

REDDING SENTINEL

OCTOBER 13, 2022

REDDING, CONNECTICUT

Volume 1 / Issue 7

\$3

Selectmen discuss possible tree committee

By Rocco Valluzzo

Seeking alternatives to the Eversource tree removals on Redding's historic roads, the Board of Selectmen discussed the creation of a tree committee at its Sept. 19 meeting.

According to First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton, when Eversource began its vegetation management program, several residents formed the Redding Tree Conservancy (RTC) in May over the concern that the town's scenic roads would be negatively affected. The RTC has been a major force in pushing back on what the town considers to be an overreach by Eversource in its plans to cut back up to 75 feet of mature trees along portions of Hill Road all the way up and down Cross Highway to Route 58 and part of Redding Road.

As previously reported in the Sentinel, in response to a motion by the Garden Club of New Haven the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) issued a cease-and-desist order preventing Eversource from moving forward with its program in 13 towns (including Redding) based on a claim that proper notification had not been made. It was lifted on Sept. 6 based on an Eversource filing that Redding had in fact been notified of this plan prior to the Jan.31 deadline when in fact Redding was not notified of until May.

An e-mail that was used as its evidence of notification contained a map showing that Eversource would only be trimming in the neighborhoods of Portland Avenue and in the southern portion of Redding near Georgetown. It made no mention at all of trimming on Cross Highway.

Pemberton asked the RTC to look at a tree ordinance that would provide greater protection to trees in Redding. In her research, she found that back in 2000 the selectmen at that time had enacted a tree ordinance.

In October of that year Redding's town attorney reviewed a proposed ordinance to assure compliance with the statutes and the lawyer informed the then first selectwoman that a tree ordinance was not required. The statutes allowed a tree warden to create regulations as needed.

The tree warden would request the Board of Selectmen to enact the rules and regulations. The statute also allowed the tree warden to appoint deputies as needed. Tree regulations could be put into effect without town meeting approval.

In December of that year, the selectmen accepted the tree regulations and they were

Continued on page 2

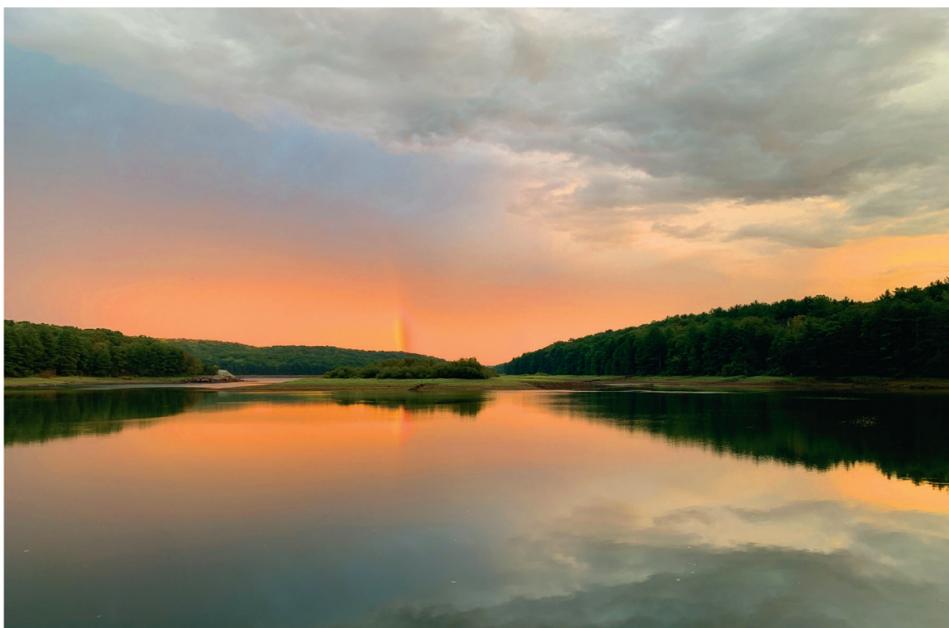


Photo by Grace Whitmore

Contributor Grace Whitmore sent us this photo of the Saugatuck Reservoir at sunset, reminding us of autumn days to come. If you have a photo you'd like us to feature here, please e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org

REDDING'S BIG OUTDOORS

Topstone Chase Longview Trail

By Jeanne Ammermuller



Photo by Jeanne Ammermuller

You may think you know all there is to know about Topstone Park's trails, but you may have missed a less-travelled route than those that circle Topstone pond. The Chase Longview trail offers a heart-pumping ascent followed by a heart-stopping view of the pond below.

This trail is ideal for those looking for a challenge close to home. And the views are spectacular, especially as the leaves are changing.

You can start the hike from the main parking lot at Topstone Park. Be sure you keep track of time, as the gates close at sunset.

The trailhead can be found from the right side of the parking

lot, facing in the direction of the beach. Take the trail toward the dam and cross the dam, being sure to stop halfway and look back at the beautiful landscape. Continue across the dam toward the dog park and look for the sign to Chase Longview on your right. The trail is about .8 miles, and when connected to the Pond trail, the total is about 1.5 miles. There are many options for extending the length of the trail, by connecting to other trails through the park. Be sure to download a map from the Book of Trails online at reddingctlandtrust.org.

The trail begins gradually, then starts to get quite steep. It doesn't require scrambling, but you may

need to stop to admire the view (and catch your breath).

Continue along the trail as you reach the top. The trail bears left and offers several viewpoints as you follow the top of the ridge. Watch your step as you admire the view far beyond the confines of Redding.

Instead of backtracking, look for the South Topstone Mountain Trail to the Topledge Trail. This is a quiet segment, far from the hustle and bustle of the park. It then connects with the Pond Trail. A right turn on the Pond Trail will take you around the pond back to the parking lot. A left turn will take you back to the dog park and dam.

For those less familiar with the town's only municipal park, Topstone Park, formerly part of the estate of the photographer Edward Steichen, was purchased by the Town of Redding in 1971. (An additional 117 acres were purchased by Redding Open Lands, Inc. Forty of those acres were subsequently deeded to Connecticut Audubon Society.) Topstone Park is managed by the Redding Park and Recreation Department and offers summertime swimming and boating in addition to the many trails available for hikers and walkers of all abilities.

The Chase Longview Trail is named for one of Redding's original conservationists Stuart Chase, who was an active proponent of setting aside open spaces in Redding. Chase was a world-renowned economist identified with Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. He lived on Redding Road for decades. ■

ARPA projects vote coming Oct. 20 Special Town Meeting

By Rocco Valluzzo

At a Sept. 19 meeting, the Redding Board of Selectmen agreed to schedule Thursday, Oct. 20, as the date for a Special Town Meeting to vote on projects to be paid for with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

The meeting will take place in the Redding Community Center.

Totalling just over \$1,000,000, the projects include funding up to:

- Georgetown signs, \$15,000
- Redding Easton Boys & Girls Club improvements, \$100,000
- Redding Grange, \$45,000
- Redding Heritage Center, \$60,000
- Improvements at Redding Elementary School, \$83,000
- Topstone Park improvements, \$150,000
- New Pond Farm restoration of wetlands project, \$200,000
- Mark Twain Library project, \$200,000
- Joel Barlow High School community project, \$250,000

In addition, approval is sought for funding of \$113,000 for pickleball courts at the community center. The amount discussed at the September 19 meeting was \$92,689, which was later determined to be inadequate and a special Selectmen's meeting was held to approve the change in amount.

Each item will be voted on separately, according to First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton.

"Technically, when we vote on capital projects, we go vote on them one at a time," she said. "It would be unprecedented at this point to lump them all into one. And my hope would be that the community gets behind all these wonderful projects that have gone through application and review and all sorts of twists and turns to come here."

Said Selectwoman Peg O'Donnell, "I would hope so, too. I would hope that the public would come together and realize that in totality these are projects that help our entire town. I really hope we don't end up with a meeting where we have one group pitted against another."

The meeting will also vote to fund the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust for a total of \$300,000 for fiscal year 2022-23.

Please see page 3 for greater detail on each of these projects, as well as the legal notice about the Special Town Meeting. ■

Index

Editorial	2	Obituaries	7	The Natural World	13
Letters to the Editor	2	Book Review	8	Calendar of Events	15
Legal Notice	3	Library Corner	8		
Sports	4	Business Spotlight	11		



1 96852 05801 3

EDITORIAL

Redding has a town meeting form of government, which means all important matters must go before all town residents who show up for a vote. The Board of Selectmen approves resolutions but cannot enact them without a majority vote of the town meeting. (Other items are decided by referendum on election day. But that's for another editorial.)

We have a lot of matters critical to Redding coming up, from plans for redevelopment in Georgetown to investments in town infrastructure and more.

Now is the time to begin to build your town meeting skills and habits. On October 20, there is a Special Town Meeting (legally noticed in this week's Sentinel and explicated in articles) where we residents of Redding will vote on two groups of resolutions.

The first group includes resolutions on how we want to allocate the remainder of our federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which will be voted on individually. The second group consists of just one question, whether to fund the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust through a transfer from the unallocated Reserve Fund.

There are threads pro and con specific ARPA expenditures on social media. This editorial is not to recommend a yes or no vote on any of the resolutions that will come before the Town Meeting on October 20. It is to suggest that getting into the habit of attending town meetings to learn, discuss, debate, and then vote is critical to our self-governance.

Please, go to the Special Town Meeting on October 20. Read about the resolutions here in the Sentinel or on the Town website www.townofred-dingct.org.

The votes on October 20 may not have a huge impact on your taxes immediately, but they have the prospect of affecting your life in Redding for the short- and long-terms. Other votes, at future Special or regular Town Meetings, may have a much bigger impact. Now is the time to begin the habit – or build on the habit -- of speaking your mind and having a say in our local government decisions.

See you October 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Redding Community Center. ■

JOIN THE SENTINEL

Would you like to join the Sentinel team?

Managing editor:

You should have relevant editorial experience, be organized, collaborative, and write well. You should know - or be willing to learn - Redding. Please write to publisher@reddingsentinel.org if you're interested and would like more information. Full or part-time. The position description can be found on our website www.reddingsentinel.org/joinus

• • •

Community reporter:

Prior reporting experience not required. Must be curious and observant, write well and meet deadlines. You'll need to be available some evenings to cover town board and commission meetings. Please write to editor@reddingsentinel.org if you're interested and would like more information. Full or part-time

Selectmen discuss possible tree committee *Continued from page 1*

approved unanimously but there were provisions of the regulations that were not acted upon and one of those was the establishment of a tree committee.

Janice Rotchstein, a resident of Cross Highway and one of the founders of the RTC, proposed the committee would be composed of perhaps five individuals plus an alternate who would initially be appointed all at once. They would be representatives from the Conservation Commission, the Planning Commission, the Redding Land Trust and also include two interested residents.

They would be appointed for three years and the terms would be staggered so at least two members would be appointed each year. They would serve without compensation and the committee could suggest to the Board of Selectmen the appointment of new members that would have certain skills or expertise.

The duties of the tree committee would be to work with the tree warden and the Department of Public Works on any matters pertaining to tree regulations and reviewing their enforcement. Those topics might include, but not be limited to, any amendments to the tree regulations, policies concerning selection, planting, maintenance and removal of trees, shrubs and other plants on town property and in the public right of way. The committee could also work on the development of community educational programs to keep Redding green.

The selectmen agreed to vote on the matter at their next meeting as well as whether to adopt the changes to the regulations. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome Letters to the Editor. Please be clear, civil and concise. Publication preference will be given to letters that suggest solutions to challenges identified.

To the Editor,

The November election is coming up. It's important to protect our country from the chaos that happened in Washington D.C. on January 6th, 2021. My name is Aaron Bricker and as a concerned resident of Redding, CT I want to make sure you know that the Democrats that are running for local, state, and federal offices will be working to hold all accountable.

Democrats support law enforcement that protected the Capitol on January 6th. Democrats do not deny the outcome of the 2020 election. They also support voting rights and access. They are working to keep America safe while also protecting their constituents' rights and freedoms.

Maintaining the rule of law supports keeping our democracy strong, which means ensuring that everyone has access to civil rights regardless of race, religion, gender identity or disability.

I am supporting Democrats in the November election because they are working to keep the rule of law in America. I urge you to vote for Democrats on November 8th if you agree.

*Aaron Bricker
Lampost Drive*

To the Editor,

We need your vote for Ceci Maher as State Senator in our district. As our State Senator, she will be replacing Will Haskell, whose energy and intelligence were a welcome change from the out-of-date politics and out-of-touch views of Ceci's current opponent. Now, more than ever, recent decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court demand that we have strong leadership on issues that rest with our state legislatures — among them, protecting women's reproductive rights and enacting measures to stop gun violence. And there are many more. This is not the time to go backwards on issues that concern all the people of our district.

At Sandy Hook Promise, where Ceci served as Executive Director, the mission is to protect America's children from gun violence in honor of the lives lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School. By serving as our State Senator, Ceci will do this, and much more, to be the positive change we need.

Please vote for Ceci Maher for State Senator in the 26th District on November 8th at the Redding Community Center.

*Tina Miller
Seventy Acre Road*

To the Editor,

Toni Boucher worked with me for almost twenty years at a prominent investment firm in Wilton, CT. In my long career I never worked with someone with more energy, enthusiasm for their job, and dedication to doing the right thing. Over many years and often at the same time, she raised a family, held down a fulltime day job and served as a public servant in positions of great responsibility: First Selectman, School Board Chairman, State Representative, and State Senator. She excelled at all of them. In her role in the State Legislature she was very effective, often working with colleagues across the aisle to pass important legislation and in turn working tirelessly to improve education, help those in need and to reverse the relentless decline of Connecticut's business competitiveness. Toni is a pleasure to be around, loves people and is beloved in turn by family, friends and colleagues. No one acts with more integrity, purpose, and dedication to the public good. It is a pleasure and an honor to have known and worked with Toni and I heartily endorse her candidacy for the State Senate.

*John S Griswold
Chairman, Greenwich Roundtable*

To the Editor,

New Pond Farm Education Center is happy to announce the return of our Harvest Festival ~ Nature and Science Day. We hope that our friends and neighbors will join us on Saturday, October 15 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (rain date Sunday 11-3)

There will be something interesting for everyone. Enjoy horse-drawn hayrides, learn how to judge a dairy cow, watch our sheep being shorn, gaze through our telescopes using solar filters, learn about our new weather station, spend time with a blacksmith, and a broom maker. Learn how to make your own rope and create a fantastic variety of seasonal crafts. At 2:30 p.m. special guest, Falconer Brian Bradley, will introduce you to his spectacular live owls, hawks, and falcons before flying them over the pastures. Enjoy delicious homemade chili, burgers, mulled cider and more! For more information, please visit our website: newpondfarm.org We hope to see you there! (Please leave your dogs at home.)

With warm regards,

*Ann Taylor
Executive Director*

To the Editor,

One of the most consequential local officials is the Judge of Probate. At our most difficult times, such as the death or incapacity of a loved one or the care of a child with special needs, the Judge has an enormous opportunity to help families. Attorney Jennifer Collins, a former Redding resident, has the compassion, legal experience, and dedication to carry out this role for the benefit of all of us. She also performs countless public service activities, notably including many assignments from various probate courts, often for little or no fee. As a local lawyer, myself, I believe she is the exactly the kind of person we should elect as Judge of Probate in November.

