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REDDING, CONNECTICUT

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Eversource continues its plans *for tree removals while exploring*

By Donna Christopher

alternatives

A controversial tree removal plan by Eversource is ongoing in Redding.

Eversource arborists have met with a majority of private property owners along the 3.7 mile stretch of roads targeted in the utility's Resiliency Program to identify and propose which trees would be removed to protect Eversource power lines. In an October 25 conversation, Sean Redding, Manager of Vegetation Management at Eversource, confirmed the utility's arborist had met with 75 percent of property owners along the Resiliency Program's targeted roads. He emphasized that tree removals by Eversource on private properties require the permission of the property owners.

Responses from private property owners have been mixed, said Redding. It varies from a handful who "are not interested and don't want trees removed" to "some who are selective and some who are very agreeable and understand the equipment impact," he explained. "There is a process to go through. Some people agree immediately and some need to review it. Some get a second opinion from people they know or professionals so it's not always a thumbs up thumbs down answer. We're patient and we want to work with (property owners) so that they'll feel comfortable with the decision that they're making. It is private property and their trees and it's ultimately their decisions," Redding told the Sentinel. Tree removal on town-owned property would require permits from the town's Tree Warden Commission. Planning and Sean McNamara is serving as Redding's Tree Warden for the Eversource Resiliency Program. As of November 4, Eversource had not yet applied for tree removal permits on town property, according to First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton, though Redding said that an application is being prepared. "The Planning Commission and Tree Warden have a role to play," Pemberton said. "[McNamara] has not been contacted by Eversource since their initial meeting." After discussion with Aimee Pardee, the Town's Zoning and Inland Wetlands enforcement officer, Pemberton said she does not foresee tree removal happening on town land before winter comes with a permit application pending and leaves already falling off. "We can't evaluate the roadside trees whether they are dead or dying," the First Selectwoman said. "It's highly unlikely that Planning [Commission] would be able to accurately assess trees."

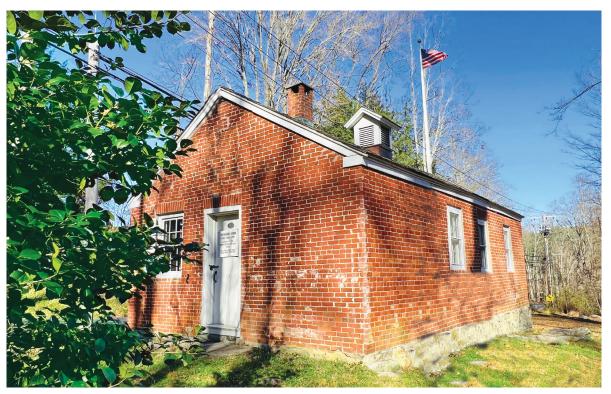


Photo by Debora DeCarlo Rosa

The Redding Historical Society held their annual open house Sunday, November 6. A tradition going back decades, the event showcases Umpawaug Schoolhouse, a one-room schoolhouse built in the late 18th century and active until 1929. For more information about the Historical Society and other events, visit reddingcthistoricalsociety.org

REDDING'S BIG OUTDOORS
Putnam Park and the Plishner Preserve

By Jeanne Ammermuller



Board of Education opts for boiler repair over replacement

By Rocco Valluzzo

Instead of replacing one of the two boilers at Redding Elementary School outright, the Redding Board of Education will have the option to repair it instead.

The boiler has not been functioning since last winter, according to Superintendent Jason McKinnon. It had been identified on the last edition of the board's capital improvement plan as in need of replacement.

However, following research by facilities planning committee Chairman Mike D'Agostino, the board engaged a consultant for an additional evaluation, who advised that it is a high-quality boiler and could still last for an extended period with repairs. Making the necessary repairs will extend the life of this boiler so that it and the second boiler could be replaced together in 2026 or beyond.

"We feel like this plan would enable us to get to a certain point and it was more economical to do the repair now," said McKinnon. "It looks like it has a lot of life left

Opponents to cutting down healthy trees in the proposed

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Redding is fortunate to be home to not one, but two state parks: Huntington and Putnam. Huntington is well known for hikers, riders and horseback riders. Putnam Park is best known as the ideal place for strollers, dogwalkers and history buffs.

True, Putnam Park offers a lot for those looking for a pleasant stroll on easy terrain. And there's much to learn about Connecticut's Revolutionary War history, but don't pass it up if you're in the mood for a more intense hike in some quintessential Redding woodlands. The park offers a gateway to a picturesque opportunity to immerse yourself in a quiet, peaceful space: the Joan Plishner Wildlife Preserve.

This 35-acre preserve was donated to the Redding Land Trust by Joan and Paul Plishner in 1973. According to the Book of Trails, "They loved the land, frequently walked it on their own trails, and did not wish to see it developed."

There are two ways to approach Plishner Preserve: from the end of Bartram Drive and Putnam Park. There is more parking, and more history, using the Putnam Park approach.

Begin your adventure by parking in Putnam Park's main parking lot, walking through

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the two iconic lookout posts and heading up toward the obelisk. This 42-foot memorial to the 2,500-3,000 soldiers who endured the bitter winter of 1779 in Redding was erected in 1888, two years after Connecticut's first official state park was established.

Follow the unpaved road past the obelisk and around the next bend to the right and continue until you pass the signage for Barlow circle on the right and begin looking for the Plishner Preserve trailhead on the left.

About 10 feet off the roadway, you will see one of the gleaming wood signs created by volunteer Aimee Pardee (Redding's Zoning and Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer) and the new metal trail blazes installed by the town's intrepid trail tenders.

Plishner Preserve features a white trail and a blue trail, which combine to form two loops that total about 1.3 miles. You'll have no trouble following the blazes through the rolling hills. The preserve features moss-covered rocks, low-lying marshy areas and some small streams. Consider visiting the preserve in early June when the abundant mountain laurel is in bloom, a stunning display of Connecticut's state flower.

Photo by Jeanne Ammermuller

If you're feeling adventurous, look for the red blazed trail that leads off into Putnam Park. These vintage blazes can be a challenge to follow, but it's a pleasant way to extend your hike. The trail winds its way toward the park's upper meadow, where you may encounter campers, or in the case of a visit on November 4, reenactors setting up for the biennial encampment held in the park each year.

The Plishner Preserve will be the site of the Redding Land Trust's Turkey Waddle hike on Friday November 25 at 11:00 a.m. This popular event helps burn off those extra turkey calories and brings Redding families and friends out to explore lesserknown trails in town.

History buffs can join the Putnam Park Winter Walk on Saturday, December 3 at 11:00 a.m., hosted by the Friends and Neighbors of Putnam Park. An interpretive guide will lead a historical and archaeological tour of the park.

> Jeanne Ammermuller is a member of the Redding Land Trust Board of Trustees



in it if you repair it you can get several years out of it."

Work on the boiler would take place in the spring of 2023, costing approximately \$20,000. These repairs would essentially fix the back section of the unit and include removing and repairing the return yoke, washing the mud drums, and checking all sections for leaks.

Replacing the boiler itself, on the other hand, would cost between \$200,000 and \$250,000.

"The life of a boiler is 10 to 15 years," said Redding Board of Education Chairman Chris Parkin. "You're talking about \$15,000 a year over time and if a repair for \$30,000 gets you more than two years, you come out ahead."

McKinnon said that during the repair it may become necessary to replace another section of the boiler, which could cost an additional \$8,000. In the unlikely event that one section needs to be replaced, and the board opts not to do so, that section could be turned off with only a 2% reduction in efficiency.

"We are not sure yet," added McKinnon. "The general feeling is we probably don't need to do that."

The board would fund \$20,000 for the repair and the potential additional \$8,000 from the repair and maintenance lines in the operating budget. These expenses would deplete those lines unless the board decides to transfer additional funds from another section of the budget.

McKinnon said a letter from the board outlining the situation and its plans going forward to the town is forthcoming.



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Book Review Library Corner Business Spotlight The Natural World Calendar of Events

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Editorial

What do you do when you move to a new town at the start of a global pandemic? Hunker down, hang art on the walls, and hope you like the place you've chosen to live when the world's lights come back on.

Fortunately, you discover that the town has acres and acres of open space and is brimming with the smell of fresh, green life. You welcome two dogs into your home and start walking trails in your backyard, down the road, up the hill, and towards the beach. You look at the weedy garden plots in your yard and start to dream of what you might grow with your own two hands. You sit underneath twinkle lights on restaurant patios and eat chicken wings and drink beer until the stars come out. You lay out a picnic blanket at a summer outdoor concert and laugh at the pure exuberance of children, unleashed and twirling to music.

You start to venture out more and more, meeting your neighbors and exchanging tomato seedlings for fresh eggs. You load your empty shelves with old books from the library book sale and your neighbors' tag sales.

Soon, your own family grows, and so does your curiosity about the town's schools and library story times. Your power company tells you one day that hundreds of trees on the road you live on need to come down. You look up "how is the mill rate calculated?" when a new tax bill arrives in the mail. You change your voter registration to your new address.

One day, a newspaper lands on your doorstep. Its pages are windows into this town that is becoming home. You think to yourself, "this might be just the right place."

A newspaper can be many things for different people. A weekend ritual, an advertising channel, a creative outlet, a tool of a healthy democracy. For me, the Sentinel has been a welcome guidebook to Redding after two and a half years of my own slow, organic discovery. I hope that in my work as Managing Editor, I can help ensure that it fills all the roles a newspaper should for the many people who, like me, now call Redding home. There is so much more to discover. There is so much more to see. Let's do it together.

A conversation with the Chairman of the Planning Commission

By Donna Christopher

Redding's Planning Commission meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. or as posted on townofreddingct. org. Members are Chairman Daniel W. Barrett (D), Steven Gagnon (R), Regina O'Brien (D), Roger Van Ausdal (D), and Chuck Cilo (R).

Daniel W. Barrett responded to questions from the Sentinel to describe the commission's goals, challenges, and importance to the town.

