REDDING SENTINEL

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Ballot question asks: Should it be easier to vote by absentee?

By Mark Pazniokas

Susan Bysiewicz held up a sample ballot Friday and pointed to where voters in Hartford will find a referendum question on amending the Connecticut constitution to allow easier access to voting by absentee ballot.

The demonstration by the lieutenant governor may seem overly simplistic, but it is an element of passing any referendum: Reminding voters to look for a question that can appear at the top, bottom, side or on the back of ballots.

"We don't want anyone to miss the ballot question," Bysiewicz said.

Passage of the referendum would remove from the state constitution a list of limited circumstances under which a voter can vote by absentee, allowing the General Assembly to legalize no-excuse or universal absentee voting.

Somewhere on every ballot will be this question: "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to allow each voter to vote by absentee ballot?"

In Hartford, the question is at the top. In Andover, it's at the bottom with three questions about proposed revisions to the local charter. In some places, it sits on the side with local spending questions. In Stamford, it's on the back. (Editor's note: in Redding, it's on the top. See page 2 in this week's issue for a sample ballot.)

Absentee ballots can currently be cast by mail, returned in person, or placed in secure drop boxes that typically sit outside city or town halls.

But the constitution empowers the General Assembly to allow absentee voting only by those "unable to appear at the polling place on the day of election because of absence from the city or town of which they are inhabitants or because of sickness, or physical disability or ... the tenets of their religion."

In three dozen other states, absentee voting is a universal right.

"This is not unique," Governor Ned Lamont said. "You look around the rest of the country, especially toward the West Coast, where more and more people are voting by absentee ballot. They're doing that with integrity, and make it easier for people to vote, just like early voting."

Early voting for the general election in Connecticut, which was authorized by another constitutional amendment passed in

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Photo by Lyman Whitehead

This whimsical mermaid swam upstream from Long Island Sound, taking a break at Little River before continuing onto Putnam Pond. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, with credit of course, please e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

FEMA opens Disaster Recovery Center in Wilton Over \$71,000 already distributed to Redding

households | By Jessie Wright

The State of Connecticut and FEMA opened a Disaster Recover Center (DRC) in Wilton on Thursday, October 3 to aid residents and businesses recovering from the August 18 flooding and landslides. The temporary facility will help people apply for FEMA assistance, upload documents needed for their application, and get their questions answered in

The Wilton DRC is located at Our Lady of Fatima Church at 229 Danbury Road. It is open seven days a week, from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays; 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays; and 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Sundays.

The DRC is accessible to peo-

ple with disabilities and access and functional needs, according to a FEMA press release announcing the opening of the facility. It is also equipped with assistive technology equipment that allows disaster survivors to interact with staff. Services are provided in English and Spanish.

There will also be representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) on hand at the Wilton DRC "to provide program information and explain how to apply for SBA's low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, businesses, private non-profits, and renters, and provide printed information about repairs and rebuilding to make homes more disaster resistant."

With Biden's approval of a major disaster declaration for Fairfield County, New Haven County, and Litchfield County on September 20, FEMA assistance and funding became available to the victims of the August 18 storm. As of Friday, October 4, FEMA had distributed \$4.3 million to 483 households in all three counties, including \$71,373 to 17 households in Redding.

FEMA representative Leo Skinner encouraged any resident in need of assistance to consider stopping by the Wilton DRC or applying for FEMA aid online at DisasterAssistance.gov, by phone at 1-800-621-3362, or through FEMA's mobile app.

Tree cutting along transmission lines moves quickly through town

By Jessie Wright

About a year-and-a-half ago, Richard Wyton started seeing orange tagging on trees appear in the woods next to his home on Route 53, just north of John Read Middle School. His lot, like many in Redding, is secluded by deciduous trees, set up from the road at the end of a steep driveway overlooking the Saugatuck Falls Natural

The tags had been placed by Eversource, marking the edge of the utility company's easement around the transmission power lines running adjacent to Wyton's home

"I saw survey crews out on the road, and I saw the tapes up between the right-of-way and our property," Wyton recalled.

This isn't the first time that tree work in the nearby easement has landed at Wyton's doorstep. He recalled standing in line to give public comment nearly 25 years ago, when Eversource first upgraded to a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line. He and fellow neighbors shared their preference for a higher line, allowing for a narrower strip of clearing around the poles.

"Of course, the trees have since grown," Wyton said.

Yards and yards of mature trees now fall between the line of tape near Wyton's home and the transmission lines; under Eversource's updated Transmission Right of Way Reliability Program, any tree or shrub which is taller than 15 feet at maturity is slated to be cut

"The vegetation management work along transmission lines in Redding is part of our Transmission Right of Way Reliability Program (TRRP), which is a longterm transmission system reliability and resiliency program to address storm-related power outages and involves removing incompatible species," said Eversource Media Relations team member Sarah Paduano. "It's important to note that trees do not have to touch these higher-voltage lines to cause an outage. A power outage on our transmission system can impact thousands of homes and businesses across multiple communities, including critical facilities like hospitals and police and fire stations, which is why this work is so important."

According to the utility, the company mailed letters in December 2023 to abutting property owners and conducted door-to-door outreach the following month to explain the scope of the work. When the utility began its cutting

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Redding's Big Outdoors

Three group outings to try this month Explore with New Pond Farm and Redding Land Trust

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Cole Tucker-Walton

Hiking in Redding's open spaces can often be a meditative, solo experience. Sometimes, though, you may want the company of

other outdoor enthusiasts on your excursion – or maybe the guidance of an experienced hike leader, pointing out species of flora and fauna you might not recognize on your own.

New Pond Farm Education Center and Redding Land Trust are both hosting group outings this October that will bring neighbors together for congenial – and educational – walks in the woods.

Fall Migration: Birding with Joe Bear Saturday, October 19 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Book Review

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Library Corner

The Natural World

Calendar of Events

For the chance to start your weekend off with fresh air and good company, consider joining the fall migration birding walk at New Pond Farm Education Cen-

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ter at 101 Marchant Road. Expert birder and environmentalist Joe Bear will lead a leisurely two-hour morning walk through the Farm's diverse habitats, including open fields, woodlands, and wetlands – the group will look for several bird species on their way to winter feeding grounds.

The birding walk is a free program, though registration at newpondfarm.org is required.

Fall Hike: Great Ledge – Dedication of Gene's Trail Saturday, October 19 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Redding Land Trust's fall hike this year will be at Redding's iconic Great Ledge. They will

Continued on page 9





Visit our website

Editorial

To those who keep us safe

In my family's four years in Redding, firefighters have come to our aid on two separate occasions - the first, when a chemical reaction while balancing our pool resulted in an explosion, filling our home with toxic gas, and the second, when a flooded well house caused electricity to arc through our water line, shooting sparks out of the electrical box in our cottage at close to midnight.

These are two of the darkest memories of our time here, when we felt vulnerable to disaster. The firefighters who answered our frantic calls arrived swiftly and calmly, on a holiday weekend and late at night. And, like nearly three-quarters of the firefighters in the United States, they were volunteers.

Based on the most recent data from the Connecticut State Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, there are approximately 26,800 fire fighters in Connecticut, with the majority (83%) volunteers. Redding's three fire districts are home to volunteer fire companies. The people who came to our aid were our neighbors - people who have committed a large part of their time outside of their jobs and other commitments to help keep our community safe.

As the Commission explains, "Fire protection, and the people who provide it, are local issues in the same way that street cleaning is a local issue. In other words, there is no legislatively mandated state director of street cleaners. Localities decide on their own fire protection services."

While the State does regulate fire fighters' pensions as applicable, worker compensation, and voluntary training standards, communities like Redding are ultimately responsible for setting up their own fire services. How different our community – and its budget – would be if we didn't have those willing to serve as volunteer firefighters.

Those two frightening memories aren't our only experience with the fire departments, however. My two-year-old son is convinced that Santa Claus travels exclusively by fire truck, after Santa stopped by our home last December as part of Redding EMS & Fire Company #1's annual holiday visits. Last Sunday, he beamed with pride after a firefighter with the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company helped him hold and spray a fire hose at a target as part of the Company's 3rd Annual Fire Prevention Day

As we left the Oktoberfest event, a firefighter driving the tractor for hayrides pulled into the parking lot, depositing a group of happy families back at the festivities. I was surprised (though perhaps shouldn't have been) that I recognized him – our kids are in the same swim class.

To those people who bravely give their time to keep us safe – in the scary moments and the happy ones – thank you. ■

What's on the ballot this fall?

State of Connecticut Official Ballot	Redding Connectice	ıt	State Election	in	Novem	iber 5, 2024	Congressional District 4 Senatorial District 26 Assembly District 135		
VOTE ON THE QUESTION(S)		NO se Constitution General Assembl ballot?"					Sheet 1 of 1		
OFFICE PARTY	1 Presidential Electors for Vote for One	2 United States Senator Vote for One	3 Representative In Congress Vote for One	STATE SENATOR Vote for One	5 STATE REPRESENTATIVE VOTE FOR ONE	G REGISTRAR OF VOTERS VOTE FOR ONE			
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A HARRIS AND WALZ	CHRISTOPHER S.	3A Jim Himes	CECI MAHER	O 5A ANNE HUGHES	O 6A Lisa Bartro			
REPUBLICAN PARTY	TRUMP AND VANCE	28 MATTHEW M. COREY	MICHAEL GOLDSTEIN	C 4B KAMI EVANS	58 CHRISTOPHER PERITORE	6B Michele L. Meschi	Be sure to read the instructions		
WORKING FAMILIES PARTY	10	CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY	30	4C	5C Anne Hughes	6C	on the reverse side of this		
INDEPENDENT PARTY	10	20	3D BENJAMIN WESLEY	C 4D *KAMI EVANS	CHRISTOPHER PERITORE	60	ballot.		
GREEN PARTY	1E Stein and Ware	O 2E JUSTIN C. PAGLINO	3E	4E	5E	6E			
LIBERTARIAN PARTY	OLIVER AND TER MAAT	2F	3F	4F	5F	6F			
CHEAPER GAS GROCERIES PARTY	16	26 ROBERT FINLEY HYDE	3G	46	5G	6G			
PETITIONING CANDIBATE	1H Kennedy, Jr. And Shanahan	2Н	3Н	4H	5H	6H			
WRITE-IN VOTES	O 11	O 21	3 1	O 41	O 51	O 61			

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Letter to the Editor

We welcome Letters to the Editor. Please be clear, civil, and concise. E-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org with submissions.

To the Editor,

My neighbors and I are extremely upset at the removal of our political lawn signs. We do pay for those signs and I had to reorder a second one which disappeared the day after I installed it.

I do not believe they were removed by Redding residents, but it's still very disturbing. I wonder if other people encountered the same problem. ■

> Michele Levin Newtown Turnpike

To the Editor,

The Redding League of Women Voters is bringing to your attention an important referendum item about **Absentee Voting** that will appear on your ballots on November 5.

Nationwide there are efforts to facilitate voting through early in-person voting and encouraging mail in voting in advance of Election Day. Thanks to new legislation this year, early in-person voting is available to Redding residents at the Redding Community Center October 21 -31 and November 1 -3.

Absentee Voting is a different story. Connecticut is one of only eight states still requiring an excuse, such as being out of town, to be eligible to receive an absentee ballot. The League believes no one should need an "excuse" to vote in a way that's accessible and convenient for them.

The "No-Excuse" referendum item on this year's ballot will in the future allow for any voter to request an absentee ballot without having to present an "excuse."

At the top of your ballot on November 5 you'll see the following question: "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to allow each voter to vote by absentee ballot?" We urge all voters to vote YES on this referendum question. A NO vote, on the other hand, supports the retention of the current law requiring an excuse.