Based in Bethel, this court serves Redding, Bethel, Ridgefield, and Newtown. I hope Redding voters will support Attorney Collins.

Thank you.

*Ward J. Mazzucco
Wood Road*

To the Editor,

I don't know about you, but I hate treading backwards - so why would I want to elect someone for State Senate who was voted out two long cycles ago. No, fresh and forward and effective is where I want to be. Ceci Maher represents our future, as brilliantly forged by our current State Senator Will Haskell.

Ceci's proposed infrastructure upgrades, both in technology and transportation, are strategic and forward thinking. Ceci Maher champions innovative and tangible approaches to Mental Health and Gun Violence in our state. And, as someone who is interested in and listens to the voices of the elderly with interest, Ceci Maher strongly supports Aid in Dying, a compassionate legislative proposal for terminally ill patients favored by a vast majority of her would-be constituents, but resisted by her opponent. Indeed, Ceci's background in social work encourages listening to constituents and fighting for the issues that they deeply care about.

Don't get stuck in the past – play it forward and join me on November 8th in electing progressive, smart and caring Ceci Maher as our new State Senator.

*Mary Dale Lancaster
Mine Hill Road*

Redding Sentinel Ltd
News and Views of Redding, Connecticut

Publisher, Susan Clark
Creative Director, Debora DeCarlo Rosa
Assistant Graphic Designer, Connor Feeney

Reporters:
Donna Christopher **Justin Reynolds**
Rocco Valluzzo **Pamela Brown**
Robert Sample

Printed by Trumbull Printing
Telecommunications provided by CCI Voice
www.reddingsentinel.org
203.938.3800

Contact us at:
editor@reddingsentinel.org
advertise@reddingsentinel.org
subscribe@reddingsentinel.org
publisher@reddingsentinel.org

Single copy price \$3.00 / Annual subscription \$85.00

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

LEGAL NOTICE

WARNING - Notice of special town meeting

The Legal Voters in the Town of Redding, Connecticut, and those entitled to vote therein are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Special Town Meeting to be held at Redding Community Center on **Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** for the following purposes:

I. To consider and vote upon the funding of American Rescue Plan projects as reviewed by the American Rescue Plan Funds Working Group and recommended by the Board of Selectmen, specifically, amounts up to:

A. \$15,000 for installation of signs as proposed by Georgetown Village Restoration Association

B. \$100,000 for Boys and Girls Club of Redding - Easton improvements

C. \$45,000 for construction and improvements at Redding Grange #15

D. \$60,000 for construction and installation of moveable wall at The Heritage Center

E. \$83,000 for the Redding Board of Education "LOTS" Program (Life-Long Learning, On-going Assessment, Teacher Training, Safe Spaces)

F. \$150,000 for improvements at Topstone Park to be planned under direction of Park and Recreation Commission

G. \$200,000 for restoration of wetlands project at New Pond Farm

H. \$200,000 to support outdoor patio project at Mark Twain Library

I. \$113,000 for construction and installation of two pickleball courts as proposed by Park and Recreation Commission

J. \$250,000 to undertake the Joel Barlow High School fields improvement project

II. To consider and vote upon funding the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust (OPEB) the total amount of \$300,000 from the unassigned fund balance for FY 2022-2023 as recommended by the OPEB Trust Board and approved by the Board of Selectmen.

To do any and all things legal and necessary to accomplish the above-named purpose and to take any other action that may legally and properly come before the meeting. For more information on the above projects, visit the town website: www.townofreddingct.org

DATED at Redding, Connecticut this 5th day of October, 2022.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Julia Pemberton, First Selectwoman, Margaret L. O'Donnell, Selectwoman, Michael Thompson, Selectman ■

The resolutions explained *American Rescue Plan Act projects and OPEB Trust transfer of funds*

Explained ahead of the Special Town Meeting on October 20, 2022

Georgetown Village signage

Use of ARPA Funding of up to \$15,000 for the installation of signs as proposed by the Georgetown Village Restoration Inc., subject to state approval.

Boys and Girls Club of Redding - Easton improvements

Use of ARPA funding of up to \$100,000 for the Boys and Girls Club of Redding-Easton for a project - \$80,000 in capital expenses and \$20,000 in non-capital expenses as detailed in the ARPA working group minutes of 06/23/22.

Redding Grange #15

Use of ARPA funding of up to \$45,000 for construction on the second floor of the Redding Grange to include building an ADA compliant restroom, installation of air conditioning, and improvements to the electrical wiring.

Heritage Center retractable wall

Use of ARPA funding of up to \$60,000 for the installation of a retractable room divider in the Heritage Center at Redding Community Center.

Board of Education LOTS project (Lifelong Learning, On-going Assessment, Teacher Training, Safe Spaces)

Use of ARPA funding of up to \$83,000 for the Board of Education LOTS program. The four-part project will improve and create appropriate learning spaces for students that need to regulate their emotions and feelings in order to be successful in the classroom.

Part I: Safe physical and emotional spaces

Part II: Teaching Techniques & Strategies; Equipping Staff

Part III: Student Materials for Success

Part IV: Technology to Track & Monitor Progress

Topstone Park improvements

Use of ARPA funding of up to \$150,000 for improvements to Topstone Park, such improvements to be planned under the direction of the Park & Recreation Commission, subject to regulatory approvals, including the recommendations made by the Planning Commission in its report and minutes dated September 13, 2022.

New Pond Farm wetlands restoration project

Use of ARPA funding of up to \$200,000 for the New Pond Farm restoration of wetlands, with such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may specify and with the additional conditions:

1. The grant is contingent on New Pond Farm first obtaining all required approvals and permits.

2. The grant payment is not to exceed ½ of the total cost of the project, and

3. New Pond Farm will provide residents with day passes to its property in a mutually acceptable manner.

Mark Twain Library project

Use of ARPA funding of up to \$200,000 for the Mark Twain Library to support the outdoor patio project, with such terms and conditions the Board of Selectmen may specify and with the additional conditions:

1. The grant is contingent on the Mark Twain Library first obtaining all required regulatory permits and approvals for the project.

2. The grant payment is not to exceed ½ of the total cost of the project.

Pickleball courts

Use of ARPA funding of \$113,000 to construct two pickleball courts at the Redding Community Center in accordance with the recommendation of the

Board of Selectmen.

Barlow 'NEST' (Joel Barlow community enhancement project)

Use of ARPA funding of up to \$250,000 for the Region 9 School District to undertake the Barlow Fields Improvement Project, with such terms and conditions the Board of Selectmen may specify and with the additional condition that the monies be held by the Selectmen for up to one year and released only if the Board of Selectmen determines that:

1. Plans have been created for the construction of a building at the stadium that provides an ADA compliant restroom with related septic facilities, team rooms, and a functional kitchen.

2. Bids based on the plans are obtained.

3. All necessary approvals from Zoning Commission, Health Department, Planning Commission, and the Region 9 Board of Education are obtained.

4. There is a certainty that funds identified from both government and private sources are sufficient to complete the project.

5. The Town of Easton and/or Easton residents have provided a commitment of proportional funds.

OPEB Trust (Other Post-Employment Benefits)

To approve that the Town of Redding fund the OPEB TRUST for a total of \$300,000 for FY 2022-2023 through four installments of \$75,000 transferred from the unassigned fund balance. The funding will be invested following the investment policy statement and target allocation established by the OPEB Trust Board.

Project details can be viewed in the minutes of both the ARPA Working Group and the Board of Selectmen, found on the town website at: www.townofreddingct.org ■

A Closer Look at the Candidates: Governor's Race

By Jeanne Ammermuller

Candidates for Governor in Connecticut include incumbent Governor Ned Lamont (Democrat), Bob Stefanowski (Republican), and Rob Hotaling (Independent). In 2018 Lamont and Stefanowski faced off, with Lamont securing 49.4 percent of the vote, winning by about 44,000 votes. Connecticut's Governor serves a 4-year term, and there are no term limits. Here's a closer look at the candidates' backgrounds and plans for Connecticut.

Ned Lamont (Democrat)

Elected to serve as Connecticut's governor in 2018, Edward Miner "Ned" Lamont, Jr. was sworn into office on January 9, 2019 as the 89th governor of Connecticut. Lamont founded Campus Televideo and chaired Lamont Digital Systems business before turning to politics.

Lamont was a member of both the Greenwich Board of Selectmen and the Board of Estimate and Taxation. He also served for four years as Chairman of the State Investment Advisory Council, overseeing a multibillion-dollar

state pension fund. He ran unsuccessfully for Connecticut State Senator in 1990, for US Senate against Joe Lieberman in 2006 and for Governor in 2010.

Lamont's campaign website details his accomplishments during his tenure in office, including his efforts to balance the budget, cut taxes, guide Connecticut through the pandemic, protect the environment, and strengthen public safety.

Governor Lamont is a graduate of Harvard College and earned a Master of Business Administration from the Yale School of Management. He's been married to his wife, Annie, for nearly 40 years, and they have three children: Emily, Lindsay, and Teddy.

For more information, visit NedLamont.com.

Bob Stefanowski (Republican)

Robert Vincent Stefanowski was born and raised in North Haven, Connecticut. He is a former business executive, having worked at Price Waterhouse, General Electric, UBS, and Dollar

Financial Group. He resides in Madison, Connecticut.

Stefanowski ran for Governor in 2018, losing by a close margin to Ned Lamont. He has not held elected office. He has been involved in community organizations throughout Connecticut for decades, including serving on the Board of Directors of the Cardinal Shehan Center in Bridgeport.

In 2020, Bob and his wife Amy co-founded and launched "Masks for Heroes", in an effort to help the state fight COVID-19 during the early stages of the pandemic when PPE was in short supply.

"I'm running for Governor because we need elected leaders in our state who work for you," says Stefanowski on his campaign website. "To change the status quo and make Connecticut more affordable."

Advocating fiscal discipline and financial leadership, he describes himself as a turnaround expert and family man. His platform includes a focus on jumpstarting tax relief, accountable spending and taking

on the utilities.

Bob Stefanowski is a graduate of Fairfield University and is both a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Financial Analyst. He received his Master's in Business Administration from Cornell University, and served as a Wharton Business School Fellow, taught as an adjunct faculty at NYU Stern Business School, London Business School, Cambridge University and as a visiting professor of management practice at Oxford University. He and his wife have three daughters.

For more detail on his background and platform, visit bobstefanowski.com.

Rob Hotaling (Independent)

Running as an Independent, Robert Hotaling is an entrepreneur and corporate executive who has lived in Connecticut for 25 years. He is a self-described "problem solver" who is looking to make major structural changes to the state's system for funding education. He believes that urban police officers and teachers should be paid more than suburban

counterparts.

Hotaling's campaign website details his career accomplishments, including the start of his career working at a tech startup during the 90's "dotcom" era and his later leadership roles and ultimately Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at companies of various sizes. He considers himself a "serial" entrepreneur, attracting investment and bringing quality products to market quickly and inexpensively as head of small-midsize businesses (SMBs). Prior to joining Webster Bank as SVP, Head of Digital Delivery, Rob was Founder & CEO of Verbi, a mobile-first automated gunshot and explosion detection platform, and also serves on several boards as an executive advisor.

Rob currently resides in Cheshire, as a 25-year Connecticut resident, with his wife Luz of 20 years and four young children.

For more details on Hotaling's background and platform, visit his campaign website robertbhotaling.com. ■

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 election *Important dates and deadlines*

Tabulator testing is conducted by the Registrars in accordance with state statutes. The tabulators are the optical scan machines that voters insert their ballots into on election day. Testing is conducted weeks in advance of the election to ensure the machines are working properly. As has always been the case, the public may observe the Registrars testing the machines.

Tabulator Testing

Thursday, October 27, 6:30 p.m.
Redding Community Center, 37 Lonetown Road

Voter Registration Deadlines

To vote on Tuesday, November 8th, the applicable deadline below must be met.

• The deadline to register in person is Tuesday, November 1,

2022 at 8:00 p.m.

• Mail-in registration applications must be postmarked Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

• The deadline to register via the Online Registration System is Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.

If you meet one of the following exceptions to these deadlines (known as Limited Registration), contact the Registrar of Voters to register.

• If you moved to Redding from November 2 to November 8, 2022.

• If you turned 18 years of age from November 2 to November 8, 2022.

• If you became a U.S. citizen from November 2 to November 8, 2022.

Election Day Registration

If you missed the deadline to register and do not meet one of the above criteria, but you are a bona fide resident of the town, you can register to vote on Election Day at Redding Community Center, 37 Lonetown Road, by 8:00 p.m.

Absentee Ballots

To vote via Absentee Ballot, you must obtain an Absentee Ballot from the Town Clerk. Applications for Absentee Ballots will be available starting on Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

In-Person Voting on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at the Redding Community Center, 37 Lonetown Road, from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Redding Registrar of Voters can be reached at registrar@townofreddingct.org or 203-938-5012. Regular office hours

are held on Mondays 10:00 am - 1:00 pm and Thursdays 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm. To visit the Registrars online, go to townofreddingct.org/registrar-voters/

Would you like to serve your community as a poll worker? Sign up today!

Poll workers are needed for the hours of 5:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. for every election. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided and compensation is \$18 an hour including training. Please sign up via the QR Code here or go to: <https://forms.gle/rLcuCPWsWdcuZ24eA> ■



SPORTS

Last minute goal wins it for Barlow By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Jordan Horowitz, left, scored the lone goal for the Joel Barlow High boys varsity soccer team in its 1-0 win over Immaculate on Oct. 6.

Persistence finally paid off in a big way for the Joel Barlow High boys varsity soccer team when it hosted Immaculate.

After nearly 80 minutes of scoreless play it appeared the two sides would have to settle for a scoreless draw on Thursday, Oct. 6. But with less than a minute left to play, the Falcons made good on their best opportunity of the game to pull out a 1-0 win.

“We’re not where we want to be at this point but we’re managing to find ways to win,” said Barlow head coach Paul Winstanley. “We did almost exactly the same thing against Notre Dame but we scored early and just held on for the rest of the game for the win.”

The Falcons, who like to control possession of the ball as much as possible, did that at times early in the first half. Yet they created few scoring opportunities and came up empty each time. Immaculate also threatened periodically before the half closed with neither team finding the net.

“We always want to possess the ball but we seem to be having issues with that,” said Winstanley. “Some of our top players are just out of sorts. They are out of sync but to their credit they’re working hard.”

It was more of the same in the second half. The Mustangs came awfully close to finding the net midway through the period when the Barlow keeper was out of position during a scramble in front of the net before the threat was neutralized.

As it turned out, Barlow’s last scoring opportunity would be its best, coming on a transition play. After a shot from Immaculate was saved the Falcons quickly got the ball up field. Grayson Vanderburg found an open Jordan Horowitz, who beat a defender for a shot that hit the post and bounced back into the net with 42 seconds left to play to give the Falcons the win.

“In the very end we got a great maneuver, ball in, on sides,” said “Winstanley. “He managed to get

the shot off, it hits the post and it goes in.”

Barlow had seven shots on goal. It is now 4-2-3 overall.

“We are getting back in the hunt here and hopefully It will all come to fruition in the next couple of weeks when it’s time go into the tournaments,” said Winstanley. “We need to raise our game and get to a new level if we are going to really contend for a league championship and for a state championship.” ■

Barlow sweeps Bunnell By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Libby Grob (left) goes up for the kill as Bunnell’s Jennae Williams attempts to block during a girls varsity volleyball match. Barlow won 3-0.