1. What is the primary goal of the Planning Commission?

Our overarching goal is to help manage the use of land in Redding (in collaboration with the other land use commissions). This includes providing direction for and oversight of proposed and existing commercial and residential development as well as certain municipal improvements, within the parameters established by the Town Ordinance and Connecticut General Statute. In each of these domains, we must balance desired and needed changes with the preservation of what is special about Redding: our natural resources, including trees, water, and natural formations, as well as our historical and archeological history. The Planning Commission has three primary roles: to craft the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), to review applications for subdivisions, and to implement the Scenic Roads Ordinance. The POCD-which must be updated at least every ten years-provides the overarching framework for the town and all the land use commissions as it evolves over time. It both establishes the principles undergirding changes in the town and provides safeguards that protect the nature of Redding. Some of the topics that the POCD must address are the need for affordable housing, the need for the protection of existing and potential public surface and ground drinking water supplies, and the objectives of energyefficient patterns of development.

by the unwarranted cutting of trees.

In the longer term, our greatest challenge will be the redevelopment of the Gilbert and Bennett site. Here, in coordination with other commissions and the new committees recently established by the Board of Selectmen, we'll need to ensure that the scale and type of development are consistent with the POCD and truly in the interests of our residents.

Smart redevelopment of the site will be a boon in terms of broadening our commercial tax base, provided that we do not also compromise or degrade the historic village of Georgetown.

Jessie Wright joins the Sentinel team

By Susan Clark



Photo courtesy of Jessie Wright

Jessie Wright, a newcomer to Redding, has joined the Sentinel team as Managing Editor. In this role, she will oversee the focus and content and day-to-day operations of each issue, working with reporters, freelancers and contributors to ensure our readers get the information they need to make the most of living in Redding.

A native of Minnesota, Wright was most recently Managing Director of the Hudson Valley Writers Center. Prior to that, she was Senior Manager of Major Gifts at New York City Ballet.

Wright is a graduate of the University of Virginia and has an MBA in Arts Administration from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She was Managing Editor of her high school newspaper and wrote for the Cavalier Daily at UVA.

In her letter expressing an interest in joining the Sentinel – after seeing our ad in the paper – Jessie described herself as "a grateful subscriber of the Redding Sentinel and a happy new resident of Redding...My family moved to Redding in the summer of 2020, and we have fallen in love with its open spaces, town events, and seasonal beauty." Jessie and her husband Andrew have a tenmonth-old son and two dogs that love the outdoors.

She has spent the past two years getting to know Redding, from its hiking trails to institutions like the Mark Twain Library. She wrote "I believe someone with fresh eyes and an eagerness to dive deep could be a great fit for the return of our local newspaper."

Jessie's time in non-profit management has honed her skills at writing for a wide spectrum of stakeholders, collaborating with teams both large and small, and problem-solving on a tight budget.

We look forward to having her bring those skills to the Sentinel.



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2. What is the most challenging item on the current agenda and why?

In the short term, it is confronting Eversource's plan for cutting trees along Cross Highway. Much of the challenge lies in the need to work with different individuals and groups, including Tree Warden, the Board of Selectmen, Eversource, and, most importantly, the citizens living on or near the affected properties.

The scenic beauty of Cross Highway—and of Redding more generally—must not be destroyed 3. What do you think residents should know about the role of the Redding Planning Commission that might be less known?

If I had to pick something, it would likely be the role we play in the review and approval of proposed subdivision. According to state law, the dividing of any property into three or more parcels must be approved by the Planning Commission. This of course gives us a central role in how Redding is developed.

4. It must be important to put biases aside to carry out this role. Is this a challenge?

It depends on what sort of biases you are talking about. The Commission operates in a truly nonpartisan fashion. In fact, during my tenure all but one or two decisions have been unanimous and, even then, the votes were not divided along party lines.

All people, Commissioners included, have preferences and opinions that do affect how we think and what we prioritize and consequently may impact our deliberations and decisions. However, all of us strive to do what is best for Redding. I haven't seen evidence that any members have proverbial axes to grind or radical agendas to implement. The Commissioner is thoughtful, collegial, and genuinely collaborative.

5. Is it important to have a Planning Commission in the town and why?

It is vital—and probably obvious given our primary functions described above. Some municipalities have combined Planning and Zoning, rather than separate commissions. I don't know that it matters which model a town or city adopts, but all need to have a dedicated, selected group of citizens who help guide the development and preservation of their respective geographic areas. necessary documents.

United Way of Western CT will notify housing fund recipients in mid-December.

For more information, visit <u>uwwesternct.org/town-of-redding-housing-fund</u>. **Have questions or need assistance?**

Contact Victoria Scofield at victoria.scofield@uwwesternct.org | 203-883-6704.



HOUSING FUND APPLICATION CLOSES DECEMBER 1, 2022



Photo by Jessie Wright Ballot Clerk William Brown hands a ballot to a Redding voter on Election Day, November 8.

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Redding Sentinel Ltd believes in supporting the community it serves. We pledge to donate all profits to local community organizations.

Nest Fest at Joel Barlow High School a success | By Linda Meyer Mitchell

Nest Fest was held Sunday, October 30 at Joel Barlow High School to raise money for "The Nest", a new field house at the Barlow Stadium. More than 1,500 participants of all ages attended and enjoyed the beautiful fall day, lively activities, and good food. Additional donations to The Nest building fund can be made at TheNestatBarlow.com



All photos by Linda Meyer Mitchell

Chili the English Labrador in his prize-winning lion piñata costume at the Nest Fest pet parade and costume contest. Chili is shown relaxing at the fall festival with his person, Greg Young.



Nest Fest Organizers Alexis Bennett, Seana Bedard, and Emily Eubanks hold a banner featuring the event sponsors.



Kelly Stackpole brought a miniature rescue horse named "Army" to the Nest Fest, to the delight of attendees Arden Street and Frankie DeFilippo. Kelly is the founder of the nonprofit Rising Starr Horse Rescue in Wilton. For more information see risingstarrhorserescue.org.



Attendees enjoy pumpkin bowling, one of the many fun games offered at Nest Fest.

Economic Development Committee sets working group leads | By Susan Clark

At its November 1 meeting, Economic Development the Committee discussed and agreed on leads for four of the five ad hoc working groups that will develop recommendations to present to the full Committee for discussion at its monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. The Economic Development Committee will eventually make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for adoption. The working groups were decided based on the Committee's priorities as reflected in the Committee charter and draft of priorities it adopted unanimously at the November 1 meeting. The Committee's work will be grounded in the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. Each group has one or more leads from the Economic Development Committee and is specifically charged with inviting input from interested Redding residents not on the Committee. Committee members discussed the need for the ad hoc working groups to be fluid and informal and to be used to gather community opinions, conduct research, surface competing priorities and funnel these to the Committee for their consideration in their monthly public meetings.

The working groups include: Small Business Development (Kate Perry, Wes Higgins, Chris Hocker, Claudio Rodrigo) Eversource continues its plans for tree removals while exploring alternatives | Continued from page 1

segment that includes Cross Highway, a town-designated scenic road, have been vocal since Eversource arrived in town in May with its Resiliency Plan. The Redding Tree Conservancy (RTC), a group formed in early summer 2022 in response to the proposed tree removals, has been meeting regularly with Pemberton regarding Eversource's Resiliency Program and has sent three letters to homeowners to help them make informed decisions about tree removal on their properties. The RTC has also met with officials and tree committees in other nearby towns, including Woodstock, CT. While there is little disagreement about removing dead trees that could affect power lines in storms, opponents are urging the utility to consider other solutions to protect its equipment that do not require removing healthy trees. "The issue at Cross Highway is not that we don't want to take trees down. We do not support the clearcutting of 75 feet of trees," Pemberton said. "We agree with Julia that dead and dying trees should be removed," said Janice Rotchstein who, along with Laurie Heiss, founded and leads the RTC. "Healthy trees shouldn't be cut down. Trees that are treatable like the one on our Town Green shouldn't be chopped down." The RTC expressed its concern that since Redding is "89% watershed, the Eversource project would severely affect the environment." The RTC also agrees with three power outage mitigation alternatives to Eversource's proposed tree removal plan that Pemberton has identified: strategic undergrounding of power lines; a re-routing, above ground, of the third wire (a 'through line') that serves customers beyond the roads targeted, including residents of other towns; and strategic deploying of storage systems that enhance reliability. In the October 25 conversation with the Sentinel, Redding said Eversource conducted a preliminary investigation and estimate for burying the power lines along the targeted stretch of roads. "We don't often convert to underground (electrical lines). That is not typical because of the costs that are involved, not only from a



- Development in Georgetown (Claudio Rodrigo, Kate Perry, Wes Higgins)
- Development in West Redding (Ed Miller, Chris Hocker)
- Housing (Susan Clark, Chris Hocker)

The working group focusing on Transportation has yet to be formed.

Committee members will begin to meet with members of the Redding community to share the charter and draft of priorities for feedback and identify individuals who want to volunteer to support the activities of the working groups. The perspectives gathered will be discussed at the next Committee meeting on December 6.

In addition to setting up the working groups, the Committee formally approved their draft charter, which will be submitted to the Board of Selectman for approval at its next meeting on November 21.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be Tuesday, December 6 at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

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Photos by Geordie Elkins

Tree work initiated in Newtown in September 2022 as part of the Eversource Resiliency Program.

utility standpoint," he explained. It's also telecommunications and telephone and each property has a cost. There's a cost to the homeowner for their part of the underground [work]."

Eversource officials met with State Representative Anne Hughes (D), First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton, and members of the RTC on November 3, and is now reviewing an alternative to its Resiliency Program, according to Rotchstein. They are reviewing the use of distributed energy resource systems (DERs), which are small-scale power generation or storage technologies (typically in the range of 1 kW to 10,000 kW) used to provide an alternative to, or an enhancement of, the traditional electric power system, Heiss explained in an e-mail to the Sentinel.

"We are optimistic," said Rotchstein, "that by working together, Redding and Eversource could be leaders in creating a pilot program for our State to deliver power while protecting healthy trees."