For information about early voting days/hours at the Community Center and other valuable information about the November 5 election go to townofreddingct.org/government/town-administration/registrar-voters.

> Kim O'Rielly President, Redding League of Women Voters

Legal Notices

Warning / Notice of State Election *November 5, 2024*

The Electors of the Town of Redding are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, for the following purposes:

- I. To cast their votes for Presidential and Vice-Presidential electors, United States Senator, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, and Registrar of Voters.
- II. To vote on the following question for the approval or disapproval of a proposed Amendment to the Constitution of Connecticut, a vote of "Yes" being a vote for approval, and a vote of "No" being a vote for disapproval:
 - 1. Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to allow each voter to vote by absentee ballot?

The full text of such proposed question with explanatory text, printed in accordance with Sec. §2-30a of the General Statutes, is available at the Town Clerk's Office for public distribution. The vote on the proposed question is taken pursuant to the Constitution of Connecticut.

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places on Election Day is as follows:

Election Day Voting District 135

Election Day Polling Place Redding Community Center

37 Lonetown Road

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

During the 14-day early voting period before said election, the hours and location of early voting will be as indicated below. Each early voting location will also offer Same-Day Registration (SDR).

> **Early Voting/SDR Location Early Voting Day: Hours** October 21-28 & 30, 2024: 10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

October 29 & 31, 2024: 8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. November 1-3, 2024:

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road

On Election Day, the hours and location of SDR will be as follows:

Early Voting Day: Hours November 5, 2024:

SDR Location Redding Community Center

37 Lonetown Road 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Dated at Redding, CT this 7th day of October, 2024. ■

Michele R. Grande, Redding Town Clerk

The Redding Zoning Board of Appeals has scheduled a public hearing via Zoom on Tuesday October 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for review and possible vote on the following applications.

1. Application #09-01-24 -12 Old Mailcoach Road (Assessor's Map and Lot #29 &-#19): Owner: Christina Calzolari:

Requesting a variance to reduce side yard setback from 40' feet to 13' feet for a Generator. Redding Zoning Regulations Section 4.6. Variance requested is 27' feet. Continuation from September 17, 2024.

2. Application #10-01-24 - 159 Sunset Hill Road (Assessor's Map and Lot #2 & 75): Owner: Michael & Mara Fleming: Requesting a variance to reduce side yard setback from 40' feet to 20' feet for a Shed. Redding Zoning Regulations Section 4.6. Variance requested is 20' feet. ■

Elizabeth Williams - Chairman Redding Zoning Board of Appeals

Redding Sentinel Ltd

News and Views of Redding, Connecticut

Publisher, Susan Clark Managing Editor, Jessie Wright Creative Director, Debora DeCarlo Rosa **Assistant Graphic Designer, Connor Feeney Marketing Operations Manager, Nicole DuBois**

Reporters:

Anne Young Albanese Pamela Brown **Donna Christopher**

Justin Reynolds Rob Sample Rocco Valluzzo

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Contact us at: editor@reddingsentinel.org

advertise@reddingsentinel.org subscribe@reddingsentinel.org publisher@reddingsentinel.org legalnotices@reddingsentinel.org

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

Some new CT laws which took effect October 1 By Gabby DeBenedictis

Nearly 60 new Connecticut laws have taken effect as of October 1, including legislation concerning line-of-duty deaths, home care worker protections, and police body cameras.

Connecticut laws are passed by the General Assembly during each year's legislative session or in a special session. They typically take effect on January 1, July 1, or October 1. Here are some of the dozens of laws that were implemented on October 1 this year.

Elder care reform

A slew of changes to elder care in Connecticut have taken effect after a broad bill reforming the industry won final passage earlier this year. Among the changes is a requirement that the Department of Social Services (DSS) and Department of Public Health (DPH) post prominent links to a federal website that uses a five-star rating system to compare nursing homes and a requirement that home care workers wear badges with their name and picture during client appointments.

Although most of the law goes into effect in October, some of the changes are not required to be implemented until months later. For example, the law also stipulates that beginning January 1, 2025, DSS must develop and maintain an online home care provider registry to help consumers find workers who have the correct language proficiency and skills.

Historically, people on the state's Medicaid program seeking care at home have received a binder with printed pages that in many cases contained outdated employee information.

The legislation follows reporting by CT Mirror that exposed gaps in Connecticut's elder care system — both in nursing homes and home care - and shined a light on worsening conditions in many nursing homes.

Expanded definition of "line-of-duty" deaths

Police, fire and EMS chiefs and administrative heads are now able to declare a "line-of-duty" death if an officer, firefighter, or EMS personnel on their staff dies within 24 hours of a shift that involved strenuous activities.

The expanded definition covers deaths from stroke, cardiac events, or a pulmonary embolism (a lung artery blockage caused by a blood clot). Chiefs can declare a death "in the line of duty" unless their town has an ordinance in effect on October 1 that authorizes a different person to make that determina-

Though the version of the bill that passed the Planning and Development Committee in April was designed to expand workers' compensation benefits by broadening the "line of duty" definition, the law that took effect on October 1 specifies that a chief's or administrative head's declaration "shall not be used as evidence for a workers' compensation claim."

Home care worker protections

Portions of a wide-ranging health care law took effect on October 1, including protections for home care workers that were prompted by the October 2023 murder of visiting nurse Joyce Grayson, who was killed while working at a halfway house in Willimantic.

The law requires home health aide agencies to collect certain client information upon intake - such as a history of violence against health care workers, domestic abuse, and any listing on a sex offender registry - and make it available to employees assigned to that client.

Agencies cannot deny a client services based solely on data collected or a refusal to provide it, the measure stipulates.

The law also mandates that home health agencies perform monthly safety assessments with direct care staff, implement health and safety training for home care workers, and report clients' verbal threats or abuse to the state.

PFAS phase-out

The first stages of a law that largely phases out the use of perand polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS or "forever chemicals," were implemented on October 1.

Beginning this month, the sale and use of soil products that include domestic sewage or wastewater sludge containing PFAS will be banned in Connecticut. The bill will ultimately lead to a broader PFAS ban, as it stipulates that beginning January 1, 2028, most products containing PFAS cannot be bought or sold in the state.

Police officers' body cameras

Currently, Connecticut police officers are required to activate body cameras during on-duty interactions with the public but can choose to deactivate the camera if they believe recording could interfere with an investigation.

The new law requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to update their guidelines on body-worn camera equipment to outline the circumstances under which an officer cannot stop recording. ■

> This article originally appeared in CT Mirror



Portofino Restaurant & Wine Bar Catering for Any Special Event We can host events including weddings for up to 90 guests! 213 Greenwood Ave. (Dolan Plaza) Bethel 203-797-8131

Driver makes it home just before car bursts into flames

By Anne Young Albanese

portofinorestaurantandwinebar.com



Photo by Gay Yankowski

Last month, there was a serious car fire on Lonetown Road. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

On Wednesday, September 25, Redding resident Gay Yankowski was driving home from an uneventful shopping trip. Driving past Putnam Park, she smelled an odor so faint that she wasn't positive it was there. As she continued to drive, she noticed a small amount of smoke coming through the air vents into the car. She made it to her driveway on Lonetown Road just as her brakes failed. Fortunately, the family had a large mulch pile

near the driveway to stop the car. That was when flames appeared between the windshield and the car's hood. She quickly exited the car and immediately called 911.

As firefighters approached the vehicle, they approached at an angle rather than straight toward the back or front of the car, Yankowski recalled. Yankowski was informed by the Redding Fire District #1 Fire Marshal, Joseph Paola, that an angle is the safest direction to approach a burning car.

After a preliminary investigation, Paola determined that the cause of the fire was likely a mouse nest. Fall is the time of year when mice are most prevalent, and they are searching for someplace warm.

Yankowski advised her neighbors, "Check your car for mouse nests, even if you park in your garage." She added, "If this happened on the highway, it would have been a different story. I hope to help even one person."

The Fire Department also informed Yankowski that what she did was correct. She added, "If you have a car on fire, get away. There are many things under pressure that can shoot out."

Fortunately, no one was injured in the frightening ordeal. The safest thing to do with a smoking car is to get away from it as quickly as possible and call for help. ■

open for submissions

REDDING LAND TRUST PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW submit up to 2 photos, through March 2025





The Redding Land Trust invites everyone to enter a Photography Show celebrating our stewardship (over 2,000 acres of treasured natural landscape) and our 60th anniversary!

The juried exhibition will hang at Mark Twain Library throughout the month of June 2025, with an opening reception on June 5.

Capture Redding's open space across seasons and times of day. The portal to submit photographs is OPEN NOW through March 29!

To view entry requirements, FAQs, key dates, and the submission portal, visit:

reddinglandtrust.org/photoshow

Third \$200 PRIZES: First \$500 Second \$300 Third \$100 Student Section (Ages 14-19): First \$300 Second \$200

Visit our website for more information about the Redding Land Trust: reddinglandtrust.org

Small Town, Big Outdoors

Boys & Girls Club hosts Pink Week Invitational Field hockey | By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

The BGCRE grades 2-4 field hockey team gets ready to take the field on Sunday, October 6 at the 1st annual Pink Week Field Hockey Tournament.

A picture-perfect fall weekend was the backdrop for the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton's (BGCRE) 1st Annual Pink Week Invitational Field Hockey Tournament on October 5 and 6 at Joel Barlow High School. The Club hosted the event to help highlight the importance of breast health during Breast Cancer Awareness Month and raise funds for the Yale Cancer Center and to support the mission of the BGCRE.

Players in grades 2-8 participated, with the tournament including the BGCRE youth field hockey program and teams visiting from Newtown, Norwalk, Ridgefield, Fairfield, and Darien.

"Our youth field hockey program is thriving, so this was a perfect moment to create an event that reaches our community, at all ages, to increase awareness about breast health and promote healthy life skills," said Christine Franklin, Chair of the BGCRE Board and Field Hockey Coach. "The youth in our field hockey program are the driving force behind this event and launching our first ever Pink Week specialty store to raise funds for this important cause."

The BGCRE engaged Dr. Tara Sanft, a breast medical oncologist and the Director of the Survivorship Clinic and Patient Experience Officer at Yale Cancer Center as their community Breast Health Ambassador for the event. Dr. Sanft, who lives in Easton, provided information to help educate the community about breast health during the month of October.

"Over 300,000 women were diagnosed with breast cancer last year, making it the most common cancer in women... If caught in the earliest stages, the survival rate is 99%," said Dr. Sanft. "Focusing on the physical, emotional and spiritual health of patients facing a breast cancer diagnosis can help make the experience less disruptive. Having a team of healthcare professionals who you trust and feel connected to is of the utmost importance." ■

> Apparel at the Pink Week specialty store to support the cause is available at teamlocker.squadlocker.com/ stores/bgc-redding-eastonfield-hockey-pink-week

Barlow wears down **Immaculate**

Girls soccer By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo Joel Barlow High's Sophia Boehlert, right, scored a goal in a girls varsity soccer game against Immaculate on Saturday, October 5. Barlow won

Having a deeper bench was enough to give the Joel Barlow High girls varsity soccer team the upper hand against Immaculate last weekend.

The Falcons could afford to make frequent substitutions throughout the game on Saturday, October 5. With their players wellrested, they soon wore down their opponent in an 8-1 win in Danbury.

"We went deep in our bench today, which was very nice," said Barlow Head Coach Ben Weiss, who gave the whole team playing time. "It was nice to get everybody on the field."

Barlow went on the offensive early, keeping most of the action in the Immaculate side of the field. A corner kick by Olivia Taylor, 11 minutes into the action, resulted in the Falcons' first goal, as Berkeley Hanson redirected the shot into the net to put her team up for good.

