

For many, time spent with the grandkids is a daily affair

By Rob Sample

For Caryn Purcell, caring for granddaughter Ellis is a labor of love – and one that began before Ellis was born two-and-a-half years ago.

“When my son Alex and my daughter-in-law Regan first began talking about starting a family a few years ago, I let them know that I wanted to be the person they could rely on for day care,” said Caryn, a longtime resident of Ridgefield.

Grandparents as daycare providers aren’t a new phenomenon: people have long relied on their parents and extended family to look after their children. The difference now is that costs have risen dramatically in recent years, especially for childcare and housing. In this

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Photo by Debora DeCarlo Rosa

Redding Garden Club has given an autumnal update to the pollinator garden at the intersection of Cross Highway and Newtown Turnpike. If you have a photo you’d like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

What do you envision for Georgetown?

Community session October 4 to review options

By Jessie Wright

As the planning process continues for Revitalize Georgetown – a consultant-led project creating a redevelopment plan for the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill site and surrounding Georgetown village – the public will have another opportunity to give feedback on Saturday, October 4 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The project, which is funded by a \$200,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Economic Community Development, is being led by Pirie Associates, an architecture and consulting firm based in New Haven.

The community session on October 4 will take place at Joel Barlow High School at 100 Black Rock Turnpike. Childcare provided by the Park and Recreation Department will be available at

the Community Center during the session (parents must have registered by October 1 for childcare).

The session will include a presentation on three different approaches to redevelopment of the area. The three concepts – which include a mix of different housing, commercial, recreational, arts, and transit elements – were developed by Pirie Associates after several months of market studies, stakeholder meetings, public feedback sessions, and surveys. Attendees will have the opportunity to give feedback and voice support for one of the options or aspects of the approaches.

“We are hoping that we’ll have a huge turnout, because there is a lot of work still to do,” said First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton in a

video announcement for the event. After receiving the community’s feedback at this stage, the next step will be for Pirie Associates to further refine one of the concepts, including financial plans, draft zoning amendments, and more.

“I’m excited to be there,” said State Senator Ceci Maher in the video. “I’ll be in the room listening to the comments that people will have, the input, and the excitement, which I’m sure is really going to build as we start visioning at a greater level what can be done for the Georgetown District.” ■

For more information on the Revitalize Georgetown process or October 4 community session, visit reddingct.gov/revitalize-georgetown-project

REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

An oldie but a goodie *The Great Ledge*

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

One of the very first bits of information about Redding I encountered before my family moved here was about The Great Ledge trail in Devil’s Den. A colleague back in New York City told me that he and his wife would escape up here with friends to hike the loop in the fall. “It’s incredible,” he gushed.

I’ve since made my way to the scenic overlook in deep winter and early spring, but I had never before done so during fall. Last weekend, I set about remedying that. As I drove down Route 53 towards Tudor Road and the Dayton Road

trailhead, I eyed the dusty edges of the Saugatuck Reservoir and wondered what the view of the rain-thirsty basin would be like from the overlook.

I parked on Dayton Road opposite the trailhead and stopped to snap a photograph of the golden light shining on the turning trees lining the road. As I began my hike, however, I realized that I was still a few weeks shy of the forest’s full autumnal transformation. The 80-degree weather added to the feeling that summer has been reluctant to loosen its grip this year.

The hike begins with a series of elevated boardwalks, and as I made my way across them, a host of wildlife scurried up and away. A baby snake slithered fearfully through the leaves next to the trail, a chipmunk ran across a log in front of me, letting out an indignant chirp before disappearing into the almost-dry creek bed, and a flock of black birds took flight from the leaf-littered ground and hung chattering in the low hanging branches above me. Maybe it is because pets are not allowed in Devil’s Den due to The Nature Conservancy’s rules, but the animals all seemed surprised at anyone disturbing their peace.

Swaths of ferns along the trail showed hints of fall, their fronds starting to dry and curl like the ill-fated Wicked Witch of the East underneath Dorothy’s house. The trail starts to gently slope upward after about a quarter mile, and the heat of the day brought sweat to the back of my neck. Up ahead stood a sign announcing The Great Ledge loop, and I chose (as I always have)

Continued on page 4

Work resumes on Revolution Wind

By John Moritz

Governor Ned Lamont took a victory lap in New London last week after a federal judge ordered work to resume on the Revolution Wind project, and he hinted that ongoing talks with the Trump administration could ease the path forward for both wind and fossil fuel projects in the region.

“We have a lot of catching up to do,” Lamont told reporters from a vantage point overlooking the staging area at the State Pier, which was jam-packed with sections of turbines ready to be loaded onto ships and taken out to sea for installation.

That installation work, which was shut down for nearly a month on the orders of the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, restarted last week.

“When these wind turbines are spinning in less than a year, it’s going to bring down the price of electricity, because it brings down peak pricing during the winter months, which is the most expensive time,” Lamont said. “This is a big deal for business, so it’s good.”

Lamont was joined in New London by his counterpart in Rhode Island, Democratic Governor Dan McKee, along with a throng of union workers and state and local officials to celebrate Monday’s decision by U.S. District Court Judge Royce Lamberth, which lifted the stop-work order.

While the Trump administration may still appeal that decision, Lamberth did not stay his order — thus allowing work to resume immediately on the \$6 billion project.

In a statement on Tuesday, White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly said that Lamberth’s ruling “will not be the final say on the matter.”

“President Trump was elected with a resounding mandate to end Joe Biden’s war on American energy and restore our country’s energy dominance – which includes prioritizing the most effective and reliable tools to power our country,” Kelly said.

Rather than gloating on their initial victory, however, both Lamont and McKee offered a conciliatory note to President Donald J. Trump, saying they were engaged in conversations with administration officials about a broader energy strategy for the New England region.

“We’re working very closely with the Trump administration,” Lamont said. “We’re doing everything we can, not just right here [in New London] but what we can do to add on additional energy across our region. That’s all the above, from my point of view.”

Lamont has repeatedly touted his relationships with two Trump administration figures in particular: Energy Secretary Chris Wright and Interior Secretary Doug Burgum. He met with both officials during a visit to Washington, D.C., in February during which he expressed an interest in working with the federal government to secure permits for an expansion of natural gas infrastructure and state-of-the-art nuclear reactors.

The governor also noted that a purported deal between officials in New York and the federal

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Redding finishes 2024-25 fiscal year in the black

By Rocco Valluzzo

With the accounting ledger now complete, Redding has finished the 2024-25 fiscal year \$2.5 million ahead of its budget in terms of revenue. This is largely due to tax revenues (\$1.4 million) as well as investments (greater than \$800,000), both of which finished better than budget according to Finance Director Jim Sanders.

In terms of expenditures, various Town departments finished better than budget, leading to a \$426,000 better-than-budget result. A large contribution to that \$426,000 was from Park & Recreation. “They had a revenue shortfall of about \$95,000,” Sanders told the Board of Finance at its meeting on Wednesday, September 24. “On the flipside, it was more than fully offset by \$108,000 in expenditure savings. Relative to the bottom-line budget, there was a net contribution.

The Redding Board of Education ended with a \$100,000 surplus. Sanders noted this money will be transferred into a separate fund as a non-lapsing account in 2025-26.

“The process that we’ve established is it will effectively work similar to the capital account for the Board of Education,” he said. “It is separately identified on the ledger, and the Board of Education will need to take actions in terms of the use of those funds, and we will process those through the Town Finance Department,” Sanders explained.