The November 3 meeting included from Eversource Peg Morton, Vice President Government Affairs, David President Gladey, Vice Distribution Engineering, Roderick Kalbfleisch, Director Substation Engineering, TJ Magnoli, Community Relations Specialist, Cathy Lezon, Community Relations and Economic Development Senior Specialist, and Sean Redding,

Manager Vegetation Management.

Rotchstein said Hughes called for the meeting. In early October, the Sentinel asked Hughes if there were any bills proposed to legislate whether municipalities can decide which trees to spare in a vegetation management plan.

"There is a lot of former legislation that was proposed in past sessions, but they die when they don't get a committee hearing, or get voted out of committee," Hughes replied in an e-mail. "So there is no current legislation proposed for anything, in the system yet, for any policy. I will say that the growing determination among legislators to protect residents' private and towns' public property is much greater given DEEP's clearcutting along state roads (Rte 4) and along Housatonic Meadows state campgrounds, decimating the natural beauty and attraction for foliage tourists and campers last Fall, and given Eversource's proposed 'vegetation management plan' to clear cut along critical electrical corridors," she said.

"So now we are focusing on getting real economic feasibility estimates from experienced independent sources as well as from Eversource about alternative climate-resilient utility protection plan costs, like burying the lines under the roadway for the 3.7 miles of greatest concern in Redding, and how federal infrastructure funds might be leveraged for such a project."

Sports

Barlow routs Bethel in homecoming game | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzo

Joel Barlow's Dylan Taylor is stopped by Bethel's Joseph Pomavilla, left, and Ethan Duffy during a varsity football game on Saturday, November 5. Barlow won 49-0 in its homecoming game.

With its first loss of the season behind it, the Joel Barlow High varsity football team wasted no time in regrouping for its next game. The Falcons, who came up short 30-20 to Newtown on October 28, were back in command when they hosted Bethel. Dominating play on both sides of the ball, they cruised to a 49-0 shutout win in their homecoming game on Saturday, November 5.

"We got knocked down," said Barlow head coach T.J. Cavaliere, noting the team's earlier loss to Newtown. "In life, you have to get back up, lick your wounds and move forward. I think they did a really nice job with that today."

After forcing Bethel to punt on its first possession, the Falcons went right to work offensively, starting on their own 32-yard line. A 30-yard run by quarterback Danny Shaban got Barlow into Bethel territory and set up a 19yard touchdown run by Shaban to put the hosts on the board. Cooper Zucherella kicked the first of seven extra points that afternoon and Barlow was up 7-0.

A short punt by the Wildcats on their next series gave the Falcons excellent field position. The driver appeared to have stalled, but in fourth down Shaban connected with Evan Corazzelli for a 30-yard touchdown pass, and the Falcons led 14-0.

The Wildcats then went threeand-out again, setting up another Barlow scoring drive. This one ended when Scott Romano found the end zone from 19 yards out. Zucherella's extra point made it 21-0 with 10:34 left in the first half.

Things only got worse from that point on for the Wildcats, who fumbled on their next series to give the Falcons the ball at their opponents' 34-yard line. Four plays later, Shaban scored again, this time on a 12-yard run to make it 28-0.

Although the Wildcats appeared to be making progress on their next series, they again fumbled, giving Barlow back the ball on its own 39-yard line. Once again, Shaban found some room to run, resulting in a 41-yard jaunt into the end zone and the Falcons led 35-0 with just over four minutes left in the half.

This was enough time for the Falcons to strike again. After taking over on downs on their own 35, they got things moving when Cole Peterson went on a 20-yard run to get his team into Bethel territory. With 12 seconds left, Shaban connected with Charles Basta for a 21-yard touchdown

pass and the Falcons led 42-0 at halftime.

Having such a commanding lead, the Falcons pulled many of their starters for the second half. Despite fumbling on a couple of occasions, they still managed to hold the Wildcats scoreless. Offensively, Dylan Taylor was at quarterback for the Falcons in the second half and scored the only touchdown during this time, coming on a six-yard run with 2:12 left to play.

Shaban led Barlow in rushing with 127 yards, scoring three touchdowns. He also passed for a couple courtesy of Corazzelli and Basta. Romano and Taylor each scored one, with 58 and 56 rushing yards respectively.

Peterson rushed for 98 yards and led on defense with 13 total tackles. Jack Gilbert finished with six. He also recovered a fumble, as did Tristan Counter.

"We put good focus in throughout the week and dialed it in for today," said Cavaliere. "I thought we did a good job especially early on in the first half kind of doing what we needed to do."

Girls varsity volleyball team captures conference crown By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzo

Saturday, November 5. Rather than let things slip away, they got back on track for a 3-1 (27-25, 25-11, 23-25, 25-16) win at Bunnell High in Stratford.

It was Barlow's tenth league championship win in the past 11 seasons and 13th overall.

"Actually this wasn't the strongest that we played," said Barlow head coach Carol Asplund, citing some inexperience on her team's part. "For some of them, this is the first time they played in this (type of) match."

Barlow, which had defeated Newtown twice during the regular season, seemed to be out and running in the first set. Behind some strong serving by Sarah Mauro and Emmy Asplund (who was named the MVP for the tournament), the Falcons jumped out to a 7-1 lead, prompting Newtown to call its first time out. a few hitting and passing errors on its part allowed the Nighthawks to tie it (24-24) and the Falcons needed to call a timeout to settle down.

Kills by Libby Grob and Amanda Meschi put the Falcons back on top at 26-25 before they closed out the set 27-25 on the serve of Lilly Wenig.

Barlow had it a lot easier in the next set, jumping out to a 9-1 lead with the help of hitting errors by Newtown. Strong play at the net by Mackenzie Sickinger, Meschi, Grob and Elyssa Kalamaras increased the lead to 23-9 and the Falcons closed out the set.

Now facing a 2-0 deficit and with its back against the wall, Newtown stepped up its play in the third set, which featured three tie scores along the way. Despite remaining within striking distance, the Falcons never re- took the lead. Although the Nighthawks had the momentum, they could not hold it in the fourth and final set. Barlow clung to a close 9-7 lead and built some more breathing room. Mauro, Asplund, Grob and Eve Simons all served up points and Katherine Czerkawski stepped up at the net to keep the Falcons on top 22-14 as Newtown called its last time out of the night.

Newtown did manage to tack on a couple more points before faulting on a serve. Czerkawski then stepped up to the service line for the Falcons, who took the last two points to secure the win and remain unbeaten this season.

"Honestly, I think a lot of nerves were out there," said Asplund. "We did regroup but they're (Newtown) a great team.

Joel Barlow High's Elyssa Kalamaras, right, goes up for the kill while Newtown's Ella Stubbs attempts to block during the South-West Conference girls volleyball championship. Barlow won 3-1.

It was not a walk in the park, but the Joel Barlow High girls varsity volleyball team would not be deterred in the South-West Conference Championship.

The top-seeded Falcons had a couple of close calls against second-seeded Newtown on The Nighthawks then had some better luck on offense but the Falcons kept a seemingly comfortable lead (16-8). Barlow reached set point at 24-21 before Late in the third set, Barlow appeared to be on the verge of a comeback. Down 24-20, they managed three straight points before Newtown took the set. Barlow, 20-0 overall this season, now enters the state Class L tournament as the top seed and hosts the winner of the New Milford/Ellington match today (Thursday, November 10) at 6:00 p.m.

Barlow boys cross country team places 14th at State Open

By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzo

Joel Barlow High's Jackson Sobelman, right, and Matthias Galban, finished 91st and 78th respectively in a field of 177 runners at the State Open boys cross country finals on Friday, Nov. 4.

The Joel Barlow High boys cross country team came together with the best of the competition across Connecticut at the State Open on Friday, November 4.

The Falcons, who by virtue of winning the state Class M championship less than a week earlier, earned a ticket to return to Wickham Park in Manchester and compete in a field of 20 teams coming from high schools from across the state. With a score of 358, the Barlow team placed 14th overall, a mere point behind Trumbull.

Hall of Hartford was the winner with 86. Ridgefield was runnerup with 113, and fellow Fairfield County Interscholastic rival Danbury was third with 120.

Senior Ryan Schmid led the Barlow team. In his final high school race, he placed 55th in a field of 177 runners in 17:22, just edging out Matteo Chiesara of Greenwich.

It was also the last race for the Falcons' Matthias Galban, who was 78th in 17:40. He was one second ahead of Nicholas Montana of Daniel Hand and Aiden Palen of East Hampton.

Two other Barlow runners also finished in the top 100. Taking 91st, Jackson Sobelman finished in 17:49 and Devon Tala was four places and two seconds later.

Completing the scoring for the Falcons, Jackson Hrebin was 172nd in 20:11. Back-toback finishes came from Soren Rasmussen in 175th in 21:47 and Jack Decker in 176th in 22:27.

Girls swim team is seventh in conference

By Rocco Valluzzo

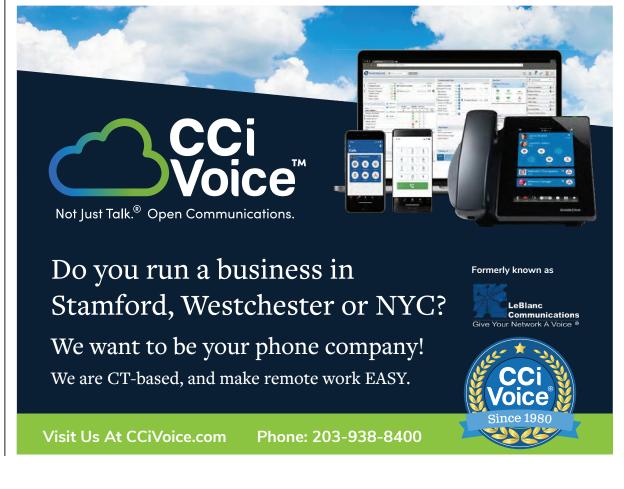
Even with a small group, the Joel Barlow High girls swim team had most of the events covered at the South-West conference championships last week.

The Falcons scored in all but four events on Saturday, November 5. Their final point total was 182, placing them seventh out of a field of 11 competitors at the Masuk High pool.