The Falcons had no shortage of scoring opportunities and took advantage of another with 17 minutes left in the half. A cross by Olivia Taylor from the right found Olivia DiBlasi at the far post for a shot that got past Immaculate keeper Hailee Biros for a 2-0 lead.

"It was beneficial, doing some of the stuff that we do literally on the training field," said Weiss, whose team put to use much of what it worked on in practice. "It's nice to have that happen."

A corner with 14 minutes left ultimately resulted in another Falcon goal. Before the Mustangs could clear the ball, Amelia Winter managed a shot that was saved by Biros, only to have Gabby Boehlert send in the rebound.

Only a minute-and-a-half later, Winter scored a goal of her own, this one from about 15 yards out to make it 4-0. She then got the assist on a goal by Cecelia Rahner, who scored on a shot that bounced off the crossbar and into the net for a 5-0 lead at halftime.

Barlow grew the lead when play resumed. Six minutes in, Agnes Davis took a pass from Emma Ogden and got past the defense to go one-one-one with Biros before sending the shot into the net.

The onslaught continued with 28:40 left when a feed by Allie Ogden found Sophia Boehlert, who went down the left side and sent a shot between Biros and the near post for a 7-0 lead. The latter went on to made three key saves before the Falcons broke through for one last goal, this one when Emma Odgen scored on a shot off the post with Winter getting her third assist.

Immaculate ended the shut-out with 5:40 left to play when Peyton Hernandez's shot sailed over the head and out of Barlow keeper Sophia Bianco's reach to finalize the score.

Barlow dominated the action, outshooting Immaculate 18-1. It also had a 9-0 advantage in corners.

Now 3-5-1, the Falcons host New Fairfield on Thursday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m. and are home against Weston on Tuesday, October 15 at 5:00 p.m. ■

Falcon defense shuts down Rebels

Football By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Scott Romano ran for 94 yards and one touchdown in a varsity football game against New Fairfield on Friday, October 4. Barlow won 24-0.

With its defense yielding barely any ground, the Joel Barlow High varsity football team would be in good shape when it visited New Fairfield on Friday, October 4.

The Falcons held their opponent to just eight net yards rushing. Offensively, they had much better luck in moving the ball, scoring three times for a 24-0 shutout.

"The line did a really good job, especially against the run," said Barlow Head Coach T.J. Cavaliere. "We were giving pressure with the four-man front. They were having to throw, but we had extra guys in the secondary because we didn't have to have an extra linebacker playing on the run."

Although Barlow held the Rebels to three and out on their first series, a fumble on the ensuing punt gave the hosts the ball back on their own 44-yard line. Despite

the second chance, the Rebels again had to punt, setting up what would be a 93-yard scoring drive by the Falcons.

Grinding out the yards, the Falcons advanced into New Fairfield territory, coming up big on a fourth-down conversion that got them to the Rebel 30. On the next play, Scott Romano went up the middle for the score and then ran in the two-point conversion to put the visitors up 8-0 with 1:17 left in the first quarter.

The Rebels had better luck in the air game for a while, as quarterback Mike Traynor completed a couple of passes on their next series that helped them reach the Barlow 12. At that point, the Falcon defense stiffened, and a sack on fourth down by Ben Noome gave them back the ball with 6:57 left in the half.

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"They had that bend-but-don'tbreak mentality," said Cavaliere. "We were down there a couple of times but held them out."

Barlow went right to work again on what would be another scoring drive, this one good for 79 yards. Runs by quarterback Jack Gilbert helped get them into New Fairfield territory before he capped things off with a four-yard sweep down the right side for the score. Braylon Bennett's twopoint conversion made it 16-0 before halftime.

Taking the second half kickoff, the Falcons reached the New Fairfield 35 before fumbling but soon got the ball back when the Rebels had to punt, getting good field position on their opponent's 44. Faced with a fourth-and-short situation, Barlow responded with Gilbert's 31-yard touchdown run and two-point conversion for a 24-0 lead with 1:17 left in the third quarter.

Soon having to punt again, the Rebels then recovered another fumble, this one on the Falcon 13 early in the fourth quarter. They were held to just two yards before Barlow took over on downs.

"I thought we did a good job but again we have to clean up the miscues," said Cavaliere. "Against better teams, that's going to cost us."

For the first time in the game, the Falcons were eventually forced to punt. A short kick gave the Rebels the ball on the Barlow 21, but they still had no luck moving ball the rest of the night.

Gilbert led Barlow in rushing with 180 yards and two touchdowns. Romano ran for 94 with one touchdown.

Barlow, now 2-2, resumes its schedule on Friday, October 18 when it hosts Stratford at 7:00 p.m.

Sports stats and schedules



Boys cross country

Results:

October 1:

Immaculate 23 / Joel Barlow 36, Stratford 26 / Joel Barlow 29 Record:

Joel Barlow 0-10 Next meet:

October 16 at 4:00 p.m. (away) at Bethel at SWC finals

Girls cross country

Results: October 1:

Joel Barlow 15 / Immaculate 50, Joel Barlow 15 / Stratford 50

Record: Joel Barlow 6-4

Next meets:

October 16 at 3:30 p.m. (away) at Bethel at SWC finals

Field hockey

Results: September 30:

Joel Barlow 5 / Bethel 1 October 5:

Norwalk 3 / Joel Barlow 1

Record: Joel Barlow 7-3-2

Next game:

October 16 at 5:30 p.m. (home)

versus New Milford

Boys soccer

Results:

October 1: Joel Barlow 4 / Notre Dame 2

Boys soccer (continued)

October 5: Joel Barlow 2 / Immaculate 0

Record:

Joel Barlow 5-4-2 Next games:

October 10 at 6:00 p.m. (away) versus New Fairfield

October 15 at 6:00 p.m. (away)

versus Weston

Girls swimming Results:

October 1:

Joel Barlow 93 / New Fairfield 72 Record:

Joel Barlow 4-2

Next meets:

October 11 at 4:00 p.m. (home) versus Brookfield

October 15 at 4:30 p.m. (away) versus Stratford

Girls volleyball Results:

October 1:

Joel Barlow 3 / Immaculate 0

October 4:

Joel Barlow 3 / Notre Dame 0 Record:

Joel Barlow 10-2

Next match:

October 15 at 4:00 p.m. (away)

versus Brookfield



Fire safety and family fun in Georgetown

Photos by Jessie Wright









The Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company hosted its annual Fire Prevention Day and Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 6. Families and neighbors enjoyed live music under sunny skies while exploring the Department's fleet of vehicles and equipment, participating in a stein holding competition, watching fire safety demonstrations, and trying Germaninspired brews and tasty treats.

PINION

Keep cell phones out of the classroom

By Lilly Whitmore

Within the past decade-and-ahalf, schools across the country have experienced a technological revolution. Gone are the days of chalkboards, rolling TVs, and computer labs. Classrooms are now outfitted with Smartboards, overhead projectors, and, in many cases, students are given personal Chromebooks with online access to anything and everything. Additionally, students now have their own cell phones. While this technological boom has been beneficial for many teachers, a new struggle has emerged: the increased usage of cell phones among students.

Responses to cell phone usage have varied across districts and states. Some schools, like those in Manchester, CT, are implementing cell phone holders to deter usage and promote classroom engagement. Other schools have taken a vaguer approach, leaving it up to teachers to create their own procedures. I'm a public-school teacher entering my fifth year of teaching at a new high school in Massachusetts that has its own unique approach. At my previous high school in Connecticut, there was no concrete plan or support for addressing distractions caused by cell phones. It was up to us to tackle the issue, which led to conflicts among students. Some teachers would have cell phone holders in their classrooms, some would encourage students to put the issue at all. These inconsistent approaches resulted in discord among both students and teachers, making it more difficult to maintain a unified front and dialogue. Students would argue with teachers and become increasingly frustrated when told to put their phones away, many claiming they needed their phones to contact their parents. I found dealing with cell phones to be an uphill battle that I would never truly win, and I believe that students' attention

spans greatly suffered as a result.

There are those who argue that teenagers should possess selfrestraint; however, it is essential to recognize that for many teenagers in this generation, they have always had access to instantaneous technology. They don't have to wait for the internet to load, hit a number multiple times to get a specific letter when texting, or experience the frustration of waiting for a friend to respond to an e-mail. With the tap of a screen, they can quickly play a video, send a text with an immediate response, and engage in a game with little to no load time. The exercise of patience has changed for them, significantly impacting their ability to stay focused and on task. In some cases, if they struggle with an assignment, they'll discreetly take out their phones to alleviate their frustrations and avoid doing the work.

At my new school, however, there is a universal approach: all students must place their phones in numbered holders. Each classroom has the same phone holder, and there is a clear expectation that all students need to put their phones inside. If a student does not place their phone in the holder and is caught, teachers are expected to take the phone for either the remainder of the period or for the rest of the day. There is clear support from both teachers and administrators, making it easier for teachers to hold students accountable. Within my first few weeks at this new school, I quickly noticed a significant change in student behavior. There were fewer fights, fewer students requesting to go to the bathroom, and students were actively engaged with classwork and more willing to ask questions when confused. The rate of work completion and assignment submission was much higher here than at my previous

It is clear that a serious conversation must take place among schools about handling cell phones. They are not going away, but having a unified approach can effectively address the issue. Our job as educators is to motivate, empower, and inspire our students. Cell phones can do none of those things, they can only distract and deter students. It is time to take action and make the classroom a

school teacher in Massachusetts

learning environment again. ■ Lilly Whitmore is a public high





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2024 Vote: What to Know

Wednesday, October 16 7:00 PM

This is a hybrid program: In-Person Mark Twain Library & virtually via Zoom

Get the facts about election security directly from the Registrar of Voters Office!

- Transparency is an important part of the Registrars' commitment to the community! Join us to learn how elections are administered and how we keep your vote secure! Topics will include:
- · Cleaning up the voter rolls
 - · How the tabulator works
- · Verifying voter eligibility & registration

The panel will answer questions from the public! You may submit your questions in advance by visiting www.townofreddingct.org/registrar-voters and click on Ask the Registrars!

Registration Required

Go to www.marktwainlibrary.org/events

Ballot question asks: Should it be easier to vote by absentee? / continued from page 1

2022, begins October 21.

A broad coalition that includes the Connecticut AFL-CIO, League of Women Voters, Common Cause, the Connecticut Citizen Action Group, the Connecticut Project and others are promoting passage.

Ed Hawthorne, the President of the AFL-CIO, read a list of deep blue and deep red states where absentee voting is universal.

"I think we can all agree political leanings in these states could not be more different," Hawthorne said. "But what all these states and all these voters understand is we need to make it as easy as possible for registered voters to participate in democracy and exercise their God-given right to cast a vote."

Absentee voting became a partisan issue when Donald J. Trump railed against states who encouraged absentee voting during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. A result was far more Democrats voted by absentee than Republicans.

This year, Trump changed his tune. "ABSENTEE VOTING, EARLY VOTING, AND ELEC-TION DAY VOTING ARE ALL GOOD OPTIONS. REPUBLI-CANS MUST MAKE A PLAN, REGISTER, AND VOTE!" Trump posted on social media in April.

The resolution placing the Connecticut question about universal absentee voting on the ballot passed on votes of 113-38 in the House and 26-8 in the Senate, with every Democrat and one in three House Republicans and one in four Senate Republicans in favor.

Voting no were the leaders of the House and Senate Republican minorities, Representative Vincent J. Candelora of North Branford and Senator Stephen Harding of Brookfield. But each said they were not opposed to the concept, but worried about how it might be implemented.

"My concern is more of a practical issue than policy one," said Candelora, who previously had voted for a similar resolution. "I don't have any confidence in the way early voting was done."