Between its strong service game and tenacious play at the net the Joel Barlow High girls varsity volleyball team proved too much for the competition to handle.

The host Falcons had a number of service runs against Bunnell of Stratford Friday, October 7. From time to time the Bulldogs would stop the momentum, but then the Falcons would pick up right where they left off to cruise to a 3-0 (25-5, 25-10, 25-7) sweep in a match that took only about an hour.

Barlow, which never trailed, wasted no time in building a lead in the first set. Six straight service points by Libby Grob put the Falcons up comfortably at 9-2. A block by the Bulldogs’ Chelsea Harrison won back the serve for

her team but that situation ended on the next point on a kill by Elyssa Kalamaris. Emmy Asplund then stepped up to the service line and reeled off eight straight points and the Falcons soon closed out the set.

Maisie Straborny’s serve in the next set took the Falcons on a six-point run which also featured some strong play at the net by Kalamaras. Back-to-back blocks by Harrison helped cut the lead to 15-9 but the Bulldogs came no closer. Amanda Meschi’s kill won back the serve for the Falcons, who then scored seven straight points on the serve of Eve Simons to go up 23-9 before taking a 2-0 lead in sets.

Going up 6-0 early in the

third set, the Falcons had little to worry about. Kills by Katherine Czerkawski and Grob, plus Asplund’s nine-point service run was good for a commanding 17-2 lead.

The Bulldogs managed to put together a 4.1 of their own late in the match but Olivia Sickinger’s kill won back the serve and Straborny served up three straight points to close out the win.

Barlow is now undefeated at 9-0. ■

Barlow Beat By Griffin Ellis

There are a lot of great opportunities offered at Barlow which students should take advantage of. For example, the college and career center offers daily in-person college visits to students. Villanova, Dartmouth, and Union College are a few of the schools that have visited Barlow. To attend these visits all students have to do is sign up in advance and walk to the career center. These college visits are great for upperclassmen because they are easy to attend (being in our own building), help students discover schools they’re interested in, and generally have a small student-college representative ratio (which makes the visit more intimate).

The writing center is another great resource available to students at Barlow. Writing specialists are available there for students to meet one-on-one and help refine essays and other types of writing assignments. This becomes especially helpful for larger papers and assignments. For example, a critical assignment for Juniors is the Junior Writing Portfolio which is a compilation of students’ best pieces of writing from their time at Barlow. The Junior Writing Portfolio is assessed on a scale of 1-6. In order for students to graduate they must receive a

score of four or higher. The Junior Writing Portfolio is unique to Barlow and stresses how much we value good writing here. If there’s one course that nearly every university requires freshman to take, it’s an introduction to writing course. Because of the Junior Writing Portfolio, however, all students who graduate from Barlow enter college with sufficient writing skills.

Multiple Barlow Athletic teams are getting written into the history books this season. Barlow football has had a great start to their season, currently sitting at 4-0 and is the number one team in the Connecticut SS Division. Girls volleyball has also had an extremely strong start to their season and are 9-0 and the number one ranked team in the Connecticut L Division. Boys Soccer is also eyeing down some medals, and is situated in a very competitive South West Conference. They’re coming off two wins against Notre Dame-Fairfield and Immaculate, and are looking to maintain their momentum.

I look forward to sharing how these teams have fared towards the end of their season, among other events coming up at Barlow, in the next Barlow Beat. ■

Redding Park and Recreation
 (203) 938-2551
www.townofreddingct.org

JOIN THE SENTINEL TEAM

Would you like to join the Sentinel team?

Are you interested in sales?

The Sentinel is looking for someone to find advertisers for us.

Please write to
advertising@reddingsentinel.org
 if you would like more information. Part-time

Not Just Talk.® Open Communications.

Do you run a business in Stamford, Westchester or NYC?

We want to be your phone company!
 We are CT-based, and make remote work EASY.

Visit Us At CCIVoice.com Phone: 203-938-8400

Formerly known as

 Give Your Network A Voice.®

Harvest Festival at New Pond Farm celebrates science and nature By Pamela Brown



says Ann Taylor, Director. The festival was paused two years due to Covid but it's returned better than ever. "We're thrilled. It's like welcoming back old friends."

The Center provides a picturesque backdrop for fun and educational activities and demonstrations for all ages. "The pastures are surrounded by sugar maples so if the weather cooperates, which it usually does, by this weekend in October we start to see lots of beautiful color around the pastures," says Taylor. It's perfect for the natural crafts, including creating grapevine wreaths, decorating pumpkins, and making beeswax candles.

Historical demonstrations include blacksmithing, rope making, and broom-making. "Our original broom-maker who we had for many years is retiring so his granddaughter has learned the craft from him and she'll be leading it. It's our next generation of broom-makers," says Taylor. There will be informative tours of an authentically recreated Eastern Woodland Native American encampment where visitors will see barked wigwams, a stretching rack, and more. Science aficionados will appreciate gazing at the sun through solar-filtered telescopes and learn how a weather station works.

In addition, you can enjoy a

wagon ride around the pastures with a team of draft horses, learn the art of cow judging, and view a sheep-shearing demonstration. The Apple Blossom Waldorf School in Wilton will help visitors take washed fleece and turn it into felted apples. A beekeeper will talk about honeybees, the challenges they're facing, and the importance of them as pollinators.

Delicious food is on the menu. The Girl Scouts of Redding will be cooking up hotdogs and hamburgers, and both meat and vegetarian chili. Mulled cider from Blue Jay Orchards, along with other beverages, will be available. The National Charity League of Volunteers of Redding and Ridgefield is preparing delightful desserts.

Special return guest Brian Bradley, a Master Falconer from Skyhunters in Flight, is bringing falcons, hawks, and owls to demonstrate their adaptations and hunting skills as they soar over the pastures. The presentation, courtesy of Meadow Ridge, takes place Saturday from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.). "With the fall migration of hawks this is the perfect time to have him come and talk. People won't quite look at birds of prey the same way after meeting Brian," says Taylor.

Located on 102 acres, New Pond

Farm Education Center is a year-round non-profit environmental center with a small working farm. "Our mission is, on every acre, in all we do, we plant seeds for a lifetime of active engagement with the natural world," says Taylor. "The festival is a friend-raiser. We're trying to introduce more people to New Pond Farm and have an opportunity to talk to people about the programs that we offer for the rest of the year for families, children, and adults. Hopefully this will just be their first visit and they'll want to come back many times."

The festival is a delight for everyone. "We have a lot of fun doing this," says Taylor. "It promises to be a terrific day for families."

(Harvest Festival rain date is Sunday, Oct. 16, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

New Pond Farm Education Center is located at 101 Marchant Road. Cost: \$10 per person (3 years old and up) or \$30 per family (includes parking and 8 craft tickets). There are small fees for food and additional craft tickets. No registration required. Tickets are sold at the gate. No dogs allowed. For more information, visit newpondfarm.org.



Photos by Pamela Brown

If you're looking for something fun to do this weekend, New Pond Farm Education Center is hosting its 32nd annual Harvest Festival

— Science & Nature Day on Saturday, October 15 from 11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. "This festival is so exciting,"

John Read students tackle the 20 Book Challenge

By Linda Meyer Mitchell



Photo by Linda Meyer Mitchell

8th grade student Baird Bishop in the Learning Commons at John Read Middle School with Library Media Specialist Maria Frederick and the library pet, Shelly the tortoise. Baird was part of a group of students who met with Ms. Frederick last year to help think of ways to make the Learning Commons more appealing to the students, and a library pet was one of the suggestions. As it turns out, Shelly is immensely popular with students and adults alike, and everyone entering the Commons seems to check in on the tortoise during their visit.

Many students at John Read Middle School are busy participating in the 20 Book Challenge, designed by the school's energetic Library Media Specialist Maria Frederick. The goal is to read 20 books that fall into designated categories by the end of the school year. The students who finish will be rewarded with an invitation to certain events.

Always looking for new and creative ideas, last spring Ms. Frederick held focus group meetings with students to see how she could make the Learning Commons more enticing to the middle school students. One of the things that came up was the idea of organizing the fiction books by genre to make it easier for students to find books they like. The idea of the 20 Book Challenge was the result of that process as well, as students are asked to read books in different

genres that correspond with the new organization of the Learning Commons fiction collection.

Students are asked to read one book in each of the following genres: adventure, fantasy, mystery, sports, classic, horror, historical fiction, realistic fiction, sci fi/dystopian, novel in verse, graphic novel, and narrative non-fiction. It is a great way to encourage students to experience something new and different that does not fit into their regular reading choices. In addition, each challenge participant is asked to read two books that won an award, such as the Newberry or Nutmeg awards. The final six books required are personal choice.

Students who read ten books by January will be invited to a celebratory breakfast, and students who complete the entire 20 Book Challenge by June will enjoy a pizza party and have their picture in the Redding Sentinel. ■

Jack-o-lanterns on Redding Green

By Ruth Moran



Photo by Ruth Moran

For the fourth consecutive year, the Redding Garden Club is sponsoring a Halloween jack-o-lantern display on the Redding Town Green. This spookily delightful event takes place the evening of October 29.

All ages are encouraged to bring their carved jack-o-lanterns to the Town Green on Saturday October 29th between the hours of 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. Members of the Garden Club will be there with

LED lights to make your pumpkin creation "glow" and manage the display. All jack-o-lanterns should remain on the scene until Tuesday morning (Nov. 1st) at which time you may retrieve your pumpkin before 10:00 a.m. or leave it for the town maintenance crew to discard.

Every year the "Jack-o-lanterns on the Green" draws many observers passing by to witness the "glow", often taking photos and complimenting the Redding

Garden Club for hosting the event. It has become a tradition you won't want to miss — whether as the contributor of a jack-o-lantern, or as a spectator. Come help make Redding "glow" in the run-up to Halloween.

For additional information, please contact Ruth Moran, event chairman, at ruthmoran@gmail.com.



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

203.209.2916
david@reddingrepair.com
www.reddingridgerepair.com



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

MARGI ESTEN

YOUR REDDING REAL ESTATE EXPERT

203-241-8453

MARGIESTEN@YAHOO.COM

MARGIESTEN.SITES.CBMOXI.COM

16 OLD MILL ROAD

REDDING, CONNECTICUT 06896

2022 Elections coming soon *candidate profiles begin this week* | By Donna Christopher

Connecticut's Nov. 8 general election includes federal races for the U.S. House and Senate, plus contests for the state legislature, governor, attorney general, and several other offices.

Every state representative and senate seat is open. All five of Connecticut's congressional seats, plus one U.S. Senate seat are also in play.

The Redding Sentinel asked the two candidates for the 26th District State Senator **Toni Boucher**, 72, of Wilton, and **Ceci Maher**, 68 of Wilton, to respond to questions about their campaigns. We began with this race because of its importance to Redding's representation in Hartford.

The 26th Senate District includes Bethel, Darien, New Canaan, Redding, Ridgefield, Stamford, Weston, Westport, and Wilton. It is currently represented by Sen. Will Haskell. He announced in January that after serving two terms he will not run for re-election because he plans to attend law school.

The candidates were asked to answer questions about their goals if they win.



Ceci Maher / Democrat
Married for 40 years to the late Rob Maher, who died in 2020. Lives in Wilton. Three adult children. Education: Master of Social Work.

Ceci Maher
Have you served a previous public office, appointive or elective?

I was appointed to the Board of Finance in Wilton filling an empty seat and serving for a year, and ran

for the Board of Selectmen in 2019 but lost by 100 votes.

Why are you running for this office?

I was asked by Will Haskell. Women have a tendency not to run and have a tendency to wait to be asked. I attended the campaign school at Yale in 2015. I had been thinking of running. But with an incumbent as strong as Will Haskell, I value his work and would not have gone up against someone I value as greatly. But (now) with the seat open and the fact that he endorsed me I'm running.

As an executive director for 20 years in non-profits, Person to Person, Sandy Hook Promise in Newtown, and Horizons National Student Enrichment Program, I was out in seven of the communities of lower Fairfield County, talking with legislators, town administrators, social services, and meeting the population and clients being served.

What is the most important issue facing your constituents and what do you intend to do about it?

There are so many issues. The high cost of living in Connecticut and when we spend some time talking, what goes deeper is the issue of safety in our schools and gun violence prevention, or Sandy Hook happening again. People are very concerned about their children, and their children's safety. We've had one mom say to me how can she have this conversation with her daughter in kindergarten. She said, 'I'm afraid to explain to her what she's supposed to face in school safety drills.'

I believe this is equally weighing down on kids. Inflation and gas prices, the cost of food, and taxes, all of these baseline issues are important and are facing our families. When I talk to people, this comes up frequently. It's not surprising when you have Uvalde (she was referring to the school shooting on May 24 at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX, that killed 19 children and two teachers) just happening as the

school year was ending.

I heard from one person that they were at a party of high school graduates this spring. The kids were congratulating each other that they had not been in a school shooting. That's very dark. It's the reality of what kids are facing.

Mental health is very important to me. I'm a clinical social worker. I worked at a psych hospital with children and youth. I left that job so I could run non-profits. As a therapist at a psychiatric hospital, I saw the impact of societal pressures on children. This is one of the societal pressures our kids are dealing with. It's always going to be multifaceted. This is definitely a component. It is important that we are speaking openly and clearly now about mental health issues.

What is the major difference between you and the other candidate (Toni Boucher) running for this office?

For the past 20 years, I've been working at the ground level, directly with people, trying to create systems that work for people and I've had great success. Toni's been at the legislative level but not doing the kind of work I'm doing on the ground. That gives me insight and the ability to see the impact of legislation and ways to make things work. I care deeply about our community. I've been providing services in these towns and I've seen what people need.

I didn't work in a corporate office and was out there amongst people. I've been out there amongst people working for others, enjoying my life. It has always been that to me. Nobody goes into the non-profit space because they're doing it for the money. I get joy from helping people. I'm smart and I work hard and I know how to get stuff done.

What other issues are you addressing in your campaign?

Human rights, women's reproductive rights, same-sex equality in marriage, and LGBTQ+ are all concerns to me and come back to how we are human beings.

Continued on page 7



Toni Boucher / Republican
Married, lives in Wilton. Three adult children, six grandchildren Education: Masters in Business Administration.

Toni Boucher
Have you served a previous public office, appointive or elective?

Toni Boucher provided her background in public office and answered questions in an e-mail. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Boucher was elected to represent the 26th Senatorial District from 2008-2018, after having served as the State Representative from the 143rd Assembly District for 12 years. While in the legislature, she served as a Chief Deputy Minority Leader as well as Senate Co-Chair and Ranking Member of the General Assembly's Transportation, Education, and Higher Education Committees. She also served as a Vice Chair of the General Assembly's Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee. She previously served as a leader on the Appropriations, Judiciary, Human Services, Labor, Housing, and Children Committees.

Her involvement in state government was preceded by years of town government leadership in Wilton, where she served as a member of the Board of Selectmen and as a member of the Board of Education, including holding the positions of both Chairman and Secretary.

Why are you seeking re-election?

I have been privileged to serve as Wilton's Board of Education Chair and on the Wilton Board of Selectmen as well as on the State Board of Education and State Board of Education for Vo-Tech Schools. I later served as an Assistant Minority Leader in the Connecticut House and a Chief Deputy Minority Leader in the State Senate as well as a leader of the Education and Children's Committees. I have been a leader in two Fortune 50 companies and a major investment firm, and founded small businesses in Norwalk and Wilton.