With respect to the unassigned fund balance, Redding started fiscal year 2024-25 with a figure of \$13,849,000. The Town has about \$3.3 million of additions to the unassigned fund balance. The 2024-25 budget referendum included appropriations from the balance totaling \$2,167,000, leaving an estimated unassigned fund balance at the end of fiscal year 2024-25 of just shy of \$15 million.

This unassigned fund balance represents 26.4% of fiscal year 2025-26 expenditures, and it compares to the Board of Finance policy of a minimum unassigned balance that would be about \$9.5 million.

“This is a really good performance and typical of what we’ve

been doing the past few years,” said Board of Finance member Rob Dean. “I wouldn’t see that overage in the unassigned fund balance as something to lightly dip into. There are a lot of capital needs the Town is likely to encounter in the next few years.”

Sanders added that the request-for-proposal (RFP) process for the design and engineering work for the four bridges that were destroyed by last August’s storm is complete. The total cost for this work came in at \$714,000.

To pay for this work, Redding has received \$112,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as well as grants from the State Local Bridge Program. In addition, \$675,000 that was originally designated for the repaving of the northern part of Umpawaug Road was reallocated at Town Meeting to the bridge projects.

Sanders reported that he hopes to have the financial audit for fiscal year 2024-25 completed by the end of October by the Town’s accounting firm of CliftonLarsonAllen LLC. ■

Town capital requests reviewed

By Rocco Valluzzo

Reviewing a number of planned projects and expenditures, the Long Range Financial Planning Committee discussed capital request items from Town departments on Thursday, September 25.

The Committee will next plan debt strategies regarding these expenditures before they are evaluated by the Board of Finance.

Among the items requested is an update of the security system at the Georgetown Water Treatment Facility at a cost of \$25,000. Water Pollution Control Commission Chair Amy Atamian said this could increase slightly if a gate is installed.

The air conditioning system in the administration building also needs replacing. Atamian cited a rough \$12,000 estimate for a mini-split cooling system but would likely add heating and heat exchange ventilation to reduce energy costs. She also plans to reach out to Eversource for an energy audit of the facility to help identify cost savings measures there.

Several new pieces of equipment have been requested by the Highway Department. Finance Director Jim Sanders said the Town is in the process of signing a purchase agreement for a second forklift at the Transfer Station with an estimated cost of \$33,000, slightly less than originally expected. For the next fiscal year, plans are in the works to purchase a pay loader (\$225,000) and a compactor (\$40,000).

Sanders added that the contracts for the design and engineering costs for the replacement of the four bridges that were destroyed by the August 2024 storm are underway. Contracts have been signed, and

work is in progress for those on Sport Hill Road and Long Wall Road. The Board of Selectmen is in the process of signing the contracts and initiating the work for Brookside Road and Greenbush Road.

Construction could start in May. The Town will have 50% of the costs covered by the State Local Bridge Program, and it is continuing to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on reimbursements for the remaining costs and to determine what is left in terms of the Town’s share.

In addition, there is a \$220,000 request for fiscal year 2026-27 for storm-related work on Newtown Turnpike and Poverty Hollow Road and \$278,000 for Cross Highway, Diamond Hill Road, and Old Stagecoach Road. Redding has been reimbursed for 75% of the cost from FEMA and is now in the process of issuing requests for proposals (RFPs) for the work, which should start next summer.

The capital plan for Town facilities includes replacing the cooling system equipment at the Heritage Center in the current fiscal year. Sanders noted that \$40,000 was included in the capital plan and May 2025 referendum vote, but the project will be closer to \$85,000 due to the cost of the equipment.

“I don’t think we fully captured the work that was required to access the equipment and repair the equipment that was accessed,” he said. “It was also the electronic controls. It did come back in as a surprise how much higher it was. The \$85,000 was actually the low bid. I think they range as high as \$120,000.”

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SPORTS

Falcons take two out of three
Girls and boys cross country

By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Olivia Kotula was second for the Joel Barlow High girls cross country team and sixth overall at a meet on Wednesday, September 24. Barlow lost 21-40 to Newtown but beat both Stratford and Brookfield.

Girls cross country

In terms of numbers, the Joel Barlow High girls cross country team was at a slight disadvantage against Newtown in a race at home last week. A small group, the Falcons had only 11 runners in the race, less than half that of their opponent. Newtown also had the speed to match, winning 21-40 on Wednesday, September 24. Barlow, however, had plenty of speed to handle the rest of

the competition, sweeping both Stratford (which had just one runner) and Brookfield by 15-50 scores. “You can only do so much,” said Barlow Head Coach Ryan Paola, noting his team’s size. “We have a smaller team, but we always have enough people.” Not only did Newtown have the numbers but the speed as well. It claimed seven of the top 10 finishes, including the first two. Clara Mehner, who had been at the front of the pack for much of the race with Newtown’s Natalie McLean and Keeley Ferriter, had Barlow’s best finish. Taking fourth, she finished in 22 minutes, 36 seconds. Next came Olivia Kotula in 23:22, good for sixth, and giving Barlow two runners in the top 10. Five consecutive Newtown runners crossed the line before the Falcons brought in another. That was Phoebe Smith, who took 12th in 24:50, one second head of Newtown’s Ann Kane. Two Falcon runners finished in succession. In 16th was Stephanie Bardani in 25:17. Completing the scoring for Barlow, Katie Kinyon was 10 seconds later. Taking 20th was Vivan D’Amico in 26:06. Bridget Rexford completed the varsity slate for Barlow in 26th with 27:29. Boys cross country Battling illness recently, the

Falcons boys have also had to contend with being a young group this season. It would be a fast field of competitors as Barlow fell to Newtown 16-47, Stratford 17-38, and Brookfield 20-37. “We have some talent that is very young,” said Head Coach Jerry Bielizna. “We are a very young team. It’s just a question of them becoming experienced and knowing what it is to race.” Stratford in particular was tough to catch. Taking the top three overall spots, it secured wins against every opponent. Only one Barlow runner finished in the top 10. With a 19:19, Steve Czerkawski was eighth, one second behind Newtown’s Duncan Kolb. It was a close call for 20th, with Barlow’s Didier Mejia-Morneau just touching out teammate Ryan Wheatley. Both had a time of 21:07. More than two minutes elapsed before the next Falcon runner finished. Jack Laedke was 27th in 23:10, a second ahead of Newtown’s Liam O’Neil. Completing the scoring for Barlow, Lucas Jandura was 31st in 24:45. Sebastian Cano Cowles was four spots later in 24:54. Elias Marsh was also in Barlow’s top seven in 40th overall. The Falcons visit Immaculate to take on Immaculate, Bethel, and New Milford on Tuesday, October 7 with the boys race at 4:30 p.m. and the girls running at 5:00 p.m. ■

Falcons fall to Immaculate
Boys soccer



Photos by by J.C. Martin

The Joel Barlow High boys soccer team faced tough competition on Thursday, September 18 against Immaculate, losing 0-2. (Left) Junior Sam Cooper and (Right) Senior Captain Zack Mikhael.