The host Panthers took first overall with 492, dethroning seven-time defending champ Weston, which was runner-up with 481. Newtown was third with 356.

Audrey Gill won two gold medals for Barlow. The first came in the 200 free as she led the field in 24.46 seconds, beating her seed time by .04 second. She also won the 100 free with a first-place time of 53.12.

Next up for the Falcons are the state Class M trials on Friday with the finals on Monday. Both events are at Southern Connecticut State University.



Barlow Robotics team prepares for FIRST program | By Rob Sample



Photo courtesy of Bill Kinahan

At the regional FIRST competition members of the Barlow team take turns signing their robot entry. Left to right are Brian Kinahan, (with pen) Tyler Harris (behind Kinahan), teacher and mentor Dan Rivers. Behind the robot are Nate Knorr and Em Ploss.



Photo courtesy of Bill Kinahan

Members of the Barlow robotics team are all smiles after winning the Rockwell Automation Creativity Award: Left to right are Dan Rivers (mentor), Bill Kinahan (mentor), Christina Roby, Bella Rosa, Teresa Rodrigues, Sam Navin, Tobias Manayath, Team captains Peyton Lecher and Tyler Harris, Brian Kinahan, Nate Knorr, Em Ploss, Ryan Paola (mentor), Abraham Wegener and George Casner (mentor).

From vacuum cleaners to selfdriving cars, robotic technology has become ubiquitous in everyday life. The FIRST Robotics program helps to equip students with the skills required to innovate, lead, and thrive in the high-tech world of today and the future.

In FIRST Robotics, students design, program, and build an

industrial-size robot to compete with other schools' entries – in regional, national and, potentially, even international tournaments. The program is now in its tenth year at Joel Barlow High School.

"Technically, the competition season hasn't started yet," said Redding resident Bill Kinahan, a Sikorsky retiree who has for half a decade acted as a senior mentor for the Barlow team. "The nationwide kickoff will be on January 7, 2023."

FIRST Robotics was established in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen, a New Hampshire-based engineer and inventor who holds over 1,000 patents. While he is perhaps most famous for the Segway, he also invented an insulin pump and an all-terrain electric wheelchair known as the iBOT. The word "FIRST" in the program's name is an acronym, standing for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology".

Taking part in a FIRST Robotics competition is a big undertaking for the students involved, who have only nine weeks to build their robots and program them to compete. At the kickoff meeting on January 7, students and mentors will view a video covering the basics of this year's competition. It will outline the parameters of the game that the robots must all play during the 2023 competition and will provide participants with an overview of the FIRST Robotics rules.

The Barlow team and their competitors will all receive a parts kit containing the basic components for building a functioning robot. This includes a chassis with wheels, which will enable the robot to maneuver about. "The kit is quite basic and doesn't include all of the components students need to build a competitive robot," said Kinahan. To do that, students must go out and buy parts and equipment on their own. The game the robots will play and the type of movements necessary determine what students will need to buy.

The Barlow students and their two faculty advisors – engineering teacher Ryan Paola and math and physics teacher Daniel Rivers – have already been meeting throughout the fall. They've focused on recruiting new members to the group ahead of the 2023 season and sharing and learning new skills that will be needed once the competition begins. Kinahan said the Barlow team usually averages 20 to 25 students, but he and the two faculty advisors aim to expand that number this year.

The students have also been taking an in-depth look at what they accomplished in 2022, with an eye toward identifying areas for improvement. "The students are looking at what they can do to build a better robot, particularly a new and improved vision system for the robot," said Kinahan. "They're also watching videos from prior years, which provide a look at the types of movement the robot will need to do during the competition."

Regional competitions take place at a large arena where action is noisy, fast, and furious. During a tournament, these robots are in constant motion and the competition is modeled after an athletic event. Each robot is judged on how adeptly it handles the game's maneuvers and movements required for it to compete.

"For the 2022 competition, the robots that participated all had to collect nine-inch tennis balls and shoot them through a goal," said Kinahan. "In the previous year, the game involved the placement of a hatch panel onto a rocket structure."

The Barlow team won the Rockwell Automation Creativity Award at the 2022 regional competition, which took place in May in Hartford. Their entry performed very well in a lastminute climbing challenge: ascending a structure akin to a set of monkey bars set at a 25-degree angle.

"We're getting better every year," said Kinahan.

In additional to the technical challenges of participating, the FIRST Robotics program can be a costly commitment for both the schools who participate and the student team members. Rivers oversees keeping the Barlow team on solid financial footing. It costs \$6,000 for each team to register to compete in a regional tournament. For the first time since the program began, the Board of Education budget for 2022-23 includes a \$5,000 line item for the program, which will help to defray the registration fee.

The school administration ultimately provided funds for a variety of expenses that weren't specifically in the school budget – including a band saw and a computer numeric-control (CNC) router and provided a boost to the budding program in its first year. "The program also received \$6,040 in 2012-13, our first year in FIRST Robotics, for travel to St. Louis and lodging," said Rivers. "We won our regional rookie award that year, which gets a team a free ticket to the world championship."

"The vast majority of our money has come from grants and fundraising, which the kids on the team work on," said Rivers. He credits ELF and the Redding Runners Club with providing generous donations. Other benefactors include United Technologies, Lockheed Martin and NASA, which have provided grants that range from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

The team's time and money are well spent, as the program can provide a gateway to future professional careers for students who are interested in technical fields. Kinahan's son, Brian, is a former Barlow team member and now a robotics major at Central Connecticut State University. One of his former teammates now attends Duke University, where he is studying mechanical engineering. "A lot of the students who participate in FIRST Robotics go on to pursue technical degrees," said Kinahan, "and this provides a very strong grounding for that."





Photo by Matt Farina

Student cast members of the Joel Barlow production of "Oklahoma!" (left to right). Jackson Bennett (Curly), Zac Colangleo (Ali Hakim), Genevieve Seanor (Laurey), Jared Shuford (Jud Fry), Karl Morris (Carnes), Naila Carter (Ado Annie), Jillian Robinson (Aunt Eller), Quinn Speck (Will Parker), Megan Solway (Gertie)

Joel Barlow High School will present a new interpretation of the classic musical "Oklahoma!" this weekend, with performances at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 10 and Friday, November 11 and 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 12. The musical features 28 Barlow students in the cast, with additional students performing in the orchestra and serving as stage crew. The production is directed by Redding Elementary School teacher Matt Farina, with Barlow teachers Erin Pinsky and Beth Bailey serving as producer and assistant producer, respectively. Gwynne Wittman is the vocal coach, and Chris Brault is the conductor. Parents in the Barlow Performing Arts Booster Club also are aiding with the production.

According to Farina, the music and lyrics to "Oklahoma!" have remained the same, but the production's current interpretation is meant to challenge the audience and make you leave the performance pondering some very thoughtprovoking themes. These include issues related to mental health and the nature of community. The play still includes comedic levity and Rodgers and Hammerstein's wonderful music, but per Farina, the new interpretation is a more honest and truthful version of the text. He was inspired to direct this version after seeing the 2019 Broadway revival of "Oklahoma!". Taking on this new portrayal of a beloved show has been an interesting artistic challenge for him and the cast, and they have been working hard to execute his vision.

Matt Farina has been a teacher at Redding Elementary School for 16 years and currently runs the gifted and talented program for students. He has also been involved in dancing and theater for years and has directed and choreographed many shows for high schools and other venues in the area. Farina loves working and creating with students. "Educational theater should focus on teaching the students technique, but it is also important they have fun and enjoy the experience," he said. "It is a particular gift to work with students I had in elementary school as it gives me the opportunity to see who they have become as young adults."

Director Farina is thankful for the support of the Barlow Performing Arts Booster Club, new at Barlow last year. The club is comprised of parents who wish to help support the school's theater, choral, and instrumental music programs in various ways, such as holding recognition events, raising funds, building sets for performances, etc. Anyone wishing to get involved in this effort can contact Dave Shuford at dave@bpaboost.com or Alexis Bennett at alexisnbennett@ yahoo.com.

Tickets for this weekend's performances of "Oklahoma!" can be purchased online at jbhs. booktix.com and are also available at the door. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and senior citizens. The production is considered PG-13.

Halloween traditions are back at Redding Elementary School

By Linda Meyer Mitchell

А full-scale Halloween celebration returned to Redding Elementary School this year on October 31, much to the delight of elementary school families. The school welcomed visitors to their Halloween Parade outside the front of the school, a longstanding Redding tradition, and a group of energetic PE teachers along with many parent and other volunteers assembled an amazing haunted house for the students to tour during their PE class.



RES Principal Melissa Labrosciano and Vice Principal Kim Roy leading the Halloween parade with the Statue of Liberty, Emerson Bedard.



Students hold their class banner at the RES Halloween Parade.



The fourth grade teaching team at RES (from left to right: Kevin Murray, Brian Dayton, Meghan Ranieri, Jennifer Weissauer and Olivia Marcou) in their Scooby Doo group costume, complete with The Mystery Machine made by Dayton.

Short Short Story Film Festival comes to Greenwood Features

By Pamela Brown

Pass the popcorn and cast your vote for best film at the upcoming Short Short Story Film Festival, hosted at Greenwood Features in downtown Bethel on Saturday, November 19.

MergingArts Productions, a non-profit dedicated to cultural programming, will present the 15th edition of this competitive international festival, screening live action and animated films from 22 countries that each tell a story in under six minutes. Audiences will watch nearly three dozen films across the festival's two 90-minute programs.

According to Paul Elsnau and Toni Pennachia, Managing Director and Creative Director of MergingArts, this is the event to attend if you're looking to be entertained, engaged, and challenged. "It's a rare chance to be able to sample so many films from so many places. You could compare it to a wine tasting or a flight of craft brews – with all the diverse and distinctive options to choose from, you want to sample them all," said Elsnau.