The legislature passed a law to allow 14 days of early voting, which he saw as too long and a burden to the cities and towns, which administer elections in Con-

"My vote was more a protest vote," Candelora said.

Harding said he, too, supported the concept, but he preferred to see detailed language outlining how universal absentee voting would be implemented if the constitution was amended.

"That gives me significant pause," Harding said. ■

> This article originally appeared in CT Mirror



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OBITUARIES

Peter Theodore Davis III

August 22, 1962 – September 23, 2024



Peter Theodore Davis III passed away on September 23, 2024 at the age of 62. Born on August 22, 1962 in Hartford to Peter and Natalie Davis. Peter grew up in Redding and left us as a beloved father, brother, and friend. He was the founder and owner of Davis Tree & Logging for over 30 dedicated years.

Throughout his life, Peter left a lasting impact on everyone he came into contact with. He will be profoundly missed by many, including his two children: Niki Davis, Peter Davis IV, daughter in-law Jordan, and his "pups" Tuukka and Bronson. He is also survived by his sister, Alison Chatham and her husband Batte and daughter Claire.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in his honor to Special Operations Wounded Warriors at sowwcharity.com. To offer online condolences, please visit boutonfuneralhome.com ■

Joy Murphy Painter March 16, 1930 - September 2, 2024



Joy Patricia Murphy Painter left this world on Monday, September 2 at the age of 94.

Joy was born March 16, 1930 in Norwalk to Marion Coates Murphy and Charles Arthur Murphy. She is predeceased by her brothers, Charles and Jack, and by her husbands, Everett and Drew. She is survived by her children, Patty, Scott, Jeff, Linda, and Missy, and her 11 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She was a dedicated mother and wife who loved her children, her extended family, and close friends.

Joy and Drew loved Redding, a true home town where her children would spend their formative years and all graduate from Joel Barlow High School. They were very involved in the preservation of the open spaces of Redding, such as the Steichen property. Among her passions were horses and horsemanship. She was the ultimate Lonetown Pony Club Mom who, along with her dear friend Barbara, carted ponies and kids to countless Pony Club Rallies and horse shows. Joy was always game for a late night in the barn, braiding, bathing, or holding a pony or horse for the vet or

farrier. She was an avid gardener who happily spent hours landscaping her property. She loved all the dogs and cats who made their homes with her over the years and hosted fabulous and fun dinner parties for her friends. She had a keen eye for decorating and especially loved the holidays and anytime when she could put her creative flair on display.

Joy and her family made their homes first in Norwalk, then Ridgefield, and finally to Redding, a town she loved the most where the quiet country lifestyle suited her perfectly.

She fully embraced life and always exhibited remarkable strength, resilience, and an extraordinary spirit during her 94 years. Her presence will be greatly missed by all those who loved and knew her.

Home on the Grange Agricultural Fair returns October 20



Photo by Jessie Wright

The Redding Grange's 3rd Annual Agricultural Fair will take place on October 20 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at 399 Newtown Turnpike, offering fun, entertainment, and education for the whole family. There is a suggested donation of \$2 per adult or \$5 per fam-

"The Redding Grange Agricultural Fair has been an historical event in Redding for generations. It is a thrill to have been able to bring it back in a revitalized way for generations to come," said

Redding Grange President Elizabeth Jensen.

According to John Talley, a Grange volunteer and Co-chair of the event, the Fair has become a town favorite in its short time due to its organic and grassroots feel. "I appreciate its authentic nature," he said. "I was inspired to volunteer more after the first year attending, and I am delighted to be co-chairing a second year with Karen Staff. It feels good to take a small part in creating something the community has come to love."

The atmosphere at the Fair recalls old-time agricultural fairs of yesteryear. "Our historic hall was built in 1914, and some of it is original to that era," said Jensen. When you walk into the Grange Hall, Talley said visitors will be greeted by the wonderful smells of fresh popcorn, mulled cider, baked goods, and the sound of laughter. "And if you're lucky, a rooster crowing in the background," he

The Fair is the Grange's biggest fundraiser of the year. "The purpose of the Fair is to bring community together while raising funds to keep the oil tank filled and the lights on for the rest of the year. This is all encompassing into our mission statement to 'strengthen our town by gathering its individuals, families, and youth in order to promote agriculture, community, service, health, and to foster fellowship and well-being'," Talley said. Jensen also noted that sponsorships are still available and play a key role in the success of the event.

Participants can enter to win ribbons in 13 fun categories, including needlework; photography (Redding and adjacent towns subject matter); In a Pickle (anything pickled); Pretty pumpkins, gorgeous gourds and squash; Jam

On; The Greatest Thing Since Sliced Bread; Come Out of the Woodworking; Locally Produced Honey; Locally Produced Maple Syrup; Seasonal Flower Arrangement; Most Impressive Produce; Finest Feathered Fowl Friend (any farmyard birds); and Home(made) on the Grange Baked Goods. Pre-registration for non-perishable items only is Friday, October 18, from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 19 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Additional entry registration is the day of the event from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Judging begins promptly at 11:00 a.m.

In just a few short years, the Agricultural Fair has become a special town event. "I enjoy listening to all the chatter, friends seeing friends, or meeting for the first time and realizing they share something in common; whether that be the love of chickens, gardening, baking, photography, etc. I also love seeing all the entries. We have some amazingly talented and unique folks in Redding!" said Talley.

Talley appreciates how the Fair, along with the Grange's other programs, helps to forge a community spirit. "The Grange has come up with unique programming throughout the year to attract all sorts of community members in

a very special setting. I think it's important to know we are always coming up with ways to give back to our local and surrounding communities with this as our hub," he said, adding, "I enjoy helping to provide an all- inclusive experience for those that want to learn more, participate, show their unique talent, or their willingness to step in and volunteer. We don't have children, so this has been an amazing way to make new connections in the community. Whether you've lived here for generations or just a short while, there is something for everyone and we hope to expand that as we grow."

Talley encourages the community to come for a fun and entertaining afternoon. "I sure hope people will find some commonality by attending that will inspire them to join the Grange to help further our mission," he said. "Come support a good cause on what we hope to be a beautiful autumn day. It's the epitome of a true grass roots New England event."

Jensen agrees. "For sure, no other fairs have more town spirit!"

For more information, visit reddinggrange.org, facebook.com/ GrangeReddingCT or @reddinggrange15 on Instagram

Tree cutting along transmission lines moves quickly through town / continued from page 1

in its easements in January near the Peaceable Street transmission line, several residents and town officials were alarmed at the extent of the clearing. This brought Eversource representatives to present details of the reliability program to the Board of Selectmen at a January 22 special meeting.

First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton said she and other Town officials have consulted with legal counsel, met with residents, and kept a dialogue with Eversource about what recourse the Town might have in reducing the extent

of the clearing. Ultimately, the company has the right to cut down whatever it wants or needs to within its easement.

"This is an easement, they have a right to do this clearing, and that's what they are doing," Pemberton said. "We have done everything that was possible. In the past, we have hired attorneys and we have lost. In this case, we consulted and here's where we are. It is an unfortunate fact that we have a transmission line right-of-way smack through some of our most scenic areas."

Wetlands areas, she noted, were tagged with pink tags before cutting work began. "They were sensitive to the wetlands and did their best to go around them," said Pem-

berton. So far, the work has progressed up from Umpawaug Road and Granite Ridge Road over to the substation off Archers Lane, according to Pemberton. They've "leapfrogged" the portion of the easement from Archers Lane down to Route 53 and are now working on the east side of Route 53, just above Wyton's property.

"They did say it would be a wide cut," Pemberton said. "That will continue up through Gallows Hill and up through Plumtrees Road in Bethel."

Some of the skipped portion between Archers Lane and Route 53 requires a different permitting process before cutting can begin, because parts of the land are Centennial Watershed State Forest.

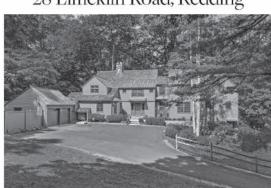
We have not started vegetation management work within the transmission right-of-way in some areas of Redding yet, such as the Saugatuck Falls area, because of

the required permitting by the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and State of CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)," confirmed Paduano. "Once we receive necessary permits, we'll begin this critical maintenance, and all our work will be completed in accordance with the permit guidelines."

So, for now, some of the trees near Wyton's home will stay. But they likely won't be there for long.

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Police Blotter

Multiple traffic incidents on narrow roads Police activity September 16 - 29

By Donna Christopher

Officers assisted in 20 medical and four fire emergencies and processed one firearms permit.

Traffic

Officers assisted four disabled motorists during the period. There were 17 motor vehicle stops on town and state roads. No further details were made available.

On September 17, on Simpaug Turnpike, two vehicles driving in opposite directions on a narrow portion of the road that runs along the Metro-North train tracks passed each other and the exterior mirrors struck. There were no in-

On September 22, on Picketts Ridge Road, a driver lost control of the vehicle while rounding a curve in the roadway; the driver continued then struck a tree. There were minor injuries.

On September 22, on Pine Tree Road, two vehicles were passing each other on a narrow section of the road and clipped exterior mirrors. One of the vehicles continued and drove away. There were no injuries.

On September 25, on Mountain Road, a driver traveling southbound got distracted, and lost control, then struck two guard rails in the southbound shoulder of the roadway. The driver was issued

a ticket for driving without a license and failure to drive right of the center line. There were minor injuries.

On September 26, on Old Redding Road, a driver was traveling westbound and another driver was traveling eastbound when both were rounding a sharp curve. The first driver crossed over the center line, striking the second vehicle as they passed by each other. The driver was issued a warning for failure to drive to the right of the center line. There were no injuries.

On September 26, on Redding Road, there was a two-vehicle accident on a sharp curve when a driver lost control on the wet road during a heavy rainstorm, and then struck a second vehicle. There were no injuries.

On September 27, on Great Pasture Road, a two-vehicle accident occurred on a sharp curve when a vehicle crossed over the center line due to the road being wet from a heavy rainstorm, then struck a second vehicle. There were no injuries. The first driver was issued a warning for failure to drive right of the center line.

On September 29, on Limekiln Road, there was a two-vehicle accident on a sharp curve when a driver crossed the center line and struck a second vehicle

as it passed. The first driver was issued a ticket for driving without a license and a warning for failure to drive right of the center lane. There were no injuries.

Vandalism and Theft

On September 18, a mailbox was reported damaged overnight on Poverty Hollow Road.

On September 23, someone reported a tire rim valued at \$500 was stolen from the back of his pickup truck parked in his driveway on Portland Avenue.

On September 24, someone reported that a person entered his unlocked vehicle in the business area of Main Street in Georgetown and went through the center console and glove box. No items were reported missing at the time of this release.

Paperless Arrest Warrant Network

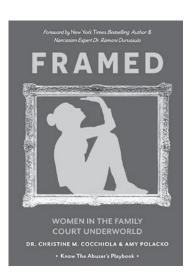
Danbury. ■

On September 24, Fausto Cadmilema-Dutan, 53, of Shelter Rock Road in Danbury, turned himself in after being advised there were numerous outstanding warrants for him. He faces charges of three counts of Failure to Appear, Redding & Stamford. A Court Date was set for September 25, 2024 in

Could you spot the red flags of abuse?

Workshop and talk for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Anne Young Albanese



With October recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Ridgefield Library, Center for Empowerment and Education, and Books on the Common will present an event to educate community members on identifying domestic abusers. Taking place on Tuesday, October 29 at 7:00 p.m., "The Abuser's Playbook Workshop and Author Talk" will feature Amy Polacko, a divorce coach and journalist, and Dr. Christine M. Cocchiola, a world-renowned coercive control expert. Both women are experts on domestic abuse and co-wrote FRAMED: Women in the Family Court Underworld.