Barlow sports results and schedules

Football <i>Results:</i> September 27: Northwest Catholic 35 / Joel Barlow 7 <i>Record:</i> Joel Barlow 1-2 <i>Next games:</i> October 3: away at Brookfield at 6:30 p.m. Field hockey <i>Results:</i> September 24: Joel Barlow 6 / Bethel 0 <i>Record:</i> Joel Barlow 2-4-1 <i>Next games:</i> October 3: home versus Lauralton Hall at 7:00 p.m. October 4: away at Fairfield Ludlowe at 12:30 p.m. October 6: home versus Brookfield at 4:00 p.m. October 8: away at Weston at 5:30 p.m.	Boys soccer <i>Results:</i> September 27: Old Saybrook 1 / Joel Barlow 0 <i>Record:</i> Joel Barlow: 1-5-1 <i>Next games:</i> October 4: away at Pomperaug at 1:00 pm. October 6: home versus Brookfield at 5:00 p.m. October 7: away at New Milford at 6:00 p.m. Girls volleyball <i>Results:</i> September 24: Joel Barlow 3 / Newtown 0 September 26: Joel Barlow 3 / Stratford 0 <i>Record:</i> Joel Barlow 10-2 <i>Next matches:</i> October 3: home versus Immaculate at 5:30 p.m. October 7: home versus Bunnell at 5:30 p.m.	Boys cross country <i>Results:</i> September 24: Newtown 16 / Joel Barlow 46, Brookfield 20 / Joel Barlow 41, Stratford 17 / Joel Barlow 38 <i>Record:</i> Joel Barlow 2-7 <i>Next meets:</i> October 7: away at Immaculate, Bethel, New Milford at 4:30 p.m. Girls cross country <i>Results:</i> September 24: Joel Barlow 15 / Brookfield 50, Joel Barlow 15 / Stratford 50, Newtown 20 / Joel Barlow 41 <i>Record:</i> Joel Barlow 5-4 <i>Next meets:</i> October 7: away at Immaculate, Bethel, New Milford at 5:00 p.m. See up-to-date practice and game schedules at joelbarlowps.org/athleticshome
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Barlow dominates in sweep of Stratford
Girls volleyball

By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Claire Rodrigue delivers a kill during a girls varsity volleyball match against Stratford on Friday, September 26. Barlow won 3-0 (25-6, 25-11, 25-8).

Having passed the midway point of the season, the Joel Barlow High girls varsity volleyball team is hoping to carry their winning momentum into the playoffs next month. Winners of their last five straight matches, the Falcons have been busy refining certain aspects of their game, such as serving. They put this to use when hosting Stratford last Friday, September 26. Barlow faulted on its serve only three times in the match. Propelled also by strong play at the net, it cruised to a 3-0 (25-6, 25-11, 25-8) win. “We’ve been trying to clean some things up on our end,” said Assistant Coach Mavi Gilmore. “We’re trying to get opportunities to practice what we’ve been working on to get ready for the rest of the season.” The Falcons trailed only once in the match. The Red Devils took a brief 0-1 lead in the first set before the hosts came roaring back with a 10-1 scoring run, highlighted by back-to-back blocks and a kill by Claire Rodrigue. Stratford eventually won back the serve but could not establish any momentum, eventually falling behind 14-4. Kills by Madi Furrer, plus a few errors on Stratford’s part, helped the Falcons pull even farther out of reach to take the opening set. Barlow continued to be aggressive at the net in the second set. Genevieve Currie, Val Amador,

and Mia Roberts were instrumental in building a 13-5 lead, forcing the Red Devils to call time-out to try to regroup. While the visitors did benefit from a few hitting errors on Barlow’s part, the hosts still stretched their lead to 16-6. Only once did Stratford come within 10 points (19-10) of catching the Falcons, coming on back-to-back serves by Payton Farrell. Barlow then reeled off four straight points before finishing the set. Olivia Sickinger’s kill to open the third set marked the beginning of a 12-0 run by Barlow, which featured 11 straight service point by Zoriana Olexy as well as kills by Rodrigue and Roberts. The Red Devils temporarily stopped the momentum with a kill of their own, but the Falcons continued to widen their lead, which grew to 17-2 on Ripley Robinson’s kill. Despite being far behind, the Red Devils battled for a number of points before finally succumbing. “Stratford ends up playing a very disciplined, scrappy match,” said Gilmore. “They are bringing the ball back, they are sending it back over, and being aggressive with that. For us to stay alert and manage to stay ahead, that’s part of the discipline we’ve been working on,” said Gilmore. Barlow, now 10-2 overall, hosts Immaculate on Friday, October 3 and is home to Bunnell on Tuesday, October 7. Both matches are at 5:30 p.m. ■

Redding’s Big Outdoors: An oldie but a goodie / continued from page 1



Photo by Jessie Wright

to head clockwise. Walking through a gap in a stone wall and turning left, I started to sense the opening in the trees ahead.

The final moments up to The Great Ledge involve climbing up sturdy boulders – and nature has generously provided a broken tree stump at just the right level for a hand railing to assist. I scrambled up, feeling excited for the vista that awaited. But just like my children, who were babies the last time I did this loop, the forest has continued to grow. Young trees on the hillside have become tall enough to mostly block the view of the Reservoir this time of year. Slices of the island in the middle of the water were visible, and the clear view of the horizon was still striking. In a few more weeks, the fall colors will be, too. ■

The Redding Community Hiking Club will be hiking The Great Ledge on Saturday, October 18 at 11:00 a.m. Register by October 16 at marktwainlibrary.org/events

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

Double duty: Oktoberfest and Fire Prevention Day this Sunday

By Pamela Brown



Photos by Jessie Wright

Education and seasonal fun are combined in Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company's (GVFC) 4th Annual Oktoberfest & Fire Prevention Day. "We're thrilled to host this event. We basically turn our firehouse into a Biergarten but with an educational twist," said Alex Mirabile, GVFC's Captain and Recruitment Coordinator. "The event features a variety of fire safety demonstrations, Oktoberfest-themed activities, arts and crafts, food and drink vendors, and live music."

The free, family-friendly event takes place on Sunday, October 5, rain or shine, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 6 Portland Avenue.

"The event is aimed at increasing the public's awareness of fire safety and preparedness through community engagement. The Oktoberfest theme helps us reach a broader audience of people and age groups," he explained.

The day also kicks off National Fire Prevention Week, with Georgetown firefighters providing hands-on fire safety demonstrations on the proper use of fire extinguishers, the safe use of turkey fryers, and the importance of escape planning. Attendees can also try their hand at spraying a fire hose.

"Having a basic understanding of fire safety can help protect you and your family in the event of a fire. This topic is important to people of all ages and should be practiced regularly at home or work," said Mirabile, noting a common misconception about fire safety is that it's primarily geared toward children. "Educating kids on fire safety is important, but adults are often the ones who overlook basic fire safety practices. Adults are critical to the fire safety equation, because they ultimately will be responsible for educating and executing these practices. Pairing this initiative with an Oktoberfest theme helps us reach people of all ages, not just kids."

Hayrides, pumpkin decorating, and stein holding competitions are planned. Nod Hill Brewery beers will be on draft, including pilsner, lager, IPA, and seasonal German-style. Hard cider will also be available along with nonalcoholic beverages. The food menu will feature pretzels and a traditional German-style buffet including bratwurst, schnitzel, and German meatballs. Dessert will include cider donuts, cookies, and brownies. Live music all day will be provided by the local band Hat City Ramblers

performing their signature country and rock style.

A highlight each year is the announcement of the winner of GVFC's annual raffle, which includes a first prize 2025 Ford Bronco. Raffle funds help support GVFC's mission of providing emergency services to the towns of Redding, Weston, and Wilton. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the event until 3:00 p.m. or online at zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2025-gvfc-ford-bronco-affle.

Mirabile said putting on the event is truly a team effort. GVFC is partnering with a variety of local vendors and organizations, including Georgetown Village Restoration and Fairfield County Bank as event sponsors, The Granite as music partner, Connecticut Humane Society, and Nod Hill Brewery, among others.

"It wouldn't be successful without the extensive planning efforts by our members, continued collaboration with local vendors, and our community's passion for fire safety," said Mirabile. ■

For more information, visit facebook.com/share/19f4Df2eKY

POLICE BLOTTER

Police activity September 22 – 28

By Donna Christopher



Officers assisted three operators of disabled motor vehicles and assisted during one emergency medical services call.