At a time when audiences have a host of online platforms and mainstream movies at their fingertips, the festival organizers see an important role for events like the Short Short Story Film Festival. "Our goal is to provide a unique experience to audiences – to expose them to different ways of storytelling and cultures and provide a glimpse into a world beyond the regular Hollywood fare," said Elsnau.

Jaimie Lockwood, owner of Greenwood Features, agrees. "It's important to provide an opportunity for people to see a curated mixture of global films they otherwise may not see through streaming services, online, or in major theaters," said Lockwood. "It's critical to incorporate films that make people think."

Despite their brevity, the films maintain classic story elements, such as conflict and resolution, though sometimes more implied than explicit. "We look for a narrative and theme," Elsnau explained. "We want short films that have well-defined characters, trigger emotions, and take you to unusual places around the world, in a journey of both the heart and mind."

The Heartstrings Program focuses on live-action films highlighting themes of an emotional nature – from comedic to bittersweet and melancholic to joyful (rated PG or PG-13). The Headtrip Program offers both animation and live action and presents forays into bizarre or unsettling territory, including biting satire, chilling imagery, and absurdist tales (rated PG-13 or R).

Awards at the festival are determined both by a jury of film industry professionals from MergingArts' syndicated Spoiler Alert Radio Program and through an audience vote of their three favorite films. "[This process] is a unique way we sort of 'keep things in the family' while acknowledging and encouraging new talent," noted Elsnau.

A reception with festival organizers to discuss the films and a live DJ will follow the screenings. "It's nice to have the opportunity to offer a social event," said Lockwood. Elsnau agreed. "With Covid on the wane, people are looking to getting out of the house. There's nothing like seeing films with a live audience, and this set of films is not something you can find on Netflix or Prime. It's a unique event."

Greenwood Features, 269 Greenwood Ave, Bethel. Heartstrings program (screenings at 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.). Headtrip Program (screenings at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.). For more information on the films, or to purchase tickets in advance, visit greenwoodfeatures.com or call (475) 256-1130. Tickets available at the door.

Wreath-making classes bring the natural world closer to home



Photo by New Pond Farm Education Center Participants show off their creations at a New Pond Farm Education Center's wreath-making class.

A wreath is a beautiful symbol of life and nature's beauty, and two local non-profits, New Pond Farm Education Center in Redding

scratch using festive materials supplied by New Pond Farm Education Center. "We'll have all of the basics – wreath rings, wire,



Photo by Becky Newman, Director of Nature Programs, Earthplace A bird feeder wreath created at Earthplace's wreath-making workshop last year.

and engaging people in nature. "New Pond Farm Education Center is always looking for exciting and creative ways to

Earthplace will host "Bird Wreath-making" Feeder on Sunday, November 20 from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. The class may be held outside in the wildlife sanctuary for participants to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature, weather permitting. The bird feeder wreaths will serve multiple purposes for the wreath makers who will be taking them home. "They'll make excellent natural decorations through the late fall and winter and will help participants become familiar with the plants available to wild animals during this time of year," said Siobhan Prout, Naturalist Educator and leader of the event.

By Pamela Brown

a few vines helps us maintain a small section of our wildlife sanctuary," said Prout. Materials will be provided, including pinecones covered in shortening and bird seed, nuts, dried flowers, fruits, grasses, and leaves. "We'll invite people to harvest a few grasses, leaves, and plants from our garden," Prout explained. "If participants have bird-friendly plants in their yards or extra decorations, they're welcome to bring them."

Feathered friends of all sorts will appreciate the rustic wreaths created in this workshop. Common backyard bird species including chickadees, tufted titmice, goldfinches, cardinals, blue jays, red-winged blackbirds, woodpeckers, doves, sparrows, and others will likely enjoy the seasonal treats. "Offering the birds food helps them and allows us to connect with the wild animals and nature around us by bringing it a bit closer to home," said Prout.

Earthplace is a non-profit committed to building passion and respect for the natural world and a more sustainable future for our community. "By engaging people in an activity that allows them to be creative, have fun, and make something that allows them to feel they're helping the wild animals in their community, we're hoping to curate that respect for the natural world," Prout said. "We aim to make the craft as sustainable as possible by creating the wreaths mostly from natural materials from the Earthplace sanctuary."

and Earthplace in Westport, are offering events this holiday season to learn how to create your own.

New Pond Farm Education Center will present two sessions of "Wreath-making for Adults" on Wednesday, November 30 and Thursday, December 1 from 6:30p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The center will host a "Family Wreath-making" session on Saturday, December 3, from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (limited to six families). "We've been hosting our wreath-making classes for nearly 30 years and they're one of the highlights of our holiday season," said Ann Taylor, Executive Director.

Participants will learn how to create an evergreen wreath from

and picks, as well as an inspiring selection of greens and natural materials like pinecones, magnolia buds, seed pods, berries, decorative grasses, and baked orange slices," said Taylor. "For those that like sparkling accents, we'll have a variety of eye-catching leaves and berries. Wreath makers can either choose a beautiful bow, made by one of our talented volunteers, or create their own from our spools of holiday ribbons."

With holiday music playing and everyone crafting and conversing, the classes provide a fun and relaxing way to kick off the season. Programs like these are also part of the environmental education center's commitment to preserving connect people with the natural world," said Taylor. "Wreathmaking, with natural materials, is one of the many ways we do this, and it's a lovely traditional way to celebrate the holiday season."

Participants are asked to bring their own gardening gloves and clippers and encouraged to bring any favorite decor or holiday ornaments they may want to incorporate into their creations. Light refreshments will be provided.

New Pond Farm Education Center. 101 Marchant Road, West Redding. Cost: \$70 per member; \$80 per non-member. Space is limited. For more information and to register, visit newpondfarm.org.

The wreaths will be made of grapevine, a native Connecticut plant. "We have plenty growing in our meadow, so trimming Earthplace. 10 Woodside Lane. Westport. Cost: \$10.00. Space is limited to 25 people, ages 12 and up. For more information and to register, visit: earthplace.org or call (203)557-4400.

Artisans Alliance craft festival returns

By Pamela Brown

A Newtown tradition since 2004, the Newtown Holiday Craft Festival makes a return visit to the Edmond Town Hall on Sunday, November 27th from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Hall.

Presented by Artisans Alliance, the festival will feature more than 40 vendors. A wide spectrum of handcrafted items will include handmade gnomes, wood-carved Christmas ornaments, wreaths, soaps, home accessories, glass flowers made from vintage glass, art prints, candles, serving boards, photography, jewelry, and more.

"We're getting a nice variety from the area and all around the state. You can start your holiday shopping here," said Virgil Signore, owner of Artisans Alliance. "The gymnasium is a nice location because it's all in one place that you can easily walk around."

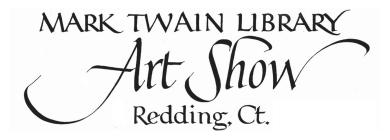
The Alliance is committed to presenting craft shows for a fair price. "People appreciate affordable arts and crafts," added Signore. "I provide local craft enthusiasts with quality venues to showcase their talents with people who care about their business."

Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street (Rte. 25), Newtown. Free admission and free parking. For more information, visit artisansalliance.com



Mark Twain Library to celebrate 50th Anniversary Art Show

A look back through the years of a beloved community event By Lisa Goldstein



In early December the Mark Twain Library will once again transform its interior into an art gallery, marking the 50th anniversary of the storied Mark Twain Library Art Show.

The juried Art Show is an important fundraiser for the Library, which receives only partial funding from the town of Redding and must raise the remaining 40 percent of its annual budget to offer a wide range of programming including story times, college prep workshops, and thought-provoking adult lectures. In addition to the financial support it provides – and perhaps even more telling - is the way this event has long celebrated and reflected the fabric of the creative community that flocks to Redding.

The inaugural show took place in the early 1970's with just over half of the number of artists that exhibit today. According to Terry Flagg, an Emerita Board Member at the Library and former chair of several of the early shows, "There were so many incredible artists who lived in Redding and loved Redding, it was a great place to showcase what was behind the scenes in this town." She recalls the opportunity to get to know the local artists back then as a real highlight of the experience. These artists included the likes of Jo Polseno, Arthur Shilstone, George Lo, Robert Natkin, and Sperry Andrews, who is known for championing and preserving the artistic legacy of nearby Weir Farm. Art lovers are sure to either recognize or be newly inspired by each of their bodies of work.

Flagg, who is 83, added, "Even then it was a well-organized process, though not nearly as complex and sophisticated as today." Longtime contributing artist and exhibition committee chair Kathy Anderson said that in the beginning the event organizers wrote all the artist names by hand on index cards. The artist entry process has since moved online and, following the start of the pandemic, event organizers began digitizing the hanging gallery so anyone can opt to view and purchase the art virtually.

While technology has modernized and simplified the process for both artists and organizers, Anderson noted that one thing has remained the same throughout the years: "the town's enthusiasm for this show, the annual kick-off to the holidays, seeing old friends, admiring and purchasing the art, and supporting our beloved Library."

Perhaps the biggest show of enthusiasm came in the early 2000's when a snowstorm loomed over the Friday evening Gala event and the bus drivers (who to this day still shuttle guests to and from the Library and the middle school parking lot) threatened to - and did - leave before the ten o'clock hour. Then Art Show Chair Jill Edelman Barberie remembers telling guests the "show" would go on if they wanted to stay, and many did. "What was so Redding was how many of our attendees, dressed up for the Gala, said - 'no problem, we can walk to the middle school!"" Barberie recollected.

Art Show Committee members past and present credit the collaborative efforts of the team of volunteers and staff for making the Art Show a success as both a fundraiser and community gathering year after year. In the 1990's, Art Show Chair Martha Korman raised the bar by engaging the local business community in sponsorship support. In 1998 the very popular Silent Auction was introduced, featuring donated additional works. All the proceeds from the Silent Auction each year go directly to the Library.

