pomperaug 101 / Joel Barlow 85
Record: Joel Barlow 5-1
Next meets:
October 15: away at Weston at 4:00 p.m.
October 20: home versus Stratford at 4:00 p.m.

Girls volleyball
Results:
October 5: Joel Barlow 3 / Pomperaug 2
October 7: Joel Barlow 3 / Immaculate 0
October 9: Joel Barlow 3 / Brookfield 1
October 10: Fairfield Warde 3 / Joel Barlow 0
Record: Joel Barlow 6-4
Next matches:
October 9: home versus Brookfield at 5:30 p.m.
October 10: home versus Fairfield Warde at 1:00 p.m.
October 14: away at Bassick at 5:30 p.m.



Falcons adjust in time for win

Girls volleyball | ***By Rocco Valluzzo***



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Sylvie Candee, left, goes for the kill while Brookfield's Isabella Denman attempts to block during a girls varsity volleyball match on Friday, October 9. Barlow won 3-1 (20- 25, 25-13, 25-15, 25-17).

It took a little time for the Joel Barlow High girls varsity volleyball team to find its rhythm when it hosted Brookfield.

The Falcons made some adjustments to their lineup on Friday, October 9. After coming up short in the first set, they had much better luck in the remainder of the match for a 3-1 (20-25, 25-13, 25- 15, 25-17) win.

Barlow was still without senior libero Val Amador Alesi. Missing last season due to a knee injury, she injured her other knee earlier this season.

Brookfield was propelled by a five-point service run in the first set, jumping out to an 11-5 lead. Battling back, the Falcons got to within three points (23-20) near the end, before the visitors secured the final two points to take the set.

"We had a little bit of a rocky start," said Barlow head coach Mavi Gilmore. "We decided to try some things today."

The team successfully regained its momentum in the second set after making tactical adjustments that proved more effective. Strong serving by Sylvie Candee and Sofia Saenz, plus kills by Genevieve Currie and Mia Roberts, gave the Falcons an 11-5 advantage.

Brookfield also had some difficulty handling the serve of Olivia Gatti, as Barlow went up 16-7, prompting the visitors to call timeout to try to stop the momentum. Barlow's play at the net prevented any threats, as it evened up the match.

"We found our rhythm starting in the second set," Gilmore said. "We made changes in the second set that worked a lot better than what happened in the first."

Both sides vied for position early in the third set. Ripley Robinson reeled off five straight service points to give the Falcons an 8-4 lead, while kills by Roberts and Candee put them in good shape later on with a 20-13 advantage. They also took advantage of a few hitting errors on the Bobcats' part for a 2-1 lead in the match.

Although the Falcons took an early lead in the fourth set, the Bobcats battled back with kills by Valentina Lara to tie it at 4-4. Two more ties and three lead changes would follow.

Another kill by Roberts put the Falcons on top again 12-11. She also served up four straight points to close the set and the match.

Barlow, now 7-5 overall, has six regular-season matches left. It hosts Bethel on Friday at 5:30 p.m., and is at Stratford at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. ■

Daily Bread food pantry in Danbury serving 1,000 people
continued from page 1



Photo by Donna Christopher

The Daily Bread Food Pantry tries to keep meat stocked consistently.

help run Daily Bread, with around 15 people staffing each three-hour shift.

Finances and inventory

Past President Debbie Landzberg explained that Daily Bread rescues food from local supermarkets and also buys from local farms and wholesalers, prioritizing fresh produce, meat, milk, and eggs. The pantry uses an inventory system to scan barcodes and assign point values to items, helping distribute food equitably.

About 70 percent of the pantry's food comes from Connecticut Foodshare at no cost to Daily Bread, with deliveries arriving twice a week. The pantry also rescues food from local supermarkets and purchases groceries from food wholesalers. Connecticut Foodshare supplies a statewide network of roughly 500 to 650 local food pantries, meal programs, and mobile pantry sites.

Kent said Daily Bread has become more reliant on community donations amid federal funding cuts affecting Connecticut Foodshare. The pantry also received a $100,000 state grant through the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Local Food Purchase Assistance Grant Program, part of $1.55 million announced for organizations buying Connecticut-grown food for people facing food insecurity. According to the *CT Mirror*, Connecticut Foodshare received 26 truckloads through the federal Emergency Food Assistance Program, or TEFAP, in the first quarter of 2026, down from 84 in the same period of 2025. Daily Bread raises money to cover expenses such as rent, utilities, and insurance.

The pantry serves Connecticut residents whose household income is below 300% of the federal poverty level. ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, and describes households that earn above the federal poverty level but may still struggle to afford basic necessities. According to United Way figures in the latest ALICE report provided for this story, 27 percent of Redding households fall below the ALICE threshold. In some Connecticut communities, that share is reported to be 39 percent. ALICE status is not the pantry's eligibility test, though some ALICE households may meet its income criteria. ■

Information about shopping, volunteering and donating is available at dailybreadfoodpantry.com

Barlow Beat

By Victoria Flishenbaum

Dear fellow readers, finally the spookiest month of the year has arrived! With Halloween decorations appearing and the excitement of fall in the air, October is already shaping up to be an exciting month at Joel Barlow High School. From homecoming festivities to spirit week and fall sports, there are plenty of opportunities for students to get involved, show their school spirit, and make memories with their peers outside of classwork.

First up is homecoming. Students are beginning to pick out their outfits, deciding who to go with, and organizing where to meet up before the big night. The homecoming dance will occur on Saturday, October 17, giving students time to dress up, spend some time with friends, and enjoy a memorable night together. Earlier that day, Barlow's football team will take on the Bassick Lions from Bridgeport at 1 p.m. All are encouraged to attend, support the team, and help create an energetic atmosphere!

On another note, October 13-16 is an exciting time for Barlow students, because it marks the return of spirit week. Organized by the Class of 2027, this year's spirit days offer everyone a chance to participate and show off their creativity.

On Tuesday, October 13, Twin Day, students picked a friend and wore matching outfits. Wednesday, October 14 was Student & Teacher Swap day; students dressed as teachers and teachers dressed as students. This was the perfect opportunity to dress up as your favorite teacher at Barlow. Thursday, October 15 is Class Colors Day, when students wear their respective class colors to represent their grade. Additionally, each class decorates their halls with their color, and the winner gets awarded bragging rights, sparking friendly competition. Finally, Friday, October 16 is Black & Gold Day. Students are encouraged to wear Barlow's school colors, showing their school pride during the homecoming pep rally. The pep rally will be showcasing all the different sports that the school has to offer, incorporating fun games that everyone can participate in.