According to Polacko and Cocchiola, abusers tend to follow the same game plan. This

program will cover a series of red flags that can help people recognize abusers early in the relationship. It will also educate women, men, and teens on recognizing these red flags from the start and avoiding becoming victims.

According to Polacko, "We hope that mothers attend this workshop and bring their daughters too - since most women simply are not taught how to spot abusers." Polacko added, "My divorce coaching clients span the country, but I have more than you might expect from our wonderful town, and I can tell you that women are financially, emotionally, and physically devastated from domestic abuse. When abusers divorce, they have a playbook in court."

"Coercive control foundation of all abuse, and it's crucial that everyone understands how it manifests itself," said Cocchiola, who speaks internationally on this topic. "This book will validate the experiences of so many women and mothers suffering due to institutional betrayal - which means the family court becomes an extension of the abuser, further exerting coercive control over the victim."

The event will take place at the Ridgefield Library at 472 Main Street in Ridgefield. Redding residents are welcome to attend. ■

Learn more and register at ridgefieldlibrary.librarymarket.com or call (203) 438-2282

Real Estate

September 2024 real estate report A look at trends in the local housing market

By Bill Whitehead and John Talley

In September, buyers appeared to let their foot off the accelerator as the summer selling season came to a close with seven properties sold, representing a six-sale decrease from September 2023. Still, the average sale price of homes in Redding hovers just above \$1,000,000, a 14% increase over 2023.

Inventories continue their gradual increase to the highest level for 2024 at 32 properties for sale with 17 properties under contract. The price-per-square foot of houses sold decreased by four percent year-over-year to \$336 as of September. It is probably too early to know the impact of the recent decrease in mortgage rates and if it will entice more sellers to list their properties and continue the increase in the stock of available houses for sale.

Bill Whitehead and John Talley are REALTORS® with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

Current Inventory		Homes Sold		Average Days on Market		Average List Price		Average Sale Price		Percent Sale Price >/< List Price		Average Price/SqFt	
Δs of	September	2024	September	2024	September	2024	September	2024	September	2024	September	2024	
32	7	80	69	99	\$856,700	\$1,076,969	\$841,807	\$1,071,452	-2%	-1%	\$295	\$336	
32	16	183	98	94	\$908,250	\$1,129,045	\$881,885	\$1,158,381	-3%	3%	\$417	\$406	
22	9	102	77	86	\$2,003,778	\$1,444,138	\$2,092,273	\$1,499,795	4%	4%	\$443	\$403	
39	13	179	76	88	\$1,300,000	\$1,262,706	\$1,322,538	\$1,333,027	2%	6%	\$360	\$417	
14	4	61	60	104	\$808,250	\$1,021,873	\$818,000	\$1,031,149	1%	1%	\$283	\$302	
18	15	105	75	92	\$538,893	\$526,181	\$538,988	\$531,537	0%	1%	\$254	\$270	
63	21	204	65	78	\$633,876	\$690,616	\$637,087	\$696,959	1%	1%	\$272	\$288	
31	12	131	74	92	\$1,007,107	\$1,021,647	\$1,018,940	\$1,046,043	0%	2%	\$331	\$346	
	As of 10/6/24 32 32 22 39 14 18 63	Inventory	Inventory As of 10/6/24 September 2024 32 7 80 32 16 183 22 9 102 39 13 179 14 4 61 18 15 105 63 21 204	Inventory As of 10/6/24 September 2024 September 32 7 80 69 32 16 183 98 22 9 102 77 39 13 179 76 14 4 61 60 18 15 105 75 63 21 204 65	Inventory As of 10/6/24 September 2024 September 2024 32 7 80 69 99 32 16 183 98 94 22 9 102 77 86 39 13 179 76 88 14 4 61 60 104 18 15 105 75 92 63 21 204 65 78	Inventory As of 10/6/24 September 2024 September 2024 September 32 7 80 69 99 \$856,700 32 16 183 98 94 \$908,250 22 9 102 77 86 \$2,003,778 39 13 179 76 88 \$1,300,000 14 4 61 60 104 \$808,250 18 15 105 75 92 \$538,893 63 21 204 65 78 \$633,876	Inventory As of 10/6/24 September 2024 September 2024 September 2024 32 7 80 69 99 \$856,700 \$1,076,969 32 16 183 98 94 \$908,250 \$1,129,045 22 9 102 77 86 \$2,003,778 \$1,444,138 39 13 179 76 88 \$1,300,000 \$1,262,706 14 4 61 60 104 \$808,250 \$1,021,873 18 15 105 75 92 \$538,893 \$526,181 63 21 204 65 78 \$633,876 \$690,616	Inventory As of 10/6/24 September 2024 Septe	Inventory As of 10/6/24 September 2024 September 2024 September 2024 September 2024 32 7 80 69 99 \$856,700 \$1,076,969 \$841,807 \$1,071,452 32 16 183 98 94 \$908,250 \$1,129,045 \$881,885 \$1,158,381 22 9 102 77 86 \$2,003,778 \$1,444,138 \$2,092,273 \$1,499,795 39 13 179 76 88 \$1,300,000 \$1,262,706 \$1,322,538 \$1,333,027 14 4 61 60 104 \$808,250 \$1,021,873 \$818,000 \$1,031,149 18 15 105 75 92 \$538,893 \$526,181 \$538,988 \$531,537 63 21 204 65 78 \$633,876 \$690,616 \$637,087 \$696,959	As of 10/6/24 September 2024 September 2024<	As of 10/6/24 September 2024 September 2024 September 2024 September 2024 September 2024 September 2024 32 7 80 69 99 \$856,700 \$1,076,969 \$841,807 \$1,071,452 -2% -1% 32 16 183 98 94 \$908,250 \$1,129,045 \$881,885 \$1,158,381 -3% 3% 22 9 102 77 86 \$2,003,778 \$1,444,138 \$2,092,273 \$1,499,795 4% 4% 39 13 179 76 88 \$1,300,000 \$1,262,706 \$1,322,538 \$1,333,027 2% 6% 14 4 61 60 104 \$808,250 \$1,021,873 \$818,000 \$1,031,149 1% 1% 18 15 105 75 92 \$538,893 \$526,181 \$538,988 \$531,537 0% 1% 63 21 204 65	As of 10/6/24 September 2024 September 2024<	

REDDING SOLD - September	Sale Price	List Price	%/ List Price	Price/Sqft	Days on Market	
66 Great Pasture Rd	\$656,650	\$659,000	0%	\$291	78	
12 Mine Hill Rd	\$675,000	\$725,000	-7%	\$288	76	
11 John Applegate Rd	\$680,000	\$695,000	-2%	\$202	106	
51 Deacon Abbott Rd	\$731,000	\$689,000	6%	\$329	54	
58 Pocahontas Rd	\$900,000	\$899,000	0%	\$383	27	
18 Limekiln Rd	\$1,075,000	\$1,100,000	-2%	\$291	58	
32 Blueberry Hill Rd	\$1,175,000	\$1,229,900	-4%	\$278	84	
Average	\$841.807	\$856,700	-2%	\$295	69	

THE CHILD CO. CO. CO. CO.		***		NOTE TO STATE OF THE PROPERTY	No.	4	
REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft	Days on Market	REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft	Days on Marke
457 Black Rock Tpke	\$375,000	\$274	25	62 High Ridge Rd	\$1,349,000	\$250	3
380 Newtown Tpke	\$495,000	\$465	18	47 Chestnut Woods Rd	\$1,395,000	\$462	16
376 Newtown Tpke	\$495,000	\$491	18	3 Dan Beard Ln	\$1,400,000	\$283	2
374 Newtown Tpke	\$625,000	\$331	18	710 Redding Rd	\$1,575,000	\$328	53
649 Redding Rd	\$640,000	\$354	3	99 Cross Hwy	\$1,659,000	\$247	1
32 Mountain Rd	\$709,000	\$506	66	61 Marchant Rd	\$1,695,000	\$452	31
65 Wayside Ln	\$734,900	\$322	72	34 Lonetown Rd	\$1,695,000	\$306	126
45 Great Pasture Rd	\$899,000	\$226	72	279 Black Rock Tpke	\$1,750,000	\$389	80
11 Gallows Hill Rd Ext	\$949,000	\$326	44	65 Umpawaug Rd	\$1,895,000	\$474	788
25 Farview Farm Rd	\$995,000	\$169	10	273 Newtown Tpke	\$1,945,000	\$329	109
59 Sidecut Rd	\$1,049,000	\$364	31	207 Poverty Hollow Rd	\$2,150,000	\$360	27
145 Mountain Rd	\$1,050,000	\$370	40	34 Fox Run Rd	\$2,150,000	\$274	54
17 Mountainview Dr	\$1,075,000	\$365	50	4 Longwood Dr	\$2,995,000	\$425	83
649 Redding Rd	\$1,165,000	\$644	3	241 Black Rock Tpke	\$6,250,000	\$420	502
99 Old Stagecoach Rd	\$1,195,000	\$347	76	229 Umpawaug Rd	\$8,500,000	\$1,265	857
961 N. Park Avenue Ext	\$1,290,000	\$329	70				
28 Limekiln Rd	\$1,295,000	\$358	74	Average	\$1,669,966	\$391	107

Data continues on right side of table

Business Spotlight

A European-style patisserie just next door

Olive and Whisk | By Justin Reynolds



In the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic, Katie Haynes had a lot of time to rethink her career path. Like many others, she ultimately decided to switch careers and pivot into something she was truly passionate about:

"I spent a lot of time during the lockdown experimenting and learning everything I could about the art of baking," Haynes said. "I started baking things for friends and family and really putting time into making everything special."

The care and attention Haynes put into those early bakes "to make them not only really yummy but also beautiful" got people's attention. From there, she began getting requests for custom desserts, so she started to really focus on refining her craft and developing recipes she was passionate about and, voilà, Olive and Whisk Bakery was born.

"Olive and Whisk Bakery is a boutique home bakery that produces European-inspired bakes for individuals and events," said Haynes. "My focus is on creating the perfect blend of visually stunning and uniquely delicious bakes by combining the highest quality ingredients with bespoke and elegant designs."

Haynes has been passionate about baking from an early age. Growing up, she learned from her mom in their home kitchen. As an adult, she feels like she's developed a style that's truly her

"I've been having a lot of fun turning into more elevated desserts," she said.

Originally from San Diego, Haynes and her husband have been living in Ridgefield for about

"My husband and I moved around a fair bit over the past several years when he was serving as a captain in the Marine Corps," she said. "It's been so special to be able to come back to Ridgefield where he grew up and plant some roots."

With Olive and Whisk, Haynes is most excited about the opportunity to "bring European-style patisserie into people's homes."

"I really appreciate the complexity and care behind French pastry – it's really the intersection of an art and a science," Haynes continued. "It's a special thing to be able to make that accessible



Photos courtesy of Olive and Whisk

to people in a way they might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience."

In addition to a variety of cakes and cookies. Olive and Whisk also sells breads, scones, and other specialty confections.

"I make giant, six-ounce chocolate chip cookies that are really popular," she said. "They are the perfect blend of a soft center and crispy edges that I really love. My French macarons are also always a hit - especially the fun seasonal flavors that I've offered around the holidays. Madeleines are pretty popular, too."

After placing an order online, customers coordinate with Haynes on any additional details, and then pick up the order directly from her in the center of Ridgefield.