Over the years, there were challenges to be sure. One year the panels of artwork came crashing down. In 1999, when the Library was undergoing construction, Barberie said they had to convince the town selectmen to let them use the newly renovated Town Hall. And of course in 2020, the pandemic threatened to cancel the event altogether. But in true Redding form, volunteers and staff pivoted to ensure that would not happen by moving the artist entry process and jury selection



The 1978 Art Show program cover featuring an etching of Mark Twain.

online, converting the Preview Reception into a virtual event, and complementing the beautiful hanging art with a virtual gallery. "We reinvented everything about the show," said Betsy Higgins, who was one of the Art Show Committee members during the pandemic years. "And that is here to stay."

For the 50th Anniversary, a virtual gallery will again be available alongside the in-person hanging gallery, artists and jurors alike will still benefit from remote jurying and online entries, and the infamous Friday night Gala reception (often thought of as Redding's "Party of the Year") will return as a dazzling in-person start to the holiday season.

The buzz created by this annual event and its celebration of local artists within the intimate setting of the Library fosters the creation of the sort of hub for bringing neighbors together that Mark Twain envisioned when founding the Library in 1908. According to artist Pam Reese, one of the volunteers responsible for submissions and the hanging of the show, "The Library's Art Show makes art accessible to all. Many do not regularly visit galleries, but for one week a year, the Library becomes a place for people to view fine art in a relaxed and comprehensible setting."

Reese has been showing her work and, along with Anderson, has been on the exhibition committee for more than three decades, where both women have overseen creating the iconic gallery. Reflecting on that longevity, Anderson said, "I think we keep coming back for our love of the Library, the spirit of Mark Twain, and the tradition which is sometimes lost in these hectic days."



All photos courtesy of the Mark Twain Library The Library rotunda filled with panels before the 2016 Art Show.



Gala guests at a 2000's-era Art Show.



A volunteer hanging artwork for the 2019 Art Show.

The 50th Anniversary Mark 11. All proceeds from the ticketed

Twain Library Art Show will be on view at the Mark Twain Library in Redding from December 3-11. The ticketed Preview Reception and Silent Auction take place on Friday evening, December 2. There will be a closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon, December event, including the money raised by the Silent Auction, plus 35 percent of each piece of art sold from the gallery go directly to support the Mark Twain Library.

Movie Series: The Last House on the Left By Donna Christopher



"The Last House on the Left" is a 1972 low-budget horror film about two suburban teenage girls who travel into the city for a rock concert, wind up in the hands of escaped convicts, and are brutally attacked and killed. When the killers unknowingly seek refuge in one of the girls' homes, they face the vengeance of her parents.

"It's kind of unsavory," recalled Joe Meyers, film critic and the director of Programming of Focus on French Cinema in Greenwich. "It's an exploitation film, a lowbudget film which was not picked up by a major studio, which is why they went further with the violence. In the early 70's explicit violent horror films really pushed the boundaries."

The opening scene takes place in New York City, but the bulk of the movie locations are shot in Connecticut. Most of these locations are mainly in Westport, though one scene of the teenage friends sitting by a rock ledge is likely in Redding.

The spot is cited as "Redding Glenn Ravine" on the movie's IMDb page for the scenes where "Mari and Phyllis drink wine" and "Phyllis is chased". The location is mentioned also on "The Last House on the Left" page on thennowmovielocations.com and listed as filmed in town on historyofredding.net." One movie blogger noted in these scenes that the "clearly visible road in the background behind the cliff and

Affordable small engine repairs. Specialising in tractors, lawnmowers and portable generators. 203.209.2916

david@reddingrepair.com www.reddingridgerepair.com trees is Redding Road."

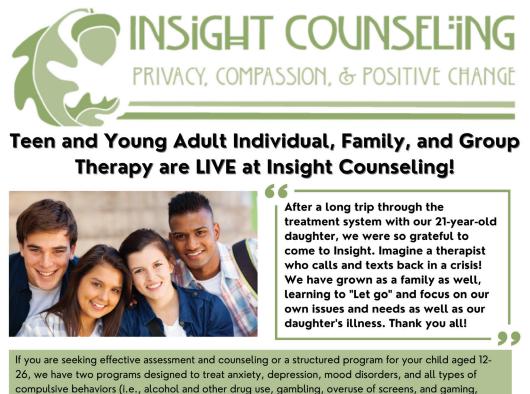
Though the film was not a mainstream success, it represented the directorial debut for Wes Craven, who went on to be recognized for his work in the horror genre, including the "A Nightmare on Elm Street" franchise and the first four "Scream" movies.

Critics at the time called the film disturbing and raw and warned

viewers about the "abhorrent" violence in the torture and rape scenes. In a Jan. 1, 1972 review published on rogerebert.com, Chicago Sun-Times film critic Roger Ebert wrote, "Last House on the Left' is a tough, bitter little sleeper of a movie that's about four times as good as you'd expect."

"The Last House on the Left" was released just a few years before the controversial but influential "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" (1974), adding to the active underground of more explicit violence in the genre. "It probably played (larger theaters) in Bridgeport and Stamford," Meyers explained.

The film had a \$90,000 budget and grossed approximately \$3 million at the box office.



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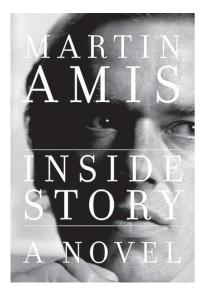
For More Information, Please Contact
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BOOK REVIEW

Inside Story - A Novel

By Martin Amis

538 Pages. Knopf. \$28.95



The last word in the book is "dead." This is intentional. INSIDE STORY: A NOVEL, by Martin Amis, is fiction only insofar as one character is an amalgam of several characters, and events told regarding that character are representational. This license is taken in part to protect the reputations of those fictionalized persons that might take umbrage. In addition, certain names have been changed (in a bid for emotional distancing, even Amis's wife Isabel Fonseca is called Elena throughout) which evidently comforts a certain authorial freedom. There are other adjustments, troublesome to certain strict critics, but the book, in sum, astutely evaluates the triumphs, follies and fails that characterize a life over time. Amis makes an honest effort to explore insights into life, love, and literature gained in seven decades of truth and consequences. And at times you are given truly sublime prose.

No matter its oddities, INSIDE STORY brings great pleasure to lovers of literature. It tells the life history of a writer possessed of keen intellect who, over

decades, continued to refine his ear and instincts. Amis frames his experience through a lens of loves and friendships. Christopher Hitchens, atheist and polemicist (1949 - 2011) was his best friend. Nobel Prize winner Saul Bellow (1915 - 2005) was his mentor. British Poet Laureate Philip Larkin (1922 - 1985) was a close friend to his father Kingsley Amis (1922-1995), and Martin knew him well. Phoebe Phelps is the fictional amalgam of several colorful but errant mid-life infatuations that beset Amis and threatened future happiness.

Martin Amis, born in 1949, has made a solid reputation as one of the strongest voices in English literature today, rare for the son (or daughter) of a literary lion of an era past. Fame, success, and his own sometimes caustic insights, have made him enemies along the way, but experience has sharpened his instinctive resistance to pretention and intellectual fraud.

Amis insists that writers of fiction are lovers of life. Some unassailable truth about himself among friends and lovers past and present hovers here. He is confronting a truth about time and change, which leads inevitably to a narrative of death and dying. Dead is something we certainly shall all be. Amis knows this and doesn't run from it, rather takes it as a writer's duty that as our powers fade it is well to report on the experience. In the meantime, as Dorothy Parker said, "You might as well live." INSIDE STORY is an author's account of how he did just that.

> Review by Tom Casey Tom is the author of Human Error and Strangers' Gate

LIBRARY CORNER

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

During my parental leave from the library, I had time to explore several "third places" for parents of small children. Coined by the sociologist Ray Oldenburg, the term "third place" is used to describe a gathering place outside of home and work or school. Third places can be coffee shops, bookstores, gyms, community centers, dog parks, or - you guessed it - public libraries. Usually these gathering places will appeal to one type of demographic. You won't see unaccompanied adults hanging out at a children's museum, and I probably wouldn't bring my toddler to a meditation group or a bar. But public libraries are uniquely positioned to be that "third place" for people of any age,

and we strive to be inclusive and welcoming to all.

Recently, I was at a coffee shop near my home called Honey Joe's. This shop is unique in that one side of the store is what you would expect from a coffee shop: modern furniture with people working on laptops beside a whirring espresso machine. But behind a glass divider, there is a huge playroom complete with two wooden playsets, books, and toys. The area is designed with safety in mind so that parents can sit down and enjoy a cup of coffee or a pastry while kids get to be kids. There's kidsized furniture, a socks-only dress code, and toddler-approved snacks available for purchase. Honey Joe's caters to people of all ages and appears to do so effortlessly.

This coffee shop, along with a few recent emails from parents of young children in Redding, have inspired me to think more deliberately about how we can do the same. If a library is meant to be a third place for seniors, small children, and everyone in between to coexist - what does that look like? How can we design our space with this in mind? We spent a lot of time thinking about this when proposing our outdoor patio project, and perhaps there are changes we can make inside as well. If you have ideas, I'd love to hear from you.

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

Good books for good readers By Margi Esten



So many books, so little time. This is just a small sampling of the books continuing to pile up on my night table!

OUR MISSING HEARTS: A NOVEL by Celeste Ng: An inspiring new novel from the #1 bestselling author of LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE, this is a beautiful tale of the exploration of self, and the importance of family, friends, and human connection.

LUCY BY THE SEA by Elizabeth Strout: A new work from this Pulitzer prize-winning novelist captures the disruptions and anxieties of the pandemic.

SHRINES OF GAIETY by Kate Atkinson: A new work from this international bestselling author, this sprawling novel takes us to the roaring 1920's of London complete gangsters, disillusioned with veterans of the Great War, and so much more.

SNOW by John Banville: This murder mystery features a young Irish detective who is investigating the Wexford family seat of the secretive, aristocratic Osborne family. John Banville has published 17 novels under his own name and seven Quirke stories under the pen name Benjamin Black.

HERE WE ARE by Graham Swift: This novel was published in 2020 and is the quiet, understated story of three friends and a magician on the Brighton Palace Pier. Graham Swift is an English writer and winner of the Booker Prize for his novel LAST ORDERS.