Traffic

In 54 traffic stops, police issued nine tickets, 16 written warnings, and 29 verbal warnings to drivers, with an infraction rate of 17%.

A car hit a utility pole on Redding Road near the intersection with Glen Road around 10:30 p.m. on September 24, causing wires to go down on the roadway. According to Chief Robert Kalamaras, officers arrived on scene to find a snapped utility pole with low hanging wires in the roadway and near the crash site, adjacent to a damaged vehicle. They rendered medical assistance to the operator and sole occupant of the vehicle and requested an ambulance to transport the driver to Danbury Hospital. The road was closed for several hours near the collision site to repair and replace the damaged utility pole. This incident is currently under investigation by Officer Ben Coppock.

Police issued a ticket to a driver after a two-car motor vehicle accident on Hill Road on September 25, which resulted in property damage but no injuries. Another collision, this time involving only one vehicle, occurred on Hill Road that same day.

Assault

A walk-in complainant on September 25 reported that she was assaulted by a known party. The case is under investigation.

Fraud

Unemployment benefits were applied for in another person's name in two separate cases; one was reported on September 22 on Huckleberry Road, and the other was reported on September 23 on Mountain Road.

Other incidents

Police assisted in a family matter on Simpaug Turnpike on September 22 after a protective order was violated via texts. An arrest warrant affidavit was submitted.

A suspicious incident was reported on Gallows Hill Road in which a utility truck from Frontier was parked in front of a house on September 26.

Lost jewelry was reported at Redding Elementary School on September 26.

A possible burglary on Old Redding Road is under investigation after being reported on September 27. ■



At RLT's first Photography Show, people kept asking, "Will you do this again?" Well...yes!

To showcase Redding's natural beauty, we're looking for photos taken across seasons and times of day on open space in Redding. We welcome entries from all who love the landscape, novice or pro, and offer separate prize categories for adults and students.

Photograph "Pokey's Easement" by Toby Welles from the 2025 exhibition.

The juried exhibition will hang during June 2026 at the Mark Twain Library, with an opening reception on June 2.

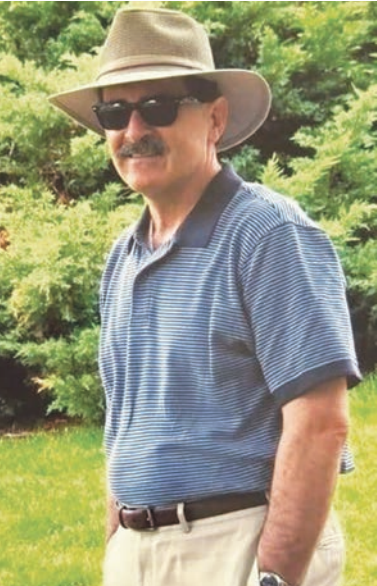
To view entry requirements, FAQs, key dates, and the submission portal as they become available, visit reddinglandtrust.org/photoshow



Small town, big outdoors.

OBITUARY

Chris Minor
June 16, 1954 – September 16, 2025



Robert Christopher Minor of Redding passed away peacefully at home on September 16 at the age of 71. He was surrounded in love by his family.

Chris was born to Mary Elizabeth and Dr. James Vincent Minor II on June 16, 1954. He was born and raised in Norwalk and grew up with his five brothers and four sisters, with whom he shared countless adventures and happy memories. Chris was a graduate of the Taft School, Fairfield University and received his MBA from the University of Connecticut. He had a long and successful career in finance and as a CPA. Chris was an avid gardener,

reader, runner, and storyteller. He instilled a love of music and sports in his children and loved going to concerts and games with them. Most of all, Chris cherished his family and loved being a husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle.

He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Donna; his father-in-law Ralph Sisk of Southbury; his children Lauren of Redding, Paul (Dana) of Lovettesville, VA, and Greg (Deirdre) of Bethel; and his beloved grandchildren Violet, Tham, Gracie, and Christopher.

To offer online condolences please visit: boutonfuneralhome.com

WEDDING

Cody Jacobs and Lincoln Hill



Cody Jacobs and Lincoln Hill were married on September 6, 2025, in a ceremony officiated

by Justice of the Peace Nina Stietzel and dear friend Hannah Materne. The ceremony was held in the center of a spiral garden the couple grew to honor Cody's late father, and the reception was held at the farm and event venue they run, Open Farmhouse at Warrup's Farm. A festive and memorable occasion was made all the more atmospheric by a storm front that cleared just in time for the wedding to take place. They look forward to continuing the legacy of the farm, hosting the local community, traveling dusty roads, and sharing a life together

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[Contact us](#) newpondfarm.org

43rd Annual Artisan Fair
First Church of Christ, Congregational



Photos by Jessie Wright & Debora DeCarlo Rosa

People of all ages streamed through Redding Center on Saturday, September 27 to enjoy the 43rd Annual Artisan Fair. Live music and a performance by dancers from Enchanted Garden provided a lively backdrop to shopping, eating, and enjoying the start of fall.

Georgetown Lions Club leaves crowd full and happy



Photos by Maria Lambeck

The Georgetown Lions Club hosted their first-ever Italian Dinner fundraiser on Saturday, September 27. Many people turned out to enjoy the delicious meal, support the Club's service projects in the community, and learn how to become involved.

Oktoberfest
Sacred Heart and St. Patrick Parish



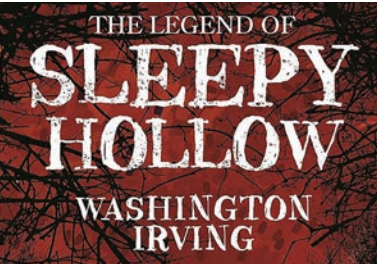
Photos by Debora DeCarlo Rosa

Games, food, and music were plentiful at Sacred Heart and St. Patrick Parish's Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 27. The event featuring German brews and eats is the main fundraiser for the parish each year.

BOOK REVIEW

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

By Washington Irving
Barnes & Noble Press / 74 pages / \$14.95



Fall is New England’s time to shine. The colors of turning leaves against white clapboard homes and the worn gravestones in Revolutionary War-era cemeteries evoke a cozy, slightly melancholy mood. It is also the season when I re-read the 1820 short story classic by Washington Irving, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. When I was Managing Director of the Hudson Valley Writers Center (nestled in the actual town of Sleepy Hollow, NY) we organized a series of live readings by a Washington Irving character actor for families around Halloween each year, and the tradition has stuck with me. If you know the story but haven’t read Irving’s actual words in some time – it is time to treat yourself.

Sleepy Hollow is described by Irving as a hamlet that many who live in Redding may recognize.

“Not far from this village, perhaps about three miles, there is a little valley or rather lap of land among high hills, which is one of the quietest places in the whole world. A small brook glides through it, with just murmur enough to lull one to repose; and the occasional whistle of a quail, or tapping of a woodpecker, is almost the only sound that ever breaks in upon the uniform tranquility.”

The story’s main character, a

young man named Ichabod Crane, comes to Sleepy Hollow to be a schoolteacher.

“He was a native of Connecticut, a State which supplies the Union with pioneers for the mind as well as for the forest, and sends forth yearly its legions of frontier woodmen and country schoolmasters... to see him striding along the profile of a hill on a windy day, with his clothes bagging and fluttering about him, one might have mistaken him for the genius of famine descending upon the earth, or some scarecrow eloped from a cornfield.”

Irving is witty and pointed in his descriptions, combining details and history in humorous, memorable prose. There is a reason he is revered as one of the fathers of American literature.

