REDDING SENTINEL

OCTOBER 8, 2026 | REDDING, CONNECTICUT | Volume 5 / Issue 18 | $4

‘Project Adventure’ sign gets green light from Board of Selectmen

By Rob Sample

A proposed commemorative sign has new life after last week’s Board of Selectmen meeting.

At a special meeting on Wednesday, September 30, the Board of Selectmen gave its qualified approval to a Project Adventure sign at John Read Middle School.

The proposed sign must still go before the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for review and may ultimately require a zoning variance. The Board’s vote follows a September 21 town meeting, during which residents voted to override a negative recommendation on the sign from the Planning Commission. The Commission had earlier said that the sign did not fit with the surrounding landscape and the

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Photo by Jessie Wright

A member of the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company gave hay rides to visitors on an old John Deere throughout its Sunday Fire Safety and Oktoberfest event. If you have a photo you’d like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

What to do when weather affects events

By Pamela Brown

A traditional phrase in theater is “the show must go on,” and for many events that were scheduled the last weekend of September on the impactful day of a powerful nor’easter, it held true, except for an event that was reliant on an outdoor setting.

The First Church of Christ, Congregational’s 44th Annual Artisan Fair took place on Saturday, September 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. as planned. The event is always held rain or shine. According to people who have been involved since its beginning, this was only the fourth or fifth time rain has been an issue.

“That’s a pretty good track record,” Kathie Cyr, chair of the fair, said. “We had to pivot on some plans, but we had a very successful event despite the weather. We moved a few things indoors or under cover. We were thrilled with the large number of friends and neighbors who came to support us and find their treasures at the tag sale, jewelry boutique, and barn sale. So many of our guests commented to me and others that they were happy that we had the Fair and looked forward to it every year.”

The organizers moved the Great Raffle into a garage and the tag sale checkout to the lower lobby of the church that has tent canopies covering people waiting in line. They also moved more tables and seating into their pastry tent so attendees could enjoy their burgers, congregational soup, and apple pie in a dry space away from the wind and rain. The music and dance programs were canceled.

The Fair was supposed to feature an outdoor market with more than 50 local and regional artisans, but Cyr said most canceled or didn’t show up. “We only had two artisans who braved the elements, and they were successful,” Cyr said.

“Reworking our event took a bit of extra planning and the willing hands of our volunteers to accommodate changes,” she continued. “While we are disappointed that more artisans were unable to come, and we missed our music and dance programs, our fair still had a great vibe with the enthusiasm of our guests and smiles of our volunteers.”

Cyr said they start monitoring the weather from various sources at least 10 days in advance. “We started planning modifications in anticipation of rain the week before the Fair,” she said. “While rain and wind gusts were of some concern, by modifying our setup and using extra precautions for tents to prevent them from being blown over, we were able to safely have our event.”

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Planners consider cabin for Boy Scout property

By Rocco Valluzzo

A proposed finished cabin on Boy Scout property will allow for a new program, but it engendered some pushback from a neighbor last month.

A request for a site plan amendment to construct a one-bedroom, single floor cabin on the Boy Scout property on a scenic road left the Redding Planning Commission with several questions at its September 22 meeting.

Connecticut Yankee Council Scouting America, which owns the property, plans to build a 384-square-foot “Camp Master” cabin at 3 Marchant Road intended to house a full-time volunteer for improved site safety and Scout orientation.

Michael Carpenter, President of Northeast Design and Construction representing the Boy Scouts of America, detailed the necessity of the Camp Master program, which requires a trained adult to be present during camping activities to handle emergencies. The proposed cabin is a 16 foot by 24 foot, or 384-square-foot, structure on a crawl space, featuring a green metal roof and wood-simulated siding to match existing structures. It will include one bedroom, a kitchen, and a bathroom, with a dedicated septic system already designed and approved.

“The Camp Master Program tends to be one where we take the fellow members of Boy Scouts of America and train them,” Carpenter said. “And they will stay as temporary residents at Scout camps.”

“Should an emergency arise and a unit comes over,” Carpenter continued, “say somebody’s really sick, we’ve got to take them to the hospital, they can stay with the person and with their unit, and then that camp master can get the emergency help that's needed.”

Since Marchant Road has been designated as a scenic road, the Commission was concerned with protected vistas. Chair Laurie Heiss said she would research the original scenic road designation filing for Marchant Road.

According to Carpenter, the cabin would be visible through the trees from Simpaug Turnpike and from Marchant. Standing 13 feet in height at its tallest point, it has natural stained siding.

Attorney Ben Proto of Stratford, representing an abutting neighbor on Simpaug Turnpike, alleged multiple ongoing zoning violations on the property, including a shooting range approved for BB guns and archery that has allegedly expanded into unapproved high-powered rifle and shotgun use for profit, as well as unpermitted earth moving. He asserted that the Commission should deny the site plan amendment as a penalty for non-compliance with existing permits.

“We understand what it is the Boy Scouts want to do and why they want to build this house,” Proto

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REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

On the Old Redding Road Trail:

A tiny trail with a lot to offer

By Justin Reynolds



Photo by Justin Reynolds

The Old Redding Road trailhead has been replaced by this Topstone Park sign.

Heraclitus observed that none of us can enter the same river twice. The same can be said of Topstone Park, where everything looks different each time you hit the trails — even more so after a massive storm.

Time flies. I’ve lived next to Topstone for almost seven years now and run through it three or four times a week. Despite that frequency, I’ve never traversed the park’s shortest trail — Old Redding Road Trail, clocking in at 0.22 miles — until the summery afternoon of October 2. In my last installment of this column, published May 2, 2024, I told you I’d devote future ink to this specific trail, and here we are.

I start down Saddleback toward the park’s entrance. Immediately, I realize I somehow forgot how hard it is to run on rocky-and-rooted trails blanketed with leaves that were just beginning to change, their summer green still largely intact. That 80-degree weather must’ve duped me.

Gingerly making my way down the steepest part of Saddleback, right near the trailhead by the entrance, I finally connect with solid ground, breathe a sigh of relief on behalf of my ankles, and run toward the main parking lot.

I’m a simple man with simple routines. I have my route. Since Old Redding Road Trail isn’t on that route, I wasn’t sure where my legs would take me next.

I break from my usual trail-running autopilot, head to the beach, pause there, and figure out my plan of attack. I end up taking Pond Trail, running past Boulder Top in search of the trail that has eluded me all these years.

I pass by a nicely tied-up green bag of canine excrement lying in the middle of the trail. How does such a thing happen? Well, at least it’s in a bag, and not on the bottom of my shoe. (Please, dear readers. So much space in Topstone is not a trail — the vast majority of the 274 acres, in fact. Can Copernicus please do his business off-piste?)

Now, where the heck is Old Redding Road Trail? The sign, which was there when I moved here, is long gone. Sweet. Looks like some do-gooders have added

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Editorial

Greetings from our new Managing Editor | *By Sten Spinella*

As I've gotten to know the *Sentinel*, I've been impressed by the breadth of original and nonpartisan news coverage. A robust team of freelancers and volunteers contribute to a genuine community newspaper that doesn't shy away from hard news. While corporate-owned news media has hollowed out once-respectable local and regional newspapers here in Connecticut, and nationwide, creating "news deserts," the *Sentinel* is an oasis. The only ads you see are local, and when you're online, they don't pop up and crowd your reading experience. Our wire stories, or stories borrowed from other news sources, come, almost exclusively and only occasionally, from the *Connecticut Mirror*, one of the best outlets in our state.

I have been pleasantly surprised, too, about how much news there is in Redding. It shouldn't have come as a shock, since I was taught this trade at the University of Missouri, in a college town with generations of student journalists combing it for stories. It's what I was taught at my first job out of grad school, as a reporter for the *Longboat Key Observer*, on an island of snowbirds and golf courses. No matter where you are in this country, something newsworthy is afoot, always. *Sentinel* reporters and columnists have every angle of town government decisions, local events, big personalities, business, the natural world, the literary world, and more covered. The *Sentinel* qualifies as a hyperlocal paper, with every word, photo, and advertisement in it having at least a tangential connection to the town.

This paper, particularly due to Publisher Susan Clark and former Managing Editor Jessie Wright, has captured something fundamental about journalism and newspapering. The editing process requires printing multiple copies of the paper throughout the week and marking the pages up with a red pen. Our focus is on the print edition, even our digital imprint depends on readers opening a digitized version of the physical newspaper. Our publisher hand-delivers these physical copies to local businesses weekly. As someone who does not do audiobooks, primarily reads dead authors, enjoys vinyl, and listens mostly to music made between 1960 and 1980, this sensibility appeals to me. That is not to say we are old-fashioned. While we are out on the ground in town consistently, our operation is completely remote, and in a manner of speaking, our newsroom is in the cloud.

I am excited to be here, and to apply everything I've learned as a reporter and editor in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Florida, Missouri, and elsewhere, to this gem of a paper. I moved to Redding last month, and I'm making a point of meeting new people. If you see a large, jovial, bearded man, do not be alarmed. I'm here to continue Jessie's stewardship and, eventually, make tweaks as they arise to our news coverage or operations that come with the benefit of an outside eye. Consider this the first of many pleas to subscribe to the *Sentinel*. The very existence of it is in the public's interest — as we speak, this is not a moneymaking operation, but something done for the public good and with the sole intention of informing. If that argument doesn't work, well, you can see your face, or your relative's, or your friend's, on the front page. Regardless of why you're here, we're happy to serve you. ■





Thank you, Jessie,
for getting us through
our toddler years
with patience, care and flair.