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BeFoundation to host community open house

at Georgetown church building

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Ethan Parisen

The half-scale replica of the Grateful Dead's Wall of Sound on display now at the former Georgetown Bible Church building.

As reported in the September 15th issue of the Sentinel, Redding-based charity BeFoundation has purchased the former Georgetown Bible Church and has plans to convert the building into a community gathering and performing arts space. To begin collecting ideas and feedback from residents about potential uses for the building, and to provide a fun afternoon of food and activities, the foundation will host an open house on Sunday, November 20 from 1:00 p.m. -4:00 p.m. at the former church building at 5 North Main Street.

Georgetown Village Restoration is arranging local vendors and kids' activities, including cookie decorating and touch-a-fire-truck, and live music will be on site.

Community members can also experience the passion project of SpreadMusicNow partner

Anthony Coscia at the open house event, which is a half-scale replica of the Grateful Dead's Wall of Sound. The installation, "Le Petit Mur De Son," is dedicated to rebuilding the Grateful Dead's legendary Wall of Sound from 1974. The intent of this series of projects is to preserve The Wall's place in history and allow people to experience what so few were able to decades ago. Each in the series of walls will increase in size until the full-scale wall is completed. For more information go to https://www.spreadmusicnow. org/anthony-coscia

Members of the community are invited to send their ideas on how the Church should be used as a community gathering place and performing arts center to granitechurch@befoundation.org.

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BUSINESS **S**POTLIGHT

The Redding Beer Company

Award-winning beer made in the heart of Georgetown By Justin Reynolds





Photo by Jessie Wright The Redding Beer Company on Main Street in Georgetown

Photo courtesy of Redding Beer Company David Baulsir working on a new brew.

Baulsir's experiences in Europe inspired the design of their brewery's taproom, which creates a comfortable atmosphere that's filled with all sorts of tables games and features works of local artists.

"I told the designer to make it like a pub in England, and that's what she did," Baulsir said, adding that his wife, who loves tables games, suggested outfitting the taproom with them.

In May 2022, the Baulsirs were delighted to learn that their Belgian Tripel was given the gold medal in the Belgian Style category at the first annual Connecticut Craft Beer Grand Prix, held at Lime Rock Park in Lakeville.

"There are a lot of good beers in Connecticut," Baulsir said. "We figured if we win, that's great. If not, it doesn't really matter. When we were notified we got it, we thought the category probably only had a couple of entrants. When we found out the category was 80 different beers, we were blown away."



Photo courtesy of Redding Beer Company Jim Baulsir mashing beer.

While Baulsir encourages you to try their Tripel, the brewery has eight taps that rotate over the year based on seasonality and specials. Looking ahead to the fall and winter, they're bringing back an oatmeal stout and Redding Olde Ale, a British style of beer, among others. In addition to catching their beers in the taproom, you can also find the Redding Beer Company at local restaurants and in Ancona's and Caraluzzi's.

Since the brewery has two rooms, the taproom is kid-friendly. If you want to bring your kids, they're more than welcome, and there's soda, hot chocolate, and tons of games.

If you're looking to enliven your Thanksgiving, the Redding Beer Company encourages you to stop by the day before the holiday for a growler special. And if you want to get away the day after, stop by then, too.

For more information on the brewery and to see what's on tap, visit https://www.reddingbeer.com/

If drinking a gold medalwinning Belgian-style Tripel brewed in Redding sounds like your idea of a good time, head over to the Redding Beer Company, a nanobrewery and taproom located on Main Street in Georgetown.

The Redding Beer Company, which opened in 2017, is the brainchild of Jim and David Baulsir, a father-and-son team committed to bringing the styles and varieties of European beers to palates in Georgetown and beyond.

After working in corporate IT for a very long time, the elder Baulsir was ready to spend his time doing something else.

"I ended up being on call 24/7/365 because I was running my company's data center," Baulsir said. "I wasn't really satisfied with the industry, and I was ready for a change."

The Baulsirs started homebrewing in 2013. After attending a certification program at the American Brewers Guild in Vermont in 2016, the duo decided to move their brewery operations out of their own home into a dedicated facility that could house more equipment.

"We wanted to make better beer," Baulsir explained. "Dave and I love making beer. It's an art, it's a science, it's creative, and it really spoke to us. In order to take our brewing to the next level, we needed to make the jump to a new place."

As they began looking for a facility, the Baulsirs quickly decided that they wanted to stay in Redding if they could. The Baulsir family moved to town in 1996, the kids grew up here, and the family still lives in town.

"We found a building in Georgetown that had been vacant for well over a year," Baulsir said. "The original building burned down in the '90s and was rebuilt around 2011 or '12. Since then, there's been five restaurants here. We saw this as an opportunity."

While most breweries have massive tanks housed in industrial facilities, the Redding Beer Company takes a different approach. "For us, making beer is an artisan construct," he continued. "We make 100 gallons of beer at a time. This is artisan beer."

The elder Baulsir's interest in beer dates back to the 1980s, when his father's job was transferred to Brussels.

"I spent a lot of time in Europe during those five years," he said. "At the time, the American beer landscape was really barren. I was just so blown away by the styles and varieties they had. That experience planted a seed that took a long time to germinate."

That barren landscape has evolved considerably over the years. According to the Brewers Association, there are more than 9,200 breweries in America today. Yet as beer drinkers know too well, many of those breweries tend to focus on certain types of beer, neglecting others.

"Craft beer is not just one style," he explained. "We didn't want to make what everyone else is making. There are thousands of styles of beer, and we're going to brew many styles."

Encolling for the Fall



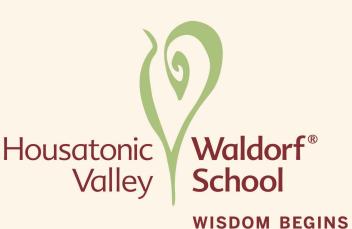


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The Natural World

Are trees the answer?

Highstead report outlines potential for forests to combat climate change By Jeanne Ammermuller



Trees in New England play an important role in absorbing key greenhouse gases that are known to contribute to climate change. A new report from Highstead, a conservation organization based in Redding, evaluates just how much carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) New England forests sequester now, and what can be done to make them even more powerful tools in the fight against climate change.

new report, "New The England's Climate Imperative: Our Forests as a Natural Climate Solution", lays out five separate, but complementary pathways that could increase the climate benefit of New England's forests. The report details that New England forests already absorb 14% of CO2 emissions and how that number could increase to at least 21% of current emissions by 2050 through concentrating on decreasing deforestation, increasing wildland reserves, improving management of working forests, increasing

mass timber construction, and expanding urban and suburban forests.

According to study authors, New England forests are a critical yet underutilized tool in fighting climate change. They store massive amounts of carbon - and each year they sequester more. As New England states work to meet their 2050 goals for reducing emissions, the relative importance of forest-based mitigation will grow. In fact, if the states reach their ambitious emission reduction goals over the next three decades, forests could absorb as much as 92% of the remaining CO2e emitted by the region.

A closer look at the report's five pathways and their potential impact:

Avoided Deforestation: Each year, 28,000 acres of forests are permanently converted to development in New England, emitting their stored carbon and forgoing all future sequestration. If deforestation is reduced to 7,000

acres per year, 74 million tons of CO2e would be kept out of the atmosphere by 2050.

Wildland Reserves: Less than 4% of the region's forests are currently protected as wildland reserves. By ensuring that at least 10% of New England's forests are allowed to grow and mature without the influence of extractive land uses, those forests would sequester an additional 50 million tons of CO2e by 2050.

Improved Forest Management: Society is heavily dependent on wood products, and New England is a great place to grow trees. By changing management practices and stewarding timberlands to maximize carbon sequestration, forests can meet the needs for lumber and paper products while increasing carbon storage in the forest. If just 50% of harvests employed climate smart techniques, an additional 203 million tons of CO2e could be sequestered by 2050.

Photos by Jeanne Ammermueller

Urban and Suburban Forests: Expanding tree and forest cover within New England communities has enormous benefits even beyond carbon sequestration, including shading, clean air, clean water, and recreational and employment opportunities. A 5% increase in urban tree canopy in New England could sequester an additional 17 million tons CO2e by 2050.

Mass Timber Construction: Trees are a valuable climate solution inside and outside the forest. Using mass timber building materials is much less carbon intensive than steel or concrete and has the added benefit of storing carbon through the life of the building. If 50% of the eligible new buildings in New England used mass timber construction, an additional 15 million tons of CO2e could be stored.

The pathways would have varying impacts on each of the different states in New England. For example, Maine, with its large forested areas can benefit

most from implementing better forestry techniques, including longer rotations between harvests. More populated states, like Connecticut, can benefit from a focus on changing development practices to avoid development in forested areas, increasing the use of mass timber in construction, and increasing wildland preserves and urban and suburban forests, including roadside trees, parks, and open space.

The report highlights Connecticut's active policy process focused on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. The Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) has been working since 2015 to develop strategies for these priorities. Their January 2021 report included policies that support the five pathways, including:

- · Statewide no-net-loss of forest policy
- Support for keeping forests as forests
- Increased carbon sequestration and storage through improved forestry practices
 - Protecting vulnerable communities, by protecting against heat islands and improving health outcomes through urban forestry

The full report, including a report summary and briefs about state impacts, can be found at https://highstead.net/library/ forests-as-a-natural-climatesolution/

> Jeanne Ammermuller is Strategic Communications Director at Highstead.

"Everything Happens in Different Doses": **Redding Police Department round up** By Regan B. Purcell

"I can't remember the last time choose a local spot and take a in different doses," Sergeant crimes, this painted a different United States are facing staffing

I worked a 40-hour week," Chief O'Donnell told me. I was visiting the Redding Police Department for the first time, hoping to get a glimpse into the day-to-day of the people who protect and serve Redding. Armed with the weekly reports of incidents that are made available to the public, my plan was to ask for more information about a select few. Little did I know, I was about to get a deeper look into not only the building itself, but the hearts of the people who work there.