Meanwhile, Joel Barlow's fall sports teams have been crushing it this season. On October 7, the girls volleyball team won their game against Immaculate High School, 3-0. They returned to the court on Wednesday, October 14 for an away game at Bassick High School. On October 8, boys soccer delivered an amazing sweep against Stratford, 6-0. These achievements are a great reason for students to support their fellow Falcons.

As October continues, there is plenty to look forward to at Barlow. Whether you're planning your homecoming outfit, participating in spirit week, actively participating in the pep rally, or cheering for the sports teams, students are making the most of everything happening around school.

With that, till next time fellow readers! ■

Victoria Flishenbaum is a senior at Joel Barlow High School

ER9 Policy Committee to discuss AI

By Anne Young Albanese



Artificial intelligence has become one of schools' biggest concerns. ER9 plans to address it at its Policy Committee meeting on October 23 at 12:00 p.m. The meeting will be a Zoom meeting. The agenda will be posted ahead of time. The link for the meeting will be on the agenda.

The proposed policy will be presented by the committee to all three boards of education at the tri-board meeting on October 27 at 7:00 p.m. It will be held in the JBHS Library Learning Commons. The policy will be discussed, and all three boards will need to accept it before it's implemented. If any of the boards vote against it, the policy will be defeated.

While the focus of the policy has not been proposed, the committee will probably examine policies from other school districts and, even more importantly, the Connecticut Department of Education.

State recommendations can be found at: https://portal.ct.gov/das/ctedtech/commission-for-educational-technology/initiatives/artificial- intelligence?language=en_US ■

Bairaktaris named new Park and Recreation Director

continued from page 1



Redding's new Park and Recreation Director James (Jaime) Bairaktaris officially starts in November. He's well-known in town.



Photos courtesy of Jaime Bairaktaris

Jaime Bairaktaris when he was in third grade on "Hawaiian Day" at a Redding Park and Rec day camp.

chair of the town's Park and Recreation Commission, praised the selection of Bairaktaris. Caes noted that the search process, during which 11 candidates were selected for interviews from more than 30 applicants who submitted resumes, was quite rigorous. Four candidates went on for second interviews.

"We all with a consensus put forward this candidate [Bairaktaris] for the position," Caes said, "feeling that his community collaboration as well as pure talent will serve Redding very well."

"It's been a wonderful process, and I really looking forward to working with you," First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton said.

Once he takes the reins at Park and Rec, Bairaktaris looks forward to "learning what the bones of the department are and how we can build upon that," he said. He also noted that he intends to focus heavily on emergency preparedness and safety, noting that the safety of the people who take part in the department's programs will be the top priority.

After his selection was announced on September 30, Bairaktaris commented on how his various work experiences have led him to his new role as Park and Recreation Director. "I have had a lot of different experiences, but all of them speak really closely to this type of position where you have to be that jack of all trades," he said. "You have to be able to pivot, and you have to be able to communicate really well."

As the department's director, Bairaktaris said he would aim to find what he termed the right balance of using the Park and Rec assets most effectively and meeting the needs of the most people.

"I'm excited to work with our community to help foster an environment where our Park and Recreation programs and places are accessible, community-oriented, and responsive to the needs of the people we serve," he said. "And from the landing page of our website to our post-program surveys, community feedback and diverse perspectives will serve as our North Star as we continue to work together to elevate the department." ■

Accomplished librarian Harriet Selverstone finds a new chapter in Redding

By Justin Reynolds



Photo courtesy of Harriet Selverstone

Harriet Selverstone in action during her impressive career. The renowned librarian recently moved to Redding.

After living in Westport for 50 years, Harriet Selverstone and her husband decided it was time to downsize. They moved to Meadow Ridge this summer.

A longtime librarian, Selverstone had amassed a slew of books over the years. The move seemed like the perfect time to part with many of them, including a "beautifully bound" set of Mark Twain books from the late 1800s that Selverstone inherited from her parents.

"What an opportunity it was," Selverstone said. "We're moving to Redding, where there's the Mark Twain Library, and we donated them to the book fair. We were thrilled to do that."

Dropping off her collection, Selverstone met Erin Dummeyer, director of the Mark Twain Library, and the two struck up a conversation about Selverstone's career, which included 29 years at Norwalk High School and a term as President of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL).

The Sentinel reached out to Dunmeyer to suggest a profile of Selverstone, who she promptly assisted us with contacting.

With a degree in education, Selverstone wanted to specialize in a particular area of teaching. Her husband suggested she pursue librarianship, joking that she was good with numbers and would take well to the Dewey Decimal System.

She followed the advice, earning a degree in library science from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn before landing the job in Norwalk. There, she became the chair of the library department. Years later, she returned to Pratt to teach.

For Selverstone, organizing books is only a small part of the job. Above all else, she enjoyed working with students, helping them explore their interests and teaching them to evaluate the information they encountered.

"Not everything that they get on their iPhones is true to form," she said. "There's a lot of exaggeration and a lot of negativity. They have to understand that they need to become true researchers."

During Banned Books Week one year, a student approached her with something he was afraid to discuss with his family. He was gay and scared to tell his father. Selverstone pointed the student to some reading materials she thought could help him navigate the situation.

Some time later, the student returned with an update: he'd told his father, who embraced him and told him he loved him. The student thanked Selverstone for helping him find the courage to have that difficult conversation.

"For me, that was the best day I ever had," she said. "One person at a time."

That experience reaffirmed what Selverstone saw as one of the library's most essential roles: helping people find information and perspectives that give them a better understanding of themselves and the world around them.

During her career, Selverstone was a champion of intellectual freedom, serving on AASL's Intellectual Freedom Committee. She regularly spoke about giving students access to a wide range of books.

While Selverstone believes that every parent has the right to choose what their own children read, that right shouldn't extend to other people's children.

"No one should have anything to say about what another person's child can read," she said.

Selverstone also organized programming around Banned Books Week, preferring to call it Freedom to Read to put a more positive spin on the occasion.

Selverstone's work took her beyond Connecticut. After serving as President of the state's school librarians association, she traveled around the country as President of the AASL, touring libraries and talking shop with fellow librarians.

She also worked with the American Indian Library Association, visiting libraries in Native American pueblos, and contributed to a White House conference on libraries in 1991.