The plot – known by many – is based off Dutch and German folklore and local American legend. Crane is hoping to win the heart (and family wealth) of Katrina Van Tassal, but he faces competition from Brom Bones, a local boorish prankster. Crane is chased home from a party one night by the ghost of the “Headless Horseman,” who is said to haunt the village and who throws his disembodied head after a terrified Crane. Even though the next morning a pumpkin is discovered to have been thrown and smashed at the scene, Crane disappears, and Brom Bones marries Katrina.

It is widely considered one of America’s first ghost stories. Two-hundred years later, Irving can still send shivers down your spine. ■

Review by Jessie Wright

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Scam aware

Pop-up panic: When you shouldn’t trust on-screen alerts

By Anthony Freyberg

It starts with a seemingly ordinary security pop-up on your computer screen. The message warns you to call a help line immediately. There, you’re told that a suspicious withdrawal has been detected from your bank account. To protect the rest of your assets, you should withdraw your savings. Then you get instructions to meet an official government courier and hand it over to him. Think this is too obvious a fraud? According to the Better Business Bureau’s Scam Tracker, approximately 45% of reported tech support scams begin with a pop-up warning message.

Tech support scams, commonplace for decades, have evolved with each new variation more aggressive and effective. The FBI calls these “phantom hacker” scams.” Once you make the follow-up call, scammers threaten you unless you cooperate and give them access to your computer. Other scammers tell you to “protect” your money by buying gift cards and sharing the numbers on the back; the same with Bitcoin accounts. Then, it’s easy to gather enough information, such as account details

and personal data, to complete a full-scale con.

The use of in-person couriers to collect victims’ cash quickly is a troubling feature of the latest tech scams. Not too long ago, a courier in Greenwich was arrested after he tried to pick up cash at the home of a 74-year-old who was about to hand over nearly \$500,000. Scammers have learned to create highly personalized cons based on information they steal.

Remember: Legitimate pop-ups from real software never tell you to call a number. If they do, *it’s a scam*. Never click on anything inside a pop-up. Immediately force-close your browser: On Windows: press Ctrl + Shift + Esc, open Task Manager, and end the browser task. On Mac: press Command + Option + Esc and select your browser to Force-quit. Restart your browser without restoring pages. You can also run a Security Scan. Use a trusted antivirus or Windows Security/Mac Malware Removal Tool to check for malware. Report any fraud to ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Be alert, and stay safe and wary of computer pop-ups. ■

LIBRARY CORNER

Shine on

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

A few years ago, a friend of mine introduced me to something called “shine theory.” The basic gist is, “I don’t shine if you don’t shine,” and it’s a practice of uplifting others and believing there is enough abundance to go around for everyone. I think she was telling me about this in the context of supporting her coworkers, but I find that “shine theory” could have basically been invented by librarians. Perhaps because we chose a career that usually doesn’t involve buying or selling, we love giving away our work for free. Ask any librarian Facebook group: if you need a clever name for a program, a great place to source summer reading incentives,

or even a ready-to-go Powerpoint on how to give up cable, there is a librarian there ready to share their work with you for free.

I have seen “shine theory” in action with Redding non-profits as well. We work together in service to our community to keep Redding a wonderful place to call home. I was reminded of that this week while having lunch with another local non-profit leader. He reminded me that the more we partner, the better it is for everyone we serve. This is the same philosophy that led Meredith Schuchard and me to work together to organize what we call the “Redding Community Coalition,” a group of local

non-profit leaders who gather regularly to share ideas. We meet this week with the new Police Chief to talk about issues important to Redding. We are greater than the sum of our non-profit parts, and I am grateful to call folks at the Boys and Girls Club, New Pond Farm Education Center, The Granite, the League of Women Voters, SOAR Together, and other organizations colleagues and friends. The more we work together, the more we collectively succeed. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is
Director, Mark Twain Library

Good books for good readers

By Margi Esten

In a world with (mostly) bad news and popular yet unsettling books, films, and television series, sometimes it’s time for something light. And “light” reading does not necessarily translate to unskilled writing. In fact, many authors can do both – and one who does it brilliantly is Carl Hiaasen.

Hiaasen is an American journalist and novelist who began his career as a newspaper reporter and has written fiction for both adults and children, non-fiction, and short

stories along with his work as a columnist for *The Miami Herald*.

I was struggling to describe exactly what genre his writing generally falls into, and I stumbled upon an overview online that I simply cannot improve on: “humorous crime fiction, satire, and environmental thrillers, with significant overlap between them, often set in his native Florida and featuring eccentric characters.” And I do know his books have been described as savagely funny, riotous

and cathartic – and beloved by readers who have never even set foot in the “Sunshine State.”

I have read, or listened to, many of his books, and while there are simply too many to mention, a few of my favorites are *Bad Monkey*, *Fever Beach*, *Skinny Dip*, *Razor Girl*, *Strip Tease*, and *Star Island*. They are ALL good and they are ALL funny with hilariously quirky characters. Hiaasen is truly a tonic for these times. ■

Notes from a neighbor *Free at last!*

By Carter Wiseman

Every few years, one reads about people who returned library books they had taken out long ago and were so burdened by guilt that they included payment for the accumulated fines. In 2020, Mark Twain Library received an overdue volume with an apologetic note and a check for \$500 to cover the accrued penalties.

But times have changed. Recently, the descendants of one New Jersey transgressor returned a copy of *Homemade Toys for Girls and Boys* to the library 99 years late but were spared the \$18,000 fine that would have been levied (adjusted for inflation). The reason is that library fines are pretty much a thing of the past.

Library fines loomed over me as a child, something that only the bad kids got. The fines were the waking nightmares of taking a test without having done the reading, or watching a train leave with one’s bag not packed. And now they are gone – at least in our neighborhood. The Mark Twain Library did away with fines in 2021, just after the \$500 mea culpa,

and many other libraries in Connecticut have since done the same.

A borrower who is overdue now gets a notice to that effect, but the book is renewed automatically unless another patron has requested it. Once the renewals run out, the borrower has a further grace period before the book is considered lost. The reminders pretty much guarantee that the book will come back at some point, because if it doesn’t, the borrower is charged the cost of replacement – and blocked from further borrowing. Since a library card in one Connecticut town is now valid throughout the state, that is no small penalty; it’s like having your license plate run through the DMV computer for an unpaid speeding ticket, and losing your driver’s license.

The new policy has imposed a cost. One local librarian estimates the lost income from fines amounts to about \$2,000 in a year, another as much as \$7,000. But the change is a boon for readers, especially those who like their books long. There was no way I could get through a 1,000-page biography of William

F. Buckley, Jr. in the two weeks I was permitted, and there was a hold on the book, so I had to turn it in (and buy a copy of my own). This worked better for a 500-pager on Zbigniew Brzezinski, for which there was less demand, and for which I got three blameless extensions.

Amazon has made it possible to buy used books in such good condition that one rarely has to pay full price for even new releases. But if you are not investing in classics for your children – or have limited shelf space – borrowing from a library still makes lots of sense.

Whatever the financial loss to libraries created by the fine-free policy, Mark Twain Library’s director, Erin Dummeyer, feels it is repaid in “good will and service.” The shortfall would also seem to be outweighed by the relief from guilt provided to the offender. I am not a particularly religious person, but I sense that this change ranks right up there with confession and absolution rolled into one. ■

Work resumes on Revolution Wind / continued from page 1

government, which would allow the construction of new gas pipelines, was widely seen as necessary to spare another wind project – Empire Wind – from cancellation by the Trump administration.

But in his efforts to negotiate a similar deal to save Revolution Wind, Lamont said his overtures were repeatedly met with silence. “Show me the ransom note,” was how he characterized those talks to reporters earlier this month, before the judge granted an injunction, allowing work to resume.