We wish you
all the very best with yours!

The Sentinel team



Legal Notices

The Redding Zoning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing for October 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in person at the Town Hall Hearing Room, 100 Hill Road, Redding, CT. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the following applications.

1. **Application #26-04Z – 34 Whortleberry Road (Assessor Map and Lot #13-10) Owner: Adam Czarnik Revocable Living Trust, 27 Virginia Ave. Danbury, CT 06810** – In accordance with Redding Zoning Regulations Section 5.12 request for A Special Use Permit for an attached accessory residential apartment.
2. **Application #26-05Z – 3 Marchant Road (Assessor Map and Lot #12-29) Owner: Connecticut Yankee Council Scouting America, 60 Wellington Road, Milford, CT 06460: Agent: Michael Carpenter Northeast Design & Construction Inc., 31 Sullivan Drive Redding, CT 06896** – Request for A Site Plan Amendment in accordance with section 5.2.2 of the Redding Zoning Regulations to construct a one-bedroom single floor cabin (Campmaster Cabin) to monitor camping activity. ■

Matt Lecher, Chairman / Redding Zoning Commission

Warning of November 3, 2026, State Election

The electors of the Town of Redding are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the following purposes:

I. To cast their votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate, and Registrar of Voters. Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places on Election Day is as follows:

Election Day Voting District	Location of Polling Place
135 – ALL OF REDDING	Redding Community Center, 37 Lonetown Road

Absentee Ballots will be counted at the polls.

Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).

Early voting will take place from Monday, October 19, 2026, to Sunday, November 1, 2026. Early voting hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day, except that the hours are extended to 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday and Thursday, October 27 and 29, 2026. Each early voting location will offer Same-Day Election Registration (SDR).

During the early voting period, early voting and SDR locations are at Redding Community Center. On Election Day, SDR is available at Redding Community Center.

Dated at Redding, CT this 4th day of October, 2026. ■

Michele R. Grande, Town Clerk / Town of Redding

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

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

Elizabeth Williams – Chairman, Redding Zoning Board of Appeals

Notice

Notice of 18th Day Before Election Day and Enrollment & Registration Sessions

Hand delivered or mail-in registration and/or enrollment of electors entitled to vote in the General/Municipal Election must be received or post marked by the office of the Registrar by **Friday, October 16th, 2026.** This is also the deadline to register to vote using the On-line Voter Registration System. **No mail-in registrations post marked after this date will be accepted. No online registrations will be accepted after this date.** (§§9-19j and 9-23g(d)(2))

Additionally, there is an **18th Day Before Election Enrollment Session on Friday, October 16th, from 9:00am- 8:00pm.** This is the last regular session for admission of electors for those who become 18 years of age, U.S. citizens, or residents of Redding on or before October 16, 2026. We will be holding this registration session in person at Town Hall in the Hearing Room. (§9-17)

For people who qualify as to age, citizenship, or residence after the last session for the admission of elections prior to this election, we will be holding a **Limited Registration session on Monday, November 2nd, from 9:00am – 5:00pm.** We will be holding this registration session in person at Town Hall in the Hearing Room. (§§9-16 and 9-17)

Additional Legislation from 2024: Those who wish to register to vote after October 16, 2026, may come in person to the Redding Community Center **Monday, October 19th, thru Sunday, November 1st, for Same Day Registration and Early Voting.** Times and requirements are listed on our town website under the Registrar of Voters. Same Day Registration is also available on Election Day, November 3rd 2026. (§9-19j)

When registering to vote for the first time you must have a Government Issued photo ID that shows name and address. If your ID does not show your current address (i.e. you recently moved here from a different town or state) please also bring a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or government document that shows your current name and address.

If you have any questions please call our office at 203-938-5012 or email registrar@reddingct.gov.

Dated at Redding, Connecticut, this 17th day of September, 2026. ■

Jessica Cishek, Democratic Registrar of Voters / Michele Meschi, Republican Registrar of Voters
www.reddingct.gov

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News and Views of Redding, Connecticut
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Advertising Sales Representative, Atticus Upson

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Printed by The Republican, Springfield, MA
Telecommunications by CCi Voice
www.reddingsentinel.org
203.938.3800

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Single copy price $4.00 / Annual subscription $95.00

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Election 2026

State Senate District 26: Open seat up for grabs

By Donna Christopher

Ceci Maher's departure from the 26th State Senate district seat leaves it open for a newcomer. The race to represent the district, which includes parts or all of Darien, New Canaan, Redding, Ridgefield, Stamford, Weston, Westport, and Wilton, is between Democrat Samantha Nestor and Republican Alma Sarelli. Maher announced in March 2026 that she would not seek reelection after completing her second term. She will remain in office until the term concludes in January 2027.

The Westport League of Women Voters in collaboration with Earthplace and Sustainable Westport will host a debate between the candidates on Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Westport Town Hall. Questions for the candidates may be sent to lwvwestportct@yahoo.com.

The defining issues of the race are affordability, local autonomy, school funding, and public safety. Nestor is emphasizing her executive leadership and track record providing money for local initiatives, while Sarelli says she is pushing back against Hartford overreach and preserving local authority.

Nestor is serving her third term as First Selectwoman in Weston, where she lives with her husband Mike and their two teenage boys Finn and Gavin. She began her career in public service in 2017, when she was first elected to Weston's Board of Education, and then to the Board of Selectmen.

Sarelli, who is from Albania, is a 17-year resident of Connecticut and a mother of four. She runs a national event entertainment production company with her husband. Sarelli is a member of Westport's Representative Town Meeting. ■

Sarelli looks to protect local interests

By Donna Christopher



For Republican nominee Alma Sarelli, the decision to enter the race for District 26 is led by her mission to confront the state's pressing economic hurdles.

"I'm running because the people of District 26 deserve a State government that listens to them," Sarelli said. "Connecticut faces real challenges, and affordability is at the top of the list. Families are squeezed by high electric bills and high taxes, including the income tax. Small businesses are struggling to stay open under the weight of red tape and monthly paperwork required by the state."

According to the candidate, she is also running to champion local control because "no single bill written in Hartford can fit every one" of Connecticut's 169 towns. She explained from her experience on Westport's Representative Town Meeting that municipalities face unfinanced State mandates, and contended that communities are frequently excluded from the decision-making process.

Although Republicans currently control every branch of the Federal government, Sarelli said constituents in her district have shared fears about speaking out when their perspectives differ from the mainstream, out of concern that they will be silenced or punished for independent thought.

"What truly gets me up every morning is more personal," Sarelli said. "I grew up under Communism. I remember standing in line as a little girl to get a loaf of bread for my family, and sometimes going home without one. I remember what it felt like to be afraid to speak."

She said that no individual should feel frightened to advocate for what is best for their children and future, noting that ultimately everyone shares common goals of a secure, peaceful community and an improved life for the next generation. Decades of single-party rule have kept Hartford locked on a single course, Sarelli said.

"It's time for a change, and it's time to bring people together," she added."

Background

A Westport mom and business owner, Sarelli has been involved in civic life for more than nine years. She serves on Westport's Representative Town Meeting (RTM) and was reelected in 2025. She also serves on the RTM's Public Protection, Planning and Zoning, Parks and Recreation, and Education committees. Additionally, she runs a local nonprofit and serves on the boards of other nonprofits in town.

"That work has shown me how Town government actually runs, and where State policy helps or hurts," Sarelli said.

She has voted to support building the new Long Lots Elementary School, one of the largest capital projects in Westport's history. "It was a major expense, but it was necessary for the safety of our children," Sarelli said. "It also showed me how much of the cost of school construction falls on local property taxpayers, including seniors who no longer have children or grandchildren in the schools. That isn't fair to them."

To support small business owners, she aims to eliminate State-level bureaucracy so they can focus on growth, while insisting the State must pay its fair share for school construction and special education to shield local taxpayers. She said that residents frequently express frustration over the rising cost of living and aging infrastructure that failed during recent severe storms. She criticized the State for funding studies rather than construction, and for favoring major cities, and she promised to secure resources for District 26 to prevent future flooding.

Sarelli addressed what she sees as an obstacle in Hartford: Republicans being in the minority.

"I see it as a reason to build coalitions, and building bridges across the aisle is something I already do," she said, adding that she works well with her Democratic colleagues. "I'll work with Democrats, Republicans, and independents alike, and I won't let any party dictate what's right for our community." ■

Notes from a neighbor

A problem at the pump

By Carter Wiseman

The price of gasoline these days is enough to slow my visits to my favorite filling station, but even back when a gallon of regular cost a mere, now-unthinkable $3, there was another deterrent: the privileged pumper.

This is the driver who pulls up just ahead of me, plugs in the hose, and ambles off to the station convenience store. More often than not, this someone is not driving a compact Toyota with a ten-gallon tank, but an enormous black SUV, frequently with an outdoorsy name like Tahoe, Denali, or Yukon. Such cars have deep throats that take many minutes to reach their 30-gallon capacity. But even when the pump handle clicks to signal a full tank, the driver is nowhere to be seen.