Running for office is something I did not expect to do again. But our state government has become too big, too expensive, and too intrusive. After seeing bills being passed or proposed by the majority party that never passed before, like regionalizing our schools, building high-rise apartments in colonial neighborhoods and a one-half mile around small railroad train stations, legalizing marijuana, and increasing spending and the cost of living by billions of dollars, I was persuaded to run.

I am a pro-choice, socially moderate, fiscal conservative who supports gay rights. If Democrat, Independent, and Republican voters put their faith in me again, I will work tirelessly for them as their state senator.

What is the most important issue facing your constituents and what do you intend to do about it?

Number 1 Priority: We must do more to make Connecticut affordable and ease burdens on our families. The cost of living in Connecticut is unaffordable and has been exacerbated by a forty-year high in inflation and skyrocketing gas prices.

I am committed to making our state less costly by providing responsible tax relief to families and focusing on policies that will grow jobs and create opportunity.

It's not surprising that last year

Continued on page 7

Enrolling for the Fall

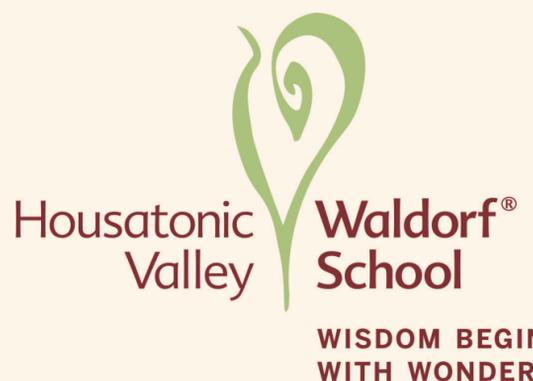


THE WORLD HAS CHANGED.

Let us help change the way you think about education.

Academics are taught through the arts, movement, and time outside.

www.waldorfct.org/apply



PRE-K THROUGH 8TH GRADE

OBITUARIES

William J. Hauck April 20, 1924 – September 25, 2022



Photo from the family

William J. Hauck died peacefully on September 25, 2022, in Redding, CT. He was 98. Born in New York City on April 20, 1924, he lived in Richmond Hill, Queens until the age of 17, when

he graduated from Richmond Hill High School. That summer his father, a retired sea captain, moved the family to Seward, AK, where he became the Harbormaster. Bill attended the University of Alaska at Fairbanks for two years, studying civil engineering. In 1943, he was called to serve in the Army Air Force and was stationed at Ladd Field Air Base in Fairbanks until the end of World War II. After his discharge in 1945, he returned to the east coast to attend Princeton University, where he received a BSE in Civil Engineering in 1948, graduating summa cum laude, and was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Upon graduation, he accepted a position with the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation (later Grumman Aerospace Corporation), in

Bethpage, New York, where he worked for the next 40 years. During his career, he contributed to the design and engineering of many notable projects including the F9F Cougar, the first Gulfstream corporate jet, the A6A Intruder, the E-2 Hawkeye, and the F-14 Tomcat. A humble man by nature, he was most proud of his ten-year involvement with the Lunar Module program and especially the time he spent in the Mission Support Room during each of the Apollo missions.

Bill was an avid reader on subjects ranging from science to theology and had a keen interest in the stewardship of our planet and its natural resources. Living in Alaska had a profound effect on him, as he discovered the natural beauty of the Alaskan landscape

while hiking, ice fishing, and birdwatching. He carried this passion for the natural world through life and loved taking long walks and exploring this country's national parks. He remained active through his final years, cherishing his Wednesday night volleyball games, Saturday morning tennis matches, traveling the world, attending Princeton athletic events with his son Neil, and simply spending time with his family.

He is survived by his son Neil Hauck (Ann), of Fairfield, Connecticut, his granddaughter Megan Hauck, of Washington, DC, his grandson Peter Hauck (Wesley), of Fairfax, VA, identical twin great-granddaughters Sloane and Violet Hauck, and his sister Marilyn J. Hauck, of Bridgeport,

CT. He is also survived by his stepson Roy Baillard, of Wading River, NY, and stepdaughters Nancy Stebe (George), of Suffolk, VA, and Linda Governanti (Gary), of Lindenhurst, NY.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Ingrid Helmers, who died unexpectedly just two years after they were married, and his second wife of 25 years, Audrey Groeppler.

Funeral arrangements will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the 'Astronomy Program' at the New Pond Farm Education Center, 101 Marchant Road, West Redding, CT 06896.

To offer online condolences please visit www.boutonfuneralhome.com ■

2022 Elections coming soon

Ceci Maher / Democrat

Continued from page 6

What other issues are you addressing in your campaign?

Human rights, women's reproductive rights, same-sex equality in marriage, and LGBTQ+ are all concerns to me and come back to how we are human beings. How are we treating people in our communities? It's very important to me. It's the underpinning of everything I've ever done.

Climate change. My (campaign mapping) has knocked on 4,500 doors. Climate change comes up. It is a primary goal that I have. People don't talk about this as a primary goal but many people talk about it at the doors. When I talk about it I talk about how we mitigate climate change in Connecticut. We should be doing transportation and economy through the lens of climate change and how we green jobs and stimulate that. How do we get more people on public transportation and more electric vehicle charging stations?

What accomplishments would you cite as evidence you can handle this job?

When I got to Person to Person in 2005 we were giving out food in pre-packed bags, enough for 176,000 meals, but people would get the bags and there was very little fresh fruit and vegetables and little in the way of protein so I instituted the first self-serve food pantry. We got lots of fruits and vegetables and made sure there was milk for children and families could choose the food they wanted.

I worked with a nutritionist to make sure there was the right amount of proteins to feed a family of four. It was 2010. By this time we were (providing) two million meals. Because we wanted to get food to where people live I oversaw the construction of a food pantry on wheels like our Person to Person food pantry in Darien. I also grew the organization from 15,000 being served to 25,000 served and from two towns to seven towns. We grew it from \$4 million to \$14 million (donated food) in my 14 years.

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?

Never say never. Leave yourself open to the possibility to say yes.

Is there anything else you would like voters to know about yourself and your positions?

The key piece is I think Connecticut is in a very good place with our current administration. The governor has a vision for moving forward. What I want people to know about the additional piece of information is that I have a positive vision of the Connecticut we can create. I think we're on that path. I don't want to go backwards into negativity. I want us to continue to go forward and improve on the gains we made over the past four years.

I believe in a woman's right to choose. I believe in women's bodily autonomy and people's bodily autonomy. I will protect a woman's right to choose. ■

2022 Elections coming soon

Toni Boucher / Republican

Continued from page 6

more people fled Connecticut than moved in. Our state is known for its high costs, and Democrats in Hartford have added even further burdens onto our residents. They approved \$1.8 billion in tax increases during Gov. Lamont's first year in office. They approved a new tax on trucks that deliver groceries, home heating oil, and other necessities to residents across the state, which now threatens to further raise prices on goods and services. They added an additional 1% tax on prepared food on top of the 6.35% sales tax – impacting restaurant meals, take out and even prepared foods you pick up in the grocery store. The Democratic majority has refused to adopt common-sense responsible tax relief as inflation surges – rejecting proposals to suspend the diesel tax, cut the sales tax, cut the income tax, and provide energy assistance to more families.

Coming out of a pandemic, the state's Democratic leadership is making it even harder for people to live, work, raise a family, and retire in our state. We remain near dead last in the nation for job growth and income growth. We can rebuild, and we can recover, but it will take a change in direction.

Our state benefits most when there is balance in the legislature. In 2017, for the first time in a century, the State Senate was tied with 18 Democrats and 18 Republicans. This allowed both sides to have an equal say in the budget process. As a result, Republicans were able to pass a spending cap after decades of trying, a bonding cap, and a volatility cap to ensure the state properly manages its finances.

The result of these Republican-led policies was a record-breaking budget reserve fund and historic contributions to pay down state debt.

What is the major difference between you and the other candidate (Ceci Maher) running for this office?

Leadership, experience, and deep knowledge working in both local and state politics; understanding what businesses need to maintain a business and create jobs in the private sector; proven ability to work well with both sides of the political aisle; a record of work toward a compromise on state budgets and contentious issues; being a centrist and non-partisan; strong work ethic; responsiveness to people's problems and how to cut through red tape.

What other issues are you addressing in your campaign?

1. Protect and promote local control of education and respect for parental involvement in our schools.

Regionalization of Schools: These proposals are attracting a lot of attention and Hartford needs to listen. I would offer this observation as a former local Board of Education chair, State Board of Education member

and as a leader on the General Assembly's Education Committee: Don't change Connecticut's locally controlled education model. Let local boards decide what works for them.

Different communities have different populations, different needs, and curriculum standards, and most importantly, research shows that smaller schools and classrooms provide for better outcomes, especially as our special education student population increases and classroom demands grow.

Forcing schools to consolidate, at this time when residents are leaving, could erode our state's best remaining asset—our schools.

We must make sure that our children have all the tools they need to realize their potential. Investment in our schools is more critical now than it ever has been. Decisions should be made locally and with the involvement of parents. Increase transparency by having Boards of Education include all curriculum materials on their websites and allow for public comment on all agendas. Work towards a K-14 school system.

2. Protect local control of our homes and our property rights.

Zoning decisions are best made on a local level by local planning and zoning commissions with community input. We need to reform 8-30G.

We need to protect local control in all areas of municipal governance, ensuring local property taxpayers have the loudest, most influential voice on issues that affect the very fabric of their community.

Legislation that solidifies the ability of municipalities to govern themselves without undue state interference.

- Remove existing state-imposed barriers to voluntary regional shared services

- Provide a centralized website for municipalities to access helpful information on state mandates including deadlines and any other

pertinent information that could be useful for cities and towns to achieve compliance

- Take a more honest approach to affordable housing by including existing properties that meet income-based affordability standards, and eliminate the requirement for deed restrictions for owner-occupied affordable housing which restricts the ability to create home equity

- Require a two-thirds vote of the legislature to pass any new conveyance taxes

3. Make Connecticut's communities safer.

Our number one responsibility as elected leaders is to keep our people and communities safe. I will continue to work to strengthen criminal justice laws and give law enforcement the tools they need to keep families safe, while supporting our at-risk young people through intervention and programs to set them on the right path in life.

We need legislation putting the rights of victims ahead of the rights of criminals and providing law enforcement with the tools necessary to perform their duties.

What accomplishments in the Senate would you cite as evidence you can handle this job?

Among numerous achievements Boucher cited she stopped the Super 7 highway from being built several times and saved the Town from a one-million-dollar penalty in their school construction project. She spearheaded the passage of the Holocaust education mandate of 2018, passed the law that created the Norwalk River Valley Trail and helped fund it, helped create and pass the budget of 2017 that produced the 2022 budget surplus through spending and bonding caps, crafted the 2007 and 2008 "No Tax Increase Budget", crafted "No Tax Increase Budget" for 2011-2012 and stopped new increases in the gas tax on July 1, 2008, among many others.

It's time for a change.

Vote Republican on November 8th

 Bob Stefanowski Governor	 Laura Devlin Lt. Governor	 Jessica Kordas Attorney General	 Dominic Rapini Secretary of State
 Harry Aurora Treasurer	 Mary Fay Comptroller	 Leora Levy US Senate	 Jayme Stevenson US Congress
 Toni Boucher State Senator	 Alex Burns State Representative	 Jen Collins Judge of Probate	 Michele Meschi Registrar of Voters

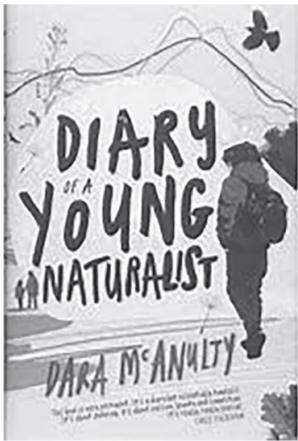
Paid for by the Redding Republican Town Committee. William Miller, Treasurer

BOOK REVIEW

Diary of a Young Naturalist

By Dara McAnulty

Milkweed Editions, 224pp \$25



paper in a way that carries the reader along, sharing his explorations and experiences in the wild. His writing is quicksilver, reading it like watching a hummingbird – mesmerizing, breath-taking.

Here, for example, is part of the entry for October 13. “The sky darkens slightly and shimmers as black shadows speed towards treetop homes, a cackling of jackdaws and rooks, a coven swirling and rising and resting. Almost playfully, they are chattering on the branches one moment then surging skywards the next. I can see a new black cloud arriving, and the trees are quivering with wingbeat wind.”

The book takes us over the course of a year in nature and in his family life in McAnulty’s homeland of Northern Ireland. He builds his knowledge of flora, fauna and the insect world over the year. He grows from a curious boy to a leading Irish environmental activist.

We don’t just learn about his observations of nature, though. McAnulty shares his world of autism and its impacts on the life of a child and an entire family. His family moves from one side of Ireland to the other during the course of the year that is the subject of the book, and McAnulty weaves in his worries about the move – and the reality after it happens. With the move, lucky Dara gets a whole new natural environment to explore, and we fortunate readers are brought along with him.

Many of us who live in Redding are here because we love our open space and the natural world. If this describes you, read this book. ■

Do you remember lying on your back daydreaming about clouds drifting overhead? Being fascinated by the ducks flying in V-formation on their way south, and wondering how they arrange themselves that way? Or lying on your stomach face down on the grass watching insects carry bits home? For most of us, these experiences of nature are happy, calming dream sequences, a way to relax.

For Dara McAnulty, being in and of nature is as important and necessary as breathing. The teen-aged author of the memoir *Diary of a Young Naturalist* is autistic, as are his mother and two siblings. Nature in all its facets is where McAnulty must spend time, alone and with his family, to gather the strength and find the calm he needs to go out in the world.

And how lucky we are to have him spend time in the mountains and forests, the waterways and beaches. He is an extraordinary observer, driven by curiosity and able to put those observations to

LIBRARY CORNER

By George Avidon

“Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest.” - Mark Twain

The Mark Twain Library continues to astonish and gratify our community with our range of programs, circulation of content and access to the wonderful and compelling history of both Redding and Connecticut.

Now that it’s October, we’ve got ghosts and goblins and scary stories on our minds. Halloween is a fun time at the library! The staff have created a lively and interactive page called Halloween Fun. Check it out to find Halloween-themed programs for the whole family, as well as books and movies to spook your socks off! For your Teen - Barry Pirro is back to teach “How To Hunt Ghosts” on Tuesday, October 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Besides providing insight into the type of equipment needed, where to go on your first ghost hunt, and how to gather photo, audio, and video evidence, Barry will share stories about some of his creepiest ghost hunting cases - including showing videos of ghosts and other haunted activity, and listening to actual recordings of ghost voices.

For the younger crowd, we’ll remind them how much science is a part of everyday life on October 24th at 4:00 p.m. at the Halloween Dry Ice Show with Talewise:

Dragons and the Ice Sorceress. In that program, we’ll celebrate the Halloween quest to discover the COOLEST thing in science!

And for families of all ages and sizes, we’ll be hosting a “trunk” at the annual Trunk or Treat festivities organized by the Redding Neighbors & Newcomers along with Redding Park and Recreation on Saturday, October 29th at the Redding Community Center. There’s plenty of room for more trunks - so get out your decorating skills, sign up your “trunk” and join us for the fun (and goodies!).