Selverstone later returned to her

Continued on page 8

Notes from a Neighbor: Irregulars

Uniforms and the man

By Carter Wiseman

In recent months, you may have noticed news photos of military demonstrations around the world. For folks with family ties going back a generation or two, they may evoke the Nazis, who set the tone with propaganda films like *Triumph of the Will*. Since then, Russia has taken the stage with highly choreographed tributes in Red Square to the "Great Patriotic War," featuring tanks and missiles and rows of youthful recruits. Among the democracies since World War II, France has maintained the tradition of mass militaristic display with its annual July 14 parade down the Champs-Élysées. But that has always struck me as more operatic than threatening; the French were at their military best under Napoleon. Since then, the Chinese and the North Koreans have stepped into the theater of threat, led by Xi Jingping of China, and Kim Jong Il of North Korea.

One of the things that strikes me about the Chinese and North Korean extravaganzas is that the soldiers on parade are all exactly the same size, their chins at precisely the same angle, as if they had been selected for their appearance over their military qualifications, whatever those may have been.

This made me think of the Pentagon's recent introduction of testosterone tests for American service members, and a height-to-waist standard for soldiers attending a "State of the Force" address.

I'm all for military fitness, but height and waist size has never seemed an obstacle to service in our armed forces. My Army basic training company at Ft. Dix included the long and the short and the tall, and their faces ranged from pale to swarthy to dark. Many went to Vietnam and some died there. I doubt that their caskets were marked with height, weight, color, or testosterone level.

Down the road in Westport, there is a statue of a Minuteman marking the battle between the British regulars and the American revolutionaries at Compo Beach in April of 1777. The soldier wears no uniform; he was probably a farmer or a merchant. The British, smartly dressed in scarlet coats (which made excellent targets), carried the day, but they never tried landing in Connecticut again.

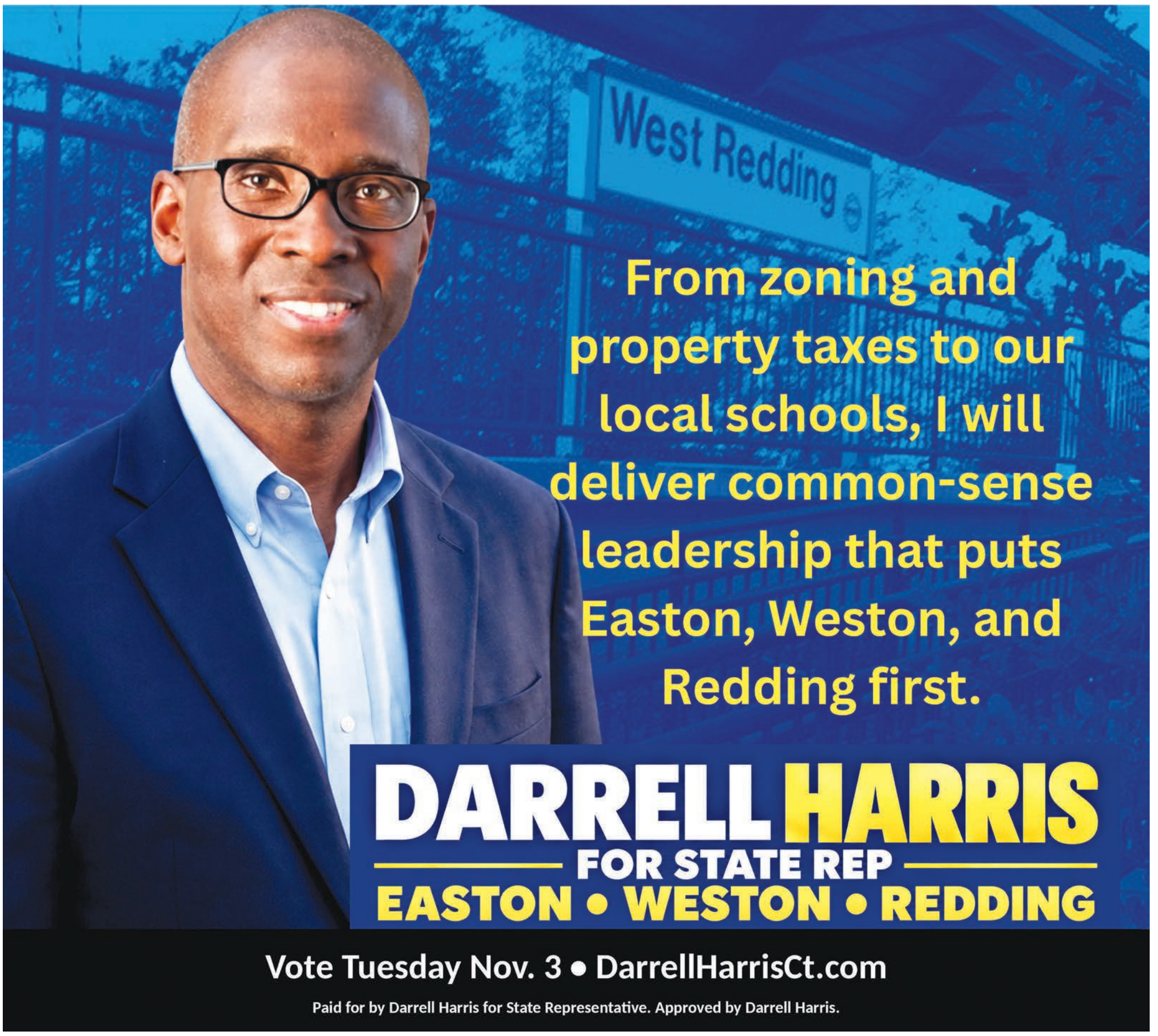
While poorly tailored, the Minutemen were our original guerrilla fighters. Even when better equipped during World II, the cartoonist Bill Mauldin's ragged GI characters Willie and Joe (who drove Generals Patton and MacArthur crazy for not wearing neckties in battle) won in the end.

The lesson had apparently been lost by the 1960s, when the Viet Cong, in pajamas and sandals, prevailed against American tanks and B52s. And more recently, bearded Taliban fighters in bathrobes waited out the most powerful military on the planet.

This came to mind on the occasion of the celebration of the U.S. Army's 250th birthday last year. I was struck by how the American troops' marching style differed from that of authoritarian regimes. Our people weren't exactly shuffling, but they weren't goose-stepping. Was this a political statement, or a message about how Americans respond to militarism? Until Willie and Joe shuffled across the Rhine in 1945, we did pretty well. Since then, not so much.

Is there a lesson here?

It might be that belief beats bespoke. ■



Board of Education has $670,000 surplus

The ongoing payroll management problems within the school district have something to do with it

By Rocco Valluzzo

With the 2025-26 fiscal year now complete, the Redding Board of Education reported a budget surplus of approximately $670,000 to the Redding Board of Finance at its Monday, October 5 meeting.