I can understand having an urgent need for a restroom, but these drivers tend to stroll back to their vehicles with a cup of coffee and a bag of chips, chatting on their cell phones and blissfully unaware of

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Nestor makes experience campaign cornerstone

By Donna Christopher



Weston First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, the Democratic candidate for the 26th District State Senate seat vacated by Ceci Maher, brings nearly 10 years of local government experience and a municipal executive's view to the race. Her sights are set on bridging the gap between Hartford policies and local community realities. Centering her platform on the affordability crisis, the opportunity gap, and easing mounting infrastructural pressures, Nestor intends to adapt her municipal leadership experience of obtaining critical funding into state-level relief for taxpayers across the district.

Nestor views the role as one that has a voice for local government. She wants to reduce municipal budgets throughout the state. She wants people to be able to remain in their homes. She describes herself as a problem solver, noting, "What sets me apart is I actually have local leadership experience."

As First Selectwoman, her administration secured more than $36 million in grants and budgetary funding to offset local taxes. This money successfully backed the reconstruction of four town bridges (financed 80% by federal grants), the launch of Weston's largest paving project in history (supported by $8 million in state grants), and the installation of the town's first-ever connected sidewalk network utilizing explicit state infrastructure grants.

Platform and Priorities

"When we began the campaign, I would have said that the Trump administration's reckless disregard of our democratic values was everyone's first concern," Nestor said. "What I have learned, however, is that the Trump administration's reckless disregard for the financial well-being of all of us is actually the main concern."

Nestor noted that she already has strong relationships with the decision makers in Hartford, which gives her an edge and will allow her to get up and running at the capitol right away.

When asked for her specific agenda priorities, she cited:

- Lowering taxes, including property taxes, because it is the State that sets the guidelines.
- Reducing health care costs by holding insurance companies accountable on pricing and fees.
- Encouraging State funding for local schools to ease pressure on Town budgets.
- Supporting housing construction by eliminating duplicative regulations to increase inventory and reduce costs.
- Scrutinizing energy company charges, and pushback on hidden fees.

"My 10 years of public service in elected office, running a town, managing a budget, solving problems, and helping Weston residents, including the most vulnerable, makes me the right choice for State Senate," Nestor said. "Slogans are one thing. Relationships and experience are what really counts." Nestor added that she is concerned about the commute to Hartford and the State's traffic problems, which she also looks forward to solving.

Background and Experience

Nestor is a three-term First Selectwoman in Weston, where she settled with her family after years in New York City. Before that, she served on the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education. Nestor grew up in upstate New York, in Niskayuna. She was raised by her mother, an artist, and her stepfather, a former assistant attorney general and the chief clerk for New York State Court of Claims. Nestor characterized her stepfather as her mentor. He taught her to have a purpose in life, and that fulfilling that purpose is what gives you gratitude. He was a "Rockefeller Republican" who would be "really proud" of her public service career and her democratic values. "I had a nurturing upbringing that taught us how privileged we were," she said. Her mother taught her how to be creative.

Nestor is particularly proud of repairing or rebuilding four municipal bridges, cleaning harmful chemicals from the school and town water system, powering the municipal campus with solar energy and funding the project with state grants, completing the first sidewalk installation in Weston's history, revamping the human services department, and developing regional behavioral health initiatives.

Public safety has been a large part of Nestor's agenda at the town level. She secured State and Federal grants to fund the modernization of the 911 system, purchase new fire engines, PFAS-free turnout gear, and emergency equipment for first responders, and the first women's locker room in Weston's history, which allowed the town to hire its first female police officer.

Before dedicating herself to public service, she worked in communications, marketing, and journalism. She worked for nonprofits the New York Public Library and the Frick Collection, and for the New York Design Center, where she wrote two design books for Random House and ran her own boutique communications company.

"Being Weston's First Selectwoman has been the best and hardest job I ever had," Nestor said. "I do hard things in my town. I want to do the hard things for the entire district." ■



Sports

Barlow's depth dominates Immaculate

Girls soccer | *By Rocco Valluzzo*



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Cori Hartley, left, scored two goals for the Joel Barlow High girls varsity soccer team in a game against Immaculate on Saturday, October 3. Barlow won 5-0.

Even before the start of the game, the Joel Barlow High girls varsity soccer team already had an advantage over Immaculate on Saturday, October 3.

Due to injuries, the visiting Mustangs had a depleted roster, barely able to field a team. The host Falcons, with their deep bench, eventually wore down the competition in a 5-0 shutout.

Before the start of the game, both sides agreed to play abbreviated halves (20 minutes each) to prevent excessive fatigue. Barlow Head Coach Ben Weiss often rested his starting players in favor of giving his second string time on the field.

"They normally have like 16, 17 girls," said Weiss, noting the Mustangs' already small roster. "We're trying to be empathetic and do the right thing."

But even with short halves and the Falcons making use of reserve players, they still had the depth they needed to dominate the action. Right from the beginning they controlled possession in Immaculate's half of the field, taking a barrage of shots that went wide of the mark.

It was only a matter of time before Barlow sharpened its aim. With 11:47 left in the first half Cecelia Mehner scored from the left to put her team in the lead for good.

Less than five minutes later, Vika Abukhovich took a shot from about 20 yards out that was too high for the keeper to even get a hand on as the Falcons were up 2-0. Manuela Mejia also scored for Barlow in the time remaining.

Although the Falcons were not overly aggressive on offense, when play resumed, scoring opportunities continued, and they took advantage of a couple of them. One was on the result of a Falcon shot that the Mustangs failed to clear in time. Cori Hartley was there to send the rebound into the net with 10:40 left to play.

Barlow came close to scoring another when a shot by Kelly Amaya Marquez bounced off the left post with 7:22 to play. Barlow, however, would not be denied one more tally, as Hartley scored her second of the contest with 3:10 left to go after receiving a pass, turning, and finishing her shot.

With a 5-2-1 record, the Falcons have now automatically qualified for the State Class M tournament. They now hope to accumulate enough points in their remaining games to secure a higher seed and secure a home-field advantage for the first couple of rounds. They host Stratford Thursday, October 8 at 6:00 p.m. and are away at Notre Dame Prep in Fairfield on Tuesday, October 13 at 4:00 p.m. ■

Falcons survive Green Wave threat

Girls volleyball | *By Rocco Valluzzo*



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Emily Esposito attempts to block New Milford's Claire Christian during a girls volleyball match on Wednesday, September 30.

In a way, the Joel Barlow High girls varsity volleyball team seemed to be beating itself at times in its match at New Milford last week.

The Falcons often had trouble with their serving, passing and hitting, trailing 2-1 in sets on Wednesday, Sept. 30. Once they got on track in the time remaining, they rebounded in time for a 3-2 (23-25, 25-21, 22-25, 25-14, 15-10) win.

"We're ironing some things out," said Barlow head coach Mavi Gilmore, who has a couple of players out with injuries. "It's nice to know that we can come through."

Barlow was without senior libero Val Amador Alesi, who was injured in the opening match. It also had a freshman at outside hitter out last Wednesday.

Despite scratching on six serves in the first set, the Falcons stayed with the competition in the first part of the opening set helped in part by the strong net play of Mia Roberts, whose kills helped her team stay within a point (7-6). Hitting errors on Barlow's part then helped turn

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Georgetown businesses get ready for a night out

By Justin Reynolds

Georgetown will be a little livelier come nightfall next week.

On Thursday, October 15, businesses on Main Street will keep their doors open later than usual for Georgetown After Dark, a community event featuring live music, special promotions, and other surprises throughout the village.

The event, which is a collaboration between business owners and Georgetown Village Restoration (GVR), runs from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

"Georgetown After Dark is the first of what we hope will be many," said Whitney Coccaro, owner of Yoga Station, who is organizing the event.

Since it's "after dark," the event is geared toward adults.

"We envision it as a date night, a night out with friends, or an opportunity to head out solo and meet people within our community," Coccaro said.

Attendees can pop into participating businesses, with each offering its own activities and specials. The Georgetown Owl, for example, will host a "Wellness Zone" in collaboration with Yoga Station and other wellness-focused businesses. Visitors can swing by for chair massages and class discounts, among other things.

"The Georgetown Owl Market & Restaurant is thrilled to be part of Georgetown After Dark," said Kate Perry, owner of The Georgetown Owl. "I think it's going to be a really fun experience for guests to enjoy all that Georgetown has to offer."

Anyone who participates can come and go throughout the evening, whether they want to stay for the whole night or just check out what Georgetown looks like when businesses are open later than usual.

The event grew out of a larger effort to bring the Georgetown business community closer together.

Coccaro, who opened Yoga Station three years ago, wanted to become more involved in the community, so she joined GVR, a volunteer-run nonprofit that runs events and projects throughout the village, including the annual Georgetown Day celebration.

"GVR is entirely volunteer-based and already involved in so much," Coccaro said. "We didn't have much time to focus specifically on the interests of our local businesses and how we could work together to support and grow the business community."

That led to the creation of the Georgetown Business Group, which brings brick-and-mortar businesses in Georgetown together, Coccaro said. She launched the group with support from Nic Palazzo, owner of Palazzo Landscaping and president of GVR.

The group's first meeting was hosted at The Granite in July, with Rich Wenning opening up the nonprofit's doors to support the effort. Milestone owners Peter and Andy Fine also quickly came aboard, and general manager Nick Colletta offered to lead the event's marketing and design efforts.