Beyond the gory and the ghoulish, if you’re into film and love a great discussion group, look no further than the Redding Reelers group at the Mark Twain Library. This fall, we have a theme we call Marvelous Mavericks: Pluck, Persistence and Privies - which takes a look at three documentaries about some amazing (and somewhat quirky) individuals. The next one to discuss is coming up on October 24th about an aspiring pianist who is paralyzed on his right side and then in secret learns to play one of the most difficult pieces with his left hand!

Members are invited to watch the documentaries at home, before the group meets, and then join a virtual discussion on the selected

film of the month. Most films are free on Hoopla with your library card. Find the film and Hoopla on our website.

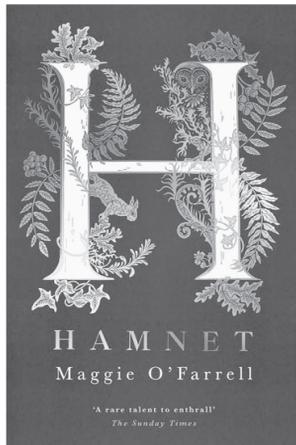
If you haven’t already checked out the wild animals on the loose in our rotunda, next time you are in the library be sure to come in to see them on display in our “Africa: A Close Encounter” photo exhibit. The images by good friends Bill Balch and Larry Untermeyer will be on display in the Library through November 6th.

From the librarians to the staff to the volunteers, we continue to try to do the right thing by bringing you information and services to assist you, entertain you and enrich you. We encourage you to join in our collective efforts and take part in learning about the library, its history and our amazing town. If you haven’t already, be sure to introduce your new neighbors to the Mark Twain Library Welcome to Redding page on the Library website. Or if you’re an old hand, perhaps rediscover some old favorites. So until the next time we see you in the library or online, enjoy the stunning foliage and the New England weather. ■

George Avidon
is acting Director of
Mark Twain Library

Good books for good readers

By Margi Esten



My author of the week is an extraordinary novelist from Northern Ireland: Maggie O’Farrell (if you keep reading my column you’ll find out relatively quickly how much I love Irish authors).

Maggie O’Farrell is a remarkably prolific, eclectic writer and her roster of wonderful books includes *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox*, *Instructions for a Heatwave*, *After You’d Gone*, *The Hand that First*



Held Mine and more. But those books are a topic for another day.

Her two most recent novels are a departure from anything else she has written and, I think, she has moved into an entirely new level of literature.

Hamnet, written in 2020, is set in Stratford, England in the late 16th century and it is the fictional account of William Shakespeare’s (although he is never named)

son who died at age eleven from Bubonic plague. Her novel captures the difficulties associated with death and grief and addresses the overwhelming repercussions resulting from this child’s death. This beautifully written novel won the 2020 Women’s Prize for Fiction, a prestigious literary prize in the UK, along with the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Her new novel, just published this month, is *The Marriage Portrait*. Set in Renaissance Italy in the mid-1500’s, it centers on the young, precocious Dutchess Lucrezia de Medici, her suffocating marriage and her fight for autonomy. Her prose is stunningly beautiful as she captures the sights and sounds of this time and weaves in intrigue, blood and lust and the desire for power. It is a captivating portrait of a turbulent era and vibrant heroine complete with suspense, atmospheric details and some unexpected twists and turns.

These two novels are simply not to be missed. ■

**LAW OFFICES OF
ELIZABETH A. EDWARDS, LLC**
Experienced, caring, effective representation



REAL ESTATE

PROBATE/ESTATE

DIVORCE/FAMILY LAW

* COLLABORATIVE

* MEDIATION

203-544-9945

P.O. Box 936, Georgetown, CT 06829
462 Danbury Road, Wilton, CT 06897

beth@eedwardslaw.com
www.eedwardslaw.com

Please support our advertisers!

- CCi Voice
- Coldwell Banker Realty
- Law Offices of Elizabeth Edwards
- Georgetown Financial Group
- Housatonic Valley Waldorf School
- Margie Esten, Realtor
- Meadow Ridge Lifecare Community
- Redding Ridge Repair
- Republican Town Committee
- Roni Agress, Realtor
- Spread Music Now

JOIN THE SENTINEL TEAM

Please Subscribe

Don't forget to subscribe to the Sentinel!

Visit

www.reddingsentinel.org/subscribe

to place your order to be sure you don't miss an issue.

• • •

Advertise in the Sentinel!

The best way to reach all of Redding.

Visit

www.reddingsentinel.org/advertise

to learn more, or write to

advertise@reddingsentinel.org

Community invited to unique fair at the Grange

By Linda Meyer Mitchell

The newly re-established Redding Grange #15 will hold its annual fall agricultural fair on Sunday, October 23rd and it promises to be both unique and fun. There are several creative and whimsical competitions with all welcome to participate or watch. In addition, there will be Redding and Easton artisans selling locally produced items, a raffle, home baked treats and food for sale, as well as a mini donkey to delight the youngest attendees.

The Grange is an organization with roots steeped in agriculture which has morphed into a community organization with a goal of promoting fellowship and community service in addition to agriculture. After years of declining membership, Redding Grange #15 was rechartered this past year and currently has nearly 70 members of all ages, including youth members. Reviving a long-standing tradition, Grange #15 will hold its annual fair at the historic Grange building at 399 Newtown Turnpike, with Laurie Heiss and Bill Hill serving as co-chairs of the event.

Community members are invited to bring entries for the contests or to just come and watch and learn more about the Grange while enjoying the home-made treats and locally made items. The contests include a Chicken Beauty Contest for the prettiest chicken as well as

contests for the Most Impressive Garden Produce, the Best Corn Something, the Weirdest Pumpkin, The Best Farm-esque Art, the Best Family Recipe Cookies, and the Best "Overalls" or Farm Costume. Use your imagination.....no entry too crazy! Rumor has it there will be hot competition in the chocolate chip cookie group of favorite family recipes and the possible appearance of cheddar jalapeno corn sticks in the Best Corn Something category. Winners will take home ribbons and accolades.

Local artisans at the fair will include vendors of alpaca yarn (Little Gray Barn), honey (Arruru's Farm and Redding Raw Honey), syrup, Redding-made artisan bread (Bloom Breads), homemade jerky, and goodies from Little Birdie Cookies, among others. The event will also feature a raffle with prizes provided by local residents and businesses, including those participating in the fair, and young attendees can visit the mini donkey.

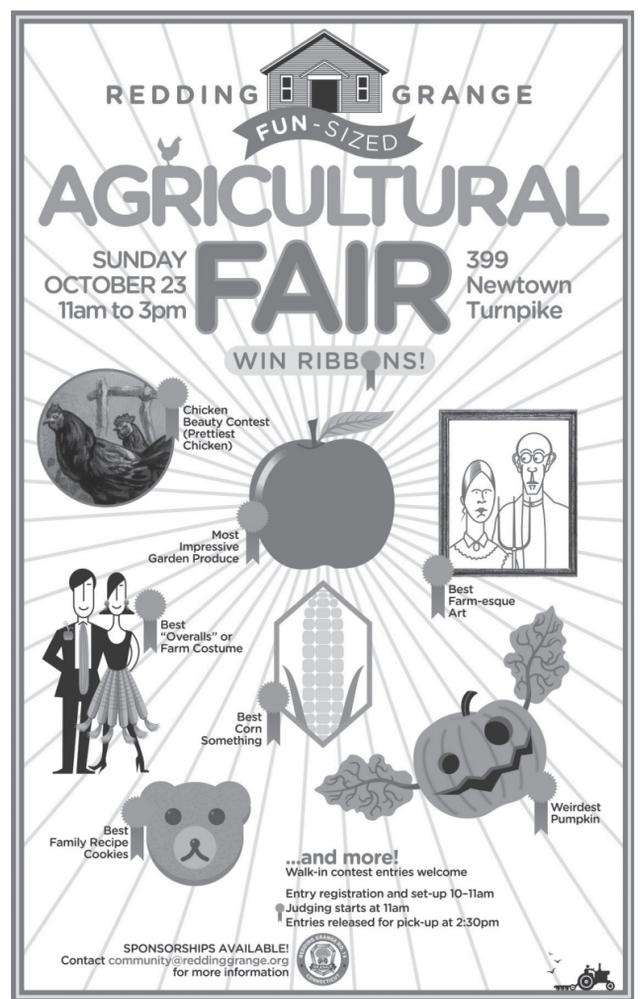
The Grange Fair will run from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 23rd, but all entries for the fun contests need to be dropped off from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. the day of the fair. No pre-registration is required and walk-in entries are welcome. Judging of the entries will start promptly at 11:00 a.m., and all entries can be picked up after 2:30 p.m. if not donated for sale.

This event is a fundraiser for the not-for-profit Grange #15, with all money used to help maintain the building and provide Grange programs. While the event itself is free, donations of all sizes are encouraged and appreciated in order to help keep the heat on this winter! The Grange Hall is as-yet un-insulated and heating oil is a major expense. Consider helping with this event by providing sponsorship at one of the following levels:

- Golden Sheaves \$200
- Silver Sheaves \$100
- "Feeling Farmy" Friends \$50
- Friends of Redding Grange \$250 (great for businesses).

E-mail community@redding-grange.org to discuss sponsorship opportunities and recognition – and any other way you might like to help or become involved.

If you have any questions about the upcoming fair kindly contact Laurie Heiss at laurieheiss@gmail.com or 203-938-5667. ■



Board of Education reviews test results, improvement plans

By Rocco Valluzzo



Citing a decline in standardized test scores in both literacy and math from pre-pandemic levels, the Redding Board of Education reviewed its district and school improvement plans in a presentation by Superintendent Jason McKinnon at its Oct. 6 meeting.

According to Dr. McKinnon, Smarter Balanced Assessment

scores for the 2020-21 academic year declined by approximately 5% in all grades combined and math scores declined by 10%. The district did not test during the 2019-2020 school year.

"One (percentage) point is equal to about three to four weeks of instruction," said Dr. McKinnon. "So if you think about a 5% loss in literacy, that's anywhere in a range

from 15 weeks to 5 months lost learning time. A decline of 10% in math, it's a loss of learning time anywhere between 30 weeks to 10 months."

He added that the decline in scores is not unique to Redding. Similar results have happened not only across the country but also in other area school districts as well.

Spring state assessments cover two major areas: Smarter Balanced Assessment, which includes English language, arts and math and are administered in third through eighth grade; and Next Generation Science Standards, which are administered in grades five, eight and eleven.

English language arts include reading, writing, speaking and listening, and research and inquiry.

Mathematics measures concepts and procedure, problem solving,

communicating, reasoning and modeling and data analysis.

Results

English language scores in third, fourth and eighth grade in Easton increased from 76.7% at or above performance goals in 2020-21 to 77.2% in 2021-22. Redding remained flat at 73.9%. The district reference group (DRG) average (which includes towns such as Darien, New Canaan, Ridgefield, Weston, Westport and Wilton) is 78.9%.

The Easton school district is about one percentage point away from the DRG average. Redding is approximately six percentage points away from the DRG average. Dr. McKinnon said the DRG information was to be used with caution.

"Different school districts do different things," he said. "They have different resources. That's an important discussion when we look at resources around budget time."

In mathematics for all grades combined Easton decreased from 74.3% to 67 from 2018-19 to 2021 but increased to 69.9% from 2021 to 2022.

From 2020-21 to 2021-22 Redding increased from 69.1% to 71.5%. Easton is approximately five percentage points from the DRG average and Redding is approximately four points from the average. ■

Redding and Easton Safe Rides

By Redding and Easton SafeRides

Redding and Easton's Safe Rides program will resume offering free, confidential, non-judgmental rides home to students, beginning in October. More than 100 students have formed 8 teams to provide the rides. This year's Leaders who run the program are seniors Colin Furrer and Adam Hoeing. They have their own teams of 12-15 students. Additional 6 Captains of their own teams are Daniella Catarino, Sydney Hawks, Julia Tartaglia, Bella Neiger, Keira

Gillon and Rachel Miranda. Safe Rides will operate Friday and Saturday nights for the rest of the school year, except major holiday weekends and on weekends at the beginning and end of school vacations. Students will be able to call the hot-line number 203-803-0804-- from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. for a "no questions asked" free, safe ride home. Rides will be offered to any high school-aged person who feels unable to drive for any reason, including fatigue, alcohol

or drug use, or a situation in which traveling with another driver feels uncomfortable or unsafe. Teams of students and adult volunteers will staff the call center at the Boys and Girls Club on Cross Highway in Redding. When a call comes in, a student driver pairs up with a second student navigator, who will go out in a team of two to provide confidential and safe transportation home. Adult advisors will be at the call center during all hours of operation. The program, which

began in 2017, will again operate under the auspices of the Kiwanis Club of Danbury, allowing for coverage under its liability insurance policies and access to various training programs and other resources. This service can only be used by Redding and Easton high school-aged youths. It is not available for adults. The Safe Rides service extends to public or private school students, as long as they are residents of Redding or Easton and are calling

from within the town limits. Safe Rides is currently seeking a new parent program supervisor, so if your child is involved in the program and you would like to lead it, please reach out via email. Anyone interested in contributing to Safe Rides or with questions may send an email to saferridesre@gmail.com for more information. ■



Excellence in Real Estate

As a 30+ year Redding resident, I understand local ties. And as a 15+ year Realtor® with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, my local ties receive worldwide connections, along with comprehensive market expertise and unparalleled service.



Scan to see recent activity in your neighborhood.

Your next move can be next level. Call me today.



Roni Agress
203.733.2656
ragness@williampitt.com
roniagress.williampitt.com



Ridgefield/Redding Brokerage | 470 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT
Each office independently owned and operated. ■

Voters to elect new probate judge on November 8

Some key facts about the probate process | By Rob Sample



Attorney Steven Boa DeMoura

Benjamin Franklin coined the oft-quoted adage that “nothing is certain in life except death and taxes.” Probate courts aim to soften the blow of both, while performing other services that ensure the well-being of the most vulnerable among us.

Probate court is best known as the judicial entity that oversees the distribution of a deceased person’s assets to his or her heirs. However, probate courts also handle a broad range of issues that affect children, the elderly, and people with intellectual or physical disabilities. That can include administering trusts and conservatorships, adoptions, terminations of parental rights, guardianship, custody matters and name changes.

On November 8, residents of Connecticut’s 45th Probate District will elect a new probate judge. The role is one of 54 in Connecticut and serves Bethel, Newtown and Ridgefield in addition to Redding.

The winner will fill the seat vacated by the death in March of longtime judge Daniel O’Grady. The two candidates – Jennifer Collins of Ridgefield and Steven Boa DeMoura of Bethel – have both said they seek to make probate court a welcoming, helpful place for the people it serves. In addition, both noted that while many of us think of probate as arduous and intimidating, the process need not be so.

“Probate court judges engage with Connecticut residents and

families who are often dealing with one of the most difficult times in their lives,” said Collins, who is currently a Connecticut magistrate and senior partner with the Danbury-based law firm Cramer & Anderson. “While probate court judges and staff are not allowed to provide legal advice, you’ll find they are among the most caring and most helpful people you’ll encounter.”

“Probate is truly the people’s court,” said DeMoura, who heads his own law practice in Bethel. “And I don’t think many people understand the breadth of what Probate Court handles.”