The surplus was primarily driven by salary encumbrance variances of $430,000 and special education reimbursements of $240,000. The Board of Education directed surplus funds into the 2 percent nonlapsing account, with the remaining excess, approximately $200,000, directed to the health insurance account.

According to Board of Education Chair Laura Worosz, the salary variance was attributed to the payroll's previous manual eFinance Plus tracking system, which made bi-weekly forecasting difficult and prone to small, cumulative errors. It has since then transferred to two systems: Red Rover and ADP.

"The systems that we had been using were very manual, and they made it very challenging to forecast without going through very detailed line item by line item of each individual bi-weekly," Worosz said. "So small variances throughout the year ended up creating a very large variance this year, in which we were off."

Worosz noted that a long-standing, minor miscalculation in FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act) withholdings was one of the factors that prompted the switch to a professional payroll provider. While base pay is expected to be accurate for the upcoming cycle, smaller items like substitute day rates and complex deductions are still being resolved.

There were also technical difficulties encountered during the migration from manual systems to ADP and Red Rover, emphasizing the priority of making all employees whole despite various deduction and timing errors. These included a district-wide pay delay due to a missed ADP cutoff, incorrect HSA deductions (double-dipping), and errors in retirement account (403B) funding.

Worosz added that the district's Central Office staff is working extended hours to correct data inputs. The priority is ensuring every teacher and staff member is compensated correctly, including retroactive interest for missed retirement contributions if necessary.

"The district, I think, recognizes how important it is to get that right," Worosz said. "And our central office staff has been working night and day to make sure that we get this going, and it's correct and accurate. It's been really challenging to get all of that to work. But we feel confident that this is, in the long run, going to be helpful for us to have a better handle on where our finances are throughout the year and that paychecks will be on time."

Details of the special education variance were not discussed. Worosz added that the details would be related to personal information.

Redding Finance Director Jim Sanders will consult with CliftonLarsonAllen LLC (CLA), the town's accounting firm, to validate the legality of redirecting funds to the health insurance account after the June 30 end of the fiscal year. Worosz will investigate potential Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) penalties and compliance requirements regarding delayed or miscalculated 403(B) plan contributions. ■

Scam aware: Chief Kalamaras sounds the alarm */continued from page 2*



Photo courtesy of Anthony Freyberg

Chief Robert Kalamaras spoke with concerned citizens last week, and updated them on his department's anti-scam efforts.

monitoring bank and credit card accounts regularly.

Today's scams are designed to exploit trust, create a sense of urgency, and catch consumers off guard. He urged people to slow down, take a breath, and verify before handing over information or your money. A few moments of skepticism can be vital in protecting your assets and peace of mind. The police chief's presentation proved to be a highly productive exchange, combining a candid assessment of the growing threat posed by scammers with practical advice residents could put to immediate use. ■

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Redding's Big Outdoors: Turkington Falls Natural Area *continued from page 1*



Photo by Tony Gale

One of an array of intoxicating images that presented themselves to Tony Gale as he wandered the Turkington Falls Trail.

brook. A giant boulder slowed its progress, with the water reflecting the trees. A small wooden footbridge had been washed aside and led to nowhere. The brook made a series of small waterfalls down the hill, perhaps the titular Turkington Falls? I stopped at the water's edge to enjoy the sounds and the view.

Then uphill and back through the stone wall I went; the area is adjacent to Centenniel Watershed State Forest land, limiting the available off-trail wandering. I started noticing more of the reds and yellows of fall backlit by the sun as the trail turned east. I approached a junction with the Reeve Biggers Trail, marked with blue blazes. Another reminder of how many trails we have in Redding.

I had a brief moment where I lost the trail before seeing the white on the trees as the trail went over a large rock. The trail curved around and met with another trail junction, this time the Dan Beard trail, also marked in blue blazes and wandering off to my right. I walked through another stone wall, and back past the loop trail sign and onto the path leading back out the way I came in. Another lovely morning on a beautiful trail in Redding. ■



Now is the time to start taking photos! Capture images of Redding's open spaces across the seasons and times of day. Showcase the gorgeous colors of fall, the serenity of winter, and the renewal of spring!

Entries from anyone who appreciates the landscape, novice or pro, are encouraged! We offer prize categories for adults, students aged 14-19, and kids 13 and under.

Grab your camera or phone and explore Redding's open spaces!

COMING SOON: Entry requirements, prizes, FAQs, and submission portal will be posted on the Redding Land Trust website.

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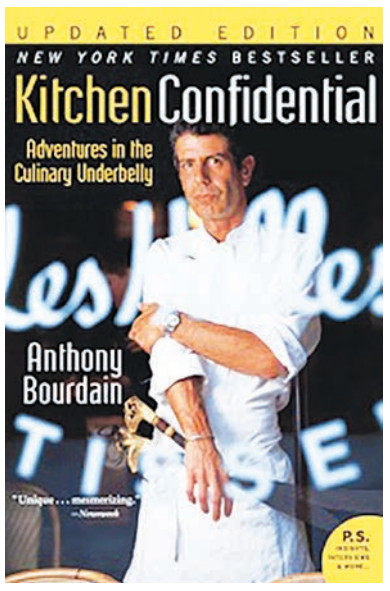
Small Town, Big Outdoors

Book Review

Kitchen Confidential:
Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly

By Anthony Bourdain

319 pages / Ecco. / $18.99



Kitchen Confidential (2000), by Anthony Bourdain, his third published book, established the author as a successful writer of biting behind-the-scenes restaurant satire. His subjects, restaurants, and food preparation were known by reputation, but little understood. He declared, "What I set out to do was write a book that my fellow cooks and restaurant lifers would find entertaining and true." *Kitchen Confidential* became a huge success, and brought the author into television, a different field entirely. Rewards were substantial, and led to other opportunities. But the book began a slow emotional decline ending in suicide during the filming of his third television series. Because for Anthony Bourdain, ultimately, success meant failure. He was at odds with himself. Success proved a fatal formula for him, but he insisted on it. Brilliant, flawed, passionate, and driven, his stories made an art of confrontation in pursuit of truth, and confrontation with himself was the last thing he made true. He died a suicide in 2018, during the filming of his CNN Emmy Award-winning show, *Parts Unknown*.

Kitchen Confidential described how Bourdain thrived in a toxic milieu. The dynamic was harsh and unsustainable, and over time it took a toll (like his addictions, also confided). For example, Bourdain writes in one chapter: "At night, I lay awake with…bouts of self-loathing so powerful that only the thought of diving through my sixth-floor window onto Riverside Drive…gave me any comfort." Every person does not deal with anxiety in this way, and every person does not become addicted to drugs and alcohol and recover partially. Part of Bourdain's charm as a writer was his candor expressing excessive character traits that we now know eventually undermined him.