The idea for the event came from Julie Durkin Marty of Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center, who suggested that businesses stay open later than usual for an evening. Coccaro brought the idea to GVR, and it grew into a true village-wide collaboration.

In addition to promising a good time, attendees will also be contributing to a great cause. A percentage of the proceeds raised during Georgetown After Dark will go to Georgetown's Main Street Food Pantry.

The way Coccaro sees it, the event is the perfect opportunity for business owners to get to know each other better while giving folks yet another reason to spend time in Georgetown.

Though this is the first Georgetown After Dark event, Coccaro hopes there's more to come. But whether that happens depends on the community's response.

"Events like this are just as much dictated by the community interest as they are by the people leading them," she said. "This is a really exciting time to be in Georgetown." ■

For more information and a list of participating businesses, visit georgetownct.org/georgetown-after-dark.

Redding's Big Outdoors: On the Old Redding Road Trail

continued from page 1

new blazes somewhat recently. I've found the rumored trail, the trail of tall tales, the 0.22-mile strip that I've never set foot on.

Making my way up the hill, I try to keep pace with the blazes, but boy are they hard to follow. If I had to guess, Old Redding Road Trail is the least-used stretch of trail in the park. You can kind of just tell by the lack of a well-worn path, the way the leaves and dirt sit undisturbed between the blazes. But if you squint hard enough, you'll see it.

And even if you don't, who cares?

Earlier this year, hiker extraordinaire Tim Keyes and I wandered around Topstone; he's the one who taught me the word "off-piste". Together, we poked around several nooks and crannies of Topstone that Tim knew, venturing off trails more often than not.

Channeling that energy, I dart up the hill, reconnecting with a blaze every now and again. We're talking about a 0.22-mile stretch here, less than a lap around a track, so if you know the general direction, you're good to go.

Once I get closer to the trailhead, the trail becomes obvious. But there's a reason I've only driven by the trailhead after all these years: there's nowhere to park. Sure, I live within walking distance. But anyone who knows anything about Old Redding Road — which is somehow a low-key, tree-lined speedway — knows walking or running on it is a gamble.

I'm at the trailhead, and the sign says Topstone Park. I coulda sworn it used to say Old Redding Road Trail when I first moved here. Hmm.

Where to next? I retrace my steps, entirely captivated by this familiar yet entirely unfamiliar part of the park — it's gorgeous — and think about hitting the overlook. The simple man reverts to his routine.

But I subconsciously decide that I'd like to write a column that organically includes the word "off-piste" three times, so I continue through the rugged wilderness, improvising a trail through unexplored forest that I suspect will lead me back home, or at least close enough to it.

And I'm glad I did. I saw a boulder the size of a Range Rover split in half from east to west. How'd that happen? I'm not a geologist, but I do read a lot. Maybe water and ice? Maybe a lightsaber?

I see the engineering work that steers what I think is called Umpawaug Pond Brook into the pond. Tons of rocks, placed however many years ago, quietly doing the job of directing the brook where it needs to go, largely unnoticed this far from the pond.

I carefully make my way over the brook and saunter through the silent woods alive with noise. When I see my house, I'm happy that my internal compass is intact, and I'm also happy that I've finally checked the elusive trail off my to-do list.

Later, I sit down to write this column with the trusty *Book of Trails* in hand to verify that 0.22 number. That's when I learn Topledge Trail is 0.34 miles long. Eureka! I've never seen that trailhead, either. Well-played, Heraclitus. ■

Do you like to hit the trails? The Sentinel is looking for additional volunteer contributors for Redding's Big Outdoors. E-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org for more information.

Joel Barlow High School sports results and schedules

Boys cross country
Results:
September 30: Joel Barlow 24 / New Milford 32, Joel Barlow 22 / Masuk 33, New Fairfield 22 / Joel Barlow 37
Record: Joel Barlow 5-5
Next meets:
October 13: away at Stratford at 5:00 p.m.

Girls cross country
Results:
September 30: Joel Barlow 21 / Masuk 34, Joel Barlow 15 / New Milford 50, New Fairfield 23 / Joel Barlow 32
Record: Joel Barlow 8-1
Next meets:
October 10: away at Wickham Park at 11:30 a.m.
October 13: away at Stratford at 3:30 p.m.

Field hockey
Results:
September 28: Joel Barlow 5 / Bethel 0
September 30: Joel Barlow 4 / Immaculate 0
October 2: Joel Barlow 1 / Bethel 0
Record: Joel Barlow 8-1
Next games:
October 9: away at Lauralton Hall at 3:45 p.m.
October 14: home versus New Fairfield at 7:00 p.m.

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

Boys soccer
Results:
September 29: Joel Barlow 1 / Brookfield 0
October 1: Bassick 2 / Joel Barlow 1
October 3: Joel Barlow 1 / Cromwell 0
Record: Joel Barlow 3-4-2
Next games:
October 1: away at Bassick at 5:00 p.m.
October 3: home versus Cromwell at 3:00 p.m.
October 6: home versus Bethel at 7:00 p.m.

Girls soccer
Results:
September 29: Brookfield 0 / Joel Barlow 0
October 3: Joel Barlow 5 / Immaculate 0
Record: Joel Barlow 5-2-1
Next games:
October 8: home versus Stratford at 6:00 p.m.
October 13: away at Notre Dame Prep at 4:00 p.m.

Girls swimming
Results:
September 29: Joel Barlow 102 / Masuk 74
October 2: Joel Barlow 94 / Newtown 79
Record: Joel Barlow 5-0
Next meets:
October 9: away at Brookfield at 4:00 p.m.
October 13: away at Oxford at 4:00 p.m.

Girls volleyball
Results:
September 29: Weston 3 / Joel Barlow 1
September 30: Joel Barlow 3 / New Milford 2
Record: Joel Barlow 5-2
Next matches:
October 9: home versus Brookfield at 5:30 p.m.
October 10: home versus Fairfield Warde at 1:00 p.m.
October 14: away at Bassick at 5:30 p.m.

Barlow launches a new environmental extracurricular

By Anne Young Albanese

The high school's ECO Club is no more, giving way instead to the Green School Honor Society.

This year, Dr. Katherine Nuzzo, a science teacher at Joel Barlow High School and former faculty advisor for the ECO Club, determined that the Green School Honor Society would better reflect the school's environmental goals. The new organization includes a name change, an affiliation change, and, most importantly, a change in the students' contributions.

The Green School Honor Society focuses on individual students as well as the full club. Its mission is "developing the next generation of environmental leaders through education, project-based learning, and community service." It is an honor society, allowing students the opportunity to earn recognition, scholarships, and even graduation stoles. While the students work together, there are also individual requirements for each member.

"The purpose of the organization and its members is to have student members conduct environmental service projects in their schools and communities," according to Nuzzo. "The society facilitates awards and recognition for students who exhibit outstanding achievement in environmental stewardship."

Students have specific requirements to be members of the JBHS Green School Honor Society. They must complete at least 20 hours of environmental service per year. They must track their monthly service using the official National Green School Society tracking sheet. Students are required to participate in two program fundraisers and attend monthly meetings. Students can work together, but their contributions will be recognized individually.

Students will be honored with a bronze leaf pin for completing 20-39 hours per year. A silver leaf pin is awarded to students who complete 40-69 hours per year. A gold pin honors students who have completed 70 or more hours.

Seniors are also eligible to earn honor stoles for graduation. In their four years in high school, students will be recognized with a green honor stole if they complete 100-199 hours. Silver honor stoles will be granted to students who complete 200-299 hours. Gold honor stoles are granted to those students who have completed 300-plus hours during their time at Barlow.

Historically, the ECO Club operated under the framework of the Connecticut Green LEAF Schools, which is a division of the Connecticut Outdoor & Environmental Association. This program is focused on Leading, Educating, Achieving, and Fostering healthy, green schools for all. Each school determines the pace that it uses for the program.

Schools are first recognized for participating in Green LEAF Schools during registration. Schools are placed in the Acorn, Sapling, and Oak Tree categories.

Schools and towns are rewarded for each school's participation. Acorns receive access to materials that are published online, such as the listserv, newsletter, and Facebook group. In addition, the town will receive five points toward its SustainableCT certification.

Sapling schools are required to form a Green Team and complete a self-assessment. The benefits of this identification are access to mini-grants to fund schools' green initiatives. The team also earns 15 points toward the town's SustainableCT certification.

The Oak Tree classification is given to a school that has accomplished a Green LEAF goal and fulfilled professional development. The school will earn 20 points toward the town's SustainableCT certification.

While both organizations support the environment, Nuzzo believes that the transition will recognize every student.

"The decision to transition to a national honor society structure allows JBHS to directly honor and identify individual students for their personal dedication, leadership, and service in environmental stewardship," she said.

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Six additional measures OK'd by Board of Selectmen

By Rob Sample

The Board of Selectmen had a robust agenda for the special meeting on Wednesday, September 30. Besides giving its okay to the Project Adventure sign at John Read Middle School, the Board approved the following measures:

• Following an executive session, the Selectmen voted to hire James "Jaime" Bairaktaris as the Town's new Director of Park and Recreation. Bairaktaris previously served as a technology specialist at John Read as well as a paraeducator at Redding Elementary, and was chosen by the Connecticut PTA as an outstanding educator/paraprofessional for 2026.