And while Lamont suggested some progress was made in talks held over the weekend, he confirmed on Tuesday that federal officials have not made any explicit request for Connecticut to approve natural gas pipelines in order to get them to lift their opposition to Revolution Wind.

Lamont’s willingness to strike a deal with the Trump administration involving an expansion of natural gas pipelines also risks alienating environmental advocates, who see gas as a costly and polluting source of power generation.

“I don’t think more natural gas is an ‘all of the above’ strategy,” said Charles Rothenberger, a climate and energy attorney for Save the Sound. “We’re full up on natural gas. You know, it’s by far the majority of what’s powering our electricity grid in the region. Here in Connecticut, we use an awful lot of it for home heating, and that creates a conflict. That’s a conflict, particularly with winter reliability, that offshore wind... is ideally designed to meet.”

Still, Rothenberger said he did not see much downside to officials like Lamont retaining “cordial”

relationships with the Trump administration.

In addition to the soon-to-be-installed components of the Revolution Wind development that were stacked up on the State Pier last week, equipment for the developers’ next project — the even larger Sunrise Wind, which will send power to New York — were being staged in preparation for offshore construction.

Asked whether he feared retaliation from the Trump administration targeting that project, Rhode Island’s McKee said the states would act similarly to protect workers and sources of clean energy.

“Those battles could come our way, but we’re prepared to fight them,” McKee said. ■

This article originally was
published in CT Mirror

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Fresh looks, fresh opportunities

Chan Leng takes over Metro Salon



Chan Leng cut hair at Metro Salon for over a year before buying the owner out and starting her own salon.

After graduating from Newtown's TIGI Hairdressing Academy in 2021, Chan Leng started cutting and styling hair at Ricci's Salon next door.

In 2024, she decided to find work closer to Danbury and ended up bringing her scissors to Metro Salon at 2 Long Ridge Road in

West Redding. After working there for more than a year, Leng ultimately decided to buy the owner out, transforming the space into her own studio called Chan Leng Hair & Makeup.

"I enjoy cutting hair, but my favorite is coloring hair," Leng said. "I find doing color on hair is like art that I can create on each client in a different way."

Whenever clients come in, Leng hopes that they leave feeling happy with their new looks and the way they've expressed themselves.

"I believe beauty is deeply personal," Leng said. "My goal is to help clients feel not only beautiful but also confident and empowered when they leave my chair."

Leng, who has one son, lives in Bethel with her family. Prior to joining Metro Salon, she hadn't been to Redding often but has loved opening her studio here.

"It's calming and relaxing," Leng said. "I love the environment in Redding, and I've brought some plants into my salon to decorate

it so that my clients can relax. I wanted to design my space so that it fits in with Redding.”

Leng styles hair for women, men, and children. She also offers hair coloring and treatment services, including balayage (a hair-coloring technique where the stylist hand-paints highlights onto the hair), highlights, babylights, partial highlights, and hair botox (a deep condition treatment that repairs damaged hair), among other things. Additionally, clients see Leng for hair extensions and for makeup ahead of special events.

Each client who walks through Leng's doors receives a thorough consultation to ensure their style and personality are reflected in the final look.

Whether you're searching for a new stylist or just happen to find yourself in West Redding, Leng encourages you to stop by and say hello. ■

For more information,
visit chanleng.com

For many, time spent with the grandkids is a daily affair / *continued from page 1*



Caryn Purcell with her granddaughter, Ellis.

environment, parents must identify a variety of ways to trim costs, and grandparent-provided daycare has become one way to do so for many families. A 2023 survey by The Harris Poll found that 40% of working parents in the U.S. rely on grandmothers for childcare. When unexpected childcare issues occur, 41% of working parents use their children's grandmothers for unpaid care.

Caryn described herself as blessed to live within five miles of her granddaughter. Alex and Regan Purcell moved to Redding from New York City during the pandemic.

"I'm a retired teacher, so I'm fortunate to have the time to spend with Ellis," said Caryn.

The proximity of their two residences certainly helps. “My husband, Philip, is also always nearby and both Alex and Regan primarily work remotely from home,” said Caryn. “So, all of us can say, ‘I’m here’ if needed. Knock wood, thus far we have not had any issues.”

Regan considers herself similarly fortunate in working out this daycare arrangement with Caryn. "Not everyone has parents who live so close by – and not every grandparent can step into this situation," said Regan.

For instance, many grandparents themselves are still employed full time. Others live far apart: Regan grew up in Charleston, S.C., where her own mother continues to reside. Regan's dad died last year.

Amanda Ford's son, Max, is about the same age as Ellis. Between her own parents and her mother-in-law, caring for Max is seamless during the time Amanda and husband Forrest are at work.

"It's extremely helpful to have their support and care," said Amanda, who is a creative director for LesserEvil, a healthy snack foods company based in Danbury. "When you've never done this, it can be daunting at first."

Just for starters, before Max was even born, Amanda ran into long waiting lists and high costs for local daycare. “As a new mom, I didn’t realize how early you have to start looking,” she said.

Her husband Forrest has a four-day work week, so he spends Fridays with little Max. To enable everyone to have plenty of breaks during the week, as well as to give Max the opportunity to socialize with other children, the Fords have enrolled Max in a toddler class at a local school as well as a variety of local programs for children and their caregivers.

Caryn noted that between Redding and nearby towns, there is never a shortage of things to do with Ellis. She ticks off a long list of places with programs for both caregivers and children, including New Pond Farm, Mark Twain Library, and Topstone Park. Caryn and Ellis also have begun growing flowers and vegetables at the Community Garden on Lonetown Road.

To help everyone stay on track, Regan composes an “old-school written calendar” every month that details day-to-day care considerations and activities.

"Scheduling is the most important thing for all of us," said Regan, who anticipates a few work-travel obligations this fall, as does Alex. Both the younger Purcells work in the tech industry. "We created our family calendar to ensure there are no surprises."

Regan's own grandmother lived several hundred miles away, in an "upstate" town in her home state. Her visits with her grandmother were infrequent in comparison to Ellis's, but they were no less special.

"Ellis treasures her time with her grandmother, and their special connection will continue to deepen as she grows up," Regan said.

The Fords and the Purcells have thus far avoided any unforeseen circumstances affecting their day-care arrangements. Conversely, the

death of her mom, Wendy Altman, sparked Kristin Abraham to switch careers so she could be more available during the day for her children. By opening a local franchise, Top Rail Fencing, along with her husband, Al, Kristin can spend more time with their daughters, four-year-old Addy (Adeline) and six-year-old Ollie (Olivia).

"I do the finance and marketing for our new company, while my husband is more the skilled tradesman," said Kristin, who formerly was Vice President for Talent Relations at WWE in Stamford, a role that required frequent business travel. "I'm very flexible with my time and what I do, which is helpful."

While Ollie is in first grade, Addy attends a local pre-school program that finishes in the early afternoon. With her new work arrangement, Kristin is able to do those school pick-ups.

"I talk to a lot of moms, and balancing work and childcare can be hard... but we've done it," she said. "We're still in year one of our new company, and there may come a time when I will need to rely more on formal daycare."

Though these were all happy stories, in some circumstances, grandparents must take over day-care in a family crisis. This might be when a son or daughter moves back to the family home, with kids in tow, after a breakup. Other cases involve parents who become incarcerated.

In other situations, grandparents gain legal custody of their grandchildren for a variety of reasons. In total, 19,672 grandparents are legally responsible for their grandchildren in Connecticut, according to the Connecticut Grandfacts Data Sheet. This website relies on data from the United States Census Bureau, the Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System.