"Everything I make is to order," Haynes said. "I'd like to think that all my desserts are special requests, but I do take custom orders. I'm always very up front with my customers about what's possible within the scope of my licensing. Health and safety are of the utmost importance, so that always comes first." ■

> Learn more at oliveandwhisk.com

Priya Desai named **New Pond Farm's next** Executive Director | By Jessie Wright



Priya Desai and Ann Taylor

Last week, New Pond Farm Education Center announced that Board member Priya Desai would be stepping into a new role as Executive Director following Ann Taylor's retirement in November. The Board of Directors conducted a multi-month search for the organization's next leader, ultimately interviewing thirteen candidates and unanimously approving Desai.

Desai and her family moved to Redding nine years ago, and quickly found New Pond Farm to be a haven for outdoor exploration, children's programming, and community building. It became even more important during the pandemic, when she brought her two young children, now 10 and seven, there often for outdoor activities in between "Zoom school" sessions.

She joined the non-profit's Board of Directors two-and-half years ago and has since been delighted at the dedication of those leading the organization and the culture of kindness there.

"I had been to the Farm so many times, but meeting that Board they are just amazing," Desai said. "They are such friendly people, and they work so hard. And I had never seen a board in all my career that is so kind."

Desai brings several decades of non-profit leadership experience to her new role, primarily at the intersection of public health and safe surgery. She started at the

Harvard School of Public Health and held numerous roles in her thirteen years at Smile Train, a non-profit that empowers local medical professionals to provide comprehensive and sustainable cleft care to 1.5 million children in more than 90 countries. She is eager to bring her fundraising, marketing, board-management, and program development experience to her leadership of New Pond Farm.

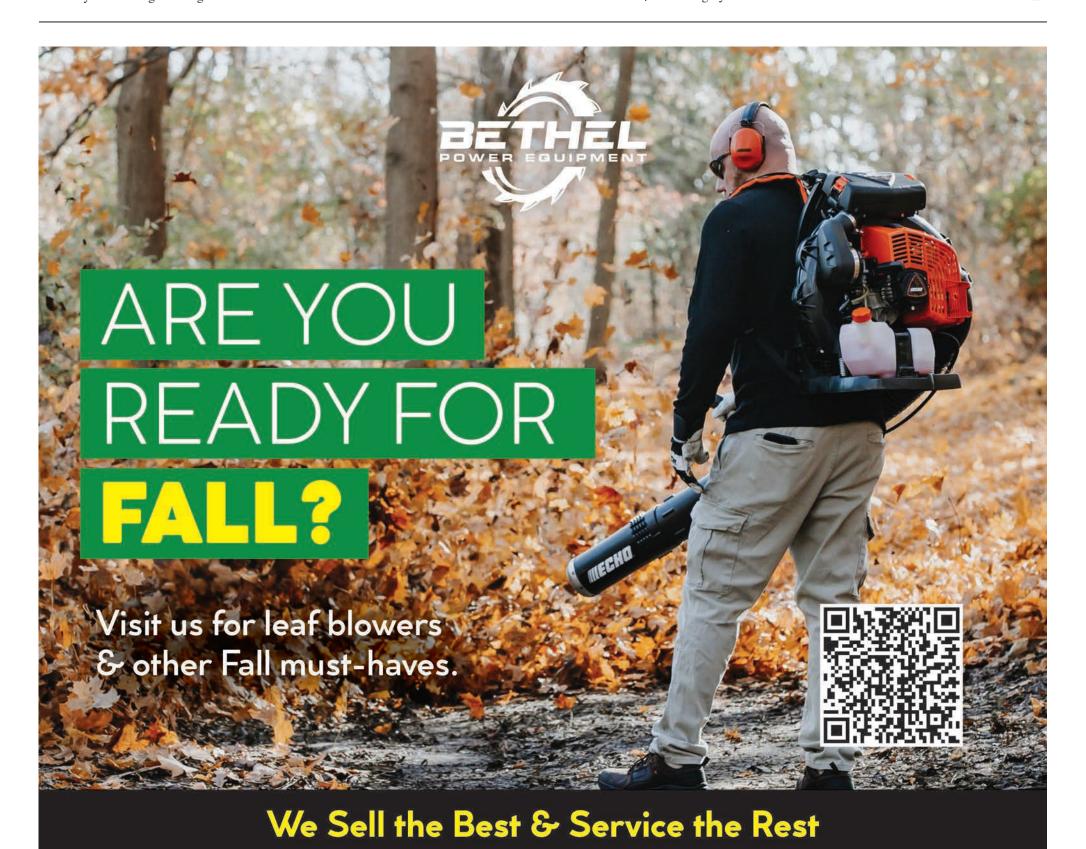
Desai sees her strategic priorities ahead to include maintaining the Farm's excellent educational programming while also working to expand offerings for older children, young parents, and members of surrounding communities.

"The pandemic changed a lot of things, and especially the makeup of Redding - I'm seeing so many new faces and so many new families. I didn't really know all the resources here and how to build community, because Redding can be rural... but it's such a great community of wonderful people and I really credit the Farm with where I met some of my best friends," she said.

"Next year will mark the 40th anniversary of The Education Center, and I am so grateful that Priya will be working with our staff and board," said Taylor, who has led the organization for 37 years. "Together they will make an unbeatable team, and I can't wait to see how the next exciting chapter will unfold."

Desai will be attending New Pond Farm's Wetlands Project Ribbon Cutting and Harvest Festival Science and Nature Day on Saturday, October 19 from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. She looks forward to introducing herself to community members amongst the nature that makes New Pond Farm

"The land really does connect us all, and that's the main thing that I love about the Farm," Desai said. "We live in a really polarized world – and it's such a unifier." ■



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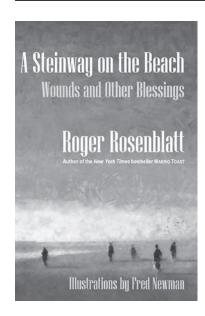
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BOOK REVIEW

A Steinway on the Beach Wounds and Other Blessings

By Roger Rosenblatt, with illustrations by Fred Newman

San Diego State University Press / 91 pages / \$20



Roger Rosenblatt, now in his 80s, has packed a world of experiences into his long life, and he draws upon them - and then some - in this slim book, which is illustrated by Redding resident Fred Newman.

Not quite memoir, not quite novel, neither all fact nor all fiction, A Steinway on the Beach is a rumination on the subtitle Wounds and Other Blessings. The Persian poet and Sufi mystic Rumi wrote, "The wound is the place where light enters you." Rosenblatt ponders the meaning of this short verse, approaching it from different angles to help himself and the reader understand the thought.

But first, the piano. A Steinway model O washes up on the beach in Branford, Connecticut. Rosenblatt wonders, why? Was it a group of drunken lads on a superyacht who thought it would be fun to push the piano overboard? Was it a husband angry at his concert pianist wife over her infidelities who had it dragged out to sea and sunk? Or perhaps a young child piano prodigy died, and his grieving parents had the piano dumped at sea. The writer's mind infects our imagination and off we

Turning to wondering about

wounds and their impact, both physical and emotional, Rosenblatt gives us short thoughts - just prompts in some cases - and little stories. To quote just part of one

"At the University of Iowa, at the beginning of the second quarter of every home football game, the crowd, along with the players and coaches for both teams, stands and faces the end of the stadium and waves. They are waving to the children in the window of the Children's Hospital just outside the stadium, who are waving back. Who thought up such a thing?"

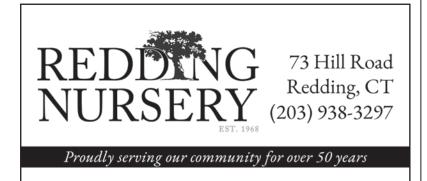
Many of the stories are memories from his work as a reporter and columnist over the years. We learn about children of war (the title of one of his books) and interviewing Ronald Reagan.

He reminds us about the cyclical nature of things, sea turtles and purple martins, terrapins and horseshoe crabs. There is poetry in his words. And art as well. We've all been told that "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger" and that a broken bone heals and becomes stronger. This may be "without evidence" Rosenblatt admits, but describes the Japanese art of kintsugi where mends in broken pottery are made with silver or gold.

Interspersed throughout the book are luminous full-page watercolor and gouache paintings by Newman. They are evocative of the author's words but not direct illustrations.

Together, the words and pictures present the reader with opportunities on almost every page to put the book down and think about what you've just read and seen. Only 91 pages, yet the diversions could lead you to take days to finish this lovely collaboration between two old friends

Review by Susan Clark



LIBRARY CORNER

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Yesterday while fiddling around the house, my two-year-old found a DVD. "What is dis?" she asked, in her charming little toddler voice. I had to chuckle as I have finally reached the age where my children don't recognize the technology of

It's no surprise that DVDs and CDs are becoming obsolete. With the popularity of home streaming services, fewer and fewer folks are coming to the Library to borrow this part of our collection. In fact, last year circulation was down 16% for books on CD and DVDs. Nowadays, cars no longer even come with CD players, and instead rely on Bluetooth to stream music or radio from the driver's mobile

device. Even if I wanted to borrow a DVD, I would have nowhere to play it, as I don't own a DVD player or a home computer.

So how is the Library adapting to this change in collection use? Over time, we have reinvested the funds that we would have spent on DVDs or CDs into the cost of our Hoopla streaming service, which offers streaming movies, television, and music. Hoopla continues to be popular, and you don't even need to physically visit the Library to participate; all you need is your phone and library card number.

At the beginning of this month, we also launched a service called Kanopy. This on-demand streaming video platform offers films, TV shows, educational videos, and documentaries. It's completely free for the user – the Library pays on a "pay-per-use" basis, similar to Hoopla. Feedback about the app has been incredibly positive so far. I also love that there is a "Kanopy Kids" section that has a ton of educational videos and read-along storybooks, so I don't have to feel guilty about giving my kids screen time. Even though my two-yearold doesn't know what a DVD is, she definitely knows how to choose a video she wants to watch in a streaming app... kids these days! ■

> Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

Good books for good readers

Memory lane: It was 1978, and I was living in New York City working in trade book publishing for Simon & Schuster. A new novel was about to be published by another publisher, William Morrow. As a new marketing idea, they decided to send out galleys (I think they call them "reader's copies" now) to pretty much everyone in the trade publishing business; this has now become standard practice, but it was a novel idea then. I received by

advance galley copy The World

According to Garp by John Irving, went home, and proceeded to spend most of the night reading.

There are now very few people who don't know about this book, but I still meet many who have really never read it. It follows the life of T.S. Garp, a man born out of wedlock to Jenny Fields, a feminist leader, well before her time, who simply chooses to live her life without men.

Garp's life journey through love and tragedy and his desire to live an extraordinary life introduces all of us, fortunately, to a cast of characters like no other. Garp's wife Helen, the strong, intelligent woman who supports him but eventually has an affair, leading to the greatest tragedy of the book. Ellen James, who inspires the group of women called the Ellen Jamesians who never speak; Roberta Muldoon, a former NFL tight-end and transgender woman... the list goes on and on with unforgettable characters who are controversial but charming and somewhat life-changing. ■

Nod to the pod

Dead Eyes: Episode 01 - "He's Having Second Thoughts"

By Amy Maloof

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

In search of non-political content (to ease my overwhelmed nervous system), I recently stumbled across the science podcast "Ologies with Alie Ward." Each week, the delightful host interviews a new expert – or ologist – on a different subject. The many topics she's covered have included procyonology (raccoons), (fungi), mycology horology (timepieces), and philematology (kissing). Alie has a great radio voice that projects both confidence and curiosity, a lovely combo, and acts as proxy for the listener, asking the questions she knows we'd ask if we were there. Alie has the funniest whispered asides and as her Instagram profile says, "I'm also your dad" - which makes both no sense and total sense once you

start listening to her.