Estate-probate basics

Because handling a will or estate is the most common reason residents contact probate court, the statewide probate website (www.CTProbate.gov) publishes a detailed guide to the estate-probate process. Here are several important points.

- An estate tax return must be filed within six months of the person’s death. This involves fees, which are based on the estate’s value.
- A petition for administration or probate of will should be submitted to the probate court within 30 days of the decedent’s death. It should be accompanied by the original will and any codicils (addenda to the will), as well as a copy of the death certificate.
- The probate court will ensure that debts, funeral expenses, taxes and estate-administration fees

are paid prior to distributing the estate’s remaining assets.

- If there is no will, and there are a surviving spouse and children, Connecticut’s “laws of intestacy” apply. The spouse will receive the first \$100,000 of any assets and one-half of the remainder, while the children will receive the remaining half.

- Assets owned jointly, such as by a husband and wife, are considered “survivorship assets.” They aren’t subject to the probate process and pass directly to the surviving individual.

Most people seek an attorney’s assistance with probate. Whether that is necessary can depend on the complexity of the case as well as the mood of the interested parties.

“Probate can be very straightforward, and someone can navigate the process on their own – especially in situations where there is agreement among family members,” Collins said. “If there are issues that are just too complex, the court can appoint an attorney to ensure they all understand the process being followed.”

One such issue: determining title to any real-estate or other property involved in an estate. The person who handles the administration of an estate is known as a fiduciary or, more commonly, an executor. If there is a will, it will specify who should serve in this role. If not, the Probate Court will appoint an administrator. Courts give priority to the decedent’s family members.

The first responsibility of the fiduciary is to place the assets of the estate under his or her control. For example, the fiduciary should transfer any bank accounts from the decedent’s name into an estate account. Of note, the fiduciary must also keep the estate’s income, assets and expenses separate from his or her own.

Other probate issues

While Probate Courts are most associated with matters involving people who have died, Probate Courts also serve individuals who are still very much alive. Conservatorships are among those services.

“Courts aim to enable people to maintain their independence, but that is sometimes not possible,” said DeMoura, who has served as a court-appointed probate attorney in his years on the bench. “In elder-care situations, for example, somebody may no longer be able to take care of his or her own affairs.”

The financial website SmartAsset.com defines conservatorship as “a way for someone to assume legal



Attorney Jennifer Collins

guardianship over an adult.” Besides handling financial affairs, such a guardian might also handle medical affairs and daily living issues, such as acting as a caregiver or finding professional help.

Another common probate court task is assigning guardianship. This is a must for minor children, especially when both parents are deceased, and they did not name a guardian beforehand. What’s more, guardianship is a key responsibility for individuals with disabilities.

Among other family matters, probate judges can terminate the parental rights of those who are unable to fulfill their responsibilities.

Probate judges also play a role in civil commitment, such as in psychiatric cases or ones involving substance abuse.

For more information, the Connecticut probate courts’ website offers a wealth of resources – including frequently asked questions about probate, necessary forms for downloading, procedures to follow, and, once a case is filed, a case-lookup page. Just visit www.CTprobate.gov.

Meet the Candidates

Attorney *Jennifer Collins* is the Republican candidate for the 45th Probate District. She has also been endorsed by the Connecticut Independent Party.

Collins works closely with Cramer & Anderson’s trusts and estates and elder law attorneys, and is the leader of the firm’s Social Security Disability section. She has 23 years of litigation experience as part of a practice that also focuses on personal injury law and workers’ compensation.

Collins spent most of her childhood in Northern New Jersey but has lived in Connecticut almost continuously since first attending Fairfield University.

She earned her Juris Doctorate in 1997 from the Catholic University of America in 1997. Collins, her husband and two children reside in Ridgefield.

Attorney *Steven Boa DeMoura* is a native of Bethel who currently lives there with his wife and three children. There, he graduated from St. Mary’s School and Bethel High School. DeMoura earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Rhode Island in 2001 and his Juris Doctorate from Quinnipiac University in 2005.

DeMoura began his career as an attorney in 2005 with the Danbury firm Pinney Payne, LLC, with a focus on litigation and criminal law. He formed his own law firm in 2013.

His practice currently consists of real-estate law, conservatorships and other matters of pertinence to Probate Court. He is a past president of the Greater Danbury Bar Association and is fluent in English, Portuguese and Spanish.

Both candidates praised the late Judge O’Grady, and quickly cited those qualities they believe make a great probate judge.

“Probate court judges need to have compassion in addition to a strong sense of fairness,” said Collins. “The foundational qualifications are a deep understanding of Connecticut laws and procedures – enhanced by empathy, engagement, caring and perspective.”

“A judge needs to be a good listener, have integrity and compassion, and be able to make good, informed decisions,” said DeMoura. “It’s also important to be able to ensure that the process moves forward efficiently, so that cases can be resolved for people during their times of need.” ■

Soaring to New Heights with the Black Rock Pole Vault Club

By Justin Reynolds



Photos by Justin Reynolds

It used to be that if you were interested in pole vaulting and wanted to continue honing your skills during the offseason, you’d have to make the trek to Norwich or Warwick, N.Y. As of July, pole vaulters in the area now have a more conveniently located training ground thanks to the Black Rock Pole Vault Club.

The club, which meets at Joel Barlow High School and will move to Bethel’s indoor facility when the weather gets colder, is the brainchild of Redding resident Robert Rakich, a pole vaulter in high school and college, and Neal Perry, the current men and women’s track and field coach at West-hill High School.

“Three years ago, a mother from Joel Barlow asked me to coach her daughter that was trying to pole vault,” Rakich says. “There

wasn’t any dedicated coaching for pole vaulting in the area. Fairfield County has some of the best vaulters in New England, but there wasn’t a facility where athletes could continue postseason.”

After learning that Perry was available and looking to pursue coaching, the two got together and the Black Rock Pole Vault Club was formed.

Though he pole vaulted throughout high school and college, Rakich never had the dedicated coaching support needed to thrive as an athlete. Thanks to the Black Rock Pole Vault Club, he and Perry hope that no athletes in the area will experience that same fate.

“Once I started doing this, I fell in love with it,” Rakich said. “The kids were fantastic. It was very enjoyable for me.”

Currently, the club has roughly 30 members. Most of them are local but some come from places like Durham, Farmington, Watertown, and even Manhattan.

“The majority of our athletes are high schoolers,” Rakich said. “But we do have some college athletes and middle schoolers, too. And we have a 58-year-old male, as well. He loves it.”

Rakich said the club helps athletes of all skill levels, including beginners.

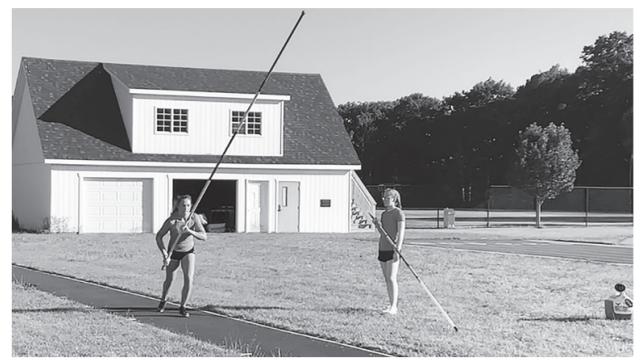
“We have freshman and middle schoolers doing 7 feet, and we have some older athletes doing over 16 feet,” Rakich said.

Rakich first got into pole vaulting when he found a discarded pole at his school and started trying to jump anywhere he could.

“It’s an exhilarating, complicated event,” he said. “You can imagine how difficult a golf swing can be. Pole vaulting is the same. There’s physics, gravity, continuity, energy efficiency — all of these things go into pole vaulting. When it’s done right, it’s exciting.”

Rakich still picks up a pole himself every now and again.

“When I do it correctly, it’s almost effortless, which is hard to understand,” Rakich continued. “As long as you have speed and transfer that speed efficiently into



vertical height, it all comes together, and when it does, it’s a beautiful thing.”

Anyone interested in learning more about the club should visit its website at <https://www.blackrock-vault.com>. There, you can sign up for individual sessions, which cost \$50 for an hour, and group sessions, which cost \$30 for two hours. You can also sign up for 10 group sessions, which costs \$250.

According to Rakich, each group session includes no more than 12 people, so each student gets adequate one-on-one instruction.

“Our goal is to give access to athletes that want to continue pole vaulting throughout the year and provide them with a safe facility and coaching,” Rakich said. “We’d love more ex-vaulters that

just want to come out and give it a shot again.”

The Black Rock Pole Vault Club is a member of USA Track & Field (USATF). For insurance reasons, each athlete who signs up for a session needs to be a member of USATF.

In addition to visiting their website, you can also contact the club at 203.523.0966 and rrakich@blackrockvault.com ■



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Strengthening bonds between dogs and their owners

for more than 75 years | By Justin Reynolds



Photo by Canine College

Two clients spend time relaxing at Canine College.

Looking to make sure Fido is well-behaved? Bring him to Canine College, a premier training and boarding facility for dogs, located in West Redding at 40 Marchant Road.

Canine College was founded in 1946 by John and Betty Behan. During World War II, John was tasked with training dogs for military endeavors. After the war

ended, he opened a dog training business in New York City and helped establish canine police programs across the country. Due to the high demand for his services, John decided to open a campus in Redding in 1947.

In the 75 years since, Canine College has stayed in the Behan family. Today, the business is owned by Sharon Behan Lanoue,

John's daughter, with Stephanie Kassner, John's granddaughter, serving as the general manager.

"We can proudly say that the college has been in the family for three generations, with a fourth generation learning the trade," Kassner said. "It's incredibly rewarding, as well as humbling, to continue John and Betty's legacy. It brings a smile to know their daughter is teaching their great grandchildren how to respect the needs of a dog."

Canine College sits on roughly 14 acres of land in West Redding. "The bucolic setting offers our canine clients a restful and relaxing retreat from their otherwise hectic lifestyles," Kassner said. Each dog who stays on the property receives their own accommodations, with an attached outdoor patio that offers views of horse fields. "Weather permitting, the dogs are free to be inside or outside as they please for hours throughout the day,"

Kassner explained. "The property provides ample space for the dogs to go on long walks or play fetch during their stay."

At any given time, there are probably 40 to 50 dogs on the property. "This might sound like a lot, but we're actually a smaller operation relative to many boarding facilities in the industry," Kassner continued.

While most of the school's clientele comes from the tri-state area, some dogs routinely come from places like Los Angeles, Vermont, and Florida, Kassner said. "It's not uncommon to receive clients flying in from overseas, including Saudi Arabia and Dubai."

Over the years, Canine College has trained all kinds of dogs. "We've cared for thousands of dogs spanning almost every breed, which is one reason why this job is so rewarding," Kassner said. "Every dog brings a unique

personality, and it is a pleasure to be able to get to know these dogs so well."

Part of what makes Canine College so special is its dedicated staff, which includes a kennel manager who's been there for more than 17 years and a lead trainer, a nationally certified Schutzhund handler who's been there more than 30 years. "We truly appreciate all the talent and passion that our employees bring to work and consider them a part of our extended family," Kassner said.

While Canine College originally opened as a training facility, the business expanded into boarding and grooming services over the years. "The reward of this business is the opportunity to educate owners on how to respect their dog's needs and to see their relationship thrive," Kassner said.

For more information on Canine College, visit <https://www.caninecollege.com>

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF REDDING

2022 State Candidate Debates Tuesday, November 1st | 7:00 – 9:00 PM Redding Community Center

House District 135 (Redding, Easton, Weston)



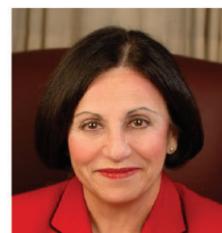
Anne Hughes
Democratic Candidate



Alexander Burns
Republican Candidate



Ceci Maher
Democratic Candidate



Toni Boucher
Republican Candidate

Senate District 26 (Redding, Bethel, New Canaan, Ridgefield, Weston, Westport, Wilton)

Questions for the candidates are encouraged!

- Submit questions during the debate or in advance
- Questions will be screened by three volunteers (Democrat, Republican, and unaffiliated) for clarity and relevance.

Can't attend in person?

WATCH LIVE on Facebook via Robert E Moran's live-stream



VIEW A RECORDING after the debate. Watch the archived video on: www.redding79.org/video.html

To submit your questions in advance:



Or email:
ReddingDebate@gmail.com

About Us:

Redding League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that works to educate voters and encourage active participation in the political process and in government. The LWV has been in operation in Redding, CT for over 60 years.

Since its founding in 1959, RLWV has sponsored annual candidate debates as well as variety of events and forums to share information about major public policy issues. RLWV has a long history of championing many causes within Redding that have had a lasting impact on our community.

Learn more at: <https://my.lwv.org/connecticut/local-leagues/lwv-redding>

Real estate update By John Talley and Bill Whitehead

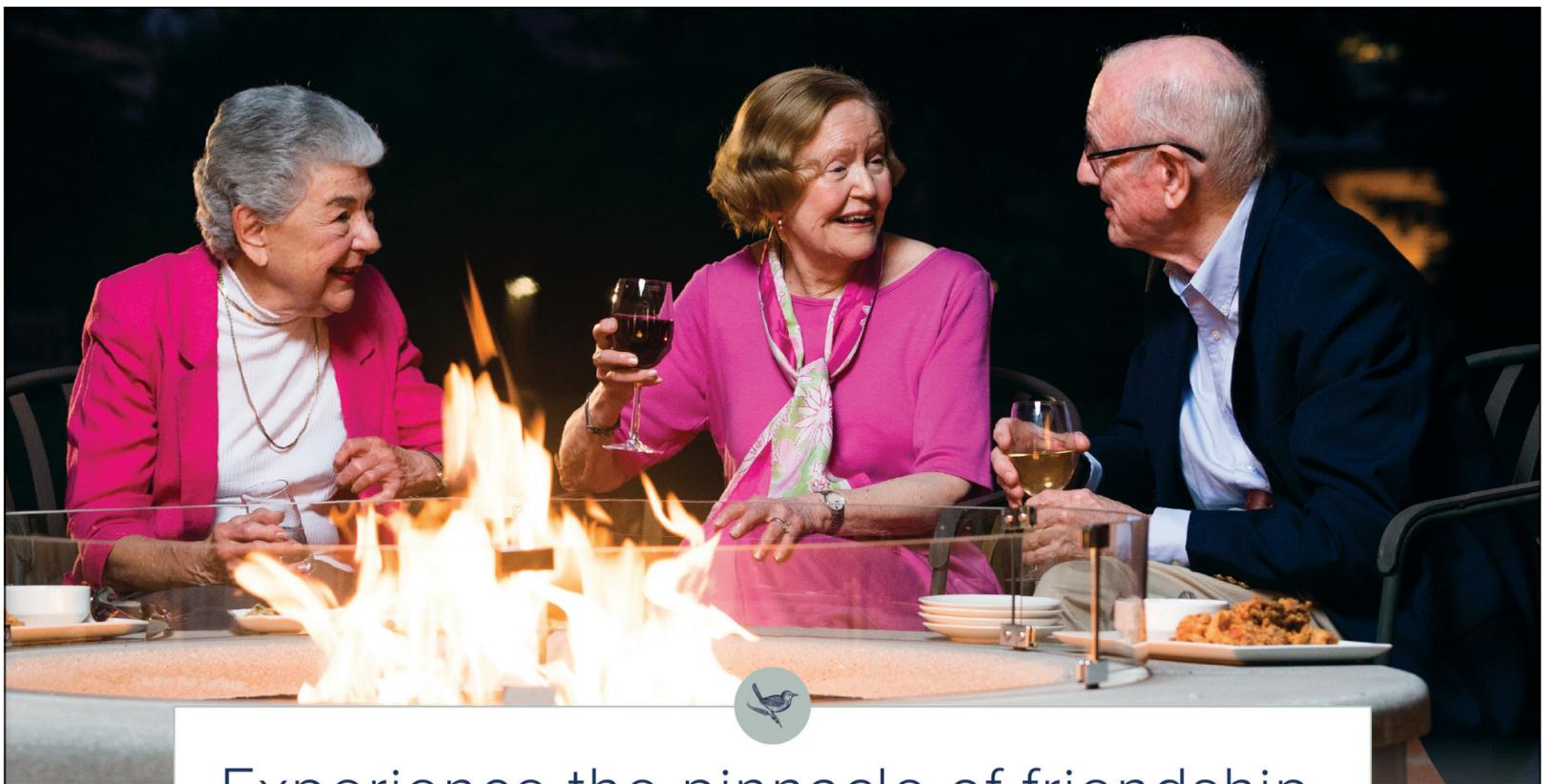
This is the first of a regular feature highlighting recent real estate transactions and trends in Redding and surrounding towns. Please let us know what you think of it.