JoAnne Cutrone, the owner of a long-established daycare center in New York state, noted that both parents and grandparents sometimes rely on hybrid solutions for their daycare needs. Children will go to Cutrone's center two or three days each week, or for partial days, with a grandparent, parent, or both providing care for the balance of the week.

"These kids are fortunate to have wonderful grandparents who provide the loving care and attention they need," said Cutrone. "They also help the parents by lowering their overall cost for daycare." ■

For details on daycare assistance programs, visit ctcare4kids.com



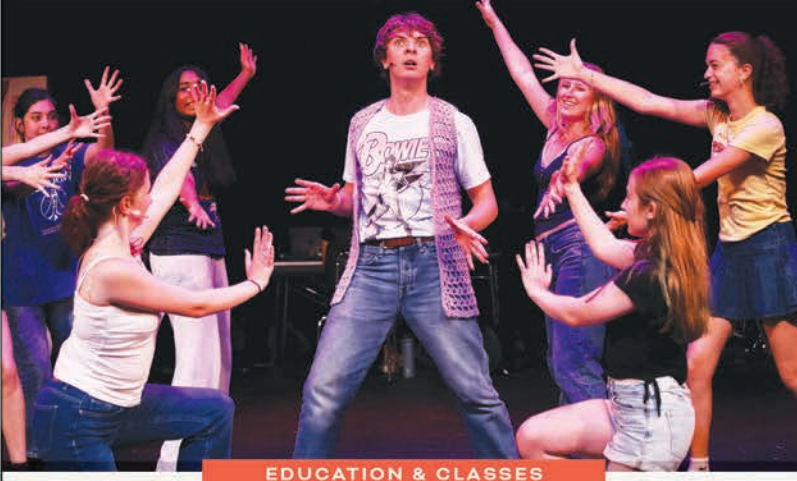
HAPPENINGS @ THE GRANITE

FALL & WINTER 2025 - 26



MUSIC & DANCE

1ST THUR	MONTHLY BLUEGRASS NIGHTS	SAT 1/24	WINTER WARMER WITH CHARLOTTE ROTH AND THE BIG DRAMA & KIRA MCSPICE
SUN 10/19	STONE FREE ARTS HARVEST	SAT 2/7	KENNY WARREN'S SWEET WORLD
FRI 11/7	MAX WAREHAM & THE NATIONAL BLUEGRASS TEAM	SAT 3/14	KATHLEEN PARKS OF TWISTED PINE
FRI 11/21	SWING DANCE WITH AUSTIN SCELZO & FRIENDS	COMING SOON	CLASSICAL MUSIC SUNDAYS
FRI 12/6	HIGH HORSE WITH KAT WALLACE		



EDUCATION & CLASSES

DAILY	WIREMILL ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS CHILDREN & YOUTH	THUR 10/30-11/20	BEHIND THE NOTES WITH SARAH HAWKEY
MON 9/22-11/10	BLUEGRASS JAM CLASS WITH AUSTIN SCELZO	MON 11/17-12/15	HARMONY SINGING WITH AUSTIN SCELZO
TUES 10/7-10/28	SONGWRITER SESSIONS WITH CARRIE	TBD	STEEL GUITAR SERIES WITH JONA ZIAC



HEALTH & WELLNESS

2ND WED	REDDING PREVENTION COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING	WED 9/24-10/8	REDDING'S ANNUAL GARDEN PRODUCE DRIVE
3RD WED	GRASP MONTHLY MEETING	WED 10/1 & 12/10	NIGHT OF HOPE
WED 9/24-10/29	MASS ENERGY HEALING WITH AGGREGATA	WED 10/22	MOVING MEDITATION WITH LIVE MUSIC



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THE NATURAL WORLD

Connecticut’s healthy forest system is a strong defense against the spotted lanternfly | By Donna Christopher



Photo by Jessie Wright
A spotted lanternfly in South Norwalk in October 2023.



Photo by Victoria Smith / CAES
Late-stage spotted lanternfly nymphs on a tree trunk.

The spotted lanternfly – an invasive species increasingly found in New England – is attracted to the invasive tree of heaven, but most Connecticut trees are not at risk from the insects, say experts.

Dr. Gale E. Ridge, Associate Scientist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, said that only trees which are very young or stressed are at risk, often those found along railroad tracks. The tree of heaven is especially attractive to the spotted lanternfly.

“The tree of heaven (itself) is a large pest,” Ridge said, calling it a menace and urging property owners to remove it, noting that it is an invasive species. Tree of heaven is sometimes mistaken for native trees such as sassafras and black walnut, she added, making correct identification especially important.

Ridge emphasized that Pennsylvania’s agricultural landscape has been heavily impacted by the spotted lanternfly, but Connecticut’s ecosystem is different. “We have a very healthy forest system and strong trees. We have a very different ecosystem than Pennsylvania, a very healthy natural forest. We have some 2,000 parasites, predators, and pathogens that will prey on the lanternfly,” she explained.

Redding’s Tree Warden Charlie Hyatt concurred.

“Realistically, they are not a real threat to the trees and shrubs around the Redding area,” said Hyatt. “There is no real worry about widespread damage, though some orchard crops such as grapes can see a lower yield.”

The spotted lanternfly has been seen on many trees in Connecticut in addition to its preferred host. The

unsightly clusters of insects – while not an immediate threat to our forests – can have a significant “ick” factor, and become nuisances in areas where people enjoy recreating, like beaches, backyards, and parks.

“The worst effect of the spotted lanternfly is the nuisance they cause to the outdoor enthusiasts,” continued Hyatt. “Thousands of insects can congregate on trees and around lights to cause a creepy crawly effect that resembles a SciFi movie scene.”

The spotted lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula* is a new invasive plant pest to the United States. Spotted lanternfly has spread to multiple states, and in 2020, two small established populations of the insect were found in Fairfield County. As of July 2025, spotted lanternfly has been seen in all counties in the state but sustaining populations have not been confirmed in every county. Populations are currently widespread in Fairfield and New Haven counties.

The pests are easily killed by an array of household insecticides such as Raid and Pyrethrum, though these chemicals can also negatively affect beneficial insect populations, like pollinators.

The best way to reduce spotted lanternfly numbers is to cut down tree of heaven and prevent it from regrowing by applying herbicide to the stump.

“We urge people to photograph and then report sightings via this form at tinyurl.com/slfreportct as we have done since spotting lanternflies along the Little River,” said Janice Rotchstein and Laurie Heiss of Redding Tree Conservancy. “And don’t be afraid to squash and kill what you see. We also find

that the CT Agricultural Experiment Station is a great resource for information.

Residents are urged to squash or vacuum up as many of the brightly colored flies as possible, but not to worry because they don’t bite or sting.

“Many species of insects and birds feed on these, so I feel nature will start to cause a decline in the spotted lanternfly population,” said Hyatt.

Here’s guidance from Jacob Ricker, State Entomologist at Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, provided in a Q&A format in response to questions from the *Sentinel*.

What is the realistic concern of lanternflies in Connecticut and Redding specifically - what percentage of trees can be killed by these?

The concern that most people will have or are currently experiencing is that spotted lanternfly is a nuisance pest. In most severely affected areas of the state, residents are reporting issues with hundreds of spotted lanternflies climbing on their property or nearby plants. The plants most likely to be negatively impacted by spotted lanternfly are grape vines and the invasive tree of heaven.

What should residents do to protect the environment against this invasive species?

Property owners should be proactive and remove spotted lanternfly egg masses from areas they can reach. Spotted lanternflies can lay eggs on most stationary objects

and plants. Tree of heaven is the insect’s preferred plant for feeding, and removal of trees on your own property may reduce the number of spotter lanternflies nearby.