• The Selectmen okayed spending a maximum of $99,750 to repair a flat section of roof at the Gilbert & Bennett building in Georgetown. This section of the historic building housed the plant's weaving room and has been subject to water penetration, causing damage.

• A proposal to update the Building Department fee schedule was approved. According to Chief Building Official Shaun Donnelly, the updated fee schedule takes into account increased costs for construction and materials. However, most of the fee schedule will remain unchanged from the current version, which took effect in 2019.

• The Board authorized First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton to sign an agreement with Nexgen to upgrade the information-technology infrastructure at the Police Department. The agreement also encompasses a new Computer-Aided Dispatch and Records Management System (CAD/RMS). The contract cost is $173,000 and the money has already been allocated to the Police Department.

• Redding will get a new, 2026 Chevy Cargo Van following the Board's vote. The purchase will be made via State of Connecticut group pricing. The van will cost the Town $41,000.

• The Board approved a Merchants National Bonding tender bond agreement and a side agreement with Burns Construction for the Redding Community Center Walking Path. It also authorized Town counsel to execute any documents necessary, and the First Selectwoman to sign them.

Planners consider cabin for Boy Scout property

continued from page 1

said. "The question before this Commission and ultimately before the Zoning Commission is, how many times do you reward someone when they continue to violate your zoning regulations?"

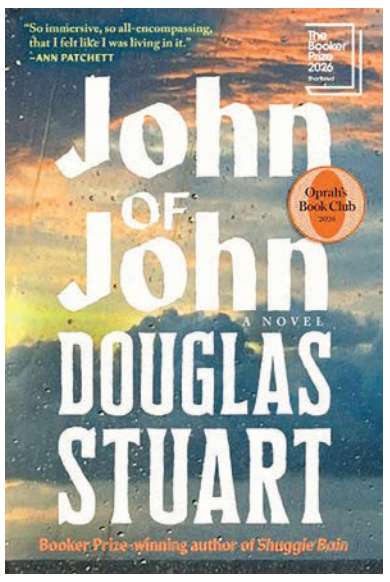
There was a lack of consensus on whether the Planning Commission could legally withhold a favorable recommendation based on zoning enforcement issues that fall under the Zoning Commission's jurisdiction. The Commission decided to defer a recommendation until they receive a legal "primer" on their responsibilities concerning special use permits and enforcement history.



Book Review

John of John

By Douglas Stuart / 403 pages / Grove Press



John of John is a novel ideally read in front of a glowing fire, perhaps with a glass of whisky close to hand. The setting is the Western Islands of Scotland. Young John-Calum has been called home from his life on the mainland, where he has struggled since finishing art school. His maternal grandmother Ella, his ally and confidante, has fallen ill, so he is told.

Back on the island, Cal and his father, John, clash constantly. Cal dresses like a gay art student from the mainland, not the son of an island weaver and fiercely believing lay preacher. He lolls about and smokes and drinks with old friends. He wants to spend time with his mother, who left his father when he was a child, not with his father.

John senior works long hours as a weaver of the legendary Harris tweed and spends what little free time he has preaching to the faithful in his local community. Cal is a knowledgeable weaver as well and takes the (illegal) night shifts for his father.

Weaving is one of the few parts of their lives these men truly share. Both have an eye for color. The many subtle colors in tweed, the range of colors in beach stones and sea shells, provide an undertone to the story.

Both father and son hide secrets from the world as well as from each other. They share more, in those secrets, than they realize. Only Ella, the owner of their croft, knows all.

The story is as finely woven as a bolt of Harris tweed, and its complexity will have you thinking about it long after the final page.

Douglas Stuart won the Booker Prize in 2020 for his novel *Shuggie Bain*, and *John of John* has been short-listed for the 2026 Booker. The novel is a 2026 selection of Oprah's Book Club. ■

Review by Susan Clark

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Notes from a neighbor / ***continued from page 3***

how long they have been keeping the rest of us waiting.

I have never been at a gas station where there was not enough room for a customer to fill his tank, pull over, and make room for the rest of us. So every time I get stuck behind these clueless consumers, I feel an emotion verging on road rage. I am tempted to give them a stern talking-to about common courtesy, basic manners, concern for others. But one never knows what will set someone off, or whether the entitled offender might have a tire iron or something heavier at the ready.

So I loosen my grip on my steering wheel, turn up Simon & Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" on NPR, and invoke the calming mantra I learned in transcendental meditation. I tell myself that the insensitive driver of the behemoth before me was given too many participation trophies as a T-baller, so he really never learned to appreciate community values. I remember that petty emotional flare-ups can lead to heart attacks in men over 40. And I remind myself that the extra seven minutes spent waiting for a free nozzle do not subtract all that much from my otherwise happy day.

Nevertheless, the darker angel of my imagination tempts me to scatter a few nails under the offender's right rear tire as he is driving away. That way, the tire would go slowly flat, and he would wonder where he picked up his puncture. And he just might steer clear of my local station the next time he needs to top up his tank, and his chips. ■

Falcons survive Green Wave threat / ***continued from page 4***

the tide in favor of the hosts, who battled on a number of points behind libero Mairead Bell for a 19-13 advantage.

"We could not get a ball past her," said Gilmore. "We just had to fight all the way through."

Errors on the Green Wave's part helped the Falcons mount a comeback, eventually tying it at 23-23. But after the visitors lost the serve on a hitting error, New Milford closed out the set on Bell's serve.

Falling behind 9-2 in the second set, the Falcons then improved their serving, and with New Milford errors they soon started to chip away at the lead, eventually tying it at 16-16. A key block by Genevieve Currie helped put the Falcons up top 22-18, eventually tying the match at 1-1.

Barlow also trailed early in the third set but kills by Currie and Sylvie Candee helped tie it at 11-11. Four ties and three lead changes followed, and although the Falcons' net play kept them within striking distance, they scratched on two key serves, falling behind 2-1 in sets.

Now facing a must-win situation, Barlow had a couple of service runs in the fourth set to stay in good position. Ripley Robinson's ace increased the lead to 19-11, and the match would go to five sets.

Roberts stepped it up a notch at the net in that final set, coming up with five kills while the Falcons led 10-6. The Green Wave later scratched one last time to bring things to match point, and Emily Esposito's kill got the win for Barlow.

"We picked it up at the end, but we had some trouble at the beginning of the match," Gilmore said. "These girls work extremely hard in practice."

Barlow, now 5-2 overall, hosts Brookfield on Friday at 5:30 p.m., is home against Fairfield Warde on Saturday at 1 p.m., and is at Bassick on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. ■

Library Corner

Starstruck by a fellow librarian

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

A few months ago, a couple came in because they were donating some of their book collection to the Book Fair. They were in the process of downsizing and moving to Redding. The husband smiled proudly, "You know my wife is a retired librarian." So of course she and I got to chatting. Turns out she had a long career at a nearby public high school, all while serving on various national committees. She is a past President of the American Association of School Librarians! In other words, she is a famous school librarian, with a long history of service to the profession…right here in Redding!

Naturally, I invited her to come back once she was settled and have a chat with me. It was great fun to hear her stories of traveling west to visit school librarians in pueblos alongside the founder of the American Indian Library Association. She was also great friends with a past Connecticut State Librarian who left in 1997 to work for the Gates Foundation. She served on the Intellectual Freedom Committee of our professional association and remembered book challenges in Connecticut from years ago. And although I often feel overwhelmed with balancing my career with raising my two children, she had done the same, even while teaching at my alma mater – the Pratt Institute's School of Information. In Redding we often remark on how there are so many interesting people who live here, many under the radar. We can add a famous school librarian to that list. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director of the Mark Twain Library

Pollinator garden brings Barlow students into nature

By Anne Young Albanese



Photo by Bert Webbe

Barlow students helping to care for the pollinator garden while learning more about it and the insects that use it. Students help weed, plant, and winterize the beds and gardens.



Photo by Anne Young Albanese

Local resident Victor DeMasi with Garden Club members Bert Webbe and Flo Vanoni.

Bert Webbe and Flo Vanoni from the Redding Garden Club have developed a pollinator garden on the Joel Barlow High School campus.

A pollinator garden is a special space dedicated to supporting bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects. These spots are focused on the preservation of those creatures that help create flowers, fruits, and vegetables. The garden was originally started in 2016 but got overgrown. Webbe and Vanoni have since cleared the weeds with help from students and other volunteers.

The Barlow pollinator garden is used as an outdoor classroom. Health teacher Ryan Smith uses it to work with his Unified Wellness class. According to Smith, "The Unified Wellness class is built around collaboration and community. It hosts students with special needs as well as students considered to be 'typical peers.'"

Smith works with Dr. Katherine Nuzzo, an award-winning science teacher at Barlow. Nuzzo teaches students how to plant and maintain the pollinator garden and the importance of it to the human food supply. It ties in closely with Nuzzo's lessons using the raised beds by the back entrance, where the students plant flowers and vegetables.

According to Smith, "The unified class is responsible for helping to weed, plant, and harvest these beds and gardens, as well as 'winterize' them, grabbing seeds from aged flowers and bagging them for the following year. It is an authentic hands-on experience where we literally get our hands dirty."