Thirteen houses sold in Redding in September ranging in price from \$400,000 to \$1,295,000. Days on market were as few as four, and as many as 83. The market is softening, with average price per square foot declining in Redding and all but one of our surrounding towns.

Redding Sold - September	Sale Price	List Price	%/ List Price	Days on Market
37 Portland Hill Rd	\$ 400,000	\$ 399,000	0.25%	55
299 Redding Rd	\$ 440,000	\$ 449,000	-2.00%	61
6 Packer Brook Rd	\$ 450,000	\$ 419,900	7.17%	36
55 Long Ridge Rd	\$ 452,000	\$ 400,000	13.00%	4
26 Deer Hill Rd	\$ 600,000	\$ 619,000	-3.07%	33
40 Fire Hill Rd	\$ 600,000	\$ 515,000	16.50%	26
89 Hill Rd	\$ 630,000	\$ 649,000	-2.93%	51
54 Dayton Rd	\$ 735,000	\$ 750,000	-2.00%	49
42 Ledgewood Rd	\$ 735,000	\$ 799,000	-8.01%	83
68 Wood Rd	\$ 765,000	\$ 795,000	-3.77%	28
14 Dorethy Rd	\$ 805,000	\$ 772,000	4.27%	4
34 Sunset Hill Rd	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,175,000	-6.38%	80
8 Packer Brook Rd	\$ 1,295,000	\$ 1,295,000	0.00%	69

Town	Current Inventory	September and YTD trends											
		Sold		Avg Days on Market		Avg List Price		Avg Sale Price		Percent Sale Price >/< List Price		Avg Price/SqFt	
		8-Oct-22	September	YTD	September	YTD	September	YTD	September	YTD	September	YTD	September
Redding	34	13	108	45	46	\$ 695,146	\$ 466,876	\$ 692,846	\$ 474,580	0.33%	-1.65%	\$ 273	\$ 257
Ridgefield	46	33	301	40	40	\$ 767,876	\$ 439,572	\$ 769,196	\$ 428,180	-0.17%	2.59%	\$ 319	\$ 316
Weston	30	22	170	61	80	\$ 1,736,318	\$ 508,664	\$ 1,771,817	\$ 501,142	-2.04%	1.48%	\$ 420	\$ 280
Wilton	37	24	207	42	53	\$ 1,125,529	\$ 522,464	\$ 1,165,560	\$ 550,602	-3.56%	-5.39%	\$ 355	\$ 337
Easton	33	10	86	47	45	\$ 766,990	\$ 587,375	\$ 781,400	\$ 591,700	-1.88%	-0.74%	\$ 269	\$ 269
Bethel	18	13	110	47	38	\$ 451,595	\$ 323,620	\$ 457,531	\$ 327,952	-1.31%	-1.34%	\$ 290	\$ 263
Newtown	53	33	257	57	65	\$ 442,416	\$ 236,108	\$ 445,484	\$ 240,877	-0.69%	-2.02%	\$ 323	\$ 267
Average	36	21	177	48	52	\$ 855,124	\$ 440,668	\$ 869,119	\$ 445,005	-1.33%	-1.01%	\$ 321	\$ 284

John Talley and Bill Whitehead are Realtors with Vincent & Whittemore Real Estate.



Experience the pinnacle of friendship.

A toast by our fire pit is a perfect metaphor for the warm and gracious welcome you will feel as a new resident of Meadow Ridge. Walk down the halls and receive friendly greetings from our residents and associates, who will quickly bring you into the fold of life here. One or more of our dozens of activities, programs, clubs or committees are sure to appeal to you, connecting you with new like-minded friends to share a meal, a good chat or a nice glass of wine by the fire.

To find out more, call 203-601-6450 or visit MeadowRidge.com



- Independent Living
- Assisted Living
- Memory Care
- Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation



100 Redding Road | Redding, CT 06896
Managed by Benchmark Senior Living

THE NATURAL WORLD

Fauna: Cooped Up In Redding | *By Cecilia Staunton*



Photo by Cecilia Staunton

Ah, country life! Our move to Redding 14 years ago from our postage-stamp yard in Norwalk opened up the world of possibilities. Within a year we had established a veggie garden

and were ready to add chickens to our yard. New friends of ours were moving out of town and asked if we would take their six hens and rooster. Our house had conveniently come with an antique

coop that with a little elbow grease was spruced up and readied for its new occupants. Move-in day was exciting and, many years later, we still keep chickens.

No, we don't eat them! Yes, we get eggs (everyone asks do we get eggs um, well they are chickens) but there is so much more to them! They are endlessly entertaining companions that provide comedy. They do get sick and by the time it's apparent it's often too late to help. Also, everything wants to eat a chicken. Hawks, raccoons and foxes have been the demise of many of our hens. You must have a secure area for them and an electric fence is advisable. One slip up and bad things happen. We have learned that the hard way more than once. All that being said, the effort is totally worth it.

Since 2009 we have had about 25 hens and 2 roosters grace our side yard. I keep meaning to compile a list of their names before I forget them. There was the first inherited rooster, who was enormous, colorful and gorgeous. He was named Frank or something but was quickly renamed Diablo as his maniacal nature became clear. I spent a year carrying a rake around

to fend off his attacks.

Then, there was an extra chick in one of our orders that we assumed was female. We named her Punk Rock Girl but when she started crowing, we dropped the Girl. Punk Rock was a tiny, glossy black bantam with massive confidence and would crow on command. A favorite!

There was Sweetie, who became mysteriously blind (I blame Punk Rock) and quickly learned to respond to my tapping fingers to find her water and food. She was a very smart hen! We had a Lavender Orpington with a long and fancy name, Lilith Faire, an ode to the 90's (we just called her Lilith). She actually was the most beautiful shade of lavender. You will notice that many of these memories are past tense. That comes with the territory unfortunately, despite our best efforts.

About 6 years ago we seemed to be pretty serious about this chicken thing and upgraded our coop and run. Currently, we have 5 very nice hens ranging from six to eight years old that all get along. No roosters at the moment. I have nothing against them but it has just worked out that way. You don't

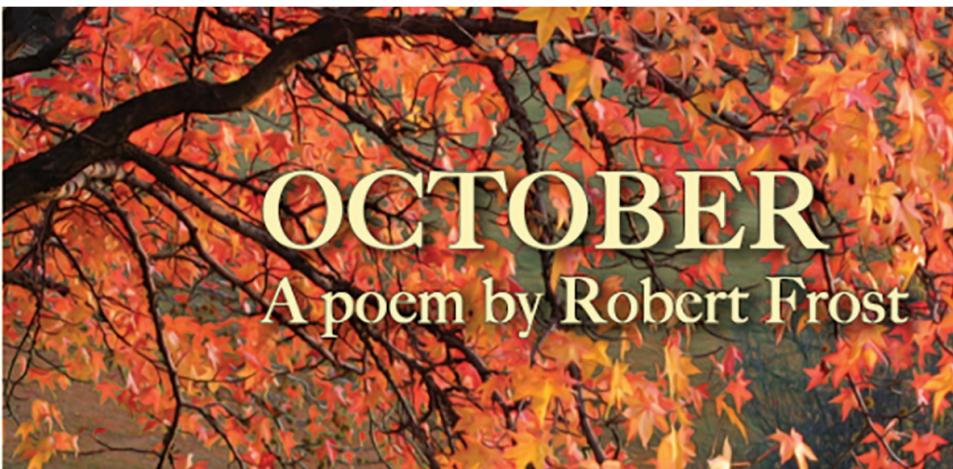
need a rooster to have eggs. I am considering another expansion in the spring. I have been thinking of adding some silkies, described as the lap dog of chickens. I can't wait!

If you are thinking of getting into the chicken game there is a good deal of information out there to help you get started. Live by the three Ps;

Protection, Pro-action, and Prevention. The Internet is a great place to start for chicken keeping resources. BackyardChickens.com has tons of information.

Locally, Smithland in Bethel has a good range of supplies and in March sell chicks and supplies to start your own flock. I would be more than happy to share my expertise as well. Chickens are super sweet creatures. They are easy to keep as long as you feed them well, keep their coop clean and protect them from the elements and predators. When you enjoy that first omelet breakfast with your own eggs you will be a convert. You will also be sure that those eggs came from happy and content hens. That's a win, win! Happy country life! ■

October a poem by Robert Frost



Robert Frost - 1874-1963

The poet of New England Robert Frost (1874 – 1963) wrote his iconic poem "October" when he was 39. He writes of the turn of the seasonal year but may have been thinking about aging as well. The poem was first published in 1913 in England, in a collection of Frost's poetry – largely autobiographical – entitled A Boy's Will. Like Frost himself, the very American poet who spent a large part of his formative years in England, the poem can be understood on several levels. Yes, it's about nature and the seasons, but it's also about the cycles of life. ■

*O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.*

*The crows above the forest call;
Tomorrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow.*

*Make the day seem to us less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know.
Release one leaf at break of day;*

*At noon release another leaf;
One from our trees, one far away.
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst.
Slow, slow!*

*For the grapes' sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
For the grapes' sake along the wall.*

NORTH COUNTY BAND

SPREAD MUSIC NOW CONCERT SERIES

Connecticut Album Release Party

Friday, October 28

Doors open at 7:00 PM | Show at 8:00 PM

Tickets: \$20 | All Ages
Bijou Theatre, 275 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605

100% of your ticket purchase supports music education for Connecticut students. Music Empowers!

Toe-tapping Connecticut Country!

North County Band embodies country music from Connecticut. Performing a mix of originals and covers from Allman to Grateful, Waylon to Dwight, Wilco to Skynyrd, they are sure to get any wallflower dancing.

This event celebrates the release of their debut album "Connecticut" and supports Redding-based SpreadMusicNow. The title track is a love song to a woman, inviting her back to our great state of Connecticut. Anyone from the area will appreciate the references to the Huskies, the shoreline, and local greats like Mark Twain and Helen Keller.

New Pond Farm Program Director Laughlin retires Emily Ciffone joins the team

By Ann Taylor



Photo by Ann Taylor

After seven happy years, New Pond Farm Education Center's popular Program Director, Tim Laughlin, has retired. Tim came

to New Pond after 39 years as a science teacher and curriculum coordinator with the Brookfield schools. During his interview

with Executive Director, Ann Taylor, Tim said he was looking for "a positive career shift with an emphasis on creativity and getting students of all ages engaged and out of doors," adding "this was a dream job".

Having Tim on the staff has been a dream for the Education Center as well. Tim's love of teaching about the natural world and his incredible enthusiasm have been shared with thousands of students, teachers, parents, and New Pond's campers from Norwalk and Danbury. "Tim has enriched our programs beyond measure," said Taylor.

Tim's next chapter will be filled to the brim as an actively engaged grandfather of three and as he returns to his hobbies of fly fishing, ice fishing, kayaking, and golf. He will be sorely missed.

The Education Center is pleased and excited to welcome a fantastic new Program Director, Emily

Ciffone. Emily has a Master of Science degree, focusing on Environmental Education and Interpretation. She was a terrific member of New Pond's part-time teaching staff from 2010-2013. Since that time, she has been the Program Director at the Darien Nature Center. Her enthusiastic references confirm that she transformed the Nature Center's programs, designing new offerings both at the Center and in area schools.

At DNC, Emily focused on programs for preschool and elementary school students, and she will share these talents with young families from our area, helping everyone to get outside to connect with the natural world. Emily is also looking forward to developing an exciting series of programs and internships for middle and high school students.

From all of us at New Pond Farm, "Thank You, Tim!" and

"Welcome, Emily!"

The Center's fall calendar is filled with engaging programs and opportunities to work with Emily. Please check out the website: newpondfarm.org ■

Halloween fun in store for young Redding residents | By Linda Meyer Mitchell

The Redding Neighbors and Newcomers Club along with Redding Park and Recreation will co-host the annual Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 29th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the parking lot at the Redding Community Center. It is sure to be great fun for kids of all ages so don't miss the October 28th sign up deadline.

What is a "Trunk or Treat" you may wonder? People in the

community get their creative juices flowing and decorate the back of their cars and trucks for Halloween. Some do traditional witches and ghosts or fall decorations, and some pick a theme. Past trunk themes have included superheroes, Disney characters, Star Wars, Minions, sports teams, countries, and more. Anything family appropriate and fun is encouraged. The people doing the car displays are often

decked out in costumes to greet their young guests.

There will be fire trucks and the Cub Scouts will host a station as well. Redding kids come to the event dressed in their Halloween costumes and "trick or treat" from car to car, enjoying the decorations and collecting candy at each car. It is a safe and fun alternative to traditional trick or treating in a town with houses as spread out as in Redding.

Please consider participating in this great community event. If you have young children, bring them to trick or treat! You can register for the event by October 28th at reddingneighborsandnewcomers.org. There is no monetary fee, but participants are asked to donate one bag of candy per child. Just bring the candy along the day of Trunk or Treat and hand it in at the check-in for the event.

The second way you can

participate is by decorating your car or trunk. Trunk set up is from 1:00 to 2:45 p.m. the day of the event prior to the 3:00 p.m. start. Registration is required for all hosts by October 28th at 10:00 p.m. on the reddingneighborsandnewcomers.org website. If you have any questions regarding Trunk or Treat please contact Lindsay at linsmar4@optonline.net. ■

The Man on the Subway | By Lisa Tancredi

Here is a test. This is only a test. If this were a true emergency, you would need to put down the paper and dial 9-1-1. This is a story I read once years ago that I'm going to re-tell to you as if it were happening to you to see what you make of it. Here we go:

This story is set on a subway in Manhattan. On a hot summer day. Which means an even hotter subway platform with the occasional waft of rotting garbage, stale alcohol and vomit. You're in clean, sharp summer clothes on the way to a meeting of importance. You've been waiting ten minutes in the heat and the stench. Long enough to break a sweat and feel your patience slipping.