This week I scrolled back into the archives a bit and found "Puffinology" featuring researcher and Canadian graduate student, Jill Taylor. Observing puffins (for hours and hours in remote locations with no running water) is this woman's life, and she's got the facts and stories to prove it. Did you know the orange part of the puffin's beak falls off after mating season, leading the first people to study puffins to believe the orangebilled and non-orange-billed puffins were two different species? Or that puffins are monogamous, hanging with the same mate for up to 25 years? And that though a very soft and cute little guy, their bites can leave scars? Enough rote puffin facts I suppose, but listening to engaging science stuff is so fun, and especially from someone

that's passionate and down-toearth. Learning something new that serves no real purpose to my life, but creates that feeling of whoa – Earth is neat? My unpaid side hustle.

Even if you don't check out this quirky little program (you must hate puffins), I definitely recommend taking regular breaks from the news cycle in whatever form you usually imbibe it. I just took my mom, a lightly-radicalized-by-You-Tube ball of nerves, on a drive for ice cream cones and forced her to listen to neutral content while we rode. I don't think I imagined her shoulders dropping a couple inches.

Redding's Big Outdoors: Three group outings to try this month Explore with New Pond Farm and Redding Land Trust / continued from page 1

be dedicating the loop trail there in memory of Eugene Connolly (1931-2024), who was a longtime Redding Land Trust Trustee and, with Constance Pharr Brereton, led the campaign to purchase and protect these nine acres at the edge of Devil's Den.

The group will be meeting at 12:30 p.m. for a 1:00 p.m. hike up to the Great Ledge - the roundtrip will be roughly 1.3 miles, and footwear that can handle some

mud is recommended. The views are always incredible but should be particularly stunning with the autumn foliage near peak. Parking is available at a small gravel lot between 68 and 70 Dayton Road; more parking is available on the shoulder 500 feet down Dayton Road, by the intersection with Tudor Road.

Evening Woodland Walk Friday, October 25

4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. 60-minute guided walks will leave every 30 minutes

These hour-long evening walks on October 25 at New Pond Farm are family-friendly and recommended for children 10 and under with accompanying adults (though the paths are not suitable for strollers). The sights and sounds of Redding at dusk will punctuate the guided hour-long walk through the Farm's woodlands. Guides will

point out and share facts about furry and feather nocturnal creatures, including skunks, raccoons, owls, and foxes.

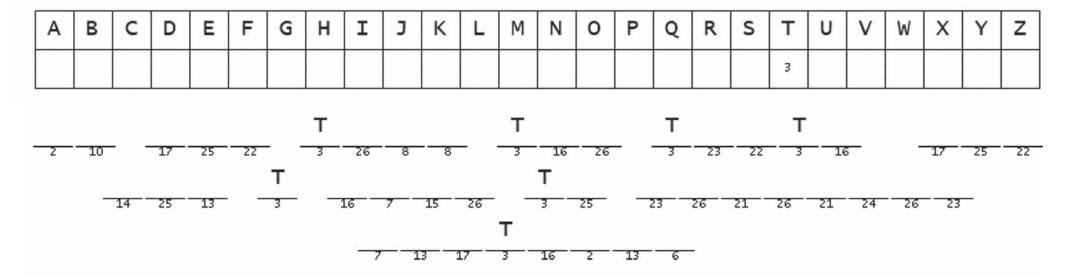
Family-friendly activities will be encouraged throughout the evening, and you can enjoy a break at New Pond Farm's campfire mid-walk, where the group will be treated to hot chocolate made fresh at the Farm.

These walks have a small fee to participate (\$10 per Member, \$12 per Non-member), though children aged 3 and under are free. The rain date for the outings is Sunday, October 26. Register at newpondfarm.org. ■

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

Cryptogram Puzzle Mark Twain's wise words | By Jessie Wright

Decode the message. Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter or number. Try to decode the message. Solution at reddingsentinel.org



THE NATURAL WORLD

Meteors and more

October is a great month for sky-gazing By Rob Sample



Photo by NASA/JPL

Living in Redding offers a trove of opportunities for seeing – and appreciating – the wonders of the natural world around us. Though there is plenty to see and do here on terra firma, the town is also the perfect setting for gazing skyward.

Redding's open spaces and relative isolation from city lights and highways often make for excellent dark-sky conditions - which are great for viewing astronomical wonders, including this month's Orionids meteor shower.

The Orionids are named for their place adjacent to the constellation Orion in the southeast night sky. "The Orionids are actually caused by the dust left in orbit by Halley's Comet," said Clifford Wattley, a UBS retiree and volunteer astronomer at New Pond Farm Education Center. "Halley's Comet is famous as [English astronomer, mathematician, and physicist Edmond] Halley proved that it was the same comet that had appeared 86 years previously. He also proved that most comets followed elliptical orbits around the sun."

Astronomers from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and other scientific organizations consider the Orionids among the most dazzling meteor showers viewable by the naked eye. They are expected to peak in their activity on October 20 and 21, though the meteor shower will continue through November 22.

The best times for viewing are near or after midnight. The meteor shower's radiant – the point in the sky where the paths of the meteors appear to originate – is at its best around 2:00 a.m. So yes, this is an activity best enjoyed by those among us who are "night owls."

The Orionids were left behind when Halley's Comet last came through the inner solar system. "The high velocity of the particles causes them to heat up rapidly when they encounter the upper atmosphere," Wattley said. "While most meteors travel in the same direction as the Earth around the sun – with the Earth overtaking them – in the case of the Orionids, the meteors and the Earth are moving in opposite directions. This increases their relative velocity and makes them appear brighter."

Wattley likens this to watching bugs hit one's car windshield. "If you want to see a lot of bugs go splat on your car window, you want to be looking out the windshield in the direction you're moving," he said. Same thing with meteors post-midnight. You are looking in the direction the Earth is moving, which means there is a better chance of seeing meteors."

Viewing them requires no special equipment - no telescope, no binoculars. Find an area of open land with no obstructions from buildings or hilly areas. You might also want to be in a reclining lawn chair, or even on a blanket on the ground. Reclining will enable you

to gaze upward for long periods of time without neck strain.

Astronomers recommend viewing the meteors from 45 to 90 degrees away from their radiant. By doing so, the falling meteors will appear to last longer.

There's a caveat: astronomers expect a full moon to begin on October 17, with a "waning gibbous moon" on the nights that follow. During this phase, the moon is less than full, but close to the horizon and with a reddish glow. These characteristics can interfere with viewing meteor showers.

The night sky this fall offers a few additional viewing bonuses. Another set of meteor showers - the North and South Taurids - travel across the sky from late October through early November. View these in the northwest, adjacent to the Big and Little

In addition, besides Orion, the winter constellations that are viewable include Canis Major and Minor (Orion's "hunting dogs"), Gemini ("the twins"), Taurus ("the bull"), and Auriga ("the goat herder").

"They have bright stars, making the whole complex more dramatic," said Wattley. "In addition, Jupiter will be out, very bright and above Orion in Taurus." he added. "Mars will also be visible in Gemini, above and to the left of Orion."

At New Pond Farm's Harvest Festival Science and Nature Day on Saturday, October 19, attendees can also observe sunspots during the afternoon. Wattley noted that the sun is currently at the peak of an 11-year cycle of sunspot activity - which has caused the frequent sightings of the aurora borealis in recent months.

The Farm is also planning programs during October for the two bright comets that are expected to be viewable this month and a public nighttime viewing of Saturn and the fall constellations on November 9. Visit newpondfarm.org for more details and to register.

If trees could talk

The haunting near Great Oak

By Janice Rotchstein



The Leatherman

How brave are you?

October is a perfect time to test your mettle with a haunting hike that starts at one of our town's largest trees. There, you might have a chance encounter with The Rock Lot ghost, "The Leatherman".

Begin by stepping off Seventy Acre Road (opposite Mine Hill Road) and into The Rock Lot/ Scott Preserve. Follow the white marked trees onto Joan's Trail. Within several minutes, you'll come face-to-face with the Great Oak that measures over 10 stories high and whose circumference exceeds eight feet.

This hardwood tree descends from a species that is more than 30 million years old. It symbolized strength and wisdom to the Greeks, became a medicinal panacea for Native Americans, and is prized by environmentalists for mitigating climate change through photosynthesis.

Redding's Great Oak stands today because, in 1968, Reddingites saved The Rock Lot acreage from land development.

Linger under the tree's massive autumnal canopy. There, you might smell a whiff of tobacco and the scent of brandy or hear the creaking sound of leather.

"The Leatherman" may be near, as he continues his 365mile circular journey along the Connecticut and Hudson Rivers.

It's been documented that



Photo by Janice Rotchstein

he began the trek around 1883. As he walked, townspeople gave him food, brandy, and tobacco. They also offered shelter, but he preferred the forest, caves, and rock outcrops along his way.

By 1888, this quiet, gentle, bearded man had faltered during that year's terrible winter. It was then that he sought solace in homes. A year later, he died and was buried in Ossining, NY. After his death, the wanderer's leather satchel revealed few possessions: a French prayer book, scissors, an awl, wedges, a small axe, and an extra axe head.

In late fall when paranormal activity has been noted in the area, walk from the Great Oak straight to the Munro path. From there, head towards Warrups Rock, and seek the cave and stone outcrops where the vagabond is thought to have taken cover.

As you meander, get in the spirit by playing Pearl Jam's "Leatherman," an ode to this beloved legend.

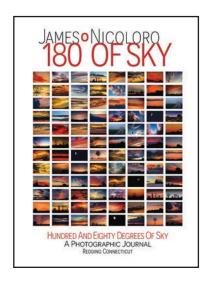
Special note: The Rock Lot/ Scott Preserve closes 30 minutes before sunset. The Redding Land Trust website at reddinglandtrust. org has a map of the area with terrain conditions: click on the property, then trail app. Or, gather information from townofreddingct. org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ Rock-Lot-map-14.pdf

Do you have a favorite tree for this column? Send your suggestion to reddingtreeconservancy@gmail.com

Capturing the beauty of Redding at twilight

Hundred Eighty Degrees of Sky chronicles seven years of photography by resident James Nicoloro

By Donna Christopher



When the sun is low on the horizon over Lonetown Farm, James Nicoloro is in place to the moon."

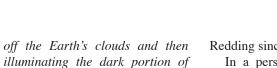
A collage on the cover of his new book Hundred and Eighty Degrees of Sky: A Photographic Journal illustrates Nicoloro's efforts over the last seven years to capture the beauty of the early evening sky over Redding.

capture the day's twilight.

Interspersed with the photographs are observations and bits of poetry inspired by the scenes. Each photograph is also accompanied with information on the day and time the image was captured and the phase of the moon.

Here's an excerpt from the book: "The faint circle of light visible during a waxing crescent moon, known as Earthshine, is associated with Leonardo da Vinci. He is believed to be the first to explain this phenomenon in the 16th century, as documented in the Codex Leicester. Initially, it was theorized that the light was caused by reflection off the oceans. However, in reality, Earthshine is the result of sunlight reflecting





Nicoloro said he waits at Lonetown Farm each month, hoping to see and capture this ethereal effect. He missed the last cycle (September 2-4) due to cloud cover. Going out to the location is something he can't wait to do each night – how twilight reveals itself is fascinating, he maintained

in a recent conversation. The book's prologue tells how Nicoloro grew up in Arlington, MA, and earned a degree in film and television production from Montana State University. During the Vietnam War era he served in the army at Fort Hood, TX. From 1985 to 2009, he worked as a producer for public television at KCTS in Seattle and later at WNET in New York, where he created and directed programs including The Walking Tour series (12 programs) with David Hartman and Historian Barry Lewis. He is the father of five adopted children from China, now all in their 20s, and has lived in Redding since 2005.

In a personal way, the publication is his way of preserving the history of the inspiring local settings he relishes in Redding and sharing them with those who take time to flip through its pages.