Kitchen Confidential tells a harsh (but wholly amusing) story of brutal orchestration and, as Bourdain had hoped, the reader feels that the story he tells is true. But in light of how his life ended, does that change a reader's approach to his work? Bourdain's declared ambivalence about his own great success seems more apparent, and his quotations underscore volatile emotions that seem, while no less true, now more toxic and less amusing. His stories resonate differently. After screaming at a vendor he suddenly realizes "I didn't order anything from Baldor. I have no time to feel bad about my mistake — that will come later." What once seemed a creditable response to intensity now belies something destructive and unsustainable.

Bourdain details how learning the complexities of the trade requires almost criminal comprehension of aberrant personalities. This is especially apparent in the recently released film Tony, which is based on the first two chapters of *Kitchen Confidential* chronicling Bourdain's early career in Provincetown.

He presents situations with amusing anecdotes. In his writing, the serious problems Bourdain confronts unsuccessfully don't feel like failure. Rather, they feel like virtues of a canny mind working through challenges endemic to a chaotic business. He finds himself to be an ambitious and talented young man who understands and loves the uneven dynamic of his world as he discovers it. But his on-the-scene accounts reveal intolerant distemper.

We learned afterward that the success of this book led to television for the author, which kept him apart from the life he chronicled and loved. At the end, he traveled the world 11 months of the year. Later, he lost his wife and daughter to divorce. Eventually, he saw no way out of his own success. He died in 2018 during filming of his CNN series *Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown*. In light of this aftermath, does the brashness and brio of *Kitchen Confidential* hold up to reality? Yes and no.

Kitchen Confidential has achieved an enduring popular presence in bookstores for good reason. Bourdain's aggressive attitude retains its compelling voice of passionate irreverence. Anthony Bourdain's writing will last because it is good writing. ■

Review by Tom Casey

Library Corner

Books for when you want a scare

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Now that it's spooky season, it's the best time of year to cozy up under a blanket and absolutely terrify myself. If you're a fan of the horror genre as well, consider trying some frightening fiction to keep you awake at night.

Incidents Around the House by Josh Malerman: The author of Bird Box has penned a tale of suspense told from the perspective of eight-year-old Bela. She lives with her parents and grandmother, yet there is another entity in the house with them: Other Mommy. This is the story of what happens when Bela starts to listen to this mysterious "Other Mommy." There is currently a movie adaptation of this book in theaters starring Jessica Chastain. I haven't seen it yet, but it looks terrifying!

Majestic Hills by Dawn Turner: Langdon and Josephine decide to leave Chicago for a life in the suburban development Majestic Hills. But as the only Black couple in their subdivision, tensions simmer with their mostly white neighbors. When a horrifying crime rocks the community, Langdon and Josephine must decide whether it's worth the peace and quiet to stay. This is not exactly a horror novel, but the building tension makes it feel like one.

Dive Bar at the End of the Road by Kelley Armstrong: Just before midnight near a backwoods dive bar, a driver swerves to avoid something – or someone – in the road. A four car pileup ensues and the drivers all gather in the dive bar to nurse their injuries and get cell service. But slowly overnight the injured passengers start to notice that time isn't moving as it should be, and going outside feels less and less like a viable option. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer
is Director of the
Mark Twain Library



State Senate debate cancelled due to one candidate's schedule ***/continued from page 3***

Under LWV guidelines, a debate requires the participation of at least two candidates on the ballot who meet the League's eligibility criteria. The organization began communicating with candidates in June as they worked to schedule the debate for the 26th State Senate District. Republican candidate Alma Sarelli said in a September 30 email to the *Sentinel* that she had intended to participate in Tuesday's debate. The Sentinel reached out to Sarelli for comment, but did not receive a response by press time.

"So far, I will be at the Westport League of Women Voters debate," Sarelli said on September 30. She added that the "Darien debate was canceled, and the Weston/Redding date fell on the same night as town meetings and campaign events I had already committed to. I asked whether it could be rescheduled, but unfortunately the League wasn't able to find another date."

Democratic candidate Smantha Nestor told the *Sentinel* this week that she had wanted to debate. "I am disappointed," Nestor said in an email, "and I bet the community is too, that voters will not have a chance to hear from both of us and compare us side by side."

"A campaign is a job interview. It is more than lawn signs, mailers, postcards and canned statements," Nestor added. "If someone is unprepared to debate one person, how can she expect to hold her own in the big room with 35 other senators?"

Redding LWV President Kim O'Rielly said she heard Westport's debate was cancelled late last week.

"The Redding and Weston LWV had hoped to hold a debate for Senate District 26 as well, and extended invitations to both candidates," O'Rielly said. "However, we were unable to host the debate as we did not get a response from the Republican candidate in a timely manner. The Democratic candidate did respond and agreed to participate in the debate. We issued multiple invitations to the Republican candidate starting in August with no response, and only heard back one week prior to the proposed date of October 6th, informing us she was unavailable." ■

Accomplished librarian Harriet Selverstone finds a new chapter in Redding ***continued from page 6***

alma mater, Pratt, to teach courses on library science. Years later, the school awarded her an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree — which she considers a career highlight.

After a half-century in Westport, Selverstone and her husband are adjusting to life in Redding. They have two children and four grandchildren. The move was a major decision, she said, but one she believes was right for them.

"It's a lovely place," Selverstone said of Meadow Ridge. "It's beautiful. Everyone is very inviting and welcoming." ■



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Town of Redding: Registrars

The Outside Story

The joy of watching a leaf fall

By Timothy Nowicki



Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol

How can you not be poetic about the physical majesty of fall in New England?

In autumn, the quilt of color covering the northern woodlands attracts people from around the world. As a retired naturalist, I have found that observing falling leaves brings more depth to enjoying autumn, because I have the opportunity to see the familiar colors with the new lens of watching the motion of descent. This kind of close observation can add another dimension of pleasure to this special phenomenon.

Over the years, I have enjoyed watching red maple, black oak, and black cherry leaves falling in my backyard. While many leaves fall in an unremarkable manner, others fall in an acrobatic or gymnastic way. As a leaf falls, it may jitter, or somersault, or rotate while tracing a graceful, dance-like performance to the ground before coming to rest. Not all leaves have such routines, but by paying attention, I have learned to see patterns in the movements.

Deciduous leaves that are simple and relatively symmetrical, such as black cherry leaves, fall to the ground quickly under non-windy conditions. Because of this, leaves should land under, or near, the tree so nutrients can be reabsorbed. Such reabsorption is ideal, as trees lose 40 percent of their assimilated carbon during leaf fall. Lobed leaves, such as white oak and red maple, glide for longer than unlobed leaves.