Lepidopterist (butterfly expert) Victor DeMasi, a specialist in pollinator gardens, bees, and insects, helps care for the garden and advises the Garden Club on creating new pollinator gardens. He is also an active member of the Connecticut Pollinator Pathway, which promotes pollinator gardens across the state.

The Garden Club has planted another pollinator garden at the Lonetown Farm Museum, by the Onion Field. It is hoping to develop programs with the students from Redding Elementary School. The students can easily walk to that garden from the school to learn more about pollinators. ■

Any interested community organizations or members are also welcome to help with the garden or other Redding Garden Club gardens. The club can be reached at ReddingGardenClubCT@gmail.com.

'Project Adventure' sign gets green light from Board of Selectmen / ***continued from page 1***

residential vibe of the surrounding neighborhood, nor was it within size guidelines.

The Project Adventure course was originally proposed to commemorate the life of middle school student Luke Sorce, a seventh grader who died earlier this year. During the public comments at the meeting, several residents spoke in favor of the Project Adventure sign, its purpose, and its homage to a late student. During the most recent Board meeting, Town Counsel Steven Stafstrom discussed the sign's evolution and dissected the legal issues surrounding it.

"The Board of Selectmen previously referred the sign to the Planning Commission under Connecticut General Statute 8-24, the municipal improvement [law], which was the correct finishing step on this," Stafstrom said. "The question now, having had the Planning Commission decision overturned by the town meeting, is whether this project qualifies as a municipal sign under our Zoning Regulations."

Stafstrom pointed out that the regulation applies to signs for municipal purposes, such as municipal greeting signs (e.g., "Welcome to Redding"), directional signs to Town buildings, their hours of operation, Town insignia, and municipal event notices. "In my estimation, the John Read Middle School Project Adventure does not fit any of those categories as a municipal sign," he said. "It announces a specific school program, as opposed to municipal [concerns]."

He added that the Board of Selectmen would need to make its own determination of whether the sign could proceed. The board subsequently did, in a unanimous vote. "I am comfortable ending our role on this matter, letting the Board of Education proceed to its logical next step," First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton said. "I agree, based on my review of that provision as well as Steve's discussion," Selectman Michael Thompson said.

The sign – which would measure five by 13.5 feet – would be placed between two 20-foot-high steel poles at the site of the middle school's Project Adventure challenge course. This course consists of both indoor and outdoor activities, including ropes courses and a zipline, among other features.

Laura Simpson said the controversy over the sign had occupied too much time on the part of taxpayers, school and Town officials, and even legal authorities. The sign itself won't be in public view, she pointed out.

"It's a big, awesome sign for a big, awesome obstacle course that helps our middle school students feel big and awesome," Simpson said. "It helps them build confidence, learn to be brave, and be active with their peers. It's big because it represents something big, and it impacts no one in town other than the students who are lucky enough to go to school at JRMS."

Chris Parkin, Chair of the Region 9 Board of Education, urged the Redding Board of Education to proceed with the sign's installation. "I don't believe that Zoning or ZBA has any role to play because the zoning regulations are themselves an overreach of zoning power pursuant to Connecticut's statutes," Parkin said. "The Building Commission only has the rights that are given to it by the legislature. The legislature is only given the rights to regulate advertising signs and billboards, of which this is neither. "So, I think that the role of the Town would be over at this point," Parkin concluded.

Shaun Donnelly, Chief Building official for Redding's Building Department, said that putting the sign up will require a building permit since it is considered a structure. "That procedure will involve the zoning enforcement officer and the health officer, not specifically the commissions," he said. "But that procedure still has to be done." ■

Town past deadline to address zoning changes

By Rocco Valluzzo

An informal public information session during a Redding Zoning Commission meeting on Wednesday, September 23, explained the impact of state-mandated housing changes on local zoning regulations.

Taking effect on July 1, the state-mandated housing changes under Special Session Public Act (SSPA) 25-1 aim to bring local zoning into compliance regarding "missing middle housing" (2-9 units) and mixed-use developments within specific commercial zones.

The Town has already passed the State's July 1 deadline for adoption. While there is no immediate penalty, failure to adopt these changes soon may place the Town at the "bottom of the line" for State discretionary grants, according to BFJ Principal Frank Fish.

"The towns don't have too much of a choice, actually," said Fish. "This is a State mandate that the towns react to what the General Assembly passed and then Governor Lamont signed on the housing."

Suzanne Goldberg, a senior planner at BFJ Planning, explained that these changes affect less than two percent of Redding, specifically Georgetown, a small area on Route 7, and the West Redding train station area. Single-family residential zones are entirely unaffected.

"Mixed-use development needs to be allowed in those commercial areas," said Goldberg. "But once again, none of the dimensional requirements, not the shape, the form, is going to change at all. It's just you have to now allow these uses."

These developments must be allowed via "summary review," an administrative process similar to a site plan review. This removes discretionary actions like special permits or public hearings for individual applications, provided they meet existing dimensional requirements such as height, setbacks, and coverage.

"So essentially the Town can only approve or disapprove these developments up to nine units based on whether or not it complies with the Zoning Regulations," said Goldberg. "There's no other discretionary action that the town could take."

Towns generally cannot require parking for residential developments that have less than 16 units unless a "conservation and traffic mitigation district" is established. Within these districts, the Town can enforce one parking space for studios/one-bedrooms and two spaces for units with two or more bedrooms.

The Commission agreed to establish two conservation and traffic mitigation districts covering Georgetown and the Route 7 commercial area to retain the authority to mandate parking for residential developments. Due to state limitations on the number of mitigation districts, West Redding will not be included.

In areas not covered by districts (like West Redding), Fish noted that while the Town cannot mandate parking for housing, developers typically provide it to secure bank financing and meet market demand.

"All the commercial properties in West Redding, they still have to comply with your parking requirements of the zone," said Fish. "But if new housing came in, because we can only use it for two districts, it would be up to the developer."

The Commission agreed to provide larger, parcel-specific maps at the next meeting to address concerns about proximity to commercial districts. A formal public hearing regarding these zoning amendments is set for October 28.

Following the hearing, the Commission aims to formally adopt the regulations in November or December. ■

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Scam aware

The big business of scamming – who are the scammers?

By Tony Freyberg

There is one question I'm asked with remarkable consistency: "Who are the scammers?"

There is no single answer. Behind that familiar phone call, text message, or convincing email is often a sophisticated criminal operation. The scam phone call that reaches an American household most probably begins thousands of miles away, in a sprawling compound where dozens of people work at computers, following scripts designed to separate us from our money. These are criminal businesses employing organized networks, call centers, money launderers, technology specialists, and, increasingly, artificial intelligence.

The United Nations estimates that these scam centers generate tens of billions of dollars in annual profits. The largest concentration remains India, Pakistan, and Southeast Asia, particularly in Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos. These criminal networks recruit workers with promises of high salaries and benefits. They provide computers and telecommunications equipment, which includes training in psychological manipulation. Many of these workers, however, are victims themselves. Interpol reports that people from at least 66 countries have been trafficked into scam centers, held against their will and forced to commit online fraud.

Unfortunately, the business model is remarkably efficient. One group may create convincing websites or fake identities; others make the calls or send messages; others move stolen money through cryptocurrency and bank accounts. Scamming has now become a global business, generating billions of dollars each year by exploiting one of our most valuable resources: trust.

The best defense against persuasive scammers is to break the emotional momentum they are trying to create. Stop, slow down, and verify before you hand over personal information or a dollar of your hard-earned money, make certain you know with whom you're dealing. A healthy skepticism is a powerful form of self-protection. That's the way to stay scam aware. ■

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Real Estate

September 2026 real estate report *A look at trends in the local housing market*

By Bill Whitehead and John Talley

Nine properties changed hands in September, four fewer than in September 2025. **Days on market increased to 117**, compared with 99 a year ago, an 18% increase, reflecting a more measured pace of activity.

Inventory remains relatively steady, but still tight, with **25 homes currently for sale**, compared with 23 during the same period last year.

Despite the slower pace, pricing continues to demonstrate strength. The average **price per square foot increased to $397**, up from $346 in 2025—a significant 15% increase.

While demand remains resilient, the market is facing stronger headwinds as mortgage rates have risen from approximately **6.1% a year ago to 7.1% currently**. Higher borrowing costs are affecting affordability and contributing to a more selective buyer pool.