The train finally arrives, and you get on with great relief that the air conditioning in the subway car is working. As you sit down, you notice a man who also got on that same subway car, at the same time that you did, but at the other end.

It's actually hard to ignore this man because he has three kids with him — three boys, about ages 8, 12 and 14 — who seem his polar

opposite. He is almost completely checked out, eyes unfocused, looking at nothing, while his kids are shoving each other and hitting each other and yelling at each other at regular intervals. As the father sits down in the only available seat and the subway pulls away from the platform, the kids start roaming the car.

The father does nothing as the kids scatter. One kicks his backpack around the floor. The other opens the doors at the end of the subway car and watches the next car jostle and jerk. The third rips open his backpack and tears out its contents in sudden haste to find something in the bag. And the father does nothing.

This continues for a good long subway minute. It is unpleasant. Uncomfortable. Wearisome. Even for people well-practiced at ignoring strange behavior, this is unsettling. You, and everyone in the car, are starting to fidget and grumble and steam.

So, here's the question: What do you think of this man and his kids? What are the conclusions

you've come to so far? If you're honest with yourself, what are you thinking?

For most people in this situation, and indeed for most of the people in the subway car that day, there's a sincere wish that this man and his children would just all magically disappear. A general thought that, "And I have to deal with this today, too??" An irresponsible, neglectful father, A disrespectful citizen. And his annoying children who have no sense of public decorum. Here's a place for a zero tolerance policy!" And that's where most people were. Except one.

A young girl also about age 12 happens to be seated near where the one boy was frantically searching through his pack. Luckily, she too had no sense of public decorum so she asked the boy, "Are you looking for something?" And slowly it came to light that, yes, he was looking for something. A letter that his mother had given him. Earlier this morning. In the hospital. Before she passed away.

And with that bit of information,

the entire population of that Southbound N subway car took a step back. As you probably are doing too. As I too did when I first read this story.

What changed? With that little piece of information, we all suddenly have more room for this family. More compassion and understanding. If I told you now what the kids did next, it wouldn't annoy you anymore. You would keep your bigger perspective and choose — even if unconsciously — not to become upset, judgmental, or impatient. No one would be able to convince you to get off balance again.

Having passed the above test, the next test I have for you is this: what if you decided to have this level of balance and understanding at every moment, in every interaction, for every person?

You can see from the story that it is a matter of deciding. In the story, it was information about the context that opened your perspective. What if you didn't need the context or the story to be able to be in that place of

balance and understanding? What if you just chose it as a regular way of being: Balanced. Patient. Understanding.

What if you treated everyone as if they had just gone through this level of trauma and needed help — even if they couldn't ask for it. We know nothing of the real situation everyone else is in the middle of, only this small snapshot of what we see. We don't know anyone else's history, circumstances or mindset.

This would mean you have to let go of all the stories — whether you judge them as positive or negative — and just accept that this is what is happening. And that there's a good reason for it that you might not ever know. It's not personal. It's not about you. And your best response to it is to keep yourself in balance and harmony throughout.

Try it out for a day. Or an hour. Or even five minutes. You will find this changes and grounds your entire life. ■

Your One-Stop for Group Health Insurance, Medicare Supplement & Medicare Advantage Options

It's the time of year to review your Group Health Insurance, Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage options. We know it can be intimidating, but it doesn't have to be!

Since 1991, Georgetown Financial Group, Inc. has been a local trusted resource, providing comprehensive solutions for our clients near and far.

Contact:

- Roger Palanzo, Senior Health Insurance Specialist
o 203-544-9300 X 26 - roger@gfginc.com
- Steve Scheinberg, Employee Benefits Consultant
o 203-544-9300 X 17 - sscheinberg@gfginc.com



GEORGETOWN
FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.
Helping to fund the future.



Follow us:



www.gfginc.com

73 Redding Rd.
Georgetown, CT 06829
203-544-9300

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ARTS

Saturday, Oct. 15

Art in the Park Festival
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Weir Farm National
Historical Park
735 Nod Hill Road
Wilton
nps.gov/wefa

October Wednesdays — Sundays

**Legacy of a Landscape
Guided Introductory Tour**
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Weir Farm National Historical
Park
735 Nod Hill Road
Wilton
nps.gov/wefa

BOOKS

Sunday, October 23

**Byrd's Books & Broken
Symmetry Gastro Brewery
A Beat Beyond: Selected Prose
of Major Jackson**
Readings, beer, food
3:30 p.m.
Must register
5 Depot Place
Bethel
Byrdsbooks.com

CHILDREN

Saturday, Oct. 15

**Children and Family Programs
Explore! Activity: Sculptures
with Laurace James, Hannah
Levy, and Lea Cetera**
All Ages
During museum hours
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Free with admission
Aldrich Museum
258 Main Street
Ridgefield
thealdrich.org

Tuesday, Oct. 18

Nature Explorers
Ages 3-5
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
West Redding
newpondfarm.org; 203-938-2117

Saturday, Oct. 15 Wednesday, Oct. 19

Weekend Family Storytime
Birth to five and siblings
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
Marktwainlibrary.org

Wednesday, Oct. 19

**Annual Pumpkin
Carving & Decorating**
Grades 3 - 5
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
West Redding
newpondfarm.org; 203-938-2117

CRAFTS

Saturday, Oct. 22

Fall Leaf Craft
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
West Redding
newpondfarm.org; 203-938-2117

FALL

October Saturdays and Sundays

**Pick Your Own Pumpkins and
Gourds**
Hayrides, hot pumpkin lattes
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Warrup's Farm
11 John Read Road
Redding
warrupsfarm.com

Open for season Seven days a week

**Pick Your Own Apples and
Pumpkins**
11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tues. - Fri.
11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sat. - Sun.
Blue Jay Orchards
125 Plumtrees Road
Bethel
bluejayorchardset.com

Saturday, Oct. 15

**Westport Moms Family Fall
Fun Festival**
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Greens Farms Academy
35 Beachside Avenue
Westport
westportmoms.com

Saturday, Oct. 15

**Saturday in the Park
Preview the Connecticut
Olmsted documentation project**
tours, exhibits, kids' activities,
food trucks
12:00 to 4:00
Must register
Lewis Fulton Memorial Park
Waterbury
preservationct.org

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

Saturday, Oct. 15

**Harvest Festival - Science &
Nature Day** (All Ages)
Historical demonstrations, harvest
crafts, livestock
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Master falconer
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Rain date Oct. 16
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
West Redding
newpondfarm.org; 203-938-2117

Saturday Oct. 22

Fall Harvest Festival
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Mather Homestead
19 Stephen Mather Rd.
Darien
Matherhomestead.org

Sunday, Oct. 23

**Redding Grange Agricultural
Fair** (Chicken beauty contest,
most impressive garden produce
Win ribbons, best family cookies,
corn, Farm-esque art, overalls/
farm costume, weirdest pumpkin)
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(entry registration/set-up 10:00
a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)
399 Newtown Turnpike
Redding
community@reddinggrange.org

Sunday, Oct. 30

The Nest Fall Fest
Community fair for all ages
food trucks, live music, crafts,
games and more
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School
100 Black Rock Tpk
thenestatbarlow.com

FOOD

Sundays, Oct. 16, 23, 30

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

Wednesdays, Oct. 19, 26

Wilton Farmers Market
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wilton Town Green
101 Old Ridgefield Rd.
Wilton
wiltonchamber.com

FUNDRAISERS

Saturday, Oct. 15

Speakeasy Gala
7:00 p.m.
Lockwood-Mathews Mansion
Museum
295 West Ave.
Norwalk
lockwoodmathewsmansion.com

Sunday, Oct. 16

Sunset Wine Party 2022
Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; early
admission 5:00 p.m.
Lounsbury House
316 Main St.
Ridgefield
sunsetwineparty.com

Friday, Oct. 21

Starry Night at Farm Pond
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Connecticut Audubon
Center at Fairfield
2325 Burr Street
Fairfield
203-259-6305 ext. 109.
ctaudubon.org/2021/09/purchase-
tickets-for-starry-night-at-farm-
pond

Friday, Oct. 28

**SpreadMusicNow
North County Band
Album Release Party**
8:00 p.m. (Doors open at
7:00 p.m.)
Supports music education for
Connecticut students
Bijou Theatre
275 Fairfield Avenue
Bridgeport
Northcountyband.com
spreadmusicnow.org

HALLOWEEN

Monday, Oct. 17

Halloween Cupcake Decorating
K-5
2 sessions
3:00 - 3:45 p.m.
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Rd.
marktwainlibrary.org

Fri. Oct. 21, Sat. Oct. 22 Fri. Oct. 28, Sat. Oct. 29

Ambler Fright Night
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Grades 3 - 5
Drop-off event, registration
required
Ambler Farm
257 Hurlbutt Street
Wilton
amblerfarm.org

Friday, Oct. 21 - Oct. 30

**Ghosts, Seances & the Great
Beyond**
Halloween Tours at the Mansion
5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Lockwood-Mathews Mansion
Museum
295 West Avenue
Norwalk
lockwoodmathewsmansion.com

Monday, Oct. 24

**Halloween Dry Ice Show
Talewise: Dragons and the
Ice Sorceress**
4:00 p.m.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org

Saturday, Oct. 29

**Halloween Spooktacular
& Boo Bash**
9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (Ghosts)
11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. (Goblins)
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Gremlins)
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (Boo Bash)
EverWonder Children's Museum
31 Pecks Lane
Newtown
everwondermuseum.org

Saturday, Oct. 29

Trunk or Treat Street
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Bring one individually wrapped
bag of candy per child
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
reddingneighborsandnewcomers.
org.

MUSIC

Saturday, Oct. 29

**RSO Quartet in Concert
Inspired by 52 Artists:
A Feminist Milestone**
6:00 p.m.
Aldrich Museum
258 Main Street
Ridgefield
thealdrich.org

NATURE

Friday, Oct. 21

**Annual Evening Woodland
Walk**
Every half hour 4:30 p.m. -
7:30 p.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
West Redding
newpondfarm.org; 203-938-2117

MEETINGS / EVENTS

Friday, Oct. 14

**ER9 Boards of Education Policy
Committee**, Boards of Education
Central Office or Virtual via Zoom
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
654 Morehouse Road
Easton
Er9.org

Saturday, Oct. 15

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at
RCC for New Facilities, Four new
tennis courts (lined for pickleball),
Playscape ages 2 - 5 years, Multi-
Use Pavilion
Light refreshments, pickleball
demo
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (rain date
Oct. 16)
townofreddingct.org

Sunday, Oct. 16

**Redding Fire & EMS Co. 1
Open House**
Tours and presentations of the
proposed new firehouse
EMT demonstrations, tours, safety
discussion, snacks
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Redding Ridge Firehouse
186 Black Rock Turnpike
reddingfire1.org

Monday, Oct. 17

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

Tuesday, Oct. 18

Conservation Commission
7:30 p.m.
Virtual
townofredding.org

Tuesday, Oct. 18

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

Wednesday, Oct. 19

**Water Pollution Control
Commission**
7:30 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting: [https://
zoom.us/j/8480388388](https://zoom.us/j/8480388388)
Meeting ID: 848 038 8388
townofreddingct.org

Thursday, Oct. 20

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

Thursday, Oct. 20

Special Town Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
townofreddingct.org

Thursday, Oct. 20

Democratic Town Committee
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Hearing Room
100 Hill Road
reddingdemocrats.org

Friday, Oct. 21

**ER9 Boards of Education Policy
Committee**
9:00 am
ER9 Boards of Education Central
Office or Virtual via Zoom
654 Morehouse Road
Easton
Er9.org

Monday, Oct. 24

Board of Finance
Virtual Zoom 7:30 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us06web.zoom.
us/j/83047673427](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83047673427)
Meeting ID: 830 4767 3427
townofreddingct.org



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY



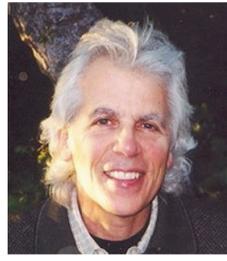
Mike Anderson
203.770.3349



Peri Bartro
203.240.5919



Alexis Bennett
203.313.3110



Kim Cuniberti
203.733.6976



Tim Dent
203.470.5605



Lara DiBari Tersigni
203.482.2790



Donna DiBartolo
203.858.0597



Margi Esten
203.241.8453



John Frey
203.240.0624



Liz Furrer
203.733.0678



Sarah Nicole Goguen
773.343.6498



Debbie Gore
203.417.5692



Joanne Grasso
203.733.9344



Jefferson Guthrie
203.788.9400



Carol Hanlon
203.240.1233



George Hanlon
203.240.1234



Deb Haws
203.241.7977



Sharon Hoverman
203.733.5073



Charlie Knoche
203.731.7770



Jodi Langford
203.733.8804

FEATURED NEW LISTINGS IN REDDING



6 Quarry Rock Road, Redding | \$1,695,000

This stunningly impressive five en-suite bedroom home is situated on a gorgeous, level 2.6-acre lot on a cul-de-sac. Custom built with compelling architectural lines and top-notch carpentry. Exudes elegance while offering a flexible & modern floor plan.

Listed by:

Tim Dent | 203.470.5605



87 Topstone Road, Redding | \$695,000

Nestled among million dollar homes this custom-built Colonial on almost 6 acres is being offered for the first time. Tucked off a designated scenic road and a backyard bordered by land owned by the Audubon Society; your privacy awaits!

Listed by:

Peri Bartro | 203.240.5919



Susan Kordas
203.536.7383



Marge Lanzara
203.994.5301



Heather Lindgren
646.932.4075



Carissa McMahon
203.442.4159



Paul Ogden
203.942.9519



Kenn/Betsy Olbrych
203.526.0697



Sarah Patterson
203.417.6254



Heather Payne
203.470.7069



Lisa Pompeo
203.240.2937



Rita Craig Rush
917.846.2281



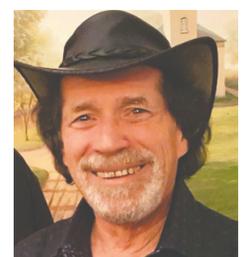
Anne Schmiedel
203.470.9159



Lonnie Shapiro
203.731.7722



Marilyn Sloper
203.770.6240



Ira Stone
203.240.5754



Denise Taylor
860.977.3699



Kim Taylor
203.610.3529



Terri Tournas
203.561.5893



Adrian Voss
203.241.7957



Positively Different™

Call Mary to discuss your mortgage options.

Applicant subject to credit and underwriting approval.

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER NMLS ID: 260216, LO#: CT-CT-LO-260216 Guaranteed Rate Affinity, LLC is a registered trademark of Guaranteed Rate, Inc., used under license. Guaranteed Rate Affinity, LLC is a subsidiary of Guaranteed Rate, Inc., NMLS #1598647. For licensing information visit nmlsconsumeraccess.org. Lic # ML-1598647



Mary Dent

VP of Mortgage Lending

C: (203) 715-8584 grarate.com/marydent
O: (203) 974-1733 mary.dent@grarate.com

355 Riverside Ave., 2nd Floor, Westport, CT 06880



Joseph Porricelli *Branch Vice President*

203.515.6310
joe.porricelli@cbrealty.com

Ridgefield Office 398 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877 | 203.438.9000
Redding Office 16 Old Mill Road, Redding, CT 06896 | 203.544.9591



COLDWELLBANKERHOMES.COM