Physicists at the Weizmann Institute of Science researched the paths of falling leaves in the 1990s and determined that there are two typical types of motion: fluttering, where leaves shift from side to side as they fall, and tumbling, where leaves turn over as they fall. Longer leaves are more likely to flutter than tumble, though other characteristics can impact how a leaf falls.

One of the factors that can impact the aerodynamics of a leaf is the length of the petiole, or leaf stem. Longer petioles result in a longer falling time, as the petiole acts similarly to a rotor blade on a helicopter, catching the air as the leaf drops. Aspens have long petioles, and therefore their leaves drift more slowly to the ground than the leaves of other tree species.

Many environmental factors affect the path of a falling leaf. Insects can severely damage leaves by chewing holes and creating more irregular edges, which increases the likelihood of a leaf falling further from the parent tree. The drying of a leaf can make it more buoyant, because as it loses moisture it becomes lighter and catches the air more easily.

And of course there is the wind itself! Even under calm conditions, a falling leaf encounters resistance against the air. Changes in air resistance can alter the trajectory of the leaf many times during its descent. The best time to watch falling leaves is on a still day, though it can be enjoyable to watch the wind scattering leaves as well.

I have watched red maple leaves, with their long petioles, pirouette as they fall, the petiole pointing down while the leaf rotates in tight circles like a ballerina in a tutu. In contrast, a black cherry leaf seems to go down with the "fluttering" motion, moving back and forth similar to a jitterbug fishing lure pulled through the water.

I see some leaves fall in a whirlpool-like motion, where the petiole points down and the leaf turns in broad circles as it falls. Others corkscrew through the air, twirling more tightly. Some float like a feather, some glide like going down a slide, and some just fall.

Spending time watching a single leaf fall among the foliage can give you a deeper appreciation for autumn. After you've taken in the gorgeous colors over the next few weeks, take some time to focus on an individual leaf falling and notice the path it takes. Does it flutter or tumble? Does the wind change its course? Has it dried out or does it have any visible damage? This close observation can give a greater understanding of how leaf qualities and environmental conditions impact falling patterns and a sense of pleasure in tracing the path of a single leaf falling. ■

Timothy Nowicki is a retired naturalist who lives in southern Michigan. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. 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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Committee awaits the assessment grant

By Rocco Valluzzo

Citing progress of the Georgetown Revitalization Project, the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee highlighted recent developments in funding, building stabilization, environmental remediation grants, and upcoming community engagement events at its Thursday, October 8 meeting.

Filling in for Chair Amy Atamian, Committee member Aimee Pardee said an application for a $200,000 state grant was submitted in September that if obtained, will be used for an environmental assessment of the mill center. The town does not expect to hear back by November or December, however.

In the meantime, the town is making use of a $2 million 2024 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant for soil abatement specifications at Factory Pond and West Pond.

The BOS officially approved nearly $100,000 for the weaving building roof stabilization program. Negotiations with bidders are currently underway.

The committee also stressed the importance of Pirie Associates' redevelopment plan and state- mandated zoning changes for municipalities. It intends to integrate Pirie's recommendations into the local regulations once the state-mandated revisions are finalized to ensure consistency.

The Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on October 28 to discuss Public Act 25-1 (the housing bill), and how these changes affect Redding. It will review Pirie Associates' recommended changes following the conclusion of Public Act 25-1 deliberations in November or December.

"We will also have to kind of reconcile those changes against the Pirie recommendations just to see if there's going to be any modification to the Pirie recommendations based upon those changes in the zoning regs." said Pardee. "But that's going forward." ■

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The Natural World

Ask the Redding Gardener | By Sean McNamara



Photo courtesy of Claudia from Southport

Don't worry, Claudia. Your gingko is supposed to look like that.

"Hello Sean,

"Our landscaper suggested I send you a photo of our ginkgo 'Chi Chi', which he planted almost a year ago. He thought perhaps it looked too yellow. Does it need fertilizer? If you have any thoughts or recommendations, please let me know, and we can make a plan."

– Claudia from Southport

Well, Claudia, thanks for writing in and for the photo. I can see why you and your landscaper took a second look at those yellow leaves.

When someone asks about fertilizer, the first thing I check is whether the plant is showing the usual signs of needing a boost. Those often include slow or weak new growth, smaller-than-normal leaves, or a generally pale, washed-out appearance during the growing season. A light feeding can sometimes help in those situations, especially with a young tree that is still getting established.

Your ginkgo doesn't really match that picture, though. Newly planted trees usually do better with a little patience rather than extra fertilizer. High-nitrogen fertilizer, in particular, can push soft growth that may not harden off well before winter. Since the tree isn't showing the classic "hungry plant" symptoms, I would hold off on feeding it for now.

However, in your case, you have nothing to worry about. This is completely normal. Ginkgos are famous for their fall color, and that bright, clear yellow is exactly what they are supposed to do this time of year. As the days get shorter, the tree stops making the green chlorophyll that hides the other pigments. Once the chlorophyll breaks down, the yellow carotenoids that were there all along become visible. In ginkgos, the change is especially reliable and dramatic, which is one of the reasons people plant them.

Bottom line, Claudia: Your tree does not need fertilizer right now, and the yellow is not a problem. It is simply autumn doing its usual job. Enjoy the show while it lasts. Before long, the leaves will drop all at once in that classic ginkgo fashion, and the tree will rest until spring.

If you would like me to take a look next year once it leafs out, or if you have any other questions in the meantime, just let me know.

Happy (and golden) fall, Sean
The Redding Gardener

P.S. Got more questions about fall color, newly planted trees, or anything else looking a little different this season? Feel free to drop me an email anytime or stop by the nursery. I'm always happy to chat and help figure things out together. ■



District payroll issues addressed at packed meeting / *continued from page 1*

different schools helped ensure that staff earning additional stipends were paid for them. They calculated extra pay for all staff in their building. Central Office secretaries were also recruited to ensure all issues were corrected.

The second step will occur once all of the payroll issues are resolved temporarily. McKinnon plans to bring in an independent auditor to look at everyone's pay vouchers. Union representatives were invited to join a committee to look at the corrections that have been made during the past four pay periods, what has been done, and the day-to-day process of confirming correct compensation and deductions.

Central Office has posted two job positions to address these issues. Since one payroll clerk has left ER9, McKinnon plans to replace them with a payroll manager. In addition, since the HR director has resigned, McKinnon has created the position of an HR manager. The pay for the payroll manager position will come from the Central Office employment budget, using funds that were budgeted for an additional member of the full-time staff. He did not share what that position was to have been.