September's sales largely represent the **final results of the spring and summer market**, and the coming months will provide a clearer indication of how higher mortgage rates and limited inventory will shape the fall market. ■

Bill Whitehead and John Talley are realtors with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

September 2026													
Town	Current Inventory	Homes Sold		Average Days on Market		Average List Price		Average Sale Price		Percent Sale Price >/< List Price		Average Price/SqFt *	
	As of October 5	September	2026	September	2026	September	2026	September	2026	September	2026	September	2026
Redding	**25**	**9**	**71**	**138**	**117**	**$848,767**	**$1,049,666**	**$862,111**	**$1,064,866**	**2%**	**1%**	**$402**	**$397**
Ridgefield	51	20	196	100	85	$1,288,295	$1,409,468	$1,313,600	$1,444,520	2%	2%	$465	$465
Weston	36	15	94	111	88	$1,771,351	$1,522,620	$1,755,867	$1,582,634	-1%	4%	$466	$446
Wilton	34	11	168	67	77	$1,107,591	$1,433,729	$1,167,864	$1,548,644	5%	8%	$450	$475
Easton	20	8	60	95	81	$1,066,175	$1,071,200	$1,009,125	$1,076,172	-5%	0%	$323	$346
Bethel	27	11	112	72	77	$714,536	$621,504	$709,783	$631,560	-1%	2%	$250	$305
Newtown	74	19	220	84	92	$697,968	$704,016	$693,421	$711,273	-1%	1%	$301	$309
Average	**38**	**13**	**132**	**95**	**88**	**$1,070,669**	**$1,116,029**	**$1,073,110**	**$1,151,381**	**0%**	**3%**	**$380**	**$392**

REDDING SOLD - September	Sale Price	List Price	%/ List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market
71 Picketts Ridge Rd	$495,000	$499,000	-1%	$532	252
78 Black Rock Tpke	$635,000	$625,000	2%	$493	76
29 Lonetown Rd	$725,000	$699,000	4%	$343	44
172 Gallows Hill Rd	$760,000	$699,000	9%	$554	174
471 Newtown Tpke	$799,000	$799,000	0%	$450	121
429 Rock House Rd	$800,000	$769,900	4%	$311	211
11 Fire Hill Ln	$860,000	$799,000	8%	$349	78
5 Dry River Ct	$1,135,000	$1,150,000	-1%	$298	53
7 Long Meadow Ln	$1,550,000	$1,599,000	-3%	$288	230
Average	**$862,111**	**$848,767**	**2%**	**$402**	**138**

REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market	REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market
19 Olmstead Rd	$529,000	$470	56	33 Old Stagecoach Rd	$1,075,000	$399	102
85 Mountain Rd	$695,000	$374	27	207 Redding Rd	$1,099,000	$352	9
248 Simpaug Tpke	$724,900	$362	24	123 Cross Hwy	$1,100,000	$312	55
31 Granite Ridge Rd	$725,000	$255	33	18 Church St	$1,275,000	$434	128
22 Great Pasture Rd	$734,900	$343	41	121 Picketts Ridge Rd	$1,279,000	$277	30
87 Giles Hill Rd	$747,500	$353	4	281 Newtown Tpke	$1,295,000	$255	172
268 Umpawaug Rd	$749,000	$293	187	28 Goodridge Rd	$1,325,000	$280	144
83 Sherman Tpke	$775,000	$435	7	286 Black Rock Tpke	$1,329,000	$351	83
15 Fire Hill Ln	$849,000	$388	40	12 Werf Dr	$1,395,000	$346	59
299 Redding Rd	$859,000	$328	119	74 Black Rock Tpke	$1,395,000	$296	196
23 Lee Ln	$935,999	$423	4	115 Limekiln Rd	$2,495,000	$487	8
128 Gallows Hill Rd	$995,000	$456	4	206 Umpawaug Rd	$7,725,000	$751	140
16 Shady Ln	$1,025,000	$237	135	**Average**	**$1,325,252**	**$370**	**72**

Listings continue on right side of table

** Calculated using livable square footage*

The Natural World

If trees could talk *"Autumn Adventures"*

By Janice Rotchstein

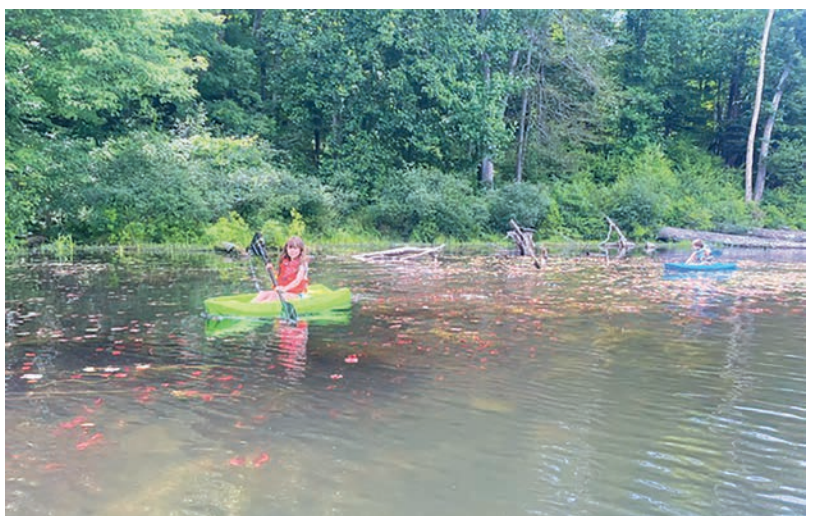


Photo by Meghan Huszagh

Waverly (*left*) and Ellis Huszagh (*right*) kayaking Collis P. Huntington State Park.



Photo by Geordie Elkins

The gorge, Turkington Falls Natural Area.

Experts predict we're going to have a later, longer fall.

Chalk it up to the excessive summer rainfall and a more temperate climate. Mix those elements with Redding's variety of tree species, and we're in for a kaleidoscope of leaves destined to turn more slowly, but in sequence.

Dogwoods' burgundy and crimson shades are appearing now, complemented by birches' brilliant yellows; maples' bright oranges and reds. Soon the beeches will trend bronze or amber; gingkoes, fluorescent yellow; butternut hickories, gold; horse chestnuts, a vibrant rust; and finally tints of red, russet, or brown for our oaks.

Many Reddingites are already savoring these changes. So, if you're looking for leaf-peeping ideas, consider theirs:

Family Affair: Waverly and Ellis Huszagh grab their youth kayaks and head for Collis P. Huntington State Park. The sisters began paddling at ages seven and five. Two years later, they're joined by their cousins and parents who follow in a canoe.

The outing begins at Dodgingtown Road. "When we launch," Waverly commented, "it's like being in a jungle with lots of trees on both sides, but once underway, I love watching the reflections and ripples as we move through the water."

Ellis added: "I like exploring on my own, especially those islands in the middle of the lake where you find the little stone lighthouse."

Cross-Redding Ride: Eneas Freyre hops on his road bike for a 90-minute ride to bask in the town's seasonal wonders. "I've mapped out a route that has everything from steep hills to rocky terrain, forest paths to winding lanes," he explained.

The rugged jaunt criss-crosses Redding to include the Norwalk River Valley Trail, Saugatuck Reservoir, Huntington and Putnam State Parks, and Limekiln Road. It's a breeze for Eneas, ex-pro cyclist and owner of TTEndurance, a bicycle shop that features a gym.

"I've ridden all over the world," Eneas concluded, "but it's Redding that offers everything in just a short distance."

Meditative Meander: Geordie Elkins, Highstead Executive Director, opts for a hike in the Turkington Falls Natural Area. "There's a wonderful sense of remoteness there," he said.

Once he steps off Gallows Hill Road and leaves the power lines behind, Geordie plunges deep into the woodlands to follow a stream past wetlands. Further on, the water tumbles through a spectacular gorge — a sight specific to Redding — to join Tannery Brook and the Saugatuck River. "The walk is an experience that's both relaxing and stimulating," he said.

Picture Perfect: Tony Gale, noted photographer, ventures out at dawn or dusk to capture autumn's magic. The soft diffused light is just what he wants because glare and shadows are reduced. "You can see the subtle interplay of colors and shapes at its best then," he clarified.

Since prime time is limited, he has a very focused destination – a handicap-accessible viewing platform off Glen Road where he shoots the picturesque Saugatuck Reservoir. "It's at exactly the right level to capture the trees and their reflection off the water," he said.

Gale offered several tips for taking fall photos: put the horizon in the middle of your frame; zero in on the view from various angles; and wait a few minutes to reshoot the same scene; you may be surprised how the changing light transforms everything.

Each of these Reddingites prove our town is a treasure trove of exciting escapades. So what are you waiting for? ■

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

Where have you seen this?

October 1, 2026 Redding Kids Fall Edition Answers:

Photo #1: Putnam Memorial State Park; Visitors Center; The park was established in 1887. Remains of a Revolutionary War winter encampment (1778-1779) under Major General Isreal Putnam are found here.

Photo #2: The Old Town House; Intersection of Lonetown Road and Cross Highway; It was the place where Redding government used to be run. ■



Fall is for planting | *By Terry Karpen*

While most people think of spring as planting time, experts in garden plants and gardening know fall is actually the best season to plant many trees, shrubs, and hardy perennials.

Why is fall a great time to plant? Roots develop best in fall, cooler weather means less water evaporation and less heat stress, and there are fewer insects and diseases.

A plant's roots grow most vigorously when the air temperature is relatively cooler than the soil temperature. The soil retains the warmth absorbed over the summer long after the air cools off. Warm soil in fall keeps root development active while a plant's above ground growth slows and then becomes dormant. The roots continue to expand until the soil temperature falls below about 40-45°F. That combination is exactly backward in spring!

During the autumn season, plants focus their energy on growing strong, healthy roots instead of producing flowers and foliage.

There are fewer insects and diseases in the fall. With cooler temperatures and shorter days, insects slow reproduction or die off. Likewise, fungal pathogens that thrive in hot, humid conditions become less active, which lowers the risk of foliar diseases and root rots in new plantings. This creates a healthier environment for plants to become established.