Nicoloro has drawn some attention to his work on social media, where he's recently posted some of his twilight and moon photos and enjoys the feedback. He designed and published Hundred and Eighty Degrees of Sky himself and estimates it has about 150 photos.

"I love all the inputs. We come into this world, and we have to give back a little I guess even though it is a little selfish, because I love to do it," Nicoloro said.

After he takes his nightly photographs, he goes home and gets to work on them right away while the images and experiences are still fresh. "It is about bringing out stuff. I try to make the photo feel the way I felt when I saw it," he explained.

Nicoloro said all photographer's shoots are "manipulated" in some



Photos by James Nicoloro

way. "Even with a crop. The chip that's in the camera is giving you what the manufacturer wants you to see as red," he gave as an example. "The color of the lens is bending light."

"What is important here is that you learn what it is telling you over time. When I was shooting in film, I shot enough of the same film and understood under various lighting conditions, and what I was likely to get. It's all about experience. Nothing makes you a better photographer than taking a lot of photographs on different subjects, under many lighting conditions."

The book's selection of photos was taken over the last seven years at the Lonetown Farm site at 43 Lonetown Road.

"Simply stated, it's a threeacre field open to the west in a town with few vistas. It was an obvious place to begin a project that had nothing but the work as its purpose. The idea for a book came much later," he wrote in the book's forward.

Most of the photographs

in the book were taken at twilight after the sun had moved below the

"Everything changes so quickly, so you have to be ready - and I'm usually ready. You have to stay there longer than you think and get a secondary bit of color that may happen 20 minutes after sunset. It depends on the atmosphere or the clouds, and there's no way of predicting what's going to happen. Ninety percent of the time I might go up there, I may shoot stuff and I may not get anything I don't have from before. And on occasion, there may be a dark band of clouds on the horizon that seems to stop color in its tracks."

He estimates he's taken many thousands of photos in his long

"I never started off wanting to do a book," he said. The 110-page book was designed and published by Nicoloro and is available online. ■

Learn more and order the book at tinyurl.com/180Degrees-of-sky

\$ = fee applies

R = registration required

This Week's Featured Events

State Senate District 26 Debate

Thursday, October 10

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Democratic candidate Ceci Maher and Republican candidate Kami Evans to debate, hosted by Westport League of Women Voters. Westport Town Hall 110 Myrtle Avenue Westport

2024 Vote: What to Know

Wednesday, October 16

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. In-person or virtual Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R

The Lived History of the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill

Wednesday, October 16 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Moderated roundtable with

architects, artists, and historians. The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org/events \$, R

Want to feature an upcoming event?

E-mail us at advertise@reddingsentinel.org for more information.

A_{RTS}

Saturday, September 21 -Saturday, October 19

Grashow at The Granite: Jimmy's World

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Wednesdays-Saturdays) 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Sundays) Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. A celebration of James Grashow's artistic career. The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org

Thursday, October 10

Redding Grange's Open Mic Night

6:30 p.m. Hosted by Scott Smith. Sign up first-come, first-served, music starts at 7:00 p.m. Redding Grange #15 399 Newtown Turnpike facebook.com/GrangeReddingCT

Thursday, October 17

Visiting Artist Reception with Allyson Monson

Fine Art Photography 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.Jill Rae Designs 19 Governor Street Ridgefield instagram.com/ ridgefieldguildofartists

Thursday, October 24 – Sunday, November 17

"Igniting Reverie: Works in Wax" A Group Show of Women **Encaustic Artists**

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Saturdays Opening Reception on Saturday, October 26 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Anonymous Society 268 Simpaug Turnpike an onymous society gallery.com

Wednesday, October 30

Strike a Pose - Fashion in Art with ArtScapades

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Evening of art history focusing on works that highlight apparel. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R

$C_{\mathsf{HILDREN}} \,|\, T_{\mathsf{EENS}}$

Tuesday, October 15

College Application Timeline Workshop

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Recommended for Grades 9-11 (and parents) Virtual Mark Twain Library marktwainlibrary.org R

Saturday, October 19

Grashow at The Granite: For Kids!

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Jimmy Grashow will host a lecture and craft for kids and families. The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org/events

Wednesday, October 30

Family Bingo Bonanza

\$, R

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Grades K-4, parent or adult must also attend. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road townofreddingct.org/parksand-recreation

$F_{\text{OOD}} \,|\, W_{\text{INE}}$

Thursday, October 24

Ancona's Fall Wine Fest 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Wine tasting, craft beers, cheese, charcuterie, and more. The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org/events \$, R

Nature

Tuesdays - Sundays

Open Farmhouse Farm Stand 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Summer veggies and produce Open Farmhouse 11 John Read Road

Wednesday, October 16

Nature Book Club -

openfarmhouse.com

The Book of Hope, Jane Goodall 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. A collaboration between New Pond Farm, Mark Twain Library, and Redding Land Trust. New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road Register at marktwainlibrary.org

Saturday, October 19

Fall Migration: Birding with Joe Bear

7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Leisurely walk through diverse habitats. New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org

Saturday, October 19

Ribbon Cutting for Wetlands Project

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Celebrate completion of wetlands restoration project, funded in part by ARPA grant. New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org

Monday, October 21

National Reptile Day: Animal Meet and Greet 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. or

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Meet resident turtles, snakes, and lizards. New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R

$S_{\text{EASONAL}} \,|\, H_{\text{OLIDAY}}$

Friday, October 18

Halloween Spooktacular 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Crafts, games, trick-or-treating, a haunted house and more. Food trucks will be on site for purchases. (No candy will be served due to allergies.) Riverbrook Regional YMCA 404 Danbury Road Wilton wiltonymca.org \$, R

Saturday, October 19

Harvest Festival Science & Nature Day

11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Family friendly event with livestock encounters, historical demonstrations, harvest crafts, food, and science fun. Rain date: Sunday, October 20. New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org

Sunday, October 20

Redding Grange 3rd Annual Agricultural Fair 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Redding Grange #15 399 Newtown Turnpike facebook.com/GrangeReddingCT

Thursday, October 24

Scarecrow Decorating 5:00 p.m.

recreation

R

Family scarecrow decorating. Post, hay, and string provided, bring your own clothes and accessories. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road townofreddingct.org/parks-and-

Friday, October 25

Pumpkin Carving at Heritage Center

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Pumpkins and utensils are provided. Heritage Center 37 Lonetown Road RSVP to mstillman@ townofreddingct.org or (203) 938-9725 R

Saturday, October 26

Trunk or Treat Street

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.Co-hosted by Redding Neighbors and Newcomers and Redding Park and Recreation. Entry fee is one new bag of candy per child. Redding Community Center parking iot 37 Lonetown Road reddingneighborsandnewscomers.org

Special Programs

Wednesday, October 16

The Lived History of the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Moderated roundtable with architects, artists, and historians. The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org/events

Tuesday, October 15

Medicare Talk with CHOICES counselors and Lunch from The Greek

12:00 p.m. Lunch 12:15 p.m. Talk with counselors Heritage Center 37 Lonetown Road RSVP to mstillman@townofreddingct.org or (203) 938-9725

Wednesday, October 16

2024 Vote: What to Know

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. In-person and virtual Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org

Thursday, October 17

Antisemitism in America -Conversations: Truth, Myth & Democracy 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Virtual Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R

Wednesday, October 23

Archaeologist Casefiles: Vampires in New England 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R

Religious Services

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (in person) or 10:15 a.m. (Zoom) 44 Portland Avenue bethlehemlutheranct.org

Calvary Independent Baptist Church

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

Christ Church, Episcopal

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. 184 Cross Highway christchurchredding.org

First Church of Christ, Congregational

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. 25 Cross Highway firstchurchredding.org

Long Ridge United Methodist

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

Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish

Sacred Heart Church:

Saturday Confessions: 10:00 a.m. at Pryor Hubbard Hall Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. Saturday Eucharistic Adoration: 6:00 p.m. Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. 12:00 noon LATIN Weekday Mass: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday 6:00 p.m. LATIN 30 Church Street

St. Patrick Church:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m. Saturday Confessions: 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m. Weekday Mass: Monday – Friday at 8:30 a.m. Weekday Confessions: Mondays and Thursdays: 7:30 p.m., before or after mass, or by appointment Eucharistic Adoration: Mondays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. 169 Black Rock Turnpike

Temple B'nai Chaim

sacredheart-stpat.org

Friday, October 11 at 7:30 p.m. Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Saturday, October 12 at 9:00 a.m. Yom Kippur Family Service Saturday, October 12 at 11:00 a.m. Yom Kippur Traditional Service Saturday, October 12 at 3:30 p.m. Yom Kippur Afternoon Service Saturday, October 12 at 4:45 p.m. Yom Kippur Yizkor Saturday, October 12 at 6:00 p.m. N'ilah Service and Havdalah Saturday, October 12 at 7:15 p.m. Yom Kippur Break Fast 82 Portland Avenue Georgetown templebnaichaim.org

MEETINGS

Thursday, October 10

Redding Historic Cemetery Committee

2:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road

Thursday, October 10

Gilbert and Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 10

Tabulator Testing

Virtual

6:00 p.m. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road

Thursday, October 10

Redding Fire District #2 Commissioners' Meeting 7:00 p.m.

306 Umpawaug Road

Tuesday, October 15

Conservation Commission 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room

100 Hill Road

Tuesday, October 15

Region 9 Board of Education 7:00 p.m.

Joel Barlow High School / Library Learning Commons 100 Black Rock Turnpike

Tuesday, October 15

Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Virtual

Wednesday, October 16

RES PTA

7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road

Wednesday, October 16

2024 Vote: What to Know **Redding Registrar of Voters Open House** 7:00 p.m.

In person and virtual Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road

Wednesday, October 16

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

Thursday, October 17

Historic Review Committee

7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Conference Room 100 Hill Road

Friday, October 18

Last Voter Registration Session 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road

Monday, October 21

Early Voting

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Same Day Registration* Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road

Tuesday, October 22

Early Voting

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Same Day Registration* Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road

Wednesday, October 23

Early Voting

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Same Day Registration* Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road

> *Town offices will be closed on Monday, October 14 for **Columbus Day**

*Same Day Registration is available to new voters and voters who missed the registration deadline. These voters must provide identification and proof of **Redding residency**

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



Donna DiBartolo 203.858.0597



Margi Esten 203.241.8453



John Frey 203.240.0624



Liz Furrer 203.733.0678



Debbie Gore 203.417.5692



Joanne Grasso 203.733.9344







Jodi Langford 203.733.8804



The month of October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Coldwell Banker Realty knows that it is crucial to build inclusive and accessible workplaces.

We honor the contributions of people with disabilities in our country and recommit to preventing any barriers.





Charlie Knoche 203.731.7770



Marge Lanzara 203.994.5301



Heather Lindgren 646.932.4075



Peter Lunde 631.601.7906



Rita Craig Rush 917.846.2281



Lonnie Shapiro 203.731.7722



Marilyn Sloper 203.770.6240



Ira Stone 203.240.5754



Adrian Voss 203.241.7957



Applicant subject to credit and underwriting approval (20221021-1745808)

Call Tim to discuss your mortgage options.

💼 τουλι κουτικα Lindon Frida Mill. S ID: 16273; CT - 1801 - MI-1598647 | GRA NMLS ID #1598647 (Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org) + CT - Lic # MCL-1598647



Tim Martin SVP of Mortgage Lending

C: (203) 917-2800 grarate.com/timmartin O: (203) 974-5253 tim.martin@grarate.com 230 Greenwood Ave, #1A, Bethel, CT 06801



Joseph Porricelli Branch Vice President 203.515.6310 joe.porricelli@cbrealty.com







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