Union representatives have been invited to be part of the hiring committees. With 13 different unions within the ER9 districts, there cannot be multiple representatives from each one, but union representatives will be able to share the hiring process with their unions.

At Easton's Board of Finance meeting, Christine Calvert, the town's financial director, shared that the town was helping to cover retirement accounts because the district was not in compliance. She added, "We're a team."

The problems came to light when Central Office switched to two different systems. The human resources Red Rover program and the ADP payment system were adopted to address processes that were previously calculated using paper and pencil, and to move them into a digital space. The new system is anticipated to allow staff members more insight into their own HR records, as well as store digital files that were previously paper files.

The original plan was to adopt additional components from the PowerSchool system, which is the system that ER9 uses to communicate with students and their families. Unfortunately, the system can only deliver partially rather than having everything ER9 needed under one umbrella. This caused the administration to switch to Red Rover later than they wanted.

The first error was entering the pay periods for staff. They may choose to get paid 21 times a year or 26 times. Staff were required to input the pay schedule they wanted. Most staff selected 26 paychecks. Central Office staff made a mistake in calculating salaries for all staff at 26 pay periods. This led to numerous employees receiving smaller paychecks than anticipated.

The second major issue was related to deductions. While there are several different deductions, the main one is health insurance. The districts are self-funded and managed by Anthem. This allows staff access to Health Savings Account (HSA) accounts. Staff had HSA funds taken out of their paychecks. McKinnon assured the room that if anyone's health insurance was disrupted, Central Office identified them quickly and changed the number of people covered.

Retirement funds were also affected. According to McKinnon, "This is an area that we fell short on, as well." ER9 uses two vendors to manage the districts' retirement funds. Central Office has taken full responsibility. It is calculating missed earnings and interest and has since allocated interest funds into staff's retirement funds that were affected by delayed contributions.

This provides a short-term solution, but secretaries do not have the time to handle payroll issues along with their other duties. To correct the problems long-term, Central Office has developed an action plan with certain priorities. There have been several meetings with staff to keep them updated. Staff were able to ask questions, and a special e-mail address has been created exclusively for payroll questions and concerns. This e-mail address will be checked twice a day by McKinnon, Sara Scrofani, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, the HR department, or the payroll worker. McKinnon also stated that everyone was expected to receive the correct compensation for the October 9 pay period. The *Sentinel* has not learned any information that contradicts this. ■

Hughes, Harris stress priorities in debate for State House Post *continued from page 3*



Photo by Jen Wastrom

Locals from throughout the town and region packed the Mark Twain Library last week for a debate between incumbent State Rep. Anne Hughes and opponent Darrell Harris.

The state cannot afford to fill the gaps created by the loss of this revenue, Hughes said, by raising taxes. "That is a thing I've been working on for years," she said, "including tax relief for the elderly, for certain veterans, tax abatements for those who cannot afford the taxes, and fair taxation for everybody else."

Next up was a query on affordable housing. Hughes pointed to the Gilbert & Bennett redevelopment site as one of the only places appropriate for affordable housing. It's also a brownfield that still requires a lot of rework.

"The town [of Redding] has come up with some very strategic, thoughtful plans about what they want to see, which includes some maker space, some mixed use, and some affordable housing," said Hughes. "But towns can't do it alone."

Hughes said a lot of state support would be needed to create housing that would be affordable for people who perform services in all three towns, such as teachers and firefighters, as well as senior citizens. "If we could have within our communities places that people could afford to live who have lived here for many, many years, I think that's a good thing," she said.

Harris said that while he agreed on the need for affordable housing, he said the state and towns need to approach the topic cautiously. "The Saugatuck reservoir provides water to most of Fairfield County, and the soil that the reservoir sits on is very sensitive," he said.

Overdevelopment can lead to increased runoff from asphalt surfaces as well as potential pollution from sewers and septic tanks. Those could jeopardize the purity of the water in that area, he said.

"In terms of the [Gilbert & Bennett] development in Redding, we have the opportunity to both fix the financial balance sheet on that property and the brownfields," Harris said. "If we can do both of those things, that would be a template for how to fix brownfields in other areas – especially Bridgeport."

Both candidates said the state needs to provide more resources to local school districts, particularly on the need to build new schools. They also both agreed with state-level measures to assist districts on special education mandates, which can be quite costly locally.

Connecticut has long had some of the highest electricity rates in the U.S. – and both candidates said there should be measures taken to bring that cost down. They diverged on how to do that.

Hughes has been a supporter of renewable energy. Before the 2024 election, she noted, "we were on our way to offshore wind, we were on our way to solar." The Biden Inflation Reduction Act also included federal funds to assist in the transition to renewables, she said.

"All of those federal dollars were ripped away...we're back to square one," Hughes said. "If we had done more of this 10 years ago, we wouldn't be in the pickle we're in now."

"I would love to have a transition to a green economy...but until that happens, we'll have to use the least expensive energy that we have," Harris said. Renewables have not yet developed the capability to supplant fossil fuels.

Harris described the current oil spike as temporary. "Things go up and things go down," he said. "When I was a kid in the 1970s we had the oil shocks," he said. "Those were terrible times... and largely out of our control." Harris said the key as a state rep is to focus on things that the state can control, including system inefficiencies that boost costs and make the state unaffordable. ■

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Calendar of Events

$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week's Featured Events

Redding Grange's "World Famous" Open Mic

Thursday, October 15
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Sign up to play acoustic music
6:30 p.m.
Redding Grange #15
399 Newtown Turnpike
reddinggrange.org

The Listening Room

Saturday, October 17
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Intimate concert series celebrating the art of songwriting through music, conversation, and community
The Granite Church
5 N. Main Street
$, R

Robert Lee Morris: An Evening with a Master Jewelry Designer (In-Person)

Wednesday, October 21
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Special evening discussing the book *Robert Lee Morris: The Power of Jewelry* and sharing stories from an extraordinary career
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
R

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance

Thursday, October 22
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Free balance and strength program designed for older adults at risk of falling
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
R

Arts

Saturday, October 10 – Saturday, November 7

Mary Kenealy: Revolve
An exhibition of reductive watercolor paintings by Mary Kenealy
Georgetown Arts and Cultural Center
5 Main Street, Georgetown

Saturday, October 10 – Saturday, November 7

In The Round
All day.
An exhibition featuring works by Jaynie Crimmins, Vincent Dion, and Molly Gambardella
Georgetown Arts and Cultural Center
5 Main Street, Georgetown