An added benefit to fall planting is that many garden centers discount their plants at the end of the season. Carefully inspect and avoid any plants with signs of disease, insects, or with sections that are dead. Many deciduous shrubs, trees, and herbaceous perennials can be planted in fall. Fall is also an excellent time to transplant or divide perennials. And when the night temperatures start dipping into the 40s or 50s, it's bulb-planting season.

While many kinds of plants benefit from fall planting, evergreen trees and shrubs are better off planted in spring. Though they can be planted safely until early fall, broadleaved evergreens (rhododendrons, hollies, boxwoods) and most conifers (needle evergreens) need to be well-rooted and established before the ground begins to freeze. Their lasting foliage is vulnerable to loss of moisture on sunny or windy winter days. "Winter burn," or browning and desiccation of foliage or needles, can result without a sufficiently developed root system to replace that water.

Avoid fall fertilization for new plants. Fertilizing newly planted trees, shrubs, and perennials in the fall is not recommended because it might encourage vulnerable new growth that is easily damaged by winter frosts and freezes.

Mulch anything planted in fall with shredded leaves or natural wood mulch. Mulch conserves soil moisture, moderates soil temperature, reduces growth of weeds, helps protect soil from erosion, prevents frost heaving in winter and adds organic matter to the soil as it breaks down. Apply the mulch around trees to a depth of 2-4 inches, making sure there is no mulch within 4-6 inches of the base of the tree. The mulch should be spread out almost flat. All of this applies for shrubs and perennials as well.

Newly planted perennials, shrubs, and trees should be well-watered until the ground freezes. This is critically important for their root systems that continue to grow throughout the autumn season and into winter and need moisture to develop. ■

Terry Karpen is proprietor of Queen Of Spades Gardens & Landscapes in Redding

What to do when weather affects events / ***continued from page 1***



Event organizers can never be certain of irregular New England weather when planning outdoor events, and can only hope for the best. Nevertheless, "The Fair was very successful, both as a community event and financially in support of our outreach programs," Cyr said. "While it wasn't the best-attended event ever, it was well-attended and worth all the time and effort we put into it."

Not every event had the opportunity to modify or move activities around to accommodate inclement weather. New Pond Farm Education Center's two-part event, Hayfield Hustle and Family Oktoberfest, their inaugural five-mile in-person road race and family-friendly celebration, was scheduled for September 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Based on the severe weather forecast, the event was canceled the day before by the Redding Police Department.

"We were excited to bring our community together for the Hayfield Hustle and Family Oktoberfest and were deeply disappointed when the Redding Police Department called off the event due to forecasts of strong winds and heavy rain," Priya Desai, New Pond Farm's Executive Director, said. "Ultimately, the well-being of our participants, volunteers, and community had to come first. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who registered, volunteered, sponsored, and supported the event."

To offset the disappointment of the runners who registered, Desai was grateful to offer an alternative solution. Registered participants were invited to complete their chosen distance (Children's Sap Run, 5K, or 5-Mile Race) virtually on their own safe alternative routes. Participants were notified they could donate their registration fee to support event expenses and advance New Pond's mission. Desai expressed her gratitude to the community for their understanding and continued support.

Similar to First Church of Christ, the organizers of Sacred Heart and Saint Patrick Parish's Oktoberfest, a family-friendly fundraiser, modified their outdoor event as well. On Thursday, September 24, organizers announced on Facebook that the event would be moved from the parking lot to the church hall. From 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., attendees enjoyed authentic German beer, a German-inspired menu, carnival games, live music, raffles, and specialty cocktails.

"Moving inside gave us enough room to proceed, rain or shine, so a cancellation or alternate rain date wasn't necessary," JC Carter, Chairman of the event, said. "While reworking an outdoor setup on short notice is challenging, having an indoor contingency plan allowed us to keep the event moving forward."

The overall turnout was smaller than expected, but the organizers were grateful to still hold the event. "It highlighted the resilience of our parish to adapt on short notice," Carter said, "and the event still brought a significant amount of camaraderie and enjoyment to everyone who attended, making it a success in our eyes, and well worth making the change." ■

Calendar of Events

$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week's Featured Events

BGCRE School's Out Hangout

Monday, October 12
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Safe and fun hangout featuring snacks, sports, and games for grades K-8 Boys & Girls Club Redding-Easton.
170 Cross Hwy
bgcre.net/special
$, R

Oyster Shucking Class

Wednesday, October 14
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Hands-on oyster shucking class with drinks, tools, and a dozen oysters included.
The Backspace
137 Ethan Allen Hwy (Rt 7), Ridgefield

Redding Grange's "World Famous" Open Mic

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

An afternoon of music with Concert Pianist Michael Maronich

Sunday, October 11
3:00 p.m.
Works of Beethoven, Ives, Mussorgsky
Christ Church Parish Hall
184 Cross Highway

Arts

Saturday, October 10 – Saturday, November 7

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

Saturday, October 10 – Saturday, November 7

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

Sunday, October 11

An afternoon of music with Concert Pianist Michael Maronich
3:00 p.m.
Works of Beethoven, Ives, Mussorgsky
Christ Church Parish Hall
184 Cross Highway

Monday, October 12

Bluegrass Jam Class
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Hands-on bluegrass instruction and jamming for all instruments and levels.
The Granite Church
5 N. Main Street, Georgetown

Thursday, October 15

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

Children | Teens

Thursday, October 8

Baby & Toddler Story Time
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Play, music, and stories for the library's youngest patrons and their caregivers.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Monday, October 12

BGCRE School's Out Hangout
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Safe and fun hangout featuring snacks, sports, and games for grades K-8 Boys & Girls Club Redding-Easton.
170 Cross Hwy
bgcre.net/special
$, R

Saturday, October 17

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

Crafts

Wednesday, October 7 – Wednesday, November 4

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

Food | Wine

Friday, October 9

Rainbow Elders Coffee Klatch Time
Meetup for LGBTQ+ folks age 55+ and their friends for coffee, baked goods, and conversation.
Daily Fare
13 Durant Ave, Bethel

Wednesday, October 14

Oyster Shucking Class
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Hands-on oyster shucking class with drinks, tools, and a dozen oysters included.
The Backspace
137 Ethan Allen Hwy (Rte 7)
Ridgefield
$

Fundraisers

Tuesday, October 13

Redding Police Department Golf Classic
9:00 a.m. Registration
10:00 a.m. Shotgun start
4-person scramble with lunch buffet and beverages
Redding Country Club
109 Lonetown Road
redding-police-department-golf-outing.perfectgolfevent.com
$, R

Nature

Saturday, October 10

NPF Walking Group: Trail Maintenance Hike
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
R

Saturday, October 10

Plant Swap
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
LGBTQIA+ friendly plant and seed swap hosted by Bethel CT Pride and Rainy Day Paperback Exchange.
Rainy Day Paperback Exchange
81 Greenwood Ave, Bethel

Special Programs

Thursday, October 8

Art in Flight: Reinventing Postmodernism with Smithsonian Curator Carolyn Russo
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
A Library Speakers Consortium and Smithsonian Institution collaboration featuring curator Carolyn Russo.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Tuesday, October 13

The Power of Limits: How Constraints Drive Genius with David Epstein
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
A virtual author talk featuring bestselling author and science writer David Epstein
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Thursday, October 8

The New England Vampire Folk Belief: The Archaeological Evidence
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
An exploration of 18th- and 19th-century New England vampire folk beliefs and archaeological evidence.
Wilton Historical Society
224 Danbury Road, Wilton

Wednesday, October 14

Iconoclasm in Wilton: The Revolutionary-era Statue of King George III
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
A presentation by University of Delaware professor Wendy Bellion exploring the 1776 tearing down of the King George Statue.
Wilton Historical Society
224 Danbury Road, Wilton
$

Thursday, October 15

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

Religious Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Temple B'nai Chaim
5:30 p.m.
Family Simchat Torah Shabbat and Rabbi Strom's Installation
82 Portland Avenue
templebnaichaim.org

Meetings

Thursday, October 8

Redding Historic Cemetery Committee
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Thursday, October 8

Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Conference Room and Virtual
100 Hill Road and Zoom

Monday, October 12

League of Women Voters
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Conference Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, October 13

Registrar of Voters Tabulator Testing
6:00 p.m.
For 11/3/26 elections
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road

Tuesday, October 13

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

Tuesday, October 13

Redding Fire District 1
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
186 Black Rock Tpke

Wednesday, October 14

Commission on Aging
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road

Wednesday, October 14

Zoning Commission
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Town Hall Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Wednesday, October 14

Redding Prevention Council Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Monthly meeting of the volunteer-led Redding Prevention Council.
The Granite Church
5 N. Main Street, Georgetown

Thursday, October 15

Brookside Road Community Meeting
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road

Monday, October 19

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

Tuesday, October 20

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

Tuesday, October 20

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

Wednesday, October 21

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

***Town offices and the Transfer station will be closed Monday, October 12 for Columbus Day**





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Jefferson.Guthrie@cbmoves.com



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Listed By Tim Dent Team | 203.244.2277
TimDentTeam.com



281 Newtown Turnpike, Redding | $1,295,000
Listed By Alexis Bennett| 203.313.3110
Alexis.Bennett@cbrealty.com



Alexis Bennett
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Marilyn Caravetta
203.512.1822



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1. & 2 Based on information from Greenwich Association of REALTORS, SmartMLS Inc. 1/1/2026- 9/1/2026. The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2026 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logo are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.