Chief O'Donnell was joined by Sergeant Livingston, who has been a member of the department for ten years and is committed to serving the community and humanizing the police. The Sergeant and other officers started posting a "view from the road" on the Redding Police Department's Facebook page. During their patrols, they

picture of the landscape and their police car. It's a way for them to communicate how they view the role of the police within the community - celebrating the best parts of Redding while protecting and serving the people who live here.

I was surprised to learn that while Redding doesn't have the salacious incident reports of a large city, we still have an interesting mix of events where the police department has been involved. Last month, ten mailboxes were vandalized, eight of them in a single day. An incident of wire fraud was reported on Black Rock Turnpike that was a case of ID theft to obtain \$10,000 to apply to a pornographic website. A week later, ten packages of heroin were observed in plain view resulting in an arrest at a Fire Hill Road residence. "Everything happens Livingston said. This insight was surprising as Redding is most often described as a place offering rural charm away from the hustle and bustle of busier towns.

"A large portion of what we deal with these days is fraud and financial crimes," Chief O'Donnell noted. The police department handles around 12,000 calls a year, which averages to about 33 calls a day. Everyone on the force is Crisis Intervention Team certified, as much of what they do involves responding to the influx of calls in person and showing empathy for the citizens of Redding in their time of need. "The job can take a toll on you," Chief O'Donnell said, "If you choose this line of work, your family must be behind you, supporting you. It's not a nine to five." While most people might imagine police as responding to calls and investigating alleged

picture of responsibilities that extend to offering emotional support and being with people for extensive amounts of time.

Sergeant Livingston spoke about the many ways the department is giving back to the community. They are currently partnering with the Connecticut Cancer Foundation for No-Shave November. The foundation chooses Connecticut residents as ambassadors to receive donations, and the money raised can be used in a variety of ways from paying for day-to-day care to providing necessities. They have already passed the \$500 goal they originally set and are now focused on reaching \$1,000. To help support their efforts and donate, you can visit the RPD Facebook page at facebook.com/ reddingctpolice.

recruit and retain officers, and many have been forced to find new ways to fill the gaps. This shortage has coincided with a spike in crime and some communities are concerned that if they need to call the police, there may not be anyone to take the call. At the beginning of my visit, Chief O'Donnell said when he goes home at night, the work doesn't end as he will often answer the phone well past midnight because the police are "heavily invested in the town." This is evident in the myriad ways the department continuously gives back to the community and how they encourage Redding residents to ask questions and become involved, opening their doors to inquiring minds like myself.

shortages as they struggle to

Police departments across the

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies R = registration required

Arts

Wednesdays - Sundays, through Dec. 18

"Hues of Freedom" - 2022 Fall Juried Art Exhibition Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum 295 West Avenue Norwalk lockwoodmathewsmansion.com

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Thursday, Nov. 10

A Walk Through Dutch 17th Century Art - A Mirror of Daily Life 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Zoom or live Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road Redding marktwainlibrary.org R

Sunday, Nov. 13

Seniors-Only Tour of 52 Artists: A Feminist Milestone 60 and above 1:00 p.m.— 2:00 p.m. The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art 258 Main St. Ridgefield thealdrich.org \$, R

Saturday, Nov. 19

Short Short Story Film Festival 12:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Greenwood Features 269 Greenwood Ave. Bethel greenwoodfeatures.com \$

Wednesday, Nov. 30

Gallery Talk, Landscape in Art: From Delight to Alert 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Visual & Performing Arts Center 43 Lake Avenue Extension Danbury wcsu.edu

CRAFTS

Friday, Nov. 18

The Collective @MTL - A Community Pop Up Market 4:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m. In-Person Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org

Sunday, Nov. 27

Newtown Holiday Craft Festival 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Edmond Town Hall 45 Main St. Newtown

edmondtownhall.org

Saturday, Dec. 10

Redding Artisan Holiday Fair 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. John Read Middle School

John Read Middle School 486 Redding Road

Food

Saturday, Nov. 12

Bethel Farmers Market 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

67 Stony Hill Road Bethel bethelfarmersmarket.org

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Sunday, Nov. 13

Georgetown Farmers Market 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. 4 Old Mill Road Georgetown Info at geremiagardens@yahoo.com

Friday, Nov. 18

November Community Dinner 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Grace Farms 365 Lukes Wood Road

Holiday

Saturday, Nov. 12

56th Annual Holiday Fair

9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
Register for online auction
Bidding: Friday, Nov. 4, 6:00 p.m.
— Friday, Nov. 11, 6:00 p.m.
The United Church of
Christ Southbury
283 Main St. North
Southbury
uccsouthbury.org

Saturday, Nov. 19

Holiday Market 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. New Canaan Nature Center 144 Oenoke Ridge New Canaan newcanaannature.org

Friday, Nov. 18 – Sunday, Nov. 20

Ann's Place 20th Annual Festival of Trees Friday, 12:00 p.m. —Sunday, 5:00 p.m. The Summit at Danbury 100 Reserve Road Danbury annsplace.org

\$

Thursday, Nov. 24

The Great Turkey Escape 8:00 a.m. (3/4 mile) 8:30 a.m. (5K) Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Rd https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/ Redding/TheGreatTurkeyEscape **\$, R**

Thursday, Nov. 24

41st Annual Thanksgiving Day 5K Turkey Trot 8:00 a.m. (5K) 8:30 a.m. (Kids Run) Boys & Girls Club of Ridgefield 41 Governor St. Ridgefield bgcridgefield.org

Special Programs

Friday, Nov. 11

Veterans Day Redding Gazebo will be garnered with buntings and flags in honor of Veterans. Redding Parade Path 100 Hill Road townofreddingct.org

Saturday, Nov. 12

One-Day Retreat Meditation, Dhamma talk 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Center for Mindfulness & Meditation 9 Picketts Ridge Road Redding redding.cfmim.org **R**

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Wednesday, Nov. 16

Grieving Through the Holidays Support Group 6:00 p.m.— 7:30 p.m. RVNA Health 27 Governor St. Ridgefield rvnahealth.org Call 203-438-5555 to register **R**

Thursday, Nov. 17

Queer & Questioning: A Panel Discussion

5:00 p.m.— 8:00 p.m. The Norwalk Art Space Norwalk Art Space and Art Space Café 455 West Ave. Norwalk thenorwalkartspace.org **R**

Thursday, Nov. 17

Modern Calligraphy Workshop 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road Redding marktwainlibrary.org **R**

MEETINGS

Thursday, Nov. 10

Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee 6:00 p.m. Zoom and live us06web.zoom.us/j/8480388388 Meeting ID: 848 038 8388 Redding Town Hall Hearing Room 100 Hill Road townofreddingct.org

Thursday, Nov. 10

West Redding Fire Commissioners Meeting 7:00 p.m. West Redding Firehouse 306 Umpawaug Road westreddingfiredepartment.org

Monday, Nov. 14

Long Range Financial Planning Committee 4:00 p.m. Redding Town Hall Conference Room 100 Hill Road, Redding townofreddingct.org

Tuesday, Nov. 15

Conservation Commission 7:30 p.m. Zoom townofreddingct.org

Tuesday, Nov. 15

Region 9 Board of Education 7:30 p.m. Joel Barlow High School Library Learning Commons 100 Black Rock Turnpike er9.org

Wednesday, Nov. 16

Water Pollution Control Commission 7:30 p.m. Zoom townofreddingct.org

Children, Teens

Tuesday, Nov. 15

November Stories & Outdoor Adventures for Toddlers & Young Children (Ages 3-5) 10:00 a.m.— 11:00 a.m. New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Rd. newpondfarm.org **\$, R**

Sunday, Nov. 20

Open House at Georgetown Granite Church 1:00 p.m.— 4:00 p.m. Food, local vendors, kids activities, Wall of Sound! 5 North Main St. Georgetown Contact granitechurch@befoundation.org

Sunday, Dec. 4

Poetry Workshop Series: Social Justice and Activism Grades 5-8 3:00 p.m.— 4:00 p.m.

Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road Contact sarah@marktwainlibrary. org

R

New Canaan gracefarms.org

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History

Sunday, Nov. 13

Tapping into the Past: Tavern Life in Early Connecticut Redding Historical Society Doors open at 10:00 a.m. Presentation at 11:00 a.m. Brunch at 12:00 Make Checks Payable to: Redding Historical Society. In Check Memo: Tavern History Event Mail to: Tavern Talk, c/o L. Wagner P.O. Box 100, Redding Ridge, CT 06876. Redding Roadhouse 406 Redding Road, Rt. 53 reddingcthistoricalssociety.org \$, R

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Wednesday, Nov. 16

CT's Great Discoveries in Archeology 7:30 p.m. Zoom Mark Twain Library marktwainlibrary.org **R**



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Friday, Nov. 25

Ridgefield Holiday Tree Lighting 6:00 p.m. Donnelly Plaza 400 Main St. Ridgefield ridgefieldct.org

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Saturday, Nov. 26

Holiday Village Foundation of Hope 12:00 p.m.— 4:00 p.m. DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel 789 Connecticut Avenue Norwalk foundationofhope.us \$

Tuesday, Nov. 29

Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Stew Leonard's 100 Westport Avenue Norwalk stewleonards.com

Friday, Dec. 2

Holiday Tree Lighting

4:30 p.m.— 6:00p.m. Wakeman Town Farm 134 Cross Highway Westport wakemantownfarm.org

Friday, Dec. 2 – Saturday, Dec. 3

Ridgefield Holiday Stroll Ridgefield Holiday Stroll 400 Main Street Ridgefield ridgefieldct.org



Thursday, Nov. 17

ARPA Funds Working Group 5:00 p.m. Zoom townofreddingct.org

Thursday, Nov. 17

Historic Review Committee 7:00 p.m. Old Town House 23 Cross Highway townofreddingct.org

Thursday, Nov. 17

Democratic Town Committee 7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room townofreddingct.org

Friday, Nov. 18

ER9 Boards of Education Policy Committee 9:00 a.m. Zoom or live ER9 Boards of Education Central Office 645 Morehouse Road, Easton er9.org

Monday, Nov. 21

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



Tuesday, Nov. 22

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

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