Thursday, October 15

Redding Grange's "World Famous" Open Mic
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Sign up to play acoustic music
6:30 p.m.
Redding Grange #15
399 Newtown Turnpike
reddinggrange.org

Thursday, October 15

Cold Chocolate
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Americana band that fuses folk, funk, and bluegrass to create a unique sound
The Granite Church
5 N. Main Street
$, R

Saturday, October 17

The Listening Room
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Intimate concert series celebrating the art of songwriting through music, conversation, and community
The Granite Church
5 N. Main Street
$, R

Wednesday, October 21

Old Time Jam
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Play or listen to Appalachian music with fiddles, banjos, and guitars
The Granite Church
5 N. Main Street

Saturday, October 24

Artist-in-Residence Open Studio Program
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Meet October Artist-in-Residence Robin Dluzen, explore her work, and enjoy light refreshments and children's activities
Weir Farm National Historical Park
735 Branchville Road

Sunday, October 25

Danbury Concert Association: Camerata RCO
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Chamber-orchestra performance by the Camerata Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam
Western Connecticut State University Visual and Performing Arts Center
43 Lake Avenue Extension, Danbury
$, R

Children | Teens

Friday, October 16

Watercolor Collages – Part 2
4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Teen watercolor collage art program
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
R

Saturday, October 17

Pumpkin Fest 2026
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
The 6th Annual Great Wilton Pumpkin Fest featuring open hearth cooking, blacksmithing, games, and a scavenger hunt
Wilton Historical Society
224 Danbury Road, Wilton
$

Wednesday, October 21

Family Story Time (birth-5)
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Sing, dance, and read together in this story time designed for children ages birth to five
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
R

Crafts

Wednesday, October 7 – Wednesday, November 4

Intermediate Knitting Class
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Learn stitches, cabling, knitting in the round, and how to make a winter hat
Wilton Historical Society
224 Danbury Road, Wilton
$

Food | Wine

Saturday, October 24

Present Co. Fall Gathering
9:00 p.m.
A festive fall event with live music, food, and drinks.
Milestone
2 Main St.,
Georgetown

Saturday, October 31

Halloween Dance Party with Louderdaddy
9:00 p.m.
An adult-focused indoor costume and dance event featuring food, drinks, and a live performance by Louderdaddy.
Milestone
2 Main St.,
Georgetown

Fundraisers

Saturday, October 17

Touch A Truck
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Climb aboard, honk horns, and sound sirens on fire trucks, police cruisers, and construction vehicles
Litchfield Crossings
169 Danbury Road,
New Milford

Saturday, October 17

Walk ALS Westport
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Annual walk event hosted by ALS United CT to raise awareness and support
Sherwood Island State Park
Sherwood Island Connector, Westport

Nature

Wednesday, October 21

Community Hiking Club: Highstead with Geordie Elkins
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Guided hike passing by native plantings, meadows, wetlands, and forest with Executive Director Geordie Elkins
Highstead
127 Lonetown Road
R

Special Programs

Thursday, October 15

The Enduring Legend of The Leatherman
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
A presentation on Connecticut's legendary Leatherman by storyteller and podcaster Mike Allen
Wilton Historical Society
224 Danbury Road, Wilton
$

Friday, October 16

It Takes a Village — A Gathering for New Parents (In-Person)
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Gathering for new parents in an in-person setting
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
R

Wednesday, October 21

The Quiet Chapter Book Club – Read, Relax, Connect! (In-Person)
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Dedicated quiet time to read, relax, and connect with fellow book lovers
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
R

Wednesday, October 21

Robert Lee Morris: An Evening with a Master Jewelry Designer (In-Person)
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Special evening discussing the book *Robert Lee Morris: The Power of Jewelry* and sharing stories from an extraordinary career
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
R

Wednesday, October 21

History Book Club — 'The Silk Roads: A New History of the World' (In-Person)
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
History buffs discuss Peter Frankopan's sweeping account of world history
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road

Thursday, October 22

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Free balance and strength program designed for older adults at risk of falling
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
R

Religious Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meetings

Thursday, October 15

Conservation Commission Site Inspection – 32 Beeholm Rd
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Conservation Commission site inspection
32 Beeholm Rd

Thursday, October 15

Conservation Commission Site Inspection – 285 Redding Rd
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission site inspection
285 Redding Rd

Thursday, October 15

Brookside Road Community Meeting
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Brookside Road community meeting
Town Hall Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Thursday, October 15

Redding Fire District #2
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Redding Fire District #2 meeting
West Redding Firehouse
306 Umpawaug Road

Thursday, October 15

Democratic Town Committee
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Democratic Town Committee meeting
Town Hall Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Monday, October 19

Early Voting for Election
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Early voting for the upcoming election
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road

Monday, October 19

Board of Selectmen
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Board of Selectmen meeting
Town Hall / Hearing Room and Virtual
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, October 20

Region 9 Board of Education
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Region 9 Board of Education meeting
JBHS Library Learning Commons
654 Morehouse Road

Tuesday, October 20

Zoning Board of Appeals
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals virtual meeting
Virtual-Zoom

Tuesday, October 20

Conservation Commission
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Conservation Commission meeting
Town Hall / Hearing Room and Virtual
100 Hill Road

Wednesday, October 21

Water Pollution Control Commission
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Water Pollution Control Commission meeting via Zoom
Virtual

Monday, October 26

OPEB Trust Board
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
OPEB Trust Board meeting in person and via Zoom
Town Hall Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Monday, October 26

Board of Finance
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Board of Finance meeting
Town Hall Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

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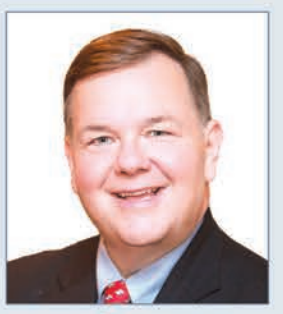

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Marilyn Caravetta
203.512.1822

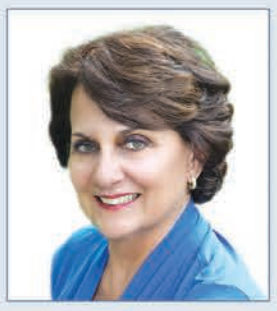

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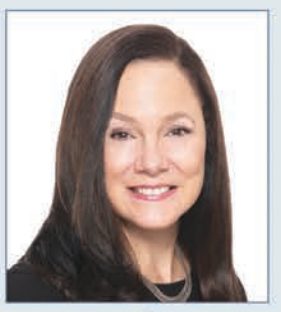

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