How much of a concern should this be to the average property owner?

Most Connecticut residents should not think of spotted lanternfly as a threat to their plant material unless they have grape vines. The main concern is the spread or movement of spotted lanternfly, which can be prevented or slowed by checking vehicles thoroughly for any sign of the insect.

If you see a spotted lanternfly or egg mass, should you report it? If so, to whom?

At this time, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is accepting reports using our reporting tool or by e-mail. Reports by phone cannot provide pictures for confirmation and are not as helpful.

Link to tool: tinyurl.com/slfreportct
E-mail: ReportSLF@ct.gov

How is this issue being managed by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection?

Spotted lantern fly is being managed by our federal partners at the USDA who are prioritizing control of the insect in high-risk pathway areas like rights of way, rest stops, airports, and ports. ■





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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

Music on the Hill invites you to <i>Soaring!</i> Friday, October 3 8:00 p.m. The Music on the Hill Chamber Chorus performs uplifting and exhilarating music celebrating the soaring human spirit. Norfield Congregational Church 64 Norfield Road Weston musiconthehillCT.org/events \$	Public Session – Revitalize Georgetown Saturday, October 4 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Joel Barlow High School 100 Black Road Turnpike reddingct.gov/revitalize-georgetown-project	Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company’s 4th Annual Oktoberfest & Fire Prevention Day Sunday, October 5 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Themed activities, arts and crafts, food and drinks, live music, and car raffle Georgetown Firehouse 6 Portland Avenue facebook.com/share/19f4Df2eKY	Want to feature an upcoming event? E-mail us at advertise@reddingsentinel.org for more information.
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ARTS

Thursday, October 2 Bluegrass Nights 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. House band at 8:00 p.m. with open jamming through the night The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org	Friday, October 3 Creative Cocktail Hour 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center 5 Main Street gtownart.com	Friday, October 3 Music on the Hill invites you to <i>Soaring!</i> 8:00 p.m. Norfield Congregational Church 64 Norfield Road Weston musiconthehillCT.org/events \$
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Friday, October 17 Artist Talk and Demo with Janice Mauro 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Anonymous Society 268 Simpaug Turnpike anonymoussocietygallery.com	Saturday, October 18 Curator and Artists Talk with Closing Reception 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center 5 Main Street gtownarts.com
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CHILDREN | TEENS

Tuesday, October 7 Topstone Family Story Time (Birth – 5) 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Co-sponsored by Mark Twain Library and Park and Recreation Topstone Park 72 Topstone Road marktwainlibrary.org R	Wednesday, October 8 Outdoor Bundle Up Lunch Bunch with Pizza 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Pizza on the loggia for birth – 5 Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R	Thursday, October 10 Fall Craft 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Grades 5+ Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R	Sunday, October 19 Redding Scout Day 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. All-age activities for those interested in joining a BSA troop West Redding Fire Department 306 Umpawaug Road
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FUNDRAISERS

Sunday, October 5 Redding Democratic Town Committee Annual Fundraiser “A Night at Nod Hill” 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Learn more about getting involved in local politics, hear from elected officials, and discuss key issues Nod Hill Brewery 137 Ethan Allen Highway Ridgefield secure.anedot.com/redding-georgetown-dtc/donate	Wednesday, October 8 JRMS Sip & Stroll 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Shopping and restaurant deals, live music, and more to benefit the JRMS PTA Georgetown linktr.ee/jrmspts \$, R	Saturday, October 25 DAWS Making a Difference Gala 6:00 p.m. Support Danbury Aninal Welfare Society and the animals in their care Amber Room Colonnade 1 Stacey Road Danbury dawsgala2025.givesmart.com \$, R
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SEASONAL | HOLIDAY

Saturday, October 4 – Sunday, October 5 Hollandia Nurseries and Yesteryear Farm Antiques Fall Festival 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Sunday Antique vehicles, farm tools, food, and fun Hollandia Nurseries 103 Old Hawleyville Road hollandianurseries.com	Saturday, October 4 – Sunday, October 5 Pick Your Own Pumpkins 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pumpkins, hayrides, sunflower field, and stocked farmstand Warrup’s Farm 11 John Read Road warrupsfarm.com	Saturday, October 4 Floating Pumpkin Patch 2:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Registration for one, 45-minute slot is required and pay per pumpkin Riverbrook Regional YMCA 404 Danbury Road Wilton wiltonymca.org \$, R	Sunday, October 5 Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company’s 4th Annual Oktoberfest & Fire Prevention Day 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Themed activities, arts and crafts, food and drinks, live music, and car raffle Georgetown Firehouse 6 Portland Avenue facebook.com/share/19f4Df2eKY
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Saturday, October 11

Fall in Love with Ridgefield
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Vendors, face painting, DJ, scarecrow competition, concert, and book sale
Main Street
Ridgefield
chamber.inridgefield.com

NATURE

Saturday, October 4

Fall Migration: Birding with Joe Bear
7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
R

Saturday, October 4

Telescope Clinic
6:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
Bring your own telescopes and learn from volunteer astronomers – free for members
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

Sunday, October 5

Open Day
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org

Wednesday, October 8

Beginning Birding
1:00 p.m.
Indoor workshop with Open Space Manager John McLeran
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road
RSVP to mstillman@reddingct.gov or (203) 938-9725
R

Wednesday, October 8

Birds of a Feather
6:30 p.m.
Virtual program for all ages with CT Audubon
Mark Twain Library
marktwainlibrary.org
R

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Thursday, October 2

Nuestra América: Stories of 30 Inspiring Latinas/Latinos Who Have Shaped the United States with Smithsonian Educators
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Virtual
Mark Twain Library
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Monday, October 6

Conversation on Aging
10:30 a.m.
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road
E-mail mstillman@reddingct.gov or call (203) 938-9725
R

Wednesday, October 8

Redding Prevention Council Meeting
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitchurch.org/events

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Temple B’nai Chaim
Friday, October 3
Shabbat Shuvah
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Virtual
templebnaichaim.org

Please check church and temple websites for holiday and special services

MEETINGS

Saturday, October 4

Public Session – Revitalize Georgetown
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School
100 Black Road Turnpike

Monday, October 6

Park and Recreation Commission
7:00 p.m.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road

Monday, October 6

Republican Town Committee
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, October 7

Georgetown Fire District
5:00 p.m.
Georgetown Fire Department
61 Redding Road

Tuesday, October 7

Redding Board of Education
7:00 p.m.
John Read Middle School / Community Room
486 Redding Road

Wednesday, October 8

Region 9 Curriculum Committee
8:30 a.m.
Joel Barlow High School / Room A108
100 Black Road Turnpike

Wednesday, October 8

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

Wednesday, October 8

Zoning Commission
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Thursday, October 9

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

Thursday, October 9

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

Thursday, October 9

Fire District #2 Commissioners Meeting
7:00 p.m.
West Redding Firehouse
306 Umpawaug Road

Tuesday, October 14

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

Tuesday, October 14

Redding Fire District 1
7:00 p.m.
Redding Ridge Firehouse
186 Black Rock Turnpike

Wednesday, October 15

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

* Town offices will be closed
Monday, October 13 for
Columbus Day

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Charlie Knoche
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203.829.0230

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¹ Data based on closed and recorded buyer and/or seller transaction sides of homes sold for \$1 million or more as reported by affiliates of the U.S. Coldwell Banker franchise system for the calendar year of 2023. USD\$. ² As of 12/31/2023. ³ Ace Metrix Scores 2012-2023, Real Estate Category. The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2025 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logo are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.

